GET READY FOR THE TOPS AUCTION!

By Laurie Black

It’s time to start thinking about TOPS Auction 2002! This year’s event takes place at the Asian Resource Center once again, with Steve Hardy returning as our auctioneer.

Our goal is to have each family procure three items that can go into either the silent or live section of the auction. As with the TOPS No Bake Bake Sale, all money raised goes to benefit all our children. The “extras” (and many things you wouldn’t think of as extras) are funded through our efforts. Think of life without the elementary and middle school drama programs, instrumental and choir groups, money for library books, classroom supplies, a middle school counselor, an elementary art teacher, multicultural assemblies or science and technology equipment.

Please participate by sending in your items, volunteering to help the committee, working the day of the auction (call Auction Volunteer Coordinator Tammy Luthy at 322-3784), and by coming to the auction and bidding. Besides raising money for TOPS, it is one of the most enjoyable social events of the year. Just ask any parent or teacher who has attended in years past!

Getting items for the auction is easier than you’d think. All it takes is a few quick conversations with people who can donate a product or service. You’d be surprised how often people are happy to contribute, and it’s great free advertising for them. These are people you talk to every day: your grocer, soccer coach, hair stylist, masseuse, your favorite ice cream store and restaurant owners, theater operators, book store managers. Everywhere you usually spend your time or money, that’s where the items come from. Check with your employer, too — many have programs to donate to causes just like ours, especially when their employees put in volunteer hours.

Other ideas? Collaborate with friends to create and serve a theme dinner, bake a six-month supply of chocolate chip cookies, wash cars, make theme baskets. Anything with chocolate or wine is popular. Can you donate a week at your summer cabin in the mountains? A weekend at the beach? An afternoon sail on your boat? Mariners tickets? Knitting or golf lessons? The possibilities are endless.

Be sure to fill in your procurement slips and bring your items to the TOPS office by Thursday, March 28. If you run out of slips, you can pick up additional forms at the office. Please fill them out completely and correctly, and you’ll save a whole lot of time for our volunteers.

It’s also time for your class to start working on their auction art project. The class projects are often the highlight of the live auction and bring in a lot of money! The kids are really proud of their contribution to their school, the projects themselves are quite wonderful, and the artwork and the evening’s energy combine to create a bidding frenzy. Again, just ask an auction veteran!

The class theme baskets have become a new tradition and have been very successful and fun to put together. Usually one person coordinates and lets the class know the theme (sometimes the kids come up with the theme). Families can then send in their contributions and the coordinator puts it all together in some kind of interesting basket or container. If your teacher is donating an event or activity, maybe your basket can coordinate with it. To avoid duplications, please have the coordinator call Janet Morrison at 634-2203 as soon as you know what theme your class has chosen. We’ll need a procurement form filled out so we know it’s coming, but the basket itself can be delivered, if necessary, on the day of the event. Please be sure to attach a typed list of the contents and a value to the outside, just in case some of the goodies are hidden from view.

Any other auction questions? Please call Dan Tobin at 325-8155.

SAVE THE NEW AUCTION DATE!

April 27, 2002

TOPS at Seward
2500 Franklin Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98102
Phone: (206) 252-3510
Fax: (206) 252-3511

Principal:
Clara Scott

Site Council Chair:
Betsy Scott

NEWSLETTER ONLINE

The TOPS newsletters are available online in PDF format, usually before the printed copy arrives in your mailbox! From the TOPS home page (http://www.seattleschools.org/schools/tops), click on Hot News Spots, then TOPS Newsletters.
**Transitions At TOPS**

*By Clara Scott and Jeanne Kubon*

As we continue our discussion of the TOPS School Transformation Plan, we’re going to look at another attribute of Quality High Achievement Schools. Attribute #2 focuses on creating and maintaining a small, safe, personalized learning community.

Our K-8 configuration provides a smaller middle school experience. Middle school students have often known each other since kindergarten. TOPS teachers know their students over a longer period of time as well, since students who enroll in TOPS usually remain here through 8th grade.

