Dear TOPS Families:

We’ve had a successful opening of school; the kids are here, as are the buses, and now school is in full swing. The New Families Orientation went very well, thanks to Karen Stuhldreher, Janis White, and the ASB officers for welcoming our new families. We really appreciate the parents who have volunteered to help get school off to a good start by helping in the lunchroom, on the playground, and in the classrooms. Thank you for your time and patience as we all adjust to our new schedule. We’ve seen some positive aspects of our new schedule. Revised lunch times give all of the kids enough time to eat and enjoy recess with their peers.

It was nice to see so many of you at our curriculum night functions. TOPS always has a great turn out at these events. We’ve had our first CARE assembly, in which we addressed positive social interactions, and the guidelines of our anti-bullying program. The ASB officers did a wonderful job of talking about the importance of everyday social behaviors and responsibilities.

We’re in the middle of MAP testing. Thank you for getting your kids to school, daily. This eases our make-up schedule, and ensures that students are not out of class any more than they have to be. You should have received your child’s MSP (WASL) scores by now, as they were sent home with students.

We’ve had our first Site Council meeting, and have plotted out our goals for the year. We’ll continue to work with the Site Council this year to provide the best possible instructional and enrichment experiences for each and every one of our students. I look forward to a productive year of working with all of you.

Sincerely,

Jo Lute-Ervin
Principal

~ HELEN KELLER

Until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other’s welfare, social justice can never be attained.
Welcome to TOPS, Mr. Swarner

By Dori Cahn

“I’ve always been interested in history,” says Joe Swarner, our new TOPS 7th and 8th grade Social Studies teacher. Even as a kid, “it fascinated me.”

Mr. Swarner hopes to instill that fascination and a critical eye in his new students at TOPS.

“I try to teach kids how history is done and what the discipline actually means. A lot of people think of history as, so here’s this date, memorize this, and then what happened, and then what happened. I tend to approach history more as, history is about the people that made those decisions. So, what made those decisions seem logical at the time? What was going through their heads? Really making it personal, getting into who the people in history are. Not just the important people, but also the little guy out there that saw all this stuff happen, and they’ve got some thoughts.”

“As a historian you have to keep an open mind. That’s what I’m hoping kids will do, after they’ve gotten informed and looked at things, that they make up their mind, and that they can articulate what that means.”

Joe Swarner grew up in Idaho and got his Bachelor’s in History from the University of Idaho, where he also earned a Bachelor’s in Secondary Education. He worked at an alternative high school for at-risk kids in Idaho before coming to Seattle, where he taught 9th grade World History and 12th grade AP American Government at Garfield High School for four years.

He comes to TOPS after a year at Catherine Blaine K-8, but he knew about TOPS before he ever got here. “I’ve taught a lot of kids who’ve come from TOPS, and I know that the kids who come out of this program are some of the smartest kids I’ve ever taught. So I figured maybe I could contribute and be a part of the TOPS community.”

His enthusiasm for teaching shows when he talks about the kids. His favorite part of teaching is “when the light goes on and they go ‘ohhhh.’ That might take two days, it might take two weeks, or it might take all year. But you can really tell when a kid has finally gotten something, and something turns on inside them, and they finally understand how to take ownership, how to do things, and do it on their own. That’s for me the best.”

“I would sacrifice anything to make sure that a kid has the skills when they leave to be successful later on.”

Much of his early learning of history came through playing games that involved history. Two of his favorites were “Diplomacy,” reliving the politics and ugliness of World War I, and “Axis and Allies,” which reenacted WWII.

But games for Swarner are not just about history: he’s played video games since he got his first Nintendo when he was ten. He admits it’s something he can’t give up, which surely thrills his students.

When he’s not in the classroom or playing Lego video games with his 10-year old son and 8-year old daughter, he is also a graduate student at the University of Washington’s Center for Educational Leadership, working on a Master’s in Instructional Leadership. It’s a degree that would allow him to still be in the classroom, continuing to learn about the craft of teaching while also being in a leadership position in a school, such as a department head or a teacher/coach.

He’s been married for over 11 years, and hopes his two children will get to come to TOPS. “The paperwork for getting them to be in the same school with me takes a while. So I don’t want to transfer them … until I’ve found a home where I can be for at least five years or so. I’m hoping TOPS is that home.”

“Everybody is so nice and welcoming; it’s such a nice situation to walk into. It’s a great place. I’ve really enjoyed my time so far. I actually had two students of mine from Garfield who were TOPS students come back, and they were looking specifically for me, so that was a good feeling. It’s nice to know I had roots in the community before I came here.”

