MEET THE NEW PRINCIPAL

By Jamie Flaxman

Meet Jo Lute-Ervin, TOPS' new principal. She hails from Texas, but has spent her entire professional career with the Seattle School District, first as a teacher, and for the past 13 ½ years as an administrator. She has taught at all grade levels, K-12, including third-fifth grade classrooms, kindergarten-fifth grade art, and high school language arts, social studies, and health. Ms. Lute-Ervin was the Assistant Principal at Washington Middle School for four and half years, and most recently the Principal at Leschi Elementary for nine years, prior to coming to TOPS.

Ms. Lute-Ervin loves teaching and learning because she is committed to an equitable and excellent education for all students. To achieve this, she believes that staff, students, teachers, and families must all work together to provide a safe, nurturing environment which promotes intellectual, social, and emotional growth. As such, one of her first priorities at TOPS will be to focus a lot on the CARE program this year, focusing on respect among students and adults, and there will be a new school-wide discipline policy.

Other goals for Ms. Lute-Ervin in her first year at TOPS will be to build relationships with teachers/staff, families, and students; to learn what makes TOPS work; student safety; and to free Assistant Principal Jeanne Kuban from some of her current duties so that she can spend more time in the classrooms coaching teachers around Writers Workshop.

In talking with Ms. Lute-Ervin, we talked about TOPS as an alternative school. Ms. Lute-Ervin believes in alternative schools. One of her sons attended the Seattle Schools through the APP (Advanced Placement Program) schools Lowell, Washington, and Garfield, which she sees as alternative education. She believes that not all programs fit all kids, and that some students need alternative education. As TOPS has the Alternative Schools Audit coming up this fall, Ms. Lute-Ervin says she will depend on those who have been at the school, Ms. Kuban, the parents, and the Site Council, to help her prepare for and participate in this analysis.

Continued on page 7

A letter from Principal Lute-Ervin was sent home to all families on September 16. A copy of this letter is included on page 3.

NOVEMBER TOPSNEWS DEADLINE
Friday, October 9 - Submissions to topsnewsletter@gmail.com
WELCOME LIBBY SINCLAIR!

By Ann Simonson

This fall we welcome Libby Sinclair as our new 5th grade teacher. She brings a strong background in alternative education, having spent fifteen years teaching at AE2 (now Thornton Creek) where she mostly taught a 4th – 5th grade split. During her time at AE2 the school adopted a new project-based, experiential curriculum with a big service component. Libby also taught at the New School for two years, and then took a one-year leave before coming to TOPS.

Libby was excited about the opportunity to teach 5th grade social studies at TOPS, as teaching this subject is her first love. She was also attracted to TOPS for its diversity, the opportunity for innovation in the curriculum, the emphasis on art, and the sense of community at the school. She believes alternative schools inspire more of a family feeling, where the relationships are important, with K-8 kids all together, older kids spending time with the young. Libby did her Masters work on Curriculum Instruction with a focus on Arts Integration, and she was very taken with the ArtFest, which she witnessed when she visited the school in the spring. Libby also has connections to quite a few of the current TOPS teachers!

Libby has some great ideas, one of which is to start a garden at TOPS. She spent some time with Alice Waters at her “Edible School Yard” in Berkeley, CA. Libby enjoys spending time in her garden and is a big fan of fresh food. She also has a son who presents programs to young people on civic affairs, encouraging students to get involved, and we imagine that might be a great opportunity for the middle school students at TOPS.

Libby did some interesting volunteer work during her year of leave. She had an exchange student from Norway spending the year with her, and the two of them spent time volunteering at Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center in Redmond, which does equine therapy for children with physical challenges. She also volunteered at Tech Access in south Seattle, where she helped write curriculum. And she volunteered at the New School.

Libby has many varied interests. She loves to read and write, and has enjoyed being part of a writing group during her year of leave, something she intends to continue. She is very civic minded, extremely involved in her community and both local and national politics. She also loves cooking, gardening, swimming in the lake, and folk dancing, mostly Balkan and Israeli!

Libby has three grown children. Her two daughters live in California, and one of them is married with two small children. She has a son who lives in the Seattle area. Her husband is a doctor at Harborview, and is currently working hard on health care reform. Her mom is also living in Seattle now.

