Dear TOPS Families,

Spring has arrived and with it came such interesting and wonderful events and activities at TOPS. Taste of TOPS, Sustainable Table, was thoroughly enjoyable and informative. A big thank you goes to Lynne Goodrich, Karen Stuhldreher, Suzanne Oelke, Nancy Spragins, and the numerous other parents, along with Tom O'Connor, Guy Lawrence, and the whole middle school staff for planning and organizing this event. Also, thank you to Cindy Suzumura and Laurie Stusser for the great art projects on the stage in the gym. The kids really loved it! Your work is much appreciated.

The third graders from Leslie's class performed an outstanding A Midsummer Night's Dream. It was great to see so many parents enjoying the students' hard work. It was a wonderful example of the quality enrichment that happens here. The kids were FABULOUS!!

There have been many field trips across the grades, interesting TOPICS. Did you know that there are 14,000 different types of rice? Well, I was amazed by this fact during one of our TOPIC sessions. The kids were totally excited to share this information with me during my visit. Also, we had a very cute Kindergarten singing concert complete with alphabet hats and snacks for all. The beautiful weather makes the after school outdoor sports even more exhilarating. Academics are still humming along, too. In April you should have received report cards and your child's MAP information. We continue to learn how to best utilize this data to increase student learning and pinpoint instruction. Another MAP testing window began later in April. It's the last one for the school year.

We need your help in an area that directly affects student safety before and after school. Please do not drop off your students at school before 8:45 a.m. There is no planned supervision for students to ensure their safety before that time. Also, please remember to pick up your students at the end of the school day unless they are involved in after school activities. Timely pick-up after the activities is greatly appreciated as well.

Thank you to the parents who have been joining us in the lunchroom! The extra hands and eyes are always helpful and the children benefit from additional caring adults supervising lunch and recess. We hope that everyone had a lovely Spring Break, and was able to spend some quality and fun time with family.

~Jo

---

Taste of TOPS Pictures - See pages 6-7

"Only when the last tree has died and the last river been poisoned and the last fish been caught will we realize we cannot eat money."

~ Cree Indian Proverb

---

**TOPS at Seward**
2500 Franklin Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98102
Phone: (206) 252-3510
Fax: (206) 252-3511

**Principal:** Jo Lute-Ervin

**Assistant Principal:**
Jeanne Kuban

**Site Council Chair:**
Susan Welch

**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.
About the Outrageous Publishing Service


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 June issue is May 7. Would you like to edit or otherwise help with our newsletter? Newcomers welcome. Please contact Ann, Dori, or Doriane at topsnewsletter@gmail.com.

TASTE OF TOPS

By Lynne Goodrich

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HELPED MAKE THE 2010 TASTE OF TOPS A VERY SPECIAL EVENT. WE RAISED MORE THAN $350.00 TO DONATE TO LETTUCE LINK!!!

Planning committee:

- Middle School faculty: Lori Eickelberg, Guy Lawrence, Tom O’Connor.

Special Thanks to:

- Cynthia Livak and Julie Gillett for helping students to create the amazing flowerpot centerpieces for the lunchroom.
- Laurie Stusser-McNeil, Cindy Suzumura, Tasha Atchison and Arika Townsend for organizing and monitoring the fabulous Recycled Objects Family Art activity.
- Seream Dy and Kieu Bui for expert set up and take down.
- Annie Meyer, lunchroom manager, for assisting with all aspects of the potluck and clean up.
- Catherine Staunton for booking Dana Lyons, singer/performer.
- Johnny Calcagno for help with sound in the library.
- Susan Welch for finding wonderful sustainable themed books for the Book Fair.
- Steve Haines for organization of events in the library.
- Karen Keeley, Kiery Clawson, Missy Chow, Meghan Johnson for selling raffle tickets.
- Judith Lee, Dennis Yasukochi, Grace Palisoc, Julie Alexander, Michelle Layton, Karen Keeley for cleaning up the lunchroom.
- Marianne Clarke and Mark Ellis for procuring raffle prizes and help during the event.
- Middle School ASB students who helped sell raffle tickets and make event announcements.
- Patty Woodward and Colette Hubbard who provided much assistance and answered endless questions from Lynne.
- Community groups that shared sustainability information with us:
  - Mariposa Landscapes
  - Tilth Children's Garden
  - 2 Brown Chicks Family Farm
  - Burpee family
  - Cascadian Edible Landscapes
  - Cascade Bicycle Club
  - Environmental Outreach and Stewardship Alliance
- Local businesses that donated raffle prizes:
  - City People's
  - Eat Local
  - PCC Natural Markets
  - Square Foot Gardens
  - Burpee Family