A middle school advisory program provides regularly scheduled contacts about academic and personal concerns. This program allows each student to be well known by at least one adult, although TOPS middle schoolers enjoy many relationships with caring adults. Middle school parents also have an opportunity to meet and discuss a variety of social and emotional issues unique to adolescents.

The Student Intervention Team (S.I.T.) continues to meet on a weekly basis to address the needs of students who have academic challenges. Parents are key members of the team, providing us with important information about their children as we work together to individualize approaches to learning.

Another way TOPS personalizes our learning community is by arranging transportation and translation services for our bilingual families. This ongoing goal at TOPS makes it possible for our bilingual families to become more involved in school functions and activities.

Parents and staff engage in monthly study circles to learn more about how racial issues affect education and create an academic gap in student performance. These groups read specific articles and books and meet to discuss them. Facilitation is shared by everyone over the course of the year as we learn and grow together.

All of these programs and activities contribute to the whole TOPS community, creating a place where learning happens safely and personally in an atmosphere of caring and concern for everyone involved. We are committed to maintaining our small, safe, and personalized learning community.

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**LETTERS**

Dear TOPS Newsletter Committee,

I was disappointed about the article on Hamlet in your newsletter. This is because the list of the cast did not include any of the ensemble or the people who played Ophelia (Allio Boyer), Polonius (Ziah Sarju), Laertes (Sophie Raider), Rosencrantz (Helene Williams), Guildenstern (Andrea Ness), The Player Queen (Kaitlin Banfill), Osric (Daniella Welsh) or The Player King (Jordan Burns). We all worked just as hard as everyone else in the play. We deserve recognition! Without us all that play would have been dead! So I hope you do something about this!

~Kaitlin Banfill

Dear Kaitlin,

Thank you for writing. Your letter serves three (at least) purposes. First, you do “something about this” yourself by naming players who were not mentioned in the two reviews that were run in the January TOPSNews. Second, you let me know that students read the school newsletter- a welcome piece of information for any editor. Third, you give me an opportunity to explain a little about how this newsletter operates.

There is not actually a newsletter committee. The purpose of the newsletter is to communicate about past and future school events, controversies, policies and activities. Parents write articles regarding topics that the school community needs to know about. Faculty and staff also contribute. Student papers and art work are occasionally selected by parents and teachers because they help inform the rest of the school about school activities.

All of the articles come to me, and I edit them. I am a parent volunteer who had never edited a whole newsletter before TOPSNews. I learn something new with every issue.

Mostly I edit for clarity, but occasionally I take out bigger parts of an article because they are not appropriate for a school newsletter. Reasons for this could be that they espouse a particular political viewpoint, endorse a specific candidate, or repeat something that has already been said. Although it can be funny when students write in ways that promote the attributes of themselves or their friends, I also edit that out when it seems like it is in there for ego-boosting purposes rather than as a genuine contribution to a review or article.

Another parent, Cindy Suzumura, does the design and makes decisions about which photographs will work.

The best way to make sure that something you care about is included in the newsletter is to write an article yourself. E-mail it to me at gagegreen@earthlink.net or put it in the newsletter box in the main office by the 15th of the month.

~ Annie Gage, editor
FROM THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

By Marlies van Bergeijk

We are in time of transition at TOPS. Our administrative leadership is changing and our school mission and vision have changed focus.

While this is exciting in many ways, there are also challenges. One in particular is the challenge of keeping the TOPS community informed and involved during this time. This newsletter is one venue for informing everyone about new areas of focus in curriculum and instruction. Some articles are specifically written to introduce topics such as “transformation” in order to give us a common language when talking together and to others who express an interest in TOPS.

The school web site and the Wednesday go-homes are other modes of sharing information. On a regular basis, I e-mail Room reps with requests to pass on announcements or special news flashes. Many other people use some or all of these means to keep the communication flow going. Thus, from my perspective, a considerable amount of time, effort and resources is used to ensure that as many people as possible have access to information in a timely manner to increase their opportunity for involvement and input.

I consider having that access as vital to feeling part of the community. That doesn’t mean it is a perfect system. One area always in need of improvement is our communication with non-native English speaking families.

Luckily Junne Park, our Family Support Worker, reminds me of that at crucial times and I appreciate her for that!

