

TOPS NEWS

September 2007 ♦ Volume 11, Issue 1

The monthly newsletter of TOPS, a Seattle Public K-8 alternative school

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It's hard to believe that we're about to say goodbye to summer, and welcome back to the 2007-08 school year. I hope that you have had a relaxing and invigorating summer and that you were able to spend quality time with your family and friends. I am looking forward to hearing about the exciting vacations, camps, play dates, etc. from the kids when they arrive on Wednesday, September 5.

Welcome to all of our new TOPS students and families. We are happy that you have selected TOPS. We are a welcoming community, and we encourage your involvement as a volunteer; we can certainly put your talents to work! Please check with your classroom representative for questions and volunteer opportunities. There are many after school

activities for your son/daughter to be involved in. Please watch for the bi-weekly "Go-Homes" for more information.

Mr. Kischner and I participated in a two week Principals Leadership Institute with Dr. Maria Goodloe-Johnson, our new Superintendent. It is so exciting to have an educator as the leader of Seattle Public Schools. Dr. Goodloe-Johnson shared her vision, expectations, and commitment to the students, staff, and parents of Seattle schools. This commitment includes a visit to all of the schools this year.

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WHY THE NEW LUNCH RECESS SCHEDULE

By Gerrit Kischner, Assistant Principal

The 07-08 school year will start off with a new lunch recess schedule. The most significant aspect of the change affects first through fourth graders, and it will mean that these students will play on the playground before coming into the building to eat their lunch. For them, lunch recess will start at 11:30, and the first bell to line up for hand-washing will sound at 11:50. This represents the first schedule change in a number of years, and we're eager to see how it works out.

The TOPS faculty has decided to experiment with this new schedule in order to respond to research which indicates that eating after recess promotes better nutrition among students. They take more time to eat because they are not rushing to get outside to play, and they eat more healthfully if they have exercised first and their bodies absorb nutrients better.

In addition, this switch in the schedule allows for longer

instructional blocks throughout the elementary school day. This move was identified as a critical need by teachers as they look to implement impressive reading blocks, writing workshop, and Everyday Math curriculum into their classrooms. Time in the lunchroom may also help students to transition more smoothly back into the classroom after the full recess period, which will allow everyone to get back to work quickly.

Parent support will be very helpful as we transition into this new schedule. First, the logistics in the beginning of getting elementary students in off the playground at 11:50, get their hands washed and connect them to their lunch boxes will be a challenge that will require some flexibility and patience as we work out the systems. Also, parents can help support the longer period of time that students have to eat by ensuring that they have enough food to sustain them for eating for fifteen to twenty minutes. Parents might also help by helping their children think of conversation topics to raise at their eating tables.

With these schedule changes and the food composting project kicking off early in the year, the TOPS lunchroom may well be a very different place this year!

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Principal: Clara Scott

Assistant Principal:
Gerrit Kischner

Site Council Chair:
Glen Tamura

NEWSLETTER ONLINE
The TOPS newsletters are available online in PDF format before the printed copy arrives in your mailbox! From the TOPS home page, <http://www.topsk8.org>, click on *Latest Newsletter* in the *Quick Links* section.



**SEATTLE
PUBLIC
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OCTOBER TOPS NEWS DEADLINE:

Friday, September 14. Submissions to topsnewsletter@gmail.com

A MESSAGE FROM THE (NEW) VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

By Maureen Germani

Welcome to all of the new and returning families and staff at TOPS. I feel fortunate to have been chosen to be your volunteer coordinator, and I hope I can do as good a job as Randi Niemer has for the past few years. I'm looking forward to working with you all!

As we all know, one of the things that makes TOPS so great is the high level of family and community involvement we enjoy. We all chose to be members of this community, and we all share the responsibility to keep it strong and vibrant. You can let me know how you want to help by filling out the volunteer form that will be in the Back-to-School packet your children bring home. There are too many options for me to list, but lining up Room Reps for every grade will be my first priority. If you already know how you can help, contact me directly at mugermani@seattleschools.org or 252-3541. Expect to see messages from me in the biweekly Go-Home, via email, and the web site: www.topsk8.org.

I encourage you all to pick one of your passions and find a way to support that at TOPS. We have volunteer opportunities in drama, visual art, the environment, sports, fundraising, tutoring. . . . Let me help you find a way to make a difference at TOPS!



ABOUT THE OUTRAGEOUS PUBLISHING SERVICE

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2007-08 school year. Jamie Flaxman and Ann Simonson edit, Paul Loovis handles photos, design, and layout, and Jane Summerfield, Peggy Maraghe, and Roxanne Robinson get it mailed off to you. Don Zemke provides many of our photos. G & H Printing prints the newsletter.

We need your submissions: calendar additions, classroom news and news from the larger community, faculty notes, committee reports, opinions, profiles, compliments, congratulations, children's art, photos, and anything else significant to the TOPS community.

Submit your contributions by email to topsnewsletter@gmail.com or to the newsletter box in the main office. Please send photos to javabrain@msn.com. The deadline for the October issue is September 14. Would you like to edit or otherwise help with our newsletter? Newcomers welcome. Please contact Jamie and Ann at:

topsnewsletter@gmail.com.

THANK YOU AND WELCOME

We are so grateful to Sharon Mentyka for the work she did as the layout editor for *TOPS News* during the 2006-2007 school year. She stepped into the position in the fall and did a wonderful job. And now we must bid her good-bye as she moves on to spending more time in her job and pursuing more schooling. Thank you Sharon for the beautiful newsletters you put together last year.

We are happy to welcome Paul Loovis, father of Bay, grade 5. Paul is working on a degree in graphic design, so this is the perfect TOPS volunteer job for him! We're so thankful he has agreed to take this on and are looking forward to working with him.

Ann and Jamie, co-editors

WATCH OUT FOR LIME GREEN PAPER

This year, we will continue to use lime green paper only for communiqués that need a signature or should be returned to TOPS. These include Back-to-School Packet materials, permission slips, and similar correspondence.

This will make it easier for all of us to locate the important, time-sensitive papers, and get them returned back to our teachers and staff immediately.

Please take note as soon as you see a lime green paper come home with your child. Read and return without delay!

NEW SUPERINTENDENT STARTS YEAR WITH HIGH FIDELITY

By Gerrit Kischner, Assistant Principal

TOPS K-8 will join schools throughout the Seattle School District this year in pushing forward with significant curriculum development that is galvanizing teachers and administrators around a clear vision of quality instruction. This was the theme as district administrators met for the first two weeks of August for their annual "Leadership Institute." It was the first opportunity for Dr. Maria Goodloe-Johnson to introduce her vision for the district, and the institute ended with a sense of focus, motivation, and hope that I never sensed in any of the four previous institutes I have attended. Clearly, we have the first educator superintendent that Seattle has had in over a decade: Dr. Goodloe-Johnson knows the work of schools well and pulls no punches in her vision of a district with a cohesive curriculum in which all schools move "from good to great."

