Message from the Principal

I feel so much joy as I walk around the building and see such awesome teaching from our TOPS staff. There is an air of excitement about what our students are learning and able to do.

Our Kindergartners are learning how to become a community, how to transition from one activity to another, and how to give and get compliments. They are also learning Everyday Math, science, and how to sign their ABC’s. They are enjoying Big Choice, dance, and art. Additionally, they’re working on how to remember their coats and backpacks, and to eat their healthy food first.

Our 1st and 2nd graders are learning to become fluent readers in their reading groups. Additionally, they are learning the new Everyday Math, science, social studies, and writing.

The mighty 3rd and 4th graders are also learning Literacy, the new Everyday Math, and enjoying group activities. The 3rd graders are studying for their performance of the Shakespeare play, A Midsummer Night’s Dream. They just published their first personal narratives, which are on display in the hall. Please drop by and read them.

Our 5th graders are enjoying their Kindergarten buddies, and writing and publishing their second narratives. They are learning awesome science and the new Everyday Math.

The cool 6th graders are studying Greece, participating in the Literacy Circle activities, and learning the new connected math. They are also excited about participating in the middle school TOPICS, art, and dances.

The sophisticated 7th graders are participating in the Writers in the Schools program, discussing thought-provoking social issues, such as the Jena Six, and enjoying math, science, and art.

News From the Library and Beyond

By Steve Haines, Librarian

“When I get a little money I buy books; and if any is left I buy food and clothes.” Erasmus

Thursday, November 8 was a fairly exciting day at TOPS. First the camera crews descended on the library waiting for instructions. Then several more representatives arrived with boxes of “goodies” to be delivered to three previously selected elementary classrooms. When the guests of honor arrived and were escorted to Tracy’s second grade classroom they were first met by many excited elementary students who were at recess at that time, and were clamoring.

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continued on page 3
CSJ Corner

This is where you will want to look each month to find out what the Coalition for Social Justice has planned for the coming months!

CSJ is a group of parents, staff, and administrators who work together in support of the stated mission and vision of TOPS. The purpose of our work is to educate ourselves and the school community about issues of academic equity, cultural diversity, and social justice as they affect our school and the broader community.

If you are interested in viewing either of the documentaries shown October 5—That's A Family and It's Elementary—they are both still available for you to check out from the TOPS Library.

NOTE: TOPICS on January 9 at TOPS will be focused on Social Justice. If you are interested in helping or have an idea, please contact Bonnie Cech or Karen Stuhldreher. CSJ is looking forward to a day of learning about social justice at TOPS.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS!

Friday, January 11 6:00-9:00 p.m.
TOPS Movie Night with special guest, Pamala Trivedi.

Pamala Trivedi will present the results of her research on bi-racial children at TOPS and beyond. Pamala is a Doctoral Candidate at the UW who is researching multiracial families and included TOPS 4th and 5th graders in her study last year. She will report her findings, show film clips from films about bio-racial children and facilitate discussion. Her interest is in making the presentation relevant to the TOPS community. As part of this evening, clips from the film Just Black?, about bi-racial students will also be shown. In this award winning film young people talk candidly, and often with humor, about the dilemmas they face because of their multiracial identities. The film evoked a great discussion last year and many have asked that we show it again.

Friday February 8 6:00-9:00 p.m.
TOPS Movie Night presents Class Dismissed

This film will continue discussion about social class in the U.S. by looking at how TV frames working class life. Based on a book by Pepi Leistyna, Class Dismissed shows the many images of the working class from television's beginnings to today's sitcoms, reality shows, police dramas, and daytime talk shows. It explores the ways in which these images of class intersect with gender, race, and sexuality to give us a more complex understanding of television's often one-dimensional representations.


Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the films will show at 6:30. There will be time for discussion following the films. The evening will end by 9:00. Come when you can.

A light dinner of sandwiches, snacks, and drinks will be provided. Childcare is available and pizza, snacks, age appropriate movies, and games will be provided for children at Kids Co. Call 252-3510 to make a reservation.