Welcome to TOPS, Mr. Swarner!
**NO-BAKE SALE SUPPORTS 40 CRITICAL TOPS PROGRAMS**

By Richard Silverstein

Every fall, Friends of TOPS begins the year with an important part of its annual fundraising efforts: the No-Bake Sale. This year, because we've chosen to advance our annual Auction event by several weeks, we're also advancing the date for the No-Bake.

The premise of the No-Bake Sale is that we will ask for financial support only once in the fall (and then at the Auction) without approaching you with other events as other schools do. That means it's especially critical that we engage you now on the importance of giving to the No-Bake. You won't be approached any other time this year until the Auction in the spring.

Every year, we highlight something extraordinary about our school that either you won't find at other schools or which we do far better than others. This year that theme is volunteerism. The sheer level of commitment by our parents is amazing. Virtually every parent at one time or another does a volunteer task in our school. Some parents volunteer every week; some are here almost every day (or it seems like it!). They participate in Site Council, they are room representatives, they escort field trips, they assist teachers in classrooms with reading and math, they teach TOPICS, and they coordinate theater performances or musical concerts. Parents are everywhere at TOPS. That's because we care about our kids and we care deeply about their education. It's one of the things that makes our school special.

Because you care, we need your financial support now. When you receive your mail solicitation please give and give generously.

Your gift will support over 40 programs at TOPS that would not happen without you, including elementary art, 1st and 2nd grade literacy block, the middle school play, the elementary musical, the 3rd grade Shakespeare play, Writers in the Schools, Young Playwrights Program, Taste of TOPS, chorus, band, orchestra, and new classroom libraries.

Last year, a number of our families faced economic hardship and job losses, and contributions to the No-Bake declined. If you are able, step up to the plate for your neighbor who can't. Help make up the difference by increasing your donation over last year.

There once was a time, and not so long ago, when we earned over 90% participation in the No-Bake. Lately, the percentage is down considerably. Please give when asked. We don't care whether you give $1, $5, or $5,000. We only ask that you join other TOPS parents in making a gift that is meaningful to you. Every gift is valued.

If you wish to make your gift before you receive your mail solicitation, you may leave checks (made payable to Friends of TOPS) with the office and marked “No-Bake.”

Thank you in advance!
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!

CSJ will meet Wednesday, October 20 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the TOPS Library. Snacks will be provided.

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.

This year CSJ will focus its work on:

- **Inclusion**—making sure that all families in our community are fully included in a way that honors and values our differences
- **CARE (Coaching All to Respect Everyone)**—TOPS Anti-Bullying Program
- **Tending the Whole Garden**—A New Project to initiate and support efforts that will effectively and sustainably align the TOPS curricula with its social justice vision/mission.

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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### 2010 - 2011 TOPS Calendar

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

#### October

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 (T)</td>
<td>Kindergarten Curriculum night, 6-7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 (F)</td>
<td>Professional development day; no school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 (W)</td>
<td>Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 (F)</td>
<td>2nd grade field trip to &quot;The Farm&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 (T)</td>
<td>Grades 2-4, SPED to SCT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 (W)</td>
<td>Coalition for Social Justice (CSJ) meeting, 5:30-7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 (W)</td>
<td>DHH to SCT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 (W)</td>
<td>Professional development block time; 2-hour early dismissal</td>
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#### November

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 (F)</td>
<td>End of first quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 (W)</td>
<td>Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 (Th)</td>
<td>Veteran's Day; no school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-24 (M-W)</td>
<td>Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences; no school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-26 (Th-F)</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday; no school</td>
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#### December

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 (W)</td>
<td>Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 (F)</td>
<td>1-hour early dismissal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-31</td>
<td>Winter Break; no school</td>
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#### January

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 (M)</td>
<td>School resumes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 (W)</td>
<td>Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 (M)</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Day holiday; no school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 (Th)</td>
<td>Last day of semester</td>
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#### February

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 (W)</td>
<td>Professional development block time; 2-hour early dismissal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 (W)</td>
<td>Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-18 (W-F)</td>
<td>Planting the Seeds, 8th grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 (M)</td>
<td>Presidents Day; no school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-25 (T-F)</td>
<td>Mid-winter break; no school</td>
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#### March

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 (W)</td>
<td>Professional development block time; 2-hour early dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 (W)</td>
<td>Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.</td>
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#### April

