MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back from mid-winter break! We are all anxiously waiting for springtime. March is always a special month at TOPS with our Taste of TOPS celebration, sponsored by CSJ. This is our annual Multicultural Potluck. This year the focus is on East Africa. Please join us as we celebrate the diversity at TOPS with food, entertainment, and a special treat - the talent show, featuring our talented TOPS students.

SUPERINTENDENT’S VISIT TO TOPS

On January 24 our Superintendent, Maria Goodloe-Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Carla Santorno, my supervisor Ruth Masker, and approximately twenty staff members from various departments at the John Stanford Center spent the morning at TOPS. The purpose of their visit was to take a Learning Walk throughout the building. They were looking for:

- Evidence of District Academic Vision & TOPS School Transformation Plan
- Evidence of the principal & teachers’ work
- Evidence of teachers’ work and the students’ work

The Wows are their findings and the Wonders are things they had questions about.

WOWS!!

- School/Classroom very well organized
- Student engagement and focus in every class
- D/HH teachers are fabulous - students

By Kelly Griffin

It’s just two months to the TOPS Spring Auction and our goal is to raise $110,000 this year. We know we can do it, but we need every TOPS family to get involved to make this event fun and successful!

The big push this month is for procuring items. Start building for the future by simply following this step-by-step guide:

**STEP 1:** Inventory your own resources. Are you a talented artist, artisan, cook, organizer, photographer, gardener, or musician? Do you have any NEW (not used) items you can donate worth $50 or more? Do you have vacation property you can share? Do you have friends who are noted artists, famous athletes, or have access to unique opportunities?

Continued on page 12

SUSTAINING TOPS - BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

By Kelly Griffin

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Continued on page 13

TOPS NEWS DEADLINE

Friday, March 14 • Submissions to topsnewsletter@gmail.com
Site Council Report
By Scott Winter

The January 16 Site Council meeting got started with a brief report from ASB co-chairs Sasha Barker-Aderem and Dallas Richardson. Dallas and Sasha reported that ASB is hoping to hold a “formal” dance, but that a request for the dance needed to be made to Mr. Kischner. Sasha pointed out that because there is more slow dancing at a formal dance, additional chaperones would be needed.

Update on the 2007 Special Auction Item

Don and Eric joined the meeting to provide an update on how they have been using the over $25,000 raised for the PE program through last year’s Special Auction Item. Don and Eric strive to have a wide variety of activities available for the students. The variety provides options where everyone can excel. Thus far, they have purchased a number of items including universal gym equipment and wave boards (with helmets). Girls’ soccer uniforms and basketball uniforms have also been purchased. A variety of other items and gym improvements are in the works. Look for a student perspective on the improvements in the February Newsletter, still available online on the TOPS website.

2008 Special Auction Item
With the auction only a few months away, the Site Council began the process of identifying this year’s Special Auction Item. Each year a program, project, or activity is selected as the Special Auction Item. The Item is presented at the TOPS Auction and participants are asked to indicate their donations as the auctioneer calls out the amounts. The past two items were the PE program in 2007 and the Teacher Excellence Fund in 2006.

The Council spent time brainstorming ideas for this year’s item. Ideas generated include:
- A “Finish the Building” fund to complete items that were left undone during the building remodel.
- Sound/P.A. systems for the middle school classrooms (they have already been installed in the elementary rooms).
- A teacher tribute fund to recognize teachers for all the time they put in “off the clock.”
- A number of ideas were suggested that could be grouped around a possible theme of Sustainability.
- Replenishing the Teacher Education Fund.

The Council will continue to discuss possible Special Auction Items at the February meeting.

Finance Committee Members Needed

The Site Council needs volunteers to serve on the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee is responsible for overseeing the budget process including making recommendations on how money

Continued next page
raised through the No-Bake Sale, the Auction, and money raised at other events is spent. Requests for volunteers have gone out to parents. The Council spent some time brainstorming names of people that might be approached to serve on the committee.