The key, she emphasized to the school leaders in August, is "fidelity" as we all work to implement major curriculum initiatives that were spearheaded last year by Carla Santorno, the chief academic officer. These initiatives span all three basic skill areas – reading, writing, and math – and teachers and administrators have received significant professional development in all three areas. Here's a little about what parents at TOPS can expect to see in the classrooms and in their children's work this year:

Math: The district concluded a long "curriculum adoption" process last spring by deciding on Everyday Math as the elementary math curriculum. This month, all of the materials have arrived in the buildings,

and teachers received introductory professional development in the structure of the program, which was developed at the University of Chicago and has been used widely in neighboring school districts such as Northshore. The materials we have represent its third and brand new major revision. There will be a significant learning curve for teachers and parents as they learn to use the materials and develop consistent use of language and mathematical thinking throughout the building. Expect to see regular letters home from teachers as they begin new units explaining the skills and concepts that students will be learning in each unit, as well as nearly nightly homework at all grade levels. (These assignments are called "Home Links" for grades 1 through 3, and "Study Links" for grades 4 & 5.)

In many ways, this program is similar to the TERC Investigations math curriculum that we have been using at TOPS for the last few years, but with more practice and regular assessment built in along the way. Students will play many games designed to reveal patterns and practice concepts, and each unit engages students in "inquiry" problems that push them to develop an understanding of new concepts. Preparing and organizing the materials for these lessons will be another way that parent volunteers in the classroom will be able to help teachers in this first year of implementation. In addition to Everyday Math, the Seattle School

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2007 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.

SEPTEMBER

- 4 (T) New student orientation,
M.S. 10 a.m., Elem. 11 a.m.
- 5 (W) First day of school
- 19 (W) Site Council meeting,
5-7.m.
- 19 (W) How to teach a TOPIC,
5-6 p.m.
- 26 (W) Professional development
block time; 2-hour early
dismissal

OCTOBER

- 2 (T) Open House, 6-8 p.m.
- 5 (F) TOPICS, 1-3:20 p.m.
- 5 (F) CSJ movie night, 6-9 p.m.
- 12 (F) Professional development
day; no school
- 26 (F) Middle school dance,
6:30-9 p.m.
- 31 (W) Professional development
block time; 2-hour early
dismissal

NOVEMBER

- 6 (T) End of first quarter
- 12 (M) Veteran's Day; no school
- 13-20 Elementary Parent-
Teacher Conferences
- 22-23 (Th-F) Thanksgiving Holiday;
no school

DECEMBER

- 24-31 Winter Break; no school

JANUARY

- 1-4 Winter Break; no school
- 7 (M) School resumes
- 21 (M) Martin Luther King Day
holiday; no school
- 25 (F) Last day of semester
- 28 (M) Day between semesters;
no school

FEBRUARY

- 6 (W) Professional development
block time; 2-hour early
dismissal
- 18 (M) Presidents Day; no school
- 19-22 (T-F) Mid-winter break; no
school

MARCH

- 5 (W) Professional development
block time; 2-hour early
dismissal
- 21 (F) Professional development
day; no school
- 31 (M) Spring Break; no school

APRIL

- 1-4 (T-F) Spring Break; no school
- 11 (F) End of third quarter
- 14-30 WASL testing

MAY

- 1-2 WASL Testing
- 3 (S) TOPS Auction
- 21 (W) Professional development
block time; 2-hour early
dismissal
- 26 (M) Memorial Day; no school

JUNE

- 17 (T) Last student day

TOPS STAFF, 2007-2008

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Principal		
Clara Scottoffice	cscott@seattleschools.org.....252-3510
Assistant Principal		
Gerrit Kischneroffice	gakischner@seattleschools.org.....252-3510
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Counselor		
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Family Support Worker		
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Colette Hubbardoffice252-3513
Office Assistant/Budget		
Joann Sparksoffice252-3512
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Volunteer Coordinator		
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TEACHING STAFF

Kindergarten		
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Peak Breakout Teacher		
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Grade 1		
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Grade 2		
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Grade 4		
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Grade 6		
Guy Lawrence, math/scienceB302.....	gelawrence@seattleschools.org.....252-3557
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Grades 7-8			
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Lori Eickelberg, language arts	B403	lmeickelberg@seattleschools.org	252-3564
Mark Ellis, math	B404	mellis@seattleschools.org	252-3565
Tom O'Connor, social studies	B402	tkoconnor@seattleschools.org	252-3563

Art

Cynthia Livak (K-5)			252-3510
Luzita Roll (6-8)	B401	lmroll@seattleschools.org	252-3562

D/HH Program

Teachers

Adrienne Yoshihara	C101	amyoshihara@seattleschools.org	252-3567
Cindy Beck	B203	cbeck@seattleschools.org	252-3543
Elizabeth Hayden	C101	eahayden@seattleschools.org	252-3567

Instructional Assistants

Seth Ziegler	B203	sgziegler@seattleschools.org	252-3543
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Audiologist

Erin Donlin	C101	eedonlin@seattleschools.org	252-3554
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English Language Learning (ELL/ESL)

Eva Masumoto	B300	ebmasumoto@seattleschools.org	252-3542
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Bilingual Instructional Assistants

Anna West	B206	baduong@seattleschools.org	252-3531
Manuel Bermudez	B206	mhbarmunez@seattleschools.org	252-3531
Xiao-Yu Jackson	B206	xyjackson@seattleschools.org	252-3531

Librarian

Steve Haines	library	shaines@seattleschools.org	252-3530
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Middle School Special Education

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Instructional Assistant

Beth Engel	B202		252-3573
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Music

Sari Breznau		saribreznu@hotmail.com	252-3510
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Occupational/Physical Therapy

TBA			252-4776
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Physical Education

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Don Zemke	gym	dwzemke@seattleschools.org	252-3516

Reading Specialist

Carla Fetterley	B201	cafetterley@seattleschools.org	252-3574
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Elementary Reading Block Teachers

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Sage McCotter		sbmccotter@seattleschools.org	

Special Education Resource Room

Jenny Gamache (K-5)	B304	jmgamache@seattleschools.org	252-3560
Caryl Keasler (6-8)	B304	clkeasler@seattleschools.org	252-3560

Speech and Language

Shannon Baurichter	C conf. rm.	smbaurichter@seattleschools.org	252-3554
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BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Choir

Sari Breznau		saribreznu@hotmail.com	252-3510
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Instrumental Music

4th grade: Dan Yapp	B405		
5th-8th band: Paul Gillespie	B405	pogilles@hotmail.com	
5th-8th strings: Erica Johansen	B405	erica.johansen@yahoo.com	

Kids Company (child care)

Ian Mullins	C Bldg.	tops@kidscompany.org	709-8487
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Mandarin Chinese

Xiao Yu Jackson (Kindergarten)		xyjackson@seattleschools.org	
Yae-Jae Pollyanna Wang (gr. 1-5)		yeawan@yahoo.com	

Spanish Language and Culture

Rebecca Rabbitt		rabbittthutch@hotmail.com	
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Sign Language

Seth Ziegler		sgziegler@seattleschools.org	
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Eva Masumoto

WELCOME EVA MASUMOTO

By Ann Simonson

Eva Masumoto joins the staff at TOPS this fall as the ESL teacher, replacing Nicole Titus who is on leave. Eva and her family are just returning to Seattle after spending a year living in Hawaii. Her most recent job before TOPS was at Bailey Gatzert Elementary, where she was the ESL teacher working with 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. She taught there for eight years.