Wacky hair day - photo by Don Zemke
The mighty 8th graders are reading and discussing *To Kill a Mockingbird*. They attended a play at the Intiman Theatre and shared their reflections in class. They are studying Iraq and recently had one of our parents share his experience while he was stationed there.

I hope you are as amazed as I am at the work that is being done by our staff. Please compliment them often. We appreciate the volunteer hours you give in and out of the classroom to encourage and support our staff.

Report cards for K-5 went home on November 26. November 6 was the end of our first middle school term. Thank you parents for signing up for your conferences and for taking the time to come and meet with your students’ teachers. We are all partners in the education of our students.

Thank you to the Stewardship Committee, organized by Molly LaPatra, for planning a very successful Landscaping Party on November 3. Our grounds look beautiful thanks to the many parent, student, and staff volunteers. We are proud of our school!

Mark your calendars: Tuesday, December 11 at 2:00 p.m., for the Winter Concert showcasing our instrumental music, orchestra, and choir.

Our middle school students have been busy practicing for their play, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The play will be performed on December 14 and 15 in the Gym.

Our middle school students have been enjoying Pizza Topics again this year, thanks to the support of our Site Council.

Sheri Toussaint has been our coach for Common Cents this year. Each classroom has had a student representative who has helped with the campaign. Common Cents collects money to benefit a charity in Seattle. Thank you parents and students for your generous support. The campaign ended November 21. Sheri will let each classroom know the amount that was contributed, and the student representatives will choose the charity they donate to.

I hope all of our families had a wonderful and restful Thanksgiving Holiday.

Cheers!

~ Clara

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**Site Council Report**

*By Scott Winter*

The first Site Council meeting of the year was held on September 19. The meeting opened with members introducing themselves and sharing a skill or interest they bring to the Council. Site Council chair Glen Tamura reviewed the Bylaws and member roles. Nominations for Site Council officers were solicited.

**Goal Setting**

The majority of the first meeting was devoted to goal setting for the upcoming year. Members and guests broke into small groups to brainstorm possible Council goals and priorities. The groups reported back and a comprehensive list was developed. A summary of potential goals and priorities from the brainstorming activity are provided below:

- Work to better integrate the students and parents of the Special Education and Deaf & Hard of Hearing program into the TOPS community.
- Participate in a process to clarify role and time commitment for volunteer leadership positions such as chair of No-Bake, Stewardship, Chess Club, etc. It was noted that recruiting parents to these positions has been difficult in part because of what appears to be an open-ended commitment.
- Continue efforts from last year to better communicate with families, especially those with language barriers and those without Internet access.
- Continue efforts from last year to formalize finance policies.
- Expand on efforts to welcome and mentor new families. The Coalition for Social Justice (CSJ) has taken the lead in this effort.
- Formalize transportation and parking policies.
- Expand training for parents for tutoring.
- Provide information to families on the Every Day Math Curriculum. What is it and how can families support it.

Continued on next page
Identify possible additions to the after school enrichment programs.

Explore how the Site Council can better support fundraising events including the Auction and No-Bake.

Explore the possibility of a School Blog.

The intent was to prioritize the goals at the October 17 meeting. However, other topics at the October meeting ran long and the prioritization process was deferred to the November meeting. Council members were asked to give feedback to Glen Tamura prior to the November meeting.

**Site Council Officers**

The following Site Council officers were elected unanimously:

Chair – Glen Tamura
Vice-Chair – Bill Maclay
Treasurer – Cliff Shettler
BLT Representative – Susan Welch

Secretary – No candidates elicited. Position will be vacant until a candidate can be recruited.

**October 17 Meeting**

The October meeting opened with a report from Associated Student Body (ASB) co-president Dallas Richardson. Dallas gave a brief update on the middle school sweatshirt design contest. Dallas also reported that ASB would be videotaping reports on ASB activities and upcoming middle school events. The reports will be broadcast to the middle school classrooms.

