MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Wow!! The TOPS carnival was a huge success. Hats off to Sheri Toussaint, chairperson, and her committee Kirsten James, Jennifer Shaw, and the many volunteers who helped supervise games, assisted with the food, prizes, music, No-Bake posters, donated food, helped set up, clean up or any contribution you made to help make this a fantastic and inclusive community event. The carnival also served as another piece to move us in the direction of our mission statement. The staff enjoyed themselves being dunked in the dunk tank and the students enjoyed dunking them equally as much. Douglas Frazier has bragged daily about being dunked seventeen times (holding the TOPS record).

Kirsten informed me today (Oct. 17) that we have raised over $27,000.00 for the No-Bake to date and I thank all of the parents who donated early and those of you who are sending in checks daily. Remember no amount is too small. We hope that all of the TOPS parents can participate.

STAFF CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

We welcome Jill Reifschneider, our new fifth grade teacher. We received 74 applications and Jill was selected from that pool.

Adrienne Yoshihara, our new Deaf and Hard of Hearing program teacher, replaces Meredith McGahan. Adrienne comes to us from the state of Colorado.

A MESSAGE FROM THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

November is the time of year when we are especially thankful – for family, for health, and for friends. The TOPS community has a lot to be thankful for.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

546 volunteer hours from 9/17/03 to 10/15/03

Dollar value of volunteer time: $9030.84

(dollar value for volunteer time is $16.54/hr)

The No-Bake campaign has begun with a BANG! One-third of the volunteer hours were spent in preparing for the carnival and a whopping 152 hours at the carnival!

Congratulations to the No-Bake committee and thank you to all of the volunteers – especially the dunk-tank participants.

This month there was a significant number of volunteers in the classroom. If you are interested in becoming more involved in your child’s class, ask your room/teacher rep – they usually have a list of jobs.

Thank you to the chess club, field trip, and teacher appreciation volunteers. A very special thank-you to all of you attending evening committee meetings – CSJ, communications, No-Bake, Site Council and Building Leadership Team.

THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The communications committee had its first meeting October 8. Most grades were represented and Site Council parent reps were introduced.

Here are the names of the room and teacher reps as of October 15, 2003:

Joby….Sheri Toussaint
Joan…Eric Bittenbender
Alisha…not yet filled
Susan…Alex Johnson and Jody Fuentes
Karen…Elizabeth Dekker, Andrea Miller, Ellen Levi
Mr. J…Naoko Magasis, Betsy Scott, Ruth Frowein
Carla…Randi Neimer and Janet Morrison
Judy…not yet filled
Katie… Sheri Toussaint
Tracy…Carolyn Hughes, Pam Van Dalssen
Joe…Laurie Palmer and Joan Erickson
Mary…Barbara Bengtsson and Michael Korick
Ilsa…Joni Marts, Gloria Albertha, Wendi Hirshberg
Jill…Molly LaPatra, Christine Clarke
Doug…not yet filled
Marianne…not yet filled

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

Principal: Clara Scott
Assistant Principal: Chris Drape
Site Council Chair: Dave Sarju

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 Latest Newsletter in the Quick Links section.
ABOUT THE OUTRAGEOUS PUBLISHING SERVICE

Welcome to the third newsletter of the 2003-04 school year. Teresa Nemeth is the editor, with assistance from Dan Hurley, Cindy Suzumura handles photos, design, and layout, and Toby Harris and Peggy Riehle get it mailed off to you. 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 contributions to the newsletter box in the main office or, preferably, by Word file or email to Teresa at zongora2@hotmail.com. Please send photos to csuzumura@mindspring.com.

Deadlines for 2003-04 are Wednesdays November 12, December 10, January 14, February 11, March 17, April 14, and May 12. If newsletters are to arrive the first week of the month, there can be no exceptions to these deadlines.

AN INTRODUCTION (AND INVITATION!) TO THE TOPS BUILDING LEADERSHIP TEAM

By Kathy Cox-Czosnyka, Lori Eickelberg, Lianne Sheppard, Sheri Toussaint, and Chris Drape

As you all know, TOPS is a busy place, with many different groups at work. As a part of our ongoing effort to keep effective communication happening, we want to explain the role of the school’s Building Leadership Team. Every Seattle school has a Building Leadership Team, or BLT. The teacher’s contract explains the role of the BLT directly:

The primary function of a Building Leadership Team is to promote and facilitate the collaborative decision-making process which affects academic achievement. The more specific responsibilities of the Building Leadership Team are to oversee the facilitation and development of:

1. An Academic Achievement Plan [now referred to as “Transformation Plan”], including the configuration and structure of the school’s classes and/or program offerings.
2. The development of a school-wide professional development plan to support the Academic Achievement [Transformation] Plan.
3. The school’s budget.

The BLT is the steward of the academic program of the school – the critical support and advisory team for the principal, who is responsible for the final decisions. The transformation plan lays out the academic focus the school has refined in order to boost student achievement (for TOPS the three areas of focus are 1. The impact of race on learning, 2. A quality writing program, and 3. A quality math program). The BLT plans professional development activities to meet the needs of teachers as they work to implement the transformation plan.

In terms of the budget, each school in the district has control over how it allocates the money it receives from the district. The BLT must determine the staffing needs for the program that meets the goals of the transformation plan, and budget accordingly. The money that Friends of TOPS raises (from such things as the No-Bake Bake Sale and the auction) is not a part of the budget BLT works with, and is allocated through the Site Council RFP process.

TOPS’ Building Leadership Team is composed of the two administrators, five staff members elected by the school staff, and three parents/guardians – one from the Site Council executive committee and two elected at-large from the TOPS community. The current staff members are: Clara Scott, Principal; Chris Drape, Assistant Principal; John Daugherty, Middle School Resource; Lori Eickelberg, Middle School Language Arts; Doug Frazier, Middle School Special Education; Joby Moore, Kindergarten; Nicole Titus, ESL; Katie Waters, Third Grade; Don Zemke, PE.

While the contract does not require parent representation on each school’s leadership team, the TOPS staff believes such representation is a critical component for our school community.

Now, here’s the invitation. While one of the three parent/guardian positions is designated (Site Council executive committee member – key communication link between BLT and Site Council, providing important consistency), we need to fill the two at-large parent/guardian positions for the BLT.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The BLT meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. (sometimes a little longer). You will represent a grade band (K-4 or 5-8), and it will be your responsibility to facilitate communication – from the community in to the BLT, and from the BLT out to the community.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Communication is key! BLT members must be excellent communicators, concerned and committed to supporting the academic focus of the school. As a BLT member you must be comfortable representing the ideas and opinions of a wide variety of people. You must also be able to honor the staff Code of Conduct, which includes confidentiality as appropriate. You can consistently make the meetings – we need people who will take ownership of this and see it through!

NOMINATION PROCESS:

So… if you are interested, or know of someone who would be great as part of the BLT, please nominate that person (can be yourself). Call or email Kathy Cox-Czosnyka, Sheri Toussaint, or Keith Cohon with your nominations by November 7. We will distribute ballots and explain the voting process in the Wednesday Go-Home a week later, and then you will get started!
**WHY I FEEL LUCKY TO BE A TOPS PARENT**

By Marlies van Bergeijk

My hunch is that most in our community would agree that last year at TOPS was extraordinarily stressful.

