MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

WELCOME BACK FROM SPRING BREAK!
Many of us stayed right here in our beautiful city and enjoyed the sights and time with family and friends. Some of us went to far-away places with our families. Everyone returned looking rested and ready to complete the remainder of the school year. It is already the end of the third quarter! Middle School report cards were mailed Friday, April 20.

Marianne led the tour of 45 to France including students, parents, and staff. Everyone on the trip had a fantastic time. They enjoyed a couple extra days in London and some attended “Les Miserables.” We all appreciate the organization and travel expertise of Marianne. Thank you for making this trip possible.

WASL testing for grades 3-8 began in April and we are finishing it up during the first few weeks of May. Please remind students to get enough rest, eat a healthy breakfast, and come to school on time. Please do not schedule medical/dental appointments during the WASL unless, of course, there is an emergency. Thanks for your cooperation!

May is a very special month with lots of activities on the school calendar. The week of May 7-11 is Teacher Appreciation Week! It is a good time for students and parents to celebrate the teachers with notes of thanks and appreciation for all they do for our students.

The Auction is Saturday, May 5th at the Asian Resource Center. We are looking forward to a great turnout. Thank you Auction Committee and all the family and friends who have solicited and contributed some fantastic items for this special event! Please make sure your RSVP has been returned. It may be dropped off at the TOPS Office.

The Fifth Grade Science Fair will be held in the Library on May 11. Please come out and celebrate the students’ work!

Luzita and Cynthia coordinate the ArtFest each year. This year, the date is Friday, May 18, beginning at 5:30 p.m. This is one of the highlights of the TOPS school year, showcasing the beautiful artwork created by TOPS students. You can see the ArtFest and attend the Continued on page 4.

TOP 10 REASONS TO ATTEND THE TOPS “MOSAIC” AUCTION MAY 5TH

By Kathy Wickward for the Auction Committee

10. Barb Lui’s stunning mosaic centerpieces!

9. This is your chance to socialize with other TOPS parents at an adult event!

8. Buy a big string of raffle tickets to win a getaway with your special someone in your life (maybe yourself, or your partner, or your best bud, but not your child - this time) on a swanky downtown sleepover, including dinner at Purple Café - Seattle’s celebrated wine bar and restaurant featuring over 320 varieties displayed prominently in a two-story, temperature controlled tower, and one night at the elegant Seattle Fairmont Olympic Hotel—complete with brunch in the morning. Raffle tickets will be on sale at the auction and through the auction committee for $5 apiece.

7. Our dynamic P.E. duo Don & Eric will be there to wow you with their presentation skills.

6. Your dog will love you (if you win a year’s worth of Blue Dog Bakery treats, that is). Continued on page 2.
ABOUT THE OUTRAGEOUS PUBLISHING SERVICE

Welcome to the eighth newsletter of the 2006-07 school year. Jamie Flaxman and Ann Simonson edit, Sharon Mentyka does the layout, and Jane Summerfield, Peggy Maraghe and Roxanne Robinson get it mailed off to you. Don Zemke provides many of our photos. G & H Printing prints the newsletter.

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 by email to topsnewsletter@gmail.com or to the newsletter box in the main office. The deadline for the June issue is May 11. Would you like to edit or otherwise help with our newsletter? Newcomers welcome. Please contact Jamie and Ann at topsnewsletter@gmail.com

By Luzita Roll/Art teacher, Grades 5-8

The NAEA Convention was designed for all levels of art educators, Pre-K through PhD, Museum Outreach, Research, Technology, Advocacy, and Curriculum & Instruction. Who knew I belonged to such a huge tribe! My immediate challenge was to decide which of the 1100 workshops to attend. While much of the substance I absorbed is still percolating, here are some highlights.

Visual literacy starts with toddlers. Let them draw as much as possible! The act of scribbling and mark making prepares the brain for reading and writing. Drawing stimulates the use of words, leading to the acquisition of literacy.

As with the Six Traits of the writing process, art assessment is using the Five “C’s” of Composition, Craftsmanship, Creative Process, Communication and Connections. Self-evaluation rubrics that include these traits encourage students to reflect upon their process and product.

A workshop called “Revisioning Collaborative Art,” shared successful projects that moved from small personal identity pieces, through larger group cultural portraits, to school and community-wide installations grounded in expressions of social and ecological justice.

Other BIG areas of exploration included Arts Based Research, Art 21’s Youth Engagement Program (PBS Series), Teaching Conceptual & Critical Thinking through the Arts, the Aesthetic Response and Social Influence, and How to be Both Teacher and Artist.