**State of the School**

Site Council has traditionally hosted a yearly “State of the School Meeting.” The purpose of the meeting has been to keep the TOPS community informed on the status of school academics, social climate, and staff and family satisfaction. Unfortunately, attendance at State of the School Meetings has been low. There was general discussion about the State of the School meetings and possible alternatives. It was decided to form a committee to review the best way to keep the TOPS community informed on these issues. Possibilities include reformatting the current State of the School Meeting, presenting monthly data reports outlining various aspects of the current state, holding focused curriculum meetings, and/or a Site Council hosted social event. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Karen Stuhldreher, kstuhldr@scsd.ctc.edu or Gerrit Kischner, gakischner@seattleschools.org.

**Volunteer Coordinator Report**

Maureen Germani reported that back to school packets were almost all in. The school directory was also in the final stages. Thanks to Ellen Markman for her work on the directory. A parent representative was still needed for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing classroom. The next big project for Maureen was the tutoring program.

**Principal’s Report**

Clara Scott reported that the Open House went well and was well attended. For the first time this year, the Open House for all grades was held on the same night. A survey was created to get feedback from families. The survey was available online or in hard copy from the school office. Additional feedback is always welcome.

The middle school held a very successful day of activities at Seward Park on September 28. The activities focused on team building, anti-bullying, and leadership. A very positive tone was set for the students, and the middle school staff will work to maintain and build on the efforts of this event.

**CSJ Report**

The Coalition for Social Justice held their first movie night on October 5. Approximately 30 parents and family members viewed two films, That’s a Family and It’s Elementary, followed by some interesting discussion. The films are available for checkout from the TOPS library.

CSJ is planning to coordinate a social justice themed TOPICS day on January 9. A planning party to generate ideas was planned for November 9.

**Building Leadership Team (BLT) Report**

Gerrit Kischner reported that the BLT has divided their work into two distinct focuses, operations and instruction. Currently, on the operations side, the BLT has been discussing the middle school “Student in Good Standing” program. Input received at the end of last school year is being considered. A couple of the specific questions being looked at are how to best communicate the policy to students and families and how to provide help to students not in good standing.
LANDSCAPE PARTY CLEANS UP!

By Molly LaPatra

On Saturday November 3, almost 90 TOPS parents and students from 40 families came out to clean up the school grounds. The TOPS Stewardship Committee organized the fall clean-up to bring the community together and help keep our school looking its best. Volunteers weeded, mulched, picked up litter, got nice and dirty, and made new friends in the process. Organizers Jim McDonald, Sandy Shettler, Ellen Levi, and Molly LaPatra led the charge, keeping everyone -- including Assistant Principal Kischner -- on task while having fun.

Big thanks to Gretchen Decker at Seattle Public Schools for providing mulch, clean green bags, and tools; and a bigger thanks to everyone who came out to help. With treats provided by Louisa’s, Starbucks, and the Heft-Luthy family, and a lucky break in the weather, the day was an overwhelming success. Photos can be seen at http://community.webshots.com/album/561304181LXcpmg thanks to Chris Pfohl and Wayne Duncan.

Let’s do it again in the spring!

Photos by Chris Pfohl
**Why Donate to the TOPS No-Bake Annual Fund Drive?**

Because... you can't imagine TOPS without...

- an amazing drama program
- the 1st and 2nd grade Reading Blocks and Junior Great Books
- a wonderful music program
- a fantastic art program
- our beloved school counselor, Jennifer Murray
- science with Mr. Bloedel for the elementary students
- opportunities to study Spanish or Mandarin languages
- extra library books, classroom supplies, science materials

...and this list isn't even complete. So grab that form from your most recent Go-Home, and donate now! This is the final month of our fund drive, and our goal is to raise $85,000. As of November 12, we have raised $24,010. Donate as soon as you can; extra mailings cost us time and money. Whether your family can give $10 or $1000, please join in supporting these programs at TOPS. Send in your No-Bake check today!

