Dear TOPS Families:

Welcome to families who are new to our school. Those who are returning, welcome back for the 2010-2011 school year. I hope that you have had a very fun and restful summer, and students are eager to get back to school. In my second year as principal of TOPS, I genuinely look forward to continuing the work we started last year, in the spirit of good cheer.

Fall Events:
- Kindergarten Families Potluck and Information Meeting was on Wednesday, September 1 at 6:00 p.m., in the kindergarten classrooms. The Potluck followed at 6:30 p.m.
- New Student Orientation is on Tuesday, September 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Families and students in grades 1 through 8 will meet in the TOPS Library at 10:00 a.m. to learn about the school and meet administrators, staff and parents. Coffee and pastries will be provided by the Coalition for Social Justice (CSJ) and the Site Council, who are co-hosting this event.

Parents, help us keep your children safe!

Student drop-off and pick-up

We would like to ask our parents to support us, once again, in helping to keep our children safe. Kindergarten parents who drop off students on Louisa must pull down beyond the kindergarten playground. Please do not leave your car, as this is a drop off area only. If you plan to come into the school, please find a parking space in the neighborhood, but be careful where you park because people do get tickets. If you drop off and/or pick up your child in the staff parking lot, please exit immediately to allow other cars to get through without a traffic jam.

Arrival/departure time

Student safety and supervision is always of paramount importance. Therefore, please do not allow students to report to school earlier than 8:00 a.m. for safety reasons. Supervisors are not on the playground until this time. Breakfast starts at 8:00 a.m. and the morning entrance bell rings at 8:15 a.m. The tardy bell rings at 8:20 a.m. School is over at 2:40 p.m., and the buses are scheduled to depart at 2:45 p.m.

Please remember to not block the school buses on Louisa. Remember that all parking on Louisa is reserved for school buses.

Thank you for your support and cooperation. Students should have a restful night’s sleep, and get ready for an exciting new school year. We look forward to partnering with our families this school year to ensure the success of our children.

~ Goethe

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: Janis White

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

SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SEPTEMBER TOPSNews Deadline
Friday, September 10 • Submissions to topsnewsletter@gmail.com
SITE COUNCIL WELCOME

By Janis White, Site Council Chair

It’s July 31. Earlier today, I watched my twins play with and make new friends at the second of three TOPS Kindergarten summer play dates. As I talked with new incoming parents who had many questions about the school, I found myself talking to them about why and how TOPS is different from neighborhood schools.

Teachers at TOPS believe in educating the whole child. That means paying attention to children’s social and emotional development as well as their academic progress. It means recognizing students who need extra support to succeed, recognizing students who need additional challenge, and ensuring that all students receive appropriate instruction to progress to the next level. It means teaching subjects that are sometimes given short shrift in today’s schools, including music, art, drama, science, and social studies.

Students at TOPS will graduate with a strong appreciation of their role as citizens of their communities, recognizing their responsibility to help those who are less fortunate. The curriculum at TOPS exposes our students to the values of compassionate citizenship. It starts in Kindergarten with family histories, and culminates in 8th grade with Planting the Seeds. In between, through their daily interactions in a diverse community of learners and their participation in special projects such as working in food banks and maintaining the grounds around TOPS, students learn what it means to be compassionate citizens.

Family involvement at TOPS is central to the school's mission and its success. One incoming parent told me about a school his older daughter had attended where he tried to volunteer, but no one returned his phone calls. That would never happen at TOPS! We count on every family volunteering – in classrooms, on field trips, coordinating the music and drama programs, organizing ArtFest, working with the Coalition for Social Justice, serving on Site Council, working on the No-Bake and Auction fundraisers, and on and on.

Finally, the tradition of self-governance is key to the identity of TOPS. For those of you who are new to the school, TOPS has a Site Council made up of the Principal, Assistant Principal, teacher representatives, parent representatives, a KidsCo representative, and an Eastlake community representative. Site Council is the principal governing body of the school. Last year we spent a great deal of time developing a decision making matrix to help guide us in determining who makes different decisions – Site Council, the Principal, or the School District. This year, we look forward to putting our new decision making guidelines into practice.

Site Council meetings are generally held the second Wednesday of the month from 5 to 7 p.m. in the library. All are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate; however, only Site Council representatives may vote. We plan to focus on one or two topics at each meeting so that we can have more in-depth discussions about school issues. Our first meeting of the year will be on September 15, 2010.

