Can you believe it’s June already? As we move quickly to the end of the school year, there are many field trips, celebrations, camps, and special events to enjoy. May started the festive activities with the TOPS Auction. It was my first TOPS Auction and I was so impressed by the involvement of so many parents. We appreciate the hard work and efforts of so many TOPS volunteers. It’s because of your assistance that our students are able to have such great experiences. The support for our school and its programs is exceptional! I totally enjoyed playing the blues piece on my harmonica at the auction. This was truly a fun event. Thanks for helping me feel welcome.

Our talent show was exceptional!! It showcased so many wonderful performances by our students across all of our grades. It was fun and very entertaining. Everyone in the audience enjoyed the evening. Again, a big THANK YOU to the many people who made it so successful.

The Elementary Play and ArtFest were so impressive! The props and set were fantastic. My two grandchildren joined me for a performance and we all loved it! In addition to the scenery being so beautiful, the students performed with skill and grace. I was extremely proud of, and amazed at their performance. The ArtFest was an incredible display of student talent and teacher guidance. Thanks to the teachers and volunteers who helped make this event possible. It was amazing to see so many people pulling together. I have never seen so much wonderful student artwork in one place! What a great way to represent our school!!

There is so much more to come before the month ends. Several grades will be enjoying camps. Numerous field trips are scheduled for students’ learning and enjoyment. The last middle school dance of the year is coming after a week of Spirit Week activities, on Friday, June 11. I look forward to the Awards Assembly and Eighth Grade Passage. I attended last year’s Passage ceremony, so I know that it’s going to be wonderful. It will be a pleasure to officiate at this year’s event.

I’ve enjoyed getting to know many of our students and their families this school year, and look forward to building more relationships next year. Have a fun and safe summer!!

~Jo
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 September issue is August 6. Would you like to help with our newsletter? Newcomers welcome. Please contact Ann, Dori, or Doriane at topsnewsletter@gmail.com.

YADA - Youth Awareness and Disability Assembly

By Lawrie Williams

If you were lucky enough to be on campus May 4 or May 5 you likely had a chance to witness or hear about some pretty cool stuff happening. A group of volunteers from YADA (Youth Awareness and Disability Assemblies) were here at TOPS to provide a series of interactive, experiential sessions for students in grades 1-6 with the goal of promoting understanding and an awareness of disabilities, and people living with disabilities. The events took place over two days as grade level groups gathered in the gym, broke into groups of 10-12 students, and rotated through five stations over the course of the next 75 minutes. At the end of the day all of the students and teachers that participated gathered again in the gym for 45 minutes while vice principal Jeanne Kuban facilitated a question and answer session with all of the volunteers.

Students throughout the day were engaged. Kids big and small took opportunities to listen intently, ask thoughtful questions, and get a chance to experience just a touch of what living differently-abled might be like. The adult volunteers headed up by Sue Dahlin, coordinator of YADA, each live with some type of disability in their own life. The YADA volunteers were eager to share information, answer questions, and introduce kids to some hands on learning. If you glanced in the gym you might have seen kids using wheelchairs, navigating back and forth and around cones, experimenting with a braille machine, wearing gloves that impaired your ability to feel and use your hands, and exploring aspects of dyslexia. We met some of the coolest service dogs ever (and not just because some of them were blue, green and pink -- I kid you not!). Some have the ability to sense when their owner’s blood sugar is dropping, which is key for a person who lives with diabetes, or to alert their owner when a seizure is coming on so the owner can get to safety. We could go on but, better yet -- let’s hear what some students had to say.

Who knew that it could teach so much. It taught 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th graders about five serious disabilities.

- Parker Cech, Grade 6
- Grace Cotter, Grade 5

The YADA assembly was very fun because of so many interactive things. It really made me stop and think about being disabled and how it would change my life.