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 (F)</td>
<td>End of third quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 (S)</td>
<td>TOPS Auction, 5 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 (W)</td>
<td>Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-22 (M-F)</td>
<td>Spring Break; no school</td>
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#### May

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 (W)</td>
<td>Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-20 (M-F)</td>
<td>MSP Testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 (W)</td>
<td>Professional development block time; 2-hour early dismissal</td>
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#### June

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 (W)</td>
<td>Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 (T)</td>
<td>Last student day, 1-hour early dismissal</td>
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If you attended the TOPS Spring Auction, you may remember the energy and enthusiasm that was in the air for deepening, strengthening, and effectively aligning our curriculum around ‘Compassionate Citizenship and Social Justice.’ The enthusiasm paid off - we raised $30,000 to provide support to teachers and parents who have projects in place or in mind to support the TOPS Social Justice mission and vision.

Following the Auction, a Coalition for Social Justice (CSJ) subcommittee of parents and teachers formed to define the parameters of this fund – called Tending the Whole Garden (TWG Fund, for short!)

It was a natural fit for CSJ to administer the TWG Fund, given both the scope of CSJ and the work that the teacher/administrator/parent members of CSJ had been doing throughout the course of the school year to ensure that the 8th Grade “Planting the Seeds” curriculum would be ongoing. CSJ members worked on identifying practical, sustainable ways to build and improve our social justice curriculum through the partnership of teachers and parents, from kindergarten through TOPS graduation. In October 2009, CSJ hosted a dialogue with TOPS teachers to learn about what they need to develop their ideas toward planting seeds of social justice in their classrooms. One outcome of this work is the planned creation of a TOPS volunteer bank, where community members can post their skills and contributions, and teachers can access them online.

By the end of the school year, the TWG subcommittee had determined the criteria and process for how the TWG funds will be disbursed. CSJ then sought approval from Site Council for its plan to administer the TWG fund.

The plan included a request that part of the money be spent on hiring a project coordinator (preferably a teacher or parent with curriculum development experience who is part of the TOPS community). The project coordinator would work with teachers to improve implementation of existing projects, and to bring forth new ones through a proposal process similar to the Request for Proposal (RFP) and Teacher Excellence Fund processes already established at TOPS. The coordinator would also act primarily as a liaison between teachers/parents and the TWG subcommittee to establish projects, and request support for those that further our Social Justice mission around three themes:

- Service Learning in the greater Seattle community
- Community Building at TOPS
- Equity in Learning at TOPS

The project coordinator would be referred to as ‘The Master Gardener’, as a way to reflect his or her role in nurturing and growing new curriculum that is aligned with our overall mission.

At its June meeting, the Site Council approved this CSJ proposal for TWG. This fall, the subcommittee is working to develop the process, and getting the word to teachers and families about this great opportunity to access funding and support for new and existing social justice related curricula at all grade levels.

TWG Proposals can be submitted by staff together with a parent/guardian, and must also meet several criteria for funding:

1. Proposals must be co-sponsored by at least one parent/guardian and one teacher, and must clearly explain collaboration between staff and family community.
2. Curriculum component must be established.
3. Thematic relevance to one of the above listed themes must be established.
4. Community outreach for project and project outcome must be part of the implementation proposal.

The members of Site Council and the Coalition for Social Justice are very excited about how the TWG fund may improve our already strong program. We look forward to providing support to teachers so that they can actually make more of their great ideas for our community come to life.

Stay tuned – we look forward to reporting about the great seeds that will be planted in the TOPS curriculum and community with the money you helped to provide.
Site Council Meeting Summary - Wednesday, September 15, 2010

By Alex Korahais

Site Council had its first monthly meeting of the year in the TOPS library on Wednesday evening, September 15. Here are some highlights:

We will try a new meeting format for the coming year. The various reports by individuals and committees to Site Council will be circulated to the members by email in the week prior to the meeting. This will free valuable agenda time for discussion of important issues facing the school. We will also try to structure the agenda to have only two or three important issues at most being tackled in a given month in order to devote an appropriate amount of time to each.

A task force is being formed to address questions and planning for after school programs, both old and new, in light of the new bell schedule and tighter District requirements. For information or to join, please email Duncan Griffin at DGriffin@nbbj.com.

A task force is being formed to try to create a more consistent vision and system for TOPICS, to make it more user-friendly for teachers, and to attract more parent volunteers. For information or to join, please email Susan Welch at Susan.welch1@comcast.net.