Welcome to TOPS, Libby!
**Letter from the Principal**

*Dear TOPS Families,*

As the new principal of TOPS, I feel the need to write this letter in response to the confusion and concerns regarding our recent school assemblies with elementary and middle school students while reviewing the rules and expectations for the 2009-2010 school year. School leadership transitions are sometimes challenging, and may require clarifying communications from time to time. So, I am addressing the concerns that I’ve heard in this letter. It is a common practice for schools to review rules and expectations with students during the first few weeks of school. In both primary and secondary assemblies, we addressed the rules and expectations in the “Student Expectations” handbook for TOPS, and the “Basic Rules of Seattle Public Schools.” A primary goal of all principals is to provide for a safe environment for all children in the school. Our playground rules are the same as in the past, except for managing a shared recess by primary and middle school students. This consideration is based on schedule changes due to the revised start time.

I talked about the perceived changes in the rules and expectations in my “Principal’s Report” at the Site Council meeting on Wednesday evening, September 16. I also talked about “Drop off and Pick Up” expectations in my report. I welcomed comments and questions on Wednesday night. I want to provide you with a summary of the information we provided our students and rationale behind these changes.

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**Summary of Clarifications of Rules and Rationale**

**Drop off and Pick Up**

It appears that TOPS’ start and drop off times have caused some parents great concern. We are asking families to be respectful of staff times (8:50 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.) as these are work hours negotiated for staff by the Seattle Public School District, and the SEA (Seattle Education Association), the teacher’s union. Also, we want to provide adequate supervision for our students when they are on school grounds. These are the same rules that have been in effect in previous years, but are being reinforced for this school year. TOPS staff and administration have been concerned with students being on school grounds outside of standard school hours without adequate supervision for a long time. Letters were sent home last year reminding parents to be mindful of ending times for the school day and planned after school activities. Letters were sent home in report cards, progress reports, and the newsletter last year. In past years, students were frequently gathered outside of the library well beyond the hours of supervised activities. Staff has other obligations (trainings, team work, appointments, child-care, etc...) that they are unable to meet when children are on school grounds unsupervised well after the school day ends.

*Continued on page 4*

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**Birds + Bees + YOUR Kids**

*Thursday, October 22, 6-8 p.m. in the TOPS library*

*By Sandy Shettler, Volunteer Coordinator*

Are you wondering when you should start talking to your kids about the birds and the bees? Are you unsure of what to say and how to say it? Do you have to have these conversations with your kids? Come find out the answers to these and many other questions on October 22 and join us for a lively and engaging lecture with parent and sexual health educator Amy Lang, MA.

Amy’s lecture, *Birds + Bees + YOUR Kids – It’s time to start talking!*, is for parents of students from kindergarten through middle school. This interactive talk helps parents understand the need to start the conversations early and continue them throughout childhood and adolescence. Parents learn what works for kids, have time to talk about their own experiences and values, and learn about teen sexual behavior in an open and candid atmosphere.

Through her business, Birds + Bees + Kids, LLC, Amy Lang helps parents talk to their children of any age about sex, love and relationships. She has a 16-year history as a Sexual Health Educator, a Masters in Applied Behavioral Science, and loves to help people learn about this vital part of parenting.

This evening is for parents only and is co-sponsored by Friends of Tops and the Coalition for Social Justice. Free child care is available at KidsCo; please reserve your spot early by contacting Aaron Norikane, KidsCo Director at 709-8487 or email AaronN@kidcompany.org.

Questions? Contact Sandy Shettler at sashettler@seattleschools.org, 252-3510; or Karen Stuhldreher at kstuhldr@sccd.ctc.edu.
Library Closure after school

The library is being closed at the end of the school day partly because of funding, but also for the same end of the day/session “Pick Up” concerns as stated above. When students were allowed to attend the library, they were still in and around the building several hours after the library closed. This causes the same safety/supervision/liability concerns, as the teachers may leave according to their contracted hours, and students are left to the supervision of office staff and administration for many hours past the library closure time, or after school activity end time.

Students were told that they may wait in the courtyard for parents to pick them up, but not for long periods of time.

We’ve asked students to not gather in the courtyard/portico because staff supervision is not available during lunch time and at recesses.

New Green Card Policy including who emails should be sent to in office

We’re asking parents to send a written, faxed (206) 252-3511, or an email note to school stating that your child is going home on a bus that they are not assigned to. Messages may be emailed to the child’s teacher, or fax a note to school letting us know where your child should go at the end of the day. The child should give the note to the teacher, or an office person, early in the day to eliminate long lines in the office, buses having to wait, and missed buses at the end of the day because it took too long to hand out the green cards or make phone calls. Also, if a child is to be given a green card to go home with another child after school, please plan ahead, as we need a note from the family requesting the green card letting us know that this is okay with all parties.

