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Alki PTA Currents

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A World Of Thanks

Jen Hey, Alki PTA President

AUCTION

The Global Gala Dinner and Auction was a huge success and we owe it all to our fabulous Auction Team led by Doreen Sifferman. Her organization skills and enthusiasm are incredible! Thank you to our Procurement Team, Nancy Woodland, Sandra Merkin, and Tina Urso. You ladies brought in items that made the evening exciting and fun.



Thanks also to our closing team, led by Janet Smith, whom didn't get the pleasure of enjoying the auction in order to ensure a seamless check-in and check-out process. Lance Merkin put together a system that enabled this to happen all using computers, amazing!! Allison Carver and Scott Mathews performed well assisting our auctioneer, Stephen Kilbreath. Our desserts were delicious and brought to us by the efforts of Katie Fuller. Jenny Ward created beautiful certificates highlighting our items well. Karna Leinbach interfaced with the venue and organized a quicker than ever set up. Laurie Rasmussen helped with everything, including classroom art, ticket sales, catalog printing, and general go-to-gal. Julie Hartley also assisted with classroom art. We had a group of servers that brought new meaning to "service with a smile". There are many others to thank as the Auction is truly a labor of collaborative love. Thank you to



everyone that made an art project, donated an item, procured an item, posed for a calendar, attended the auction, or purchased an item. We raised over \$56,000 to support the wonderful programs sponsored by the PTA!

REFLECTIONS

Steven Smith deserves a giant THANK YOU from us all for pouring his heart and soul into our PTA Reflections Art Program. He worked with teachers and parents to get a great group of entries. He then planned a warm and festive reception. He organized a team to judge the entries and will follow them through to the next level. This is a wonderful opportunity for kids to express themselves and Steven does a wonderful job of organizing and highlighting the students that participate. Thanks Steven!! Thanks also Janet Smith for taking over for Stephanie in leading the lunch time singers for the reception.



STAFF HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Thanks to Katie Fuller for putting together a delicious lunch for our staff and teachers!! What a great way to show these wonderful people how much we appreciate them.

Thanks also to everyone who sent in items for the luncheon!

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Thanks to Emily Rough for a very successful Fall session of After School Activities. Our kids enjoyed some wonderfully enriching opportunities. It is a tremendous amount of work and Emily handled it like a champ!! Thanks also to Roxanne, Gail and all of our parent volunteers that helped with check-in and check-out. This is an important task and we couldn't hold these classes without you!



WEBSITE

Thanks so much to Michael Yoder for all of your help in updating our website. You are a life saver! Allison Carver and Torrey John have been hard at work reorganizing the content. Look for some exciting changes in the New Year. Thanks for your dedication to such an important resource for our parents!! Three cheers for the techies!

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

I hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday Season and is able to spend some time enjoying the company of your family. I feel blessed to be part of our Alki Family and am grateful for how hard we all work to give our kids a great education!! See you in the New Year.

CALENDAR

Winter Break Ends

1/7: First day of school in 2008.
Welcome back!

Middle School Information Night

1/10: 6:30-8:30 pm at Gatewood Elementary

PTA Meeting

1/16: 6:30 pm in the library. Come for coffee and conversation at 6:15 pm. Childcare provided!

No School

1/21: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

No School

1/28: Day between district semesters



Did You Know?

New Year's Day is the oldest known holiday celebrated by mankind. It was first observed by the Babylonians about 4,000 years ago. They celebrated in March (around the beginning of Spring) and the festivities lasted for eleven days.

In 153 B.C., the Roman senate voted to make January 1st the first day of the new year, but over the years Roman emperors kept tampering with the Calendar. It was Julius Caesar in 46 B.C who officially established January 1st as the beginning of the new year.

Middle School Information Night

Open to all 4th and 5th grade families. Meet principals and representatives from West Seattle public and private Middle Schools. No childcare available. Sponsored by Gatewood Elementary and PTA.

Thursday, Jan 10th
6:30-8:00 pm
Gatewood Elementary School
4320 SW Myrtle Street

Reflections Update — Steven L. Smith

A big thank you to all the kids who entered this year's Reflections Art Program! We had 32 entries on this year's theme, "I Can Make a Difference By.."

The Gala Art Show was a hit. I would like to thank Alki's own "Lunch Time Singers" for putting in extra hours rehearsing and singing for us at the art show. Thank you also to Roxanne in our office for helping coordinate names and classrooms. Congratulations to the following finalists:

Kindergarten: Lola Rao (Visual Arts)
Maniah Smith (Visual Arts)
1st Grade: Kai Clarke (Film)
Isabella Storm (Visual Arts)
2nd Grade: Cal Prinster (Visual Arts)
3rd Grade: Riley Fredricks (Visual Arts)
Amy Ijeoma (Visual Arts)
Michael Smith (Literature)

4th Grade: Peter Bryson (Literature)
Natalie Leinbach (Literature)
Hunter Semone (Visual Arts)
5th Grade: Brenda Bui (Visual Arts)
Adel Clifton (Literature)
Angela Kawano (Visual Arts)
Joni O'Reilly (Visual Arts)
Chloe Spainhower (Visual Arts)

Thank you to Tom and Alice from the Admiral U-Frame-it for judging our entries, Alki's Finalist entries will be taken to Center House at Seattle Center on January 2nd for display. So come-on down to see Alki Elementary School's represented at the Seattle Council PTA Reflections Art Show! After city-wide judging, there will be a recognition ceremony on either January 21st or 22nd. I will keep you advised on the date and time.

Thanks again for all the super creative entries!

Opportunities

PTA Membership

Our PTA village has grown to 155 members! Thank you to the individuals and families that have joined.

If you are still on the fence, consider a few of the benefits of PTA membership: you'll get a vote in many changes and programs at Alki, discounts at local merchants, and a chance to plug into a powerful community that cares about kids.

It's never too late to join. Perhaps 2008 may be the year you add your support to our village! If you have any questions, contact Diane Fields at dianefields47@comcast.net.

Cultural Exchange

Expose your family to another language and culture! Host families are needed February 9 - February 15, 2008 for students from Nagasaki

College, Japan. Students will attend South Seattle Community College during weekdays and spend time with families evenings and weekends (cultural exchange, such as cooking and language, is required). A stipend is provided to help cover cost of hosting. For more information please contact Emi Khosraw at 909-9645 or info@ushomestay.com.



Great Composers Program

Great Composers volunteers visit Alki classrooms to introduce students to the music of a new composer each month. This month your kids have gotten to know Tchaikovsky and his Nutcracker Suite. Earlier in the year, they heard Bach, Mozart and Beethoven. You'd be surprised how much the kids love it!



You can help support your child's classroom learning by playing classical music at home, or by taking them to a live performance. There are many free or cheap opportunities that are more kid-friendly in length than a full Seattle Symphony performance. Here are a few:

Friday January 11, 8:00 pm
Seattle Symphony free concert at West Seattle High School

Thursday January 17, 7:00 pm
Seattle Symphony free concert at South Park Community Center

Friday January 18, 7:30 pm
Lake Union Civic Orchestra at

Town Hall Seattle: 12 and under free, \$15 adult, \$10 student

Wednesday January 23, 7:30 pm
Seattle Symphony free concert at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center

Friday January 25, 12:00 pm
Seattle Symphony free concert at Seattle City Hall

Saturday January 26, 3:00 pm
Seattle Chamber Music Society Family Concert: \$8 admission

Monday February 4, 12:30 pm
Free concert downtown on Benaroya Hall's pipe organ