- Grace Cotter, Grade 5

Continued next page
We walked into the gym ready for P.E. but instead it was time to go to the YADA Assembly. It was really fun and we got to learn what it was like to live with disabilities. The first station was what it was like living with arthritis. We put on a glove and tried to button a shirt, zip a shirt, and tie a shoe. It was really hard!
- Clare Maclay, Grade 6

It’s amazing that they can train the dogs to do so many things to help the disabled.
- David Willner, Grade 5

The people there were so nice! I used to think that people who were disabled would be grumpy and have a horrible life.
- Mark Layton, Grade 5

I loved the cool dogs that helped so many people. I liked being able to experience how the disabled get through their lives.
- Ali Kee, Grade 5

I had no idea how hard braille is to use!
- Jesse Niemer, Grade 5

I never thought that a wheelchair would actually be fun, for a little while.
- Sam Hengst, Grade 5

I think that we should do another assembly like this one because they are fun. Well at least this one was. It wasn’t fun seeing them like that, but it was fun doing the activities and learning about different disabilities and then trying to show us how it feels like with those disabilities.
- Victoria Arrellano, Grade 6

I never realized how disabled people really felt before.
- Ashley Lee, Grade 5

The YADA people were telling us that people who need help in any way were the same as you and me, they just had a disadvantage. I found it interesting because I learned things I’d never learned, like dogs can smell you to see if you had cancer or sense if you were going to have a seizure. Almost all of them (the volunteers) had some sort of disability, but managed just fine. I liked learning about it a lot.
- Emma Simonson, Grade 6

Kids Co. at TOPS is Now a Nationally Accredited Program!!

By Aaron Norikane

If you’re looking for a safe, fun, enriching summer camp or afterschool program, look no further than Kids Co. at TOPS! We were just fast-tracked into approval of our national accreditation by the Council of Accreditation. This shows that our program and staff meet the highest standards for high quality child care programming. Kids Co. has extremely flexible scheduling (sign up for single days or weeks or all summer!), tuition assistance, a wonderful staff, and a welcoming community. Summer weekly themes include: Iron Chef II, Magic, American Idol, Heroes, and much more. Sign up quickly as spaces are limited!

And don’t forget to sign up for next year’s program which starts right when school gets out at the EARLY TIME of 2:30/2:40pm. Enrichment activities, homework assistance, and lots of fun! Visit our website: www.kidscompany.org or call Aaron Norikane at 709-8487.
The TOPS Penny Harvest has now concluded and I’m so gratified by the support of the TOPS staff and administration for this worthwhile student philanthropy and leadership curriculum. Special thank you to Colette Hubbard for all her assistance in helping me coordinate this effort with the TOPS staff. The TOPS community has once again proven their generosity to help our neighbors and commitment to instilling in our students the importance of service learning and developing youth philanthropy.

I was lucky to have the following students donate their time to the Penny Harvest Roundtable and use their precious lunch hour and recess time to assess the needs of our community: Fiona Kubalak, Souma Yabuki, Maile Soo, Owen Leonard, Festus Gilligan, Parker Cech, Lucy Kolpa, Nicole Godbout, Gabriella Kimmerly, and Henrietta Bilokor were diligent and interested roundtable members who gave thoughtful consideration and input to this process. They met seven times and came to the conclusion after doing local interviews that homelessness and lack of enough green space in our city were of serious concern. Upon that conclusion, they decided to split the $1000 that TOPS collected and to issue two $500 grants. I’m pleased to announce two recipients this year. The first, ROOTS Young Adult Shelter, is a Planting the Seeds partner that provides shelter for homeless teens from 18-25 years of age who are not safe in other adult facilities. The second is the Seattle Parks Foundation which raises money to increase and improve the green spaces in Seattle.

Even more exciting is that, through the generous donations of our TOPS families to the “fund an item” at our auction, we will be able to continue the Penny Harvest program and hopefully incorporate service learning, student philanthropy, and leadership elements into our curriculum for all students!

CSJ Corner

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 each month in the TOPS Library from 5:30-7:30; check the CSJ Corner for meeting announcements. 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.