If you call the office to get messages to your child, please do so before the end of the day rush. Call by early afternoon to ensure that office staff has enough time to relay the message to the child... (206) 252-3510.

Staggered use of playground equipment on Rogers Field

Middle School, our deaf children, and 1st and 2nd grades have overlapping recesses. Because of this we needed to organize their free time in a way that gives them access to age appropriate equipment with adequate supervision. The playground supervisors have already reported great cooperation and cross grade interactions.

Middle School Public Displays of Affection (“hugging”)

Older students everywhere need to understand the parameters around public displays of affection and the impact they have on those around them.

After School Activities Will Continue

That said, TOPS will continue to provide the wide array of supervised after school activities including sports, various clubs, and study tables that are an integral part of our educational and social community. However, many middle school activities and the middle school activity bus are funded by a grant, and are specifically designed for middle school students. They are not appropriate for younger students. I have had a conversation with Aaron at KIDSCO, and he has informed me that there are plenty of spaces available left for our families who need before and after school child-care. They also have scholarships available to assist families with child-care. Aaron may be contacted at (206)709-8487.

Thank you for your understanding and support in keeping our kids safe. I hope that this letter clarifies some of the confusion that you may have around the rules and expectations. I look forward to working with you this year.

Sincerely,

Jo Lute-Ervin
Principal
TOPS K-8

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MATH OLYMPIAD

Math Olympiad begins Thursday, Oct 22, for students in grades 3-6.

If you would like to participate and have not turned in your permission slip, now is the time to do so. See the Go-Home for more information, and contact Debbie Bermet, dbermet@seattleschools.org, with questions. Extra forms are available in the office.

Note: There has been a change to the principal's original letter: the green card policy is still the same as before. The office does NOT need a note from both families for a green card, only the green cardholder.
NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY AND BEYOND

By Steve Haines

There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them.

- JOSEPH BRODSKY

So what do Dav Pilkey’s The Adventures of Captain Underpants, Harper Lee’s To Kill a Mockingbird, and Maurice Sendak’s In the Night Kitchen have in common? These books were all at one time challenged or banned for their content. To call attention to the danger that exists when restraints are put on the availability of information in a free society, the American Library Association hosts a Banned Book Week. This year’s celebration of our freedom to read occurred from September 26 to October 3. As a part of this event, Book-It All Over! Repertory Theatre presented “Danger Books!” to our 5th-8th graders in an afternoon assembly on September 23. This is the seventh year that Seattle Public Library has sponsored this event at TOPS. The actors used a reader’s theatre format to present selections from three books that have been banned or challenged. Then they led a spirited question and answer session about the whole idea of “intellectual freedom.” Jennifer Robinson, SPL Young Adult Librarian, visited several classes to further the discussion.

“Books and ideas are the most effective weapons against intolerance and ignorance.” - Lyndon B. Johnson

Say you are on a trip to someplace like Glacier National Park. While there, you observe nature at its finest, including several huge grizzly bears. Being of a curious nature you want to learn more about them when you return home. You wonder if our library has any books that could help you out. Oh, there’s an Internet café in the park, let’s check. Wow, you mean you can find out by going to www.library.seattleschools.org (SPS Online Student Resources) to look in our library catalog? No way! You can even go to the World Book Encyclopedia by clicking on the link and typing in the username W001CSEATL and the password WELCOME, to find out about Glacier National Park. These options and many more, including what to do about this huge report you have to complete about the trip, can be found at this website. It’s a great resource for anything, from what to do about your aching back (MedlinePlus), to what book to read next (Novelist).

Many new books are in and ready to be used by our community; everything from the latest Suzanne Collins book, Catching Fire, to books for help with our new writing program. Time to come in to peruse them!

New Library hours are from 8:50 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

DO YOU LOVE ART?
Haven’t signed up for anything yet?

Then consider joining our current ArtFest Coordinator to become this year’s Co-Coordinator.

