

# TOPS NEWS

## HELP PUT THE "GREEN" IN FRANKLIN GREEN STREET

By Judy Chun

The mounds of dirt and broken concrete on the East Side of TOPS/Seward last month marked the beginning of work on Eastlake's first "green street."

The 2500 block of Franklin Avenue, between TOPS and Rogers Playfield, has been closed to through traffic since the 1940s, but it was only last year that the City permanently designated the block a Type IV "green street," making it into a park-



like street and off-limits to all but emergency vehicles.

The Franklin Green Street design, prepared in 1997 by the Eastlake and TOPS communities and the Seattle School District, includes an overlook and a ramp between the Green Street and Rogers Playfield, artist-designed benches and kiosks, and new trees and other plants.

Your help is needed to get the plants in the ground. The site will be ready for planting in early- to mid-November, and work parties will be organized for weekends and during the school day. We're looking for volunteers to help dig holes, plant plants, and gather empty pots, as well as people to work with 4th graders who will be planting sections of the green street as part of their community service projects. All volunteer time counts toward our in-kind match of the \$91,000 grant from the City.

If you are interested in spending a little or a lot of time helping to make the Franklin Green Street green, please call TOPS parents, Sarah Meeker at 322-1795 or Cathy Chun at 362-3774.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**  
*Fall State of the School meeting*  
**Wednesday, October 13, 7:00 p.m.**

## "THE WORD" FROM HEATHER

*A monthly message from TOPS Site Council Chair Heather Worthley*

Autumnal greetings to all of you in the TOPS community!

Huge sighs of relief as we realize we've survived a whole month in the new building, and nothing has gone terribly wrong. While the continuing construction is frustrating, that spate of sunny weather helped the workers make progress.

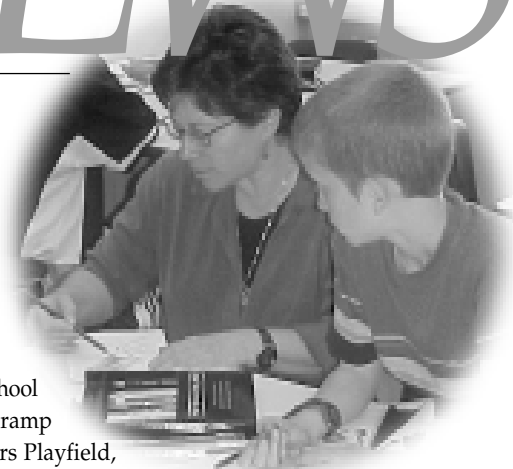
We're all taking bets on when the gym will actually be finished. P.E. teachers Eric and Don remain steadfast and have done yeoman's work, holding class in the great outdoors.

The kids, demonstrating once again that they are sometimes more flexible than us big people, seem to be thriving with the limited recess options. And, in response to a child's

wistful observation about the visible, but off-limit, swings, Mr. Tubbs worked with the construction folks to provide access to the swings.

A plea for extra heads and hands: The Eastlake Community Council is working jointly with us on the Franklin Avenue Green Street. TOPS parents Debrah Walker and Sarah Meeker have been laboring intensely to help plan and implement the design, which will include several benches, a game table, and kiosks designed by local artists. A playscape for the older children will be installed on the school property side of the Green Street. Please call Debrah (329-0625) or Sarah (322-1795) if you can help with this ongoing work of the Facilities Committee.

*continued on page 2*



TOPS at Seward  
2500 Franklin Avenue East  
Seattle, WA 98102

Phone: (206) 729-3360  
Fax: (206) 729-3361

*Principal:*  
Gary Tubbs

*Site Council Chair:*  
Heather Worthley

### NEWSLETTER ONLINE

The newsletter is available in PDF format on the Internet at <http://www.swiftsite.com/tops/NewsLetr/index.htm>. The TOPS website (<http://www.ssd.k12.wa.us/schools/tops>) provides general information about the school, staff, and Site Council, volunteer opportunities, emergency information, and more.



# WHAT HAPPENED AT THE FIRST SITE COUNCIL MEETING, SEPT. 15?

## ABOUT THE OUTRAGEOUS PUBLISHING SERVICE

Welcome to the second monthly newsletter of the 1999-2000 school year, edited by Julie Pickering, Jim Wells, and Sandy Kurtz. Cindy Suzumura handles the layout and design. Coach Don Zemke and Amy Hagopian always save the day with great photos, and Gretchen Chambers is supplying informative news. Bruce Pulmano maintains the mailing list and gets the newsletter out to you.

We welcome your contributions — news from the classrooms, faculty, committees, and the larger community, opinions, profiles, compliments, congratulations, kids' art, photographs, additions to the calendar, and anything else that needs to "get out there."

Submit your contributions to the newsletter box in the Main Office or to Julie Pickering (by e-mail at [jpick@halcyon.com](mailto:jpick@halcyon.com) or by snail mail at 2624 East Olive Street, Seattle 98122-3144). We prefer electronic contributions by e-mail or on disk (IBM or Macintosh, accompanied by a paper copy when possible). Shorter contributions can be faxed to 720-0916.

### Newsletter deadlines for 1999-2000

October 14, November 12,  
December 9, January 13,  
February 10, March 9,  
April 6, May 11, and June 8.  
Don't miss your chance!  
We're unforgiving.

Anyone interested in working on the newsletter should contact Julie at 720-4552.

By *Gretchen Chambers*

All members of the TOPS community are invited to attend future meetings: second Wednesdays in the Library, 5-7p.m. The next meeting is October 13, before the Fall State of the School Meeting. A brief overview of the September 15 meeting:

## FACILITIES

Debrah Walker and Sarah Meeker presented the Facilities Committee report. They reported on Franklin Avenue developments — short-term and long-term plans for the space in-between the school proper and Rogers Playfield, including artwork and play equipment to be placed in this area.

Art — Designs by artists and architects have been selected for benches, a chess table, and kiosks to be sited along Franklin Avenue. These additions are the focus of a Department of Neighborhood grant directed by TOPS parents and members of the Eastlake Community.

Play Equipment — Debrah reviewed the status of plans for play structures for the 2nd through 5th graders. Currently two slides are in storage; these were to be installed in the slope to Franklin Avenue. Changes in the engineering of the slope have put those plans on hold. The Landscape Architect is revisiting the issue. Concern was shared that newly planted beds on our slope and in Rogers Park are in danger of becoming unofficial play areas if something is not provided. The lack of appropriate equipment for older kids is also a big concern.

The TOPS Facilities Committee is working on play equipment solutions with the Seattle Parks Department and the Eastlake Community. Play apparatus for older kids must be sited somewhere on the TOPS side of Franklin. An additional basketball hoop is also desired but lacking a site. Play equipment on the TOPS side will be developed in the near future. The development of play facilities in Rogers Playfield will entail a long-term joint effort with the Parks Department and Eastlake. Parents willing to take on a leadership role are needed to represent TOPS interests in this effort, which may go on for the next two to four years.