Please join us as often as you can.

Parent Site Council Members 2010-2011

K-2................. Alex Korahais
K-2................. Duncan Griffin, Assistant Chair
K-2................. Kathy Schmid, Secretary
3-5................. Janis White, Chair
3-5................. Staci Delgado
3-5................. Merran Kubalak
6-8................. Wayne Duncan
6-8................. Elissa Benson
6-8................. Liz Espiritu, Treasurer
CSJ................. Susan Welch

Teacher representatives will be selected in the fall when teachers return to school.


**SITE COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

*By Alex Korahais, K-2 rep and Communications Chair*

Towards the end of last school year, Site Council started work on increasing and improving communications to TOPS families about Site Council business and school issues. Here are the key features:

We have adopted a protocol for representatives to use with their constituent groups in advance of every meeting, so that families can be informed and offer input for their reps to bring to the meeting, or attend if they choose. Similarly, reps will send out a summary of each meeting after it has taken place. The primary medium for these conversations will be the class Yahoo! groups, but we will also make efforts to have hard copies go home to our families who don’t use email. Get to know your Site Council reps, ask questions, and offer your input. We’re here to represent all of the TOPS community in the governance of the school.

There will also be a regular Site Council report in TOPS NEWS, as well as updates in the weekly Go-Home for time-sensitive issues.

We will be launching a new event called TOPS 101 this fall. It’s an opportunity for new parents and parents of younger students who haven’t yet learned all the various events, acronyms, and entities which make up the TOPS school year to get a crash course in what to expect before it’s upon them. The focus will be on parts of the TOPS experience which affect families, rather than day-to-day school issues. We are in the process of planning the “curriculum.” Parents of older students, who know the ropes; think about volunteering to teach a session. Families of younger students, look for opportunities to have your burning questions become part of what’s taught. Dates will be in mid to late September.

Lastly, we are working to make the TOPS website more informative and useful by adding more content, and creating better ways of keeping it current. This will be an ongoing project, but look for changes as the year gets going.

As always, Site Council not only welcomes input from all TOPS families, we request it. We represent you and need to know your concerns and feelings about the issues facing our school. The list of Site Council Reps and contact information is in the Directory. Please stay in touch.

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**FRIENDS OF TOPS**

*By Janis White, Site Council Chair*

Have you ever wondered what happens to the money raised each year by Friends of TOPS? For 2010-11, we had 45 requests for funding, for a total of $220,250. We were not able to fund every request, but we were able to fund 42 projects for a total of $196,732.

Projects fall into five categories – Core Curriculum, Community, Multi-Cultural, Overhead and Miscellaneous, and Enrichment. Here are a few examples of projects funded in each category:

**Core Curriculum.** This category includes projects ranging from 1st and 2nd grade Literacy Block ($16,950) to Art Supplies ($1900), Science Materials ($3000), PEAK ($10,500), and Library Supplies/Multi-Cultural Resources ($3680).

**Community.** Projects funded in this category include the Newsletter ($1600), the School Directory ($1600), ArtFest ($800), Expansion of the Kindergarten Playground and Memorial ($6000), and Eighth Grade Passage ($2500).

**Multi-Cultural.** Taste of TOPS ($1000) and Multi-Cultural Education ($2000) are funded under this category.

**Overhead and Miscellaneous.** The TOPS Website ($160), No-Bake Sale ($1500), Auction Expenses ($17,500), and Survey Monkey ($200) are among the items funded under Overhead and Miscellaneous.

**Enrichment.** This category covers a wide variety of projects including Elementary and Middle School Drama ($4500), Music ($14,070), Writers in Schools ($8000), Young Playwrights Program ($1500), and New Classroom Libraries ($10,932).

Friends of TOPS funds so many important programs. Without your participation, many of the programs at TOPS – including some that you may have thought were funded by the School District – wouldn’t exist. Please be as generous as you can during the No-Bake Sale and at the Auction – the only two Friends of TOPS fundraisers – to enable us to continue to offer these enriching programs benefiting all our students.
TOPS AUCTION 2011
By Pam Copeland, Auction Co-Chair

We need your talents, inspiration, and energy starting in Fall for this year's TOPS auction — always an amazing community investment in nurturing the potential of all our children. This year's auction will have a new location: St. Demetrio's Church in the Montlake neighborhood. The event date will be the week before Spring Break, on Saturday, April 9, 2011. Mark the date on your calendar now!