BOOK FAIR
Susan Welch has been working with Secret Garden Bookshop to set up a book fair to be held in conjunction with the Taste of Tops. Not only will this be an opportunity for students and families to buy books, but also teachers will be able to present “wish-lists” of books for their classes that families could purchase for donation. Book purchases will also earn credits for the school library to buy books.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
Clara Scott reviewed some of the current activities and events around school including a very successful MLK assembly and the well-attended school tours. She expressed her thanks to all the TOPS families who contributed to “Winter Wishes.” Eleven families were served and all the families were very appreciative. Ms. Scott also acknowledged the excellent job done by Britt Boyd on his work with the middle school production of “To Kill a Mockingbird.”

CSJ REPORT
The Coalition for Social Justice coordinated a very successful social justice themed TOPICS on January 9. Sixteen parents participated offering a wide of range of TOPICS. It was a fantastic day.

Taste of TOPS will be held on Thursday, March 13. The theme will be the culture of East Africa.

9th Annual Taste of TOPS
Honoring the culture of East Africa

Thursday, March 13, 2008
5:30 – 8:15 p.m.

The Taste of TOPS is an all school multicultural celebration, family potluck, and talent showcase. We will have the opportunity to share a part of us that makes us who we are through the foods we love. If you are able, please bring a dish to share from your family’s cultural heritage.

Potluck dinner
5:30-7 P.M. TOPS Cafeteria
• Featured Table: Ethiopian and Eritrean food
• All TOPS families bring a favorite family dish or desert for the potluck tables

Events throughout the evening
• There will be entertainment, activities, and culturally-related events scheduled between 5:30 and 7:00 P.M. in classrooms, hallways, the library, and gymnasium at TOPS.

Book Fair
8:30 AM to 8:00 P.M. TOPS Library

Student Talent Showcase
7-8:15 P.M. TOPS Gym

The Taste of TOPS flyers are available in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Somali, Tagalog, and Tigrigna in the TOPS office or by request.

For more information contact:
Lynn Goodrich (206) 725-6656 or goodrich_yas@msn.com

This event is sponsored by the Coalition for Social Justice
By Cyprus Richardson, Grade 7

This was my first experience participating with the TOPS ski program so I was a bit anxious and excited.

I was happy that I was finally going skiing and thought it was going to be easy, but I underestimated the second and third smallest slopes!

The first thing I did when I got out of my lessons was go on the Gallery run with Will and Ryan. Once we got to the top I was scared! It took me about a half an hour to get down the slope. Then, every time I took the run I got better and better.

Participating in the ski program has since been a lot of fun. It’s been a great experience and I plan to go skiing every year!
NON-FICTION IS A NON-NEGOTIABLE

By Kristina Stoneberg, 1st Grade Teacher

When was the last time you and your child read an informational text together? If you are like me, more often than not, you choose a fiction book to read aloud to your child. Animal voices, humorous characters and imaginative settings practically beg to be chosen off the shelf and acted out for our young ones. However, recent studies show that it is equally as important to read non-fiction literature with children. According to research done by Nell K. Duke and V. Susan Bennett-Armistead, reading informational text with your child can help build background knowledge, increase vocabulary, build on your child’s interests, enrich use of text across the curriculum, and better prepare children for later schooling.

When reading an informational text with your child, there are a few strategies to try suggested by Stephanie Harvey, author of Non-Fiction Matters. As you are reading a non-fiction selection, pause throughout the book and ask your child what it makes him or her think about. This will allow your child to make what Harvey terms “a text-to-self connection,” giving the text meaning in your child’s life. Another technique Harvey recommends is to model sharing your own thoughts out loud. For example, if you are reading a book about raccoons with your child you could say, “That’s interesting, I knew a baby fox was called a kit, but I didn’t know a baby raccoon was called a kit.”

Modeling your thought process is an important strategy, because it allows young children to begin to understand how to grapple with this type of literature. Lastly, Harvey encourages students to ask questions of the text. In my classroom, children are given a sticky-note pad and a pencil so they may write down any question that comes up as they are reading (this includes “reading” the pictures and diagrams). Give your child time to ask questions, and instead of trying to answer them, respond by helping your child write the question down (or just help them remember the question) and see if the answer comes later on in the text. Then, remind your child of the question that was asked earlier and show how they were able to answer their own question. This teaches children how to be independent readers and thinkers, and prepare them for future learning opportunities that will arise.