Other Landscape Concerns — Mary Chao suggested that students participate in the remaining landscape plantings as part of service learning. Volunteers are also needed to water new plantings until they are established.

Gym Construction — Completion is scheduled for October. The stage will have a curtain!

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Tubbs reported that construction safety has not been much of an issue, but he stressed that traffic safety has

been a serious concern. He, Assistant Principal Clara Scott, and Intervention Specialist Lynette Jackson-Tate, who help to direct students and cars, cited dangerous and traffic-jamming drop-offs and pick-ups. Traffic and safety problems are expected to subside as more children use the buses and when parents can use Roanoke (after construction). In the meantime, try to carpool and obey the traffic rules. **Drop off and pick up on Boylston only.**

The principal also addressed the air quality issue in the new facility. Tests have shown satisfactory air quality throughout the buildings. Top-of-the line carbon filters are doing their job.

Mr. Tubbs is forming a Climate Committee charged with strengthening a climate of civility, respect, and student empowerment throughout TOPS.

The principal requested that anyone needing the conference room (West side of main office) for meetings reserve it on the Conference Room Calendar in the office.

## COMMITTEES

Incoming Site Council Chair Heather Worthley reminded Site Council Members of SC "expectations" and decision-making procedures. She also asked for brief statements about each of the committees from Chairs or other members attending. Heather is rounding up lists of committee members, so the whole TOPS community will know who is doing what. Everyone in the TOPS community is encouraged to participate in Site Council committees.

Diversity Committee — Garry Owens is serving as the primary contact person. New directions and ideas are being explored.

Executive Committee — Comprised of the Site Council Chair, Asst. Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, a staff member, and the principal, this committee meets once a month to set the Site Council's agenda and resolve between-meeting issues.

Finance and Budget Committee — Chaired by Dana Carey-Twight, Site Council Treasurer, this committee is responsible for assuring the control of Friends of TOPS Foundation assets, developing and monitoring the budget. At this month's meeting, Dana stressed that she does not handle the money itself and explained the check request process. She urged those making requests to keep copies of their requests for future reference. For details, contact Dana (325-5185, [danact@seanet.com](mailto:danact@seanet.com)).

Fund Development — Chaired by Penny Bolton (325-5074, [pennyb@halcyon.com](mailto:pennyb@halcyon.com)), this committee directs the Auction, No Bake Sale, and grant-writing. (Details on page 3.)

Middle School Committee — Chaired by Melora Battisti Battisti (324-8187, [hhiller@u.washington.edu](mailto:hhiller@u.washington.edu)) and Melanie Peppin (325-2129, [mpepin@u.washington.edu](mailto:mpepin@u.washington.edu)), this committee manages the Middle School Strategic Plan and focuses on the unique needs of our small middle school program. (Details on page 5.)

Drama Committee — Chaired by Linda Downing (367-0615, momdowning@aol.com), this committee needs members to make those great theatrical events work. (Details on page 4.)

Internet Committee — Jack Lee (524-6346, lee@math.washington.edu), who maintains TOPS website, chairs this committee, which oversees technical needs and hardware issues at school. (Details on page 5.)

## OTHER BUSINESS

- Karen Dyson, TOPS' new Volunteer Coordinator (784-9473; KDyson8227@aol.com), was welcomed. She is recovering from having prepared all those take-home packets. Karen urged parents to get involved and make sure they hand in their family Information Packets ASAP.
- Members discussed the need to encourage more interest and understanding of Site Council. Better communication of Site Council discussions was identified as the best means to change the perception of exclusivity and encourage more diverse involvement in Site Council activities. Brief Site Council meeting minutes will be included in the Wednesday take-home and reprinted in greater detail on the TOPS website and the newsletter.
- Jules James, Eastlake Community Rep (329-0429; lakeunionmail@juno.com), added that he and the neighborhood are truly glad TOPS is back.
- Karen Wong, Bilingual Orientation Center Primary Teacher, related that BOC families often have difficulty making it to all-school events. She encouraged TOPS families to help BOC parents get to school by carpooling. Bus-riding students can tell their parents which BOC kids ride their bus, then families can drive together.

---

*"The Word " From Heather, continued from page one.*

Our Fall State of the School meeting will be held Wednesday, October 13, at 7:00 p.m., directly following the Site Council meeting (to which you are all invited — 5 p.m. in the Library). Please mark your calendars to come hear Mr. Tubbs expound on where TOPS is headed in the new millennium, ask questions, make comments, make friends, and influence people.

If you have any concerns or ideas, call me (789-6092), Mr. Tubbs (729-3360), or the relevant committee chair. We want to keep the lines of communication open. Please help us by letting us know what's on your mind.

# FUNDRAISING REVS UP FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

The Fund Development Committee, which oversees all fundraising for Friends of TOPS, the non-profit corporate arm of the TOPS Site Council, is gearing up for this year's fund drive. We are starting the No Bake Bake Sale in October. Watch your mail for a chance to participate!

Last year we raised \$66,000 through our two main fundraisers: the No Bake Bake Sale in the fall and the Auction in the spring. TOPS has a policy of limited fundraising activities. We don't sell pizzas or wrapping paper on purpose. Instead we focus our energies on projects that bring in the money and don't add more work to your busy schedules. The No Bake is a "write-a-check" activity. No kneading, no knocking on doors, and no harassing your neighbors!

The Auction takes place in the spring and requires more volunteer time and energy but also results in a rousing good party. It is a chance for TOPS parents to have some fun socializing without the kids and make money for the school at the same time. The Auction Committee starts work soon and meets once a month to plan the big event. Volunteers are needed for procurement of auctionable items, decorations, banking, bookkeeping, and set-up the day of the Auction. There's a place for everyone!

The money raised with the No Bake and the Auction by families and Friends of TOPS goes to support Site Council-approved projects like science supplies, technology upgrades, teacher supplies, visual art programs for elementary students, drama, TOPICS enhancement, multicultural artists-in-residence and the Volunteer Coordinator position, as well as this newsletter. Every year teachers and parents submit proposals to the Site Council for consideration in March. The Site Council and Leadership Team look at what "extras" we need for next year, and a budget is put together that includes parent-raised funds and building (School District) money.

Our other major source of funds for projects developed by the staff and the Site Council is through grant applications to public and private agencies. Right now, we are working on a Neighborhood Matching Fund Grant to finish off our stage in the gym. Penny Bolton (325-5074) is chair of the Fund Development Committee. Sue Wardle (547-6097) is the chair of the No Bake for this fall. Rhian Lombard (325-5395) is chairing the Auction in the spring. If you want to get involved, call us!

