

TOPS NEWS

AUCTION COUNTDOWN: ITEMS DUE MARCH 3

Just 6 weeks left 'til the big night, folks! It's time to be making a major push to procure those great auction goodies. The more items we come up with, the more great school stuff our kids are going to get. Just about everywhere you go there's a product or service that a fellow TOPS parent is just itching to buy. Think you can produce at least three auction items? Four? Five?

All it takes is a few quick conversations with people who can donate a product or service to the auction. These are people you talk to every day. Your grocer, soccer coach, hair stylist, book authors, ice cream store owners, restaurateurs, theater operators, book store managers.



Everywhere you usually spend your time or money, that's where the items come from.

Other ideas? Collaborate with friends to create and serve a theme dinner, a year's supply of chocolate chip cookies, wash cars. Can you donate a week at your summer cabin in the mountains? Mariner season tickets? Art lessons? The possibilities are endless.

Be sure to fill in your procurement slips and bring the items to the TOPS office by March 3. If you run out, you can pick up additional forms at the office. Please fill them out completely and correctly.

We're still seeking capable volunteers to engine year?? auction activities. These two jobs are (1) Committee Chair and (2) Volunteer Coordinator. Please call *Rhian Lombard* at 325-5395.



Alex Manning, Cuzak Bailey and Eric Nelson attend a chess tournament at Zion Preparatory Academy January 16, 1999.

McDonald School
144 NE 54th Street,
Seattle, WA 98105

729-3360

VOLUNTEER

SOLICITATION TEA

A tea will be held in the lunchroom on March 10, 4 to 5pm, prior to the Site Council meeting. Anyone interested in committee work or Site Council work should come to meet and greet.



Seward LRC going up, January 1999.

ELEMENTARY PLAY REGROUPS

The elementary play will be *Skin of Our Teeth* by Thornton Wilder, as adapted by Tony Pasqualini, father of Madeleine (second grade) and Joel (fifth grade). It is now scheduled for April 2 and 3. Julie Jamieson will direct. Auditions should have been announced by the time you get this newsletter. The Wilder play was written in the early 1950s, won a Pulitzer Prize, and is a theater classic, in which the Antrobus family goes through various periods in human history. "It's funny and bizarre, but has a homey touch with a family approach," Pasqualini said. He also said, "The dull references will be taken out." So put it on your calendar!

TOPS IS HOT—BUT WHAT ARE THE ODDS OF GETTING IN?

Prospective parents are pouring into the Wednesday morning tours of TOPS. Although many are interested, they are worried about how to play the odds of getting their child into the program, given the new "hold harmless" rules. The new rules no longer hold a parent completely harmless for selecting a true first choice alternative school by bumping their second choices to first choices if they don't get into that alternative school. One of the most frequently asked questions is, "What makes TOPS an alternative school?" Please see this issue's editorial comment for more on this.

<http://seacss.ssd.k12.wa.us/TOPS/index.html>

Principal:
Gary Tubbs

Site Council Chair:
Penny Bolton



**ABOUT THE
OUTRAGEOUS
PUBLISHING SERVICE**

This is the sixth monthly newsletter of the 1998-99 school year, edited by Amy Hagopian and Jim Wells. Robyn Ricks does the layout and design. Bruce Pulmano maintains the mailing list and gets this to you. We welcome help with writing and soliciting news from contributors. We're always looking for kids' art, photographs, committee news, faculty news, classroom news, opinions, compliments, profiles, questions, education politics, calendar items, announcements, and wholesome gossip.

Articles for upcoming issues may be submitted to Amy at 4203 5th Av. NW, 98107. Articles are preferred on computer disk, accompanied by a paper copy. Both IBM and Macintosh are accepted. Email submissions may be sent to Amy_Hagopian@ammed.washington.edu. Or fax to 616-4990. Deadlines for the year's issues are at 3:30 on each of these dates: February 18, March 18, April 15, May 20 and June 10. Remember: timeliness is next to godliness.

**EDITOR'S COMMENTS:
"WHAT IS AN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL?"**

As the masses of parents seeking the best schools for their kids troop through TOPS each Wednesday morning for their tour, they ask the obvious question: What makes this an alternative school?

