MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy Spring! Our Taste of TOPS was a smashing success! We celebrated East Africa this year and our parents and students from that region were very pleased with the acknowledgement of their culture. Many thanks to our Coalition for Social Justice for their leadership in planning the event. The potluck was fabulous thanks to all of our parents. The Book Fair, dancers, and talent show were a great addition to the evening and enjoyed by all.

Our Spring Break is early this year and many of our students and parents are taking family trips. We still have a lot of work to do here at school for the last quarter. April is a busy time at school with WASL testing. Just a reminder—please make sure that your students get enough rest and eat a good breakfast. Make every effort to reschedule appointments and not make new appointments that interfere with the testing calendar. Equally important is arriving at school on time! Students will have to make up sections of the test if they are late.

Testing begins Monday, April 14.

Many of our camps are just on the horizon! This is a time for students, teachers, and parent volunteers to enjoy an outdoor learning environment. We really appreciate the participation of parents. All parent volunteers need to be sure that they have the appropriate volunteer forms on file to participate in camp. If you need forms or have any questions, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator,

Continued on page 5

SUSTAINING TOPS - BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

By Kelly Griffin

Auction Quick Facts:

May 3, 2008
Asian Resource Center
Procurement / Donation
deadline: April 7, 2008

The TOPS Auction is only a month away and our goal is to raise $110,000 to fund the programs few of us would want our kids to do without. There's a tremendous amount to look forward to - dinner with your friends, the raffle prize, the huge variety of silent auction items, class projects, and the Golden Raffle!

Dine in style with nine of your closest friends for a mere $100. Enjoy great food and a chance at the best dessert. Tables with the highest bid in the Dessert Dash get first choice from a table full of fabulous desserts.

Continued on page 3

MAY TOPSNEWS DEADLINE

Friday, April 11 • Submissions to topsnewsletter@gmail.com
**Have an Idea? Want Money?**

*RFP=Request For Proposal*  
(IT’S TIME TO DO IT AGAIN)

By Maureen Germani (Finance Committee Member)

Budget season is here! It is time for Friends of TOPS (the Site Council acting as a nonprofit organization) to allocate money raised from the TOPS community through the No-Bake and Auction fundraisers. Friends of TOPS money helps fund curriculum enhancements (e.g., science equipment, art, music, drama) and community-building programs like the directory and this newsletter. This year, more than $150,000 will be allocated through the RFP process. If you have a new idea you would like to have funded or a current program you’d like continued next year, submit your proposal and it will be considered. Please complete a project proposal form (Request for Proposal, or RFP) and submit it to the Finance Committee. This form is available on the TOPS website (under Site Council, budget).

Some of the criteria used to evaluate a proposal are: how well it reflects our mission and supports the goals of our transformation plan; how many children it serves; how economical and sustainable the program is likely to be; and the enrichment value of the program. All proposals must list a program manager who accepts primary responsibility for the project. Anyone submitting RFPs must have the support of at least one staff member.

This year all TOPS community members will be given the opportunity to help evaluate existing programs. Keep your eyes open for notices in the Go-Home and room rep emails that will direct you to an online survey about all programs funded by Friends of TOPS in 2007-2008. The Finance Committee will use your input in evaluating which programs to fund for 2008-2009.

**Here are some key dates for you to remember:**

**April 18:** Deadline for electronic copy RFP submission (note there will be no hard copy option this year, contact Maureen Germani if this is a problem).

**May 21 and possibly 28, 5 p.m., Site Council meetings:** Those who have submitted a proposal may be requested to come and answer questions. Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings.

**June 11:** Site Council reviews and approves the budget.

If you have questions or comments, please email me at mwgermani@seattleschools.org or call 545-1771.

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**About the Outrageous Publishing Service**

Welcome to the seventh newsletter of the 2007-08 school year. Jamie Flaxman and Ann Simonson edit, Paul Loovis handles photos, design, and 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. Please send photos to javabrain@msn.com. The deadline for the May issue is April 11. Would you like to edit or otherwise help with our newsletter? Newcomers welcome. Please contact Jamie and Ann at topsnewsletter@gmail.com.
Enjoy a getaway weekend at a Methow Valley cabin in Mazama. Buy a raffle ticket for a two-night stay at The Riverstone, a three-bedroom, two-bath cabin at the confluence of the Methow and Lost Rivers in the beautiful Methow Valley. The cabin sleeps 10, is kid friendly, and has a full kitchen. Enjoy hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing on established trails. Tickets are only $5. The drawing will be held during the live auction. You do not need to be at the drawing but you do need to buy a ticket to win!