## NEW SUPPORT STAFF

We're happy to welcome the new staff who have joined the TOPS community since the last newsletter.

Ann Uomoto is TOPS' new nurse. She plans to be at school on Thursdays and Fridays. Our new psychologist is Mary Yarnall. She will be available on Thursdays.

The new speech teacher is Cindy Nitz. She works on Wednesday mornings.

Saream Dy is our new custodian and has handled the move with grace and efficiency! Our new night custodian is Joe Rivers.

Chris Clary will be assisting Ernese McQueen in the lunchroom.

Welcome to all. It's going to be a great year!

## CONCERNED ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE?

Leslie Cossitt, Education Coordinator at the Phinney Neighborhood Association and new TOPS parent (Welcome Leslie!), let us know about an upcoming talk on kids and guns. Dr. Roy Farrell, Chief of Emergency Services at Group Health Hospital and an active member of Physicians for Social Responsibility, will talk on "Kids & Guns-The Medical Impact, What You Should Know," November 11 (Thursday) 7-8:30 p.m. at the Phinney Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Avenue North. For more information, call 783-2244.

# ROOM REPS MEET TO MAP OUT THE YEAR

## STAFF APPRECIATION

By Janet Moore

Last year the Staff Appreciation Committee had a lot of fun doing special things for staff throughout the year. Our objective is to honor all staff at TOPS. Teachers get some appreciation, but we often overlook other staff at our school, such as the Resource Room teachers, BOC teachers, custodians, and others.

Last year we hosted two Latte days, a staff car wash, a lunch, and several other events. Anyone interested in helping with events this year should contact Janet Moore at 283-7284.



*Karen Dyson wants you!*

On September 15th, after a rousing Site Council meeting, Karen Dyson, Volunteer Coordinator, rallied Room Reps for a discussion of their duties and plans for the New Year.

Karen briefed the group on the "communication structure," from Mr. Tubbs and Site Council to the all-important parent volunteers out in the trenches. She also outlined specific Room Rep responsibilities, including setting up phone and e-mail trees; meeting with teachers to identify support needs; recruiting parents to coordinate class Auction Projects; organizing class-level social events and teacher appreciation gifts and events; recruiting parent volunteers throughout the year; and keeping Karen informed.

Room Reps make the TOPS parent volunteer system work. Karen asks parents to do their best to help them in their jobs. Send in your ideas and suggestions to your Room Rep (Updated list on page 5), or to Karen at school (She's there Monday mornings) or at home by phone or e-mail (784-9473; KDyson8227@aol.com).

## VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!

By Karen Dyson, Volunteer Coordinator

Well, here we go with a new school year in a beautiful "new" school-a school to be so proud of. Not only are the beautiful buildings to be proud of, but also the many parents and community volunteers who have contributed to TOPS over the years. The school would not have its great reputation if it weren't for the many parents volunteering their time, talent, and, at times, elbow grease!

For those families new to TOPS, and those who have been shy in the past, here is a personal invitation to join us in volunteer-ing for the TOPS Community. Please share your time and talents. It wouldn't be the same without you! Ask your kids! When we volunteer, we have a positive impact on our own child's education and the education of the other children we meet at school. The kids are depending on us.

Throughout the school year, class Room Reps will be contacting parents asking for help. The Room Reps have many volunteer opportunities to choose from. Some are with your student's class; others are at various all-school events. There is always plenty to do, so please join us in any way you can!

We have an immediate need for assistance supervising the kids outside the classrooms. We need parents to help us keep our kids safe on the playground. Assistance in the morning arrivals and afternoon departures is also needed. Please contact your Room Rep, or Maureen Reid, Mr. Tubb's principal intern, if you can help out.

Soon Franklin Avenue East will be ready to landscape! Our fourth grade classes will be involved in this project along with many parents. Those of you who have basic gardening skills: We need you to show the students the ropes! Please contact Sarah Meeker at 322-1795 or your student's Room Rep if you can help.



It won't be long before the TOPS Auction is upon us. Again, your time and talents are needed. The auction is a huge project that requires many people to make it a success. If you can help out, please contact Rhian Lombard at 325-5395 or your student's Room Rep.

And a reminder: When you volunteer, make sure you record your time on the Volunteer List in the main office. TOPS receives matching grants for volunteer hours!

What a great year we have ahead of us! Please join us in making the 1999/2000 school year a rousing success! JUST SAY YES! For the kids!

Many thanks for your support. As Volunteer Coordinator, I will be in the Main Office from 10 a.m. to early afternoon every Monday. Please stop by to say hello and contribute your ideas. You may also contact me at home via phone or e-mail (784-9473; KDyson8227@aol.com).

## THE LATEST FROM THE DRAMA COMMITTEE

By Linda Downing

Lynda Barry's *The Good Times are Killing Me* will initiate the new TOPS stage February 11 and 12 in performances by our Middle School students. We have a terrific core group of parents involved in the planning, but we can always use more help as soon as the roles are cast and rehearsals begin, immediately after Winter Break. The Elementary Play is set for June 2 and 3. Director and play proposals are being accepted until October 8, and a decision will be made soon.

The committee will be looking for lots of "stage parents" immediately after auditions the week of April 3-7! Fund Development, led by Penny Bolton, and the Drama Committee will be meeting throughout the fall to design the plan and funding for the new TOPS Theater, located in the as-yet-uncompleted gym. If you are interested in participating in this planning, please contact Penny Bolton (325-5074, pennyb@halcyon.com) or Linda Downing (367-0615, momdowning@aol.com)

## UPDATED ROOM REP LIST

Some new additions thanks to Volunteer Coordinator Karen Dyson (784-9473; KDyson8227@aol.com)

### KINDERGARTEN

**JOBY:** Susan Wells (213-0136; jnswells@earthlink.net, susan.wells@eddiebauer.com)  
Cheryl Pappy (725-0577; cpappy0225@aol.com)  
**JOAN:** Priya Singh (723-4875)  
Michele Sarju (324-3143; sarju@uswest.net)

### FIRST GRADE

**CARLA L:** Anne Adolphson (285-5226; jamre@gte.net)  
Molly LaPatra (789-7169; lapatra@aol.com)  
Wendi Hirshberg (784-5247; hirsh@cnw.com)  
**CARLA S:** Barbara Stannard (633-2609)  
Melodee Sarver (325-6072)

### SECOND GRADE

**WILLY:** Linda Korbus (632-7271; Lkorbus@Ch2m.Com)  
Judy Cohen (545-4349)  
Backup help: Kristi Strickland (285-4863; thepianoman@earthlink.net)  
Greg Tuai (722-5411; discovery@sprintmail.com)  
**LOUISE:** Naoko Magasis (783-6980; naoko99@foxinternet.net)  
Barbara Bengtsson (jbengtsson@uswest.net)