It's important that we answer that question thoughtfully and in a way that conveys the essence of what, indeed, makes this an alternative school. There's more to it than "we were once upon a time an alternative school," or "our "our K-5 kids call their teachers by their first names," or "we don't line desks up in straight rows." The danger of failing to articulate what the alternative identity is is that we will attract families for the wrong reasons and lose the essence of what, indeed, makes this an alternative school.

Although our kids test well, we are not just an academic powerhouse. If that's all you want, you should enroll your child in one of the city's many fine Spectrum programs or at Lowell. We are trying to do something more than just create academic achievement here.

Our mission statement identifies a number of the things that differentiate us from "mainstream" schools. Some important things that separate us conceptually from, say, Whittier or Washington or Wing Luke include our significant focus on:

- Directly addressing the personal, social, and emotional growth of students, including skills of conflict resolution, social and personal responsibility, values and self-esteem;
- Providing students, parents, and faculty with important and regular opportunities for decision making about the school;
- Striving for an overall school environment which is engaging, active, positive, and supportive, seeking a balance between structure and nurtured independence;

- Building a strong community of students, families, and school staff who work as partners in the development and implementation of the program;
- Regular cross-age groups working on projects that integrate the various disciplines within the curriculum in an experiential way;
- Supporting and encourage innovation and risk-taking;
- Maintaining and embracing a diverse population; and
- Being a relatively small, K-8, central-city school available on a completely voluntary basis to Seattle families;

Many other Seattle schools embrace some of the above philosophies, but our challenge is to bring them together in a way that spells ALTERNATIVE. We differ from others in that we really invest in a commitment to these ideals and recognize what we are *not*. We are *not* interested in rote instruction that excludes experience. Our teachers do not close their classroom doors to the parents and the community and focus on their own little worlds in there. We embrace new ideas and new approaches, and we challenge one another to clarify our visions on tough issues like race and sexual identity and conflict resolution. We support fabulous teachers such as those who might not fit into the molds found in other schools.

As an alternative school, TOPS enjoys many privileges. The first is that only children whose families specifically ask to enroll them here are admitted—we have no "accidental" students. We enjoy a broader assignment area than most schools. We have grades K-8 because we wanted them. Our faculty members have alternative school training. We need to work constantly to earn our alternative school identity and privileges. Let's continue this dialogue so that we will not sport puzzled looks when people ask us what it means to be an alternative school.

—Amy Hagopian



Seward going up, January 1999.

**DISTRICT COMMUNITY
MEETINGS ANNOUNCED**

The Seattle School District is inviting parents to attend a series of meetings to discuss next steps in the Facilities Master Plan. TOPS was remodeled in the last phase of the plan, and future phases are likely to include one or more high schools. Please come share your opinions. Meetings are 7 to 9 pm on February 1 at Whitman Middle School (9201 15th Ave. NW); February 2 at Hamilton Middle School (1610 N 41st St.); February 4 at Mercer Middle School (1600 Columbian Way S); or February 8 at Meany Middle School (301 21st Ave. E).

**DEPARTMENT OF
NEIGHBORHOODS NEIGHBOR
APPRECIATION DAY**

The fifth annual Neighbor Appreciation Day is being sponsored by the City of Seattle. Greeting cards are available to send to your neighbors, or neighbors of TOPS. The artwork is designed by Ayse Senturk, a 4th grade student at Broadview Thompson. Call 684-0464 for cards or more information.

SITE COUNCIL ASKS FOR PROPOSALS FOR 1999-2000 SCHOOL YEAR

It's time again to start planning for next year, our first in the new building(?) as a full K-8 program with our new principal, Gary Tubbs. This is the third year that the Building Leadership Team (composed of mostly staff and two parents) will put together the building budget from the "weighted student formula" money we get for each child. Because TOPS has relatively few students who qualify for free and reduced lunch, we receive the standard allocation per student, with very little extra money driven to our program by students who need more support. We do not have extra money for special programs in the Building budget.

The Site Council, through the money raised by Friends of TOPS, can help with curriculum enhancements like music, art, drama, hiring AmeriCorps volunteers, and community-building programs like the Roster and the Newsletter. We are asking community members to get together and make specific proposals for next year. This year's budget cycle follows the Leadership Team's budgeting efforts so that we can be sure to meet real needs highlighted by the staff, as well as the parents' needs and wants.