Looking for help with the New Family Orientation? Please consider helping with welcoming new families to TOPS next fall. The tasks are easy, the cause is worthy! TOPS parent who has been coordinating this event has a graduating 8th grader this year. Coordination starts the end of August, but it is not complicated or very time consuming. An information notebook as well as personal mentoring will be available. Please email Lynne at goodrich_yas@msn.com.

Taste of TOPS Correction: The amount of money raised at Taste of TOPS for Lettuce Link was incorrectly reported in the last newsletter. The actual amount raised from the raffle was $260. Thanks again to all who contributed!

Tending the Whole Garden: This year’s auction raised more than $30,000 through the Fund-an-Item for Tending the Whole Garden – Planting Seeds of Compassionate Citizenship from K Through 8th Grade. Over the summer, CSJ members and TOPS staff will discuss how to spend the money to engage students at all levels in compassionate citizenship and social justice activities. Look for more information on this in the fall.

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@scsd.ctc.edu for more information.
News from the Library and Beyond

By Steve Haines, Librarian

“Learning is weightless, a treasure you can always carry easily.”

~ Chinese Proverb

This spring has seen quite a few learning opportunities for our students, and it all started with “connections.” Firstly, Guy Lawrence, our outstanding 6th grade science/math teacher, suggested we do the theme of sustainability for this year’s Taste of Tops. That event led to my meeting Robyn Cook of Lettuce Link (a program of Solid Ground), who was at a booth in the gym. I was attracted to the large display behind her, and to the information about Marra Farm. I had never heard of this historically preserved farmland in the South Park neighborhood near the Duwamish River. Turns out it is totally run by volunteers who use part of the four acres to grow food for a local food bank. My interest was really piqued when I found out that we could bring our middle school students, which fit quite nicely with Middle School Topics that was fast approaching. Along with enthusiastic social studies teacher Tom O’Connor, we actually made that trip, and were able to help by rebuilding a trail that encloses the farm. We learned from Sue McGann, the farm manager, all about this last working farm in Seattle and how important our volunteering was to the community. Tom and I were quite impressed with how much effort the 12 students put to this endeavor. I think they felt a great sense of accomplishment. This feeling was heightened when we traveled to the historic Georgetown neighborhood for lunch.

The next connection was made through Merna Hecht, our Writers in the Schools resident writing instructor, who happens to know award winning children’s book author, Karen Cushman. It turns out that Karen was coming out with a new book and her publisher was looking for a location to do a webcast from. Bingo! TOPS was the logical choice, and last month we had a visit from Karen and a crew of technicians. The 6th grade students were fortunate enough to participate along with over 600 other registrant groups that watched the proceedings online.

The final connection was made through Julie Gillett, teacher of our wonderful 2nd grade team, and the Beierle family. The 2nd graders are doing a science unit on soil and what better place to visit than an urban farm. Tom and Didi, (Ada, 2nd, Mette, 5th) graciously showed the students their working plot that they call “34olives”. One student, Aria, reported that “we learned about chickens, goats, bees, and healthy compost and that everything is connected, because the chicken and goat poop help make compost, and along with worms make a rich soil that you can use to grow plants and flowers that the bees then pollinate to make honey.” The students learned that bees emit a banana smell when mad, how curds and whey are made, and that goats enjoy eating blackberry bushes. These students delighted in petting the goats and chickens, seeing the size of a queen bee, eating from the garden, and learning about sustainability first hand. It reminded me of “City School,” a former emphasis at TOPS.

Well, another successful school year is about to end. I would like to thank those families who made book donations for our students. Summer is a great time for catching up on reading. Please take advantage of the Seattle Public Library’s summer reading program. It is a great opportunity to foster learning and curiosity. Enjoy!
6th Grade Camp 2010

By Mr. Lawrence, 6th Grade Teacher

This was our third year going to Olympic Park Institute for 6th grade camp and it was the best yet! We were selected this year to pilot OPI's new marine science program. It was a great experience for the kids and parents that joined us.

