MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy May Day!

Our students have been busy, focused on the act of compassion. Many of our families and students attended the Seeds of Compassion activities where the Dalai Lama shared his views on compassion and how he exemplifies compassion in his daily life. He challenged all of us to show understanding and concern for others. TOPS students have shown compassion by volunteering at the food bank, serving food at the homeless shelter, raising funds for the Common Cents Program, First Place, American Heart Association, and other programs serving our community. It is important for the students to see the adults in their lives show compassion toward their neighbors, family, teachers, health care providers, homeless individuals, mentally challenged adults, and young people who have lost respect for themselves and others. They all still need our love and assistance.

Continued on page 22

May is Teacher Appreciation Month when we reach out and say a very big THANK YOU to all of our wonderful TOPS teachers and teaching assistants. As our way of saying thank you, throughout this issue of the TOPS News, you will learn more about the people who spend their days with our children – whose great grandfather knew Ghandi, who speaks fluent NFL, and who has traveled to Kathmandu. There’s a word search for the child in each of us, and photos in case you’re not sure who everyone is. Have fun getting to know our faculty better. Thank you to our roving photographers – Michael Drew, Sheila Gilligan, and Ann Simonson, and to our Room Reps for helping to collect information on our teachers.

And to our teachers:

Thank You ★ Gracias ★ Merci ★ Amesegänallô ★ Tashabkær ★ Danke schön ★ Sas efaristo ★ Gadda Ge ★ Mahalo ★ Arigato ★ Komapsummiida ★ Dziebuje ★ Salamat ★ Yruynli ★ Cám on ★ Grazie ★ Xie Xie

Thank you to our Wonderful TOPS Teachers!
SUSTAINING TOPS - BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

By Kelly Griffin

TOP 10 REASONS TO ATTEND THE TOPS AUCTION ON MAY 3RD

You can –

10. Bid on one of Pam Copeland’s stunning chalk board planter box centerpieces.

9. Socialize with other TOPS parents without being interrupted by your kids!

8. Be the first to know if you’ve won 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. Raffle tickets will be on sale the night of the auction for a mere $5.

7. Outbid the competition at the next table for the Dessert Dash and revel in delectable delights.


5. Be the one to steal away with your child’s priceless class project.

4. Thank our fabulous underwriters (as of April 8) in person –
   - John and Gail Chase
   - Stephanie Colony
   - Erin Fairly and Bill Patz
   - Paul and Karen Gruen
   - John Hoyt & Lisa Fitzhugh
   - Valerie Leadon
   - Eric Liu
   - Olga Klezovitch

3. Glory in the value of a TOPS education while you marvel at our gracious 8th graders pitching in.

2. Enter the Golden Raffle for only $25. Win and you can take your pick of the live auction items before everyone else!

And the number one reason to attend the TOPS Spring Auction...

1. You’ve already saved the date, hired the sitter and reserved the tickets. (You haven’t? There may still be time. Contact Kathy Wickward at 323-4278. She won’t baby sit, but she might have extra tickets.)

Remember! The Asian Resource Center at 5 pm. We’re on our way to $110K!
How many names of TOPS teachers and staff can you find in this puzzle?

B L I N A S J E H T E B A Z I L E T I H
T L R C G R E B L E K C I E S D A N N A
T C A I H V S A T H G R E B E N O T S Z
O A S N A E S D E U D R E F I N N E J E
C R I S A C I Z O B N T M I C H E L E L
S Y E L G A C X J B W R O C S I L L E W
M L U Z I T A M R A L A M A E R A S I O
A U Q E B R N A O R I C Y H K W D N L O
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O T M Y Y L E S L I E V Y A Y B O J D C
J K E L L Y W O I R R E H S R Z E G A S