The Auction Committee is in need of volunteers. Many roles are available, including:

**Auction Co-Chair** (which will lead to the Chair position the following year): this involves coordinating all aspects of the event, meetings, and team.

**Team Coordinator:** recruits volunteers for needed roles in set-up, and fills and manages night-of positions with 8th Graders.

**Silent Auction Co-Coordinator:** helps to organize and enter items to the auction website for silent auction beforehand, arranges printing of bid sheets, helps set up day-of, and sends thank you notes to donors afterwards. Also works with auction's TOPICS For Grown-Ups Coordinator.

**Procurement Co-Lead:** creates ask letters and mailings, and monitors donations.

**Publicity Manager:** promotes the auction, informs the community via newsletter, website and Room Reps, and coordinates mailings.

**Sponsorship Leader:** sells ad space in the program and on the website, and involves past donors.

If you’re interested in joining a team of fun, fantastic people who put the auction together, contact Pam Copeland at jimpmansophia@comcast.net. This event goes a long way to facilitate the extras that helped you choose this school for your child. We need you!

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**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.

**SEPTEMBER**

1 (W) Kindergarten meeting and potluck, 6:00 p.m.
7 (T) New student orientation, 10-11 a.m.
8 (W) First day of school, 8:20 a.m. start
15 (W) Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.
21 (T) Curriculum night, grades 4-6, 6-7 p.m.; grades 7-8, 7-8 p.m.
22 (W) CARE Assembly
29 (W) Professional development block time; 2-hour early dismissal

**OCTOBER**

5 (T) Kindergarten Curriculum night, 6-7:30 p.m.
8 (F) Professional development day; no school
27 (W) Professional development block time; 2-hour early dismissal

**NOVEMBER**

5 (F) End of first quarter
11 (Th) Veteran's Day; no school
22-24 (M-W) Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences; no school
25-26 (Th-F) Thanksgiving Holiday; no school

**DECEMBER**

17 (F) 1-hour early dismissal
20-31 Winter Break; no school

**JANUARY**

3 (M) School resumes
17 (M) Martin Luther King Day holiday; no school
27 (Th) Last day of semester
28 (F) Day between semesters; no school

**FEBRUARY**

2 (W) Professional development block time; 2-hour early dismissal
21 (M) Presidents Day; no school
22-25 (T-F) Mid-winter break; no school

**MARCH**

2 (W) Professional development block time; 2-hour early dismissal
18 (F) Professional development day; no school

**APRIL**

8 (F) End of third quarter
9 (S) TOPS Auction, 5 p.m.
18-22 (M-F) Spring Break; no school

**MAY**

18 (W) Professional development block time; 2-hour early dismissal
30 (M) Memorial Day; no school

**JUNE**

21 (T) Last student day, 1-hour early dismissal
**CSJ CORNER**

*By Karen Stuhldreher*

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 p.m.

Our goal is to cultivate a committed group that is interested in discussing and working on issues of diversity, social justice, and inclusion at TOPS.

This year our focus will be on “Tending the Whole Garden,” a project funded by the Special Auction Project last spring to support teachers in highlighting social justice related activities and projects in their curricula and throughout the school. CSJ will also continue work with the Inclusion Task Force, the Anti-Bullying/CARE program, and planning Taste of TOPS in the Spring.

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 and to be on the contact list.

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**TEAM TOPS AT THE WATER 1ST, CARRY 5**

*By Catherine Staunton*

On Saturday June 5 TOPS students Sophia Copeland, Fiona and Duncan Kubalak, Clare and Helen Maclay, Elli and Kiran Lingappa, and Ella Gruen participated in the Water 1st, Carry 5 fund raiser at Seward Park, along with seven parents and two dogs.

Water 1st is a local non-profit whose mission is to serve families in the poorest communities in the world as they implement community-managed projects that integrate water supply, sanitation, and health education. TOPS parent Pam Copeland has taught Topics about Water 1st at TOPS, and in doing so, energized a bunch of TOPS students to participate in the Carry 5 fund raiser. As Pam eloquently sums it up:

**WE WALK SO THEY DON’T HAVE TO:** What would it be like to carry 5 gallons of water for 5 kilometers every day and still not have enough for your family?