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**NO-BAKE CONTRIBUTORS**

As of November 9, 2007

Rabha Al Harazi and Samia Salon  
Bonita and Alfredo Alvarado  
Jeff and Mary Beth Bert  
Bonnie and Frank Cech  
Michael Chapko and Marcia Weaver  
Gail and John Chase  
Ron Chew  
Michele Coad  
Stephanie Colony  
Ken Comstock and Glen Tamura  
Sean Conner and Victoria Malloy  
The Copeland Family  
Cameron Curtis and Leah Schoonover  
Catherine Duva and Paul Shannon  
Lisa Emlen and Robert Takahashi  
Robert Escalante and Merrily Wolf  
Erin Fairley and Bill Patz  
Simon Farr and Dani Vinh  
Deborah and Keith Ferguson  
Jamie Flaxman  
Charlene and Tim Forslund  
Linda Furney and Carsten Stinn  
Ty Graham and Missy Chow  
Jim and Sandy Green  
Blake Hannaford and Cynthia Ruggeiro  
Robert Hardy and Susie McDonald  
Carroll Haymon  
John Hoyt and Lisa Fitzhugh  
Jules James  
Vera-Kavanaugh Family  
Karen Keeley and Kevin Godbout  
Michael Keeley  
Gerrit Kischner and Nancy Bacon  
Linda Korbus and Greg Flood  
Liesl and Troy Langley  
Jack Lee and Pm Weizenbaum  
Melissa and Bruce Leonard  
Jai Lingappa and Catherine Staunton  
John and Jill Lion  
Eric Liu  
Lorie Lockwood  
Jim and Sally Lord  
De Han Ma and Xue Na Zhu  
Hoa Mai and Son Nguyen  
The Dickinson-Merrill Family  
LeaAnn Miyagawa and Scott Winter  
Michelle Moore  
Aican Nguyen  
Alys and EJ Raftery  
Mark and Julie Rathbun  
Roxanne and David Robinson  
Kermit Rosen and Louise Bush  
Peter and Ann Simonson  
Lis Soldano and Kent Hamilton  
Peter Stevens  
Jane Summerfield-Evans  
Romany Surla  
Kate Trent  
Greg Tuai and Ben-Ling Wong  
Andrew Ury  
Thomas and Alison Walsh  
Susan Welch and Daniel Maguire  
James and Anna West  
Brad Wood  
Michael and Tracy Wrey  
Julie Wroble and Rick Kolpa  
Meiqun and Zuehuan Zhou

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.
Library continued from page 1

for autographs. This event was choreographed by the Sonics basketball team who sponsor the Read to Achieve program in schools in the region. They have been doing this for well over ten years and we have participated every year. The activity entails reading 20 minutes a day for 20 days during a month. This year students who return their sheet, get it signed by me, and return it to the Sonics are eligible for a free ticket to a Sonics home game with the purchase of an adult ticket. This year we are one of six schools in the region to have two Sonics players come to the school to talk to the children in three classrooms about the importance of reading.

Luke Ridnour and Chris Wilcox were our two guests who visited Sarah's 1st grade class, Tracy's 2nd grade class, and Katie's 3rd grade class. The pair of players teamed up to read a story, ask recall questions about the story, and finally to field questions from the students. The players have to do quite a bit of reading for their job in the way of scouting reports and coaches notes. The best part for the students was receiving a Sonics bag complete with T-shirt, book, coupon for free tickets, and more.

It didn’t end on Thursday. Four students who were selected by their teachers were able to attend Friday night’s game against the Utah Jazz. Stella from Sarah’s class, Stone and Anh-Thu from Tracy’s class, and Erin from Katie’s class were escorted to center court before the game and were given Read to Achieve certificates. Ah, the bright lights, the excitement of it all.

This year, along with the Read to Achieve program, we are involved with the Read a Million Words, Seattle program. Complete information is on the Student home page, www.library.seattleschools.org under Online Reading Log. Many students are progressing toward their goals.

The annual TOPS Speech Tournament is fast approaching. This competitive voluntary tournament for 3rd through 8th grades occurs on Fridays and the dates are set: January 25, Expository; February 1, Storytelling; February 8, Oral Interpretation; February 15, Editorial Commentary; and March 14, Middle School Speeches. We are always looking for adults who would like to volunteer to be a judge. It is a wonderful way to see our students in action in this worthwhile event. If interested please contact Mary Chao at mtchao@seattleschools.org or me at shaimes@seattleschools.org.