ADRIENNE (YOSHIHARA)
ANNA (WEST)
ANNIE (MEYER)
ANNIE (UMOTO)
BETH (ENGEL)
BLOEDEL, (DAN)
CARLA (FETTERLEY)
CARYL (KEASLER)
CATRICE (DENNIS)
CINDY (BECK)
CYNTHIA (LIVAK)
DAPHNE (JONES)
DON (ZEMKE)
EICKELBERG, (LORI)
ELIZABETH (HAYDEN)
ELLIS, (MARK)
ERIC (HERNDON)
EVA (MASUMOTO)
HAZELWOOD-SPURR, (LESLIE)
HELEN (HUNDLEY)
HUBBARD, (COLETTE)
JENNIFER (MURRAY)
JENNY (GAMACHE)
JESSICA (MORRISSEY)
JOAN (O’CONNOR)
JOANN (SPARKS)
JOBY (MOORE)
JOE (DRUMMOND)
JUDY (HOLBEN)
JULIE (GILLET)
KATIE (WATERS)
KELLY (HAMPTON)
KISCHNER, (GERRIT)
LANA (FULLER)
LAWRENCE, (GUY)
LESLIE (NILAN)
LUZITA (ROLL)
MANUEL (BERMUDEZ)
MARIANNE (TRANGEN)
MARY (CHAO)
MICHELE (LAMB)
NINA (BINDER)
SAGE (MCCOTTER)
SARAH (MARKS)
SAREAM (DY)
SARI (BREZNAU)
SCOTT (ANDERSON)
SCOTT, (CLARA)
SETH (ZIEGLER)
SHERRI (TOUSSAINT)
STEVE (HAINES)
STONEBERG, (KRISTINA)
TOM (O’CONNOR)
TRACY (SEEFELD)
XIAO-YU (JACKSON)
Overview of the 2008-09 TOPS Building Budget

By Gerrit Kischner, Assistant Principal

The Building Leadership Team (BLT) has completed the building budget for 2008-09, and we are pleased to be able to make some significant, new initiatives in the coming year that should strengthen our program. Next year, look for smaller class sizes in elementary classrooms, additional specialist support in writing and math, and additional remedial and study-skills support for middle school students.

The budget process was a new one for Seattle Public Schools this year, as the District moved away from the fully site-based model known as the “Weighted Student Formula.” In the older model, each building received a per-student allocation based on total enrollment and weighted by the profile of specific students: the number of students who qualified for free or reduced lunch, received Special Education services, or were English Language Learners increased the per-student allocation at each school.

The new model is one that sets “staffing standards” for buildings throughout the District based on size increments, such that a K-8 school with more than 500 students (such as TOPS) qualifies for a standard staffing package plus additional discretionary money calculated to reflect the number of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch (which is now a quarter of the students at TOPS, an increase of nearly 60 percent in just four years).

With this package, we are able to maintain some of the staffing that has become most central to our program: two full-day Kindergarten classes, a full-time counselor, a full-time librarian, and a full-time reading specialist. It is remarkable that we are able to accomplish this without looking for the kind of support from Friends of TOPS for this core staffing that we have become accustomed to.

In addition, our budget allows us to put in place a number of other academic supports that we have been talking about for a long time. While the BLT still must work through the shape and scope of job descriptions, we are feeling very hopeful about the following new advantages:

1) **Lower Elementary Class Size:** all of our elementary classrooms will be able to be reduced in number by one to three students per room. We will have to wait until the fall to see how some of this pans out after typical attrition – it may take a couple of years to accomplish this reduction, but there is likely no more important “reform” we could undertake. Hopefully, this will be able to extend to the middle school in coming years.

2) **Hire an Elementary Math Specialist (.8 FTE):** this teacher will provide the math counterpart to the role that Carla Fetterley has played so ably in reading. He or she will support elementary students working below grade level standard but not qualifying for Special Education. In addition, this individual will help to support teachers with the second year of their implementation of the Everyday Math curriculum.

3) **Hire a Writing Support Specialist (1.0 FTE):** this teacher will assist teachers at all grade levels in the implementation of the “writing workshop” model developed at Columbia Teachers College in New York. This is a model which builds well on the remarkable work that TOPS teachers have engaged in for several years that led to the development of our own TOPS K-8 writing continuum and charted by the fall and spring all-school writing samples we have collected for four years.