(We apologize for any omissions in thanking staff and families – we appreciate the help of everyone and could not have pulled off a successful Taste of TOPS without your help.)
Food, Inc.

By Brandon Nguyen, Grade 6

Food, Inc. was an eye-opening movie for me and a lot of my friends who watched it. Some of the most important facts that made me think about the way people eat in America were the following:

- There are increasing rates of Salmonella and E. Coli bacteria in the foods we eat and buy. Outbreaks have increased since 2007.
- There is not enough FDA testing and inspecting of foods.
- Americans eat a lot of meat (average about 200 lbs.) a year.
- One in three Americans born after 2000 will contract early onset diabetes.
- 30% of the land in the U.S. is used for planting corn. Corn (used in animal feed and food additive) is used in a majority of the processed foods that we eat and buy.
- The top four beef packers control more than 80% of the market compared to 25% in the 1970s.
- The average chicken farmer invests over $500,000 and makes only $18,000 a year.
- 32,000 hogs a day are killed in Smithfield Hog Processing Plant in Tar Heel, N.C., which is the largest slaughterhouse in the world.
- Organics is increasingly popular (increasing 20% annually).
- 70% of processed foods have some genetically modified ingredient.

I think that Food, Inc. was a very persuasive movie because of its facts and scenes such as the slaughterhouse kills. It was also interesting that the people in the slaughterhouses refused to be interviewed. It made me think about the types of food we should choose to eat because so many have not been properly inspected and because of all the food additives that are in them. Another thing that was interesting was how fast foods such as sodas and candies were cheaper than vegetables such as lettuce and spinach. People tend to buy things that are cheaper and easily accessible to them. Back in the old days families would buy fresh products, not processed foods, and made dinner. Processed and fast foods are more convenient to families because of their hectic fast-paced lifestyle. This resulted in child obesity and early diabetes especially after 2000.

In conclusion, I think that it was appropriate to show this type of movie to students because it would change the way they would eat. Hopefully, more students will eat more healthily and not choose fast foods and processed foods. I would enjoy a nice peanut butter and jelly sandwich over a Big Mac any day.

Food, Inc.

By Marius Toussaint, Grade 6

The theme of Taste of TOPS was really interesting to me because after seeing Food, Inc. I wanted to change more of my eating habits. It also got me wondering if my family and I could change even more of the good food we already eat. I thought it would be a good idea if we got all our food from Whole Foods because I thought it was going to be better for us. My mom said it was too expensive to buy everything from Whole Foods but we could make even better choices at Safeway and Trader Joes. Some of the things that we already do are: we bring reusable bags to the store, we always cook our meat to the temperature that kills all the e-coli in the meat and we don’t go to cheap fast food restaurants (except for Wendy’s because I love their chicken burgers). One day my sister bought Hillshire Farm turkey meat at Safeway and on the ride home I said to my mom and sister that the farm that they show on the packaging is not where the meat is actually from. That it is really from a slaughter house.