The new fall books are out. There is much to read right now. I’m working on the library wish list found at www.topsk8.org under academics – library. Donate a book and have your child catalog the new book. Enjoy the winter vacation and curl up with a book.

**Turkey TOPICS**

*By Laurie Stusser-McNeil*

TOPS students will be making someone’s Thanksgiving a bit cheerier, thanks to their clever crafting during TOPICS on November 7. Together, we made truly one-of-a-kind turkey centerpieces out of a bunch of crazy ingredients: pumpkins, corn husks, fingerling potatoes, and red peppers. Felted feet and googly eyes added the finishing touches.

And how appropriate to use real food in these centerpieces. They are going to adorn the tables of the Pike Place Market Senior Center which serves meals to downtown seniors every day, with an especially beautiful meal on Thanksgiving. We talked about the holiday and how we all expect to celebrate with family. It’s hard to know that folks in our community may be alone and we all agree, it’s nice to know there are places to go. These TOPS artists worked hard and loved their creations -- and yet they knew they would not be able to take them home. Doing service for others feels right on Thanksgiving!

*Photo by Sheila Gilligan*
CHALLENGE: INCREASE YOUR VOCABULARY WITH THESE WORDS DEFINED ESPECIALLY FOR TOPICS

By Shelly Haverkamp

top • ics [top-iks] n pl. a group of students and adults who spend two fun hours together outside the classroom exploring a favorite subject in-depth: On a recent Wednesday, a walk down the hallway led to TOPICS on water color, Veterans Day, Greek numerology, popcorn, maze-making, Mad Libs, paper flowers, book-making, ukulele, global warming and optical illusions.

pop • corn [pop-kawrn] n any of several varieties of corn whose kernels burst open and puff out when subjected to dry heat; not the small pieces of polystyrene used to protect items during shipping: While the students ate, Carla talked about how popcorn was an important food for the Aztecs, who used it as decoration on ceremonial headdresses.

dis • cov • ered [dis-kuv’erd] v a synonym of the word learned, used to suggest that a new skill or insight is surprising to the learner: In Nina’s engineering TOPIC, the students discovered that they could use a piece of paper to make a penny float.

u • ku • le • le [oo-koo-ley-lee] n a small, four-stringed, guitar-like instrument often decorated with pictures of pineapples that is used chiefly...
for corny folk tunes and easy-listening beach music. By the end of the Uke’n Do It TOPIC, Nora could play a C chord and an F chord, and was singing along to Row, Row, Row Your Boat.

e·lec·tive [i-lek-tiv] n a TOPIC of study that a student may select from alternatives: The lucky students were asked to choose an elective from a list of 18 different TOPICS hosted by brave parents and good-humored teachers.

ser·vice [sur-vis] n work done by a student or group of students that benefits another: When Laurie and the students made turkey pumpkin centerpieces for the Pike Place Senior Center, not only did they learn about community service; they had fun together!

playing [pley-ing] v to have fun, especially by sharing your talents and ideas with students at your child’s school; to take part, to let loose, to enjoy: After a boring morning of paperwork at the office, Michael enjoyed playing an invented game with students in the library loft.

Photos by Sheila Gilligan
Parent-Sponsored ALL SCHOOL Family Ski Weekend

By Ron White

February 20-24, 2008 — the 2nd Weekend of Midwinter Break

If you haven't tried this TOPS tradition before, try it this winter. The latter part of our mid-winter break leaves the Mission Ridge slopes with plenty of dry snow, bright sun, and a smashing view of the Columbia River. It's easy to caravan or carpool with other families. Bring a student friend or two. Some families arrive as early as Wednesday, some not until Friday or Saturday. Mission Ridge is a great family mountain with gentle terrain for the young skier, steeper drops and bowls for the thrill seeker, and even an airplane wing monument to a bomber plane wreck that occurred half a century ago. And the amazing thing is, there aren't any lines!!!