Here are the Budget Policies of the Site Council. Budget decisions and allocations should be in support of TOPS mission and strategic plan and will be made in concert with the Leadership Team's school budget. Allocations should encourage cross-age activities, as well as foster and support diversity. Allocations should consider the proportion of students assigned to elementary school, middle school, and BOC.

If you want to make a proposal to Site Council for next year, here are some important upcoming dates to keep in mind:

February 18: Requests for Proposals issued. Copies will be available outside the office. The RFP will outline the priorities for funding, based on the Site Council's strategic plan, and will include the percentages we expect to expend among the categories in the budget.

March 18: Responses to the RFP due. They will be forwarded to the school committee to which they pertain. For example, a proposal to start a foreign language program would be forwarded to curriculum enhancement, while a proposal to purchase a supply of blankets would be forwarded to emergency preparedness.

March 25: 7pm. Meeting of interested parties to discuss proposals. If you've made a proposal, you need to come and answer questions. Staff will have had some discussion of proposals at the March 24 staff meeting. Committees will make their funding recommendations by April 7 and forward them to the budget and executive committees.

May 7: The Site Council's finance and budget and executive committees will evaluate the proposals, weigh them against the strategic plan and the percentage allocations, and make a proposed budget.

May 12: The proposed budget will be circulated back to the committees and the school community, and a public meeting will be held after the Site Council meeting.

June 3: The Site Council's executive committee will produce a final proposed budget.

June 9: meeting. The final proposed budget will be forwarded to the Site Council for approval.

SITE COUNCIL BUDGET BITS

Site Council treasurer Dana Carey-Twight reported at the January meeting that the year-to-date expenditures (through January 11) total \$23,193. Contributions for the year are \$42,270, with the 1999 Auction yet to come and the No Bake Sale proceeds not yet fully counted.

A LETTER TO SITE COUNCIL...

DEAR TOPS SITE COUNCIL,

I noticed in the TOPS NEWS (January issue) that we're still planning to put in wall-to-wall carpeting in the new school rather than vinyl flooring. I vaguely remember that issue coming up at a meeting last year and parents being told that teachers were opposed to it and parents agreed that wall-to-wall carpeting would be a mistake. It looks like we might have flooring in the kitchen, art, science and kindergarten but the rest will be carpet according to the article.

I am strongly against using carpet in classrooms and halls. It may be cheaper now but how long will it last? And doesn't it create more germs, toxins, cleaning nightmares, etc.? Let's make a good long-term decision and make it a priority to use vinyl flooring.

I also noticed in the December TOPS NEWS that we have a windfall of \$99,000! Let's use it for vinyl flooring and seating in the gym or other long-term capital priorities. That's my vote. Thanks for listening and for all your hard work!

Toby Harris

TOPS Parent

...AND THE REPLY

Dear Toby,

So you read the newsletter! What a good person.

We have negotiated all we can at this point with the district over carpeting. The contractor who got the bid paid big time to do carpeting instead of vinyl so that's that at this point. As far as the District is concerned, it's not open to further discussion. I'm personally in favor of some carpet and some vinyl, but I believe we need to pick our battles carefully. I would rather see some other, more important, work done such as finishing the Middle school commons.

The \$99K you mention is going to be decided on by the Leadership Team sometime this year. Melora Battisti and Jeanne Spurlock are the parent representatives to this body, so please contact them to let them know your concerns.

The gym and stage enhancements will probably be where we try to do a Neighborhood Matching Fund Grant application, but it won't be clear where the budget stands until April. Keep in touch. We'll need input and help then.

Thanks,

Penny Bolton

Site Council President

PROGRAM PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY SITE COUNCIL

Site Council provided initial consideration of curriculum enrichment priorities for revisions in the strategic plan and upcoming budget cycles. The priorities identified were:

- 1 World languages and sign language
- 2 Multicultural enrichment
- 3 Visual arts
- 4 Writing and poetry

Other priorities included debate/speech/exhibitions/presentations (5); outdoor and environmental education (6); technology/keyboarding (8); drama (7); service learning (9), vocal music (10); music (11); city schools/field trips and neighborhood involvement (12). The staff will also do the same prioritizing exercise.