Eva is very excited about her new job at TOPS. She’s looking forward to the collaborative environment, the supportive and involved parents, and most of all she’s looking forward to meeting the students. Eva said the best part of teaching is the kids. She loves the energy of the children, and the impact they have on her life. “I’ve never had a bad day teaching!” She finds working with kids a happy and positive experience and she thoroughly enjoys her career.

Eva loves to read and spend time with her own kids when she’s not working. Her husband works from home and “he’s a great dad.” Eva has two children, Jack, age 6, and Anna, age 4. Jack will be attending TOPS as a first grader in the fall.

Eva received her B.A. in International Affairs and her Masters in Secondary Social Studies Education, both from Florida State. She spent two years teaching in Japan through an exchange program for teachers, and that was a wonderful experience for her. After she returned from Japan, she received her ESL endorsement here in Seattle. She taught in the ESL program at Edmonds Community College, working with Japanese students, and spent 6 months teaching in the migrant education program for the Seattle Public Schools.

Welcome to TOPS, Eva!

TOPS CHINESE PROGRAM WELCOMES YEA-JAE WANG (POLLYANNA)

By Deborah Wang Ferguson

The TOPS Chinese program is gearing up for its 3rd year, and we are pleased to welcome a brand new teacher. Yea-Jae Wang is joining us to teach Chinese to students in Grades 1-5. Yea-Jae, who also goes by the name Pollyanna, is a native of Taiwan. She holds a Masters in Education from Ohio State, and is currently pursuing her Masters in Teaching at City University.

Yea-Jae also teaches Chinese at John Muir Elementary School. The school is one of three public elementary schools in Seattle that now offer Chinese during the regular school day. The program is funded by a US Department of Education grant. It uses a novel, math-centered approach to teaching the language. Yea-Jae has taught Chinese for close to a decade. She has also worked as a computer programmer for Safeco Insurance.

We are also pleased to welcome back our Kindergarten Chinese teacher, Xiao Yu Jackson.

This year, the two teachers will again be offering three sections of Chinese: for Kindergarten, Grades 1-2, and Grades 3-5. Classes for Grades 1-5 begin in late October, so be on the look out for applications. Kindergarten classes start in January. We hope you can join us!



Xiao Yu Jackson (left) with Yea-Jae Wang

WELCOME JENNY GAMACHE

By Jamie Flaxman

Jenny Gamache joins TOPS this fall, as elementary special education resource teacher. Jenny has big shoes to fill, taking over for Patty Maffit who retired after many years of teaching at TOPS.

Jenny is so excited about working at TOPS. She visited several times in the spring, to get a better feel of the school. She was extremely impressed with the teaching staff, and with the level of parent involvement at the school. States Jenny, "I'm so excited to be in a school where parents are involved." Jenny's goals at TOPS are to develop strong relationships with her students and their families, to meet each child's individual needs, and to help each child build self-esteem and feel good about what he/she can do.

Jenny is married with two children, both girls, ages five and two. The family also has a vicious cat named Dora. Her five year old will be starting kindergarten this year, and hopefully next year will be able to move to TOPS.



Jenny with husband Geoff and daughters Leiney (5) and Abby (2)

Jenny is doing her 1st triathlon this summer, the Danskin. She loves outdoor activities such as camping, biking, skiing, and swimming. She also loves to read and spend time with her children.

Another important part of Jenny's life is that she is Lead Teacher at the Seattle Children's Playgarden Summer Camp (www.childrensplaygarden.org). It is a park that is being renovated and turned into a truly accessible garden and park for children with all kinds of abilities and disabilities.

Jenny graduated from the University of Washington with a teaching degree, and then in 1995 received her Masters in Special Education from Teachers College at Columbia University in New York City. After teaching for a year in New York, she and her husband, Geoff, moved back to Seattle, where Jenny taught in the Shoreline School District for three years. They then moved back to New York for Geoff to attend law school. In 2003 they came back to Seattle, and Jenny taught at Seahawks Academy and Emerson Elementary School. She's been on leave since the birth of her youngest daughter in 2005, and is now looking forward to returning to work at TOPS.

Welcome Jenny! We know that you will love working at TOPS.

TOPS SPANISH PROGRAM

By Elizabeth Dickinson and Hannah Merrill,
recent TOPS Graduate and 9th grader at Bush

Our children have been involved in the Spanish program at TOPS since its inception, and we hope you'll consider it for your children as well! Here's why, in the words of our recent TOPS graduate Hannah:

What may surprise people about Spanish is that it teaches us just as much about the culture as the language. We learn about Latin American food, houses, and customs. This helped me because it taught me not only about the words, but about the people who speak them every day. It made me want to learn Spanish all the more, so I could go to the places those people live and talk to them.

Since Maestra Rabbitt teaches us Spanish mostly by speaking it to us, we have to figure out her meaning by listening for words we know, and answering as well as we could, even if we didn't understand the exact meaning, or couldn't remember the words we wanted to use. This leaves a more memorable impression of the right words when we make mistakes, and is all the more satisfactory when we do it correctly. I know

it will jump-start me for Spanish in high school. When you first start this kind of learning, it's confusing and easy to go a little crazy, because it's not at all the style of teaching we're used to. But it gets much easier, and learning what it's like to speak this way now equips us better for when we actually need to speak Spanish, and will keep us from panicking if we don't know the words. Instead, we'll remember what Maestra Rabbitt has told us many times: "Use the words you know." And we will!

(And when traveling in Europe this summer, we were so gratified to watch our children "use the words you know." Thanks to Maestra Rabbitt, they were enthusiastic about trying new experiences and engaging people in conversations that deepened our connection to the cultures and communities we were visiting.)

~ Elizabeth

TOPS Before and After School Spanish classes for grades 1-8 will begin this year in late October. For more information on the TOPS Spanish program, visit <http://www.topsk8.org/academics/spanish.shtml> or contact Sharon Mentyka at sharon@pidseattle.com.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SITE COUNCIL CHAIR

By Glen Tamura, Site Council Chair

The Site Council extends a warm welcome to all families as we start another wonderful school year at TOPS. We invite each and every one of you to come and attend one or more meetings, which are open to any interested parent, staff member, or member of the larger community. Our first meeting, scheduled for September 19, 5-7 p.m., will be especially important, because we will be setting priorities for the year. Meetings are usually held each second Wednesday of the month from 5-7 p.m. in the library, with our first meeting in September on the third Wednesday. If you have projects, concerns, or suggestions, you are invited to come and share your creativity and your energy.