The Mission Ridge ski area, only twelve miles from Wenatchee, offers a wide range of terrain to satisfy all types of skiers. Cross-country skiing is nearby. Non-skiers have also found snowshoeing is great fun on trails alongside ski slopes. Go to http://www.missionridge.com for more information.

The Cedars Inn has set aside a block of rooms for TOPS families at the rate of $75.95 + tax for a room with two (2) queen beds. The Cedars Inn is in East Wenatchee at 80 - 9th St NE, just 20 minutes from the ski area and across the road from the Columbia River trail. They offer a continental breakfast with a waffle maker and an espresso machine, an indoor pool, and an outdoor hot tub.

Reservations are available Toll free: 800-358-2074 or 509-886-8000. Just be sure to mention that you are with the TOPS Ski Group. The deadline for reservations is February 6, 2008. This is a first come/first serve reservation. The group rate will be held through this date, as will the allocation of rooms available for the TOPS Ski Group. After this date, if all of the rooms have not been reserved, they will be released to the general public.

Traditionally we have held a family potluck Friday night (6:30 pm) in a banquet room the Cedars Inn provides. Plan to bring a dish for 6 – 8 people and a beverage to share.

There are several ways to keep the cost down:

- The 3.0 club is a good deal for students 13 and over, offering a great per day discount ticket. Please visit Mission Ridge’s website for more details and information. You’ll need to bring a report card and student ID.

- Groups of 15 or more adults can buy daily tickets for a discount as well. But you’ll need to pay together and in advance. If someone would like to organize a group purchase, find details on the Mission Ridge website, and let me know that you would like to lead this group purchase effort.

- If you’re a complete beginner, you can arrange for three days of lift tickets, three group lessons, and three days of equipment rental for a very sizable discount.

- In some past years, Texaco stations have offered a 2 for 1 coupon that was valid on Thursday or Friday. If you hear about this (or any other good discounts), pass the word around.

Any questions, contact Ron White at therwhitehouse@comcast.net.

This is a parent-sponsored event that has been ongoing for seventeen or eighteen years now!
Here's hoping that as you read this, snow is falling at 3,000 feet and the mountains are turning a beautiful white. The slopes await our middle school skiers and snowboarders, who will head to Summit Central at Snoqualmie for five evenings and one full day of fun with their friends in the snow. It all starts after winter break: the buses leave TOPS Friday afternoons January 11, 18, and 25, February 1 and 8, and Monday morning January 28. Parents can help by not parking on Boylston around drop-off and pick-up times, because those big luxury buses need the space! Families can also help by unloading skis and gear when we return, as parent chaperones will be tired.

Many thanks to Molly LaPatra for once again managing the program. At a meeting in November, students and parents learned the details, filled out forms, and watched Don Zemke’s fun instructional video, which included footage from last year. We also had our first-ever equipment swap. Many students will rent gear on the mountain: it’s just $99 for the season, and then you don’t have to carry boards and boots back and forth. Students also have the option of taking lessons at a special group rate with other TOPS students at the same ability level. It’s a good way to get out of that wedge. Every year we work to make it a more inclusive program, so finances shouldn’t hold anyone back.

Frank Cech and Sheila Gilligan are coordinating the 6th graders this year, Ellen Markman and I are coordinating the 7th graders, and Joe Foye will brave the 8th grade on his own (they should all know what they are doing by now). Email addresses are, in order, frank.e.cech@boeing.com, sheila.gilligan@hotmail.com, ellenmark@gmail.com, zongora@gmail.com, and jfrp@comcast.net. Thanks to Vanessa Stusser for coordinating the morning equipment drop-off in the lunchroom, and to Maggie McDonald for depositing the checks.

You can find good information about the ski program on the TOPS web site under “After School” (thank you, Jack Lee). Don’t wear cotton, as it is well known that cotton kills. Do wear a helmet. Lots of parent chaperones will be on hand in the lodge and on the mountain to help with whatever comes up. Chaperones and extra-vehicle drivers receive free passes to ski, if they wish.