4) **Additional Support for Middle School Students:** we have additional teacher staffing available to support students who are working below grade level standard. This will likely include specific support for students who fall below “good standing” status.

With this new support comes the new challenge of sustainability, and that is where we need to concentrate our attention in the coming months. The additional funding we stand to gain this year is new and may not continue in coming years. Still, the Friends of TOPS’ finance committee will be looking closely at the opportunity presented by freeing up the funding that has been held in recent years to support our core program. In addition, the BLT and faculty must look to laying groundwork that directly addresses the needs of students and strengthens their ability to “differentiate,” to address the diverse needs of students in the classroom. This ability to address the breadth of student needs and experience in the class is core to the TOPS mission, and we are pleased to consider these new opportunities that await us.
Dan Bloedel • 7th/8th Grade Science Teacher

Judy Holben • Middle School Special Education Teacher

Guy Lawrence • 6th Grade Math & Science Teacher

Lori Eickelberg • 7th/8th Grade Language Arts Teacher

Tom O'Connor • 7th/8th Grade Social Studies Teacher

Photos by Michael Drew
Adrienne Yoshihara • Hearing Impaired Program Teacher

Carla Fetterley • Reading Specialist

Elizabeth Hayden • Hearing Impaired Program Teacher

Sage McCotter • Elementary Reading Block

Lana Fuller • Kindergarten PEAK Teacher

Photos by Ann Simonson
TOPS Teachers have travelled to exotic, nearby, and faraway locations throughout the world. Can you identify which teachers have travelled to which locations? You’ll find the answers on page 22.
Every year in Spanish class we celebrate carnival. Carnival is celebrated all over Latin America and Spain. Many of you are familiar with Mardi gras (fat Tuesday), which is the French name for carnival. Every country has its own traditions at carnival time, depending on the cultural blending in that country. In Spanish class we make paper flowers, mascaras, instrumentos and learn to dance the conga during carnival time. This year we handed out paper flowers at Taste of Tops and our advanced middle school class taught (for the second year) an elementary school TOPICS, whose theme was carnival.

Last year parents donated money for the families affected by the troubles in Oaxaca. We made contact with a profesora of a small bilingual school (Mixtec and Spanish) in the hills of Oaxaca. This year our students have sent letters, cards, and drawings to our “pen pals” and we hope to establish an ongoing relationship with this “alternative” school.

We are at the end of our Spanish school year. Following are thoughts from some of my students. We hope you join us next year learning about other cultures, making art and artesanias, and learning to understand, speak, read, and write in Spanish.

Super Mario

“I have been in Spanish class 4 years. Sí, I learned Spanish before taking classes. My mom and my sister spoke Spanish to me. My sister (who was in Spanish class) would say “toca el sofa”...so I’d touch the couch. I like when we play the games and go outside to enjoy the sun. I will speak Spanish the rest of my life because it’s stuck in my head.”

Leo

“This is my second year in Spanish class but I started at home with my mom. The first year was hard, I got frustrated. My mom said I should stick with it, so I tried it again and it was easier this year. When I go to Costa Rica this year I think I will be able to speak alot in Spanish. My favorite things about Spanish class is the games and learning new words and trying to keep track of them.”

Sonia

“I have been in Spanish class two years, in first grade and now, in 5th grade. I speak Spanish at home with my stepfather and mom. I went to Nicaragua for 12 days. I was on vacation with my mom’s school. They adopted a sister school there. I taught some kids English and they taught me Spanish. I loved it there. My mom and I made a deal that if I learned Spanish by the time I’m 15 I can have a quincenañera, when a 15 year old has a big party...it is like becoming a woman. And they do ballroom dancing and have a mariachi band and (the girl wears) a pretty ballroom dress. I watch it on MTV. When I get older I want to be in a mariachi band.”

Carmen

“I have been in Spanish class five years. In my other class our teacher mostly talked in English and she told us what it meant in English. In my old class we didn't really celebrate carnival so I like this. I will always speak Spanish because when I grow up I want to be a detective and travel to other countries as a detective.”