The greatest perk of all was the free pass to most of the NYC museums. Nothing can replace the sublime pleasure of standing before great art. My musings of where does art come from, how is it released, what is perception, will continue to inform my teaching. The 8th Grade has already seen my Modern/Contemporary image presentation compiled from the collections at MOMA, The Guggenheim, and The Whitney. Taking non-flash digitals is allowed in some exhibition spaces!

Thank you to the Teaching Excellence Fund for your support. I am so grateful for this opportunity.

A thought from the artist, Kandinsky.

“Color is the keyboard. Color awakens a corresponding physical sensation which undoubtedly works upon the soul.”

IN HONOR OF OUR TEACHERS

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 7 – 11, and we are expressing our appreciation throughout this newsletter. You will find quotes from students and parents articulating what makes their teachers special. As parents we know that teaching is often a difficult, but rewarding job, and we truly appreciate all of the time, energy, and loving care they dedicate to our children. We also apologize in advance because we couldn’t manage to cover all of the staff that teaches at TOPS.

We really do appreciate every single teacher! Remember to tell all of your teachers thank you during Teacher Appreciation Week!

Ann & Jamie

Auction continued from page 1

5. Your child could be principal for a day.
4. There’s no entertainment quite like a good bidding war!
3. You said you’d help out on the night of, didn’t you?
2. Sign up for a community-building TOPICS for Grown-ups party.
1. You’ve already saved the date, hired the sitter and reserved the tickets. (You haven’t? There may still be time. Contact Ellen Markman at 329-1205. She won’t babysit, but she might have extra tickets.)

Remember! The Asian Resource Center.
5 pm. We’re on our way to $100K!
Close-up to wide-angle, mundane to metaphysical, personal to global: the variety of viewpoints and ideas flooding my awareness during our nine-day sojourn in Manhattan was vast. From classroom management techniques to pondering the fundamental nature of art-making as human activity, the array of topics I encountered at the National Art Educators’ Conference was broad, thoroughly provocative and inspiring.

The challenge of optimizing one’s choices from the wide array of topics presented (picture 1100+ workshops and 6000+ conferees) was educational in itself. While not every presentation was enlightening, the majority of speakers left me with expansive ideas of meaningful art activities, advocacy imperatives, and a sense of belonging to the “tribe” of art educators. This month I will teach to fourth graders one of the themes presented: “Frank Gehry Meets Dr. Seuss: Making Models of Audacious Buildings.”

More ideas and inspirations are bubbling and spinning in mental storage, ready to be tapped for future lessons.

As appetizer and dessert courses in the smorgasbord of artful activity, we had two days and additional hours of museum going—deeply satisfying and elevating food for the soul. Standing before the wildly colorful pinks and oranges of Andre Derain’s trees at the Museum of Modern Art was a transcendental moment for me, one of many rich moments in the feast of stimuli that was our trip to the Big Apple.

I deeply appreciate the generous support of the TOPS Teaching Excellence fund for the opportunity to attend this conference.

Cynthia Livak, Art, Grades 1-4

She is a very good artist and we have fun. If you make something that you think isn’t very good, she helps you make it better.

— Yin, Alicyauna, Caetana, and Jahila, Grade 2

Cynthia does a lot of fun art. – Mei

The Bettering Our Building (B.O.B.) Assembly and Award

By Ann Simonson

On March 29, the entire Staff and students of TOPS took time to honor the volunteers at TOPS, with a focus on one very special volunteer, Bob Morrison. Bob sat on the stage as class after class, represented by a few students, came up to express their gratitude. There were banners with “It’s a BOB thing,” poems which spelled out BOB, songs, thank you notes, books, and even an enormous golden hammer, all presented in appreciation for the many tasks he does around TOPS. It was an amazing outpouring of love from the students; they clearly all know him and appreciate him. Kindergarteners were grateful for Bob’s help caring in caring for the salmon and releasing them in the spring. Basketball players were grateful for his help in making the new scoreboard work. Drama students expressed their appreciation for his amazing skill and creativity in making sets for the plays. Staff expressed their appreciation for his help with computers and morning playground supervision.

Principal Clara Scott announced the creation of a new award, the “Bettering Our Building,” or B.O.B. Award, which “was created to honor Bob Morrison who has spent countless hours building, mending, supervising and generally filling every kind of need at our school, often before we were even aware of it ourselves!

It is that spirit of helping and giving that we honor with this award.” The award will be presented to a TOPS volunteer every year, in honor of Bob.

The Assembly concluded with a song by “The Bobettes,” “Ask Bob,” to the tune of “Downtown.” These “Bobettes” looked familiar; I think we’ve seen most of them in TOPS classrooms teaching our children. Costumes included hard hats and tool belts. Volunteers were invited to the conference room after the assembly for a lavish spread of refreshments. All of the volunteers enjoyed the assembly and felt very much appreciated.
Don’t Miss the Elementary Play!