We started at the Feiro Marine Science Center in Port Angeles where students worked in groups of 15 and moved through several stations, including touch tanks, a beach seine, and the microscope lab. From Port Angeles we traveled west to Salt Creek State Park where we got to explore a low tide along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. It is a spectacular location and the weather cooperated, which was an added bonus. We arrived at OPI for dinner at 6:30 p.m. after a long day of travel and activities. The OPI food was, as always, fantastic! Meals always conclude with weighing all food waste and discussing ways to reduce the amount of wasted food. This was a perfect primer for our sustainable table at Taste of Tops.

The inquiry based science program at OPI explores topics such as lake water clarity, water depth, plant diversity, and plankton concentration. While on campus, students worked in groups of 12 students and one OPI instructor. Our two lead instructors came to our classroom before and after the trip to really maximize the science learning time while on site.

Get ready 5th graders. Your camp dates are locked in next year, April 11-13. That is the Monday – Wednesday of the week before spring break. Don’t forget your raincoats!

TOPS Chinese Language Students Participate in Scholastic Competition

By Nancy Bacon

Members of the grade 2-5 TOPS Chinese Language and Culture class competed in a Chinese language scholastic competition that took place May 16, 2010 at Interlake High School in Bellevue. Students performed a number of songs and displayed artwork related to Chinese characters and culture. Students received ribbons and a trophy for their performance. The competition was organized by the Chinese Language Teachers Association in Washington and the Cultural Exploration (CE) program of the Greater China Foundation. CE is a community based non-profit organization dedicated to promoting a better understanding of Chinese language and culture through education by offering cultural learning opportunities to public schools and other institutions.
The Science Fair
By Melissa Ma, Jaden Weatherspoon, Marta Alansi, Isaiah Tensae, Ali Kee and Juliette Clem, Grade 5

The fourth annual Science fair was interesting. Every fifth grade student presented their science experiment. We all had something different which was really cool. The adults were great. They asked a lot of questions and made it fun to answer. Our favorite part was when our kindergarten buddies came to learn about what we did. They really listened! Though I have to admit that the middle schoolers kind of made us nervous. They asked so many questions that it kind of creeped us out.

There were so many things to look at. Grace brought in a unicycle, and Bella had dry ice, we even got to hold Isaiah's and Riley's mice. It was amazing to teach everyone about our experiments.

Photos by Nina Binder

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.

| JUNE | 2-4 (W-F)........7th grade Camp | 9 (W).............Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m. | 16 (W)..........3rd grade State Museum, Library | 21 (M).............Field Day |
| 4 (F).............Movie Night at TOPS (Auction item), 6-8:30 p.m. | 9 (W).............ASB Elections | 18 (F).............8th Grade Passage, 6-9 p.m. | 21 (M).............Wild Waves |
| 10-11 (Th-F) ....3rd – 4th grade Camp Arnold June 11 (F).....Middle school Dance, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. | 18 (F).............Awards Assembly, 2 p.m. | 22 (T).............Last student day, 2:20 p.m. dismissal |

The Science Fair
By Ashley Lee, Grade 5

I watch as kindergarteners come in to see I feel glad and older
But when the middle schoolers come, I feel small again.
My mouth goes dry as I repeat my words over and over again.
It’s like practicing for a speech, but actually doing it too.
I watch as kids crowd around someone else’s board like ants fighting over food.
Wait, they really were fighting over food!
Wondering, “Will they come over to mine?”
By S. Wayne Duncan

From April 22 through May 16, ten TOPS seventh and eighth grade students had their artwork exhibited at the Seattle Art Museum as part of the annual Naramore Art Exhibition. With works selected by art teachers from around the district, middle and high school students’ paintings, photography, ceramics, and sculpture filled the first floor galleries of the downtown Seattle Art Museum.

This show represented a new collaboration between Seattle Public Schools and the Seattle Art Museum, and provided new visibility and excitement to this annual exhibit, funded by and named for Floyd J. Naramore (1879-1970), the school district’s architect from 1919 through 1941. He designed many of the district’s most prominent schools, including Garfield and Roosevelt High Schools as well as T.T. Minor Elementary School.