Lena

“I want to go to Peru. I probably would have wanted to go even if I didn’t take Spanish, but because I speak Spanish I want to go right now, because I know I can speak with the people there and enjoy it more. I will continue Spanish in high school because I need to have a language and I already know Spanish. My favorite thing about Spanish class has been the food and learning Spanish the total immersion way, without a text book.”

Gracias to all our students, to the Spanish speaking students and their families, to our parents, teachers, support staff, and administration. ¡Hasta luego!

For more information contact Maestra Rabbitt at: rabbitthutch@hotmail.com

Gracias! Thanks!

Muchas gracias a Sharon Mentyka, who has been the Friends of TOPS coordinator for our Spanish Language and Culture Class for many years now. Sharon’s daughter is graduating and Sharon will no longer be with us. Ya graduó la hija de la Señora Mentyka y ella no más será la coordinadora de nuestro programa de español y cultura.

Sharon es mamá negociante, profesora, estudiante, escritora y esposa y entre todo eso ha hallado el tiempo de coordinar y hacer crecer y florecer el programa de español y cultura de TOPS. Fue su visión de tener clases de alta calidad afuera de las horas normales de escuela que guio el programa. Sharon is a business woman, a mother, a teacher, writer, student, and spouse. She still found time to coordinate the Spanish Language and Culture program, to help it grow and flourish. Her vision of having a quality language class even though it was outside normal school hours guided this program.

We will miss Sharon and her support, enthusiasm and vision. We wish her and her family great things in the coming years.

¡Gracias por su granite de arena!

TOPS Spanish Language and Culture Class Clase de español y cultura de TOPS.
Caryl Keasler • Middle School Special Education Resource Room Teacher

Cynthia Livak • Elementary Art Teacher (left) and Luzita Roll • Middle School Art Teacher

Marianne Trangen • 6th Grade Social Studies & Language Arts Teacher

Mark Ellis • 7th/8th Grade Math Teacher

Caryl Keasler • Middle School Special Education Resource Room Teacher

Don Zemke • Physical Education Teacher

Photos by Michael Drew
“I love being a writer, what I can’t stand is the paperwork.”

Peter DeVries

They came from their classrooms clutching their bound stories, their poems, their works in progress, ready to share with the world, or at least with other 1st through 5th graders during the annual Young Authors’ Celebration. Each group of 6-7 students was led by 5th grade students in one of 41 locations throughout the school. TOPS has a strong writing program and this is a great way for the students to present and discuss their writing with their peers.

The day started with a visit by Laura Kvasnosky, the award-winning author and illustrator of the Zelda and Ivy stories. She shared with the students her writing and where her inspirations come from. All of her stories come from ideas that came from childhood experiences while living in a very active family as one of five children. Her main message was that “we all have stories in our lives that only you can tell.”

I recently had the opportunity to listen to Australian author John Flanagan when he came to All for Kids Books and Music to discuss writing, and his new book in the Ranger’s Apprentice Series entitled, The Battle for Skandia. John always wanted to be an author but he started out as a TV scriptwriter. To get his son interested in reading he started writing short stories that he would share with his son each Friday night. He would ask for help with the story. He put these stories away for years. When they resurfaced it was in the form of one long book. His editor suggested that he break the story into parts. The thinking being more books, more sales, like J.K. Rowling. Thus he now has ideas for his 10th book of his best selling Ranger’s Apprentice series. Book 7 is out in Australia while Book 4 is available stateside. The unevenness of publication lies in the fact that there are two publishers involved. The tale, set in medieval times, follows a 15 year old orphan named Will, as he learns to be a part of the King’s Rangers. These books are page-turners, and he skillfully ends each book, leaving the reader “hanging,” and clamoring for the next book. It’s worth checking the web site, www.rangersapprentice.com. We have the books in our library.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>The Seattle Children’s Theatre 2008-09 schedule</th>
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<td>is available. There are some excellent plays and you can view the synopsis for each play on line at <a href="http://www.sct.org/index">http://www.sct.org/index</a>. We are fortunate to have a world-class theatre for children so close to us.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Nose .............................................. Oct. 17-Dec. 14</td>
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<td>The Wizard of Oz .............................. Nov. 21-Jan. 17, 2009</td>
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<td>Tomas and the Library Lady ............. Jan. 9-March 1</td>
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<td>“Pharaoh Serket and the Lost Stone of Fire .............................. Jan. 30-March 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Tale of Two Cities ..................... March 20-April 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Goodnight Moon .............................. April 10-June 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Was a Rat! .............................. May 1-June 14</td>
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ARTFEST
2008

