

TOPS news



take me out to the ballgame

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, May 19, 12:45 - 2:45 p.m.
Last TOPICS of the year!

Tuesday, May 23, 5:30 p.m.
CSJ Movie Night, TOPS Library

Monday, May 29
Memorial Day - No school

Week of May 30 - June 2
Spirit Week: Across the Country
Middle School Luau Dance (June 2)

Thursday, June 1, 7:00 p.m.
TOPS Band and Orchestra Concert

Friday June 9, 5:30 p.m.
TOP OF THE ARTS 2017, TOPS Library

Friday June 9, 7:00 p.m.
Middle School Play

Tuesday, June 13
Camp Arboretum

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Message from our Principal: No spinners to School

Please do not send spinners to school with your children. We are seeing an upsurge in the use of spinners at school as "fidget toys," which is distracting our classrooms. Spinners will not be allowed in the classrooms, hallways, on the playground, or in the cafeteria during any portion of the day. We will ask students to put them away once and then we will hold the items until the end of the school day.

Workplace Matching Gifts Reminder!

Have you made a donation to Friends of TOPS recently? Perhaps at the auction for "Raise the Paddle"? Or maybe for PEAK? If so, please remember to check with your employer to see if they have a matching gifts program! Employer matching gifts will stretch your donation even further! You can also check this list: http://topsk8.seattleschools.org/school_involvement/Fundraising/employer_matching_information or email donations@topsk8.org for more information.

Advanced Learning Referral Window Open May 15 - Sept. 22, 2017

Seattle Public Schools provides opportunities for academically advanced students to qualify for Advanced Learning programs and Highly Capable services. Advanced Learning referrals for the 2018-19 school year of students currently in kindergarten through 7th grade will be accepted online beginning Monday, May 15. Parents will select testing date, time, and location. Paper forms in nine languages will be available online and at schools. Eligibility testing for the 2018-19 school year begins in September 2017. Complete information and referral forms can be found on [Advanced Learning webpage](#).

CSJ Movie Night - Tuesday, May 23

Join us for a discussion of gender stereotypes and how they affect our kids on Tuesday, May 23rd. Dinner served at 5:30 p.m., movies start at 6:15 p.m. in the TOPS Library. We'll watch excerpts from "Miss Representation," a documentary that exposes the ways mainstream media and culture contribute to the underrepresentation of women in positions of power and influence, and "The Mask You Live In," an exploration of how America's narrow definition of masculinity is harming our boys, men, and society at large. This event is sponsored by the Coalition for Social Justice and funded by Friends of TOPS. There will be free childcare with pizza and a kids' movie. For more information, contact tinashereen@yahoo.com.

TOPS Band and Orchestra Concert - June 1

Thursday, June 1st will be two band and orchestra concerts.

- The daytime assembly will be from 9:40-10:30 a.m. with performances from 5th grade advanced students and 6-8th grade students.
- The evening band and orchestra concert will feature performances from grades 4th through 8th, and begin at 7:00 p.m. begin at 7:00p.m. with 4th-8th grade. (Students must arrive by 6:30p.m.)

Spirit Week May 30th - June 2

TOPS Spring Spirit Week will be the last week of May. The theme is "Across the Country. "

- Tuesday, May 30 - American Pride Day
- Wednesday, May 31 - Southwestern Gear
- Thursday, June 1 - Seattle Pride
- Friday, June 2 - Hawaiian Luau

Spirit week will conclude with the Middle School Luau Dance on Friday, June 2nd, 3:15-5:30. Snacks, beverages, and Hawaiian leis will be provided. Middle School dance tickets are \$5 at the door, please contact Sara Celms secelms@seattleschools.org if this cost is difficult for your family. Parents with completed volunteer paperwork can chaperon at the event. (Students must be picked up promptly at 5:30 p.m.)

TOP OF THE ARTS 2017

TOPS K-8 Student Art Exhibit will be Friday, June 9th 5:30 -8:00. Pleased come celebrate and view the amazing artwork created this year by TOPS artists from grades K-8th grade! Gallery opening will be in the TOPS Library starting at 5:30, and on view at intermission during the middle school play. Thank you TOPS community for supporting the arts!