PARKS AND REC PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Department of Parks and Recreation is conducting a process to revise its policy and procedure for informing and involving citizens in prospective park projects, plans, and events. A citizens' advisory committee has been formed to identify some of the key issues and questions to resolve in revising the policy. Public workshops are scheduled to solicit comments on February 23 at Nathan Hale's cafeteria, 7 pm, and at Franklin High School's Commons Room, 7 pm. For more information, call Dewey Potter at 684-7241 or email him at dewey.potter@ci.seattle.wa.us.

GOALS FOR SCHOOL-WIDE IMPROVEMENT

The TOPS Site Council and the Leadership Team each has its own areas of responsibility and focus. Nonetheless, both entities have expressed enthusiasm for coordinating their plans and enhancing each other's efforts. Below is a draft of a plan that incorporates the essential elements of the Site Council's strategic plan and the Leadership Team's academic achievement plan. Please forward your comments to your Site Council representative or to principal Gary Tubbs.

GOAL #1:

Improve student achievement in the basic skill areas of reading comprehension and writing conventions.

Targeted outcomes by spring 2002 are proposed, along with specific test score improvements on the WASL, ITBS, and grade level assessments.

- align the reading curriculum
- increase # of reading tutors
- develop all-school reading and writing assessments
- focus assistance on those who most need it
- conduct staff self-assessments
- promote learning goals with enrichment programs, such as Topics
- define and expand City School program
- explore integrating world languages into curriculum

GOAL #2:

Decrease the achievement gap between white students and students of color—particularly African American students—in reading and math.

- integrate multicultural education in the curriculum
- track and monitor those scoring in the bottom 35%
- improve Student Intervention Team process

GOAL #3:

Develop and retain a talented teaching staff.

All staff will participate in staff development activities, align professional goals accordingly, and direct resources to the goals in the plan.

- engage in relevant professional development

activities

- obtain a school counselor
- recruit and retain talented teachers of color
- set staff standards of communication and professionalism

GOAL #4:

Improve school climate with particular focus on the middle school and Bilingual Orientation Program students and programs.

Meet the measures of the middle school support grant.

- expand age-appropriate leadership opportunities (student govt.)
- promote personal and social growth curriculum
- develop service learning
- explore more cross-grade interactions
- involve BOC students with other students in projects
- actively welcome new families
- promote TOPS to under-represented minority families and retain them
- support emergency plans
- involve all students in character education
- recognize achievements and celebrate successes

GOAL #5:

Further develop site-based governance with particular focus on the alignment of the Leadership Team and Site Council in addressing programmatic issues, including stable funding.

- support facilities committee to optimize new building
- support faculty in the transition to Seward
- support District and state efforts to fully fund schools and reduce class size
- build new and expand existing communication channels including social interactions
- work with neighborhood community councils
- work to complete unfunded Seward building projects
- implement transportation plan at Seward

MISSION RIDGE SKI WEEKEND

The all-school ski trip to Mission Ridge has been planned for mid-winter break, February 18-20. Scheduling the event at the end of the break allows us to avoid holiday lift rates and—hopefully—the crowds. Rooms have been held at a low rate for TOPS families at the Cedars Inn in East Wenatchee. Make your reservations by February 1 or as soon thereafter as possible.

You can purchase your lift tickets from Cedars Inn on a daily basis and save up to \$3 per adult lift ticket, or purchase a Cedars' Ski Package, which includes lodging and lift tickets, for an even greater savings. Mission Ridge also has an Honor Student Program, offering half-price tickets for those with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Bring your report card and student ID.

A potluck dinner is planned for Friday night. This evening event, after a full day of skiing, has been great fun in the past and gives us a chance to socialize and share ski adventure stories. Ask those of us who participated last year about the gourmet food!

To participate, call Gail Landress at 324-8340, Mission Ridge at 509-663-6543, and/or Cedars Inn at 1-800-358-2074.



TOPS chess team at Zion Prep tournament, January 16, 1999.