**LEARN:** In poor countries, women and children spend up to 5 hours each day carrying home heavy containers of contaminated water from streams and ponds. Every day, 5,000 children die from preventable water-related illnesses.

**WALK:** For just one day, try carrying water for 5 kilometers and experience what more than 1 billion people do every day of their lives.

**HELP:** The world’s poorest with their greatest need. Just $50 provides safe water for a child for the rest of his or her life.

Team TOPS members each walked 5 km carrying water strapped to their backs and raised over $2,000 dollars (enough to provide a lifetime of safe water to over 40 children!). Team TOPS won second place for fund raising. We plan to make this an annual event and hope that you will join us next year!
TOPS STAFF, 2010-2011

Administrative Staff

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

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

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

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

Custodial Engineer
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Moges Woldemicael ............................... custodial office ................................ ........................................ 252-3525

Evening Custodian
Sanh Ly ........................................ custodial office ................................................ 252-3525

Lunchroom Manager
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Nurse
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Office Assistant/Budget/Attendance
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Psychologist
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Volunteer Coordinator
John Kubalak ................................ office .................................. .......................................................... 252-3561

Teaching Staff

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

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

Grade 1
Carla Fetterley .................................... C103 ........................................ cafetterley@seattleschools.org ......................... 252-3569
Sarah Sullivan ..................................... C104 ........................................ slmarks@seattleschools.org .......................... 252-3550

Grade 2
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Grade 4
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Grade 5
Nina Binder ........................................... B205 .................................... nlbinder@seattleschools.org .............................................. 252-3556
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Grade 6
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Grades 7-8
Dan Bloedel, science ......................... B303 ............................................. dbloedel@seattleschools.org .............................................. 252-3359
Lori Eickelberg, language arts ........ B403 ............................................. leickelberg@seattleschools.org .............................................. 252-3564
Mark Ellis, math ........................................... B403 .................................... meliss@seattleschools.org .............................................. 252-3565
TBA, social studies ............................... B402 ........................................................................................................... 252-3563

Art
Cynthia Livak (K-4) ................................................................................................................................................... 252-3510
Luzita Roll (5-8) ..................................... B401 .................................... lmroll@seattleschools.org .............................................. 252-3562

D/HH Program
Teachers
Cindy Beck .................................... B203 .................................... cjbeck@seattleschools.org .............................................. 252-3543
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Audiologist
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Preschool
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English Language Learning (ELL/ESL)
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Bilingual Instructional Assistants
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Librarian
Steve Haines ........................................... library .............................................. shaines@seattleschools.org .............................................. 252-3530

Middle School Special Education
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Instructional Assistant
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Occupational/Physical Therapy
TBA .............................................. 252-4776

Physical Education
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Don Zemke ........................................... gym .............................................. dwzemke@seattleschools.org .............................................. 252-3516

Special Education Resource Room
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James Burger (6-8) ........................................... B304 .................................... jfburger@seattleschools.org .............................................. 252-3560

Speech and Language
Karma Augerot ........................................... conf room C .............................................. keaugerot@seattleschools.org .............................................. 252-3524
3rd and 4th Graders go to CAMP ARNOLD!
June 10-11, 2010

Photos by Xiao Yu Jackson, Susan Welch, and Ann Simonson
Starting the last week of September, the Kids Co. Homework Club (KCHC) will begin for children from 7-12 years old who need a few hours after school of supervised homework time. KCHC will run from 2:30-4:30 p.m. four afternoons a week, and there will be two trained staff available to assist with homework and to help maintain a quiet setting for academics in the TOPS library. There are several options for enrollment: Monday through Thursday, Mon and Wed, or Tues and Thurs. Tuition rates for an 11 week session will be approximately $600 for all four days, or $360 for two days per week. Please register soon to reserve your space! Contact Aaron Norikane at (206) 709-8487 or email tops@kidscompany.org.

NOTE: We are looking into accepting kids older than 12 years of age, so it’s still a possibility for 7th and 8th graders!

Let’s Keep Escrip Growing!

By Julie Wroble

What’s stopping you from signing up for Escrip?

Last school year between September 2009 and June 2010, the 49 TOPS families who participated in the Escrip program earned $470 for Friends of TOPS. Are you new to TOPS? If so, consider signing up for Escrip. Signing up is easy!

1. Go to www.escrip.com
2. Click on “sign up”
3. Follow the instructions to register your grocery cards and existing credit/debit cards.