The elementary play this spring is Jungle Jam. Performances are Friday, May 18 and Saturday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m. Join your favorite jungle animals, boogie with the maniac monkeys, and jam with the crazy chimpanzees. We know you will find it a bear necessity to join the fun.

Leslie Hazlewood-Spurr, Grade 4
We appreciate that she’s always happy. – Qing Yu and Nancy

Nina Binder, Grade 5
I appreciate Nina for her good teaching style, and she manages to entertain us at the same time. – Katie
I like Nina because she is fun loving. – Ryan

Julie Gillett, Grade 2
I like Julie because she takes us outside to eat snacks on Birthdays. – Xhelan
I like that she plays a lot of games with us. – Lina
Julie’s an angel. – Sarah, Grade 3

Message from the Principal continued from page 1

Elementary Play all in one evening.

Our elementary students have begun rehearsing for the Elementary Play to be performed on Friday and Saturday, May 18 & 19, at 7 p.m. in the Gym. Julie Jamieson is our director! They are performing “Jungle Jam.”

May 16-18 our 7th Graders will go to camp at Mt. St. Helens. Dan Bloedel is the coordinator for this camp and he always does a fabulous job!

The Spring Concert is Wednesday, May 30, with a 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. performance in the Gym. Please come out and support the Music Department!

We all know this is a busy time of the year with many school and family events. This year we have extra student days at the end of the year due to snow days. The last student day is Friday, June 22.

TOPS Waitlist – If your son/daughter will NOT be returning to TOPS for the 07/08 school year, please let Helen know as soon as possible. We have over 150 students on the waitlist. We would like to be able to inform them of their status as soon as possible.

Cheers! ~Clara
By Gordon Wickward

On Saturday, April 7, the TOPS Chess Club hosted the annual Spring Classic Tournament. We attracted over 100 players from Port Townsend to Forest Grove, Oregon.

Twelve members of the TOPS Chess club from grades 1–5 competed. After five rounds of play, our third graders carried the team to a fifth place finish. Three third graders won three games each, Albert Lorenzana (8th place), Thea Wickward (10th place), and Milo Adams. All three of these members along with Hensel Albright and Spencer Cook have qualified to compete in the Washington State Elementary Championship to be held April 21 near Vancouver, WA. Our team will be represented at state by Spencer Cook and Thea Wickward, competing against 270 other third graders.

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

1st Grade Stewards reconnect and work side-by-side with their 6th Grade Buddies while caring for their Stewardship Zone. Here they are, spreading mulch, weeding, building relationships, and caring for the environment -- all at the same time! Now that’s what we call a win-win.

Photos by Laurie Stusser-McNeil
Attention Kindergarten, First, Second, and DHH classes. Your day at Camp Long is set! Please mark your calendars!

Camp Long is a 68 acre park in West Seattle. This is the annual year-end event for the K, 1st, 2nd, & DHH classes. It is an important event for the kids, parents and teachers. It provides an opportunity for the parents to share special interests or talents with the kids in a wonderful natural environment. We go rain or shine!

At Camp Long we use the same Topics format (Big Choice in Kindergarten) that we have used in school all year. This is a great opportunity for parents to teach Topics that are suited for the outdoors. Here are some of the many topics taught last year:

◆ Camp Songs & Stories
◆ Treasure Hunt
◆ Camp Cooking/Fire Safety
◆ Nature Art
◆ Soccer
◆ Baseball
◆ Alka Seltzer Rockets

Many parents are needed to teach Topics and attend camp to assist with activities! We need approximately 36 different TOPICS!

Some classes will be taught by the Camp Naturalists:

◆ Pond
◆ Insects
◆ Rock Wall (2nd graders only)

Please remember to sign up to teach a Topic! Your participation is critical to making this a successful TOPS event for our primary students. Look for permission slips & sign-ups soon.

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**SUMMER SAILING AND ULTIMATE FRISBEE!**

*By Don Zenke, P.E. Teacher*

Those of you who are looking to get out on the water this summer might want to check out the summer sailing program at our great Middle School sailing partner, the Center for Wooden Boats. You can get information at [www.cwb.org](http://www.cwb.org). Other sailing options include Sail Sand Point on Lake Washington, Moss Bay Kayaking and Sailing Camp on Lake Union, and the Seattle Sailing Club out of Shilshole Bay on Puget Sound.