I also imagine that all of us had our own ways of responding to that stress.

That is: some of us joined others to try to right perceived wrongs; some threw up their hands; some got scared or felt alienated and withdrew; and perhaps many of us did one or more of the above at different times.

I for one was highly involved in the fall and withdrew in the spring. Never before in my 6 years as a TOPS parent was I looking forward more to the end of the school year!

Then I had the privilege of serving on the hiring committee for the new assistant principal and felt guardedly optimistic, in spite of myself, that our choice, Chris Drape, would be part of a positive change. It also helped that Mrs. Scott communicated at different times that she fully intended to turn the crisis of the spring into a learning opportunity. As a "fella" counselor, I first of all appreciated the re-frame and secondly trusted that she meant it based on all my previous interactions with her.

Fast forward to the fall and learning that the entire staff had decided to make respect and community a focus from which all their efforts would spring.

"Assume positive intent" has become my motto. (You should try this when your student fibs about her homework.)

I have seen many signs of this in the building and, subjectively, it feels so very different this fall at school. I personally feel good being at school again and I can't tell you what a relief that is to me. What are some of the things that have made me feel good so far?

I will name but a few:
- Attending the No-Bake carnival and witnessing the delight of students, especially middle school ones, at dunking one or more teachers (you really had to be there!) and the teachers' obvious enjoyment with their efforts.
- Seeing parents volunteer at that same carnival whom I hadn't seen in that role in the past.
- Being greeted back by eighth graders when they pass me in the hallway.
- Having most little kids respond when I remind them not to run.
- Hearing adults respectfully remind themselves and each other to assume positive intent.
- Having great new teachers and long-term subs in the building.
- Interacting with staff and other parents who seem more cheerful and relaxed this year.

I attended a professional workshop this weekend, conducted by a world renowned psychologist who is an expert on treating depression. One of the many interesting things Michael Yapko said was that people need to have a sense of community and a perceived ability to influence their environment to feel well. This wasn't news to me. However, it made me realize that, as a parent at TOPS, I feel the climate is such again that I can be an active, involved member. I marvel at all the talents and commitment, and know how much both staff and parents bring into this community for our common goal of educating all our kids to become accomplished people who have a keen eye on social justice and an ability to act on that.

It makes me feel lucky all over again to have my kids here and to be a parent at this very school.

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**ART NEWS** (Also masquerading as the monthly "How Your Money is Spent" feature)

By Heather Worthley

First of all, a huge THANK YOU to the generous parents and staff who supported our TOPS art program through the Fund-an-Item at the 2003 auction! We know your heart's behind art because you donated $17,545 for this year's art budget. That's by far the largest amount ever raised for art at TOPS. The art committee met on October 6 to review how the money will be spent. Many of you know that Cynthia Livak, our elementary artist-in-residence, was only funded for 20 weeks of the last school year. Part of the new auction art funding will go to bolster Cynthia's salary, enabling us to have her for 25 weeks this year. Another chunk will go to purchase a stationary wall mounting system to provide a decent place for our children's artwork to be displayed year-round. Smaller amounts of the auction art funding will be used for the Middle School Visiting Artist series, and possibly for a pottery intern to assist with wheel throwing. Without you, none of this would be happening!

For those of you who are eager to put your volunteer hours to work for art, many opportunities await:

- Cynthia works at TOPS all day on Mondays and Tuesdays, and in the morning on Thursdays. She welcomes parent volunteers.
- In Luzita's room Thursdays at 2 p.m., parent John LaCoste will be matting art. Please feel free to join him.
- ArtFest '04 will be featuring a balance of elementary and middle school art. This means lots of early matting opportunities for elementary artwork! We will be organizing work parties for ArtFest beginning in mid-November, when the first batches of elementary artwork are available.

Please email Debra Zawada at debraz@comcast.net or Heather Worthley at h.worthley@comcast.net to be notified of upcoming ArtFest volunteer opportunities.
SITE COUNCIL MEETING NOTES
OCTOBER 12, 2003

By Ellen Markman

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Clara Scott thanked all the parents who attended curriculum nights. There was a 90 – 95% attendance rate. Spreading the meetings over several nights and grade bands seems to be a success.

One of the two open positions at the start of the school year has been filled. The fifth grade position had 70 applicants, 6 were interviewed, and Jill Reifschneider was hired. She has taught fifth grade in the Edmonds and North Shore school districts. Ilsa and Jill will make a good team.

The seventh and eighth grade had a well attended, festive potluck last week to introduce the Peacemakers program. Unfortunately, some of the students were outside on the field and playground unsupervised and one student took a stick and cracked 10 of the large $200 glass leaves and 2 of the smaller $65 leaves decorating the wall and tower at the community playground. The leaves are not able to be replaced in glass, but it will be possible to repair the area with a different material. The neighbors were very upset by the noise level of the students and then the subsequent vandalism. The student was suspended for a day and the father of the child will pay for the repairs necessary. The student will write a letter, apologizing to the families for the damage. One person did the damage, but TOPS was painted with a broad brush because of this individual’s actions. TOPS can never sponsor any event without complete supervision of the students. Laurie Stusser-McNeil, Eastlake resident and TOPS parent who spearheaded the leaf project, will speak to the middle school and K-5 about stewardship and taking care of our community.

As part of the school transformation focus on math this year, Mark Ellis and Jack Lee (parent of fourth and eighth graders and a professor of mathematics at the University of Washington) are working on an accelerated math program for seventh and eighth grade. The students involved have applied to the program, and could be prepared to go into Integrated 3A math in high school (junior year level).

The elementary instrumental music program started this week, and it is bursting at the seams.

Gerrit Kischner, the Danforth intern from the University of Washington, has been working with the ASB elections in the middle school. The officers and executive board were elected last week. The president is Arianna Toussaint and the vice president is Bria Locke. The secretary will be Alyssa Locke and the treasurer Camille Shumann. They are supported by an executive board consisting of Hannah Gallagher, Erica Hall, Quin McKinley, and Jessica Savage. Congratulations to all.

ARCHIVING PROJECT

Toby Harris reported on the TOPS archiving project. Debrah Walker and Toby have created a TOPS archive from historical records dating back to the beginning of TOPS, as the Garfield Area Option Program at Stevens in 1976. They are looking for input on direction for further archiving and information-gathering that will be useful for the TOPS community and Eastlake. The materials are in the loft in the library and are available to anyone who might be interested in looking at them and being a part of the project or have ideas on how the archiving project should proceed. Contact Toby Harris at tojj@earthlink.net.

7/8TH GRADE COMMUNITY GROUP

Holly Morris Jacobson reported on the 7/8th Grade Community Group, recapping the structure and goals of the group detailed in last month’s newsletter. The group has two defined mandates. They are striving to be transparent and all-inclusive, understanding that this is a vital part of building community. The second mandate is that the group be child centered, ensuring that kids participate at all levels, from planning to creating community. The biggest challenge the group faces is figuring out the communication loop.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Steve Havas, Site Council treasurer, reported that the budget is in good shape. He suggested that Site Council craft more formal arrangements between contract staff paid by the Friends of TOPS (with money raised at the No-Bake and auction), such as the choir instructor and volunteer coordinator positions, rather than the more informal agreements we have now.