EASTLAKE NOISE MITIGATION

Eastlake News reports the Washington State Department of Transportation has proposed to spend \$5.2 million in the 1999-2000 biennium to reduce noise from I-5 in the neighborhood. If approved by the legislature during this session, this could help the Seward classrooms be quieter.

INCREDIBLE KID DAY

The Boys and Girls Club announces that March 18 is the day to send children you know a letter telling them you love them and why. "Although we often say 'I love you,'" the Boys and Girls Club spokesman said, "a written affirmation of love and support can be an important keepsake." Think of kids not likely to get such letters (or even comments) from their parents, and include them on your list. Call 461-8550 for more information.

FACILITY PRIORITIES AT SEWARD

Site Council members were asked to prioritize the importance of enhancements to the new Seward building, and voted as follows:

- 1-Equipment for science lab
- 2-Locker rooms, showers
- 3-Bleachers
- 4-Equipment for art room
- 5-Sound system, lighting board
- 6-Finish MS Commons
- 7-Curtain for stage
- 8-Equipment for music room
- 9-Finish extra MS classroom
- 10-Appliances in staff lounge
- 11-Exit-entrance corridor in gym
- 12-Family support—washer/dryer, etc.
- 13-More bookshelves, cabinets
- 14-Display cabinets

Mr. Tubbs will take the same survey to staff, who can use all the information to help plan next year's budget.

More important items will get higher consideration for grant writing and fundraising activities. If you have strong feelings on these priorities, please contact your Site Council representative (listed in your blue roster).

TOPS ANNUAL REPORT IS PUBLISHED

TOPS has an impressive annual report that should have come home with your child. If not, pick one up in the office. It includes a listing of our programs, school demographics, and test scores.

TOPICS COMMITTEE UPDATE

As we continue to work to improve TOPICS, we hope to develop goals and resources for parents and community members in teaching and preparing their TOPIC. Parents who have taught TOPICS are our greatest resources and we need your help! We are gathering information about TOPICS to prepare for our resource manual, which is now in progress. Our goal is to create a resource guide to help anyone who wants to teach a TOPIC in the future.

Please complete this form and return it to the "TOPICS" box near the office. If you have any comments or questions about Topics, please contact Toby Harris at 634-3951.

TOPIC title: _____

Target age group: _____ Date of TOPIC: _____

Goals of TOPIC: _____

What activities did you do during your TOPIC?

What worked well in teaching your TOPIC? _____

What suggestions do you have for improvement? _____

What materials and resources did you use?

Books (please name): _____

Materials:

Other: _____

Do you have samples or materials or photos of the TOPIC? _____

TOPIC instructor: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

TOPS Diversity Committee parents were scheduled to meet at Douglass-Truth Library on Tuesday, January 26, after this newsletter went to print. The committee is organizing to host a speaker, Debra Goldsbury, a teacher at Happy Medium School. On Feb. 23 she will speak on "teaching tolerance." She was featured in a video produced by the Southern Poverty Law Center on Teaching Tolerance. We will see the video and Debra will facilitate some small group breakouts. The committee is also doing its annual work to recruit more African-American students to TOPS.

DISEASE INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Terry Gaffney, TOPS nurse, has information on Mycoplasma Pneumoniae, an infectious disease which brings fever, sore throat and prolonged cough.

KINDERGARTEN SIBLING COUNT REQUESTED

If you're a TOPS parent planning to enroll a younger sibling in TOPS kindergarten next fall, please call the office (729-3360) so that Gary can get a good idea of how many siblings are coming next year. This information will be passed along to non-TOPS prospective kindergarten parents to give them a fair sense of their chances of being chosen from the wait list.

BOC PROGRAM GROWTH

The TOPS BOC program had some unexpected end-of-term growth after the program was already "full." Some kids were graduated a little early, some kids were sent to another program. The end-of-semester Skate King graduation celebration for TOPS BOC kids was scheduled for January 28.

GROWTH IN AMERICORPS PROGRAM PROPOSED

Site Council Member *Andrew Schmechel* has volunteered to work with *Lianne Shepherd* on writing a grant to the AmeriCorps program, seeking to acquire ten volunteers for the 2000-01 school year. This would represent a significant growth in our participation in that program, and would significantly reduce our student-to-adult ratio.