TOPS students looking for Ultimate Frisbee playing opportunities this summer can check out Mini Moho at Greenlake every Sunday from 1:00 until 3:00. Many community centers are now offering Ultimate camps as is Disc N.W. Information about the Disc N.W. camps can be found at [www.discnw.org](http://www.discnw.org). Remember, Frisbee’s travel well so make sure you keep yours close by as you’re traveling around this summer!
Pride: A Movie Review

By Lena Mentyka, Grade 7

Despite what the newspaper and magazine reviews say, Pride, starring Terrence Howard, Bernie Mac, and Tom Arnold, is a great movie. It tells the true story about Philadelphia swim coach Jim Ellis. Maybe because I am a swimmer, I don’t think it is “just like any other sports movie” which was how they reviewed it. This movie, if it had been given more publicity, might actually have had an impact on important things, maybe even given more African-American kids the drive to learn how to swim. Because that’s what this whole movie is about: African-Americans competing in a mainly white sport.

Did you know that it wasn’t until 2004 that the first African-American woman, Maritza Correia, made the U.S. Olympic swim team? And African-American children are 2.5 times more likely to drown than white children the same age? Mostly because they don’t learn to swim.

This movie tells a true story about six or seven teenagers living in a run-down neighborhood in Philadelphia in the 70s. When they can no longer play basketball because the town is closing their rec center, Jim Ellis (Terrence Howard) recruits them to start a black swim team.

At meets, the team is called PDR (Philadelphia Department of Recreation) but in the movie it also stands for “Pride, Determination and Respect.” The team has to deal with a lot of racism, and they get cheated out of medals and a chance to compete. Despite all of that, they make it all the way to Nationals and learn a lot through swimming.

I encourage you to see this movie when it comes out on DVD and if you don’t know how to swim, learn!

Middle School Topic Day: Sailing on Puget Sound

By Don Zemke, P.E. Teacher

My TOPIC goal was to introduce students to sailing on beautiful Puget Sound. Fortunately, we had a beautiful day on the water although there could have been more wind!

We began by learning safety procedures and how to rig the boat. We next split into groups with one group doing activities on the beach at Golden Gardens while the other group motored out of the harbor.

Since there was absolutely no wind to start with, we motored over to the sea lion cage and got a pretty close up look at a bunch of sea lions. We then made our way towards West Point where we picked up enough wind to sail for a bit before returning to the guest dock to switch groups.

The second group had enough wind to sail by the sea lions and out to the channel marker before looping back to switch groups again. Everybody had the option and was encouraged to take a turn at the tiller and experience being the captain.

The sun was shining and the conditions were mild. It looked to me like everybody had a good time sailing, dancing, eating giant ice cream cones, relaxing on deck, and playing on the beach. Thanks to Chris Pfohl for spending the day with us which helped make this experience possible for the kids!

Marianne Trangen,
Grades 6 Language Arts & Social Studies

I like Ms. Trangen, because she is a nice person, and when she teaches people she knows what she’s doing, she makes sense of it all, and she makes it fun. I like my teacher because she makes spelling tests challenging and harder then they have to be. I really like my teacher because she readies us for later grades, and that’s why I like my teacher. ~ Michael

Mary Chao, Grade 5

I think Mary is really funny and teaches social studies well. I like the higher level social study packets because it makes me feel like I’ve learned a lot when I finish. I like how she sets guidelines of what we shouldn’t do when we are older, like doing drugs or alcohol.

~ Connor

Guy Lawrence, Grade 6
Math & Science

I appreciate Mr. Lawrence because he works hard to make us understand, and he doesn’t give up until everyone understands. And he’s funny too! ~ Anna

He teaches the right way. ~ Sherice

Tom O’Connor,
Grades 7 & 8 Social Studies

I really appreciate his enthusiasm for history. ~ Cassie
TOPS ART FEST 2007
TOPS AT SEWARD SCHOOL
SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
JOIN US ANYTIME, FRIDAY,
MAY 18, 5:30 TO 9:00PM
2500 FRANKLIN AVE. EAST
**NEW RULES FOR KIDS’ SAFETY IN CARS:**

*New Child Restraint Laws Effective June 1!*

By Tamara Kincaid

Every parent wants to keep their children safe. Now, Washington State has changed the Child Restraint Laws to make our kids even safer. These new regulations go into effect June 1, so learn about them now!

Currently, children older than six years of age or weighing more than 60 pounds may ride anywhere in a vehicle as long as there is a seat belt available. (All passengers must use either child safety seats or seat belts.) The biggest changes are:

◆ Children must use a child restraint system (car seat, booster seat or vest or other approved safety device) until they are eight years old or they are 4'9" tall.

◆ Any child under the age of 13 must ride in the BACK seat in vehicles which have them.

◆ Children eight years old or taller than 4'9" tall who wear a seat belt must wear it correctly – shoulder belt across the shoulder (not tucked behind the arm) and lap belt pulled securely across the lap. If the shoulder belt is uncomfortable for your child, belt positioners are available – or your child may still need a booster seat.

