MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Thank you to the Teacher Appreciation Committee for recognizing the hard work of TOPS staff and taking good care of our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week and throughout the year. Daily I see what an outstanding staff we have at TOPS. We certainly have much to appreciate!

In early May, Raymond V. Gilmartin, Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Merck pharmaceutical company, visited and spoke with our middle school students. Challenging letters he received from our students regarding the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa prompted his visit. He recognized our students’ knowledge of the issues and potential solutions, and addressed what Merck is doing to combat the pandemic. He referenced the company’s guiding principle, “Medicine is for the people, not the profits.”

May was a time of celebration and excitement as we got to enjoy several cultural events. TOPS musicians performed in a fantastic spring concert. We are once again blown away by the amazing work of TOPS artists at the Art Walk and our elementary thespians in the outstanding play. Our seventh-graders enjoyed their camping trip to Mt. St. Helens.

June is a short month, but there’s no shortage of activities. In a few days our third- and fourth-graders will journey to Camp Arnold for an overnight experience. Later, our kindergarten through second-graders will spend the day at Camp Long. Of course, the big event for our eighth-graders will be the much-anticipated camping trip to Deception Pass. We wish all of our campers fun, learning, and a safe journey.

Our eighth-grade students are winding down their time at TOPS, looking forward to new experiences in high school. In the meantime, they are wrapping up their service learning projects. Through their “People Make a Difference” projects in language arts and social studies, students are reflecting on the work they have done and relating their service projects with the class. They are eagerly awaiting Passage on June 17.

Mrs. Poole is out of the hospital and on her way to getting better. But of course, the staff and her students miss her a great deal. We wish her well in her recovery.

This has been one busy year! It has been challenging for TOPS and for our larger community. Thank you to all who kept the focus on our students and what they need to be successful.

Cheers!
Clara Scott
ABOUT THE OUTRAGEOUS PUBLISHING SERVICE

Welcome to the tenth monthly newsletter of the 2002-2003 school year. The newsletter is edited by Teresa Németh, designed by Cindy Suzumura, and mailed to you by Heather Burgess and Nancy Lambert. Don Zemke provides our sports photos. We need your submissions: calendar additions, classroom news and news from the larger community, faculty notes, committee reports, opinions, profiles, compliments, congratulations, children’s art, photos, and anything else significant to the TOPS community. Submit your contribution to the newsletter box in the main office or, preferably, by electronic file to Teresa Németh at zongora2@hotmail.com. The deadline for the September issue is August 1. Anyone interested in working on the newsletter should contact Teresa at 328-8320 or the above email address.

FORUM

By Janet Moore

WOW. I am so amazed by our parent group. As I sat at the auction I was reminded why I so wanted my children at TOPS. It was the opportunities to volunteer and the strong commitment by parents to contribute their time as well as their money to the school. It is truly wonderful how much time and energy people give to the school.

Take a minute and think just about your child’s class. In seventh grade the list is long, from service on Site Council to reading groups, from auction committees to playground work groups, from BOC volunteers to ski bus chaperones, camp organizers to quilt-makers, paper-graders to individual tutors, etc.

FROM THE EDITOR:

Thanks for the conversations this year. Thanks for overlooking my own communication foibles. Thanks to those who’ve contributed articles and photos, and thanks for the suggestions for newsletter content. Please continue! I’ll try this another year, unless someone is dying for the job. OK then, how about something smaller....

WE HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT.

I hope that for each of the following beats, someone will step forward. A three-article series? Brief (or not) monthly installments? Write from your own knowledge and experience, or interview others.

SCHOOL DISTRICT, SCHOOL BOARD Can we get someone to follow the issues and at least touch on them every month or two?

MENTAL HEALTH, SOCIAL SKILLS, COMMUNITY HEALTH Who will check in with our school counselor (whom I hope we are able to retain!) and offer us useful information? What are our children dealing with, and how can parents help? For heaven’s sake, how do we talk to each other, and how do we work through difficult issues? What organizational structures might facilitate this?

CULTURAL FOCUS Can someone offer us a little information each month on the country or region we choose for next year? Maybe even interviews with families in our school? Performances or exhibitions we might attend, books or movies we might check out?

BLT Not a sandwich, but what is it? We’d love to hear...uh...what you do, what the Transformation Plan involves, what decisions you are facing. I notice another school newsletter has a monthly report....

STAFF VOICE A monthly quick-interview feature? What are staff members’ visions for the school? What issues are they confronting? How can parents support staff better? What is the most productive way for parents to articulate concerns?

WHAT IS ALTERNATIVE? How are we alternative? (Are we?) How would we like to be? What are other schools doing?

MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION Is it old hat, or has it never even really been tried? Help us figure this out!

BI-CULTURALISM We are all bi-cultural, to some extent. How about those whose sense of apartness comes not from an established minority identity, but from something harder to define?

RELIGION What does your religion (or adamant lack thereof) mean to you? Where is the intersection with the larger community?