Help your child pick out a fiction story from the library. After looking through the story, find a non-fiction book to accompany the story. For example, read the non-fiction story of a baby bat in Stellaluna by Janelle Cannon. Then follow it up with a non-fiction choice such as: Zipping, Zapping, Zooming Bats by Ann Earle. Reading books from both categories allows your child to make connections between real things and stories. This will aid in comprehension, organizing thoughts, making sense of the world around them, and beginning to compose and write their own stories.

In a recent survey, it was found that children spend only 3.6 minutes per day reading non-fiction. This is a disheartening statistic, considering that the majority of what we read as adults is non-fiction. Non-fiction can include reading the Sunday comics, deciphering the ingredients in a box of cereal, or simply choosing a book based on a subject your child loves. Please help your child balance their reading choices and join them in adventures that are “based on a true story.”

For questions or comments about non-fiction, please email or call Kristina, 206-252-3569, klstoneberg@seattleschools.org.

Parent Resources:

- Non-Fiction Matters: Reading, Writing and Research in Grades 3-8 by Stephanie Harvey
- Strategies That Work: Teaching Comprehension by Stephanie Harvey and Ann Goudvis
- How to Get Your Child to Love Reading: For Ravenous and Reluctant Readers Alike by Esme Raji Codell

Some Ideas to Get Children Started:

Grades preK-2

- How Many Blue Birds Flew Away? : A Counting Book with a Difference by Paul Giganti, illustrated by Donald Crews (Greenwillow)
- One Red Dot by David A. Carter (Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing)
- I Spy Shapes in Art by Lucy Micklethwait (Greenwillow)
- Bread, Bread, Bread by Ann Morris (Mulberry)

Grades 3-5

- Quilt of States by Adrienne Yorinks and Librarians (National Geographic)
- Sunny Boy: The Life and Times of a Tortoise by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Anne Wilsdorf (Farrar Straus Giroux)
- Fairyopolis (Warne Books)
- The Great Brain Book: An Inside Look At The Inside Of Your Head by H.P. Newquist, Keith Kasnot (Scholastic)
- Mice, Morals and Monkey Business: Life’s Lessons from Aesop’s Fables by Chris Wormell (Running Press Kids)

Grades 6-8

- Alone in the World: Orphans and Orphanages in America by Catherine Reef (Clarion)
- Mural on Second Avenue and Other City Poems by Lilian Moore, illustrated by Roma Karas (Candlewick)
- Before Hollywood: From Shadow Play to the Silver Screen by Paul Clee (Clarion)
- Cave Paintings to Picasso: The Inside Scoop on 50 Art Masterpieces by Henry Sayre (Chronicle Books)
February is Heart Month. TOPS PE students will learn about the circulatory system and some positive ways to live a heart healthy lifestyle.

Over the course of the month students will participate in a variety of heart and health related activities. Students will also set a jump rope goal and have a lot of opportunities to accomplish their individual goal by the end of the month when they will be able to demonstrate their new skill.

Like past years, we discuss the community service aspect of raising money for the American Heart Association and students are given that option.

Jump Rope for Heart 2008
By Eric Herndon and Don Zemke

Photos by Don Zemke

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.

March
5 (W)................. Professional development block time; 2-hour early dismissal
6 (Th)................. Hannah Atlas’ play presented at ACT Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
7 (F)................. TOPICS, 12:50 - 3:20
7 (F)................. Middle school dance, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
8 (S)................. Hannah Atlas’ play presented at ACT Theatre, 12 noon
11-14 (T-F)........... Book Fair sponsored by Secret Garden
13 (Th).............. Taste of TOPS, 5:30 p.m.
14 (F)................. Make-up middle school ski day
14 (F)................. Middle school Speech Tournament
19 (W).............. Site Council Meeting, 5 - 7 p.m., Library
21 (F)................. Professional development day; no school
26 (W).............. Young Authors Celebration
31 (M).............. Spring Break; no school

April
1-4 (T-F).......... Spring Break; no school
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

May
1-2................. WASL Testing
2 (F)................. Middle school dance, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
3 (S)................. TOPS Auction, 5:00 p.m.
14-16 (W-F)...... 7th grade Camp
16 (F).............. Art Fest
16-17 (F-S)....... Elementary Play, 7:00 p.m.