### THIRD GRADE

**TRACY:** Ronnimae Porras-Foye (723-5449; porrasfo@uwashington.edu)  
Mark Remijan (782-3278; markrsea@aol.com)  
**KATIE:** Robin Miller (782-2484)  
Sandra Welsh (285-6254; gwd@halcyon.com)

### FOURTH GRADE

**MARY:** Peg Maas (364-2409; pmaas@sprynet.com)  
Terry Sperling (632-0796; sperl@u.washington.edu)  
**JOE:** Janet Moore (283-7284; d.j.moore@worldnet.att.net)  
Monica Hinckley (523-2396; mghinckley@earthlink.net)

### FIFTH GRADE

Patricia Bittner (320-1260; pbittner@araijackson.com)  
Steve Sitcov (721-3455/623-1270; steve@sitcov.com)  
Maggi Lubov (323-4965; Maggilubov@aol.com)

### SIXTH GRADE

Virginia Powers (285-1691)  
Laurie Black (285-7079; laurie.black@nordstrom.com)

### SEVENTH GRADE

**LUZITA:** (Karen D'luhosh (323-8123; karendlu@mailcity.com)  
Rhian Lombard (325-5395; pbchapel@aol.com)  
**DAVID:** Deb Ford (329-3378; debford@u.washington.edu)

### EIGHTH GRADE

Kim Dammann (782-2446; kimd@gene.com)  
Jody Liddicoat (325-2524; stj@msn.com)

## THE TOPS WEBSITE: NEW ADDRESS, NEW INFO

By Jack Lee, TOPS Webmaster

TOPS has had its own website for three years now, but this year the website has finally grown up. First, there's a new, easy-to-remember URL (Web address) at [www.ssd.k12.wa.us/schools/tops](http://www.ssd.k12.wa.us/schools/tops). The old address (the one that started with <http://seacss>) still works and will probably work for another month or two, but it will eventually disappear. So, if you have Bookmarks or Favorites to the old address, change them now.

The Website also has lots of new content, and the TOPS Web team is working hard to keep it as up-to-date as possible.

Here are a few things that you can find on the site:

- ◆ TOPS Calendar
- ◆ TOPS Newsletters, usually available on the Web before they arrive in the mail!
- ◆ Maps and parking info, including maps of the school with room numbers, a "zoomable map" of the neighborhood, and information about parking and dropping off kids.
- ◆ Staff list with staff names, titles, and room numbers. (Soon to include e-mail addresses, too!)
- ◆ List of classes, including teachers and room numbers. (Many of you found out your children's class assignments early from this list!).
- ◆ Classroom Web pages constructed by individual teachers. So far, only the 5th grade classes have their own home page (Its URL: <http://www.psesd.org/~kcrozier>), but we hope to have more soon.
- ◆ Site Council information, including the new Site Council roster, agendas, and minutes.
- ◆ Middle School news, with information especially for Middle School students and their families and teachers, including news about the Middle School grant.
- ◆ School lunch and breakfast menus, courtesy of the School District's Web server.
- ◆ Emergency information, where you can look at the last minute to find out about school closures and other emergency measures.
- ◆ Volunteer opportunities, for those looking for a way to help out at TOPS.

Starting in a month or so, we hope to have a new online TOPS discussion forum, in which members of the TOPS community can post comments and raise issues for discussion. Look for more details in an upcoming newsletter or on the Web.

If you have Internet access, please visit the TOPS website and browse around to familiarize yourself with what's there. Then check back often to find out What's New. We'll highlight new additions on the home page.

If you have any suggestions for useful things to add to the TOPS site, we'd love to hear them—just e-mail them to me, the TOPS Webmaster, at [lee@math.washington.edu](mailto:lee@math.washington.edu). If any teachers or parents would like to work on setting up new class pages, please let me know. I'll be glad to help you with the technical details.

Happy surfing!



# SPANISH BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL SOON

Enrichment Spanish classes will begin week of October 11 and run for 20 weeks.

Several classes are planned:

- ◆ Monday & Wednesday a.m. class for grades 1-3
- ◆ Tuesday & Thursday a.m. class for grades 4-8
- ◆ Tuesday & Thursday afternoon intermediate class
- ◆ Tuesday & Thursday afternoon beginning class for grades K-2

For more information, call One World at 975-7126.

And please remember, TOPS' World Language Committee invites people to be involved. Call Kathleen Nelson at 325-8484 or Sandra Welsh at 285-6254 for more information.

# WASL SCORES OUTSTANDING

The results are in on the Spring 1999 Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL), and TOPS 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders made an excellent showing.

Scores on Math, Reading, and Listening were up for both classes. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders made especially remarkable improvements in Math and Reading, and overall, their scores were among the highest in the city's middle schools.

## WASL PERFORMANCE SPRING 1999

### FOURTH GRADE

Average	1999	% change from 1998	1999	% change from 1998	1999	% change from 1998
State	37.3	6.1	59.1	3.5	71.1	-0.2
Puget Sound	43.7	6.1	65	3.5	74.9	0.4
TOPS	69.4	9.4	87.1	16.4	91.9	18.6

The 4<sup>th</sup> graders made their greatest leaps in Reading and Listening and were among the top five Seattle elementary schools.

These students — now 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders — have worked hard and deserve a round of applause and the continued encouragement of their fine teachers and families. Congratulations to all!

### SEVENTH GRADE

Average	1999	% change from 1998	1999	% change from 1998	1999	% change from 1998
State	24.2	4.1	40.8	2.4	87.2	7
Puget Sound	30	6	45.8	3.2	88.6	6.4
TOPS	53.2	21	79	24.8	95.2	3.7

# MIDDLE SCHOOL GRANT BEGINS SECOND YEAR

By Joni Marts

The TOPS Middle School grant is now entering its second year of planned programs, workshops, and events directed at student social and emotional development. These programs are designed to tie in with the goals presented in the grant, which are:

- ◆ Goal #1: To increase the number of Middle School students who feel supported by adults and positively connected to their school.
- ◆ Goal #2: To increase the percentage of students making academic progress and reduce disproportionality.
- ◆ Goal #3: To increase the number of staff who are prepared to effectively teach young adolescents and who are actively involved in improving the school environment.
- ◆ Goal #4: To increase the number of families who are actively engaged in their child's education.

In light of these goals, the first year of the grant focused on the TOPS Middle School environment as a whole and on clarifying priorities of the grant goals. Prioritizing produced in-depth conversations by staff with a facilitator, in-depth conversations with parents, and programs with kids.

As the second year progresses, we can look at repeating many of last year's successful programs and adding some new ones.