8th grade parent Nancy Hom is looking for someone to job share this year’s ArtFest coordinator position, so that parent can learn the ropes and see how we put together this amazing art show (to see pictures from previous years, check out page 7 of the September 2009 TOPS Newsletter). The show is every May of the school year but we start preparing for it in the Fall. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Hom at skallywag@comcast.net
TOPS Coalition for Social Justice

The Coalition for Social Justice (CSJ) is a group of parents and staff united in support of the mission and vision statement of TOPS. We seek to understand and honor cultural diversity and social justice with our commitment to create, in our school and broader community, an anti-bias and multi-cultural environment in which every child can experience her or himself as intellectually, socially, and emotionally capable and successful, and every family feels welcome, respected and supported. Toward this end our charge is to:

- Educate ourselves and the school community about issues of academic equity, cultural competency, and anti-bias curriculum.
- Work with staff and families to ensure that all children meet or exceed high academic standards—supporting staff as they incorporate/integrate an anti-bias, multicultural curriculum that explores multiple perspectives.
- Encourage participation by all members of the school community—of every background and culture—especially those who may feel invisible or unheard.
- Provide a space for people with diverse cultural, institutional, and personal perspectives to respectfully discuss issues relating to social justice in the life of the school community.

BACKGROUND

The Coalition for Social Justice was created in 2001 as an outgrowth of diversity representation on Site Council. The Diversity Coalition and study circles were formed to proactively understand and eliminate bias of all kinds in our school. CSJ sponsored activities are funded through a combination of monies received via the Friends of TOPS Request for Proposal process and a grant received from King County, specifically earmarked for increasing student, staff, parent, and community members’ awareness of social justice issues.

In the past the Coalition for Social Justice has acquired multicultural books for library and classrooms, sponsored race and education study circles, held forums addressing academic achievement, presented TOPS Movie Nights featuring social justice related films, organized the Taste of TOPS; sponsored translation and child-care to insure participation at TOPS meetings and events, organized the new family mentoring and orientation program, and organized social justice related TOPICS for elementary students.

The Coalition for Social Justice will meet on the third Thursday of each month in the TOPS Library to discuss and plan activities in support of:

- **Inclusion**—making sure that all families in our community are fully included in a way that honors and values our differences
- **CARE (Coaching All to Respect Everyone)**—TOPS Anti-Bullying Program
- **Planting the Seeds**—an 8th grade project focused on homelessness
- **Taste of TOPS**

Please come to these CSJ meetings and be a part of supporting TOPS’ mission!

The Coalition for Social Justice is looking for more input from families and volunteer support. Please consider devoting your volunteer hours at TOPS to CSJ. Contact Karen Stuhldreher at kstuhldr@sccd.ctc.edu for information.

Looking for fun activities for your child after school?

Check out Kids Co.!!!

The Kids Co. program at TOPS has openings in our before school program (7:00-9:00 a.m.) and our after school program (3:30-6:00 p.m.). We run a high quality program with fun and enriching activities. Our curriculum includes sports, arts & crafts, cooking, drama, and social skills building, and it’s a safe place to grow and make new friends. Please call Aaron at 709-8487 to register your child!
Welcome to the CSJ Corner where you can look to find out what the Coalition for Social Justice has planned. Please mark your calendars for meetings and events! The Coalition for Social Justice will meet on the third Thursday of each month in the TOPS Library from 5:30-7:30. Our goal this year is to build a larger group that is committed to discussing and working on issues of diversity, social justice, and inclusion at TOPS.

CSJ Corner

Welcome Back to TOPS:
Sunday, October 4, 1-4 p.m. Ice Cream Social and Kick Off for the No-Bake Fundraiser. Join us in the TOPS courtyard for ice cream, fun and games, and learn about CSJ, Site Council, TOPICS, the music program, and, of course, the No-Bake.

Birds, Bees, and Your Kids:
Thursday, October 22, 6-8 p.m. in the TOPS Library. Parent and sexual health educator Amy Lang, MA presents a lively and engaging discussion about teen sexuality. Parents learn what works for kids, have time to talk about their own experiences and values, and learn about teen sexual behavior in an open and candid atmosphere. This talk is in lieu of CSJ’s regular meeting.

See related articles on each of these events.

CSJ Corner

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 Karen Stuhldreher at kstuhldr@sccd.ctc.edu for more information.

Meet the New Principal
continued from page 1

Ms. Lute-Ervin loves music and art. At Leschi, she was able to expand music programming, and she hopes to expand choir and instrumental music options at TOPS as well. She sees the biggest challenge to doing so is the TOPS schedule.

Ms. Lute-Ervin is married, has two grown sons, and two grandsons. Her oldest son has a degree in computer science and her youngest is a senior at Western Washington University. She loves all types of dancing, especially swing dance, likes to swim, likes walks and bike riding, likes knitting and crocheting, and loves playing the harmonica.

If you haven’t already, please take a moment to stop by the office and introduce yourself to Ms. Lute-Ervin. She is looking forward to meeting all the families and students at TOPS.
Welcome Back!