This year's Site Council representatives include returning members Bill Maclay, Shurondia Otis, Casey White, and myself. Incoming members are: Michael Adams, Loan Nguyen, Susan Welch, Cliff Shettler, and Mike Hatzenbeler. Each of these Site Council members is representing a specific grade band, as listed below:

K-2: Susan Welch, Michael Adams and Glen Tamura

Grades 3-5: Cliff Shettler, Loan Nguyen, and Bill McClay

Middle School: Michael Hatzenbeler, Shurondia Otis, and Casey White

Your grade band representatives are your contact for issues you would like to raise with Site Council.

We are fortunate that the staff members who served last year will continue to serve another year. They are: Clara Scott, Gerrit Kischner, Steve Haines, Lori Eickelberg, Judy Holben, Marianne Trangen, Katie Waters, Carla Fetterley, Leslie Nilan, and Ian Mullins of Kids Co. Their insightful comments and helpful feedback regarding how suggestions and ideas might play out in the classroom setting allow the Site Council to be more effective – and their sense of humor keeps us all from getting bored.

Last, but by no means least, I want to thank outgoing Site Council representatives Ellen Markman, Kathy Wickward, Eric Blazevic, Brad Angell, and Ivy Teng. Their hard work, insight, and sense of humor made last year's Site Council a pleasure to meet with.

During this coming year, we want to keep the TOPS community informed about Site Council activities. We hope to accomplish this via minutes and other items in the *TOPS News*. Your grade band parent representatives will have additional ways to keep the lines of communication open. We encourage you to contact us with your questions, suggestions, and concerns. TOPS is a great school only as long as we ask ourselves "How can we make this school even better?," and input from parents is vital to making positive changes happen. You may contact your grade band representative or myself directly (gtamura@u.washington.edu). The TOPS website has a link to the site council and our email addresses.

TOPS SITE COUNCIL MEMBERS 2007-2008

SITE COUNCIL MEMBERS REPRESENTING STAFF

TOPS Principal	Clara Scott.....	cscott@seattleschools.org
TOPS Assistant Principal	Gerrit Kischner.....	gakischner@seattleschools.org

SITE COUNCIL FACULTY REPS

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.....	Judy Holben.....	jmholben@seattleschools.org

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Parent Rep: 3-5	Loan Nguyen	
Parent Rep: 6-8.....	Michael Hatzenbeler	phatzenbeler@comcast.net
Parent Rep: 6-8.....	Casey White	therwhitehouse@comcast.net
Parent Rep: 6-8.....	Shurondia Otis.....	renee06@qwest.net
Eastlake community representatives:.....		TBA
Coalition for Social Justice rep:		TBA
Middle School student council rep (ASB):.....		TBA

COORDINATORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Volunteer Coordinator	Maureen Germani.....	mwgermani@seattleschools.org
Webmaster	Jack Lee.....	webmaster@topsk8.org
Drama committee chair	Linda Korbus	L.korbus@comcast.net
No-Bake Coordinator	TBA	
Council for Social Justice Chair	Bonnie Cech	bcech@cechsystems.com
Stewardship Chairs	Sandy Shettler.....	sshettler@msn.com
.....	Judith Lee.....	judithell@yahoo.com
Newsletter reporter for Site Council	Scott Winter.....	swinter@u.washington.edu
Newsletter editors.....	Jamie Flaxman	
.....	Ann Simonson	topsnewsletter@gmail.com
School Board Reporter	TBA	
Music committee representative.....	Johnny Calcagno	johnny@stickerville.org
Art committee representative.....	TBA	

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY AND BEYOND

By Steve Haines, Librarian

"A library is a hospital for the mind."

Anonymous

Welcome to the 2007-08 school year. Library hours are 8:45 – 4:30, M-F. The library may close at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays for staff meetings.

As we enter our 9th year back in the remodeled Seward building, I'm once again looking forward to welcoming new faces, as well as familiar faces to the TOPS library. Our school library's main function is to be a support to the classroom curriculum by supplementing texts and other material, as well as ensuring that students are effective users of ideas and information.

The library is open all day, and after school it is open for those students wishing to do homework, research, or to read. When I'm available, I'm more than happy to help with schoolwork. The library however, is not designed as a substitute for a child care center, or as an area to partake of food or drink. At TOPS there is a before and after school child care called Kids Company, which can accommodate students needing controlled supervision.

STATE OF THE LIBRARY

Every year after school lets out for the summer, I perform an inventory of all the books that are in the library. This year we had a circulation of 18,314 books. Our collection of 8,701 books and materials has an estimated value of \$123,927. Of those books we still have 82 tomes checked out and overdue. The replacement value is \$843. Hopefully some of these books will find their way back to the library by the time school starts. If they don't, students will be billed for the book(s). The overdue list is in the library.

Marked as missing:

Those materials not checked out from the library and not on the shelves at time of inventory: 73 volumes (same as last year).
Replacement cost (not reflecting cost increases): \$671

Marked as lost:

In 2007 we had 12 books lost where the cost was not recovered.
Replacement price (not reflecting cost increases): \$128

We are in about the same financial condition as last year. Fortunately, we continue to have our budget bestowed upon us by the Friends of TOPS. Along with generous donations of books and funds by our families, we

seem to make it through each year. Speaking of books, we had some funds donated by our school's Stewardship Committee for library books dealing with the environment. Along with the new books there is now a resource box located in the library office to be used by anyone that would like ideas on a host of environmental topics to share with children. Another source of books came our way when TOPS won the "Paige Turner" grand prize in the monthly contest. These contests, sponsored by Macy's, allow students to read a selected book or listen to me read it, and answer a question from the librarian. Every month one student

from our school gets chosen from the submitted entries, and is presented with a gift certificate. This past year the 2nd graders won just about every month. So for the "\$150 grand prize" we had a lottery and selected 4 students from the two 2nd grade classes to accompany me to Border's Books. After getting title ideas from their classmates, we headed downtown on the #70 bus. What an eye opener for the students to see just how few books \$150 would buy. On a sad note, Macy's has decided not to sponsor the program any longer.



TOPS community members view student's art work on opening night.



2nd graders at the downtown Borders select titles for the library after winning the Paige Turner grand prize. - Photos by Steve Haines

Last school year ended on a busy note with the annual spectacular Art Fest, and the traditional 3rd grade States Museum filling the library. One interesting assembly that we had at the end of May involved a TOPS alumnus and his father. It seems that when Alex Dorros was in Marianne's 6th grade class, he had to write fable. After completing the assignment several years ago, this eventually led to Alex and his father, Arthur, co-authoring a book entitled *Numero Uno*. It is a picture book that tells the story of strong Hercules and Smart Socrates who constantly argue over who is more important to their village. The

townspeople then create a test to settle the argument. It was interesting to hear about the publishing process from idea to book, and the give and take between these two authors as they weaved the tale. Alex is now a junior at Garfield, and a published author.