While these new regulations allow children to sit in a regular seat with a seat belt once they are eight years old, it still may be safest to keep your child in a restraint system until they are 4'9" tall. The safety systems in cars are designed for an “average” person at least 4'9" tall – anyone smaller than that may not be held securely in case of an accident. Let common sense be your guide!

These new regulations are based on years of data which show that safety restraints are more effective when based on height rather than age or weight. If you’d like more information on the new regulations, please visit the following website: [http://www.wa.gov/wtsc/programs/occupant/washington_op_laws.pdf](http://www.wa.gov/wtsc/programs/occupant/washington_op_laws.pdf). And remember, while the new regulations don’t start until June 1, it’s never too early to keep your child safe!

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**2007 TOPS Calendar**

Send your events and dates to our webmaster, Jack Lee, at webmaster@topsk8.org. Please check Thursday Go-Homes and the web site for updates.

**MAY**

1-10 .......... WASL Testing
5 (Sa)........... TOPS Auction at the Asian Resource Center, 5 p.m.
7-11 (M-F) ..... Teacher Appreciation Week
8 (T) ............ BLT meeting, 4 p.m.
9 (W) ............ Nurses’ Day
9 (W)........... Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.
10 (Th).......... Middle School Career Fair, 10 a.m.
16-18 (W-F) ... 7th grade camp
16 (W).......... Professional development day; 2-hour early dismissal
18-19 (F-S)..... ArtFest, 5:30-9 p.m.
18-19 (F-S)..... Elementary play, Jungle Book, 7 p.m.
28 (M).......... Memorial Day; no school
30 (W).......... Spring Concert, 2 and 7 p.m.

**JUNE**

5-8 (T-F)....... 8th grade camp
7-8 (Th-F)..... 3rd and 4th grade camp
12 (T).......... 6th and 7th grade Orientation
12 (T).......... Kindergarten Puppet Show, 6-8:30 p.m.
14 (Th).......... K, 1st, 2nd grade to Camp Long
15 (F).......... 8th grade Passage
18 (M).......... 5th grade Passage
19 (T).......... Field Day, elementary grades
21 (Th)......... Wild Waves, middle school
22 (F)......... Last student day

**STEVE HAINES, LIBRARIAN**

I like Steve because he’s very nice, and he’s good at helping me find the book I need.
– Emma, Grade 3

**JOAN O’CONNOR, KINDERGARTEN**

I like Joan because she’s nice. – Helen
I like Joan because she helps me. – Queen

**KRISTINA STONEBERG, GRADE 1**

I like how she’s super nice. She lets us have choice time when there’s enough time on Fridays.
– Skyler

**KATIE WATERS, GRADE 3**

I like that Katie is nice. She teaches us a lot and how to prepare for 4th grade. She has a good sense of humor, like when she says “Katie made a boopoo!” I feel like I learned a lot in math, social studies, about Nelson Mandela, and how to write bibliographies.
– Parker
TOPS has been a hotbed of talented thespians for many years. This month, don’t miss the opportunity to see a cast of fabulous TOPS students in yet another extraordinary elementary school play, *Jungle Jam*, directed by Julie Jamieson. Julie and her family have been a part of TOPS school plays since 1996, if not earlier. Three Jamieson children attended TOPS from 1992 through 2006 while their parents contributed their theatrical background and skills to the community. Numerous parent volunteers and teachers have upheld TOPS’ drama history by providing abundant assistance with planning and organizing, stage management, costumes, set-building, prop collecting, programs, and a multitude of other tasks and enthusiasm along with directors, music directors, and composers! Most recently and for several years, Linda Korbus has chaired the drama committee as well as designed glorious costumes for our productions. Linda would welcome a newcomer and would love to provide hands-on training to another mahvelous TOPS parent! Bob Morrison has been putting his skills to the test with extraordinary set design and construction. Despite no theatre background, he uses amazing creativity for all kinds of backstage functionality.

Not only do we have an elementary and a middle school production each year, theatre opportunities abound in other ways as well. Many grades attend plays at Seattle Children’s Theatre and other theatrical events. The Kindergartners have been doing shadow puppet theatre, led by some of Joby’s family, Todd Jefferson Moore and Max Moore, for years. Julie Jamieson introduced third graders to Shakespeare beginning with the 2000-01 school year. The 3rd grade teachers and students, with guest directors, have continued that tradition by performing a Shakespeare play every year since then!

