



Pathfinder K-8 Compass

Volume X, #5

February 9, 2009

Pathfinder K-8

*Building
community
by honoring
all traditions*

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**Pathfinder K-8
educates students to
become passionate,
lifelong learners,
respecting them-
selves, others and
the environment.**

Principal's Message

This week Pathfinder K-8 kicks off a historic time. We will begin planning our long awaited relocation into a new facility in West Seattle. As most of you know, Pathfinder has been a part of the school closure and repurposing for several years. After many challenging years of attempting to address our school's facility needs, we now begin the 'Program Design Team' phase of the process. In the fall of 2009, we will be housed in the Cooper Elementary school building. Design teams have been formed for all schools affected by program moves and closures.



The formation of the Pathfinder K-8 Design Team is almost complete. Members will represent all stakeholders of our school and community. Members thus far include: David Dockendorf, Linda Thomson, Janet Osborn, Tim Hayes-McQueen, Lisa Clayton, Rita Garton, and Jennifer Giomi. We still need to fill 2 parent seats and I plan to invite a teacher from the Cooper Autism Program to serve on our team. Our first two meetings will be on Tuesday and Thursday of this week from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm at the Stanford Center. The overarching goal of the design team will be to make our transition as smooth and effortless as possible. The design team will work very closely with the Building Leadership Team (BLT), the PTSA and the staff to ensure all voices have been heard. Weekly communication will be done to keep you informed as planning progresses.

As part of our planning, we will host some type of event at Cooper in the evening or on a Saturday later in the year in order for our community to see the school.

This is a very difficult time for the Cooper School community and I ask from the bottom of my heart that we respect the challenge and grief that they are facing as part of the Board decision. Please do not call or visit Cooper. We will provide this opportunity later in the spring.

Moving into current events that are happening at our school in the coming month, I want to remind you that our Science Fair is this week, Family Math Night and free spaghetti dinner is March 5th, our 3rd Culture Night is just around the corner and our ASB Council is actively planning several upcoming things. Our February school dance for all 5th-8th graders is this Friday the 13th from 1:30-3:00. We are planning a "Spring Food Drive" to support the local food bank, we are planning a school spirit day to support our PTSA

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Principal's Message

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Auction, we are continuing the Penny Harvest by moving into the next phase of the harvest which is the Philanthropic Roundtable where students begin to help decide where we will donate our Penny Harvest \$1000.00. The Roundtable process is being headed by 6th grader, Monica Harris, 7th graders, Mia Kaiser and Austin Rickel, and 8th grader, Jesse Tibbits. Also, our ASB Council has continued work from last year on selecting Pathfinder K-8 School Colors and a School Mascot. Be watching for more on all of these fantastic projects.

School tours begin this week for K-5 and middle school enrollment. This week we are hosting two K tours on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and a 6-8 tour on Friday. If you know of any family in search of enrollment for school next year, please direct them to our school website or have them call the school for more information.

Finally, thank you to the many, many parents that supported Pathfinder K-8 during the school closure process. You all represented our school community in the most amazing light and made us all proud. I especially want to thank our PTSA Board and President Jennifer Giomi and VP Akemi Hart for their strong and confident leadership. Pathfinder K-8 has the most amazing families and help make us an outstanding school community. I hope to see all of you at our Pathfinder PTSA Auction on March 14th. It is always a highlight of the school year. Take care and thanks for all that you do!



“Our goal is to raise over \$40,000 after expenses.

Now's the time to start thinking creatively about how each of us can help to make this year's even the best ever!”



Pajama Day, Sky Hall



“Now, whenever I ask my partner to run to the store for something I forgot, I make sure she has the card and tell her how much is on it.”

How the PCC Scrip Card Saves Me Money

by Lilith Lysistrata

The PCC Scrip card is one of our on-going fundraisers for Pathfinder, contributing 5% of all purchases to the PTSA general fund. But using it also has a practical side. We asked Lilith Lysistrata, Frog Clan parent, to tell us how she uses it to help her better maintain her family's food budget)

Like many other families, we've been looking for ways to keep a better handle on where we're spending our money. Grocery bills have always presented a problem, though. We already do many of the things recommended, like meal planning, buying ingredients rather than processed foods and shopping around the edges of the store. Since we have some flexibility in our budget, it's easy to justify a treat here or there. It's also hard to figure out exactly how much we're spending because receipts get misplaced and quick trips to the store are often forgotten.

A few months ago, I decided to attempt to limit our monthly spending by using our PCC scrip card. Instead of simply recharging it for the amount each time I went to the store—which means I'm faced with skipping that step every time I'm in a hurry—I put my target amount on the card when I get paid. Using my member 10% off coupon for my monthly stockpiling trip (when I buy all our dry goods and non-perishables for the month), I put a big dent in the scrip card balance. I'm now left with the challenge of all other shopping trips for the month staying under what I have left.