Has the Harry Potter mania settled down? I think not. I finally made it through the last 759 pages. I heard Ms. Rowling say on a news show that one of the most gratifying things about writing these books is that people come up to her and say that before they got into Harry Potter they didn't like reading, but since the books they love to read, and not just HP but everything.

Come to the library when you can to check out the new books or let me know of books that we don't have but should obtain for our collection. Keep reading!

MATH CAMP COMES TO TOPS

By Nancy Bacon

Thirty-three students attended math camp at TOPS this summer over two week-long sessions. Led by first grade teacher Sarah Marks, students ages 6-11 explored numbers across time and cultures. Several students began the week skeptical that math was a worthy subject for a summer camp. By the end of each week, students could not hide the fun they were having. As one student said, "We aren't doing math—we are playing games."

Each day offered students a blend of learning something new with crafts and games. They started by learning about place value by studying *Quipu*, a system used by the Incan kings and queens living in the Central Andes Mountains to calculate taxes. Knots in string are used to determine place value. Students recreated the system using yarn tied to a plastic straw.

Students then journeyed to "infinity street," a road that never ends. Students drew a road that disappeared off both sides of the page, complete with buildings representing place values. They then used paper to make a Möbius band to represent the concept of infinity. And how much is a google? Any camp participant can tell you that it is one "1" and one hundred "0's," or 10^{100} . They even wrote it out.



Photos by Nancy Bacon

The second half of the week focused on money, its worth, and its uses. Students learned that the *Wampanoags* on Cape Cod used white and purple shells as a currency, trading shells and using them to show status. Students created a wampum necklace using yarn and white and purple paper. Students took this knowledge and learned about bartering and trade. As one student explained, "You cannot barter money—you barter things. If you had a blue pencil and I had two cookies, we might trade them. This is a fair trade if the two things have the same value. It is not a fair trade if they do not have the same value." Students then thought about what they would do with ten dollars. "I would save it up so I could buy something with a bigger price," said one. "I would buy a wig for my sister," said another.

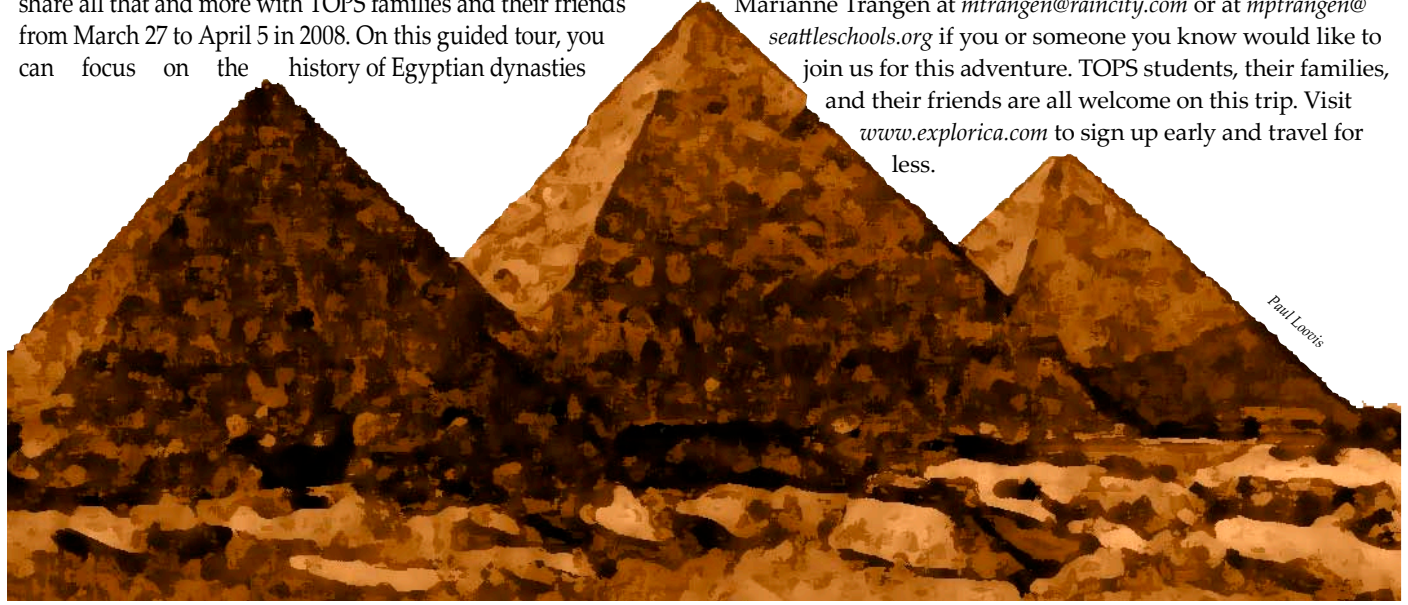
The games were the highlight of math camp! Students played Men's Morris from England, a game originally played by Kings and Queens with real people. They played Mancala from Africa and Tapatan from the Philippines, and favorites at the end of the week were "Payday" and "Pit," the latter of which replicates stock exchange trading, yelling and all.

The camp was designed around curriculum developed by "Explorations in Math," a Seattle-based non-profit focused on supporting math instruction. The goal of the program is to give students a chance to experience math in a casual, summertime setting. One student who had sworn off math at the start of the summer now admits she thinks it is fun. What better way to start the school year!

COME TO EGYPT FOR SPRING BREAK IN 2008!

Have you ever wanted to see the pyramids, cruise the Nile, fly to Aswan, visit Luxor, or take a first-class train to Cairo? You can share all that and more with TOPS families and their friends from March 27 to April 5 in 2008. On this guided tour, you can focus on the history of Egyptian dynasties

and their pharaohs or on the spectacular scenery as you relax on a felucca floating down the Nile. Please contact 6th grade teacher Marianne Trangen at mtrangen@raincity.com or at mptrangen@seattleschools.org if you or someone you know would like to join us for this adventure. TOPS students, their families, and their friends are all welcome on this trip. Visit www.explorica.com to sign up early and travel for less.



Message from the Principal continued from page 1

Please join me in welcoming our new staff members:

Jennifer Gamache, Elementary Resource Room teacher, was most recently at Emerson Elementary School. She is returning to the district from a maternity leave, and replacing Patty Maffit who retired.

Eva Masumoto, ESL Teacher, was most recently at Gatzert Elementary School. She is also returning to the district from a leave. Eva is replacing Nicole Titus who is on a one year leave.