Julie’s husband, Todd Jamieson, a professional actor, began directing at TOPS with *Tiny Shop of Horrors*, a musical based on Little Shop of Horrors, written by a TOPS parent, Tony Pasqualini. That play, How Seattle Got Itself Found, lasted two years, with Todd directing Part I, Skid Road, in the 1996-97 year and Part II, Back to Seattle, in 1997-98. Edd Key, former TOPS music teacher and frequent musical director for many a play, was also in on this one. David Crandall has written some great music for our plays, providing incredible material for our talented singers!

Shana Bestock brought fresh talent and ideas when she took over directing middle school plays for four years before Todd returned. She’s now at Seattle Public Theatre at Green Lake. In later years, from 2001-02 through 2003-04, Todd brought his stage combat specialties to middle school drama by directing Shakespeare. He also taught stage combat as a camp topic for a couple of years. Ah, many a duel was fought for TOPS audiences during those years.

The drama committee submits a proposal to Site Council each year for a small budget, which is used to pay directors, music directors, and for set and costume supplies. Concessions and admission prices also help to support our productions. Since we returned to the newly remodeled building in 1999, improvements have been made to the gym gradually, mostly to enhance sound quality and acoustics. This process kicked off with an auction fund-a-need donation. Beginning fall of 2004, the TOPS gym stage became known as Todd Jamieson Stage to honor Todd, who passed away of cancer in the spring of 2004. The TOPS class of 2006 installed a sign and memorial plaque as a gift when they graduated.

TOPS teacher, Tom Rowe, began directing plays in 1985 while TOPS was located at Stevens Elementary. TOPS students participated in many of those productions, along with Stevens students. They also had opportunities...

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**Dan Bloedel,**
**Grades 7 & 8 Science**

I appreciate Mr. Bloedel for teaching us really advanced stuff and making sure we understand it. – Naomi

I like Mr. Bloedel because he teaches us at a higher level. – Kalia

Mr. Bloedel is really cool and fun and he gives us fun homework. – A group of 4th grade girls

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**Rebecca Rabbit,**
**Spanish**

Since I began last year in second grade I have learned so much Spanish. M. Rabbit laughs a lot when things are funny and we get to play games to make learning Spanish more fun. – Riley, Grade 3

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**Luzita Roll,**
**Art, Grades 5-8**

I appreciate Luzita because she really knows what she’s doing. – Leah, Grade 6

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**Continued on page 12**
P.E. Poems

By Mika Tanagi, Grade 8
P.E. is a wind from the sea
a constant breeze
that blows across the land
and forever shapes it
to a healthy environment
as the earth works to grow
to grow trees and sweat water.

As you run
to test your strength
it is like being a bird
beating its wings against its eggshell
pumping its wings to its potential
until the day it will fly
to the highest skies
and learn that because of practice
from before
it was brought
to this height.

By Johanna Garcia, Grade 8
After a long day of work
with no breaks
and no rests
we go to P.E.
a place of no tests
there we have fun
sometimes we run
but the best part of all
is being out in the sun
goof around with your friends
try new things
you never know what P.E. brings
basketball
soccer
Frisbee
and catch
swinging
and jumping
are all funner than tests
here we have freedom
to do what we please
P.E. is the best
it’s fun
it’s great
and you don’t get stressed

TOPS Historical Society continued from page 11
for acting during the 1980’s during Topics with former teacher, Susan Mamlock.

Sometime after the move to Seward, Mollie Hughes, a TOPS parent, directed some political theatre as well as lighter material. In 1995-96, she led an after-school drama group of 7th and 8th graders in developing and performing their own anti-racism play. An article in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer on November 17, 1995, gave it a thumbs up. Here’s an excerpt from their review: “...the first five minutes Skin broaches enough social themes to supply material for a series of plays – everything from Black men expressing disrespect for Black women to abusive parents through different views of interracial friendships.”

Many thanks to Linda Korbus, Julie Jamieson, and Steve Haines for their files and memories. Here’s a rundown of our productions. If you can fill in any gaps or have corrections, please let Toby know!

TOPS Play List

Elementary

Aladdin’s Lamp
Directed by Tom Rowe
May 19-20, 1984-85
Stevens Elementary

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
Directed by Tom Rowe
April 28-29, 1986-87
Stevens Elementary

Pinocchio
Directed by Tom Rowe
April 26-27, 1988-89
Stevens Elementary

Unknown
Directed by Tom Rowe
1990-91

Treasure Island
Directed by ?
Spring, 1993-94

The Wonderful World of Oz
Directed by Mollie M. Hughes
Song Arrangements and Sound Design by Carlos Smith
January 20-21, 1994-95
Roosevelt High School
How to Eat Like A Child
Directed by ?
1995-96

How Seattle Got Itself Found, Part 1:
Skid Road
Written by Tony Pasqualini
Directed by Todd Jamieson
& Tom Rowe
Musical Direction by Edd Key
1996-97
Mercer Middle School