Still at important times like this, there are enough people who express surprise or dismay that changes seem to have taken place without them knowing about it or having a chance to be heard.

I admit, it leaves me somewhat bewildered as to how the information and the process were missed and I wonder what else can be done to keep this community informed and involved. I invite your comments and suggestions.

Other items:

Annie Gage wants to make this her only year as our newsletter editor in order to spend more time in her son’s classroom. Therefore we are looking for another talented person to take over that job. Also, Bruce Pulmano really needs to be relieved of the mailing responsibilities as he is the parent of an 8th grader.

Please contact me/them if you are ready to take on one of these worthwhile tasks. Ideally we would have new people in place for the June issue.

You can reach me by email at paul-marlies@worldnet.att.net or by phone at 252-3510. Thank you!

Art by Tova Steele, from Mary Chao’s drawing topics class

Art by Maya Dickson, from Mary Chao’s drawing topics class
NEW ROGERS PLAYGROUND MOVING TO COMPLETION

By Rebecca Sadinsky

Many TOPS and Eastlake adults and all TOPS and Eastlake children noticed the fenced off, partially installed playground equipment and the halted playground construction in November. Hopefully everyone has now noticed the renewed momentum over the past weeks.

A very successful volunteer party in early November is responsible for the playground installation to date. In fact the hardy volunteers at work one rainy Saturday in November completed the work planned for two days in just one.

The playground construction hit some snags in October and November, requiring some additional planning, design review and approvals, and budget-juggling. However, the crews are back at work, thanks to the persistence and creative problem-solving skills of Friends of Rogers Playground steering committee chair Laurie Stusser.

On Saturday, February 9th and Sunday, February 10th volunteers will install the last of the play equipment and added some landscaping touches. Volunteers are especially needed on Saturday, Feb 9th, in two shifts: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 1:00-5:00 p.m. February 9th is Neighbor Appreciation Day — a great day to pitch in and help finish off the neighborhood & school playground.

Call Rebecca, 723-7378 or Laurie, 323-4556 to volunteer. At this rate we expect Rogers will be ready for play by March 1st and are planning on a fun opening celebration. Stay tuned for details.