Some of the most interesting things that Food, Inc. said were that in the largest slaughter house in the world 32,000 hogs are killed every day. McDonalds is the largest buyer of chicken, pork, potatoes, tomatoes, and apples. In the U.S. right now one out of three kids will get diagnosed with diabetes and of those kids one out of two are kids of color. Most farmers only earn $18,000 every year from the companies they raise animals for. They have to pay for the chicken houses themselves which cost $500,000 but with making only $18,000 a year they can’t pay off their debt. So with the small amount of money they get paid it is hard for them to pay for the chicken house upgrades so they need to keep borrowing more and more money.

Continued next page
from the companies. So that means the companies keep the farmers in debt and keep them having to work for them.

To summarize I thought Food, Inc. was very factual and opened my eyes about how food is raised and produced. I recommend the movie to anyone who loves ground beef and chicken.

**Food, Inc.**

*By Riley Calcagno, Grade 6*

Food, Inc. was a spectacular movie that is gut wrenching at the same time. This movie got my attention at its fullest. It was entertaining and informative at the same time.

There were many significant facts and parts of the movie but perhaps the most important one for me was Monsanto. This may be because I am a vegetarian and so I don't have to worry about meat as much but it also brought out the heartless evil people that Monsanto and other companies are owned and controlled by. It was also amazing to me because I had eaten soybeans that were from Monsanto. I could go on and on about this but I won't. That is because we have to get on with more disturbing things. One more thing, Monsanto controlled two percent of the soybeans in 1996. Now they control 90 percent of all soybeans. They own the soybean.

E coli 0157:H7. Awful. This has given me nightmares, well almost. To think that something can be done to stop it. That innocent people like Kevin and the boy from Seattle are getting killed by this terrible disease. Perhaps the grossest thing about this E coli is what is being done to stop it. 70 percent of the hamburger patties in the U.S.A. have ammonia filler in them. Ammonia is poison. If you drank it you would die.

We need to make a difference.

---

**Food, Inc.**

*By Emma Simonson, Grade 6*

What I learned about sustainability at the Taste of TOPS was that you should buy local or/and organic food. You might even want to plant a garden because this will help not pollute and you won't get sick from the food as easily. If you buy organic or local, then trucks, boats or airplanes won't have to travel far, so you aren't polluting. I also learned that when you use rain barrels and they're full of water you can water your plants, and you're saving water, re-using rain water.

Some things that I might/have done/will do is that I am more careful about what I'm eating. Which means looking at food labels, buying healthier foods. I also talked to my parents, and when my mom goes to the store, she also looks at food labels and buys grass fed or organic meat. She also tries to get healthier or more organic foods.

When I go to the store with her, we look at the labels together, to see what's in the foods we buy. I am just more careful about what I eat. I don't want to die because I ate contaminated meat!

---

**Food, Inc.**

*By Spencer Cook, Grade 6*

When I saw Food, Inc., it was like I started living in a whole different world. I didn't stop eating meat, but now I check where the meat was produced and I check the food labels that are on the back of whatever I eat to see how many corn products are in the product. Some of the disturbing things for me were that one company controlled the entire soybean market especially when soybeans are a commodity crop. Another thing is that an American on average eats 200 pounds of meat a year, and that America uses up an average 60 percent of the Earth's resources each year. We will soon be surpassed by China with its huge population but all this means is that the U.S.A. is a fat and demanding country. Another thing that disturbed me was how the meat was prepared. The meat makers actually made the meat, which is disgusting. They don't care about the health of their customers, only about getting the money in the customers' pocket.

---

**Food, Inc.**

*By Helen Maclay, Grade 6*

To me it felt that how we process our food is really disturbing. The few different companies that “grow” our food are basically only doing this to make money, not so we (the people who eat this food) are healthy and getting food the right way. To me, the right way of getting food is getting food that doesn't have all of these chemicals in it. Also getting food/animals whose bodies aren't genetically modified. I think getting food the wrong way is getting/buying food that is genetically modified. Chicken that are grown to have two times more meat but are grown in 48 days instead of 72 days, like a regular chicken.