Congratulations to Maureen Germani, our new Volunteer Coordinator. She is replacing Randi Niemer, who has become a business owner. Congratulations to both Maureen and Randi.

Lana Fuller is returning from maternity leave to the PEAK Kindergarten position. Thanks to Sheri Touissant, who did an excellent job during Lana's absence. Sheri will work with the middle school, developing service learning sites during Catrice's maternity leave. She will also be assisting in the reading block.

We have two interpreter positions open in our DHH program for candidates with sign language experience. Jessica Morrissey, who was with the program from its inception at TOPS, resigned from the district and relocated to Port Townsend. We wish her well.

Writing

We will continue to focus on writing, adopting the district's Balanced Literacy Program. Several of our teachers participated in the training this

summer, and will have additional training throughout the year.

Math

TOPS will switch from the TERC math program to the district's newly adopted Everyday Math Program. Our elementary teachers participated in the math training this summer and will have additional training throughout the year. There will also be training for parents; dates will be posted on the web once they are scheduled by the math department.

Reading Block

The reading block will change from afternoons to mornings to take advantage of the students' focused attention in the mornings.

The Care team will continue to focus on classroom meetings and civility at TOPS, and the Building Leadership Team (BLT) approved our Transformation plan for the 2007-08 school year.

Please mark your calendars:

September 26..... 2 hr. early dismissal

October 2..... Open House

October 12..... Professional Development day (No School)

Enjoy the rest of your summer. See you on the 5th.

Cheers!

Clara

TEACHING TRASH

By Sandy Shettler and Judith Lee, with credit to Peter Hubbard and Pacific Publishing

This fall fifth graders will lead a new composting program at TOPS, that will turn the thousands of pounds of lunch-room waste generated each year into rich garden soil. The program will be led by Nina Binder's science students, who will teach the students in other grades how to sort compostable and recyclable materials. Nina will also spend class time teaching students about the science of composting. Once fifth graders become master composters, Nina envisions kindergarten buddies and eventually all grades getting involved with the program.

Peter Hubbard, a 4th grade teacher at Lawton, started the program and it is now up and running at a number of Seattle schools, including Lawton, Laurelhurst, and West Woodland. Rabanco (the recycling company) picks up the compost separately from trash and recycling and hauls it to the Cedar Grove composting plant. West Woodland reports they have dropped their garbage output to an average of six pounds per day,



and have seen significant savings in their garbage fees. Since the district pays these fees, it is providing staff support and grants to help start the program and the Site Council agreed to supplement them if needed. At the beginning, the program is closely monitored by district staff—when a school demonstrates a full month of successful compost sorting, the school district picks up the cost of the service since the decrease in garbage fees more than covers the difference.

If this program is to succeed, the compost can't be contaminated with other kinds of waste. And that crucial bin-monitoring work falls entirely to the students. Working in pairs and wearing gloves, students assigned composting duty stand at each lunch disposal station and teach others what can be recycled, what is compost, and what is trash. Last spring, a Cedar Grove representative visited this year's 5th graders and taught them that we can compost "whatever was once alive." That means paper plates, meat and dairy, in addition to the usual apple cores and lettuce. The Cedar Grove compost piles are so hot that pathogens a home composter would worry about are not an issue.

Sandy Shettler (Julia, 3rd grade) and Judith Lee (Xiaochun, 7th, Mei, 3rd) are leading the effort and welcome other parents and staff to participate.

YEAH, I'M DIFFERENT

By Sharon Mentyka

This year, Seattle Public School students and parents will see two posters in K-12 schools distributed by the Safe Schools Coalition (SSC) and designed by TOPS parent and graphic designer Stephen Schlott. Stephen worked with SSC donating design services to create a campaign to help end bullying in our schools and reach out to the youth of the GLBT community. For students who experience bullying, harassment, and physical violence at school, it sometimes starts at an early age. Gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth, those who are questioning their sexuality, or those who are perceived as different by others are especially vulnerable. The two posters will be distributed state-wide in K-12 schools in September 2007. One poster features the creations of Portland artist Marc Willwerth and his "perfect children" who are different but OK just the way they are. Seattle photographer Malcolm Smith donated his services as well.

"As a TOPS parent I was eager to work with an organization that serves schools across the state and across the spectrum of tolerance. Things are changing quickly, but sadly ignorance can still manifest into vast challenges of unequal access to education, and school situations of hate crimes and violence," Stephen says. One of the primary roles of SSC is to reduce bias-based bullying and violence in schools and to help parents and administrators better meet the needs of sexual minority youth and children of sexual minority parents/guardians. Visit the Safe Schools website at www.safeschoolscoalition.org for more information or to download a copy of the poster.



2007 TOPS NEWS DEADLINES

Deadlines will generally be the 2nd Friday of the month for the following month's newsletter, but are subject to change. Submissions should be emailed to topsnewsletter@gmail.com.

Issue	Deadline
October.....	September 14
November.....	October 12
December/January.....	November 9
February.....	January 11
March.....	February 8
April.....	March 14
May.....	April 11
June.....	May 9

New Superintendent continued from page 3

District has selected another program called Singapore Math to provide students with additional practice in number sense, and these materials will be arriving in schools around January.

At the middle school level, TOPS will be in the second year of implementing the second edition of the Connected Math Program (CMP-2). Here we are ahead of the curve, as Mr. Ellis and Mr. Lawrence systematically worked through the sixth and seventh grade curriculum that arrived at the beginning of last year, and Mr. Ellis was one of just a few teachers in the district to pilot the eighth grade curriculum. In this second year, the District has used a significant grant from Boeing to build an impressive model for continued professional development to support teachers through a coaching model which pairs our teachers with others from K-8 schools in Seattle and draws these teachers into each other's classrooms as instructional "studios."

Writing: The Seattle School District is drawing from a sizable Microsoft grant to train and coach teachers throughout the District in a workshop model of writing instruction developed and coached by teachers through Columbia University Teachers College in New York. At the end of June, four TOPS staff – Leslie Nilan, Leslie Hazelwood-Spurr, Joe Drummond, and I – attended a week long training in their model, which marks a shift away from prompted writing and engages students and teachers together in the craft of writing. The training was superb as we gained a thorough and highly-practical idea of how to structure a classroom to facilitate writing workshops, and we did a lot of writing ourselves. Over the course of this school year, these teachers will be matched with teachers at Blaine K-8 and Pathfinder K-8 to work with a Teachers College coach in the practice of mini-lessons and other instructional practices that help students develop as writers. Over the course of the year, other TOPS teachers will be trained by Teachers College.