Photos by Don Zemke
First Day of School 2009-2010
**ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL AUDIT AT TOPS**

By Susan Welch, Site Council Chair, and Janis White, Assistant Site Council Chair

Did you know that TOPS was one of Seattle’s original alternative schools, and was part of an urban alternative school movement that arose in the early 1970's? The Options Program at Stevens (TOPS) was established by a group of dedicated parents and teachers in 1976 and was housed in portables at Stevens Elementary on Capitol Hill. Please stay tuned for Wayne Duncan’s article in the November newsletter for more on the history of our amazing school and the community involvement that has made it thrive for over 30 years.

Seattle Public Schools has commissioned a non-profit organization (Council of the Great City Schools) to evaluate TOPS and other alternative schools in the district. They will be assessing our overall program, what we do well, and what can be improved when compared with national best practices. Dr. Maria Goodloe-Johnson, the Seattle Schools Superintendent, has assured us that the District will collaborate with stakeholders as they decide which of the final report recommendations they will implement. Site visits to Seattle’s alternative schools and interviews of stakeholders will be conducted from October 12-14, and a final report is expected some time in spring 2010.

The TOPS Site Council was first informed late last spring that the CGCS, a Washington, D.C. organization (http://www.cgcs.org/), would be conducting the audit. CGCS is a non-profit collective of the 66 largest urban school districts in the nation, including Seattle. They bring together a team of leaders from various urban school systems around the country that have content-specific expertise. The team members volunteer their time on review teams for audits and evaluations such as the alternative education audit planned for Seattle. For the alternative schools audit, we understand that the CGCS team will include people from other member school districts with experience working with “magnet” schools that resemble Seattle’s alternative schools.

Site Council views the audit as a great opportunity for the entire TOPS community to showcase our highly sought after K-8 program, as well as our talented and devoted staff and parent volunteers. More importantly, it provides an opportunity for our community to dialogue about what makes us successful and how we can continue to evolve and improve in a mindful way.

A task force has been working for the past several months to better understand the audit and to prepare materials for it. While we believe that CGCS is a solid organization with a valuable mission, our task force has had questions about their lack of experience in conducting audits of similar alternative schools in other cities, and about the methodology and timeline for the evaluation. These concerns were highlighted when we learned that the “on site” audit of seven schools* would be conducted over just three days.

We have also been working to build awareness within our community about the value of not only our alternative history, but our present framework and future as an alternative school. An important part of protecting that legacy includes revisiting our past successes and shortcomings, as well as refreshing our mission, our goals, and the vibrancy of our community involvement and leadership model of governance.

In 2006, the School Board adopted Policy C54.00 as its guiding policy for alternative schools (see the document at http://www.seattleschools.org/area/policies/c/C54.00.pdf). This document broadly frames the status that separates alternative schools from other schools in the district. An important aspect of successful alternative schools captured in the C54.00 Policy is the earned autonomy that has allowed our model of “shared governance” to thrive for over 30 years.

Please stay informed and involved in the TOPS community discussion in the weeks ahead so that we may work together to maintain the legacy of our school - both with respect to how our school operates now, and how it will grow and improve as one of Seattle’s foremost alternative education schools well into the future.

*TOPS, Salmon Bay, Nova, Orca, AS #1, Thornton Creek, Pathfinder

Photo by Don Zemke
2009 - 2010 TOPS Calendar

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

OCTOBER
1 (Th)...........Curriculum Night,
Grades K, 2, 3, and DHH
2 (F).............Grades 4th, 6th, and S.E. to SCT
6 (T).............Picture Day – middle school
7 (W).............Picture Day – elementary school
9 (F)..............Professional development day; no school
14 (W)...........Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.
16 (F).............Grades 4th, 6th, and S.E. to SCT
18 (M)...........Martin Luther King Day holiday; no school
21 (Th)...........CSJ meeting, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
22 (F)............Birds and Bees and Your Kids, Amy Lang, 6 p.m., TOPS Library
23 (F)...............K to SCT
28 (W).............Professional development block time; 2-hour early dismissal
30 (F)............TOPICS, middle school

NOVEMBER
4 (W)............DHH to SCT
6 (F).............TOPICS, elementary school
6 (F)..............End of first quarter
11 (W)...........Veteran's Day; no school
19 (Th)...........Coalition for Social Justice (CSJ) meeting, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
23-25 (M-W) .Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences; no school
26-27 (Th-F) ...Thanksgiving Holiday; no school