26 (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
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
11 (W).............. Site Council Meeting, 5 - 7 p.m., Library
12 (Th)........... K 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
Tops basketball is awesome! I am delighted to say that we girls have won our first playoff game against Washington Middle School, on their own turf! Playing basketball is a great way to make friends, get into shape and have fun throughout. But I am sad to say that the rest of the eighth graders and I will be leaving this year, leaving only this year’s sixth graders, we will need more players if we are going to make it this far next year! Don’t worry if you haven’t played basketball before, or if you have played very little basketball, Eric is a great coach, he may yell a lot but he always means well.

I’ve always loved basketball because of the feeling that I get when I make a basket. The rush of accomplishment, and triumph that always comes after a win, and the knowledge that there’s always another game if we lose, even if it’s not until next season. Another plus of being on the team is that you get time before practice to work on homework in the library, so you always have a way to make up for the homework time that you lose during basketball season.

I know that it may seem a far way off, but if you get comfortable playing a sport now, it will be easier to transition to the scary world of school after middle school.

Try basketball; it’s more fun than it may seem.
To Kill a Mockingbird

Photos by Michael Drew
Led by our 5th graders, TOPS students are successfully separating their lunchroom compost, recycling, and trash.

Yet, even with these efforts our total school trash output has actually grown! Scott Anderson, our evening custodian and passionate recycler, reports that he and the custodial crew have developed several creative ways to close the garbage dumpster: leaning on the side door with a full body press, standing on the top and jumping (like pressing grapes for wine), or his favorite is to use the lid like a sandwich press to compress the garbage down. This needs to be done twice each week!

The TOPS dumpster measures five feet in all directions. As a fun exercise, two Math Olympiad students calculated that all of Joby’s class and half of Joan’s could fit into our dumpster – 39 kindergarteners in all. It’s clear that our trash reduction practices need to be expanded to all aspects of the active TOPS community – potlucks, TOPICS, birthday treats, teacher appreciation, etc.

To that end, take a look at the handy pull-out we’ve included for your reference when planning your next TOPS event. Our goal is to reduce our trash pick-up to once each week by the end of this school year.

**PLANNING A PARTY??**

- Avoid PLASTIC-LINED PLATES AND CUPS. Chinet paper plates are both recyclable and compostable. Use waxed cups instead of plastic--waxed cups break down in the composting process.
- Use REUSABLE BULK CONTAINERS and avoid PLASTIC BULK CONTAINERS (i.e. vegetable trays and cake containers).
- Collect PLASTIC FORKS in a container next to the trash can and wash them at home. Return them to TOPS for the next event.
- Use REUSABLE CONDIMENTS.

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**TRASH? RECYCLE? COMPOST? REUSE?**

**FORK → REUSE**

Collect forks and other utensils next to the trash can, wash them at home, and bring them back to TOPS for the next event.

**PAPER PLATE → COMPOST**

**PLASTIC-COATED PLATE → TRASH**

This particular plate must be thrown in the trash because it is plastic-lined.

**FOIL → TRASH**

**FOOD → COMPOST**

**DIRTY NAPKIN → COMPOST**

**CHICKEN BONE → COMPOST**

Three cans are available for TOPS events: garbage, recycling, and compost. Liners are available through the office.

Yes, animal products such as bones and eggs can be composted at school (not at home in Seattle).
Kindergartners at the Lunar New Year potluck celebrate their party's low trash output.

Jonah Ury is surprised that a plastic bottle ended up in the trash—inches away from a recycling container.

Scott Anderson shows kindergartners the garbage dumpster.

Nathaniel (Math Olympiad) helps Mette Bierle and Julia Shettler calculate the dumpster's capacity.

Photos by Sandy Shettler
TOPS Spanish Coordinator Needed!

By Sharon Mentyka

The TOPS Before and After School Spanish program needs someone to step up and take on the job of coordinator beginning next year. I have coordinated the program since 2001 but my daughter is in eighth grade and our family will be leaving TOPS after nine wonderful years.

The program is small but has much potential for growth and new energy. A brief summary of the task required includes: plan classes with teacher, coordinate rooms, advertise classes through the usual channels, put together class lists, collect checks, submit check requests for teacher payment, and submit RFP to Site Council for scholarship fund. Most of the work occurs at the beginning of the school year, and I have existing documents you can use for all of the items mentioned.