TOPS students whose work was exhibited were Jenna Anderson O’Neil, Claire Duncan, Noah Forslund, Zoe Gluck, Bay Loovis, Zev Magasis, Rikki Parent, Abby Takahashi, Rose Yasukochi, and Erin Wolf.

TOPS art teacher Luzita Roll commented, “Having SAM as our venue to showcase the excellent work of Seattle Public School art students brings a much deserved broad public exposure to the students as well as recognition of SPS’ continued commitment to the arts. At the Naramore opening, the excitement and pride experienced by our TOPS participants at being included in this district-wide show was palpable!” TOPS students have participated in this program for thirteen years, she noted.

Comments by Michael Killoren, Director of the Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, stressed the importance of education in the visual arts and the value of the collaboration between the Seattle Public Schools and the Seattle Art Museum. The 2010 exhibition represented the 37th year of this Seattle visual arts tradition.
The Foundation for International Understanding Through Students

By Alison Kilkenny, FIUTS Homestay & Community Relations Coordinator

On April 9 the world came to TOPS Elementary School when twenty-eight international students from the University of Washington led workshops designed to help students explore their country and culture. As a TOPS parent, you can take the world home this fall by hosting a new international student through FIUTS.

FIUTS homestay hosts will host a student for one week, starting the day the student arrives in Seattle. Hosts often pick up their students at the airport and help them learn some of the basics of living in the U.S. The relationship continues throughout the student’s stay in Seattle, and can include hosts and students getting together for dinners, weekend activities, and over the holidays.

FIUTS homestay hosts often end up visiting their past students in their home countries – our hosts have stayed with friends in Iceland, gone to weddings in Thailand, and toured family vineyards in Italy. Many have met their host student’s parents and even children!

This year, more than 300 students and scholars from more than 40 different countries will participate in FIUTS Homestay & Friendship Programs!

To learn more about becoming a FIUTS host, contact Homestay and Community Relations Coordinator Alison Kilkenny at (206) 616-7025, Alison@fiuts.org

Are you creative?
Do you have graphic design skills?
Do you have experience with Adobe InDesign?
Are you up for a great volunteer opportunity?

Then...

TOPS News Needs You!

We need a volunteer (or volunteers) to step up beginning with the September 2010 newsletter to do the monthly layout work. This includes selecting and retouching images, formatting text, and—together with our team of editors—arranging these elements into a beautiful, readable, and absorbing publication.

We’ll provide you with training, support, and all the files you’ll need. Prior experience with Adobe InDesign is strongly recommended.

Time commitment is approximately 8-10 hours/month, generally the 3rd week of the month. With more than one volunteer, it’s possible to share the workload or alternate months during the school year.

This is a great opportunity for anyone starting a graphic arts career, or for a professional graphic designer interested in sharing his/her skills with the TOPS community.

Please email Paul at javabrain@msn.com if you’re interested.

Johannes Gutenberg says, “Maybe we should upgrade to CS5.”
A great time was had by all at the Elementary Play on March 14 and 15. Directed and adapted by TOPS’ own choir director, Sari Breznau, the show featured nearly 100 TOPS performers! Many thanks to all who came and all of the volunteers who helped make the play a success:

2010 Elementary Play Committee: Kevin Anderson, Johnny Calcagno, Jena Cane, Caroline Dodge, Randi Niemer, Peter Olive, Cam Sata, Leah Schoonover, Cynthia Steiner Ganz, Laurie Stusser-McNeil, Cindy Suzumura


8th Grade Production & Concessions Support: Kimoye Anglin, Frankie Dickson, Lucy Corbit, Sabina Martin, Emma Mercer, Katy Morrison, Karly Oberg, Sophie Segel

Trusty Mentors: Linda Korbus and Madalyn Corbit

Generous Funders: Friends of TOPS

Photos by Laura Stusser-McNeil, Peter Simonson, and Don Zemke
CHILDREN
"Bring It On Home" a Rousing Success

By Jamie Flaxman, Auction Co-chair

The TOPS Annual Spring Auction, held on May 1, was a huge success. As the final dollars continue to trickle in, it appears that we will reach and probably exceed our goal of raising $110,000, including more than $30,000 for this year’s Fund-an-Item, Tending the Whole Garden – Planting Seeds of Compassionate Citizenship from K Through 8th Grade.