NO BAKE BAKE SALE DONORS

Donor list as of January 18

*Site Council members

ABC Towing
Adam Magana
Alan Ness/Margaret Bergman-Ness
Allen Macklin
Amy & David Shumann
Amy & Kenneth Sommers
Andy & Lisa Leikin
Ann Bergman/Michael Rorick
Ann Johnson/Michael Frost
Ann Kimball
Ann S. Palmer
Ann & James Porter
Annie Gage*/Barbara Green
Anya & Fred Finkelstein
Arthur Dorros
Benling Wong & Greg Tuai
Betsy Scott*
Bill Badgeley/Lianne Sheppard
Boeing
Bonnie Morita/James Paulson
Bonnie & Frank Cech
Camille Sata/Jon Nishida
Carol & Mike Clay
Carole W. Drewyer
Caroline Johnson
Carolyn Hughes
Carrie & Payton Storli
CB Reingold
Charles McCarthy
Cheryl Poppy
Christine O’Leary/Michael Courtney
Cima Malek-Aslani
Collin & Lucia Tam
Crystal & John Inge
Dana Twilight
Daniel & Anita Enriquez
David Carrell/Garnet Anderson
David Dubrowski/Barbara Pynchon
David Grossman/Cézanne Garcia
Debbie Gits/Richard Phillips
Denise Alexander
Dinah Coops/Stephan Havas
Dorianne Nieburgs
Doug & Janet Moore*
Doug & Laura Hill
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Eileen Hynes*/Thomas Hoffman
Eileen Yang
Elaine & Kent Moberly
Eric Blazful
Erica Low
Ted & Kristen Johnson
Gale Binder Chase/John Chase
Gary Luke*/Beth Wheeler
Gene & Erica Nelson
George Goodall/Sandy Kurtz
Ginger Segel/Robert Kubinić
Glen Moore/Joan Weiser
Glen Tamura
Gordon Davenport/Xeu-Qiao Zhao
Gregory Simon/Julie Braybrooks
Hang Thi Bich Tran/Thinh Thanh Le
Heather & Thomas Burgess
Helen & Pat Stusser
Helen Sherk/Thomas Cotner
Hong Nguyen
Howard H. Morishigue
Hyland & Alycia Lee
Ishbel Pickens
Jacqueline Binder
James Hopfenbeck/Alice Dubiel
Jan Shave/Bob Woolworth
Janet Kavadas
Janet Swett/Loovis
Janna Pekaar
Jay & Rachel Pickering
Jean Rowe
Jean Worthley
Jeff & Ann Girvin
Jeff Heft/Tammy Luthy
Jennifer Shaw*/Mark Morales
Jennifer Winward
Jill & Judith Lee
Jill Hopfenbeck
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Jim & Sandy Green
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Joan Markman
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Juan & Sally Perla
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Judith Cohen
Jules James
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Kim Abson
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Kirk & Carla Griswold*
Kristin & Alex Johnston
Laura Hopkins & Brett Baba
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Laurie & David Shields
Laurie Black/Stafford Mays
Lee Ann & Gaylord Clark
Lee Ann Miyagawa
Leo Griffith
Leslie Cossitt
Leslie Tregillus & Thomas Jones
Linda & George Keylon
Linda Downing
Linda Korbus*/Greg Flood
LisaBeth Soldano/Kent Hamilton
Luis & Bok Duk Rivera
Marat & Yuk Wai Wong
Margaret Bullitt
Mark & Cherri Bloom
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Mark & Catherine Remijan
Mark & Laura Roth
The Markman Family
Mary Cairns
Martha & Bob Kristjanson
Martin Fleck
Mary F. Hynes
Matthew & Barbara Stannard
Merrill & Frances Ringold
Michael & Violet Bucuo
Michael Chapko & Marcia Weaver
Microsoft
Molly & Bill Lapata & Family
Monty & Lorelyn R. Vanderbilt
Ms. Scott
Nancy & Robert Hopfenbeck
Ollie M. Reeves
Page Chapel
Pat & Mike Helgren
TOPS CALENDAR
FEBRUARY – JUNE 2002

FEBRUARY
1 (F) .................... Day between semesters, no school
1 (F) .................... Middle School Ski Club, meet at TOPS
at 8:00 a.m.
8 (F) ..................... Storytelling Speech Tournament
8 (F) ..................... Middle School Ski Club, leave TOPS
at 2:45 p.m.
9 (Sat) ................... Rogers Playground work party
10 (Sun) .................. Rogers Playground work party
13 (W) ................... Site Council, 5:00 p.m.
14 (TH) .................. Kindergarten 100th day party
Grandparent’s day for 1st & 2nd
graders, in the lunch room
15 (F) ................... Expository Speech Tournament
15-22 ..................... Mid-Winter Break
25-March 1 ............ Direct Writing assessment

MARCH
1 (F) .................... Oral Interpretation speech tournament
4 (M) .................... Race and Education Study Circle I
TOPS Library, 6:30 p.m.
4-8 ....................... Direct Writing assessment
7 (TH) ................... Editorial Comment speech tournament
8 (F) .................... Middle School Ski Club, meet at TOPS
at 8:00 a.m.
8 (F) .................... Storytelling Speech Tournament
11 (T) ................... Spring Concert, 10:45 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
12 (W) ................... Site Council Room Rep meeting, 5:00 p.m.
13 (W) ................... Site Council Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
14 (T) ................... 2nd-4th graders attend Into the West,
SCT, 10:00 a.m.
14 (T) ................... 2nd-7th graders attend Holes, SCT,
10:00 a.m.
14-16 (T-TH) ......... 7th grade camp
17 (F) ................... Learning Improvement Day, No School
18 (M) ................... Race and Education Study Circle II,
TOPS Library, 6:30 p.m.
19 (F) ................... Professional Development Day,
No School
19 (W) ................... Last student day

JUNE
1 (Sat) .................... Elementary School Play
4-7 (T-F) ................ 8th grade camp
5 (W) ..................... 3rd-6th grade BOC camp
11 (T) ................... Spring Concert, 10:45 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
12 (W) ................... Site Council Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
12-14 (W-F) .......... 5th grade camp, Camp Kirby
14 (F) ................... 2nd grade Slumber Party
19 (W) ................... Last student day