THANKS FOR THE UNICYCLES!

Thank you to everyone who helped contribute money to buy the unicycles that are in the gym. I used to hate P.E. because I don't really like to play football, basketball, and soccer. Being able to ride has been a really fun thing to learn how to do, but we could not have done it without our two fantastic gym teachers, *Don and Eric*. Now with student encouragement, *Don* has ridden the unicycle halfway across the gym. Thank you again for the money that made a great experience for all ages.

Katrina Nelson (Nani's 5th grade class)

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

from students

TOPS SPIRIT WEEK

It's great to dress up for Spirit Week, February 8-12. It shows the true colors of TOPS. Monday the 8th is Hat Day. The 9th is Twin Day. The 10th is School Colors Day (Dark Blue and Light Blue), and Thursday the 11th will feature a formal middle school dance.

No theme is scheduled for Friday because of skiing. No basketball will be held on Thursday the 11th. All TOPS students, including K-5, are encouraged to show their spirit by dressing accordingly.

DANCE

By Kylin Oliphant

On Thursday, February 11, there will be a Valentine's Day dance during fifth and sixth periods in the lunchroom. The dance costs only \$2, and tickets will be sold during the week of February 8. Pop, chips, and candy will be sold, too, so bring extra money. You can dress up, since it's formal day, or wear Valentine's Day colors. We hope you'll come to the dance!

TGIF SKIING

By Christina, Elaine and Jasmine

Many students look forward to the Friday night skiing. So far, there have been two ski trips. The turnout has been excellent, and we have had more skiers and snowboarders than ever. One hundred and twelve out of 180 middle school students are participating in the Friday evening ski program. Classes are a little empty on Friday afternoons!

We asked several people what they thought about it. Many said they enjoyed it. Others think we should leave school earlier and go to a different location with better skiing. Right now we take three charter buses to summit central at Snoqualmie Pass. Students leave at 2:30 pm, and arrive back at school around 11 pm. Personally, we enjoy skiing but think that the buses should be more organized.

(Principal's Note: One week the buses arrived at TOPS late, causing confusion. However, this was not the fault of the wonderful parents who have successfully put together a VERY organized program!)

EIGHTH GRADE PASSAGE

Eighth graders will celebrate their middle school graduation on June 16 at Franklin High School. Event coordinators are *Gwen Baird*, 725-3767 and *Carla Griswold*, 632-6710.

CHARLIE BURLEIGH NEW "ACTING HEAD TEACHER"

After meetings with the 6th grade students, and then the 6th grade parents, and then the Leadership Team, principal *Gary Tubbs* has appointed *Charlie Burleigh* to become acting head teacher effective February 1. He'll continue to be involved with the teaching of 6th grade students by teaching two periods a day (periods 1 and 2 the first day, 3 and 4 the second day). Math is taught during periods 1 and 2, science during periods 2 and 4. The new teacher, *Lana Fuller*, has been in the classroom since the end of January to begin familiarizing herself with the students and curriculum.

6TH GRADE HEADS FOR ORCAS ISLAND CAMP

The 6th grade will journey to Camp Moran on Orcas Island March 3, 4, and 5. The troops will leave Wednesday, March 3, and return Friday, March 5.

Dan Bloedel will be teaching the students during this camp event. If parents are interested in joining our students, please call *Karen D'luhosh* at 323-8123. Permission slips and health information slips will be mailed to 6th grade parents soon.

KEYBOARDING CLASSES

Second semester keyboarding class starts February 9. Classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 to 4:30 pm for 24 meetings, at a cost of \$20 for the semester. Scholarships are available. The instructor is *Kristi York*, a Whitman Middle School teacher. Registration materials are available at school, or call 729-3360 and ask for *Linda*.

HIGH SCHOOLS WANT YOU

Tours and visitations to Garfield High are available Tuesdays in February and March, 9 to 10:40 am. No registration is required.

Ballard welcomes prospective students on February 4 and 24 and March 4, 10, and 18 from 8 to 9:00 am. Call *Louise* at 298-7730 for an appointment.

Nathan Hale has tours 7:45 to 10 am on February 4 and 11 and March 4, 18, 22, and 25.