Reading: This summer, our librarian, Steve Haines, and our Reading

Specialist, Carla Fetterley, took delivery of the extensive classroom libraries that the Seattle School District is providing for every K-2 classroom (libraries for upper grade levels are coming soon). These libraries will provide a rich foundation for the "balanced literacy" initiative. The notion of balanced literacy comes as something of a middle ground in the long-running debate between "whole language" and "phonics" instruction, but it has developed as a deep and thorough pedagogy in its own right. Like the writing workshop model, there is a clear goal of student independence and competence, although the reading model lays out a clear path of "gradual release of control from the teacher to the learner." Over the course of a single lesson, teachers shape literacy experiences to happen "to, with, and by" the student. In reading, these experiences require a wide variety of instructional strategies:

- Interactive read aloud: for students to hear fluent reading as they develop higher level thinking skills to analyze and interpret text;
- Shared reading: to create a supportive learning environment for all readers;
- Guided reading: small, targeted group instruction of specific reading skills and strategies;
- Literature study: to support students to explore a variety of books, characters, issues, and ideas;
- Independent reading: for students to practice skills by reading "just right" books (text they read with 97 percent accuracy);
- Conferring: for teachers to gain insight in individual reader's habits and strategies.

This year at TOPS, we have rearranged our first and second grade reading block program to allow Carla to support this work. While we will continue to provide small group instruction by using additional teachers, we are separating the times when first and second grades meets for reading (second graders will start every day with reading at 9:30, and first graders will go to reading blocks at 10:30). We are pleased that Sheri Toussaint, who worked last year to fill in for Lana Fuller as the PEAK teacher, will rise with her students and become a reading block teacher. Both primary and intermediate teachers also will continue to build on the work of Stephanie Harvey, which draws a clear focus on comprehension skills by using non-fiction text more than has traditionally been part of elementary classrooms.

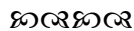
We are excited as we plunge into this tremendous curriculum work this year. While it represents powerful alignment throughout the Seattle School District, the philosophy that drives each of these initiatives is one that relies thoroughly on each individual teacher as a competent practitioner of the skills we teach – we are all able and practicing readers, writers, and mathematicians – and that idea drives powerful opportunities for schools to develop their own cohesive and autonomous practice. This is where the alternative traditions and recent work we have done at TOPS will serve us so well, as we build on the reading blocks, the writing portfolios, and the number sense work we have developed over the last several years to create meaningful opportunities for students to explore and make sense of their world. The Building Leadership Team has created "data teams" to study our progress in each of these skill areas and foster our art, science, and social studies integration throughout, and we're looking forward to working together to continue learning from each other.

CSJ CORNER

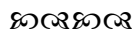
Welcome to the **CSJ Corner** where you can look each month to find out what the Coalition for Social Justice has planned. Please mark your calendars for these events!

The successful **TOPS Movie Night** will resume this year with four excellent films that speak to social justice issues. Movies and discussions are planned for **October, December, February, and April**. The purpose of the events that CSJ sponsors is to promote dialogue in support of the mission and vision of TOPS. Please plan on being part of the conversation this year!

New Family Orientation: On Tuesday, September 4 CSJ and the Site Council will host an ORIENTATION to TOPS for new families. Students will gather in the lunch room at 11:00 a.m. for a tour of the school, followed by pizza. Adults will meet in the TOPS library at 11:00 a.m. to hear from administrators and parent representatives. (Note that Middle School students will meet an hour earlier at 10:00 a.m.)



Keep your eyes and ears open for coming information about a WELCOME to TOPS SOCIAL in late September. This event will be an opportunity for families to gather at TOPS for music and games and to meet one another. It will also be an opportunity to learn about TOPS various committees and to kick off the No-Bake Fundraiser.



TOPS Movie Night: We will open this year's series on **Friday, October 5**, with the award winning film, *It's Elementary*. A second film for kids about family diversity, *That's a Family*, will also be shown. More information about these films is on this page of this newsletter.

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.

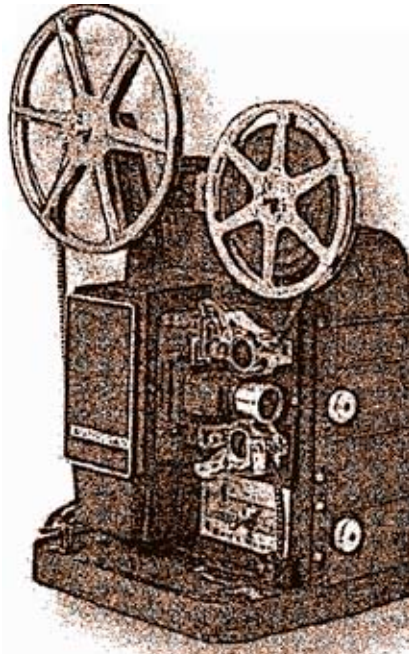
Snacks and drinks will be provided. Childcare is available. Call 252-3510 to make a reservation for childcare.

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.

CSJ is seeking more participation from members of the TOPS community to help with planning and ideas. Please consider spending your volunteer hours at TOPS with CSJ. Contact Bonnie Cech at bcech@cechsystems.com for information.

CSJ IS OFF AND RUNNING WITH 2ND YEAR OF TOPS MOVIE NIGHT SERIES

By Karen Stuhldreher



Paul Loois

CSJ met for a mid summer retreat in July to begin planning for the coming 2007-08 school year. The committee will continue to sponsor events rather than holding monthly meetings and discussions as a way to promote dialogue throughout the TOPS community about issues of social justice and equity. The successful TOPS Movie Nights film series will begin again on October 5 with films about family differences and a focus on gay and lesbian families. Other films and events being considered for the coming year will address issues such as class and race differences, so that we can continue and deepen the discussions begun with last year's film series.

The award-winning film, *It's Elementary*, will open this year's TOPS Movie Night Series on Friday, October 5. This critically acclaimed film shows school activities, faculty meetings, and classroom discussions about gay and lesbian families. Carolyn B. Sheldon, President of the American School Counselor Association, said, "*It's Elementary* is an extremely moving portrait of how schools can appropriately address what, for many, is a sensitive issue." She calls the film "essential viewing for parents and educators concerned about preventing violence and prejudice." CSJ plans to show *It's Elementary* along with a film for kids about family diversity called *That's a Family*. Showing the two films together will provide a starting point for children and their families and teachers to talk about the many differences among our families.

Other movies in the series may include *Class Dismissed* which is a humorous look at class images on television. After last year's showing of *People Like Us*, about social class in America, many at TOPS have indicated an interest in continuing this discussion. The documentary *Skin Deep* shows viewers a weekend retreat where college students talk about their experiences of race privilege and inequality. We are also researching films from the "Developing Mind" series based on Mel Levine's book, *A Mind At A Time*, which CSJ organized a reading circle and discussions around in 2005. We hope to bring attention back to this theme of learning differences with a film from this series in the coming year.

TOPS Movie Nights are a chance to come together with other TOPS families to watch and discuss good movies that raise important issues which affect us all. Sandwiches and snacks are provided so we can begin and end early, and childcare is available as well. Look for flyers in upcoming "Go-Homes" and the CSJ Corner in future newsletters so you can mark your calendar and not miss TOPS Movie Nights!