The pen is mighty, especially when it comes to the silent auction. Come early to check out the great items and then bid often on your favorites. You can look forward to restaurant gift certificates, tickets to sporting events, theater tickets, signed art pieces, and spa gifts.

Who can resist the work of TOPS students? Join in the action of the live auction and bid for your child’s class project. In years past, the class projects have brought in nearly 50% of our live auction proceeds. These beautiful, unique items have been created in part by each child in the classroom. Among the wonderful past class projects are hand-stitched quilts, mosaic tiled mirrors, framed prints and etchings, hand-painted furniture, and much more!

Take your pick of the live auction items or guarantee you’re the winner of your child’s class art project. Buy a Golden Raffle ticket for only $25 and be entered in a drawing to win the live auction item of your choice. With only 100 Golden Raffle tickets available, those are great odds - especially if you buy more than one ticket. Golden Raffle tickets are available only during check-in and the silent auction. When the live auction begins, we’ll draw for the winner of the Golden Raffle, who will then be invited onstage to choose his or her prize.

And, please remember the other great ways to pitch in and enjoy the evening:

Procure items worth $50 or more – talk to local businesses or inventory your own talents or resources. Please be aware that the procurement deadline is the Monday AFTER spring break. Fill out the donation forms fully and completely, and then turn them into the TOPS office by 4 p.m. April 7. More forms are available in the office and at www.topsk8.org.

Host a TOPICS for grown-ups party. These theme parties are great community builders and make great procurement items. Tamale making, flip-flop decorating, frog hunting, you name it – it’s a party! And everyone who bids wins! Need ideas? Contact Sandy Green at 328-1998.

Underwrite – pitch in to help with the costs of the event by providing products (like beverages), by volunteering, or by offsetting the costs through a cash donation.

Volunteer – step into the frenzy of activity on auction night.

Questions? Check out the TOPS Auction web site at http://www.topsk8.org/helping/auction/ or contact members of the Auction Committee -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Janet Morrison <a href="mailto:janetm@blarg.net">janetm@blarg.net</a> 634-2203</th>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer Coordinator</td>
<td>Wilma Angell <a href="mailto:wilma.angell@headveins.com">wilma.angell@headveins.com</a> 726-0948</td>
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<td>Silent Auction</td>
<td>Janet Morrison <a href="mailto:janetm@blarg.net">janetm@blarg.net</a> 634-2203 Ellen Levi <a href="mailto:elevi@comcast.net">elevi@comcast.net</a> 282-5596</td>
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<td>Live Auction</td>
<td>Gloria Albetta <a href="mailto:gloria.albetta@metrokc.gov">gloria.albetta@metrokc.gov</a> 783-0148 Annette English <a href="mailto:ericandanette@hotmail.com">ericandanette@hotmail.com</a> 284-7562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration/Underwriting</td>
<td>Kathy Wickward <a href="mailto:wickward@raincity.com">wickward@raincity.com</a> 323-4278</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topics for Grown-ups</td>
<td>Sandy Green <a href="mailto:thetangeloes@hotmail.com">thetangeloes@hotmail.com</a> 328-1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Baskets</td>
<td>Jamie Flaxman <a href="mailto:jamieandsam@earthlink.net">jamieandsam@earthlink.net</a> 286-1295</td>
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Jump Rope for Heart 2008

By Eric Herndon & Don Zemke, P.E. Teachers

The month of February was capped off with the TOPS P.E. new jump rope skills demonstration. Our students had a good time on the stage demonstrating their newly accomplished jump rope goals. Congratulations to the TOPS students who participated in the community service part of the program and raised over $2,000 for the American Heart Association.
Jump
By Acacia Salisbury Grade 5

Jump Jump
See the rainbow colored rope criss-cross in front of my eyes

Jump Jump Jump
I hear the song chant in my ear

Jump Jump Jump Jump non-stop
1 – 2 – 3 – 4 touch the ground, spin around

Come on the run, have some fun!