- ◆ The Middle School staff has had two day-long retreats to help build their strengths in Middle School communications.

- ◆ Parents attended the September 9 informational meeting and will continue to have opportunities to participate in programs with each other and their children.
- ◆ Pizza Topics will continue for all Middle Schoolers throughout the year (at least 3 sessions for each grade).
- ◆ Teen Speak will continue, with its first session Saturday October 2 (6<sup>th</sup> grade); 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade sessions will be offered October 28 and November 4, and on November 20, and additional 6<sup>th</sup> grade sessions will be held November 30 and December 7.
- ◆ The first parent forum will be held on Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 p.m. It will focus on a comprehensive program about adolescent development. (Parents attending this forum in the past have been overwhelmingly positive about this program.)
- ◆ The 7<sup>th</sup> grade Ropes Course will be offered earlier this year (October 11 and 15), to give students a better opportunity to interact in a challenging environment and carry that team effort forward during the school year.

Three new programs will be introduced this year through the Middle School grant:

- ◆ An environmental service program, which will provide an opportunity for cross-age learning.
- ◆ A glass bead workshop with the 8<sup>th</sup> graders, which will be a teamwork art project.
- ◆ A student recognition program for all Middle Schoolers.

More details about these new programs will be featured in future newsletters.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENTS GATHER

By Julie Pickering

On September 9, just two days after school started, 100-plus Middle School parents and staff gathered in the new Learning Resource Center (the Library) to listen and discuss issues affecting the Middle School in the new year.

On the agenda were the developmental status of Middle Schoolers and strategies for working together as a community to foster a sense of autonomy and independence among our kids while providing them the support and structure they need.

Principal Gary Tubbs opened the gathering by introducing the new Assistant Principal, Clara Scott, Lynette Tate, Student Intervention Specialist, Jennifer Murray, Counselor, and Mike Anderson, Compensatory Education and Counselor Intern. The staffers spoke briefly about their jobs and plans for the new year, then Mr. Tubbs described ongoing efforts among staff and parents to identify a set of shared expectations for students, staff, and families and to establish better communication between school and home.

Middle School parent Carolyn Law, who with Melora Battisti and Joni Marts, has been working on the Middle School grant, talked about the past, present, and future status of the grant, including upcoming parent, staff, and student workshops and forums, and Teen Speak, a Planned Parenthood workshop, which focuses on family values, concerns, and communication strategies. Other Middle School events and programs this year include the popular Pizza Topics, Middle School involvement in the newsletter, the 7th grade "Ropes Challenge" course, the Kidlaw program, 8th grade art project, and environmental service.

Carolyn also introduced Pamela Hillard, Director of Health Education for the school district, who facilitated last year's staff forums and retreat, and the parent forums. Pamela's successor this year is Victor Larson, a social worker/therapist who has been working with troubled youth and families for 20 years, and who is currently working at University Prep organizing forums along the same lines. Victor spoke briefly about where middle schoolers are "at," and how parents and the larger school community can help them get where they're going.

This night out for Middle School parents helped identify many important issues and established a valuable precedent for community dialogue and cooperation. We look forward to a productive year for our Middle Schoolers.

# THINKING ABOUT CREW?

From Coach Zemke

TOPS 8th grader Katy Barnhart will be rowing in the 35th Annual Frostbite Regatta held on Green Lake Saturday, November 13, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. TOPS friends and family are invited to cheer her on and to learn about the great rowing programs at the Green Lake Small Craft Center (684-4074) and the Mount Baker Rowing and Sailing Center (386-1913).

Both centers, operated by Seattle Parks and Recreation Department, offer rowing programs for Middle and High School students, and adults. The Fall programs run nine weeks; the Spring programs begin in February and run through May. Everyone is welcome—from beginners to old salts. Crew is a great lifetime activity.

# TEEN SPEAK IS COMING!

By Melora Battisti

Teen Speak is a perfect opportunity to spend some time with your middle-schooler communicating AND having fun! Sponsored by the TOPS Middle School grant, Teen Speak is a unique workshop presented by Planned Parenthood. It focuses on family values, concerns, and communication strategies. **The program is designed for Middle School youth and their parents to attend together.**

The goal is to help families become clear about what is important and how to communicate. During the program, young people spend some time with a Planned Parenthood counselor talking about issues important to them, while parents are working on the issues they see as important. Both groups share ideas and learn new ways of listening and negotiating. Everyone leaves having laughed, listened, and been amazed. More importantly, they leave with new tools to enhance communication and resolve differences.

The workshops are scheduled for an all-day session on a Saturday or as two weeknight sessions. Pizza (lunch or dinner) is provided. The fee is \$10 per family, and sessions are limited to 15 families. All sessions are at TOPS. Choose from one of the following workshop sessions:

Saturday, Oct. 2, 9:30 a.m. pm-2:30 p.m. (6th grade only)

Thursdays, Oct 28 and November 4, 6:30-9:00 p.m. (7th and 8th grades)

Saturday, November 20, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (7th and 8th grades)

Tuesdays, November 30 and December 7, 6:30-9:00 p.m. (6th grade only)

For more information, contact Melora Battisti (324-8187; hhiller@u.washington.edu).

## TEEN SPEAK REGISTRATION FORM

Student and parent(s) names:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Grade of student \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Session date selected: \_\_\_\_\_

Please plan to arrive at least 15 minutes early to register. To hold space for your family, please include \$10 with your registration form. You may mail the registration form to TOPS (Attention: Joanne) or have your child drop it off at the office.

# MEET YOUR TEACHERS

Each month during the 1999-2000 school year, the TOPS Newsletter will shine a light on the people most directly involved in your child's education. In this issue, Jim Wells continues our series by focusing on the early years, with Kindergarten teacher Joan O'Connor and first grade teachers Carla Fetterley and Carla Lundberg.



## JOAN O'CONNOR KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

**N:** Can you talk about your path to teaching here at TOPS?

**JO:** This is my sixth year at TOPS, but I've been a TOPS parent for nine years. It's not easy to pin down exactly why I chose to come here. My son was getting a really

good education, but it was more than that — maybe a mix of the positive atmosphere, the willingness to take risks, and the way the staff here teaches their passions. By that I mean that everyone here seems to have something that really drives them, that helps them step outside the curriculum and really get the kids going. I'd like to mention Tom Rowe, who's no longer at TOPS, science teacher Dan Bloedel, second grade teacher Louise Chacartegui, Middle School L.A. teacher Lori Eickelberg, and, of course, Joby Moore as particular inspirations, but every teacher here seems to bring something special to the classroom.

**N:** How do you see the parents' role at TOPS?

**JO:** The parent support here at TOPS is fabulous. My experience is that parents in the classroom make teaching for me a lot more fun-and sane! I've noticed that the kind of parents we draw to TOPS are those who sense that each child here belongs to all of us.