If anyone, (or perhaps two people who could share) is willing to take this on, I would be happy to meet with you before June so that we can go over what is required. This is a great way to fulfill your TOPS volunteer hours. Please email Sharon Mentyka at sharon@pidseattle.com or call 223-0681.

Message from the Principal continued from page 1

- Kids are proud of their school & can back it up with examples and evidence
- “Powerful instruction”
- Multicultural posters in many rooms
- Lots of discourse in 8th grade Math!
- Evidence of writing in 8th grade Math & Science
- Great respect during class conversations
- Students working together on problems
- Students & teachers work together as a team
- Integration of social emotional learning into classroom activities
- Student work displayed in the hallways
- Wonderful sense of community in the Kindergarten classroom
- Strong instructional practice around literacy
  - Break down/model
  - Student engagement
  - Connectedness/choice
- Great visual cues for kids.
- Teacher discussing multiple perspectives on issue of abortion. Shows respect for the ability of students to analyze and think critically about a controversial topic.
- Focus on academics and social emotional – very obvious in the climate and environment
- Instruction at all levels
- Cross-curriculum focus & team work/collaboration
- Student choices in assignments
- Middle School writing in Science notebooks
- Phonemic awareness integrated into Kindergarten circle time
- Socio-scientific norms
  - Students respectfully challenging ideas and asking for justification
  - Intellectual community
- Beautiful and well maintained facility
- Staff takes pride in their work and environment
- Students helping each other in small groups - focused on material

- Wonderful knowledge of 8th grade Science content and teaching pedagogy
- Evidence of chapter books in 1st grade
- You have wonderful academic integration
- Projects represent/reflect real work and application
- Real-life examples to engage student learning

WONDERS??

- MS = wide range of students, but some seemed not engaged
- What interventions exist to address students not connected with the mainstream of students – this is hard in a small setting
- Could there be more student work displayed, especially in the middle school?
- Diversity – Is there socio-economic diversity?
- DHH- why doesn’t it go through middle school?
- Science curriculum (MS) -- do the students ever get a say in what they study?
- Kids who struggle: how do we make lessons more predictable, how do we check for understanding? Why it’s important?
- School-wide expectations: how are they expressed
- Resource room: how integrated?
- What kind of collaboration time exists for teachers?
- 8th graders seemed to be sitting in the same groups after they moved from math to science – how much of a chance do students get to work with other students? How do we structure those opportunities?
- How are the intermediate grades doing with Everyday Math?
- How do we keep MS parents involved?
- 8th grade, how are we keeping kids engaged?
- What service components exist in the curriculum?

Cheers!

Clara
STEP 2: Think about the businesses you frequent and the organizations you belong to: restaurants, hairdressers, mechanics, museums, clubs, studios, etc. Most businesses are happy to donate items, so don't be shy!

STEP 3: Identify the items you want to procure. Hot procurement items include restaurant gift certificates, sports tickets, getaways, boat trips, retail gift certificates, camps, and lessons.

STEP 4: Check the TOPS auction website to see which businesses have already donated items or services.

STEP 5: Approach the businesses you've identified. Visiting in person always helps:

- Ask for the owner or manager.
- Introduce yourself as a family of TOPS and provide them with a copy of the procurement letter.
- Tell them that TOPS school needs their support
- Ask them "Can your business support our school through a donation to our spring auction?" Remind them that all donations are tax deductible. Let them know that 350 people attend our auction and that their business will be listed in our catalog. It’s a great opportunity for exposure!
- Fill out the donation form completely, giving the business their copy.
- Thank the owner/manager warmly!

STEP 6: Turn in donation forms to the TOPS office by April 7. Be sure that the donation forms are completely filled out! If possible, turn in the donation item with the form. Otherwise, items can be delivered to the office by April 25. Perishable, large or otherwise fragile items can be delivered to the auction site by 10:30 a.m. on May 3 – the day of the auction.

In the office you will find more donation forms and the procurement letter that you can present to businesses when you approach them – please pick one up if you haven’t already received yours or if you need more forms for any other reason. Don't forget that one of your items can be a TOPICS FOR GROWN-UPS party! Contact Sandy Green at thetangeloes@hotmail.com or 328-1998 for more information.