Now, whenever I ask my partner to run to the store for something I forgot, I make sure she has the card and tell her how much is on it. She's much less likely to come home with what I asked for in addition to beer, bean dip and chips, when she knows that means she's taking away from real food later in the month. All my additional weekly trips also are guided by the card balance—if it's getting low, it's a lot easier to tell my girls that they can't have a smoothie while we're shopping.

After performing this experiment for a few months, I've found that it has changed my shopping habits overall. I carefully review the receipts after each trip and look for easy ways to pare down costs. I now make different choices in the produce aisle, paying more attention to the price per pound and exactly how much that bag of apples weighs than I did before.

While we still spend plenty of money on groceries, I feel like we're getting a much better value for our dollar while still enjoying the freshest, healthiest food possible. And if that time ever comes that we need to dramatically cut our costs, I already know where and what to trim.

Auction Countdown – 4 Weeks to Go!

March 14th is the date! The annual “Pathfinder” Auction is our biggest fundraiser and community event of the year – this year will be a lot of fun as we Ride the Wave to support our school!



You should have received a packet via US Mail a few weeks ago with everything you need for the auction – ticket form, frequently asked questions, and procurement ideas. Our goal is to raise over \$40,000 after expenses. Now's the time to start thinking creatively about how EACH OF US can help to make this year's event the best ever! Here are a variety of ways that all can be involved – it doesn't require a lot of money or time, just a commitment to put your talent and energy to use in the way you enjoy most.

Prior to Auction Day

- ◆ Buy your tickets and invite friends & family, and feel free to invite Pathfinder alumni families to come and reconnect with old friends. Ticket forms are available at school or on the Auction Page of Pathfinder's website, or contact Michelle Finet (michelle.finet@comcast.net or 935-9989).
- ◆ Procure items – they are starting to come in and there's some great stuff to be had! Of course more is better, so be creative, ask family/friends/service providers, think of unique items, services or experiences.
- ◆ Help organize the Auction Art Walk (March 5th, in conjunction with Math Night), previewing Clan Art up for sale at the auction. Leslie Cole is leading the effort (lesliehcole@comcast.net). Don't forget to ask your teacher how you can help with your classroom's project!

On Auction Day

- ◆ We need lots of helpers to make the space festive and well organized! This involves unloading all items, packaging and display of items for both the silent & live auctions, assuring all paperwork and forms are in order, decorating, and general set-up tasks. Contact Elliott Toler-Scott if you can help (767-6087).



“Our goal is to raise over \$40,000 after expenses.

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Auction Countdown – 4 Weeks to Go!

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- ♦ At the auction, there are a lot of “behind the scenes” tasks that make the auction run smoothly. The Brockey Center staff handles all serving and clearing – we need folks to be “bid runners” (capturing final bids on paper and delivering them to the cashiers), closing out silent auction tables, organizing items for take-home, etc.
- ♦ And, of course, break-down/clean-up duty!

We would love to receive your paid registration early this year, this helps enormously with planning and budgeting. If you are unable to attend the auction but would like to make a (fully tax-deductible) financial contribution, that is of course most welcome and counts toward our goal. Checks can be made payable to Pathfinder PTSA; please note “auction donation” in the memo.

Blazing Trails is once again offering affordable childcare for Auction Night. Kids can come to Blazing Trails from 5 pm to 11 pm and will be served dinner and a snack. Space is limited; children must be between 5-12 years old and the cost is \$25/child, \$20 for each additional child. Registration forms are available at the front desk or e-mail: blazingtrails@blazingtrails.org

Auction Chair: Wendy Eckert wseckert@yahoo.com 932-6497

Auction Lead: Akemi Hart makeupbyakemi@earthlink.net 850-5415

Committee Leads listed below. Helpers are still needed in most areas!

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>E-mail</i>
Beverages	Jimmy Cleary	jcleary22@yahoo.com
Cashiering	Sara Carter	carter_sara@hotmail.com
Catalogue/Data Entry	Chandra Stubbs Amy Daly-Donovan	Chandra@Golden-Globe.com amy@dalydonovan.com
Clean Up Crew	<i>Hey, someone's gotta do it, why not you?</i>	<i>Your email here</i>
Communication/Publicity	Patrice de la Rosa Amy Daly-Donovan	patrice.delaossa@gmail.com amy@dalydonovan.com
Decoration	Lynette Martin	rlajmartin@msn.com
Dessert Auction	Heather Hisatomi	hkhisatomi@hotmail.com
Donor Thank-yous	Ruth Herman-Dunn Scott Sunde	ScottSunde@seattlepi.com rherman@u.washington.edu
Item Pick Up	Amy Bullard Andrea Yip	liamethan2@gmail.com superastro@yips.net
Item Storage	Marshall Thomas	marshalljthomas@yahoo.com
Kid Art & Auction Art Preview Night	Leslie Cole	leslic@exchange.microsoft.com
Packaging/Display	Jenn Kocir Linda Kocir Lynette Martin	jennifer.kocir@bankofamerica.com lynda@cwdgroup.com rlajmartin@msn.com