Franklin welcomes recruits February 10 and March 10 at 8 am.

Roosevelt tours are February 11 and 25 and March 4 and 11 at 8:30 am.

Evening open houses are at Sealth, 6:30 pm on February 4; at Roosevelt, 7 pm on February 4; at West Seattle at 6:45 pm on February 10; at Ballard on February 11 at 7 pm (at Lincoln); at Franklin on February 24 at 6 pm; and at Nathan Hale at 7 pm on February 25.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS

Middle School students Jessica Knowles, Chelsea Luke, Vanna Waldron, Ian McKinley, Sydney Townes-Witzel, and Jamie Banfil were winners in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Hoopfest held at the Key Arena. The event is intended to model sportsmanship and mutual respect even among "rivals." Middle school students throughout the city composed essays or created art pieces to represent Dr. King's Dream of peaceful co-existence. Winner's works were displayed at the Hoopfest.

TOPS GIRLS SOCCER '98 SEASON

The girls' soccer team had a great season in 1998. We had a rough start with only seven showing up for the first game and our first loss. However, our next game went better. A full team appeared, along with subs who played hard and gave us our first win. The season had its ups and downs, but ended well. Our last game was against an undefeated team, which we were able to hold to a tie. We ended our winning season with 4 wins, 3 losses, and 1 tie.

Each of the girls had a great season, with all improving as individual and team players. Many of our 8th graders were our most experienced players, leading the team out on the field. The 6th graders also provided a great dynamic to the team. Tessa played extremely well as one of our goalies and often blew past the other team as a forward setting up beautiful crosses which led to great goals and shots on goal. Claire, Caitlin, and Anna provided a strong offense scoring many of our goals. Anika played strong all over the field, playing nearly every position. Dana, Geneva, and Alice provided a strong midfield and defense for the team, often stopping the other team. Mara, Rita, and Maia, all relatively new players, greatly improved throughout the season also created many scoring opportunities for the team. Burnley joined the team late in the season, but played very well getting the ball upfield for our forwards. Ellen, Michelle, Elaine, and Christina also played well, greatly improving as players. All our players had great seasons and we look forward to all the returning 6th graders next year.

We had a fantastic time coaching the girls in a winning season. We hope we can again coach the girls in another season. We thank all the players for playing and working very hard and putting up with the coaches. We thank all the parents for carpooling and showing up to games to cheer us on and provide snacks. So, until next year...

*Your faithful coaches,
Nancy Knox and Josh Leggett*



THE PLAYGROUND IS DONE, SO LET'S PLAY!

If you've been by school lately during recess or lunch you've probably noticed the long lines for the new playground equipment. This project was truly a team effort among the parents, students, neighbors, Site Council, the Wallingford Neighborhood Council, TOPS administration, and the school district.

The team was headed by Rebecca Sadinsky (TOPS), Craig Dawson (TOPS), and Mary Grassley (neighbor-Community Council). We had over 40 volunteers at our first work party, and over 30 volunteers at the second. Thanks to everyone involved for making our school a better place and putting "Kids First."

Special thanks to those below who signed in at the work parties (if you were there and we missed you, sorry!)

10/17/98 work party: *Mary Grassley, Rebecca Sadinsky, Craig Dawson, Gary Tubbs, Greg Flood, Dave Ekblad, Jim Wells, Norman LeMoine, Aghain, Sorajya, and Anthony Aly, Elaine Greggs, Karen and Chris Davis, Toto Adefris, Phil Czosnyka, Jan Chima, Milton Sigelmann, Lori and Bob Melkerson, Keith Livingstone, David Skontz, Wendy John, Kevin Long, Christopher Pfohl, Ralph Minor, Gary Luke, Doug Pierson, Phil Converse, Judy Cohen, Jennifer Winninghoff, Mark Remijan, Steve Clarke.*

1/9/99 work party: *Mary Grassley, Rebecca Sadinsky, Doug Pierson, Cassidy Bret, Bob, Colleen, and Caitlin Sullivan, Lori and Bob Melkerson, Josh and Eileen Leggett, David Skontz, Milton Sigelmann, Judy Cohen, Tracy Jorgensen, Phil Czosnyka, Toby Harris, Ron Clinkenbeard, Marlies Van Berguili, Barry Onouye, Gail and Keith Livingstone, Bob Davis, Ralph Minor.*

POSTER DESIGN CONTEST

Students of all ages are invited to participate in the Liquor Control Board's poster contest for 1999 Drug-Free Washington Month. This year's theme is "How can I help my friends stay alcohol, tobacco and other drug-free?" Entries are due March 8. For rules, call Stacy Smith at 360-664-8553.