Inward School
Ohio Ave. East
Anytime
May 16
9:00 p.m.
Most schools only have P.E. about once every week, or even once a month. I have been fortunate to have had P.E. for all of my nine years at TOPS. The lessons we learned at a young age have helped us along with our problems. Not just figuring out who’s turn it is to play infield, but also how to talk about our problems so that everyone is heard. Back in kindergarten, the whole school thing was very new to everyone. In P.E. we got to come be around each other and become friends while playing games and running around that really made making friends easier. The older we got, the more I started to appreciate P.E. and the P.E. teachers.

There were always things some people were good at and others weren’t, so when something like picking teams would come up, there would always be problems. We learned how to resolve our problems in a fair way and talk about it instead of getting all upset. In the end everyone felt like their point of view was heard so it let us enjoy our game. That skill has not only come up in P.E. but everywhere at school and life. I have been able to take what I learned in P.E. like how to resolve problems and talk about it, and apply it everywhere.

I have also been really lucky to have two amazing gym teachers that are always understanding and are nothing like the typical scary, mean, and loud, gym teacher that comes to mind sometimes. They are probably the best part of P.E. because they are always there when you need something and can always cheer you up when you are having a bad day. Whether it’s comparing arm muscles with Eric, or talking about just about every sport with Don, I have been so lucky to have them as my teachers.

P.E. has always been a time to just relax and have a good time and not care about whether you can kick the ball the furthest or who scored the most goals, it has always been important to have a good time. There have always been so many choices-like attempting to climb the rock wall that used to seem so high up and scary, playing basketball (a.k.a. trying to get the ball through the net), volleyball, gymnastics, jump rope, or basically anything you can think of that involves exercise. I know that I will miss that feeling that I get every time I walk into the gym and see people talking to Don and Eric and always having a good time, because that is what P.E. is really about.

Ever since my year and every other year in TOPS met Don and Eric in kindergarten, P.E. has been the class that everyone has always looked forward to more than anything. With really fantastic teachers and fun activities every day, it’s one of the most useful and enjoyable classes that’s offered at TOPS.

Every day we get to do something fun, and be with the two amazing, cool, sometimes kid-like teachers during sixth period, and also learn about how to stay healthy and fit. When I was in elementary school, my favorite time of every day was when we did “choices” in P.E. We got to choose an activity, usually things like jump-roping, climbing on the gym’s built-in rock wall, juggling, running, skateboarding, and a bunch of other things, and every few minutes we’d switch activities. It was really fun and everyone had something to do that they enjoyed and that got them physically active.

P.E. is a great, accessible way to stay in shape in a class, have a blast (and get school credit!). Everyone in TOPS has always loved it, and there have been more great memories from kindergarten through 8th grade than in P.E. than in any other class. I think everyone would say, thanks to Don and Eric, and everyone who helps out in the class, Physical Education has been one of the most popular, favorite classes in everyone’s time at TOPS.
RIDE YOUR BIKE TO SCHOOL / WORK DAY!

By Don Zemke, P.E. Teacher

On Friday, May 16, join TOPS staff and thousands of people from the greater Seattle area and ride your bike to school and work. By riding on Bike to Work Day you can get great exercise, decrease carbon monoxide emissions, and help generate political momentum for the creation of more safe, convenient bicycle facilities.

Most cities in our region do not know how many cyclists use their roads because they do not count them. Cascade Bicycle Club would like to see official bicycle counts become commonplace around the Puget Sound, but until then the number we tally each year on Bike to Work Day has become the default indicator of our community’s growing size and strength.