**N:** Tell us why you like to teach kindergarten.

**JO:** Well, kindergartners have a really big job to do. For one thing, they have to learn how to get what they want in a civilized manner. Doing this takes a lot of self control, and watching and learning from their friends. Having friends is a big need for children, and so much of what they learn in my classroom happens through experiencing

their friends' reactions to a common event. For example, one child takes what another child wants, and that other child is openly expressing some sadness or hurt. I'll ask the first child to "just look at their face" and understand what they're experiencing. Kindergartners are so interesting, and they learn in such an honest, natural way.

We also teach that a good work ethic is a valuable thing, and so we learn to work hard here in kindergarten. We say that when you work hard you get smart, and when you get smart you just want more and more to learn. Learning—really getting something that you didn't think you could get at first—is such a good feeling.

**N:** You and Joby seem to have team teaching down pat. How do you do it?

**JO:** Well, it helps to have an absolutely gifted teacher like Joby to work with. She does such wonderful things for kids in the classroom, I just want to steal her ideas. At the beginning we were just sharing some of the children and wanting to avoid some duplication of effort. So we would build on each others' work rather than just repeating what the other had just taught. And now our planning and sharing is sort of second nature. And with Karen Kodama and now Gary Tubbs as our principal, we have plenty of academic freedom to create whatever path we need to get to our goals.

And speaking of team, we couldn't be more pleased to have Hiromi Pingry as our new PEAK teacher. She's so intuitive, with a demeanor that's so inviting to kids. She knows how to analyze our goals for kindergartners and how to get there. This is just what she should be doing. She's just right for TOPS.

## CARLA FETTERLEY FIRST GRADE TEACHER

**N:** Carla, how did you get into teaching, and what drew you to TOPS?

**CF:** I decided to go into teaching when my son James was a toddler. I was working full time and traveling, which kept me away from my family way

too much. I really enjoyed the kids at my son's daycare, so working full time with kids rather than adults was a logical next step. TOPS was recommended to me by an admired and respected principal friend as a choice for my own child. James never cleared the wait list, but I did, so to speak.

**N:** What's enjoyable to you about teaching first graders?

**CF:** I like teaching the little kids because they love to learn, and they openly express their emotions, both positive and negative. First grade is still very much a



## JOIN THE ART WALK TEAM

For the last two springs, TOPS stellar art program has strutted its stuff on the streets of Wallingford. In June 2000, the TOPS Art Walk will dazzle the people of Eastlake. With our state-of-the-art (no pun intended) studio up on the top floor of the Middle School and the incredible talents of TOPS' students and staff, Art Walk 2000 is sure to be a rousing success.

Art Walk Curator Luzita Roll (also known as the Middle School Art Teacher) is ready to get started. On Tuesday, October 19, at 6 p.m., she invites interested parents to meet in her room, B401, to discuss plans for the event. Call Luzita at school (729-3360) for more information.

beginning, but they accomplish so much. It's fun to be a part of this fantastic growth period.

**N:** Now that we're back at Seward, how will you take advantage of all this great new space?

**CF:** The newly renovated building provides many more opportunities to display student work. Also, we have a lot more work areas like the hallway and the spaces between some of the classrooms to spill out into. I really missed hallways when I was in the portable classroom at MacDonald.

**N:** Have you seen any changes in education or in kids over the past few years?

**CF:** I don't really think kids have changed that much, but I do think that the pressure parents put on their children has changed. Sometimes we parents worry too much about the college our first grader will attend. We need to just let kids learn and experience the world. I believe childhood should be a journey, not a race. I don't know where that quote comes from, but it's so true.

**N:** Can you talk about the role of parent volunteers at TOPS?

**CF:** I love the many ways parents support TOPS teachers. Our program would be very different without their support. Parents not only help in and around the classroom, but some take on those really big jobs, like Auction Coordinator, that benefit our whole school.

**N:** Any particular philosophy you try to impart to your students?

**CF:** Kids need to learn strategies and problem-solving skills. This way they can always find the answers to their questions, and, of course, in first grade we concentrate on basic skills of language and math. Beyond that, I try to teach the children that knowledge is power — that someday with that knowledge they will have many choices.

**N:** What do you like to do in your spare time?

**CF:** My outside interests center on my family. We enjoy our free time together at our Vashon Island house, and I spend hours riding my horse. And I always enjoy a great book, especially mysteries.

## **CARLA LUNDBERG**

### **FIRST GRADE TEACHER**

**N:** How did you happen to become a teacher?

**CL:** I decided to go into teaching because I wanted to work in a field where I felt as if I was making a difference. I realize that sounds like a cliché. However, when I worked in the business sector, I felt dissatisfied with my "mission" in my job. I now know that my mission is to help educate children.

**N:** Is there something special to you about teaching first graders?

**CL:** The young mind intrigues me. Their interests, excitement, enthusiasm, curiosity, and challenges energize

my teaching. I feel privileged and honored to be an influence in a child's academic and social growth. The younger students have an appreciation of magical wonder, which is probably still in the "kid" in me.

**N:** You're a newcomer to Seward. What do you think of this great new facility?

**CL:** I have a grand ballroom, or so it feels. Our classroom is very spacious. I can't wait to decorate it with the children's ideas and creations. I never set foot in the "old" TOPS, but I appreciate the building remodel and how the design retained the small details that are absent in many modern constructions.

**N:** How can parent volunteers participate in your classroom?

**CL:** I have already sent home a letter to my parents about Room 104 volunteer opportunities. This is a refreshingly new experience for me to have so many eager volunteers. They can help in class with literature circles, art projects, and TOPICS. I'll have many projects that can be taken home to cut, staple, or assemble. A field trip coordinator would be very useful. And there's always recess monitoring. All these helping hands will save me tons of time. I am already discovering that, to utilize these super volunteers, teachers need to be very organized in communicating and planning.

**N:** What does education mean to you?

**CL:** I believe that school must be a safe community that incorporates a partnership with the families. It's important for the staff to maintain high expectations, instill an appreciation for and pride in diverse cultures, and promote a genuine love for learning.

I look forward to growing together with my TOPS students and their families. Not only learning about who they are, but learning from them.

**N:** How do you spend your time away from school?

**CL:** I've played softball since the 9th grade, and I still play on various spring, summer and fall leagues. I got back into soccer last winter after a 15-year hiatus. I enjoy staying active. Hiking, camping, and road trips are fun activities in the summer. I haven't traveled extensively since 1992, when I lived in Sweden and traveled by train for two months. But I can't wait until I can travel again. One more thing: I have to admit, I'm a garage sale junkie.

## **NEW PHONE FOR KIDS COMPANY**

Kids Company at TOPS has a new phone number: 709-8487.