Penny Harvest Philanthropy
Roundtable Groups
By Sheri Toussaint, Penny Harvest Coach

I am excited to inform all of you that the students in Leslie Nilan’s and Joe Drummond’s classes have been given the honor and responsibility to learn more about their community and decide how TOPS school can give back to others. These two classes (along with input collected from the TOPS community) will make educated decisions about how to use the money collected during the Penny Harvest event. During the next five weeks they will survey and research not-for-profit organizations to determine how two $600 grants will be awarded. Please stay tuned for ways you can help support the third and fourth grade Philanthropy Roundtable leaders.

www.PennyHarvest.org

“2007-08 Penny Harvest reaps 9+ tons of pennies. Children in 45 area schools are turning dollars into deeds through Penny Harvest. Last fall students in the Seattle/King County area went door to door with bags and sacks and rallied to collect $64,333.73.”

Message from the Principal continued from page 1

questions, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Maureen Germani, at 252-3541 or e-mail her at mwgermani@seattleschools.org.

Summer School is available for eligible students who are in 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grades this year. Teachers have called parents to let them know if they recommend Summer School for their student(s). Summer School dates are: June 30 – July 31 (July 3 & 4 off) from 8:30-12:30 p.m. Lunch is provided. If you make a commitment to Summer School, the student is expected to be present every day.

Saream Dy, our custodial engineer, won an energy conservation award for successfully reducing overall energy costs for utility use at TOPS for the 2006-07 school year. Congratulations, Saream!

Happy Spring!
– Clara
I love soccer. Every chance I get I play soccer and I always bug Don and Eric for a soccer ball so I can practice my skills! That’s why it’s great that boys soccer is in the spring so I can play year round!

This is my third year playing on the TOPS soccer team. Even though I play select, it’s fun to play in the spring with my classmates and kids from the other grades. Although the season has started off with some rough breaks, the TOPS boy’s soccer team this year is optimistic and excited for the rest of the season to come.

It’s been fun playing for our new coach, Daniel Humes. He’s a soccer junkie like myself and is fun to play for. Check out the TOPS website to see some action photos and our schedule, then come to a game and support the boy’s soccer team!
Armed with several new coaches, many new players, and new goals, this volleyball season is sure to be loaded with memories and positive experiences. With many returning players to lead us through the season, TOPS is sure to have positive outcomes. Head coach and TOPS alumni Thea Yeannakis provides insight and leadership to help those of us that have not had much experience with volleyball. Returning assistant coach Molly Moore challenges us each to practice and keeps us moving forward. This year the coaching staff is joined by two previous TOPS players Jessica Badgley and Electra Scott. They offer the experience of being in our position and motivate us to continually get better.

With two games and one win under our belt, the volleyball season is just under way and the TOPS team is looking positive. This year, like the last, has had enough student participation to create both a JV and Varsity team. All players enjoy this game of sportsmanship, which offers valuable lessons of playing fair and having fun, which of course are very important. As those values dominate the game, the players have a great time interacting with students from other schools.

If you would like to come and support the TOPS volleyball team, then check out our schedule on the TOPS website.

Photos by Don Zemke
Physical Education at TOPS has created many memories for me as well as all of my classmates in eighth grade. In P.E., Don and Eric have taught us about teamwork, provided an emphasis about C.A.R.E., made sure that no one cheats on their laps, taken numerous photos of our memories in action, and so much more. P.E. has brought different grades and classes together, made even rainy days fun, and our activity options are always really fun.

Eric and Don take one day a week to talk about the C.A.R.E. theme and apply it to Physical Education. We have discussions and give examples of how the theme is and is not shown. Everyone sits in a big clutter on the floor and Don and Eric try to keep everyone under control as they speak about belonging and caring at TOPS. In my opinion, the discussions that we have combined with humor often makes talking about C.A.R.E. a lot more enjoyable than how the discussions go in other classes.