No Bake Sale Donors continued

Richard Seroussi/Louisa Turner
Richard & Lois Howel
Richard & Phyllis Holzworth
Robert Heller/Rebecca Fox
Robert Sadinsky
Roxanne Dover/David Robinson
Rustin Thompson/Ann Hedreen
Sai Cheong/Siu Fong Kwok
Sandra Berger/Fred Smith
Sarah Meeker/Kirk McKinley
Scott Barnhart/Ouri Mallaris
Shirley Bossier/Charles Pickel
Signe Gilson & John Kounts
Stephan Kovnat/Susan Lichtenberg
Stephen Schwartz/Peg Maas
Steve & Catherine Slaton & Family
Steve Castor-Peck
Steven Sitcov
Sue & Doug Williams
Susan & Jay Wardle
Tai Wai Lav/Joyce Sai Ying Ham
Tawnya Schultz
Terry Sperling/Steve White
The Bach-Smart family
The Duncan-Van Dalsen family
The Erickson-Wayman Family
Tilman Smith
Tim Robinson
Toby Harris/Ron Shure
Tom & Katie McKeon
Tom & Sherrri Boyer
Tom Blue/Maude Scott
Toni & Mike Hahn
Tracy Seefeld
Travis Gaines
Valerie Tarico/Brian Arbogast
Vicki Moseley/Geoffrey Mathay
Vilma Quintana/Don Setzer
Virginia Powers
Winifred Weiner
Yumi Hiraga/Keith Cohon
Yvonne Onouye

APRIL
4 (TH) .................... 1st & 2nd grade poetry festival in the
morning, Taste of TOPS in the evening
5 (F) ..................... 2nd-4th grade poetry festival in the
morning, Taste of TOPS in the evening
8-12 (M-F) ............... Spring Break
15 (M) .................... Race and Education Study Circle II,
TOPS Library, 6:30 p.m.
17 (W) .................... Site Council Meeting, 5:00 p.m. in the LRC
19 (F) .................... Third Quarter ends
22 (M) .................... Race and Education Study Circle II,
TOPS Library, 6:30 p.m.
27 (Sat) .................. TOPS Auction
29 (M) .................... Race and Education Study Circle II,
TOPS Library, 6:30 p.m.

MAY
18-22 ..................... ITBS Testing
18 (M) .................... Race and Education Study Circle I
TOPS Library, 6:30 p.m.
15 (F) .................... Expository Speech Tournament
15 (F) .................... Professional Development Day,
No School
18 (M) .................... Race and Education Study Circle I
18 (M) .................... Race and Education Study Circle II,
TOPS Library, 6:30 p.m.
19 (F) .................... Third Quarter ends
22 (M) .................... Race and Education Study Circle II,
TOPS Library, 6:30 p.m.

THE INN
There’s still time to register
for the TOPS Family Ski Weekend at Mission Ridge
on February 22-25. Call
Mary Sue Galvin at 323-6439
for more information.

THERE’S STILL ROOM AT THE INN
Patti Warashina was the third presenter in the Artist Presentation Series. The following articles were written by 6th graders about Patti and her work.

**WINDOW INTO ART**

*By Noah Cohn, 6th grade*

Have you ever broken the rules to do something you love? Have you even thought about it? Patti Warashina broke the rules to work on the art that she loves.

In Marianne’s 6th grade classroom, Patti Warashina, a ceramicist, gave a presentation about her work and life. Patti grew up in Spokane, Washington. In grade school she took art. In high school she concentrated on math and science but not art. When she was in college at the University of Washington she was walking through the halls and saw that in one classroom there was a wheel throwing class going on. It looked so fun to her that she signed herself up for a ceramics class.

Now, Patti is famous for her work. Her first work was mostly pots with Japanese paintings on them. As she got older she started to explore the shape of people in her work. In one piece she molded 72 people. That project took one and one half years to complete. For many years the piece was at the Opera House.