## **CHESS CLUB TAKES OFF**

The Chess Club is up and running as of Monday, October 4. Chess lovers at all levels are invited to join the fun every Monday at 3:30 p.m. in the 3rd and 4th grade Commons. For more information, contact Chessmaster Mark Morales (325-4079; memoral@msn.com).

# TOPS SUCCESS-ORIENTED P.E.

By Coach Zemke

## GIRLS SOCCER KICKS OFF A NEW SEASON

The season has started for TOPS Girls' Soccer. All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls are invited to join up for practices every Tuesday and Thursday 3:30-5:00 p.m. on Rogers Field. Games are on Saturdays, starting October 2. Most games are at Memorial Stadium! (See the newsletter calendar for dates.)

For more information, please contact Coach Josh Lesett and Coach Tracy Seefeld at 729-3360.

TOPS PE classes are designed to help students experience and appreciate the importance of an active lifestyle through a variety of lifetime sports, alternative activities and games, strength-building and conditioning exercises that can enhance success and well-being in everyday life. Our goal is to develop the attitude that exercise and activities are fun and worthwhile.

### GRADING

EFFORT and participation are the two most important factors in determining a student's grade. All students start with an "A" and receive a daily "plus" or "minus" based on participation and effort. Students are expected to be RESPONSIBLE by getting to class on time and dressing appropriately. They are also expected to be RESPECTFUL to themselves, classmates, teachers, and property. Failure to do so will lead to a "minus." For every three "minuses" a student receives, the grade will drop one letter grade. Students are also expected to complete any assigned work or written assignments. Expectations:

- \* Practice safe behavior.
- \* Be willing to learn and try new things.
- \* Show respect.
- \* Be responsible.
- \* Have fun!

### AFTER-SCHOOL SPORTS

The start of After-School Sports will coincide with the grand opening of the new TOPS Arena. The much-anticipated target date is November 1st. This year After-School Sports will be broken up into learning units or workshops including unicycling, juggling, Double Dutch, gymnastics, lacrosse, tennis, ping pong, badminton, and basketball skills, to name a few. Double Dutch will be ongoing once a week after school and during lunch recess on days to be announced. The other units will last for two-week blocks. Be on the lookout for further information. If you have a special skill that you would like to share as a unit, please let us know.

### OUTDOORS IN ROGERS PARK

Our new grass stadium (Rogers Park) has been great. It's been nice getting off the concrete. So far we have done some Presidents Physical Fitness testing, soccer, Ultimate Frisbee, tennis, pickle ball, unicycling, juggling (Go Travis on the balls, Lewis and Lane on the clubs!), football, and cup-stacking. Many thanks to those who have donated tennis racquets. They will be put to good use. Also thanks to last year's Double Dutch parents for the generous gift at the end of the year. I've decided to use that money to fund a professional Double Dutch workshop.

## COMMUNITY FORUMS ON SECONDARY ASSIGNMENT PLAN

The Seattle Public Schools will host six Regional Community Forums to gather comments and suggestions on proposals regarding middle and high school students and assignments for the 2000-01 school year.

The meetings started in September. In October, meetings are being held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the following sites.

- October 4 Meany Middle School
- October 5 Whitman Middle School
- October 7 Hamilton Middle School

The Secondary Student Assignment Plan Change Proposal focuses on secondary school quality. According to the District:

Both the substance and the perception of quality of our schools is critical to the success of any assignment plan, particularly a choice plan. Improvements to schools are continuing. Our plan to become a fully standards-based district by 2001 will strengthen the academic quality of every school. These standards clearly describe what students should know and be able to do at every level in core academic areas. Full implementation of these standards will result in consistent, high quality schools throughout the system.

Potential Assignment Policy Changes include:

Middle School Regions – Creating geographic regions with an assignment priority to ONE designated middle school. A geographic region would be associated with each middle school.

High School Regions – Creating geographic regions with an assignment priority to ONE designated high school. A geographic region would be associated with each high school.

Middle School Spectrum Seats would also be affected under the proposed plan. Beginning in 2000-01, middle school seats will not be set aside specifically for Spectrum students. Students will apply for schools and once placed, will receive services to meet their academic needs.

The District solicits parent and community suggestions on these policy proposals. The timeline for the Secondary Plan Review is:

- Community Forums September/October 1999
- Final Plan Recommendations October 20, 1999
- Public Hearing October 27, 1999
- Board Vote on Plan Recommendations November 3, 1999

Please call Seattle Public Schools Customer Service with your questions (298-7010).

# 1999-2000 TOPS CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER

- 8 (F) ..... Teacher workshop. No school
- 9 (Sa) ..... MS Girls Soccer vs. Summit 11:00 @ Rainier Beach Playfield
- 11 (M) ..... 7<sup>th</sup> grade Ropes course
- 13 (W) ..... Site Council Meeting 5-7 p.m.
- 13 (W) ..... Fall State of the School Meeting
- 14 (Th) ..... Middle School Parent Forum, 7-9:15 led by Victor Larson and Pamela Hillard (Library)
- 15 (F) ..... *The Boxcar Children*, Seattle Children's Theatre, K-3, 10:30 a.m.
- 15 (F) ..... 7<sup>th</sup> grade Ropes course
- 16 (Sa) ..... MS Girls Soccer vs. Washington 9:30 @ Memorial Stadium
- 19 (Tu) ..... Art Walk Meeting, 6 p.m., Luzita's room, B401
- 23 (Sa) ..... MS Girls Soccer vs. South Shore 11:00 @ Rainier Beach Playfield
- 26 (Tu) ..... Picture retake day
- 28 (Th) ..... Teen Speak workshop (I) 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m. (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade families)
- 30 (Sa) ..... MS Girls Soccer vs. Mercer 8:00 a.m. @ Memorial Stadium

## NOVEMBER

- 4 (Th) ..... Teen Speak workshop (II) 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m. (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade families)
- 5 (F) ..... End of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter (Middle School grades)
- 6 (Sa) ..... MS Girls Soccer vs. Meany 11:00 @ Memorial Stadium
- 9 (Th) ..... Middle School Parent Forum, 7-9:15 (Library)
- 10 (W) ..... Site Council Meeting 5-7 p.m.
- 11 (Th) ..... Veterans Day. No school
- 13 (Sa) ..... MS Girls Soccer vs. Madison 5:00 @ Memorial Stadium
- 15-23 ..... Early dismissal for parent conferences