I have played ultimate Frisbee, soccer, kickball, volleyball, basketball, pin soacum, attempted the wave boards and pogo sticks, watched other people master the unicycle, jumped rope (in different creative ways), climbed the rock wall, and so much more. In team sports, we are taught about sportsmanship and teamwork. We are encouraged to try new and different things. There are so many different activities to choose from in Physical Education that sometimes it’s difficult to choose, and in the end there are a bunch of different people doing different things and having a great time.
When other people come into the gym during the sixth period they must be a little frightened. There’s a group playing volleyball with Frisbees whizzing over their heads, which are being thrown by another group of people who have to watch out for the basketball players. There are people dancing who have to be careful of the gymnastics/break dancers on the mats who have to be mindful of the rock climbers. Then there are the few wall ball players who have to run to get their ball from the middle of the court where this is all going on. And that’s not even including what is going on, on top of the stage. Foosball players, pogo stick jumpers, exercising equipment, and the occasional ping pong ball or air hockey puck flying through the air. All of this to the soundtrack of music that all the middle school students love. What more could an eighth grader ask for?
Ninth Annual Taste of TOPS
Everybody always looks forward to the TOT because it’s a fun way to share our cultures with one another. This year the Taste of TOPS honored East Africa and the Horn of Africa. In the cafeteria families brought food to share and there was a tasting table featuring food from Ethiopia and Somalia. In Julie Gillett’s room storyteller Shiko Nagawo told about the “Nuggets of Wisdom” and there was also an art exhibit of watercolors depicting memories of Ethiopian life, by artist Aschenaki Lulu. In the hallway behind the library there was an Ethiopian/Yemeni Henna booth with henna artist, Samia Alharazi. In the library there was an awesome book fair (kids were able to buy books @ TOPS for three days) and the selection of books was great! In the gym performing and teaching some dance steps was the Eritrean Dance Group of Seattle.

Performing at the Talent Showcase was Don Zemke’s Double Dutch and Circus Arts team, Ms. Rebecca Rabbit’s Spanish class and Xiao Yu Jackson’s Chinese class. The students performing in the Talent Showcase were Conor Courtney on piano, Jahila Moody, Rukeya Yassen, Marwa Alansi and Hillal Nor jumping double dutch, Marius Toussaint playing clarinet and Keith Toussaint on piano, Nina & Milo Adams singing and playing ukulele with Michael Adams playing guitar, Emma & Olivia Simonson, Makisa & Cienne Bronson doing a Chinese dance, Riley Calcagno and Leo Shannon playing the fiddle & violin, Olivia Liu riding a unicycle, Julia Shettler, Grace Cotter, Delaney Toepel doing hula hoop, Varinique Davis singing, Naomi Walker, Ruby Wood and Asha Graves singing, and Ondre Mann playing the piano.

By Connor Cech, Grade 6

From eating food, to watching talents, to playing with friends the 2008 Taste of TOPS was fantastic in every way. The dancers were extremely organized and had incredible rhythm it was amazing and exciting how they worked together as a team.

The food was just as good as it has ever been but a new kind. The really good food was the Ingera, the spongy textured bread that we used as utensils to scoop up the meat and vegetables that was on top of it. The decorations were massive, creative, extremely colorful, and insanely beautiful. All this stuff was just simply amazing like the henna (art work on your hands) and the food and all the varieties of stuff to do at this year’s Taste of TOPS.

By Rahel Solomon, Grade 6

Lots of people showed up for the Taste of TOPS. The East African food was really good. The dancing was fun and interesting to watch. The Secret Garden book fair had some really nice books to read. The talent show was amazing and all the performances were great.

By Gabe Fabens, Grade 6

The Taste of TOPS was pretty fun this year. This year the theme was East Africa and there were many things you can do. There was a lot of good food. Also a lot of food I didn’t try. There was a lot of bad food, I was told. I went but I didn’t eat much. I was too busy. I ate at home. I was told to bring something so I brought a bag of chocolate chips but then I was told that nobody wanted chocolate chips that melted in a bag in my pocket. Anyway, there was more cool events, like the talent show and there was something going on at this one table. The weather was nice. Good temperature. May I add there was also a book fair. I didn’t see what was at the one table but I could see people there. The talent show was good. I saw lots of cool things. I saw these people do flips on a thin mat, I saw jump rope people, I saw wave board people, unicycle, piano – only a bit, I had to go to the book fair. The book fair was medium-sized. I bought a comic book with 15 dollars because I thought all the food cost money. I have never really been at the Taste of TOPS so how would I know. I was in there for about 10 minutes, then I left. I was satisfied with the Taste of TOPS and hope to get extra credit writing an essay on it next year too. Thanks and yeah.
Planning Committee

- **Coalition for Social Justice parent members**
  - Lynne Goodrich, Karen Stuhldreher, Sheri Toussaint, Susan Welch, Galen Goff, Suzanne Oelke, and Bonnie Cech.

