



News Tips

from Seattle Public Schools

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Contact: David Tucker, Media Relations, 206-252-0203

TOPS elementary students to get a taste of world culture on April 9

At a Glance: About 250 elementary students at TOPS K-8 will deepen their knowledge of the world on April 9 when about 30 University of Washington students arrive on campus to share crafts, language, music, games and activities from other countries. Students from the Foundation for International Understanding Through Students (FIUTS), a nonprofit organization, will represent 19 nations, including China, India, Germany, Kuwait, and Burkina Faso. The “World Cultures Day” is part of TOPS' monthly TOPICS program, which introduces students to subjects outside of the normal curriculum, often engaging parents and community members with unique knowledge or skills.

Dates, times and location: 1–3 p.m., Wednesday, April 9
TOPS K-8
2500 Franklin Avenue E.

Contact: Andy Davey at (206) 616-6409 or andy@fiuts.org

Roosevelt High School to host Greek and Roman Classic convention **Students to compete in oratory, athletic, academic and arts events**

At a Glance: On the weekend of April 11-13, Roosevelt High School will host hundreds of students from around the Northwest region for the 61st Washington/British Columbia Junior Classical League Convention. The league helps promote and sustain the learning of classics in primary and secondary schools and encourages an interest and appreciation of the language, literature, and culture of ancient Greece and Rome.

The conference will begin on April 11 with an evening at the Seattle Art Museum, where students will view the current Roman Exhibit from the Louvre. On April 12, students from 12 delegations will convene at Roosevelt to participate in social, academic, athletic, oratory, drama, and art events. The day will conclude with a lavish Roman banquet in the Commons, accompanied by student musicians and entertainers. April 13, the final day of the convention, will be dedicated to Olympika (track and field events), skits and awards.

Dates, times and location: Friday, April 11
Seattle Art Museum
1300 First Avenue
Saturday, April 12 and Sunday, April 13
Roosevelt High School
1410 NE 66th Street
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Contact: Roosevelt Latin Instructor Nora MacDonald at (206) 252-4932 or njmacdonald@seattleschools.org for more information.

Musicians Joe Craven, Darol Anger to join Washington Middle School's Senior Orchestra in Fifth Annual Gypsy Jazz Concert on April 18

At a Glance: String jazz, symphonic music, bluegrass and the aromas of Cajun food will fill Town Hall, Seattle's community cultural center in the First Hill neighborhood, at the fifth annual Gypsy Jazz Concert. Grammy-nominated violinist and composer Darol Anger and multi-instrumentalist Joe Craven will join the Washington Middle School Senior Orchestra in a program that crosses musical boundaries. Elizabeth Fortune, orchestra director at Washington Middle School, will conduct the award-winning Senior Orchestra. Fortune said the idea of the Gypsy Jazz Concert is to "step outside the box – move beyond what we normally think of as orchestral music." Cajun culinary specialties are available during the intermission. Washington Middle School received a \$1,500 grant from 4Culture (King County's office for the arts) and a \$1,000 grant from the Office of Mayor Greg Nickels to help cover concert expenses.

Dates, times and location: 7 p.m., Friday, April 18
Town Hall
1119 Eighth Avenue
Admission: \$25 adults/\$10 youth at the door.

Contact: Elizabeth Fortune, orchestra director at Washington Middle School, at (206) 252-2572 or eafortune@seattleschools.org

Seattle students make 5,200 mile bike ride for the environment Trip concludes on April 22 on Earth Day at Benaroya Hall.

At a Glance: On April 22, Earth Day, six students from Chief Sealth High School and one student from Gatewood Elementary School will conclude a 5,200-mile bicycle trip from Washington, D.C., to Seattle to spread the word on environmental awareness and climate protection. Called "An Inconvenient Ride," Seattle Public Schools students are riding across the country to raise awareness of environmental programs that are making a tangible difference. The group will stop in cities that have signed on to Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels' Climate Action Now Initiative. The trip will be documented by Chief Sealth student producers and camera operators.

The group arrives at Chief Sealth High School on April 22 where they will be escorted to Benaroya Hall for a Global to Local celebration, to include a video presentation and a song performance by 100 Gatewood students. Mayor Nickels will also present the riders with a proclamation. Proceeds from the event will go to Project Earth Care, a program created at Chief Sealth, in which Sealth students work with K-12 schools, local government and neighborhoods to identify and work on environmental projects.

Dates, times and location: 3:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m., Tuesday, April 22
Chief Sealth High School
2600 S.W. Thistle

Contact: Arielle Washington/Ally Stariha at (206) 612-9791 for more information.