Finally, even if you don’t have a middle-schooler, consider joining other TOPS families at the now-legendary ski weekend at Mission Ridge. It’s a blast! Ron White (therwhitehouse@comcast.net) is taking over for Julie Braybrooks, who organized this trip for many years. Wednesday, February 20, to Sunday, February 24, the Cedars Inn in East Wenatchee will make a block of rooms available at a discounted rate. It has gone up slightly from last year, and will be around $75 a night. Friday evening, families gather for a potluck at 6:30 in the Cedars Inn banquet room. During the day, you can look forward to meeting lots of other TOPS friends on the sunny east-side slopes. It’s a laid-back and family-friendly ski area, and there are also some nice snowshoe trails nearby. Call 800-358-2074 or 509-886-8000 for reservations, and tell them you are with the TOPS school group. You can find details on the TOPS website.

See you up there!
Don't miss the Middle School production of:

To Kill a Mockingbird

Performances on Friday & Saturday, December 14 & 15, at 7:00 p.m.

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<th><strong>FEBRUARY</strong></th>
<th><strong>APRIL</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 (Th) 2nd grade to PNB</td>
<td>1 (F) Speech Tournament, Expository</td>
<td>1-4 (T-F) Spring Break; no school</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 (F) TOPICS, 12:50 - 3:20</td>
<td>6 (W) Professional development block time; 2-hour early dismissal</td>
<td>9 (W) TOPICS, 12:50 - 3:20</td>
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<td>11 (T) Winter Concert</td>
<td>7 (Th) Middle school tour, 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Site Council Meeting, 5 - 7 p.m., Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 (W) Site Council Meeting, 5 - 7 p.m., Library</td>
<td>8 (F) Speech Tournament, Oral Interpretation</td>
<td>11 (F) End of third quarter</td>
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<td>14-15 (F-S) Middle School Play, 7 p.m., Gym</td>
<td>12 (T) Elementary school tour, 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>14-30 WASL testing</td>
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<td>18 (T) Katie Waters’ class play, 1:30 and 7:00 p.m., Lunchroom</td>
<td>13 (W) TOPICS, 12:50 - 3:20</td>
<td>16-17 (W-Th) 1st and 2nd grade Poetry Festival</td>
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<td>20 (Th) 8th grade to EMP</td>
<td>Site Council Meeting, 5 - 7 p.m., Library</td>
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<td>21 (F) Early dismissal at 2:20</td>
<td>15 (F) Speech Tournament, Editorial Comm.</td>
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<td>24-31 Winter Break; no school</td>
<td>18 (M) Presidents Day; no school</td>
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<th><strong>JANUARY</strong></th>
<th><strong>MARCH</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>1-4 Winter Break; no school</td>
<td>5 (W) Professional development block time; 2-hour early dismissal</td>
<td>1-2 WASL Testing</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 (M) School resumes</td>
<td>7 (F) TOPICS, 12:50 - 3:20</td>
<td>3 TOPS Auction</td>
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<td>8 (T) How to teach a TOPIC, 5 - 6 p.m.</td>
<td>7 (F) Middle school dance, 6:30-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>7 (W) TOPICS, 12:50 - 3:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 (W) Site Council Meeting, 5 - 7 p.m., Library</td>
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<td>14 (W) Site Council Meeting, 5 - 7 p.m., Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 (T) Elementary school tour, 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>13 (Th) Taste of TOPS</td>
<td>14-16 (W-F) 7th grade Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 (Th) Martin Luther King Assembly</td>
<td>14 (F) Middle school Speech Tournament</td>
<td>21 (W) Professional development block time; 2-hour early dismissal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 (M) Martin Luther King Day Assembly holiday; no school</td>
<td>20-24 (W-Su) Mission Ridge ski trip</td>
<td>26 (M) Memorial Day; no school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 (F) Last day of semester</td>
<td>20-24 (W-Su) Mission Ridge ski trip</td>
<td>28 (W) Spring Concert, 2 and 7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 (F) Speech Tournament, Storytelling</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>28 (M) Day between semesters; no school</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 (T) Elementary school tour, 9:30 a.m.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>MARCH</strong></th>
<th><strong>MAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>JUNE</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-6 (T-F) 8th grade Camp</td>
<td></td>
<td>3-6 (T-F) Spring Break; no school</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 (W) TOPICS, 12:50 - 3:20</td>
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<td>9 (W) TOPICS, 12:50 - 3:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-6 (Th-F) 3rd and 4th grades to Camp Arnold</td>
<td></td>
<td>Site Council Meeting, 5 - 7 p.m., Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 (W) Site Council Meeting, 5 - 7 p.m., Library</td>
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<td>13 (F) 8th grade Passage</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 (M) Field Day – elementary grades</td>
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<td>16 (M) Wild Waves – middle school</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 (M) Phone Home</td>
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<td>17 (T) Last student day</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 (T)</td>
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Let’s Dance!
By Zev Magasis, Grade 6
Dances are a lot of fun. You get to
learn more about people. You can have fun if you
just hang out with friends and do what
you want. If you’re too shy to dance
you don’t have to (even though you
should). I really like dances, they let
you be yourself and have fun. I think
that if you just
dance it is a lot
more fun. So be
a student in good
standing and go to
dances.