- **TOPS staff** – Eva Masumoto, Cynthia Livak, Carla Fetterley, and Julie Gillett.

Special Thanks to:

- **Cynthia Livak**, who initiated and inspired the classroom art projects and showcase artifacts decorating the cafeteria and hallways; and coordinated classroom activities with visiting East African artist, Yegisaw Michael.

- **TOPS families who cooked the East African food for the feature table:**
  - **Ethiopian food** - Beruke Giday, Abby Techane, Wubitu Mersha, and Alem Tefferi.
  - **Somali food** - Fadumo Abdule, Migeni Muse, and Amina Edin.
  - **Kenyan food** - Agnes Tangata.

- **Jeff Masumoto and Lorie Lockwood**, who helped serve the featured food.

- **Jeff Heft and Tammy Luthy**, who donated and sold bottled water.

- **TOPS parent Semia Alansi**, who provided Ethiopian/Yemma-style henna, with help from Laurie Stusser-McNeil, Trish Shields, Kari Anderson, David Robinson, and Martha Kristjanson.

- **Eva Masumoto**, who brought us Oromo Storyteller, Sheiko Nagawo, and Ethiopian artist, Aschenaki Lulu.

- **Lynne Goodrich**, who provided significant coordination, support, and set up of the featured food table, volunteers, and recycling program (including buying reusable forks for TOPS).

- **Sandy Shettler**, who, along with student helpers, managed the recycling program.

- **Sheri and Keith Toussaint**, who coordinated and emceed the talent show.

- **Don Zemke**, for his wonderful pictures, capturing the spirit of the event.

- **Susan Welch and Steve Haines**, for coordinating the book fair.

- **Two dozen parent volunteers**, who helped hang the artwork, set up and serve food, greet guests, provide interpretation services and rides, and clean up.

- **TOPS staff, Annie Meyer (lunchroom manager), and Scott Anderson and Saream Dy (school custodians)** - who helped set up the cafeteria and entertainment areas, and ensure things were back in order for class to resume the next day.

- **Clara Scott and Gerrit Kischner**, for on-going support of the Coalition for Social Justice and the Taste of TOPS event.

- **And last but not least, all the student participants in the talent show**: Don Zemke’s Double Dutch and Circus Arts teams, Ms. Rebecca Rabbit’s Spanish class, Xiao Yu Jackson’s Chinese class, Conor Courtney, Jahila Moody, Rukeya Yassen, Marwa Alansi, Hillal Nor, Marius Toussaint, Nina Adams, Milo Adams, Emma Simonson, Olivia Simonson, Makisa Bronson, Cienne Bronson, Riley Calcagno, Leo Shannon, Olivia Liu, Julia Shettler, Grace Cotter, Delaney Toepel, Varinique Davis, Naomi Walker, Ruby Wood, Asha Graves, and Ondre Mann.

(We apologize for any omissions or spelling errors in the thank yous – we appreciated the help of everyone and could not have pulled off a successful Taste of TOPS without your help.)

Photo by Don Zemke
They came with their plastic bags full of nickels and dimes, their wads of cash and the desire to find that perfect book, and colorful bookmark. They found in one corner of the library crates full of books to delight every age group. This book fair would never have happened without the hard work of Susan Welch and her hard working crew of volunteers, including 2nd grade teacher Tracy Seefeld. Susan, a former bookstore owner, is well versed in the machinations of running a successful book fair. She also has a great resource for books at the Secret Garden Bookstore in Ballard. TOPS receives a portion from the sale of books back in the form of credit for the teachers to use to select books for their classroom. The 3-day event in conjunction with the Taste of TOPS was deemed quite a success. Many a student made a new friend with a new book.