We look forward to hearing from you. Zongora2@hotmail.com
SITE COUNCIL MEETING REPORT
MAY 14, 2003

By Kathy Cox-Czosnyka

Revised bylaws have been approved, effective May 14, 2003. An important addition was the clarification of the purpose of Site Council. The revised bylaws in final form will be posted on the website by May 23, for any who would like to review them.

An Eastlake community representative presented information on a new Eastlake community festival, to be called the Eastlake Shake. The first annual Shake is planned for August 9; the Eastlake community would like participation from the TOPS community, particularly in forming a committee for family activities at the Shake.

Election of new Site Council members has begun. Ballots were included in the Go-Home the week of May 12.

The treasurer’s report included auction results at approximately $65,000; however, the final count is not yet in. It is anticipated that more money was recieved (for instance, via credit card) that has not yet been recorded in the Friends of TOPS bank account. Based on net receipts to date, it appears that Friends of TOPS will have approximately $17,000 less for the coming school year than we had for this year; again, that may not be true once the final tally is in.

The Site Council meeting was closed, and was followed immediately by a meeting of the Friends of TOPS Board of Directors for the discussion of proposals for disbursement of Friends of TOPS funding for the coming school year. The purpose of the meeting was clarification and discussion of proposals. This discussion will continue on Tuesday, May 20. When each proposal author has had the opportunity to clarify and answer questions regarding his or her proposal, discussions will begin regarding which proposals can be funded. A budget will be presented at the June meeting, for approval or modification.

THE EASTLAKE SHAKE 2003

When: Saturday, August 9, noon to 10 p.m.
Where: Pedestrian corridor, Roanoke and Franklin (i.e. Franklin “green” Street).
What: A self-funding event that will rekindle Eastlake’s experience of itself, an event that will confirm and heighten the sense of community that its residents currently enjoy, an event that will reveal Eastlake’s offerings to other Seattle residents.
Concept: At the core of The Eastlake Shake will be the local proprietors doing what they do best. Specifically, local restaurants will cook and sell food that emphasizes each restaurant’s talent and focus. To complement the food, there will be live music and dancing: Greek, Latino, Italian, etc. Other food and drink possibilities could be summer coffee drinks, baked goods, or whatever the restaurants want to provide.

The event is intended to embrace the whole community, kids and adults. Activities could include a chess tournament, a pet parade, face painting for the kids, street theater featuring Eastlake actors, the artwork of Eastlake artists, booths for other Eastlake businesses and organizations, participation of the fire department (education about the fire trucks, fire-fighting), etc.

Anyone interested in working on a committee for TOPS participation, please contact Dave Sarju or Kathy Cox-Czosnyka.

CSJ MEETING
Thursday June 5, 6-7:30 p.m., TOPS library.
Childcare provided.
The meeting will feature Carla Fetterley describing the new literacy initiatives in the early elementary grades. Already, teachers are reporting success with this, so come and bring a friend to hear more about this exciting project!
TOPS MIDDLE SCHOOLERS RECEIVE AWARDS AT STATE HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

By Leslie Cossitt

Students from Ms. Hart’s seventh- and eighth-grade social studies classes were selected as regional finalists for their projects in the Junior Paper, Performance, and Documentary divisions of the Washington State History Day competition, and attended the state competition held at Central Washington State University in Ellensburg on May 3. The theme for this year’s projects was “rights and responsibilities” and all the students’ topics had to address this theme. Although middle schools and high schools from all over the state participated, TOPS was the only participant from the Seattle public school district, and in our second year of participation, we did extremely well.

Winston LaCoste’s paper on “The Evolution of Children’s Rights and Society’s Responsibility During Child Labor” won second place in the Junior Historical Paper division and Winston will be traveling to Washington D.C. to compete at the National History Day competition.

Daniel Heller’s paper on “Rights and Responsibilities in Wartime: The Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb” placed first at the regional competition. Quin McKinley’s exhibit on “The 442nd Battalion” also won second place in the regional Junior Exhibit division.

Graham Downing and Brendan Griffin’s video documentary; “Nothing Moves in the City: The Seattle General Strike of 1919,” earned fifth place in the Junior Group Documentary division of the state competition. Their entry also won the Secretary of State, Division of Archives Award for outstanding use of primary source material from a local archive, and a $50 cash prize.

Christoph Krumm won first place in the regional division and fifth place in the state competition for his junior individual performance of “Hitler Youth: the Children of the Third Reich.”

Seventh-graders Catherine Means, Miriam Schwartz, and Claire Simon won several awards for their entry in the Junior Group Performance category. Their piece, titled “The Acadian Exile: Rights Denied,” was awarded the Colonial Dames Women’s History Award for outstanding entry in women’s history, the Pacific Northwest National Resource for Canada and Canadian Consulate History Award for outstanding entry in Canadian history, and fourth place in the state competition. The girls will share $200 in cash prizes.