DECEMBER
2 (W).............DHH to SCT
4 (F).............Grades 1st – 4th, S.E. to SCT
8 (T).............TOPS Music Concert
9 (W)............Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.
10 (Th)..........Middle school play
11 (F)..........Middle school play
11 (F)..........TOPICS, elementary school
18 (F)..........Early dismissal, 2:20 p.m.
21-31 ..........Winter Break; no school

JANUARY
1 (F).............Winter Break; no school
4 (M).............School resumes
13 (W)...........Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.
15 (F)..........Martin Luther King Assembly, 2 p.m.
18 (M)..........Martin Luther King Day holiday; no school
21 (Th)..........CSJ meeting, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
22 (F)..........TOPICS, elementary school
28 (Th)...........Last day of semester
29 (F)...........Day between semesters; no school

FEBRUARY
3 (W).............Professional development block time; 2-hour early dismissal
10 (W)...........Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.
10 (W)...........DHH to SCT
12 (F)...........Grades 2nd, 3rd, S.E. to SCT
12 (F)...........Kindergarten 100 Day Celebration
15 (M)...........Presidents Day; no school
16-19 (T-F)....Mid-winter break; no school
26 (F)...........Grades 2nd – 6th, S.E., to SCT

MARCH
3 (W).............Professional development block time; 2-hour early dismissal
10 (W)...........Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.
10-12 (W-F)....6th grade Camp
12 (F)..........TOPICS, elementary school
18 (Th)...........Taste of TOPS.
19 (F)..........Professional development day; no school
26 (F)..........TOPICS, elementary school
26 (F)..........Kindergarten ABC Celebration
29-31 (M-W) ..Spring Break; no school

APRIL
1-2 (Th-F).......Spring Break; no school
9 (F).............TOPICS, elementary school
14 (W)..........Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.
14 (W)..........Poetry Festival
15 (Th)..........Poetry Festival
16 (F)..........Grade 3, S.E. to SCT
16 (F)..........End of third quarter
30 (F)..........TOPICS, middle school

MAY
1 (S)..............TOPS Auction, 5 p.m.
5 (W)............DHH to SCT
7 (F).............Grades K, 1st, and 5th, S.E. to SCT
12 (W)..........Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.
14 (F)..........TOPICS, elementary school
14 (F)..........ArtFest
19 (W)..........Professional development block time; 2-hour early dismissal
26 (W)..........Spring TOPS Music Concert, 2 p.m.
31 (M)..........Memorial Day; no school

JUNE
2-4 (W-F)......7th grade Camp
9 (W)..........Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.
10 (Th)..........Kindergarten Puppet show
10-11 (Th-F)...3rd – 4th grade Camp Arnold
16 (W)..........State Museum, Library
18 (F)..........8th Grade Passage
18 (F)..........Awards Assembly
21 (M)..........Field Day
21 (M)..........Wild Waves
22 (T)..........Last student day, 2:20 p.m. dismissal

Photo by Don Zemke
Did you know? Pennies made from 1793 to 1837 were pure copper. Today the alloy is 97.5% zinc and only 2.5% copper.

**Penny Harvest is coming!**

Commencing Monday, October 26 through Monday, November 30, 2009 students in Seattle, New York, Colorado, Florida, Ohio, and Tennessee will all be harvesting pennies en masse. We will all be part of the national launch for Common Cents, New York, and Penny Harvest, Seattle. Penny Harvest is an outstanding service-learning program that teaches students how to collect money for a good cause and give back to others. Penny harvest collection bags will be handed out soon!

For more information: [www.PennyHarvest.org](http://www.PennyHarvest.org)

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**Your Newsletter Needs You!**

The newsletter needs two new volunteers:

1. **A Bulk Mail Volunteer:** pick up newsletters from G&H Printing on Eastlake and organize for bulk mailing and deliver to the School District. Usually happens during or close to the last week of the month.

2. **Site Council Reporter:** attend Site Council meetings and write up a report to include in the newsletter.

Contact the newsletter editors at topsnewsletter@gmail.com if you’re interested or have questions.

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Photo by Don Zemke
The goal of the TOPS Chinese Language and Culture program is to provide Chinese language instruction that is fun and developmentally-appropriate. The emphasis is on speaking and listening with some character writing. We hope it will give the kids important early exposure to foreign languages and will instill in them a love of language learning and an appreciation of Chinese culture. Classes are offered in three sections, with grades 1-5 starting in October, and Kindergartners starting in January. Classes are open to students entering the program at any level. Class runs from 3:40-4:25, with snack provided at the start.