FUNDRAISING

Kirsten James reported on the No-Bake carnival. There were 31 parents, 10 students, 4 teachers, and 5 alumni who worked at the carnival at the game booths, donation tables, and the food service. There were 2 student violinists, and some TOPS parents who entertained the crowd with fiddling. About 300 kids were in attendance. Thanks to the 15 teachers who were in the dunk tank, and congratulations to Doug Frazier who had the most dunks with 17 spills into the water, and Chris Drape with a low of 5 dives.

$14,463.00 was raised at the No-Bake with an additional $11.27 donated by TOPS students. Including pledges, money contributed before the carnival, and matching funds, the No-Bake has already reached 31% of the goal of $70,000.

Jennifer Shaw proposed a new fundraiser for TOPS. Borders Books allows volunteers to wrap presents in Borders stores during the holiday season, with all donations going to the organization that provides the volunteers.
**VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**

Stacie Bonnelle is recruiting volunteers from the University of Washington’s primary and secondary education program to tutor students at TOPS. She is also looking for volunteers from the Seattle Central ASL and Interpreting program to work in the TOPS Deaf and Hard of Hearing classroom.

Room reps are still needed for Judy’s intermediate (grades 3-5) special education classroom. Stacie is hoping that Don and Eric will have teacher reps this year to assist them with anti-bullying, after-school sports publicity, and their auction project.

**INCREASING SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT**

Shirley Bossier, a middle school Site Council representative, reported that parents from Site Council met with Mary Sue Galvin to brainstorm on how the teacher representatives for the seventh and eighth grades can be part of the school-wide communication process. They will focus in the future on how to make a bridge between the sixth grade and the seventh-eighth grades.

**IMPROVING SCHOOL CLIMATE**

Dave Sarju noted the many positive things happening within TOPS that are pulling community members together this fall. He addressed the dynamic tension between parents and teachers at TOPS, and that it should be acknowledged and used to everyone’s benefit. There needs to be further discussion about how much power TOPS parents have and what the boundaries should be. Further discussion within Site Council was recommended.

**EASTLAKE COMMUNITY**

Bob Geballe, the Eastlake representative on TOPS Site Council, along with Eastlake residents David Huber and Ron Adams, spoke about beginning a dialogue between Site Council, the larger TOPS community, and the Eastlake community. Bob Geballe spoke first, saying that TOPS is a unique entity, drawing students from all over the city while occupying a central part of the Eastlake community. We need to bring TOPS and the community together. No community is complete without a school, and TOPS is a very vital community with a rich history tied to the Eastlake neighborhood.

Ron Adams spoke next. He is a public school teacher, lifelong Seattleite, and 32-year Eastlake resident. He grew up on Queen Anne Hill, and his public school, West

*Continued on page 16*

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**2003-04 TOPS CALENDAR**


**NOVEMBER**

4 (T) . . . . . . . Election Day
6 (Th) . . . . . . . CSJ meeting, 6-8 p.m., library
8 (Sa) . . . . . . . Parents landscaping work party
11 (T) . . . . . . . Veterans Day–no school
12 (W) . . . . . . . Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m., library
13 (Th) . . . . . . . Mandatory ski club meeting, 6:30 p.m., cafeteria
17-25 (M-T) . . . . . .Elementary parent-teacher conferences; 1:10 dismissal
22 (Sa) . . . . . . . Chessmates tournament, hosted by TOPS
27-28 (Th-F) . . . . . Thanksgiving Break

**DECEMBER**

4 (Th) . . . . . . . CSJ meeting, 6-8 p.m., library
5 (F) . . . . . . . . Middle school play, 7 p.m.
6 (Sa) . . . . . . . Middle school play, 2 and 7 p.m.
10 (W) . . . . . . . Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m., library
10 (W) . . . . . . . Communications committee, 7-8:30 p.m., conference room
15 (M) . . . . . . . Tracy’s third grade class play, 1:30 and 7 p.m., lunchroom
16 (T) . . . . . . . Katie’s third grade class play, 1:30 and 7 p.m., lunchroom
16 (T) . . . . . . . Grades 1 and 2 to SCT, The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
18 (Th) . . . . . . . Young Authors Conference
18 (Th) . . . . . . . Middle school dance, 6:30-9 p.m.
22 (M) . . . . . . . Winter Break begins

**JANUARY**

5 (M) . . . . . . . School resumes
8 (Th) . . . . . . . CSJ meeting, 6-8 p.m., library
14 (W) . . . . . . . Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m., library
15 (Th) . . . . . . . Martin Luther King Jr. assembly, 2:30 p.m.
19 (M) . . . . . . . Martin Luther King Jr. Day–no school
23 (F) . . . . . . . End of semester
26 (M) . . . . . . . Day between semesters–no school

**FEBRUARY**

5 (Th) . . . . . . . Grades 3-5 to SCT, Tibet Through a Red Box
5 (Th) . . . . . . . CSJ meeting, 6-8 p.m., library
11 (W) . . . . . . . Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m., library
11 (W) . . . . . . . Communications committee, 7-8:30 p.m., conference room
13 (F) . . . . . . . Middle school dance, 6:30-9 p.m.
16-20 (M-F) . . . Spring Break; chess camp at TOPS
24 (Sa) . . . . . . . TPS chess tournament
21 (W) . . . . . . . Poetry festival
24 (Sa) . . . . . . . TOPS auction

**MARCH**

3 (W) . . . . . . . 2-hour early dismissal
4 (Th) . . . . . . . Taste of TOPS, 6-9 p.m.
10 (W) . . . . . . . Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m., library
16 (T) . . . . . . . Grades 5-8 to SCT, Shape of a Girl
19 (F) . . . . . . . Professional development day–no school

**APRIL**

1 (Th) . . . . . . . Poetry festival
1 (Th) . . . . . . . CSJ meeting, 6-8 p.m., library
2 (F) . . . . . . . . End of third quarter
4 (Su) . . . . . . . Daylight Savings Time begins
5-9 (M-F) . . . Spring Break; chess camp at TOPS
14 (W) . . . . . . . Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m., library
15 (Th) . . . . . . . Grades K-4 to SCT, Mrs. Piggle Wiggle
21 (W) . . . . . . . Class pictures
24 (Sa) . . . . . . . TOPS auction

**MAY**

6 (Th) . . . . . . . CSJ meeting, 6-8 p.m., library
12 (W) . . . . . . . Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m., library
19 (W) . . . . . . . 2-hour early dismissal
21 (F) . . . . . . . Art Walk, elementary play
22 (Sa) . . . . . . . Elementary play, 2 and 7 p.m.
31 (M) . . . . . . . Memorial Day–no school

**JUNE**

3 (Th) . . . . . . . CSJ meeting, 6-8 p.m., library
9 (W) . . . . . . . Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m., library
11 (F) . . . . . . . Eighth grade passage
15 (T) . . . . . . . Last student day, fifth grade passage
A MESSAGE ABOUT THE NO-BAKE BAKE SALE

By Sheri Toussaint

No-Bake Bake Sale October 4, 2003 through January 16, 2004
Our goals are 100% participation and $70,000 raised.