**LAST YEAR'S 3RD AND 4TH GRADERS
HAVE FUN AT CAMP ARNOLD!**



Photos by Brad Angell

SWIMMING AWARDS FOR TOPS STUDENTS

By Sharon Mentyka

Two TOPS eighth graders earned high placements this year in Seattle's 2007 All City Swim Meet held August 4 at Helene Madison Pool. Katie Seibel, who swam for Pop Mounger Pool and Lena Mentyka, who swam for Evans Pool, both competed in the Girls 14 & Under category.

Katie placed 2nd in the 50 Breast with a time of 36.82 and 3rd in the 50 Free with a time of 29.49. Lena placed 1st in the 50 Butterfly with a time of 30.29 and 1st in the 100 IM with a time of 1:09.51. Lena's IM time set a new record, breaking Maria Pablo's time of 1:09.81 set in 1988.

The girls also contributed to their team's relay events, with Pop Mounger Pool placing 1st in both events, and Evans Pool placing 2nd in the 200 Medley and 3rd in the 200 Free.

Congratulations Katie and Lena!



Swimming champ Lena Mentyka - photo by Sharon Mentyka

WELCOMING NEW FAMILIES TO TOPS: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

By Glen Tamura, Site Council Chair

One of the best things about TOPS is our tightly-knit community. Fellow TOPS parents are our friends both inside the school, where we volunteer together, and outside the school, where we meet for both school-sponsored parties at the pool or the park, and for activities individual families arrange by themselves.

The downside of this tightly knit community is that it can be hard to "break in," especially for families who are new to TOPS after kindergarten. While the school administration takes great pains to introduce new students to their fellow classmates, the families of those new students often find themselves on the outside looking in. It can be hard for parents to go to a get together and not know anyone, or to know where or how to volunteer.

To begin to address this problem, two years ago the Committee for Social Justice (CSJ) headed up by Gerrit Kischner, Assistant Principal, began a program to welcome the families of incoming middle school students by matching each new family with an established family at the beginning of the school year. This year, with further help from the TOPS Site Council, the CSJ will be extending this program in two ways.

First, we will be trying to match each new family from ALL grade bands with a "sponsor family" at the beginning of the school year. Secondly, we will be encouraging the "sponsor families" to extend their role into the school year – helping to arrange play dates, invitations to birthday parties, rides to school events, etc.

The CSJ started work on this orientation in mid-August. We already have a list of several parents who have volunteered to help with mentoring in different grades. We do need more volunteers for this to be a success. Parents who have successfully navigated the transition from "TOPS Outsider" to "TOPS Insider" would be especially appreciated! This should be a really fun way to volunteer – getting to know a new family, meeting the family on a Saturday at the park – all of which can be done outside of school hours. If you are a working parent and a "people person" who is looking for a way to be involved outside of school hours, this may be your thing!

In addition, the CSJ is planning to sponsor a "music jam" event in the first few months of school as another welcome event for the entire school community. This will be another great opportunity for sponsor families to introduce the new families to the old. Further information on this event will be forthcoming in a future newsletter.

If you have questions about this new program, or would like to volunteer, please contact Lynne Goodrich (CSJ, email: goodrich_yas@msn.com) or Glen Tamura (Site Council, email: gtamura@u.washington.edu, phone: 323-2354). Our contact information is also on the TOPS website.

FALL SPORTS 2007

By Don Zemke, P.E. Teacher

M.S. Ultimate Frisbee and M.S. Girls Soccer

It's time for TOPS girls soccer! Our team will again be coached by Shawn Roseman who's looking forward to another fun season. Practices will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 beginning Monday, September 10. Anybody who is interested in participating should attend the soccer meeting on Friday, September 7, from 12:00 to 12:15 in the gym

The TOPS Ultimate Frisbee teams, coached by Don, Clay, and possibly Eric, will practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:45 in order to accommodate the activity bus. Interested players should plan on attending the Frisbee meeting on Thursday, September 6 from 12:00 to 12:15 in the gym.

Games for both girls soccer and Ultimate Frisbee are played on Saturdays, usually beginning the last week in September. Check the TOPS website for additional information and the team schedules once they are available.

All participants must have a Seattle School District Athletic Registration & Physical Form on file with Don and Eric in order to participate.

Photos by Don Zemke



AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS WITH DON

TIME: 3:20-4:20

MONDAYS: CIRCUS ARTS. BEGINNING
SEPTEMBER 17TH TO THE END OF THE SCHOOL
YEAR.

TUESDAYS: M.S. VOLLEYBALL. BEGINNING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH - MARCH.

TUESDAYS: ULTIMATE FRISBEE.
MARCH - JUNE.

PERMISSION SLIPS AVAILABLE IN THE GYM,
MAIN OFFICE, OR THE TOPS WEB SITE.

AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS WITH ERIC ON
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY TO BE ANNOUNCED.

CHESS AT TOPS

By Gordon Wickward and Michael Adams

Come play Chess! The TOPS Chess Club is open to all students, and we would like to extend a special invitation to all new & Kindergarten families. Chess helps build social skills, analytical skills, and self confidence. We welcome all level of players from 'never seen a chess set before' to masters level (don't have any of those yet). Chess Club is a chance to meet new friends, build community, and also to learn play or improve your game. The Club meets once a week where you will learn new techniques from our coaches or play games against each other. This year our meetings will be starting on Monday, September 24 from 3:30 - 4:30, and there will be a parents meeting for new and continuing families on Monday, September 10 from 3:30 - 4:30.

Elementary chess is also a popular team sport, and you can attend several tournaments with the Club throughout the year. Tournament play is available for beginners to experts, with usually 200 - 300 competitors at each.

If you would like more information, please contact Michael Adams (magames@gmail.com) or Gordon Wickward 206 323-4278, wickward@raincity.com.

ATTENTION TOPS MIDDLE SCHOOLERS!



THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PLAY HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED!

WE WILL BE DOING TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD. AUDITIONS WILL BE IN MID OCTOBER...

STAY TUNED!



A scene from last year's play: Twelfth Night



SAILING WITH DON AND ERIC

By Don Zemke and Eric Herndon P.E. Teachers

The 2007 Auction item "Sailing with Don and Eric" was a lot of fun for Don, Eric, Sarah and Alicia Chase, Nalica Hennings, and Henrietta Bilokur.

The ship set sail from the shore of Shilshole Bay with all the kids taking turns at the tiller and participating in deck responsibilities while making turns. The radio was blasting music while the kids ate snacks and scampered around the deck.



We made our way around West Point towards Elliot Bay in hopes of spotting a gray whale that had been spotted there earlier in the day. We didn't see the whale but we did spot plenty of seals, birds, and fish on the fish finder with the highlight being a pot full of Dungeness crabs and a huge starfish.

Thanks again for all your wonderful support from this years auction.



Photos by Don Zemke





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