Photos by Don Zemke
**PARKOUR, ANYONE?**

By Sam Heft-Luthy, Grade 8

Have you ever wanted to spend a day wandering around downtown, sketching the things you see? Or perhaps you’d like to spend a lazy day on Bainbridge Island, enjoying the amazing view. Maybe you’d like to spend your time hiking the beautiful Twin Falls trail and eating doughnuts and hot cocoa under a breathtaking waterfall.

These are only three of the choices offered to middle schoolers for a program that’s become a student favorite, All Day TOPICS. You choose the experience that you want to be a part of, and you and the students who chose the same TOPIC go off on whatever adventure you’ve chosen. It’s a really engaging day, and it’s a biyearly way to get out of the classroom and relax.

Or perhaps if you chose one of the TOPICS offered recently, it’s a way to work off that extra energy. P.E. co-teacher Don Zemke led twenty students to Gasworks Park for an opportunity to learn a sport from two members of its growing Northwest scene.

The sport in question is Parkour, or l’art du déplacement. Parkour is about getting from point A to point B as quickly, efficiently, and naturally as possible using only your body. As there are very few different predefined movements, it is many different things to different people. There is no one way to do Parkour, just as there is more than one way to write in cursive, more than one way to talk, and more than one way to skin a cat, if you’re extremely morbid about it. Some people think of Parkour as a sport, a way to stay in shape; some think of it as a martial art, choosing the latter option as more effective for them when presented with the choice of fight or flight. No matter what Parkour is to you, it’s a fun way to challenge your body and build up your strength.

For more information on Parkour, visit washingtonparkour.com or the soon coming pnwpa.com.

Photos by Don Zemke
By Shawn Roseman, Head Soccer Coach

The Middle School girl’s soccer season ended on a great note at Memorial Stadium with 30 TOPS girls, a stand full of fans, and a very close game. It’s hard to believe that last year at this time I was biting my finger nails hoping to get at least eleven players on the field! TOPS came out of the regular season in 2nd place – Yeah TOPS! The team included almost all 6th and 7th graders who have committed (I have your signed contracts!) to coming back next year. This is my 2nd year coaching and what I really enjoyed seeing this year is how the team worked together, demonstrated great sportsmanship, stayed positive, and integrated new players regardless of soccer experience or grade level. I appreciated players being open to new positions like sweeper and goalie (you know who you are!) And, I saw great improvement in every one of the players.

We had a great end of the year celebration at Romio’s Pizza. I’d like to express the team’s appreciation for all of Nancy Hom’s amazing behind-the-scenes help which made everything run smoothly! I look forward to seeing you all next year at Rogers Field and hopefully I’ll be seeing some 5th graders out there that may have gotten a little preview of the Middle School team this year.

Photos by Don Zemke
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DONATE TO THE NO-BAKE TOPS ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Our goal is to raise $85,000 and to Receive Donations from 100% of TOPS Families

Please Donate by December 31, 2007

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