The 2008 TOPS Speech Tournament recently concluded with speeches given to judges by our 7th and 8th graders. This year 75 students participated in this voluntary tournament in one of six different types of speeches that is open to all 3rd through 8th graders.

**2008 Speech Tournament Victors**

**Storytelling** (3-8 minute memorized speech taken from a published story), January 25, 2008
- Jesse Niemer ................................ Snap!
- Grace Cotter .................................. And to Think I Saw it on Mulberry Street
- Cole Robinson ................................. My Lucky Day
- Sam Hengst .................................. Did I Ever Tell You How Lucky You Are?

**Expository** (3-8 minute student written “how to” speech), February 1, 2008
- Leo Shannon ................................. “Fiddles/Violins and Irish Music”
- Nathan Merrill ................................ “Model Rockets”
- Atticus Pennylion-Hurley .................. “How to Throw a Baseball”
- Marwa Alansi ................................. “How to Make the Best Brownies”

**Oral Interpretation** (3-8 minute memorized published or original poem, speech, or story)
- Marianna White .............................. The Legend of Spud Murphy
- Sarah Blazevic ............................... Scarlet
- Dylan Aycock ................................. Outsiders
- Nicole Godbout and Jana Zisette ...... Poems for two voices

**Editorial Commentary** (1:45-2 minute original persuasive speech)
- Kwame Salmi-Adubofour .............. “A Woman’s Right to Choose”
- Emma Mercer ............................... “Gay Marriage”
- Omar Haddouch ............................. “School Lunches”
- Robyn Wrey .................................“Steroids in Sports”

**7th Grade Oral Interpretation** (3-8 minute memorized speech)
- Rebecca Ehlers ............................. speech by Chief Seattle
- Alex James ................................. “Audacity of Hope,” by Barack Obama
- Clara LaPatra ............................... JFK’s Inaugural Address

**8th Grade Expository Composition** (2-5 minute written speech patterned after “This I Believe”)
- Daniel Smith ................................. “Fickle Feeling”
- Alex Morrison ............................... “I Believe in Consequences”
- Jonah Ury .................................. “Knowing When to Quit”

A huge thanks to all the students and staff who work so hard to make this valuable experience happen each year. Also this year we were fortunate to have Joann Sparks, office assistant, as the speech timer who kept things running smoothly.

Continued next page
On a recent cold, clammy morning our esteemed Language Arts teacher, Lori Eickelberg, showed up in the library bearing a box of 22 brand new hardback books. “This is the best part of the job,” she exclaimed as she set the box on the worktable. Through the resources of the “Friends of TOPS” we are able to have the WITS program (Writers in the School) each year for our 6-8th graders. This program that is sponsored by Seattle Arts and Lectures brings writers in residence to schools. This year 21 schools have been the fortunate participants of professional writers coming to “inspire students’ understanding of the human experience through writing, reading, and performance.” As an added feature the program also included books, thus our library is 22 books richer through the expert efforts of “Ms Eich,” who ordered the new titles which include all genres of fiction plus poetry.

One book in particular caught my eye, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, by Brian Selznick, is this year’s recipient of the Caldecott Medal given for the best-illustrated work. It is not often that there is a novel that wins this award, but in perusing this hefty tome one can see why. Not only is it richly illustrated with pencil drawings but also the pictures are intertwined with the text to actually tell the story. Once I started this book about a young boy, Hugo, an orphan who secretly lives in the walls of the Paris train station during the 1930s and takes care of the clocks, I found it hard to put down. The pictures really keep this fast paced mystery moving along. I found an interesting article on Brian Selznick at Amazon.com while looking at the book. He did all of the drawings in ¼ scale and much of the time he used a magnifying glass to produce the pictures. It is worth checking out.

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**2007 - 2008 TOPS Calendar**

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

**April**

- 1-4 (T-F) Spring Break; no school
- 8 (T) BLT meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- 9 (W) TOPICS, 12:50 - 3:20
- 11 (F) End of third quarter
- 14-30 WASL testing
- 16 (W) Site Council Meeting, 5 - 7 p.m., Library
- 16-17 (W-Th) 1st and 2nd grade Poetry Festival
- 22 (T) BLT meeting, 4:00 p.m.