### Grades 1-2 Beginning
- No prior instruction OR instruction through Kindergarten class.
- Thursdays: Starts October 29, 2009
- Cost: $140 for 22 weeks

### Grades 2-5 Intermediate
- Prior instruction in grade 1 or higher.
- Tuesdays: Starts October 27, 2009
- Cost: $140 for 22 weeks

### Kindergarten
- Open to all K students.
- Tuesdays: Starts January 5, 2010
- Cost: $75 for 16 weeks

#### Teacher:
Pollyanna (Yea-Jae) Wang will return for her third year teaching Chinese at TOPS. A Chinese native, she holds a Masters in Education degree from Ohio State. She has taught Chinese for close to a decade, and she currently teaches Chinese at University Prep. She participated in a federally-funded program that aims to combine Chinese language instruction with Math.

Teacher: Xiao Yu Jackson is a Chinese interpreter and parent at TOPS. She is a native of Hunan Province. She majored in Psychology at San Francisco State and is currently pursuing her Masters in Social Work at the UW. This will be her 5th year teaching Mandarin at TOPS.

**Funding:** The TOPS Chinese Language and Culture class is parent-funded. We have a Site Council grant this year, and that money is being used to reduce tuition for all enrolled students. If you would like to request additional scholarship help, please let us know on the attached application.

**Contacts:** The Chinese program is run by parents. For more information on how you can volunteer, please contact: Nancy Bacon (nancy@bahiastreet.org).

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

- Grade 1-2 Beginning (Thurs)
- Grade 2-5 Intermediate (Tues)
- Kindergarten class (Tuesdays starting Jan)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child's Name</th>
<th>Parent's Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>Alternative Phone (Cell)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent's Email</td>
<td>Child's Grade</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Prior Chinese Learning
  - None
  - Some
  - A Lot

- Allergies or Special Concerns (Children will be served a snack before class begins.)

**Please return this form and a check to the TOPS Main Office. Checks should be written out to: Friends of TOPS. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis—please sign up soon!**

- Full Tuition is enclosed. $_________.
- I am requesting a partial scholarship. I can pay and am enclosing $_________. (Note that you must pay something towards the program fee.)
- I would like to contribute the following amount to the Scholarship & Program Development Fund. $_________.

---
TOPS STAFF, 2009-2010, UPDATED

Principal
Jo Lute-Ervin ................................................................. office .................................. jleravin@seattleschools.org ........................................... 252-3510

Assistant Principal
Jeanne Kuban ................................................................. office .................................. jmkuban@seattleschools.org ........................................... 252-3510

Administrative Secretary
Patty Woodward ................................................................. office .................................. pwoodward@seattleschools.org ........................................... 252-3510

Attendance Secretary
Tammie Boodel ................................................................. office .................................. tboodel@seattleschools.org ........................................... 252-3518

Counselor
Jennifer Murray ................................................................. office .................................. jmurray@seattleschools.org ........................................... 252-3529

Custodial Engineer
Saream Dy ................................................................. custodial office .................................. sady@seattleschools.org ........................................... 252-3525

Evening Custodian
Kieu Bui ................................................................. custodial office .................................. 252-3525

Lunchroom Manager
Annie Meyer ................................................................. lunchroom .................................. ammeyer@seattleschools.org ........................................... 252-3523

Nurse
Annie Uomoto ................................................................. nurse’s office .................................. auomoto@seattleschools.org ........................................... 252-3521

Office Assistant/ASB
Colette Hubbard ................................................................. office .................................. chubbard@seattleschools.org ........................................... 252-3513

Office Assistant/Budget
Elizabeth Ward ................................................................. office .................................. enward@seattleschools.org ........................................... 252-3512

Psychologist
John Lynch ................................................................. B conf. rm .................................. jflynch@seattleschools.org ........................................... 252-3528

Student Activities and Service Coordinator
Sheri Toussaint ................................................................. office .................................. sltoussaint@seattleschools.org ........................................... 252-3510

Volunteer Coordinator
Sandy Shettler ................................................................. office .................................. ssashettler@seattleschools.org ........................................... 252-3541

TEACHING STAFF

Kindergarten
Joby Moore ................................................................. C106 ........................................... 252-3552
Joan O’Connor ................................................................. C105 ........................................... 252-3551

Peak Breakout Teacher
TBA ................................................................. 252-3553

Grade 1
Jessica Pugsley ................................................................. C103 ........................................... 252-3569
Sarah Marks ................................................................. C104 ........................................... 252-3550

Grade 2
Tracy Seefeld ................................................................. C102 ........................................... 252-3570
Julie Gillett ................................................................. C201 ........................................... 252-3544