The No-Bake carnival kick-off was a wonderful event with an abundance of community spirit. The No-Bake committee would like to thank everyone for their volunteer hours, participation, and generous dough-nations of financial support.

Clara Scott, Dave Sarju, Eileen Hynes, and Peter Dewey: Thank you for your support this past spring when I wrote an RFP to increase the No-Bake expenses to support my idea to have a FREE fall carnival at TOPS school. Your support enabled us to have an event where all families are welcome and we have a chance to meet and greet one another at the start of the school year.

TOPS teachers: Thank you for your support and your resounding YES response to take charge of a carnival game or to wear a costume, or sit on a dunk tank platform in October for 15 minutes and let TOPS students have three

Continued on page 7
GARDENER ALERT!

By Gretchen Chambers

TOPS Landscape Work Party

Saturday, November 8, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

You’re invited!

The plan is to weed and mulch two areas: the area around the cafeteria entrance off Louisa Street and the shrub bed in the front (west) slope.

Around the cafeteria entrance, we’ll take out the nandinas (moving them to another area), dig out weeds at the base of shrubs, and smother weeds in shrub-free areas with newspaper—at least 7 sheets thick—and a lot of wood chips. Future projects are in the works to renovate this area once the weeds are under control.

On the west slope, we’ll weed and mulch generally around the shrubs. We can use newspaper under the mulch in bad areas here too.

The school district is providing shovels, rakes, gloves, and a few wheelbarrows. Please bring newspaper and, if you can transport it, your wheelbarrow. A tree company will deliver wood chips.

Please let us know if you plan to join us. Call Gretchen at 632-0651.

A Message About the No-Bake Bake Sale continued from page 6

chances to throw a ball so they could see you fall into warm water. Your participation was above and beyond the call of duty and the carnival was a huge success because of all of you. We all thank you from the bottom of our hearts. News flash: Joe Drummond has already signed up for the fall 2004 teacher dunk tank.

There were 999 pennies in the jar. Guesses were:

998 – Mitchell

1000 – Harris, Bay, Kaden, Chantel, Riley, Eric Moberly, Maya Suzumura, Jake Green, Noah Forslund, Megan Hong, Fred Ness, and Frankie Dickson.

Thank you to Stacie Bonnelle, our volunteer coordinator, who helped at many different stations during the carnival and even made a run to the store to get more doughnuts. Sorry I missed mentioning Stacie’s name in the 10/08 Wednesday Go-Home.

A sincere thank-you to TOPS families, friends, and faculty for your support and continued generosity to give to this fundraising campaign. Your dough-nation to the No-Bake is essential because “it’s the dough that makes TOPS rise.”

For more carnival photos, go to the TOPS web site No-Bake page at http://www.seattleschools.org/schools/tops/helping/nobake.html.

Sheri Toussaint, No-Bake Chair
SheriToussaint@hotmail.com or 206-722-4526

Kirsten James, No-Bake Financial Coordinator
KirstenJames@barigarmeier.com or 206-789-5623

Jennifer Shaw, Fund Development Chair
Jennifer@aoki-sakamoto.com or 206-325-4079

No-Bake Advisory Committee: Ann Bergman, Barb Lui, and Judith Gille

MARGIE’S BABY

By Isabella Fuentes and Margot Maraghe, Grade 1

On October 1st, 2003, a baby named Savannah Rae Butcher was born to our great first grade teacher Margie Butcher and her husband Steve. Savannah was 18 inches tall. Margie said that she was the cutest baby she had ever seen. She has big hands and big feet, but the rest of her is teeny tiny.

Savannah and Margie are both doing fine. Margie is going to bring Savannah into our first grade class sometime in November. Margie is going to come back to teach right after winter break.

Clara Scott, School Board member Barbara Peterson, and Sheri Toussaint
NOTAS AND NOTICIAS

By Maestra Rabbitt (our Spanish teacher)

Many families dine on turkey around this time of year. The turkey is a bird native to the Americas. Wild turkey tastes very different from the turkey we buy in stores nowadays.

In Spanish turkey is "pavo" or "guajolote." The word guajolote is derived from the Nahuatl word "huexolotl." Nahuatl is the language of the Azteca Empire, which held dominion in parts of what is now the south and southwestern United States and in the United States of Mexico, up to the time of the conquista.

A good Mexican recipe that can be made with leftover turkey is Mole de Guajolote.

Softly boil turkey until it falls from bone. Shred into pieces. Prepare mole sauce using canned mole powder or jarred mole paste according to directions. Serve with white rice and corn or flour tortillas.

If you don’t know where to purchase mole powder or paste, please contact me.

VOCABULARY:

PAVO-Turkey. This word is used in Latin America and Spain.

GUAJOLOTE-Turkey. This word is used in some parts of Latin America.

AZTECA-Aztec. Referring to an advanced empire reigning in Mexico at the time of the Spanish conquest.

CONQUISTA-Conquest. Generally referring to the Spanish conquest of the Americas.

MOLE-Derived from the Nahuatl word. It is a type of Mexican sauce prepared with chocolate, peanuts, and spices and used for meat.

Muchas familias en los Estados Unidos de Norte América comen pavo o guajolote durante esta época del año. El guajolote es un ave indígena a las Américas. El guajolote silvestre sabe muy diferente al pavo que se puede comprar en las tiendas de acá.

La palabra guajolote es derivada de la palabra Nahuatl "huexolotl". Nahuatl es el lenguaje del Imperio Azteca.

Una receta Mexicana que se puede usar con guajolote es el mole de guajolote. Prepare la receta con mole en pasta o en polvo según las instrucciones. Sirva con arroz blanca y tortillas de maíz o de harina.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

By Steve Haines

Our library has approximately 8,000 books, tapes, pamphlets, and videos, all of which must be inventoried at the end of each school year. This is done to discover which books have found a new home away from our library. Many of these books are gone for good, and hopefully are being read.

One way to replace some of the newer books would be to donate a copy of that book. I have a list of several books that the library would appreciate having back on the shelves. The list will be posted on the TOPS web site. Look under Academics, Library.

Another way to help build and supplement our collection is to donate a favorite book in the name of your student, for example as a birthday gift. Your child would have the honor of cataloging and preparing the book for the library shelves. Any children’s or young adult book would be fine, and much appreciated by our community.

The library is open most afternoons from 3:20 to 4:30. Students are welcome to use the facility but should be doing homework or reading. It is not intended to be a daycare center. There are times, e.g., staff meeting days, when I can’t be in the library the entire time. Thanks for your support.

Parents are always welcome in the library to help shelf books, or read, or hang out. We even have an author who is doing research for a book in our library. Think J.K. Rowling. Parents can even check out books.

Two web sites that provide lists of recommended children’s literature titles are:

http://www.bbook.com/childclass1.shtml
http://www.nypl.org/branch/kids/gloria.html

MIDDLE SCHOOL SKI AND BOARD SEASON IS APPROACHING

By Janet Moore

Howdy all! The ski committee met and we have finalized our dates.

The registration packets will be sent home October 22. The mandatory meeting will be Thursday, November 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.