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PTSA News

by Jen Giomi

The New Year has started off in a flurry of PTSA activity. The District's Capacity Management process kept many busy during the month of January (November and December too). A huge thank you to all who attended meetings and helped with communications; Leslie Harris, Beth Bakeman, Akemi Hart, Eric Baer, Kelly Riggle Hower, Elliot Toler-Scott, Wendy Nathan, Laurie Reinhardt, Amy Daly-Donovan, Dan Floyd, Lashanna Williams, Sue Bell, Skip Masonsmith, Tracy Nolan and anyone else who I might have missed that got involved in this process. Your work was/is so appreciated. I feel very thankful to have had such thoughtful, dedicated people to support our community through this agonizing process. Thank you as well to all Pathfinder community members for showing compassion to schools and families involved in the closures and for keeping calm under some very difficult conditions. It was a very challenging several months with a bittersweet conclusion for Pathfinder K-8.

Thanks as well to all those who made the January 28th General Meeting and High School Information Night a success. We had around 60 family members and students as well as several guests from Denny and Madison come to listen to presentations by High School principals and/or their representatives. Schools featured were Sealth, Principal John Boyd; West Seattle, Principal Bruce Bivins; Nova, represented by student Sam Niver who did a great job informing us about his school; and The Center School, represented by a whole team of staff and students.

It was a very informational evening and a good opportunity to compare a sampling of the great range of options available in Seattle Public high schools. We hope to make this an annual event to aid our upper grades in their decision making process.

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And the Winners Are...

Many thanks and congrats to the following auction-goers who were the first to get their reservations in! They will receive a free drink or a dessert auction credit at the event!

Elizabeth Chaison, Ann & Jeff Morrow, Wendy Nathan & Steve Tolzman, Scott & Cherie Roberts, Heather & Dan Floyd.

Have you sent in yours yet?



It's School Tour season, so spread the news about the Pathfinder Tour dates.

And consider signing up to help with a tour or two.

Having a parent or caregiver as part of a tour makes a huge difference.

Call or e-mail Lashanna to volunteer.

715-5265 or
Lashanna.
Williams@
lafarge-na.com

PTSA News

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Looking ahead we have several volunteer needs. First and foremost, we need 5-10 parent representatives to assist with tours. This is a fairly easy job. Really all you need to do is tag along with the tour group and answer questions that prospective parents might have for you. Though easy, it's a very important role. Parents and caregivers want to talk to other parents and caregivers. Please consider taking a one hour time slot if your schedule allows. The dates are as follows:

- ♦ K-5 Tours on February 10th, 12th, 26th, 27th, and March 10th, 13th, 16th, 19th (9:30 to 10:30 a.m.)
- ♦ K-5 Open House Night on March 3, 2009, (6:30 to 8:00 p.m.)
- ♦ 6-8 Tours February 13, 25 , March 12 (10:45 to 11:45 a.m.); February 26, March 6, 18 (12:45 to 1:45 p.m.)
- ♦ 6-8 Open House Night March 10 (6:30 to 8:00 p.m.)

Math Night and the Art Auction Preview Night is coming up on March 5th. We need volunteers to help prepare math games to go home with families as well as help with set-up, clean-up and dinner service.

If you're interested in either opportunity, contact Lashanna Williams at lashannaw@gmail.com.

See you at the Science Fair, next Thursday, February 12th!



The Fourth Annual Pathfinder Science Fair

Make a volcano... explore life in pond water... create an electric circuit... explore the chemistry of cooking.... whatever your science interest is, show it off! On Thursday February 12th Pathfinder will host its fourth annual science fair. Students from all grade levels are encouraged to participate.

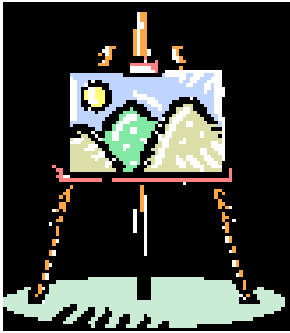
Children are born scientists, exploring and questioning the world around them. This fun, non-competitive activity will be a terrific way for them to showcase what they have learned. Science fair projects are also an excellent way for students to further develop skills in writing, oral presentation, creative thinking, and problem solving.