Most of the figures she uses in her work are her friends. She gets her ideas from the plants in her garden. (She likes the bright colors in the plants.) Her children influence her by their ideas. She thought about current events in the world and made a piece on that subject. The piece itself was a twisted ball of people and bullets. It was hard to understand at first. She made a lot of pieces with cars. One of them was a car that ran into a brick wall. Instead of the car being smashed the part that ran into the wall was brick.

Patti has done a lot of great work and been an artist for a very long time. The slides that she showed us were interesting and funny at the same time. I hope that I can go to one of her recent exhibits and look at her work. Patti dares herself to do different styles in art.

**PATTY WARASHINA VISITS ROOM B303**

*By Arianna Toussaint, 6th grade*

Do you know who Patti Warashina is? She’s only the best ceramic sculptist in the world! Well, maybe not the best but she’s pretty close. But the question is, what is ceramic sculpting? Ceramic sculpting is making a type of clay (ceramic) into a shape. An interesting fact about her artwork is that the sculptures are of the same origin but they are somewhat different every time. In size, her sculptures vary from about two feet high to fifteen feet high. Some of her art is done like a flip book with one figure doing the next step, and as you go along the figures climax.

Yes, you are right, Patti Warashina did step foot in room B303 at TOPS alternative school on Tuesday, January 15, 2002 at about 10:00 am. She is the best artist I know. She thinks of “new idea” instead of “3-dimensional.” Whenever she works with clay, the figures are mostly 3-D, but every sculpture is different. She can take one lump of clay and turn it into several 3-dimensional figures. Her sculptures really speak to you and make you think. The impact of her work combined is phenomenal.

“Diamond in the Ruff,” I think, is a very nice sculpture. There is one set of arms on one side of a table and another set of arms on the other side of the table. I think it is very nice because you can tell what the people are thinking by the gestures of their hands and arms. It made me feel as if I could draw in the bodies with my eyes.

The things I learned are endless, but the most important thing I learned was that art can be anything. It doesn’t have to be abstract, or complicated. Whatever you draw or paint or pastel is the type of art you like to do.
THE LIFE OF PATTY WARASHINA AND THE LIFE OF CERAMICS

By Lachlan Huck, 6th grade

Art can be considered a part of life, something that makes life clear and more understandable. When I thought of art, I thought of paintings and drawings lining a museum wall and statues set in courtyards surrounded by flowers and a sense of awe. What never crossed my mind was that ceramics were also art. So when Patti Warashina was invited to TOPS and presented her ceramic sculptures and her life all in one, it occurred to me that ceramics IS art and an important piece of art. Her purpose was to tell us that sculpting and ceramics aren’t just things sitting in courtyards because some person decided to put them there, but because they have a deeper meaning.

Patty Warashina had been mildly interested in elementary school art, doing murals and pictures for the school. She had rather enjoyed this, but when she got into high school she started to think more of her future and started to take more science and math classes. She had been brought up in a family that believed that education came before all else and art, to her, was not what her future would be. Later on in college, however, she started to get interested in pottery and more artistic classes, and eventually after taking classes for a bit, she loved it.

Patty’s sculptures always reflect something of her life, or what’s around her. It shows the feeling the world is in. She uses inspiration and life to form her sculptures and uses different aspects even though she might be afraid to use them.

In her sculptures, she uses the figures of women. At first, I paid no heed to this. But then one of my classmates asked why, and Patty said it was because she was more familiar with them. She also used it as a symbol, like the giver of life or the person who brings things together.

WORLD FAMOUS ARTIST COMES TO TOPS

By Quin McKinley, 6th grade

Patti Warashina is an inspiring ceramic artist. The TOPS sixth graders were lucky to meet Patti on January 15th when she came to TOPS to teach us about ceramics and her life.

Patti is a Japanese-American woman who grew up in Spokane, Washington. Patti now lives a few blocks away from TOPS.