The dates for the Friday night ski bus will be January 9, 16, 23, 30, and February 6. We will also have a day trip Monday, January 26.

They are predicting lots of snow this year, so get excited for a wonderful skiing and snowboarding season. If you have questions, please call Janet Moore at 283-7284.
Approximately 45 TOPS students receive special assistance in English as a Second Language (ESL). These students are mainstreamed in regular classrooms but also receive language support in those classrooms through the TOPS ESL program. Now in its fourth year, the program serves a wide variety of students. Largest populations are from Spanish and Vietnamese cultures, but the program also includes students who speak Chinese dialects (Mandarin, Cantonese, and Toishanese), Filipino (Tagalog), Pakistani, Urdu, and Somali, among others.

Because of active recruitment and changes in set-aside seats, the program has evolved over the years. As the program has grown, the majority of ESL students are now in the lower grades. Eight new ESL students are in the kindergarten classes, eleven are in first grade, seven are in second grade, and six are in third grade. The remaining thirteen students are spread out among grades four through eight.

Nicole Titus, who is beginning her fourth year teaching at TOPS, heads the ESL program. Nicole works with students in the classroom with the focus on “language-rich ties,” with an emphasis on science and math in the upper grades. She notes that her students have a wide range of academic skills, and although many students struggle as English is not their first language, “Some ESL students even make honor roll and become top students.”

Nicole has always been interested in languages. Her family is of Chilean descent; her mother was born in Chile. Prior to graduate school she bought a one-way ticket to Europe, studied in Spain to receive her ESL credential, and then wound up spending three years living and teaching English in Hungary. Nicole has also worked in specialized tutoring for close to ten years in the K-12 grades. She received her graduate degree at Antioch University, and is currently taking classes in advanced Spanish.

Nicole distinguishes the ESL program from the Bilingual Orientation Center (BOC) that moved from TOPS this year to the John Stanford School. While BOC is a self-contained program for newcomers (new families), the ESL program is a mainstreamed program where students receive language support and some first-language tutoring. “BOC and ESL academic programs have always functioned independently,” Nicole explains.

In fact, one challenge of the TOPS ESL program is that ESL students do the very same things that all students do. “But that’s the beauty of an integrated program,” Nicole claims, noting that the “form of the ESL program has shifted over past two years to inclusion to ensure that ESL students are more connected to the classroom community and academic content.” One exciting example of successful integration occurs when older bilingual students become fifth-grade buddies for kindergarten ESL students. And of course “classroom teachers are wonderful and accommodating with inclusion and normalization.”

One concern that Nicole has is that “there are not enough first-language tutors for the district.” She assures us that this is a district problem, not one with TOPS. TOPS does have a full-time Spanish instructional assistant (Manuel Bermudez) and funding for a half-time Vietnamese tutor (Ngoc Hoang).

ESL students bring an incredible amount of diversity to TOPS—in experience as well as culture. As a community we are very fortunate to be so enriched.

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Message From the Principal continued from page 1

Colette Hubbard is our new ASB administrative assistant. She replaces Susan Larson, who is taking a one-year family medical leave to care for an elderly loved one. We will miss Susan.

Students are arriving at school too early, before staff supervision is available. Please remember that supervision is not available until 8:30 a.m. It is the time that the school buses begin arriving at TOPS and I am in the lunchroom.

The building is open and accessible on a daily basis. Please help us ensure the safety of your child by honoring the supervision window from 8:30 a.m to 4:30 p.m.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

Katie and Tracy’s classes will perform the third grade plays.

Both classes will have a day and evening performance. Tracy’s play is *Much Ado About Nothing*, Monday, December 15, 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Katie’s play *As You Like It* is December 16, 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

**PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE WEEK:**

begins the week of November 17 through November 25. If you have not signed up with your child’s teacher, please do so as soon as possible

Cheers!

Clara
Members of the TOPS community are invited to attend the CSJ meetings on the first Thursday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. (new time).

Childcare is available; please call the office (252-3510) a minimum of 24 hours in advance. Kids Co. cannot guarantee a spot if your child is not on the sign-up list.

November 6 Galen Goff and Stacie Bonnelle, facilitators.

The agenda will include an hour-long discussion regarding holidays in our school culture, with Julie Bisson (to be confirmed).

December 4 Clara Scott, facilitator.

The agenda will include a panel of people who are gay and lesbian to discuss heterosexism/homophobia.

October 2 Susan Davis, facilitator.

In early December, Seattle will host another "Undoing Racism" workshop, put on by The People's Institute Northwest (206-938-1023, pinwseattle@yahoo.com). Beth Wheeler and Priya Singh will check and confirm the date for the December workshop.

The Undoing Racism Workshop is an intensive workshop designed to educate, challenge, and empower people to "undo" the racist structures that hinder effective social change. The People's Institute was founded in 1980, has trained thousands of people in hundreds of communities throughout the United States, and is recognized nationally for the quality of its training.

CSJ grant money will pay for two CSJ members to attend the workshop. It was suggested that if a number of members are interested in attending the workshop, the money could be divided to offset the cost for everyone interested. Those who attend the workshop will report or give a presentation at a CSJ meeting.

The Code of Conduct has been introduced to the Site Council, the communications committee/teachers-room reps, and the CSJ (at the summer retreat).

Clara Scott explained and discussed with us the 12 components, pointing out that #3, "Assume positive intent," was most important. Below in parentheses following each component is an excerpt from Clara's comments.

TOPS Code of Conduct (Revised and adopted by staff 5/03):

- Respect the opinions of others even if we disagree. Be willing to disagree without labeling the other point of view. ("Do not tell someone they are wrong or what they say is stupid.
- Strive for honest, respectful, and complete communication. ("This one speaks for itself.
- Assume positive intent. ("Give the benefit of the doubt.
- Respect confidentiality. ("No gossip.
- Speak directly to the person with whom we have a concern, even if we process respectfully first with someone else. ("It is ok to process with someone else how you may phrase what you would like to say, or to ask for tips about your approach, but always speak directly to the person with whom you have a concern.
- Respect everyone's air time and processing time. Honor silence. ("Tell someone you will get back to them regarding the issue, if you need time to think. Some folks need to process in silence.
- Use "I" messages ("I feel uncomfortable," "I am concerned," "I believe.
- "Clarify what you are saying and speak for yourself, not for the group, us, we, or them.
- Listen fully to the message and the feeling behind the words. Seek to understand. Ask questions. ("Do not miss the message; ask questions by mirroring back the question.
- Withhold judgments until we get sufficient information to see the whole picture. Stop and reflect. ("Do not jump to the negative conclusion.
- Strive for consensus in group decisions, but whatever the outcome, honor and support group decisions. ("Do not sabotage the group decision by agreeing and then later calling folks trying to get them to disagree with the decision and to agree with you instead. Do not keep the group from moving forward. Do not always expect closure.

The Code of Conduct has been introduced to the Site Council, the communications committee/teachers-room reps, and the CSJ (at the summer retreat).
Hold ourselves accountable. Follow through on commitments.
(“Do what it is you say you will do; be responsible.”)