It’s easy, it’s free, and it’s powerful! Registering your cards is quick and easy, and once that is done, a small percentage of every purchase you make at participating vendors will be sent to Friends of TOPS for use in the general fund.

If you have no idea what your Safeway club card number is, all you have to do is call 1-877-Safeway and they will give you the club card number. You can also sign up other credit cards or retail cards (Visa, Mastercard, Macy’s, etc.). You also have the opportunity to register credit cards and debit cards, or do on-line shopping at www.shopping.escrip.com.

There’s more we could do with this program and it would be great if someone wanted to take it on this coming school year. I’d be happy to answer your questions and get you started. Please call or e-mail Julie Wroble at jwroble@comcast.net or call 324-4829. Thanks for your support!

Box Tops for Education

By Ann Simonson

So you’ve finally taken the plunge and signed up for Escrip, now look at the food you buy. Odds are you’ve bought something with that little pink square on it that says “Box Tops for Education.” Don’t throw it out! Cut it out, save it in a bag, a box, or something, and after you’ve collected a bunch, carry them into the TOPS office and dump them in the big plastic jug sitting on the little table by the chairs in the corner. This is more free money for TOPS! It may not seem like much, but imagine if we all did this. Those pennies would add up.

Information about this program was passed out at the Kindergarten meeting I attended in 2003, and I’ve been clipping those things ever since. So join me and earn some more money for TOPS.
Welcome to the 2010-11 school year, which is our 35th year as TOPS alternative school, and 12th year back in the remodeled Seward building. I am looking forward to meeting all our new families, even at the new “bleary eyed” start time of 8:20. I will continue to be at TOPS full time but my duties (at press time) are changing. The library will continue to be open during the school day and I will be available for half the hours. The other time will be devoted to helping with 1st and 2nd grade reading classes, as well as managing the Learning Assistance Program (LAP) for elementary students. If anyone out there enjoys shelving books, helping students, mending/cataloging books, now is your chance to lend a hand to keep our library running smoothly.

State of the Library
The results of the materials inventory taken in June of this year netted the following results:

**BOOKS OVERDUE:**
- Materials still checked out to staff and students .................87 (5 year average: 75)
  Replacement cost .............................................................................$946

**MARKED AS MISSING:**
- Materials not checked out and unaccounted for .................................75 (5 year average, 78)
  Replacement cost .............................................................................$748

**MARKED AS LOST OR DAMAGED:**
- Materials lost or damaged during the school year ........................51 (5 year average, 33)
  Replacement cost* .............................................................................$678

*based on School Library Journal average of $13.30 hardback and paper

Fortunately for us some of these books make it back. Many of them are resting comfortably under beds or couches, longing to come home to the shelves. Fines are not incurred for overdue books, but if a book is lost or damaged, then it is the student’s responsibility to either replace the book, pay for the item, or replace it with another book in good condition. Once again, I would like to thank the Friends of TOPS for supporting the library with funds for replacements and some new materials. Book donations are also appreciated.

New Books
One new book that we will be getting is the anxiously awaited Hunger Games book 3, *Mockingjay*, by Suzanne Collins. Older readers will want to find out what happens to Katniss, the heroine of this science fiction series. Come in and see all the new books, including *Nubs: the True Story of a Mutt*, which is about a dog of war that is adopted by a marine in Iraq. See you soon!

“" My encouragement to you is to go tomorrow to the library. ”

~ Maya Angelou

W 2006 TOPS Grads, Shannon, Sinclaire, Emily, Michael, Robbie, Nick, and Sam return for a visit to their K-8 alma mater. — Photo by Steve Haines

**WATCH OUT FOR LIME GREEN PAPER!**

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

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

Please take note as soon as you see a lime green paper come home with your child. Read and return without delay!
TOPS Spanish Program welcomes students from 1st through 6th grade

by Marcia Weaver

Friends of TOPS is proud to offer after-school Spanish. Beginning classes (grades 1-3) will be on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, and intermediate classes (grades 4-6) will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tuition is $300 per child for a total of 40 classes between mid-October and May. As with all TOPS programs, scholarships are available.

Last year the Spanish teacher was Elina Sanchez from Argentina. Elina recently graduated with a degree in Romance Linguistics from the University of Washington, and taught Spanish at Lowell Elementary School for seven years before adding the TOPS program to her schedule.