- 16 (Tu) ..... MS Girls Soccer Playoff Games 3 & 4:00 p.m. @ Memorial Stadium
- 18 (Th) ..... *The Velveteen Rabbit*, Seattle Children's Theatre, K only, 10:30 a.m.
- 19 (F) ..... *The Velveteen Rabbit*, Seattle Children's Theatre, Grades 1-4, 10:15 a.m.
- 20 (Sa) ..... MS Girls Soccer Playoff Games 8 a.m.-5:00 p.m. @ Memorial Stadium
- 20 (Sa) ..... Teen Speak workshop 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade families)
- 24 (W) ..... One hour early dismissal for Thanksgiving
- 25-26 (Th-F) Thanksgiving vacation
- 30 (Tu) ..... Teen Speak workshop (I) 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m. (6<sup>th</sup> grade families)

## DECEMBER

- 3 (F) ..... End of 1<sup>st</sup> trimester
- 7 (Tu) ..... Teen Speak workshop (II) 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m. (6<sup>th</sup> grade families)
- 8 (W) ..... Site Council Meeting 5-7 p.m.
- 10 (F) ..... K-5 1<sup>st</sup> trimester report cards come out
- 15 (W) ..... *Time Again in OZ*, Seattle Children's Theatre, K-3, 10:30 a.m.
- 20 (F) ..... Winter break begins (December 20-31)

## JANUARY 2000

- 3 (M) ..... School starts again
- 9 (Th) ..... Middle School Parent Forum, 7-9:15 Topic to be decided (Library)
- 12 (W) ..... Site Council Meeting 5-7 p.m.
- 17 (M) Martin Luther King Day. No school
- 28 (F) ..... End of semester (Middle School)
- 31 (M) ..... Learning Improvement Day (teacher workshops). No school

## FEBRUARY

- 9 (W) ..... Site Council Meeting 5-7 p.m.
- 11 (F) ..... *Apple to Grandma*, Seattle Children's Theatre, K-3, 10:15 a.m.
- 11-12 (F-S) Middle School play
- 21 (M) ..... Presidents Day. No school
- 22-25 (T-F) Mid-winter break. No school

## MARCH

- 6-31 (4 wks) ITBS testing
- 8 (W) ..... Site Council Meeting 5-7 p.m.
- 10 (F) ..... Teacher workshops. No school
- 17 (F) ..... End of 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester (K-5)
- 22 (W) ..... *The Midwife's Apprentice*, Seattle Children's Theatre, Grades 2-6, 10:30 p.m.
- 24 (F) ..... K-5 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester report cards come out

## APRIL

- 5 (W) ..... Site Council Meeting 5-7 p.m.
- 7 (F) ..... End of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter (Middle School)
- 10-14 (M-F) Spring break
- 24-May 12.. WASL testing

## MAY

- 2 (Tu) ..... Class picture day
- 10 (W) ..... Site Council Meeting 5-7 p.m.
- 10 (W) ..... *When I Grow Up*, Seattle Children's Theatre, Grades 2-6, 10:30 p.m.
- 12 (F) ..... Teacher workshops. No school
- 29 (M) ..... Memorial Day. No school

## JUNE

- 2 (F) ..... Art Walk (?)
- 2-3 (F-S) ..... Elementary school play
- 7 (W) ..... Site Council Meeting 5-7 p.m.
- 11 (Su) ..... Site Council Retreat
- 16 (F) ..... Last student day
- 19 (M) ..... Last teacher day

## TOPICS IN TRANSITION

The dust has settled, and TOPICS are just around the corner. The new and improved program is scheduled to begin in the second week of October—Thursday and Friday afternoons from 2:10 to 3:10, through June.

On the menu is a more structured program with multi-week courses focused on the arts and Spanish. At press time, Mr. Tubbs and the staff have lined up an exciting array of TOPICS: Spanish, science, keyboarding, computer and technology skills, a service or "action" project, and with your help, first aid, world culture, and story-telling.

Mr. Tubbs also hopes to add vocal music, dance, and drama to the mix, and he has the money to do it! All he needs are qualified teachers. If you are interested in and qualified for these positions, which involve a commitment of two or three Thursday and Friday afternoons each month through June, or if you can recommend anyone for these positions, please contact Mr. Tubbs at school. Funding for these specialized TOPICS is available (\$25/hour).

Parents are also invited to teach other TOPICS as well. Many parents have experience in world cultures. Others are great storytellers or knitters (Amy?). Please volunteer to share these skills with our eager students.

And if you're apprehensive about taking on a TOPIC, be sure to sign up for the TOPIC of all TOPICS: Mr. Tubbs will be instructing students and interested parents how to select and teach a TOPIC. The Tubbs TOPIC will be held regularly on Thursdays and Fridays. Take it! You'll be better prepared, and TOPS can ensure quality control, critical thinking, and a more comprehensive program. Contact the Office for further information.

### TOPICS SIGN-UP

I'm ready to teach a TOPIC!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Area of Expertise \_\_\_\_\_

Availability \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to teach a TOPIC, but I'd like to take Mr. Tubbs' TOPIC first

Please return this form to the Main Office.

CG 599  
815 Fourth Avenue North  
P.O. Box 19116  
Seattle, WA 98109-1116



Nonprofit

Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Seattle, WA

Permit No. 3904

## TOPS WELCOMES LAUREN GRINNELL

*By Lianne Sheppard*

Lauren Grinnell joined the TOPS staff September 16 as the first of two AmeriCorps member volunteers. She is a TOPS middle school alum and recent Garfield High School graduate. Her strongest interests are in the arts, and she hopes some day to work as a fashion designer.

Lauren has already shown her commitment to the community in her volunteer work with Providence Hospital, Union Gospel Mission, and other groups. She has worked at Camp Orkila and has lots of family experience with children. She was attracted to AmeriCorps at TOPS because she used to attend the school and knows it is a nice environment to be in. Plus the AmeriCorps experience offers her many attractive benefits and will give her good preparation for the future.

Lauren is already working hard and is currently spending most of her time with the youngest TOPS students. She is looking forward to teaching TOPICS (you guessed it—fashion design) and expanding her involvement with our program. Thanks so much to Julie Schott and Linda Secord for referring Lauren to us!

TOPS is still looking for a good fit for our second AmeriCorps member volunteer (as of the newsletter deadline). We need a young person age 18 to 25 who wants to spend a year with our kids in return for valuable experience and some great volunteer benefits. Please continue to get the word out! Call Lianne Sheppard (633-2184) for more information.



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 states, handicap/disability or sexual orientation. The District complies with all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations, including but not limited to Titles VI, VII, and IX of the Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), RCW 49.60, Law Against Discrimination, and RCW 28A.640 "Sex Equality," and covers, but is not limited to, all District programs, courses activities (including) extracurricular activities, service, access to facilities, etc. The Title IX officer and 504 coordinator with overall responsibility for monitoring and ensuring compliance is: John Yasutake, Manager, Affirmative Action Office, 815 4th Av. 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.

**THANKS TO G&H PRINTING**  
**2370 EASTLAKE E. 329-9888**