Forgive. Remember, we are human.
(“It is healthier for everyone to forgive; the typo signifies we can make a mistake because we are human.”) [Amen to that. –ed.]

The Code of Conduct will be sent again to the CSJ yahoogroup so everyone can read, review, and comment. At the November CSJ meeting we will vote to endorse and adopt the Code of Conduct.

CSJ purpose and flyer: Galen Goff will wordsmith the CSJ purpose and flyer that was written in September. October 9, Galen will send this revised and combined document to the CSJ yahoogroup for comments (comments due back 10/16). Please send your comment directly to Galen. The final document will be sent back to the yahoogroup for final review. The goal is to have a flyer with the CSJ purpose statement ready as a handout at the October 23 State of the School event.

Facilitator Sue Feldman will be giving a follow-up presentation at the State of the School.

THE TOPS CODE OF CONDUCT

By Chris Drape

Last spring the TOPS staff finalized a list of principles to guide their communication and interaction. The goal was to identify and acknowledge the way we wanted to communicate and treat one another. As we focus on the issue of respect as a school community this year, this Code of Conduct is becoming an important guide for our entire learning community. The TOPS Site Council, Coalition for Social Justice, and communication committee (Room Reps) have all embraced the document. We believe that the ideals listed below are key components in creating the kind of community we want at TOPS.

A Message from the Volunteer Coordinator continued from page 1

Rebecca...Marlies van Bergeijk and Gretchen Chambers
7/8 teacher reps: Cheryl Pappy, Joni Marts, Patricia Bittner, Jill Rullkoetter, Holly Morris, Heidi Randall

A new teacher rep position is open for the PE teachers. We are looking for a four volunteers: two from elementary and two from middle school. These volunteers would help with the auction project, serve as contacts for recess volunteers, and disseminate TOPS sports news. Please email or call if you are interested.

The next communication committee meeting is scheduled for December 10.

TASTE OF TOPS

The first Taste of TOPS meeting is November 3, 2003, 6-7 p.m. in the main office conference room. No childcare available. Meetings are planned for:

Dec 8, 2003 Feb 2, 2004 Mar 1, 2004 (optional)

If you have ideas, please stop by.

The Taste of TOPS will be held March 4, 2004.

VC TIP:

KUOW’s program The Conversation had a great show about volunteering. You can hear it on www.KUOW.org. Hit the link toThe Conversation archives.

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TOPS directory proofreading – contact Ellen Markman at ellenmark@hotmail.com.

Holiday basket delivery – details forthcoming.

Stacie Bonnelle, volunteer coordinator, 252-3541

Wednesdays 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. TOPSVlntr@aol.com
WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING…
THE TEACHERS WERE STILL WORKING!

By Kathy Barker

September 25th this year was one of the last clear and perfect days of the fall. It was still 70 degrees in the early evening. But while many of us were enjoying the lovely evening, maybe tasting the last ice cream cone of the season, TOPS fourth grade teacher Joe Drummond (along with scores of other Seattle elementary school teachers) was taking a three-hour Inquiry Science class at the John Stanford Center.

Three hours is the bulk of the evening. That three-hour class was only one of three classes needed for the Land and Water fifth grade module. And the Land and Water module is only one of the three modules used in the fifth grade curriculum.

So there go a lot of those precious evenings – and that is only for science training. Behind the scenes, on nights and weekends, teachers are taking classes and courses and training sessions to maintain certification, to get master’s degrees, to learn to be better teachers. Most of this must be paid for out of the teachers’ own pockets, and very little of it will ever show up in a meaningful salary increase.

Most teachers want to take professional development courses. It helps them to teach better. The Inquiry Science Program, started in Seattle in the early 1990s by Seattle public school teachers, parents, the Boeing Company, and scientists from the UW, has revolutionized science training here by providing curriculum, training, and materials to teachers from K-5, 6-8, and now 9-12. Seattle’s Literacy Initiative is another program acclaimed by teachers: it gives them skills and strategies to reach every child, regardless of background or learning style. As does the Inquiry Science Program, the Literacy Initiative provides a small amount of financial compensation to the teachers. Yet it is a two-year program that requires 72 hours of class work in 12 daylong sessions, meaning that many of those precious Saturdays are given over to work.

Many teachers have or will obtain a master’s degree. This satisfies some of the professional development requirements, and does provide an increase in salary, but this is offset by the substantial tuition fees each teacher must pay her- or himself. Often, a teacher will be putting in a minimum of 5-10 hours a week on master’s coursework, as well as taking a demanding professional development course such as the Literacy Initiative—and will still be teaching, with all the extracurricular time that requires, and scrambling for time for a personal life.

There is a 2005-06 deadline set by federal law for a highly qualified teacher in every core-subject classroom. How this will happen, in the face in federal and state deficits, is not clear, except that much of the burden of these increased expectations is likely to fall on the backs of the teachers. Once again, they will probably be expected to dig into their own pockets to pay for more training.

What other profession requires its members to perpetually update professional standards, to continuously adapt to changing laws, to do it in “free” time, to do it out of pocket? As parents, as taxpayers, we can work to make teacher salaries match our expectations and their dedication. Let the school board and the superintendent in the Seattle School District know that this is important to you.

5th graders Deric, Jack, & Eugene enjoy their cultural learning experience at the Japanese Fall Festival at Bellevue Community College last month.
**BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION**

*By Janet Morrison*

Clip Boxtops for Education coupons from General Mills products, bring them to the office at school, and TOPS earns CA$H!

**Earn cash for our school every time you shop for groceries.**

Clip Boxtops coupons from hundreds of products found at your local grocery store. Each coupon is worth 10 cents when we redeem them from General Mills. Last year we earned $276 and we hope to double that this year. There is the potential to earn thousands of dollars with this fundraiser.

Look for Boxtops coupons on this year’s new products: Pop Secret popcorn, Bugels, Chex Mix, and Gardettos snacks.

Other participating products: Cheerios, Wheaties, Chex, Total, Kix, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Trix, Cocoa Puffs, Lucky Charms, Yoplait Go-Gurt, Pillsbury Rolls, Betty Crocker cake mixes and frosting, Bisquick, Progresso Soup, Old El Paso products, Gold Medal flour, and many more! Go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) to see a complete list of participating products.

**New! Boxtops For Education Booster Club:**

Now you can earn money for TOPS when you shop online. Register with [Boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) and our school will earn up to 10% of your online purchases. Participating merchants include Dell Computer, Lands End, Nordstrom, Eddie Bauer, Barnes & Noble, Office Depot, Expedia.com, Gap.com, and many more. Remember to check out the Booster Club marketplace at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) when you do your holiday shopping online this year!

Contact Janet Morrison at janetm@blarg.net if you have questions.

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**COMMUNITY MEETINGS UPDATE**

*Sent in by Kathy Barker*

The League of Education Voters Foundation (the policy arm of the League of Education Voters, which created I-728, the class size initiative) is holding a series of community meetings around the state in October and November to get your reactions to ideas on how to improve education and education funding, from early childhood education, through K-12, and on to higher education, including community and technical colleges and four-year universities.

Based on feedback we have already received, the League of Education Voters is crafting some proposals for the next legislative session, but we need your input on how to improve and fine-tune them.