EASTLAKE PLAN

The Eastlake Neighborhood Plan has been published and is available at our own printer, G&H, at 2370 Eastlake E, where 194-page copies can be had for 4 cents a page. Or check it out at either the University Heights branch library or the Eastlake Tomorrow website: <http://www.oo.net/et>.

NO BAKE SALE: THANKS, EVERYONE!

The 1998-99 No Bake Sale was an unqualified success! Thanks to everyone who participated and those who volunteered in this effort. We have been led this year by new chairperson Sue Wardle. All the efforts have paid off and it looks like we may top the \$30,000 mark this year when all payments are received, including corporate matching grants. It was exciting to see the donations flow in from TOPS families, grandparents from as far away as Washington, D.C., and friends of TOPS. At least 240 TOPS families have contributed so far.

All the money collected will be used to enhance the TOPS experience for the students. Thanks to everyone for putting "Kids First."

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FEBRUARY

- 5 Ski night
- 6 Teen Speak, 9:30 am to 1 pm
- 7 Ski night
- 8 Spirit Week (note dress code each day)
 M: at day; T: Twin Day; W: colors day (blue)
- 9 First day of keyboarding class
- 10 Site Council meeting, 5-7 pm
- 11 Middle School Dance (buy \$2 ticket)
- 13 Neighbor Appreciation Day
- 15 Presidents' Day
- 16-19 Midwinter break
 Jump Rope for Heart
 Black History event
 Debate (7th grade)
 Direct writing assessment (grades 3, 5, and 8)
- 18 Newsletter deadline
- 18 Requests for Friends of TOPS budget proposals
 issued (copies outside the office)
- 18-20 Mission Ridge ski trip
- 23 Teaching Tolerance workshop with Debra
 Goldsbury

MARCH

- 3,4,5 6th Grade Camp (Yes, it includes a Waiver Day)
- 5 Waiver Day (no school)
- 10 Site Council meeting, 5-7 pm
 Tea for potential volunteers before Site Council, 4
 to 5 pm
 Responses to budget request for proposals due
- 19 End of second trimester
 State ITBS test (grades 3 and 8)
 District ITBS test (grades 5 and 6)
- 20 TOPS Auction 1999
- 24 Staff meeting to discuss budget proposals
- 25 7pm. Meeting of interested parties to discuss
 budget proposals. (If you've made a proposal, you
 need to come and answer questions.)
- 29 TOPS public budget consideration meeting

APRIL

- 2, 3 Elementary School Play (note new dates!)
- 7 Site Council meeting, 5-7 pm
 Committees make their funding recommendations
 by today and forward them to the budget and
 executive committees.
- 9 End of 3rd quarter
- 12-16 Spring break
 Speech tournament
 Primary Speech Festival
 State WASL tests (grades 4 and 7)
 State 2nd grade reading tests

MAY

- 7 Site Councils finance and budget and executive
 committees draft a proposed budget
- 12 Site Council meeting, 5-7 pm
 7 pm TOPS public meeting held on the budget
- 13 Cultural Fair / Achievement Fair / Art Walk
- 14 Waiver Day
- 15? 2nd TOPS budget consideration meeting
- 31 Memorial Day
 Camps (grades 6, 7, and 8)

JUNE

- 3 Site Council executive committee produces a final
 proposed FOT budget
- ?? Camp Long
 K-8 TOPS / BOC Event
 Awards assembly
- 9 Site Council meeting, 5-7 pm
 1999-2000 Budget approved by Friends of TOPS
 State of the school meeting
- 12 Annual Site Council retreat
- 16 8th grade passage
- 17 Wild Waves
- 18 Last student day
- 21 Last teacher day
- 30 FOT fiscal year ends

THANKS TO G&H

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