Nearly 300 TOPS family members, teachers, staff, and friends came together for a night full of fun, great food and drinks, and lively bidding on silent and live auction items. New this year, “Everybody’s a Winner”, with the prize of a sapphire bracelet, raised $2500.

A huge THANK YOU to all the parents who volunteered on Team Auction, the day of the event, and class projects and baskets. Without the countless hours these volunteers put in, there would have been no event.

And another huge THANK YOU to all the TOPS parents, staff, teachers, and community members who donated items for the auction (including baking some of the yummy desserts for the dessert dash) and who underwrote and sponsored the event.

And lastly, a very huge THANK YOU to everyone who attended and donated funds – as we’ve been saying all along, it’s all for the kids!

If you were unable to attend and would like to make a donation to the Fund-an-Item or to the event, you can donate through Friends of TOPS’ Paypal account. There’s a link to this account on the TOPS homepage (www.topsk-8.com). Just put a note in the comments section whether you’d like your donation to go toward the Fund-an-Item or general auction revenue.

And if your employer will match your donation, please submit your matching forms to them or contact Maggie McDonald at maggiecmcd@msn.com.
2010 TOPS TALENT SHOWCASE

Friday, May 7, 2010
7:00 p.m.
Todd Jamieson Stage

Photos by Don Zemke
You can view more Artfest pictures on the TOPS website: www.topsk8.org!

Photos by Wayne Duncan and Michael Drew
Writers in the Schools (WITS) at TOPS

By Merna Hecht

During the course of this year at TOPS, it has been my pleasure to work with all of the fifth, sixth, and seventh grade classes. Any writer coming into the TOPS learning community will note the expertise and passion with which writing is taught. This kind of excellent teaching is a visiting writer’s dream allowing experimentation and creativity to thrive.

TOPS will have been well represented at the May 26th Writers in the Schools annual end of year celebration. Fifth grader, OLIVIA LIU, sixth grader SETH LAMBERT-VAIL and an 8th grader chosen by WITS writer and poet MATT NIENOW, who is working with Lori Eickelberg’s classes, will have read their poems to a large and appreciative audience. Here are samples of the fine work of these TOPS poets.

WITH MY THIRD EYE

By Olivia Liu, Grade 5

With my third eye I can see beyond the highest mountains and the fastest roaring, rushing rivers

My third eye allows endless scenes, sights and visions even if I were blind.

With my third eye, blindness is only a speck of dust in a dark world, smaller than the least important thing there ever was.

With my third eye I can see more than anyone, without it I might as well stare into nothingness

My third eye lets me believe in what I can’t see without it, grass that isn’t green, air that has color.

With my third eye all war and violence disappear and my eyes open up to a world of peace.

With my third eye, nothing is impossible.

I AM

By Seth Lambert-Vail, Grade 6

I am the earth, the mother,

I gave you life.

On my birthday, you were killing my children with guns.

You polluted my lungs with your cars, you drowned my surface with oil.

You built a debt that will be passed on to the younger generation, you cut down my trees for your Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation

you left your trash on my shores to be swept away by the waves.

Yet, I shall continue to protect you when you need me.

I am your life.

Stay tuned over the summer and early in the fall for news of National Contest winners and published poems from the writers in each of MARIANNE CLARKE’S sixth grade classes. After a careful study of poetry forms from Medieval and Renaissance times, which culminated with a visit by Newbery award winner Karen Cushman, we have been writing poems about current topics—war and peace, the environment, and the recent oil spill. Here are several examples of these excellent poems.

OIL SPILL

By Nicole Godbout, Grade 6

I am a pelican

Oil has covered my once beautiful feathers, so I cannot fly.

I am a pelican

Stuck in the past, unable to move.

I am a pelican

Mother to my young, cursed with man’s ways.

I am a pelican

An animal, a living soul, but my light is fading.