How Seattle Got Itself Found, Part 2:
Back to Seattle
Written by Tony Pasqualini
Directed by Todd Jamieson
& Tom Rowe
Musical Direction by Edd Key
1997-98
Mercer Middle School

The Skin of Our Teeth,
by Thornton Wilder,
Adapted by Tony Pasqualini
Directed by Todd Jamieson
Original Music: David Crandall,
Music Director:  Edd Key
April 9-10, 1998-99
Mercer Middle School

James and the Giant Peach,
by Roald Dahl
Directed by Julie Jamieson
Music Composer: David Crandall,
Music Director:  Edd Key
May 19-20, 2005-06
Todd Jamieson Stage, TOPS

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Alley Suite
(revived 10 min. skit from a 1991 TOPS class, expanded to 40 min.)
Directed by Mollie M. Hughes
March 25, 1993-94
Broadway Performance Hall

Tiny Shop of Horrors
Directed by Todd Jamieson
& Brendan Toner
Fall, 1996-97
Mercer Middle School

Midsummer Night’s Dream
Directed by Shana Bestock
December 12-13, 1997-98
Mercer Middle School

Thirteen Clocks,
from a story by James Thurber
Directed and Written by Shana Bestock
December 1998
Mercer Middle School

The Good Times are Killing Me
Written by Lynda Barry,
Directed by Shana Bestock
February 11-12, 1999-2000
TOPS stage

Who Was That Masked Man
Directed by Shana Bestock
December 8-9, 2000-01
TOPS stage

Hamlet
Directed by Todd Jamieson
December, 2001-02
TOPS stage

Midsummer Night’s Dream
Directed by Todd Jamieson
February 6 & 8, 2002-03
TOPS stage

Much Ado About Nothing
Directed by Todd Jamieson
December 5-6, 2003-04
TOPS stage

As You Like It
Adapted and
Directed by Heather Hawkins
December 3-4, 2004-05
Todd Jamieson Stage

Grease
Directed by Susanna Wilson;
Music by Jon Lutyens
December 9-10, 2005-06
Todd Jamieson Stage

Twelfth Night
Directed by Mikaela Koerner
March 9-10, 2006-07
Todd Jamieson Stage

LORI EICKELBERG,
GRADES 7 & 8 LANGUAGE ARTS

We appreciate Ms. Eick for her dry sense of humor.
– A group of 7th grade girls

MARK ELLIS,
GRADES 7 & 8 MATH

Mr. Ellis is good at keeping kids quiet so others can do their work.
– Alex, Grade 7

TORI KEMERY, GRADE 5

I like how Tori teaches us about persuasive writing. I feel like my writing is better and I’ve progressed a lot throughout the year.
– Connor
AUDITION NOW FOR
NORTHWEST GIRLCHOIR

Northwest Girlchoir is about singing, friendship, performing, and FUN! Girls currently in grades 2 through 11 are invited to audition now for September entrance in the choir. Call Northwest Girlchoir Managing Director Karen Nestvold at (206) 985-3968 or email info@northwestgirlchoir.org to schedule an audition. Auditions will be held by appointment on May 5 and May 12, 2007. Auditions and rehearsals take place at the Sand Point Education Center, just south of Magnuson Park. For more information, visit www.northwestgirlchoir.org.

EARTh KEEPer’S
SUMMer DAy CaMP

Carkeek Park’s special summer day camps for exploring and learning about nature are filling up fast so get your registration in soon! Camps are for children ages 6-12 and take place at Carkeek Park, 950 NW Carkeek Park Rd. in Seattle. Weekly camps are available June 25-August 17, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Before and after camp programs are available for families that need an extended day. Camp themes include: Survivor Island; Furs, Tails, Tracks, & Trails; Tidepool – Window to Puget Sound; Buggin’ Out; Carkeek’s Incredible Time Machine; and Wet & Squiggly Tidepools. The cost is $195 per child per week, $160 for a second week. Earth Keepers summer day camp allows children to create, imagine, explore, discover, play, learn, and shine. Our well-trained and caring naturalists will help open a world of discovery for campers using the unique outdoor classroom environment of Carkeek Park. Our goal is to impart a sense of respect for and interconnectedness with the natural world in the children that we serve.

For more information or to register a child call (206) 684-0877, or email carkeekpark@seattle.gov or earthkeepers_day_camp@yahoo.com or see our website http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/CarkeekPark/camp.htm.