One thing that really got to me was that 80 percent of all of the soybeans grown are Monsanto's genetically modified soybeans which are immune to the weed and plant killer Round-Up.

So much of the food that we eat every day is genetically modified so that there can be more mass production and so that more money is made for the companies. Do we really want to eat genetically modified food? I don't think we do.

---

**Food, Inc.**

*By Nalica Hennings, Grade 6*

What I feel was the most significant fact was that the average chicken farmer borrows $500,000 and they make about $18,000 a year, meaning that they will never pay off their debt. Also, they feed the animals corn because it is cheaper. They even feed it to fish. People can not eat this corn. Another is that they clean their meat with ammonia at the processing plants.

Another fact is that people are being pushed to buy fast food because the healthy stuff is too expensive. It used to be that only adults could get type 2 diabetes, but now kids are getting it too.

*Continued next page*
32,000 hogs are slaughtered every day. The people that work at the factories are called human machines.

I think that the concept of Food, Inc. is that what is going on in the food business, we don’t even know what is going on and we think that if someone gets a disease from eating something that it is the restaurant’s fault but it is the factory that you get it from's fault or maybe even the government.

I also think that the concept is that we can change what is going on in the food business.

Food, Inc.

By Victoria Arellano, Grade 6

What I thought about Food, Inc. the movie was that it actually was kind of sad because they showed how they killed the chickens, hogs, and cows.

It was also sad when Kevin died. But it was even more sad when the mom told the story and she was crying and when I see someone cry I cry but at that moment I didn't cry even though it was really sad. I think that it was impressive when they said the corn could make a lot of stuff.

It was also really sad when this person grabbed a chicken (a live one) and put his head on a thing that looks like a cone and pulled his head and then grabbed a knife and cut their heads. It was also sad how there were a lot of pigs in one thing that looks almost like an elevator and a thing on top and it pushed them.

I think that I learned a lot from this movie and what I think I'm going to do is ask the manager or whatever if they have grass fed cows or meat.

I think that the movie was kind of sad at some points and interesting too.

10 things you can do to change our food system

1. Stop drinking sodas and other sweetened beverages.
2. Eat at home instead of eating out.
3. Support the passage of laws requiring chain restaurants to post calorie information on menus and menu boards.
4. Tell schools to stop selling sodas, junk food, and sports drinks.
5. Meatless Mondays—Go without meat one day a week.
6. Buy organic or sustainable food with little or no pesticides.
7. Protect family farms; visit your local farmer’s market.
8. Make a point to know where your food comes from—READ LABELS.
9. Tell Congress that food safety is important to you.
10. Demand job protections for farm workers and food processors, ensuring fair wages and other protections.

foodincmovie.com

In Honor of Our Teachers

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 3-7

No matter how lovely the building, a school is a community of people rather than a place. As parents we know that teaching is often a difficult, but rewarding job, and we truly appreciate all of the time, energy, and loving care they dedicate to our children.

We appreciate every single teacher!

Remember to give our TOPS teachers an extra thank you this week!
Taste of TOPS 2010
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.

**May**
- 1 (S) ...............TOPS Auction, 5 p.m.
- 4 (T) ...............6th grade Author visit, 10:30 p.m.
- 5 (W) ...............DHH to SCT
- 6 (Th) ...............5th grade Science Fair
- 7 (F) ...............Grades K, 1st, and 5th, SE to SCT
- 7 (F) ...............TOPS Talent Showcase, 7 p.m.
- 9 (W) ...............Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.
- 10 (Th) ..............Kindergarten Puppet show
- 10-11 (Th-F) ....3rd – 4th grade Camp Arnold
- 11 (F) ...............Middle school Dance, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- 12 (W) ...............Site Council meeting, 5 - 7 p.m.
- 13 (Th) ...............Class pictures
- 14 (F) ...............TOPICS, elementary school
- 14 (F) ...............Elementary school play, 7 p.m.
- 15 (S) ...............Elementary school play, 7 p.m.
- 19 (W) ...............Professional development block time; 2-hour early dismissal
- 26-28 (W-F) ....5th grade Camp