I am a pelican, dying.

WAR

By Aaron Fandel, Grade 6

1. war is hatred over seas and land many are dying I want a world that destroys weapons

2. I will get rid of war forever and ever weapons kill humans aim instinct fires war destroys hearts

3. when war is over people will love once again there will be no death there will be no weapons there will be no war.

I WANT

By Spencer Cook, Grade 6

I want to douse that fire that is war
I want to nurture and grow that tree that is peace
I want to open the book of intelligence to tell all human-kind
I want to open the curtain that is exclusion
I want not to be judged by how I look but by who I am
I want the shroud of pollution to be cast off the earth

HEAL THE WORLD FOR PEACE

By Nalica Hennings, Grade 6

HOORAY!

Let us celebrate.

Let us celebrate the day we decided to repair the world in which we live.

Let us put the bandage that the world needs so badly on it.

Why not bring us all together with peace in mind?

Why not burn hate?

Why not burn hate’s weapons?

Why not love?

Thank you TOPS for a wonderful year!

Merna Ann Hecht, WITS writer for TOPS, 2009-10
A GREAT SOCCER SEASON
By Noah Forslund, Grade 7

This season of TOPS soccer has been amazing. From the memorable goals to the great attitude of the team, I am sure this season will be remembered in TOPS sports lore for many years to come.

When we began this season, no one really expected much from us. We were winless last season, losing to big schools like Washington and Eckstein by scores of six or seven to zero. Our key players were eight graders, who were leaving for high school the year after. Only a handful of players came to our games, which was the main reason why we were losing by such lopsided scores.

This season, however, something clicked. Maybe it was the coaching. Maybe it was a new desire to actually play and not just blow it off. But whatever it was, we began playing with more intensity, with more passion. We began playing as a team. From our first game when we won five to one, we knew something would be different. Now, instead of losing seven-zip, we were beating teams by these scores, or better.

Throughout the season, school support has been incredible. Finally, we had more players coming to the games. Finally, soccer games were something to look forward to, instead of something to be embarrassed by. Best of all, when we were leaving to our playoff game, the entire school turned out to see us off and cheer us on. It was extraordinary that, just one year earlier, people couldn’t have cared less about this soccer team.

This season with the Falcons has been great, but the question still remains: has TOPS finally become soccer savvy? I sure hope so; it feels nice to be cheered on for a change. And honestly, even though crushing our opponents isn’t the main goal here at TOPS, it sure feels better to win than to lose.
It is time to start planning for another TOPS trip to Europe. The earlier you sign up, the more you save. The current price for this trip will be valid until June 26, 2010. The instructions for registering on-line are below. The Explorica website shows details about the trip at www.explorica.com/Clarke-5274. All TOPS parents and children are welcome to join us for an entertaining week in Paris and a few days in London. Students can travel with or without their parents (though parents usually do not travel without their children). Either way, parents do not come as chaperones, but as vacationers. Friends and relatives of TOPS families are also welcome.

Please contact Marianne if you have questions at mclarke@raincity.com.

We’re Going to France!!!
Now How Do I Sign Up??
Tour Center ID: Clarke-5274

Step 1: Go to www.explorica.com
Step 2: Click on the Students Tab
Step 3: Select Sign Up For a Tour
Step 3: Enter in your Tour Center ID: Clarke-5274 and press Go
Step 4: Click Sign Up Now
Step 5: Enter personal contact information ensuring that first and last name match passport exactly
Step 6: Enter emergency contact information
Step 7: Click Change Selections if you do not want to purchase the Travel Protection Plan, if you would like to upgrade your rooming, or if you would like to select an alternate gateway or extended travel dates
Step 8: Select payment plan
Step 9: Make first payment with a Visa, MasterCard or electronic check
Step 10: Confirm all details and pack your bags!
The Seattle School District is an Equal Employment Opportunity, Affirmative Action employer and employs individuals without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, marital status, handicap/disability or sexual orientation. The Seattle School District provides Equal Education Opportunity without regard to race, creed color, nation origin, sex, mental status, 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.