The agenda will include:

- Small group discussion/reactions
- Next steps
- Problems we are trying to address
- Public opinion research (focus group findings and poll results)
- Early draft of proposal (including revenue ideas)
- Based on feedback we have already received, the League of Education Voters is crafting some proposals for the next legislative session, but we need your input on how to improve and fine-tune them.

Please plan to join us at one of the remaining community meetings around the state and bring any others who would be interested. RSVP to Cherise Khaund at cherise@educationvoters.org. For more information about the meetings, visit our web site at [www.educationvoters.org](http://www.educationvoters.org). All meetings will be held from 7 to 9 p.m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bellevue</td>
<td>Mon., Oct 27</td>
<td>Highland Middle School 15027 NE Bel-Red Road Bellevue, WA 98007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silverdale</td>
<td>Wed., Nov 5</td>
<td>Central Kitsap High School 3700 NW Anderson Hill Road Silverdale, WA 98383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmonds</td>
<td>Tues., Oct 28</td>
<td>Pioneer Middle School 1620 Russell Street Wenatchee, WA 98801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pullman</td>
<td>Wed., Oct 29</td>
<td>Location to be determined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spokane</td>
<td>Thurs., Oct 30</td>
<td>Location to be determined</td>
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8TH GRADE ART CLASS SILKSCREENING PROJECT

By Cindy Suzumura and Luzita’s 8th grade art classes

Luzita’s eighth Grade art class has been hard at work creating their own designs and silkscreening them onto t-shirts. They’ve learned firsthand about the hard work, planning, cooperation, and patience that it takes to go through the process of printing.

Stop in sometime and see some of the great stuff they’re creating...and get messy while you’re there.

Silkscreening was time consuming but fun and it’s hard to make sure the stencils work.
~Anne Hewitt

I really like the idea that we can wear our art, not just hang it on a wall somewhere.
~Alex Price

Luzita says you need to use your arm or hand muscles to do the process, but really, my hands aren’t very strong, but it turned out okay.
~Christina Leung

It’s a hard and challenging process that takes time to complete.  ~Jon-Erik Jardine

Doing printmaking has been a great learning experience. There’s so many steps. It’s cool to see your shirt being made and all the colors coming together.
~Lani Farley

Photos by Cindy Suzumura
Silkscreening is a whole new experience for us, which makes every part engaging for each and every one of us. Just like everything we do.

~Ben Schmechel

I thought this was a great project, because it taught us a lot about printing and we get to learn firsthand how real printers print.

~Alyssa Locke

Doing this project has opened my eyes to the many steps and difficulties of printmaking.

~Genna White

This art project gives each student a chance to reveal their favorite things. This project deals with choice and is very self explanatory.

~Lida Bilokur

The hard part is coming up with a lasting idea, but when you’re on the right track, it’s really cool and fun!

~Eli Vanderbilt

It teaches me about color.

~Samantha Nutter

The silk screen is very interesting. It is like a miracle the way that the design shows up when you put the ink on the screen.

~Max Rennebohm

It was a good way to use art to make something we can wear and use.

~Alyssa Suzumura
TOPS Auction 2004: Help Wanted!

The auction committee is looking for some creative, energetic, and fun-loving people to get involved with the spring fundraiser. Some jobs require attendance at monthly auction meetings, many do not. Some jobs are ongoing, while others are intense during the month leading up to the event in April. Take a look at the descriptions below and see if there’s a job that fits your talents and interests. Contact Tammy Luthy at jheft@seanet.com or call 322-3784 if you’re interested or have questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Time Commitment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Live Auction Coordinator</td>
<td>coordinate live auction items, create posters, arrange live auction items for display on the day of the auction, work with auctioneer to oversee smooth running show.</td>
<td>March – April, auction meetings mandatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software Coordinator</td>
<td>oversee input of auction items into &quot;Maestrossoft&quot; auction software, check donation forms, create reports and thank-you letters.</td>
<td>April - May, some auction meetings optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Coordinator</td>
<td>create a three-computer network with printers at auction site, work with software coordinator/banking/registration to set up system for use on auction night.</td>
<td>March – April, work day/night of auction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raffle Coordinator - coordinate raffle sales, choose item from donations in March, create display, oversee sales of tickets at TOPS during April and night of the auction.</td>
<td>March – April, March and April auction meetings mandatory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement Chair - oversee procurement of auction items, create an effective donation request letter, guide parent procurement, target desirable items.</td>
<td>January – April, all auction meetings mandatory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Basket/Project Coordinator - oversee and track class projects and baskets, work with room reps to guide projects and keep on deadline.</td>
<td>February – April, some meetings necessary</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Service Supervisor - oversee 20 high-school students working as food servers at the auction. Motivated TOPS ALUMNI kids need minor supervision of service, clearing, and cleanup.</td>
<td>Night of auction only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table Decorations - lead or oversee TOPICS in April, work with students to create centerpieces for 30 auction tables. Underwriting/ donations available for materials. Volunteers available to lead TOPICS.</td>
<td>April, one meeting necessary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Web Site Coordinator - oversee auction web site (link to TOPS site), comfort level with software.</td>
<td>February – April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Musicians - would love to have a pianist or classical musicians performing during the silent auction.</td>
<td>Night of auction only</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Writers - write descriptions for catalog and auction signage.</td>
<td>March - April</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Catalog/Invitation Design - design and layout of auction catalog and invitation. Graphic design and layout skills needed.</td>
<td>February – April, some meetings necessary</td>
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Site Council Meeting Notes continued from page 5

Queen Anne, was the center of community life. Festivals, fundraising, voting held at the school were all within walking distance of his childhood home. The Seward School provides the same thing for the Eastlake community. It is the only public building in Eastlake, and is well used by the Eastlake board which meets in a special Eastlake room in the building near the gym. Years ago, when the building was in jeopardy of being mothballed or sold by the school district, Eastlake held events to help save Seward School because the school was important to the community. Ron said TOPS and Eastlake share the building and history, yet we don’t know enough about each other. People in Eastlake are artists, educators, and professionals with a lot of energy who see TOPS as a focal point of this community.

David Huber is the president of the Eastlake Community Council. He said it has been a pleasure to interact for over 13 years with the Seward School. He spoke about the Eastlake Tomorrow project that was started 10 years ago in the TOPS cafeteria. A major component of the plan was a community with a school. He discussed what a full relationship between the school and the Eastlake community would look like. Perhaps it would start by conversation, and action would be determined by dialogue. Eastlake wants to be on the TOPS agenda.

Drama Committee

Linda Korbus announced the third grade Shakespeare plays this year. Tracy’s class will perform Much Ado About Nothing on December 15 at 1:30 and 7 p.m. Katie’s class will perform As You Like It on December 16 at 1:30 and 7 p.m.
PE TEACHER FOR THE DAY!

By Jeremy Weizenbaum, Grade 4

At the TOPS auction last spring my dad bought me the privilege of being the TOPS PE teacher for the day! Don and Eric explained to me that I could plan the activities for the day and be in charge.

When the students came in I was up front leading them through their stretch routine. Next I had them run for five minutes and then we played one of my favorite games called "spot." Being the teacher I got to choose who was it (me) and how long the games would last.