Patti showed us slides of her work. She talked about her art, how she gets her inspiration, and she allowed us to ask questions. When she started her career, she was using the pottery wheel to create her art. As Patti’s career began to develop she started to paint her pottery and to use the hand building technique. As a young artist Patti felt that she was weak at making human figures. Her first experiments with sculpting the human form were of women. She created a series of pieces called Women Shrines. They were a one dimensional picture of a woman with three dimensionally arms coming out. She wanted to make her work look fragile, so she began to use the casting method. From Women Shrines she progressed to casting small human figures. The small figures would be arranged like dolls. Patti’s art began to grow and progress into life size figures.

Patti is inspired by nature, Egyptian and Greek art, Human figures, things in her everyday life, politics, war, and the economy. Her art is influenced by difficult events in her childhood. She was the only minority in her class. Her father died when she was ten. Her mother was her heroine because she raised all of her children alone.

Patti’s art is shown around the world. One of her most famous pieces is in the entrance of the Seattle Opera house.

Her work has inspired me to use clay as a way to express myself. I learned from Patti that difficulties in your life can turn out to inspire you in positive ways.

AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS REMINDER

After school sports is from 3:20 to 4:25 p.m.

Please be considerate and pick up your children by 4:50 as Don and Eric have their own children to pick up by 5:00.

Thanks.
TOPS P.E.
By Don Zenke

Quickness has been one of our themes in P.E. The following are some fun activities that can be tried at home!

1. Place a penny on the elbow of your throwing hand with your palm facing up. Quickly move your hand forward and snatch the falling penny. Add a penny to the stack after each successful catch.

2. Partner #1 holds a dollar bill on top with index finger and thumb. Partner #2 places the same fingers (without touching) at the opposite end. When dropped, partner #2 attempts to close fingers before the president’s head.

3. Hold a ball on the back of a partner’s neck. When the ball is dropped the catcher claps in front and catches behind.
4. Roll a hula-hoop. Run alongside and see how many times you can put a foot in and out before it stops rolling.

5. Hold a basketball out in front of you. Move your legs apart. Throw the ball through your legs and try to catch behind. How fast can you throw it through?

6. Face a partner holding a tennis ball in each hand about 10 feet away. Balls are held palms down at shoulder level. Without warning, one ball is dropped and the receiver attempts to catch it before the second bounce.
TOPS BASKETBALL

By Elgin Hall, TOPS P.E. Reporter and 8th grader

On Thursday, January 10th, the TOPS basketball team played Hamilton Middle School. This was a highly anticipated game as both of the boys’ teams were undefeated at the time. After a close first quarter, TOPS built a large lead that was never relinquished for the rest of the game resulting in a TOPS win and a tie for first place with Eckstein.

Zach and Taylor played their usual above the rim dominating roles with some great rebounding by Lane and Mac with great ball handling by Jay and Elgin. The subs did a great job off the bench by keeping up the intensity and playing good defense.
A CONVERSATION WITH SYLVIE

(MARGIE’S 1ST GRADE CLASS)
As reported by Don Zemke

*Sylvie*: Guess what? I have just climbed across the climbing wall for my 47th time and I’ve only fallen off once!

*Don*: That’s great, Sylvie! What do you like best about climbing across?

*Sylvie*: I like it when there are big, empty spaces and I have to figure out a way across. I also like to see how high I can get and when I’m up high I feel proud of myself.

*Don*: What is the hardest part about climbing across?

*Sylvie*: It’s kind of hard to hold on to some of the smaller grips.

*Don*: Now that you’ve made it across forty-seven times, has it gotten any easier?

*Sylvie*: I think it’s easier now than when I started because I’m stronger and not scared anymore. I can do it well now so it is really, really fun!

*Don*: Do you want to say anything else?

*Sylvie*: Thanks for building it!

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TOPS Basketball continued

The girls’ game was won by TOPS 26-23 to improve their record to 2 &1 in league play. TOPS had typical great play by Carolyn. Coach Eric singled out the great effort by Kristina, Nadine, Arielle, and Arianna.
LESSONS FROM NOVICE TOPICS TEACHERS

By Annie Gage

I recently spoke to a couple of other moms who, like me, had just taught their first TOPIC. We agreed that we’d had fun and the kids had had fun. We also shared some discoveries that it might have been nice to know before moving into the unknown, and to some people, anxiety-provoking land that is TOPICS. Maybe more parents will volunteer to teach a topic if they know what to expect.