SARI BREZNAU, K-8 CHOIR
We like Sari because she helps us learn music. – Karmen & Merilyn, Grade K
Sari does a lot of fun songs
– Ming, Grade 2

SHERI TOUSSAINT, KINDERGARTEN PEAK
I like Sheri because we have fun in her class. – Micah

PAUL GILLESPIE, INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC, GRADES 5-8
Mr. G. is a great music teacher and has lots of energy!
– Jack, Grade 6

ERICA JOHANSEN, INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC, GRADES 5-8
I like that Erica smiles a lot when we have Strings practice. She always looks on the positive side and tells us what we did well. She is really good at making examples for how we are supposed to play a piece of music and can even play the cello and viola and the violin. – Riley, Grade 3
I am amazed by how joyful Erica is when conducting the strings orchestra at 8:00 Wednesday mornings. She is very encouraging as she directs the musicians. She is very talented. We are fortunate to have her at TOPS. – Karen, parent

MARK OESTERLE, INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC, GRADE 4
Mr. Oesterle is nice, he doesn’t yell at us if we haven’t practiced, he just encourages us to try harder and get our practicing done. – Xin Yan and Gene
A MONTHLY CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS
WHAT TOPS FAMILIES ARE CELEBRATING
Compiled by Lynne Goodrich, CSJ member

MAY IS ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
Asian Pacific American Heritage month was enacted on October 28, 1992. The purpose of the law was to honor the achievements of Asian/Pacific Americans and to recognize their contributions to the United States.

MAY 2007 HOLIDAYS

May 1: National Teacher’s Day An Arkansas teacher, Mattye Whyte Woodbridge, began corresponding with political and educational leaders as early as 1944 about the need for a national day honoring teachers. One of the leaders she wrote to was Eleanor Roosevelt, who persuaded Congress to proclaim a National Teacher’s Day in 1953.

May 1: May Day Spring festival celebrating human fertility and the renewal of nature. The festival originated with the celebration of the Roman Goddess Flora. May Day was especially popular in England during medieval times.

May 3: Yom Ha’Atzma’Ut (Israel) Israeli independence day. Celebrates the declaration of the state of Israel by David Ben Gurion in Tel Aviv on May 14, 1948.

May 5: Cinco De Mayo (Mexico) Commemorates the May 5, 1862 defeat of French colonial forces at the city of Puebla. Cinco de Mayo is celebrated with food, music and dancing. Sometimes confused with Mexican Independence Day (September 16, 1810).

May 13: Mother’s Day (United States, Mexico) Festivals honoring mothers can be traced back to the Greek celebration honoring Rhea, the Mother of Gods. In the United States, Julia Ward Howe held Mother’s Day meetings in Boston in 1872 dedicated to peace. Later Anna Jarvis and then her daughter began efforts for a Mother’s Day holiday dedicated to healing families torn by the Civil War. Mother’s Day became an official holiday in 1914.

May 19: Malcolm X Day (United States) Celebrates the birth of Malcolm X on May 19, 1925. He became one of the most outspoken and popular leaders of the black nationalist movement in the 1960’s. He established the Organization of Afro-American Unity. Initially a supporter of black separatism, he later modified those views to embrace world unity. He was assassinated in Harlem on February 21, 1965 by members of a rival organization.

May 19: Armed Forces Day A day to salute the men and women in all branches of the military for the service and sacrifices they perform.

May 23: Declaration of the Bab (Baha’i) In 1844 a young Persian merchant named Siyyid Ali-Muhammad shared a Divine Revelation that spiritual renewal rested on “love and compassion” rather than “force and coercion.” His announcement attracted thousands of followers. He took the name “Bab” which means “Gate” or “Door” in Arabic. The theme of his major work, the Bayan, was that there would be an appearance of a second Messenger from God whose mission was to usher in the age of peace and justice. The largest Baha’i communities are in South Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific Islands.

May 28: Memorial Day First observed in 1868 to honor Civil War dead. Now commemorates all lives lost in war.

Lynne will be passing the torch to another family after three years of compiling the holiday calendar for the newsletter. She has many web addresses and past calendars to pass along.

Keep this tradition alive for the TOPS community in your own way—continue a monthly calendar or highlight one holiday a month or perhaps interview other families about their unique celebrations.

Contact Lynne Goodrich at 206-412-2359 or goodrich_yas@msn.com.

CARLA FETTERLEY, READING SPECIALIST
We like Carla because she’s a good teacher and she’s funny.
– Victoria, Salma, and Michell, Grade 3
SAVE THE DATE!
ARTFEST
FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2007
5:30-9:00 PM
TOPS LIBRARY
COME SEE WHAT
CYNTHIA AND LUZITA’S
CLASSES HAVE CREATED!

THANKS TO G & H PRINTING, 2370 EASTLAKE E. 329-9888

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Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against in any of the District’s employment or educational activities can file an internal discrimination complaint with the District’s Affirmative Action Office.