It was very fun. After PE everyone was asking me if everyone was going to get a turn being the teacher because they wanted to do it!

Jeremy enjoys being PE teacher for a day.

GRRRRL POWER: TOPS ULTIMATE FRISBEE WANTS YOU!

By Arianna Toussaint, Grade 8

When I first heard of Ultimate Frisbee, I thought it was a dorky sport but that couldn’t be farther from the truth. It’s soccer, football, and basketball combined but you do it all with a Frisbee.

This year the TOPS Frisbee team has about 30 sixth, seventh, and eighth graders on the A team and B team. Our record this year is 2 – 1 (2 wins, 1 loss) and only getting better. Ultimate Frisbee teaches you sportsmanship, equity among players, teamwork, encourages gender diversity, and teaches you the spirit of the game. Unfortunately, the A team and B team combined only has four girls and we really do need more to make the team more diverse. The spirit of the game is just as important as winning and that’s why TOPS has won the Spirit Award twice in a row.

Playing this game can be conditioning for other sports like basketball (which is coming up soon) and soccer so you are more familiar with the amount of running you’ll have to do for after-school sports.

By participating in Ultimate Frisbee, you get to meet new people (from like Mercer and Aki Kurose) and at the end of games, you make up a cheer for the other team which really shows good sportsmanship. Ultimate Frisbee is probably the most fun and lively sport I have ever played.
NO-BAKE BAKE SALE 2003-2004

NO-BAKE BAKE SALE OCTOBER 4, 2003 THROUGH JANUARY 16, 2004

Our goals are 100% participation and $70,000 raised

Thank you to the following families, friends, and faculty who have made their financial contributions and pledges to the No-Bake Bake Sale. As of October 14, 2003 we have raised $26,643.27 from 127 donors. Our average donation is $209.79. Contributions received total $18,648.27, pledges total $6,275, and Employee Matching Gifts total $1,720. This matching gift total is 6.5% of the total raised. Please remember to check with your employer to see if they will match your donation.

No-Bake appeal letters and brochures are available in the TOPS office and on the TOPS website No-Bake page.

CONTRIBUTORS (*denotes TOPS students)
Adams, Michael & Linda
Albright, Bridget
Allen, Jerry & Betsy Wells
Allworth, Randy
Aly, Sorayya & Azhari
Andrews, Sharon & Peter Carter
Boudra, Noah *
Braybrooks, Julie & Greg Simon
Bullard, Mary
Burns, Dennis & Alyson
Butler, Susan & Larry
Calcaigno, Johnny & Karen Stuhlreher
Calloway, Danielle & Terry
Cauthron, Jim & Julie
Cech, Bonnie & Frank
Ceriale, William & Renee
Chao, Mary
Chapko, Michael & Marcia Weaver
Cohen, Judith For Sarah Cohen
Comert, Piyale
Courtney, Michael & Christine O’Leary
Dang, Duc & Paula
Davenport, Gordon & Xue-Qiao Zhao
Deng, Bo & Joe Deng
Dickinson, Elizabeth & Joseph Merrill
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**THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PLAY IS COMING!**

*By Todd Jamieson*

William Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing* will be presented by TOPS middle school actors on December 5 and 6. In keeping with the middle school Shakespearean tradition that began two years ago with the compelling and innovative production of *Hamlet* and continued with last year’s hilarious, madcap *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, the middle school thespians will tackle another of Shakespeare’s great plays. In *Much Ado About Nothing*, the “heroes” return to Medina, Italy, from a successful war, in which no one was killed, only to find themselves engaged in the war of love that is much more dangerous and risky. The play pits two of Shakespeare’s cleverest lovers, Beatrice and Benedick, against each other in a war of words, wit, and will. As these two lovers stubbornly war against each other, their friends conspire to make them fall in love through delightful deceptions and ruses, continually raising the comic stakes. Amidst this action, we have the evil Don John and his obsequious comrades, Borachio and Conrade, spitefully attempting to foil the marriage of young prince Claudio and princess Hero. Will they be thwarted by the clumsy clowns, Constable Dogberry and his officers, or will their plot bring unhappiness and shame to Hero and her family? Shakespeare takes us on a wild ride of wit, joy, sorrow, and redemption that allows us to laugh, fret, regret, smile, and learn about ourselves in this delightful and engaging play.

Rehearsals began in late October and take place Monday – Thursday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. (except on early dismissal days, when rehearsals will be 1:15-3:30 p.m.) and the performances will be December 5 at 7 p.m. and December 6 at 2 and 7 p.m.

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**GOLDEN EAGLES SOCCER**

*By Ron White*

Hi—my children are Marianna (grade 2) and Jackson (grade 4), and I am a general manager / soccer coach of the TOPS girls second grade soccer team. The picture is the Golden Eagles (level: Girls U08), and all of the girls are second graders at TOPS. Fifteen girls on the team!

The soccer team I started with last year (first graders) was so popular that we had to split into two teams for the fall 2003 season – the teams are now called the Golden Eagles I and the Golden Eagles II. This is quite a remarkable percentage of the two second grade classrooms, and it has been a blast. We have 14 of the 15 girls in this photo. The players on the second grade TOPS team are: Marianna White, Ryan Flood, Tess Havas, Sadie Hirshberg, Katy Morrison, McKenna Niemer, Annie Rorick, Teal Stannard, and the second team is Rachael Carrell, Hana Cohon, Simone Framson, Takeko Horiuchi, Ella Palmer, Sophie Segel, and Rose Yasukochi. Both teams practice every Tuesday together, with a game on Saturday. The games for the Golden Eagles have been thrilling, and have demonstrated tremendous teamwork, respect, and love for the game of soccer.

The improvement demonstrated by these little Golden Eagles has been astounding. Saturday, October 18, was the final formal match for the Golden Eagles, representing TOPS school through the Woodland Soccer Organization. The coaches of the two teams are all experienced and wily TOPS parents: Ron White, Rich Hirshberg, Marlies van Bergeijk, and Keith Cohon. Marie Hammer, a volunteer from Microsoft, is also on the team as a lead coach. She is just doing it because she loves children and soccer.
COME ONE, COME ALL!

...TO MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, PUT ON BY OUR TALENTED MIDDLE SCHOOLERS.

By Linda Korbus

December 5, 7:00 p.m.

December 6, 2:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Adults $5, students $3

This will be the fifth play Todd Jamieson has directed at TOPS. He has also directed locally for the Seattle Childrens Theatre Summerstages, Wooden O Theatre, the Seattle Shakespeare Company, Pacific Crest School, and Bainbridge Performing Arts. Todd has been very pleased with the audience attendance the past two years, but would love to see greater support for the play from the entire school community. He says: "These young actors are quite talented and do a tremendous job with Shakespeare. It's amazing to watch them come alive when challenged by the language and the substance of Shakespeare’s plays. They speak the language clearly and their abilities as actors bring the characters and the plays fully to life. I hope both the middle school and the elementary school students, families, faculty, and friends will take this opportunity to see what is not just a good middle school production, but entertaining and exciting theatre." The script has been edited and the show will run no more than 1 1/2 hours so it is appropriate for young audiences.

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