**May**

- 1-2 WASL Testing
- 2 (F) Middle school dance, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

- 3 (S) TOPS Auction, 5:00 p.m.
- 8 (Th) Leslie Nilan’s 3rd grade play, 1:30 and 7:00 p.m.
- 13 (T) BLT meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- 14-16 (W-F) 7th grade Camp
- 16 (F) Art Fest, 5:30 p.m.
- 16-17 (F-S) Elementary Play, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 (W) Professional development block time; 2-hour early dismissal
- 21 (W) Site Council Meeting, 5 - 7 p.m., Library
- 26 (M) Memorial Day; no school
- 27 (T) BLT meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- 28 (W) Spring Concert, 2 and 7 p.m.
- 30 (W) TOPICS, 12:50 - 3:20

**June**

- 3-6 (T-F) 8th grade Camp
- 4 (W) TOPICS, 12:50 - 3:20
- 5-6 (Th-F) 3rd and 4th grades to Camp Arnold
- 10 (T) BLT meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- 11 (W) Site Council Meeting, 5 - 7 p.m., Library
- 12 (Th) K, 1st, and 2nd grade to Camp Long
- 13 (F) 8th grade Passage
- 16 (M) Field Day – elementary grades
- 16 (M) Wild Waves – middle school
- 17 (T) Last student day

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Photos by Steve Haines
Middle School Dance:
Love Potion 29

Love potion 29 was the best dance ever! The music was good, we got to dance with all of our boyfriends and we had fun being photographed by master photographer, Don Zemke.

We think that these dances are a great way for us middle-schoolers to bond. I hope that in the future everybody gets their work done and makes good decisions around our school so that everybody can be eligible to go.

We'd like to give a shout out to all the TOPS staff and parents that donate so much time and energy organizing, setting up and chaperoning to make these dances possible!
Love potion 29 was the best dance ever! The music was good, we got to dance with all of our boyfriends and we had fun being photographed by master photographer, Don Zemke.

We think that these dances are a great way for us middle-schoolers to bond. I hope that in the future everybody gets their work done and makes good decisions around our school so that everybody can be eligible to go.

We'd like to give a shout out to all the TOPS staff and parents that donate so much time and energy organizing, setting up and chaperoning to make these dances possible!
New Shirts for the Inspire Choir

By Paul Loovis

A team of three students from Seattle Central Community College recently completed a series of print projects for TOPS, including screen printed T-shirts for the Inspire Choir. The projects were assigned as part of the Publishing Arts Program which prepares students for careers in graphic arts and print publishing. Other TOPS projects included letterpress note cards, informational flyers, and full color brochures.

Initially the plan for the shirts included a falcon motif with a blue and white color scheme. Gerrit Kischner consulted with choir director Sari Breznau who preferred red shirts, but ultimately they put it to a vote, and the choir members picked green with black and silver ink. A fine choice!

Fortunately, we had lots of beautiful metallic silver ink on hand, which turned out to be an absolute nightmare to work with. Normally, screen printing ink has the consistency of thick pudding, but this stuff was more like molasses: very runny, and difficult to push through the screen. The good news is that the shirts turned out great. They are free of charge to all current Inspire Choir members, but — according to Ms. Scott — they can only wear them for concerts.
Send a Card to Mr. J.

Our beloved former teacher, Willie Jones (“Mr. J.”), would love to hear from former students and parents. Please send your letters and cards to:

Mr. Willie Jones
621 S. Jackson Apt. #425
Seattle, WA 98104-2975

Mr. J. is doing well, but will not be able to answer letters due to lack of stamina and energy. Please consider sending him a note!

The TOPS elementary play this spring is “The Odyssey,” with performances on May 16 and 17 at 7:00 p.m. This epic story is being directed by local actor/teacher Paul Morgan Stetler. Paul promises lots of fun music, singing, and dancing. Don’t miss it!

Do you like to plan ahead?

If you do, you can save money. It is not too early to register for next year’s spring break trip to Paris with a London add-on.

Go to www.explorica.com. Enter the Tour Center ID Trangen-7064 in the box For Students and Parents to get details. You can save $100 if you sign up by March 31. If you have questions, contact Marianne at mptrangen@seattleschools.org.
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