BTWD’s dramatic year-over-year increases show transportation engineers and politicians that facilities like bicycle lanes and parking racks are good investments. The combination of our growth and the societal benefits of bicycle riding are leading to unprecedented public investment, including the bike-specific funding in Seattle’s recent “Bridging the Gap” levy and the Complete Streets ordinances passed by the City of Kirkland last year and most recently, by the City of Seattle.

Friday, May 16, throughout the Puget Sound, riders can stop by Commute Stations to pick up a cool free water bottle, snacks, maps, and other useful goodies. Enter the Bike to Work Day raffle and have your bike spot-checked by bike shop station sponsors.

Check out the Cascade Bicycle Club web site for more information and contact Don for help organizing student riders from different parts of the city.

BADMINTON!

By Don Zemke, P.E. Teacher

2007 P.E. Auction funds update! The TOPS P.E. department recently acquired three 20’ badminton nets, new badminton racquets, and birdies which are being enjoyed by P.E. students and Friday after school sports participants. TOPS students are picking up the game fast and should be ready to challenge their family and friends for some lively games this summer!

Photos by Don Zemke
On Wednesday, April 9, thirty University of Washington international students spent the afternoon at TOPS talking with students in grades 1-5 about their countries and cultures. Matched with one or two international students from a country, TOPS students found their country on the map, drew its flag, learned some of its language, and were introduced to its daily life. Many of the groups then played games, like “Red Light, Green Light” in French or “Hot/Cold” in Turkish (sicak/soguk). Indian students led their students in a stick dance while the Singaporean students taught a song in Malay. An Egyptian student answered endless questions about pyramids, and two Australian students rewarded correct answers to questions about kangaroos and the Australian flag with “lollis” (small candies) while playing a “Men at Work” CD.

The student visit was arranged by FIUTS, the Foundation for International Understanding Through Students, a non-profit based on the University of Washington campus. FIUTS inspires lifelong engagement in experiences that build international understanding, and it creates programs that connect international students with our community. Besides arranging school visits and many on-campus programs for UW students, FIUTS matches international students with families for short term homestays (when students arrive at the start of their studies) and non-hosted friendship connections. (Our family has hosted FIUTS students for ten years, and it is a great way for our children—and for us—to learn about the world!) Visit www.fiuts.org for more information about FIUTS.

FIUTS Executive Director Era Schrepfer said of the visit, “International students come to the US to learn about our culture, but they can’t learn everything on campus. FIUTS is grateful to TOPS for allowing our students a glimpse into American childhood and providing a venue for them to serve as ‘experts’ on their own countries and cultures.” Sarah Marks, who coordinated the visit for TOPS, said, “I thought, and I’m sure my class would agree, that this is one of the coolest things we’ve done all year!”
What TOPS students had to say...

- Singapore is super small - just a dot on the map. It’s smaller than Rhode Island.
- In the TOPIC about Egypt, we learned to write in Arabic.
- In my Turkey TOPIC, we ate Turkish Delight. It was really good.
- We got to play fruit in a basket. We had so much fun! (Japan)
- I want to move to New Zealand—the candy looks good.
- My TOPIC rocked! In Australia, we learned that ‘Bludger’ meant fat and lazy!!
- I was in the Philippines. I wanted the house that looked out on the ocean.
- The chocolate was my favorite part. (German) Chocolate doesn’t melt in your hands and it tasted really good!
- I liked the game we played in Chile. I got it on my first try.
- Indonesia is made up of 17,508 islands, some of which get completely submerged at high tide!
- I went to Egypt and I got to eat this good food.
- If you try to get the gold from the pyramids (in Egypt), there are booby traps in there.

The international students came from 20 countries: Australia, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Holland, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, and Turkey. They ranged from undergraduates to mid-career professional students.

As some fifth graders said after the event, “I traveled the world in two hours.”
How Well Do You Know Your TOPS Teachers?

Can you identify which TOPS teacher had the following experience or told us these interesting facts about themselves? You’ll find the answers on page 22.