Grade 3
Leslie Nilan ................................................................. C302 ........................................... 252-3546
Katie Waters ................................................................. C303 ........................................... 252-3547

Grade 4
Leslie Hazlewood-Spurr ................................................................. C301 ........................................... 252-3545
Kristina Stoneberg ................................................................. C304 ........................................... 252-3548
### Grade 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade/Subject</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Email</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nina Binder</td>
<td>B205</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:nlbinder@seattleschools.org">nlbinder@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libby Sinclair</td>
<td>B204</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:eaisinclair@seattleschools.org">eaisinclair@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3555</td>
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### Grade 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guy Lawrence, math/science</td>
<td>B302</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:gelawrence@seattleschools.org">gelawrence@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marianne Clarke, social studies/language arts</td>
<td>B301</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:mpcclarke@seattleschools.org">mpcclarke@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3558</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Grades 7-8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dan Bloedel, science</td>
<td>B303</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:dnbloedel@seattleschools.org">dnbloedel@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lori Eickelberg, language arts</td>
<td>B403</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bneickelberg@seattleschools.org">bneickelberg@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Ellis, math</td>
<td>B404</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:mellellis@seattleschools.org">mellellis@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom O'Connor, social studies</td>
<td>B402</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:toconnor@seattleschools.org">toconnor@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3563</td>
</tr>
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### Art

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Livak (K-4)</td>
<td>B401</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bmlivak@seattleschools.org">bmlivak@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luzita Roll (5-8)</td>
<td>B401</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bmlroll@seattleschools.org">bmlroll@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3562</td>
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### D/HH Program

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Beck</td>
<td>B203</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:cjbeck@seattleschools.org">cjbeck@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Hayden</td>
<td>C101</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:eahayden@seattleschools.org">eahayden@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3567</td>
</tr>
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#### Instructional Assistant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade/Subject</th>
<th>Room</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seth Ziegler</td>
<td>B203</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:szziegler@seattleschools.org">szziegler@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3543</td>
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#### Audiologist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Room</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erin Donlin</td>
<td>C101</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:edodonlin@seattleschools.org">edodonlin@seattleschools.org</a></td>
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### English Language Learning (ELL/ESL)

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ellen Riggs</td>
<td>B300</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ecriggs@seattleschools.org">ecriggs@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3542</td>
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#### Bilingual Instructional Assistants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xiao-Yu Jackson</td>
<td>B206</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:xyjackson@seattleschools.org">xyjackson@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Wong</td>
<td>B305</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:akwong@seattleschools.org">akwong@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thuy Ho</td>
<td>B305</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ttho@seattleschools.org">ttho@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3563</td>
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### Librarian

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steve Haines</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:shaines@seattleschools.org">shaines@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3530</td>
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### Math Specialist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debbie Bermet</td>
<td>B306</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:dsbermet@seattleschools.org">dsbermet@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3534</td>
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### Middle School Special Education

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judy Holben</td>
<td>B202</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jnholben@seattleschools.org">jnholben@seattleschools.org</a></td>
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#### Instructional Assistant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beth Engel</td>
<td>B202</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bethengel@seattleschools.org">bethengel@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3573</td>
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### Music

<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sari Breznau</td>
<td><a href="mailto:saribreznau@hotmail.com">saribreznau@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>252-3510</td>
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### Occupational/Physical Therapy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leslie Reed</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lkreed@seattleschools.org">lkreed@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-4776</td>
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### Physical Education

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eric Herndon</td>
<td>gym</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:elherndon@seattleschools.org">elherndon@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Zemke</td>
<td>gym</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:dwzemke@seattleschools.org">dwzemke@seattleschools.org</a></td>
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### Reading Specialist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carla Fetterley</td>
<td>B201</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:cafetterley@seattleschools.org">cafetterley@seattleschools.org</a></td>
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### Special Education Resource Room

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jenny Gamache (K-5)</td>
<td>B304</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jmgamache@seattleschools.org">jmgamache@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3560</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Burger (6-8)</td>
<td>B304</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jfburger@seattleschools.org">jfburger@seattleschools.org</a></td>
<td>252-3560</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome to TOPS

Fun and Games and Ice Cream Social

Sunday, October 4
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
TOPS Gym & Courtyard

Meet and Greet Your Friends, Old and New
Come Ready for Bouncy Houses, Activities and Fun
Enjoy Some Ice Cream and Learn About CSJ, Site Council, TOPICS, the Music Programs, and the No-Bake

Sponsored by the No-Bake Committee and the Coalition for Social Justice

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