**June**
- 2-4 (W-F) ........7th grade Camp
- 9 (W) ...............Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.
- 9 (W) ...............ASB Elections
- 10 (Th) ...............Kindergarten Puppet show
- 11 (F) ...............Middle school Dance, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- 18 (F) ...............Awards Assembly
- 21 (M) ...............Field Day
- 21 (M) ...............Wild Waves
- 22 (T) ...............Last student day, 2:20 p.m. dismissal

**Photos by Laurie Stusser-McNeil and Karen Stuhldreher**
Join us anytime Friday, May 14
5:30 to 9:00 p.m.
TOPS at Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave. E.

Don’t miss our annual school
wide presentation of original
art created by TOPS students
with the help of art teachers
Cynthia Livak and Luzita Roll.
Join us anytime Friday, May 14
5:30 to 9:00 p.m.
TOPS at Seward School, 2500 Franklin Ave. E.

Don't miss our annual school-wide presentation of original art created by TOPS students with the help of art teachers Cynthia Livak and Luzita Roll.
On April 9, 2010, twenty-eight international students from the University of Washington led topics about their countries and cultures for students in grades 1-5. The students came as a part of the FIUTS (Foundation for International Understanding Through Students) educational outreach program. This was the third year that TOPS hosted international students as a part of its mission to connect our children with the world.

After a 2nd grade “welcoming committee” greeted the students coming off the bus, the students were dispersed across the school—from classrooms to the lunchroom—in order to give smaller groups of students space to delve deeply into one country and culture. Typically the session started with an introduction to the country, quickly followed by games and activities tied to that country’s culture. Some examples of what our children did that day:

**Olga from Belarus** taught children how to write in Cyrillic. She taught them a few words and then led them in a “Simon Says” game that had them running around the lunchroom finding what she had called out in Russian.

**Ayaka and Rie from Japan** showed how “Rock, Paper, Scissors” is done in Japanese, and kids practiced using the Japanese words.

**Felipe from Chile** taught kids how to play “Ball and Hole,” a soccer-like game played by children in his country.

**Tim and Andreas from Sweden** told children that perler beads (known as Pyssla beads in Sweden) were invented in Sweden, and they showed a huge picture of Barack Obama made with these little beads ironed together.

**Usama from Oman** invited children to color his country’s flag and showed them their names in Arabic. They played “Duck, Duck, Goose” using a beautifully embroidered prayer cap from Oman.

**Two students from India** showed students how to dance Indian style, followed by a fun game of “Pin the Bindi” on a picture of an Indian woman.

And other children explored cultures from **South Korea, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Thailand, and Uzbekistan.**

FIUTS programs go beyond the classroom. It matches UW international students with local families for short term homestays. Homestay families provide hospitality and cultural connections for about a week between the time when students arrive and when housing becomes available. This—and other FIUTS programs—give our children opportunities to have personal connections with the world beyond our borders. For more information, email info@fiuts.org or visit www.fiuts.org.
***Kids Co. at TOPS***

*By Aaron Norikane, Program Director, Kids Co. at TOPS K-8*

What are your after school plans for next year’s 2:30 or 2:40 p.m. dismissal time??? Sign your children up to come to Kids Co. at TOPS! It’s a wonderful program with an amazing staff and exciting curriculum! We have flexible scheduling (one to five days per week) and plenty of tuition assistance opportunities. Our program recently became nationally accredited through the Council of Accreditation, which signifies the highest quality evaluation in school-age programming. Please stop by, call Aaron Norikane at (206) 709-8487, or visit our website at www.kidscompany.org. Hope to see you next year!

Our mission is to provide and advocate for high quality childcare that nurtures and enriches all children, supporting their success in school and in life.

---

Long finger nails are popular within Thai culture!

“Pin the Bindi” game

Olga teaches Cyrillic...