Here is some of what we learned:

♦ If your TOPIC is held in the faculty lounge, the pop machine can be a big distraction. You might even want to cover it with a sheet!

♦ If your TOPIC is held at Kids Company, the foozeball game can be a big distraction. (Ditto about the sheet.)

♦ If you are doing a TOPIC that involves baking, make sure to have an activity for students while the food is in the oven.

♦ A snack is a good thing.

♦ Fridays can be a bit rowdier and rougher because it’s the end of the day at the end of the week.

♦ If you are doing a craft activity, be sure to have an example of a finished product to show to your students.

Even if a TOPIC does not seem very successful to you, the kids may still have been learning, having a great time, and enjoying the company of students they wouldn’t otherwise meet.
Sadie and Sofie display their holiday wreaths.

Wreath construction site

Art by Annika Kounts, from Mary Chao’s drawing topics class.
TOPS Celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Joby and her Kindergarten class display their sign language skills.

Mrs. B’s 1st graders perform a skit about crayons learning to accept and appreciate their differences.

Mr. J. leads 1st and 2nd graders.

TOPS students gain experience speaking in front of a crowd.
FIRST-GRADE SERVICE LEARNING

By Teresa Nemeth


With a special “Gifts of the Heart” holiday catalog that offered these and other gift-giving alternatives, the Dogs Action Network (DAN) was launched. “Loyal, trustworthy, and brave” like their mascot, the Dogs (otherwise known as Margie Butcher’s first graders) identified areas of concern and broke into teams according to interest. And interest remains high as adult coaches — parents, and Margie’s husband Steve — assist in translating ideas into action.

The Homelessness team has made toiletry bags to bring to homeless shelters, and the Animals team is starting a pet supplies collection drive for the needy. The Human Rights team will address itself to elders in nursing homes. The Health and Happiness team has collected toys for sick children and will sell watercolor paintings to raise money — perhaps to send a clown, and the Environment team is working on reusable canvas grocery bags.

FILLING THE LIBRARY SHELVES

By Steve Haines, Librarian

One of the more interesting and challenging parts of a librarian’s job is acquiring new material for the library. It usually takes on the heading of “collection development,” and requires planning and resourcefulness. One of the main functions of the school library is to support and supplement the classroom curriculum. So the first step in collection development is to ask the teachers what supplemental materials the class needs. Once this is established the fun begins. I receive tons of catalogs from publishers. I read book reviews from professional journals as well as visit the public library to see the new books they have. I also find many books in local bookstores — especially books that children have requested. (I guess it’s not hard to tell where my favorite places to go are.) Decisions, decisions.

After I figure out my budget (the average price of a childrens’ hardback book including processing is $18.58), I place an order with the publisher or book vendor. The real excitement begins when the boxes of books finally arrive. The senses are put on overload from the smell, the feel and the sight of the new tomes. Ah!

Our library collection is approximately 8,000 volumes, which is small for a K-8 school. Every year about 50-100 books don’t make it back to the shelves for a variety of reasons. Many are replaced either by donations or from the library budget. Generous families and teachers have donated books they no longer need, or think should be in our collection. Some of these books can go on the shelves, and many are given away as reading rewards. The students in the BOC classes also use many of these donated books.

Another way books get on the shelves is through donating a book for a student’s birthday. I usually let the child catalog the book into the system. Cash gifts are another way of making books available to our children. That’s one thing about the TOPS community — it is very generous and we really appreciate the continued support.

Happy reading!
THE NO-BAKE BAKE SALE NEEDS YOU!

Thank you to the families, friends and faculty of TOPS who have given to the 2001 No Bake Bake Sale fundraiser (see page 4 for a list of donors). As of January 12, we are at 70% participation from the TOPS community. Our goal is 100% participation! We have $45,000 of the $60,000 goal for this year. If you have not given, please send in a donation today. There are envelopes and forms in the office.

If you have questions, please call Laurie Black (285-7079) or Elaine Moberly (284-1066). We need all who have not given to send in a donation so that we can reach our goal. This is just one of two fundraisers that the school has. We need the dollars to continue to provide all of the extras that the budget does not cover.

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