Here are testimonials from satisfied parents:

Danny Sullivan: “My daughter has been in the program for four years, beginning in first grade. All of the teachers have been wonderful. The intermediate class is a nice mix of oral and writing activities.”

Paul Gruen: “Both of my children enjoy class, their friends, and the teacher. They hit the ground running and spend a good productive hour.”

This year, the intermediate students will continue working with the series, “Espanol Para Chicos y Grandes.” We’re looking forward to another fabulous year and welcome your child to join the Spanish program.

Message from the Principal continued from page 1

- ASB (Associated Student Body) representatives will lead the new students on tours of the school and then host a pizza party in the lunchroom.
- Curriculum Night will be held on September 21 for grades 4, 5, and 6 from 6:00-7:00 p.m., and grades 7 and 8 from 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- Curriculum Night will be held on September 28 for DHH (Deaf and Hard of Hearing) Program, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., and Grades 1, 2, and 3 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- Kindergarten Curriculum Night will be held on October 5, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- Our first CARE (Coaching All to Respect Everyone) assembly, welcoming students back to school, will be held on September 29. We’re looking forward to working cooperatively with our parent team, and our counselor, Jennifer Murray, along with the CARE Team to plan this event. This year we will continue to focus on guiding our students to develop positive interactions among peers and everyone in the TOPS Community.

We already have dates on our calendar for many of the wonderful activities that happen at our school.

For more information, please contact Marcia Weaver mweaver@uw.edu. Also, please contact me if you can spare a few hours in the fall to get the program off the ground.

Photo by Don Zemke
We need a volunteer (or volunteers) to step up to do the monthly production design 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 can provide you with training and support, as well as files, clip art, and commonly used images. We currently work in Adobe InDesign CS3 (we can do either PC or Mac).

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 an established graphic designer interested in sharing skills with the TOPS community.

Please email Paul at javabrain@msn.com if you are interested in helping.

2010 – 2011 TOPS News Deadlines

We welcome submissions from all members of the TOPS community including students, parents, alumni, teachers, and staff. Submissions should be emailed to topsnewsletter@gmail.com or dropped in the mailbox in the TOPS office.

Deadlines are subject to change and are listed on the front page of the current issue for the next month. Our goal is to have newsletters out to you by the first of the month, and the newsletter will generally be available on the TOPS website several days before this.

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<td>October</td>
<td>September 10</td>
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<td>November</td>
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<td>December/January</td>
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We are in need of a volunteer to handle the bulk mailing of the TOPSNews – this is a job which involves picking up the printed newsletters from G&H on Eastlake by TOPS, applying labels, sorting and preparing for bulk mail, and delivering to the District office for the mailing. This would be a great job to share with a friend or two. If you have questions about the details of the job, please contact Sharon Lynch Grey at sharonus@gmail.com.
We are looking forward to seeing your children again for another great year of teaching them the skills they’ll need to stay healthy, while also learning the social skills necessary to cooperate with others.

We’ll be starting off the school year with a variety of cooperative activities and our physical fitness pre-test, followed by units on Ultimate Frisbee and Soccer.

Middle School Athletics will begin right away with Ultimate Frisbee and Girls Soccer. All participants will need to have a Seattle Public Schools Athletic Registration and Physical Form on file in order to participate. Athletic forms can be found at the Athletic Department website at: http://www.seattleschools.org/area/athletics/index.dxml. Please visit the TOPS website for additional sports details and be sure to turn your form in to one of us.

After School Sports will begin on Monday October 4 with Circus Arts for all ages. Other options will be scheduled as Don, Eric, and parent volunteers become available. As always, because of our coaching responsibilities, we welcome any parents who might want to be responsible for an After School Sports session!

The No-Bake Committee Needs Your Help!

Help us raise money this fall to support all our kids at TOPS. Lots of skills needed, including financial, writing, graphic design, envelope stuffers, etc.

Contact Richard Silverstein, richards1052@comcast.net
7th Graders Conquer Mount St. Helens!

Photos by Sayuri Doi
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, national 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, services, 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.

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NEW START AND DISMISSAL TIMES

Lunchroom / playground open ..................8:00 a.m.
Warning bell ...................8:15 a.m.
School starts ..................8:20 a.m.
School dismisses ............2:40 p.m.
Buses depart .................2:45 p.m.