...and then students practice - photos by Nancy Bacon

Usama from Oman with pictures of the Oman flag.

Drawing by Shenhet Tensaew, Grade 2
Forty strong and dedicated TOPS volunteers joined together on Saturday April 10, and, with amazing effort, made TOPS more beautiful than it has ever been. We weeded until the ground was pure brown. We added compost until the ground was covered with the lovely stuff. We mulched until the ground shone. We planted flowers until the air was full of the lovely fragrance. And best of all, got paid with coffee and treats!!

After all this fun, we have one favor to ask of you: PLEASE tell your children not to trample the flowers!

If you missed this ton of fun this year, no worries. There is always next year, so be sure and remember to sign up for the TOPS Annual Landscaping Party!!!

P.S. Special thanks to Grand Central Bakery, Le Fournil, Louisa’s, Starbucks, Cedar Grove Compost, and the Arbor Barber Tree Service for their generous donations.

Photos by Wayne Duncan
TOPS PARTICIPATES IN OPTION SCHOOL FAIR
By Wayne Duncan

On Saturday March 13, TOPS parents participated in the first Option School Fair at the John Stanford Center. The Alternative Schools Coalition initiated the idea to provide information to Seattle families interested in the Seattle School District’s option schools, and then helped garner district support for it. Representatives from TOPS, Salmon Bay, Alternative School #1 (AS #1), Thornton Creek, Orca, and Pathfinder were joined by the new elementary option programs at South Shore and Jane Addams. High school option programs at The Center School and Nova were also there, joined by the newly approved option program at Cleveland that will focus on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Parents were able to enjoy coffee, treats, and friendly conversation as they surveyed the range of school possibilities.

TOPS’ information table was organized by Site Council member Alex Korahais. Alex noted the fair provided a “great opportunity” not only for parents to learn about the option programs, but also for members of the different school communities to share information about their programs with each other. Principal Jo Lute-Ervin was joined by TOPS parents Michelle Buetow, Wayne Duncan, June Fung, Maureen Germani, Merran Kubalak, and Susan Welch to showcase the TOPS program and community.

TESLA AT TOPS
By Sam Hengst, Grade 5

On Monday, March 8, Nina Binder walked into her fifth grade classroom. She told the students that they had to leave the building immediately and it was all Sam Hengst’s fault. Everyone looked at me but I thought she was just kidding around. She then told me to stand at the front. She seemed pretty serious now. We left the classroom and I saw a man standing at the end of the hallway. I recognized him from lunch. I thought he was a dad who was looking at TOPS. As we passed the south parking lot windows I saw something that hadn’t been in the delivery driveway before. It was a brand new, bright red, $108,000 car and I realized I knew the man. He worked for TESLA motors. They make fully electric sports cars. This was my topic for my environmental issue project for Nina’s class.

I recognized him from lunch. I thought he was a dad who was looking at TOPS. As we passed the south parking lot windows I saw something that hadn’t been in the delivery driveway before. It was a brand new, bright red, $108,000 car and I realized I knew the man. He worked for TESLA motors. They make fully electric sports cars. This was my topic for my environmental issue project for Nina’s class.

In Nina’s class we all had to pick an issue relating to the environment. I chose TESLA cars because they are electric and don’t burn fossil fuels. We have to write letters to companies, organizations and people who know about our issue. I had written them a letter asking for information about their cars. Instead of answering me by mail, they drove a car over to TOPS! I thought it was so cool that the guy actually came to school in a super expensive sports car! I was the most popular kid in class that moment!
Caleb Anglin: I play Demetrius. While practicing this play I learned a lot about love because everyone is falling in love.

Elli Lingappa: I play Puck in A Midsummer Night’s Dream. One thing I liked about the play is that it gives me a feel for how long actors/actresses practice the play they are doing. So, next time I go to the Seattle Children’s Theater, I’ll think to myself, “Wow they might have practiced this for months trying to get it sounding nice!” Another thing I learned is to work with my classmates better. This is the first play I’ve acted in.