There will be a supplemental school levy on the ballot in November. There are some concerns in the community about the way the district plans to use the money if it passes. The coming 2-3 weeks are our best opportunity to speak out to the School Board about accountability and guarantees that that money will go to our classrooms and our kids. For more information, email Michelle Buetow at michellebuetow@hotmail.com.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 13, 5-7 p.m. in the TOPS library. All are welcome. You will be hearing more from your Site Council Reps the week before the meeting. To offer an item for the agenda, contact your rep or Site Council Chair Janis White at jwhite717@comcast.net.

This year’s Site Council Reps are:

Parents: K-2: Alex Korahais, Duncan Griffin, Kathy Schmid
3-5: Staci Delgado, Janis White, Merran Kubalak
6-8: Wayne Duncan, Elissa Benson, Liz Espiritu

Teachers: Tracy Seefeld, Carla Fetterley, Katie Waters, Luzita Roll, Lori Eickelberg, Don Zemke & Eric Herndon (sharing a position)

Staff: Jo Lute-Ervin, Jeanne Kuban

Eastlake Neighborhood: Jules James

KidsCo: Aaron Norikane

ASB: Max Weinberger

Building Leadership Team Parent Reps: Nancy Cohen, Maureen Germani

CSJ: Susan Welch

Calling all Architects, Carpenters, Craftspeople, and Talented Ones

By Pam Copeland, Auction Co-Chair

This year’s Auction centerpiece artworks will be birdhouses! We already have one inspired design of a birdhouse in the likeness of TOPS (thank you Jon Nishida!). We need 28 more unique designs for centerpieces to be auctioned off. The original decorated Lazy Susans we had last year brought in thousands and thousands of dollars for all of the programs that make TOPS special.

If you have an inspired idea, please contact Pam Copeland, jimpmandsophia@comcast.net or 264-1850. Think: Found local materials, Mosaic, Boat Themes, anything unique!

We have moved up the date a month for the 2011 event to April 9, 2011 - mark your calendars. It will be in a new venue also - St. Demetrio’s on Boyer, in the Montlake neighborhood, which comes with 120 parking spaces! It is such a fun event and a great way to get to see people away from school, as well as helping your children get what they need every day. It’s an event for everybody. Bartend, sell raffle tickets, or help with registration. We need you!

If you want to help, our first meeting will be Tuesday evening, November 2 at Pam Copeland’s house. Contact Pam Copeland @ jimpmandsophia@comcast.net or 264-1850 if you’d like to attend and be involved.

See you there!
Did you ever wonder why TOPS is considered an alternative school – or what an alternative school in Seattle really means?

Over the past few years, the definition of “Alternative Schools” in Seattle has been somewhat up for grabs. Throw the variant term “Option Schools” into the mix and it’s easy to see why people have become confused about what all the terminology really means, if anything!

TOPS has regarded itself, and has been described as an Alternative School from its inception in the 1970’s – primarily because it was established from the ground up, with a lot of autonomy in how its programs were developed, by a group of parents, teachers, and administrators who wanted to offer something different to families in or around central Seattle. As the program grew, it was not only its origins that were alternative, but also its scope and curriculum. While much focus was given to a “city school” approach in the early years, recently, TOPS has embraced a curriculum that is rooted in Social Justice learning and strong family involvement.

Now, fast forward to 2010 and, within the District, the term Alternative has lost its focus, even if the schools to which it applies continue to thrive. As the District is reworking basic elements of Seattle’s public education model, the place of “alternative schools” such as TOPS is ambiguous and perhaps at risk. For this reason, TOPS and other schools need to work to both revitalize their “alternativeness” and try to have a place at the table while the District redefines what it means.

The Alternative School Coalition (ASC) is made up of parent and staff representatives from alternative public schools across the District. Seattle’s “Alternative Schools” operate under a School Board Policy (C54.00 - http://www.seattleschools.org/area/policies/c/C54.00.pdf) that was formalized and adopted by the School Board in 2006. Language in Policy C54.00 was established by a volunteer working-group that was closely associated at the time with the Alternative School Coalition. Over the past two years, the ASC has been revitalized – its current mission is to educate the District leaders (both school board and administrators) about the value of our existing Alternative Schools, and of an Alternative School policy that is well-defined, commonly accepted, and promoted.

Over the past year, the ASC executive committee has met with SPS Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Susan Enfield, several times in order to further her understanding of our current programs. She has also met with the principals of these schools. The ASC executive committee has several teacher/administrator members as well as parents, since a common characteristic of our schools is a high level of community involvement – many of the schools, such as TOPS, are governed through Site Councils, which implies “site based decision making.”