In the meantime, remember that there are lots of other ways you can help to sustain our school –

- **Organize the Class Project** – help the kids create their own unique and priceless work of art.
- **Organize the Class Basket** – pick a theme and encourage class families to contribute items to go along with the theme.
- **Buy a table** – share the evening with your friends or a teacher.
- **Buy raffle tickets** – buy tickets for a chance at a great prize.
- **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** – choose a committee position or step into the frenzy of activity on auction night. Here are some open committee positions:
  - *Live Auction (One more)*
  - *Silent Auction (One more)*
  - *Sound and Music*
  - *Power Point Presentation for Live Auction*

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

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<td>Chair</td>
<td>Janet Morrison</td>
<td><a href="mailto:janetm@blarg.net">janetm@blarg.net</a></td>
<td>634-2203</td>
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<td>Volunteer Coordinator</td>
<td>Wilma Angell</td>
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<td>Janet Morrison, Ellen Levi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:janetm@blarg.net">janetm@blarg.net</a>, <a href="mailto:elevi@comcast.net">elevi@comcast.net</a></td>
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<td>783-0148, 284-7562</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration/Underwriting</td>
<td>Kathy Wickward</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wickward@raincity.com">wickward@raincity.com</a></td>
<td>323-4278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topics for Grown-ups</td>
<td>Sandy Green</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thetangeloes@hotmail.com">thetangeloes@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>328-1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Baskets</td>
<td>Jamie Flaxman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jamieandsam@earthlink.net">jamieandsam@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td>286-1295</td>
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Starting in December, the 5th grade joined the long TOPS tradition of participating in parent led literature groups. Literature groups are a wonderful opportunity for students to read and discuss books in a small group setting and for parents to instill the love of good books into the growing minds of our students. Literature groups are a very gratifying volunteer experience as parents are rewarded by kids starting to learn to be deeper readers and thinkers. Parent volunteers add structure and activities that challenge the kids to be critical thinkers.

Learning Goals for Literature Groups in 5th grade:

- Increase vocabulary
- Recognize literary devices
- Read fluently
- Summarize, analyze, compare, interpret, and evaluate
- Identify main idea and supporting details
- Interpret point of view and author’s purpose
- Start to discriminate fact from opinion
- Read many literary genre including nonfiction
- Read for information and perspective
- Connect text and personal experience

The Internet has all sorts of interesting websites to support discussion ideas and short culminating projects if you want help. In reading historical fiction, bringing in information to help put the book into context is really helpful for discussions. If the opportunity presents itself in your child’s classroom, volunteer so you don’t miss out on the wonderful experience of fostering a life-long love of books, reading and discussion.

I’m positive it will be an enriching experience for everyone involved.

Why I Like 5th Grade Literature Groups

“I like book group because it gives me time to stop and actually realize books and their little nooks and crannies yet to be explored. Before book groups I would rush through books, not really exploring them. Now book groups make me realize how great books are.” ~ T. S.

“The reasons I like reading groups are because you get to read books that you probably never heard and once you hear it you would probably not like it but later on you like it!” ~ Gene Carpenter

“I think book group is really fun. You get to read fantastic books and do summaries about some chapters. The summaries are fun to do. At the end of the book group you get a treat!” ~ Tessa LaPatra

“I like book groups because it is really fun to talk about the book. You can understand it more when you are with your group. We always read fun books, and I always like them. I think book groups are a great opportunity to learn a lot, read books that I probably wouldn’t choose, and be challenged!” ~ Lauren English

Many thanks to Karl and Melinda Oles for their donation of a beautiful grand piano to the TOPS Music Program.
It's time to close down the kitchen! Thanks to all of our very generous families the TOPS No-Bake fund has surpassed the $80,000 mark!

Thank you, Team No-Bake

If your name is missing from the contributors list or corrections need to be made, please contact Kris Johnston, No-Bake financial coordinator, at 285-0824 or kjohnston@columbiahospitality.com.
Honoring the culture of East Africa
9th Annual Taste of TOPS
Thursday, March 13, 2008
5:30 – 8:15 p.m.

Thanks to G & H Printing, 2370 Eastlake E.  329-9888

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