1. _____ would like to travel to the Amazon Rain Forest.
2. _____’s favorite food is coconut.
3. _____’s favorite writing utensils are thin Crayola markers.
4. _____ is a member of the Screen Actors Guild.
5. _____ worked 3 summers in Saudi Arabia teaching ex-pat kids to scuba dive.
6. _____ speaks Russian fluently.
7. _____ was a state champion water polo player
8. _____ speaks only one other language fluently, the language of the NFL.
9. _____ has nine siblings.
10. _____ hopes to bicycle in the Alps someday.
11. _____’s great-grandfather knew Gandhi.
12. _____ taught Native American students on a reservation early in his/her career.
13. _____ is fluent in sign language.
14. _____ gets up at 4:30 a.m. every day.
15. _____ has climbed over 20,000 feet several times.
16. _____ has a new baby (almost 3 months old when you’re reading this).
17. _____ would love to go to Sicily someday.
18. _____’s favorite food is avocados.
19. _____ would travel to Antarctica if he/she could travel anywhere in the world.
20. _____ would like to own chickens.
21. _____ would like to travel to London.
22. _____ grinds his/her own grains for all sorts of baking.

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.

May
1-2 ............... WASL testing
2 (F)............. Middle school dance, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
3 (S)............. TOPS auction, 5:00 p.m.
6 (T)............. 8th grade portraits
7 (W)............. TOPICS, 12:30 – 3:20
8 (Th)............. Class and staff pictures
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
21 - 23 (W-F).... 5th grade camp
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, 12:30 - 3:20

June
3-6 (T-F)....... 8th grade camp
4 (W).......... TOPICS, 12:30 - 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
11 (W)......... 6th - 8th grade Honor Roll, 2 p.m.
12 (Th)........ K, 1st, and 2nd grade to Camp Long
13 (F)......... 8th grade passage, 7 p.m.
16 (M)......... 5th grade Moving Up ceremony, 2 p.m.
16 (M)......... Field Day – elementary grades
16 (M)......... Wild Waves – middle school
17 (T)......... Last student day, 2:20 p.m. dismissal
Eva Masumoto • ESL Teacher

Jenny Gamache (3rd from left) • Elementary School Special Education Resource Room Teacher

Joby Moore • Kindergarten Teacher

Katie Waters • 3rd Grade Teacher

Mary Chao • 5th Grade Teacher

Xiao-Yu Jackson • ESL Instructional Assistant - photo by Ann Simonson

Eva Masumoto • ESL Teacher
Sari Breznau • Choir & Elementary Music Teacher

Steve Haines • Librarian

Cindy Beck • Hearing Impaired Program Teacher

Sheri Toussaint • Elementary Reading Block

Eric Herndon • Physical Education Teacher

Photos by Ann Simonson
Site Council Report

By Scott Winter

The March 19 Site Council meeting opened with a report from second grade teacher Tracy Seefeld and middle school math teacher Mark Ellis on implementation of the new math curriculums. Tracy gave an overview of the Everyday Math K-5 curriculum being piloted this year by Seattle Public Schools. While there are always challenges integrating a new program, Tracy noted that Everyday Math is a very well developed curriculum with lots of materials available for the teachers and students.

Mark Ellis gave an update on the status of the Connected Math Program (CMP). TOPS is in the second year of implementing the second edition of CMP.

Principal’s Report

Clara Scott expressed her appreciation to Susan Welch for her work organizing the very successful book fair held in conjunction with Taste of TOPS. Ms. Scott reported that TOPS received $600 from the District as a part of the Shared Savings Program. This program returns a portion of a school’s savings in utility bills back to the school. Ms. Scott recognized Saream Dy for his excellent work reducing building utility costs.

Building Leadership Team and Finance Committee Report

Gerrit Kischner reported that the building budget for next year was just submitted to the District. The District is using a new budget model. Under the new model the District will fully fund the school counselor, librarian, and reading specialist positions. Some of the cost for these positions has previously been covered by the Friends of TOPS budget. Mr. Kischner also mentioned that they are hoping that elementary school class size can be reduced by 1 to 3 students.

Site Council treasurer Cliff Shettler reviewed some of the possible changes to the Friends of TOPS budget that could result from the new District budget model. Cliff suggested Site Council consider using possible savings to create a contingency reserve. This option will be explored further as the Friends of TOPS budget is developed for next year.