All the participants thank their teacher Karen Hart for her many hours of help and guidance in this project.
A big thank you to Luzita Roll, Cynthia Livak, and all of the volunteers that make the Art Fest a must-see every year. The show will remain on view at TOPS until June 9.
DOUBLE DUTCH CHALLENGE 2003

By Don Zemke

The TOPS Double Dutch teams performed their routines at Chief Sealth High School on Tuesday, May 6, in front of a crowd of about 2000 people. Months of practice and hard work paid off as TOPS jumpers were poised and did a great job of executing their routines in the ropes.

The primary kids danced to a routine developed by eighth-graders Helene Williams and Natalie Springer while taking turns going into the ropes and doing their routines. Our captains and turners, Eliana and Camile, did a great job of turning the ropes and making sure that the jumpers could be successful.

The intermediate group, led by turners and captains Finley and Abby, dressed, danced, and performed to a tropical theme. The team was confident and poised and did a great job doing their tricks.

One of the highlights of the Double Dutch and Records Day competition was the strong second place finish by fourth-grader Madeline LaPatra in the pull-up competition. Madeline competed against the winners from all of the schools in the Seattle District, competing against fourth- and fifth-grade boys and girls. Next year I think she will place first!

The annual Records Day and Double Dutch event has turned out to be another great opportunity for TOPS students to work towards and accomplish personal goals, develop positive social skills, improve self-esteem, and meet a large variety of kids from other schools. I’m always impressed with how much poise and skill our TOPS students possess, due in large part to the many great opportunities they have.

Photos provided by Don Zemke

The primary team strikes a pose for the audience

Madeline LaPatra won second place in the pull-up competition

The intermediate team presented a tropical theme
I think civil rights are important because they help us get used to each other.

I think civil rights are important because they protect people’s feelings.

I think civil rights are important so listen to people when they say so.

I think civil rights are important because they show people how to behave and be a good person.

I think civil rights are important when you are having a misunderstanding with someone.

I think civil rights are important because we take care of each other.

I think civil rights are important because we don’t get hurt.

I think civil rights are important so when we go out to play we don’t argue or fight.

I think civil rights are important so people get along.

I think civil rights are important so you can have more friends. Because it is nice.

I think civil rights are important because you do not have to be excluded.

Summer Drama Camp at TOPS

Are you dramatic? Do you like to use your imagination, play games, and talk in funny voices? Join the Drama Camp at TOPS this summer. It will be taught by Anna Moore, daughter of kindergarten teacher Joby Moore. Anna has been involved in theater for over 10 years. She is currently majoring in drama and video production at California State University at Monterey Bay and teaching theater arts at a local elementary school.

There are two sessions of Drama Camp: July 14 - 18 and July 21 - 25, with classes in the morning (9 - 12) and afternoon (1 - 4). Each session will include theater games, improvisation, story theater, and character work. There will be an informal showcase at the end of each week. Workshops cost $75 per session. No experience necessary, just bring comfortable clothes and an open and engaged imagination.

If you are interested, please contact Joby Moore at TOPS.

2002-2003 TOPS Calendar

MAY
30 (F) ............Art Walk and elementary school play
31 (Sa) ............Elementary school play, 2 and 7 p.m.

JUNE
3-6 (T-F) ..........Grade 8 to Deception Pass
5-6 (Th-F) ......Grades 3-4 to Camp Arnold
5 (Th) ............Kindergarten potluck and puppet show, TOPS lunchroom, 6:30 p.m.
6-7 (F-Sa) ......Grade 2 sleepover at TOPS
10 (T) ............Grade 6 Science Fair, 6 p.m., TOPS gym
10 (T) ............Middle school parent forum, 8th Grade Transition, 7-8:30 p.m.
11 (W) ............Site Council meeting 4:45-7 p.m.
12 (Th) ............Grades K-2 & Karen Wong’s class to Camp Long
12 (Th) ............Taste of TOPS, 5-9 p.m., TOPS lunchroom
13 (F) ............Linda Orantes & Karen Wong BOC classes to Bainbridge State Park, 9:20 a.m.-2 p.m.
13 (F) ............Grades 1-2 picnic at Lincoln Park
16 (M) ............Grades 6-8 to Wild Waves
16 (M) ............Grade 5 passage ceremony and picnic, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Carkeek Park
17 (T) ............Grade 8 awards ceremony and picnic, 2:30 p.m.
17 (T) ............8th-grade Passage, 7 p.m.
18 (W) ............Last student day, 1-hour early dismissal

WAR HURTS

By Emma Framson, Grade 5

Spring is finally here after Ever lasting winter, But everyone sheds Tear after tear after tear. War hurts the Soul There is no doubt That War hurts the Soul Everyone has fled Boom after boom Fight after fight Fiery explosion After Fiery explosion Children and Adults Lose their lives Without being Killed For they Have lost their Loved ones Children are left With no one To look up to, And only the Wind To follow War hurts.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR EIGHTH-GRADERS!

WE WILL MISS YOU.

WE WISH YOU ALL THE BEST IN THE COMING YEARS.

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