Middle School Play

The Middle School Play will be June 9th at 7:00 p.m. Come to enjoy the show and support TOPS Drama Program.

Associated Student Body (ASB) Elections

The ASB Election is happening on the week of June 12th. Current 5th, 6th, and 7th grade students interested in running for Middle School Student Government positions should contact Sara Celms secelms@seattleschools.org for more details. Winners of the election will become ASB members for the 2017-2018 school year. The TOPS ASB is responsible for planning Middle School dances, school-wide spirit weeks, and after school events throughout the 2017-2018 school year. Participation in ASB is a fun way to build leadership experience and contribute to our school.

Photography & Video Showing

The Scott Fierstein Photography & Video Showing is scheduled for Monday, June 19th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the gym. Come and see the outstanding work by TOPS digital media elective students.

Elementary School Parent needed on TOPS Building Leadership Team

Each Seattle Public School has a Building Leadership Team (BLT) to promote and facilitate the collaborative decision-making process to enhance academic achievement. The BLT is the steward of the school's academic program, providing support and advisement to the school administrative staff. TOPS' BLT is composed of the principal, four staff members, one parent from the 5th-8th grade community, and one parent from the K-4th grade community. The K-4 position is currently vacant, and we are looking for a parent to fill this role for a 2-year term. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month at 7:15 a.m. If you are interested in being part of this important team, please contact Ms. Schwentor (alschwentor@seattleschools.org) and Mark Ellis (mellis@seattleschools.org).

Middle School Sports 2017-2018

5th Grade – 7th Grade parents! Prepare now for next year's middle school sports. All participants are required to have a [Seattle Public Schools Athletic Participation and Physical form](#) on file with Don and Eric before participating. The fall season starts right away with Ultimate Frisbee and Girls Soccer so the best time to get the physical taken care of is over the summer. All of the paperwork can be found on the [Athletics Section](#) of Seattle Public Schools website.

Our Digital Footprint: Connection Between Your Child's Brain and Media Use

Exposure to media (screens) impacts brain development and human behavior in both positive and negative ways. What kind of sensory input helps children thrive? What are the possible negative impacts from media use? How is it possible that your child can maintain intense focus when gaming and at other times be completely distractible? What can we do about the "meltdown" that often happens when screen time is over? Find answers to these questions at:

<http://topsk8.seattleschools.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=10495&pageId=25209119>

Eric's Summer Basketball/Gaming Camp

Basketball and gaming camps will be offered June 27-30; July 3-7; and July 10-14. Basketball camp runs 9:00-12:00; Gaming camp runs from 12:00-3:00. Contact Eric ([206-252-3516](tel:206-252-3516); email elherndon@seattleschools.org) for additional information.

Gardening at TOPS

Outdoor education offers lessons in sustainability, stewardship and science. In the past few months, TOPS students have been outside during the school day, working with an outdoor educator to amplify the lessons they receive in the classroom. The second grade is investigating soil, the third grade is growing food from seeds, and the sixth grade is stewarding the school campus—performing sustainability audits as part of Washington Green Schools challenge and taking the lead to make our entire school campus a learning laboratory. We learn by doing!

The courtyard: For those of you who have not yet seen the courtyard, stop by and take a look! Last week sixth grade gardeners planted out the raised bed between the library and the gymnasium. The new garden space is filled with flowering perennials that we hope will bring blossoms and butterflies into a space that sees high traffic but not much attention. Congratulations to the second, third and sixth grade gardeners who have been amending soil and weeding for weeks. Look out for our next project—a sedum garden under the basketball hoop.

The vegetable garden: Thanks to the diligent work of Kacy Lebby's third grade, we have a growing vegetable garden with peas, beans, radishes, carrots, kale, chard, lettuce and some very hopeful tomato plants. The third grade raised many of the plants from seed in their classroom greenhouse as a part of their seeds unit. Students have successfully transplanted seedlings into our raised beds and directly sown many others. Walk by and see what's growing!

TOPS Talent Show 2017

What a great evening we had as TOPS students sang, danced, played instruments, made us laugh, and did amazing tricks! Congratulations to all of us for creating a great atmosphere for our performers! Didn't get to participate or attend this year? The Talent Show is an annual event. Start getting ready for next May!