Book Fair

Susan Welch reported that the kids were “super enthusiastic” at the Book Fair held on March 12 & 13. The Fair was sponsored by The Secret Garden, an independent bookstore in Ballard. Approximately $5,200 of books were sold with 25% of the total returned to TOPS in the form of books for teachers, books for the library, and book vouchers for students.

Summer Camps at Carkeek Park

By Ginny Ballard

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 23-August 15, 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; Tides: Where the Land Meets the Sea; Carkeek’s Incredible Time Machine; and Wet & Squiggly Tidepools. The cost is $195 per child per week, $160 for week two. 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. For more information or to register a child call (206) 684-0877, or email carkeek.park@seattle.gov or earthkeepers_day_camp@yahoo.com.

What: EarthKeeper’s Summer Day Camp, Carkeek Park Dates: June 23, 2008- August 15, 2008 Time: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., before and after care are available Cost: $195 first week, $160 for week #2 Ages: 6-12 Information and Registration: (206) 684-0877, carkeek.park@seattle.gov or earthkeepers_day_camp@yahoo.com

Week 1: Buggin’ Out, June 23-27
Week 2: Tidepool – Window to Puget Sound June 30-July 3, No camp July 4 holiday
Week 3: Survivor Island, July 7-11
Week 4: Wet & Squiggly Tidepools, July 14 -18
Week 5: Furs, Tails, Tracks, & Trails, July 21 - 25
Week 6: Tides: Where the Land Meets the Sea, July 28 – August 1
Week 7: Carkeek’s Incredible Time Machine, August 4 -8
Week 8: Survivor Island, August 11 - 15
May is one of the busiest months of the year at TOPS; we have many events in May! The TOPS Auction is scheduled for May 3. It is always a gala affair, so book the babysitter and I will see you there! We are completing our WASL testing, which began in April and finishes up May 2. Jennifer Murray always does an excellent job as our test coordinator. Thanks for getting your son/daughter to school on time. We have very few make-ups due to you!

Please plan to attend our Annual ArtFest on Friday, May 16. Luzita, Cynthia, and their team of volunteers always create an amazing display of student artwork. Our middle school students participate in the Seattle Public Schools’ Narramore contest each year. Some of their work is on display at our District administration building.

Our elementary students will be presenting the play, “The Odyssey.” The performances will be Friday and Saturday, May 16 and 17, at 7:00 p.m. Please come and support our students. A special thanks to Bob Morrison and the many parents who are helping with rehearsals, costumes, ticket sales, etc.

Class pictures are May 8. Seventh grade camp is May 14-16, and fifth grade camp is May 21-23. Our Spring Concert is scheduled for Wednesday, May 28 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the Gym. The band, orchestra, and choir will perform. Please join us!

More dates to remember:

5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony ..... Monday, June 16 at 2:00 p.m.
8th Grade Passage .............................. Friday, June 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Cheers!

~ Clara

Photo by Don Zemke
The Seattle School District is an Equal Employment Opportunity, Affirmative Action employer and employs individuals without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, marital status, handicap/disability or sexual orientation. The Seattle School District provides Equal Education Opportunity without regard to race, creed color, nation origin, sex, mental states, handicap/disability or sexual orientation. The District complies with all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations, including but not limited to Titles VI, VII, and IX of the Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), RCW 49.60. Law Against Discrimination, and RCW 28A.640 “Sex Equality,” and covers, but is not limited to, all District programs, courses activities (including extracurricular activities, service, access to facilities, etc. The Title IX officer and 504 coordinator with overall responsibility for monitoring and ensuring compliance in Rick Takeuchi, Manager, Affirmative Action Office, W/MBE, 815 4th Ave. N., Seattle 98109. Phone (206)298-7175.

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.

Come see the TOPS elementary play, “The Odyssey!” Performances on May 16 and 17 at 7:00 p.m. Directed by local actor/teacher Paul Morgan Stetler. You’ll enjoy lots of fun music, singing, and dancing. Don’t miss it!