The ASC also hosted an Alternative Schools Fair at the District offices last spring, to provide a forum for families to learn more during enrollment about what each school has to offer. Educating families who are considering public education in Seattle about programs like TOPS is as important as our work with the District – without new families who are committed to fostering alternative education, programs such as TOPS will not continue to thrive.

Currently, the ASC is dialoguing with the SPS administration to determine the parameters of a review of Seattle’s alternative school programs. It will likely be in the form of a self-study in which schools prepare much of their own material for the review. According to SPS administrators, this review will lead to a new, clarified definition of how alternative schools are created and operate in Seattle. TOPS parents have an active role on ASC – if you think you would like to become involved, please contact Michele Buetow, TOPS ASC representative, at michellebuetow@hotmail.com.
Banned Books Week this year was September 25 through October 2. It is a week set aside annually to “celebrate our freedom to read.” And for the eighth consecutive year, TOPS was fortunate to have the Seattle Public Library sponsor Book-It Repertory Theatre’s presentation of “Danger: Books!” to our 5th-8th graders on Thursday, September 30. This program is a celebration of the First Amendment, specifically the freedom of speech. This year, the cast members presented, in readers’ theatre format, selections from three books that have been banned or challenged: Olive’s Ocean by Kevin Henkes, On the Devil’s Court by Carl Deuker, and Stega Nona by Tomie dePaola. There was time for discussion and questions about the books, about why books are banned and challenged, and about the whole idea of “intellectual freedom.” As in the past, this event generated a spirited and thoughtful dialogue.

Two things happened to us the first day of school that have never happened during my tenure at TOPS. First, it was raining, and secondly, school started at 8:20. The rain is really nothing new, but the new daily schedule will take some getting used to. I am looking forward to a successful year for all of our students. The library will be open from 8:00 am to 2:40 p.m. Even though I won’t be available after school, Kids Company is sponsoring a homework club that will use the library facility. Check it out, and check out the library, especially if it’s wet outside.

Paris and London Spring Break 2011

Bon Voyage!

Back by popular demand, Paris and London spring break 2011

By Marianne Clark, 6th Grade Teacher and TOPS French Teacher

Join TOPS students, parents, their relatives, and friends on a trip to Paris and London during spring break April 16-25, 2011.

Visit www.explorica.com/Clarke-5274 for a look at the full itinerary and other details about the trip. Contact TOPS French teacher and group leader Marianne with questions at mclarke@raincity.com.
It was a beautiful sunny August morning. Sailor hats were placed on heads and candy necklaces for breakfast were being chewed on. Ethan, Sophia, Jack, Stephan, Don, and Eric were boarding the Sadie Mae for a day on Puget Sound.

We got the motor going and were silently gliding towards the crab pots filled with crab who were unaware of the fate that awaited them (and us!). We pulled up the crab pots and found a bunch of crabs including one rock crab that we named Pierce. Ethan was holding Pierce for a photo when its enormous claw grabbed on to Ethan's thumb and pinched! Ethan screamed and launched the crab off his thumb and onto the deck of the boat. Ethan got even when he enjoyed Pierce for dinner that night.

After the crab adventure we put off sailing due to a lack of wind and fished for salmon instead. While fishing we spotted porpoises that were fishing for salmon also. We also saw seals, and had a beautiful view of Mt. Rainier and Mt Baker. We all got a turn to skipper the boat and then Jack decided to enjoy his candy necklace again by throwing it up!

We got hungry and headed back to shore for lunch at Little Coney’s which was delicious. The yellow jackets thought it was delicious also! The wind finally picked up so we headed back out on the water, hoisted the sails and had a great time sailing on Puget Sound.

Thanks to our parents for buying the trip at the TOPS auction, it was a blast. We ended the day by enjoying some nice fresh crab for dinner.
TOPS Ultimate
Are you creative?
Do you have graphic design skills?
Do you want more experience with Adobe CS?
Are you up for a great volunteer opportunity?

TOPS News needs 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 learning more!

“A well-spent day brings happy sleep.” - Leonardo da Vinci
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 49.80, 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.

TOPS No-Bake 2010
Annual Fund Drive to support vital TOPS programs

Your gift to Friends of TOPS will sustain the work of our outstanding teachers. Please answer the call when you receive your letter! See article on page 3 of this newsletter for more information.

Mail your donations to:
TOPS School No-Bake Fund Drive
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Seattle, WA  98102