Jin Yang Xia: My character is Oberon. I learned lots of 400 year-old words.

Read Langley: The character I am playing is Puck. I learned Shakespeare wrote over 100 plays.

Olivia Simonson: The thing I enjoyed about doing this play was memorizing my lines. I give thanks to Meredith (our director) for helping us with the play.

Karmen: I play Mustardseed the fairy. While practicing the play I learned how to speak loudly.

Jonah Silverstein: I really liked doing A Midsummer Night’s Dream because I played Bottom/Pyramus. I liked overacting. My favorite part was when I had an ass (donkey) head and when I fell in love with Titania.
**Ada Rosen:** I played Maria in *Twelfth Night*. I liked playing Maria because she was sort of like a trickster. I liked the play and I thought we all did a good job. Putting on a play is hard, and it takes a lot of work. You have to memorize all of your lines, and you have to memorize when you come in, where you come in, when you go out and where you go out. But I really enjoyed it. And Kate (the director) was awesome!

---

**Twelfth Night**

performed by Katie’s class on December 16, 2009

---

**WITS NEWS AT TOPS**

*by Merna Ann Hecht, WITS writer at TOPS*

Marianne Clarke’s 6th grade classes will welcome the acclaimed Newbery Award winner Karen Cushman to the TOPS Library on May 4, where a National Podcast will be held as part of the book launch for her new book, *Alchemy and Meggy Swann*. Marianne’s 6th graders will be featured in this podcast. Look for their Renaissance/Elizabethan style broadsides in the hallways and in the library during the month of May and in the next newsletter.

Anthologies have been published from both of Lori Eickelberg’s 7th grade classes and from Nina Binder’s and Libby Sinclair’s 5th grade classes. Each anthology has at least one poem written by every student in the class. The title of the 7th grade anthology is *THE ELECTRICITY OF POPCORN*. I will include the three title poems in the next newsletter.

The title of the 5th grade anthology is *LET POETRY FILL YOU UP LIKE A BIG FEAST: SATISFYING TO THE BONE*

---

~and~ *LET YOUR WORDS STICK TO THE PAPER LIKE A STARFISH STUCK TO ROCKS UNDER WATER*. Here are the two title poems:

**POETRY** by Coco McNeil, Grade 5, Nina’s class

Let your eyes take in everything around you then package it, and send it off to the paper.

Let your imagination pounce on its inspiration like a lion hunting.

Let your words spill onto the paper, fresh, new, original.

Let your pencil twist, turn, spring, morph into a plane to take you where you want to go.

Let your mind run free, open to new ideas, and jump and leap through a forest of dreams.

Let your senses be calm like having a professional masseuse, let them be alert, noticing every detail.

And let your senses be fierce like a tiger, searching for a word. And let them be humble like a freshly picked peach, bursting with ideas inside the white flesh.

Let poetry fill you up like a big feast, satisfying to the bone.

**POETRY!** by Lucas Trent, Grade 5, Libby’s class

Let your mind flash like lightning high up in the hazy night sky.

Let your words stick to the paper like a starfish stuck to rocks under water.

Let your pencil explode with ideashooting out from the tip of the lead.

Let your ideas mix and churn around in your head then race through your mind, stopping at each brain-light.

Poetry will always be alive!
Don’t miss the 2010 TOPS Elementary Play!

The ABC’s of Naughty Children
A Poetic Musical Review based on the work of Shel Silverstein

Directed by TOPS’ own fabulous choir director, Sari Breznau
7:00 pm, Friday May 14 & Saturday May 15
Todd Jamieson Auditorium

$4 adults/$2 students & seniors/$10 family pass for both shows
Please note that all students attending need to be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the play.

Interested in helping out? Lots of volunteer jobs available!!
Contact Laurie Stusser-McNeil (ljestusser@comcast.net) or Cynthia Steiner (cynthiahsy@comcast.net)