Join Boardwalk 5K Run & Walk on April 27 to support SPS Athletic programs

At a Glance: Seattle Public Schools staff and community members are invited to walk, run or play on April 27 at the third annual Boardwalk 5K and Walk of Champions to benefit school health and fitness
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programs for elementary and middle school students. The event will be held at the University of Washington Husky Stadium with activities to include:

- **Free Walk of Champions** – A free noncompetitive one-mile walk on the track at Husky Stadium.
- **Boardwalk 5K Walk/Run** – A scenic certified 5K (3.1 miles) run or walk starts at Husky Stadium, up into the UW campus, past the famous Drumheller Fountain, the Allen Library, and through the Quad before finishing inside Husky Stadium. Cost is \$25 for adults and \$10 for children, if paid in advance.
- **Free Carnival of Activities** – The carnival will feature “giant-themed” events, such as giant speed jumping, giant football kicking, and giant soccer juggling.

Dates, times and location: 10 a.m., Sunday, April 27
Husky Stadium at University of Washington
3800 Montlake Blvd. NE

Contact: Dick Lee at (206) 252-0476 or rjlee@seattleschools.org

School Celebrations

Team xbot wins prestigious award in regional robotics competition **Team prepares for national championships in Atlanta, Georgia**

Team xbot, a robotics competition team with students from Franklin High School and the surrounding Seattle Southend high schools, won the Chairman’s Award – the highest and most prestigious award – at the FIRST Microsoft Seattle Regional competition in Tacoma held March 20-22. Team xbot designs, builds and programs a 120-pound, 5-foot-tall robot that competes in game challenges. The Chairman’s Award honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the purpose and goals of the nonprofit organization, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). Team xbot was also awarded the Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers Entrepreneurship Award, in recognition of the entrepreneurial spirit of a team that, since inception, has developed the framework for a comprehensive business plan to scope, manage, and achieve team objectives. At the Oregon Regional held February 28 to March 1 in Portland, Oregon, the team’s robot ‘‘OCHO’’ earned the second-seed position out of 55 teams. ‘‘OCHO’’ successfully competed in the finals and placed as a semifinalist winner alongside alliance partners from California and Oregon. To view the team’s animation entry, click on the link http://research.microsoft.com/~rcutler/xbot/488_AVA2008.wmv. Team xbot is now preparing for the FIRST National Championships held April 17-19 in Atlanta, Georgia.

McClure Middle School students awarded top three prizes in writing contest

Three McClure Middle School sixth-graders recently won the top three prizes in a citywide writing contest on the themes of Lois Lowry, a Newbery-award-winning author. Henrik Mansfield, Hannah Oliason, and Kate Wiley won the Writers in the Schools contest for their poetry or short prose pieces. The contest was open to fourth- to eighth-graders from Seattle and Highline schools that offer the Writers in the Schools program.

WITS is sponsored by Seattle Arts & Lectures and brings trained writers-in-residence to the classroom. The three students won free tickets for their families to see Lowry talk about her writing at Seattle's Town Hall on March 15. They were invited onto the stage, where they shook Lowry's hand, received signed copies of one of her books, and were introduced as the three contest winners.

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Roosevelt Drama troupe invited to perform at Thespian Festival in Nebraska

The Roosevelt High School Drama troupe has been chosen to perform James Still's *And Then They Came for Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank* at the 2008 Thespian Festival June 23-28 at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Roosevelt was given the honor during the State Thespian Festival held March 13-15 at Central Washington University. Roosevelt also won the Superior Trophy for *And Then They Came for Me – Remembering the World of Anne Frank*; and an Excellent Certificate for *Night of January 16th*.

Ballard High filmmakers featured at national festival for talented youth

Four short films by students in the Ballard High School Video Production Program were named Official Selections of the National Film Festival for Talented Youth. The festival opened at Seattle Center's McCaw Hall on March 28 and ran through March 30. It featured 73 films from across the country by filmmakers ages 21 and younger. The honored Ballard films were:

- *Bittersweet* by Coburn Erskine, Becca Rice, Devan Sizemore and George Westberg;
- *Nice Touch* by Alec Maclurg, Ben Steiner and Kevin Vitz-Wong;
- *The End is Near* by Will Livesley-O'Neill, Vange Spracklin and Ben Steiner; and
- *Spaced Out* by Justin Amorratanasuchad, Mike Hipp and Devan Sizemore.

Among these shorts, several have previously been honored by the National Association of Television Arts & Sciences, the Westport Youth Film Festival, the Young People's Film & Video Festival, the Derek Freese High School Film & Video Festival, and the Northwest High School Film Festival.

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