If you have questions or would like to help out, please contact Jenn Kocir or Lashanna Williams. We really could use more volunteers to help with various tasks such as setup and clean-up, and other areas! Please e-mail Jen or Lashanna ASAP if you want to help.

Art is in the Air!

You have probably been hearing about two big art projects going on at Pathfinder. Yes, they are both fundraisers but they are very different projects!

Clan Auction Art



Every year each clan produces an art piece for bidding at the auction. These projects rely on classroom adult volunteers to work closely with the teacher on the idea, planning, and execution. Last year Clan Art brought in over \$5,000 – there are always amazingly beautiful and creative items! Please check with your teacher or Clan Coordinator to learn more about your Clan's plans and how you can help.

All materials must be provided/donated as there is no budget for these projects. The week before the auction, on Thursday March 5, there will be an Auction Art Preview held in conjunction with our annual Math Night. Clans who fully complete their project by March 5th are entered into a drawing of \$100 to be credited to the classroom's general spending account. More details coming soon on that inspiring evening!

Original Artworks

This is the fourth year we have held this fundraiser to directly support Pathfinder's Art Program. Your child(ren) will work with our wonderful Art Teachers (Nicole or Suzanne) on an individual drawing that can then be transformed into a t-shirt, notecards, coffee mug, decorative tile, luggage tags, and more!

Artwork will be sent home in kidmail at the end of February and will then need to be returned to school in early March. The items you will purchase will be delivered just in time for Mothers and Fathers DAY. Look for more information to coming at the end of February. Proceeds help to supply the art room with needed materials for fabulous artistic endeavors!

Pathfinder Auction Decoration Committee Request

Does anyone have the following items they could lend to the décor for the evening? All items will be returned:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Adirondack Chair | Palm Trees or tropical plants
that don't mind being moved |
| Beach Balls | Blue Fabric
(spandex or waterlike) |
| Surf Board/s | |
| Shells/Preferably tropical | |
| Conch Shells | |

Contact Lynette Martin at rlajmartin@msn.com or 206-380-2572. Thanks!

Spaghetti + Math = Fun

Pathfinder's 5th Annual Family Math Night!

Thursday, March 5th

5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

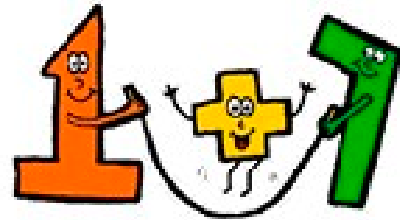
Come have dinner and play fun math games with your family!

Everyone is welcome!

Free spaghetti dinner (or donate what you can)

Free math games to play at home!

Sponsored by your Pathfinder PTSA



Auction Countdown – 4 Weeks to Go!

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<i>Committee</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>E-mail</i>
Photography	Machel Spence	argosfeather@comcast.net
Procurement	Marshall Thomas	marshalljthomas@yahoo.com
Set-up: Kid Art	<i>You can help that art shine!</i>	<i>Your email here</i>
Set-up: Silent Auction	<i>Your name here</i>	<i>Your email here</i>
Set-up: Live Auction	Darlis Smith	darlisjsmith@comcast.net
Staff/Group Events	Akemi Hart	makeupbyakemi@earthlink.net
Tickets/Reservations	Michelle Finet	michelle.finet@comcast.net
Volunteer Coordinator: Auction Day	Elliott Toler-Scott	tolerscott@comcast.net

Contact any of the Committee Leads and ask how you can help!

PE Half Year Highlights—September to January

by Lou Cutler

Ultimate Frisbee Team Wins Championship

Our Ultimate Frisbee needed to win 4 games in the playoffs, including 3 games in one day to win the championship and that is exactly what they did. However, it was the way that they won the games that was most impressive. After winning the first 2 games, our team fell behind 7 - 2 in the semifinal game and with a never give up attitude, came back to win 11 - 9.

In the championship game against Madison, our team once again fell behind by 4 points. Remembering that they had just won a game where they were behind by five points, our team never gave up and in a truly remarkable game where we tied the score at the final horn to send the game in overtime. For the next 7 to 10 minutes, everyone was treated to athleticism, acrobatic catches and total all out effort that would rival the excitement that you would see at any professional sporting event.

After coming so agonizingly close, on so many occasions, we finally scored and the celebration began!

HiJax Team & Unicycle Team Performances

Our newly formed HiJax and Unicycle team both put on outstanding performances at Family Fitness Night and Elder Luncheon in November.

The growth of the HiJax team has been truly amazing this year. Starting with a core of about 12 performers at the start of the year, we now have over 40 performers, including one Kindergarten student and five first grade students.

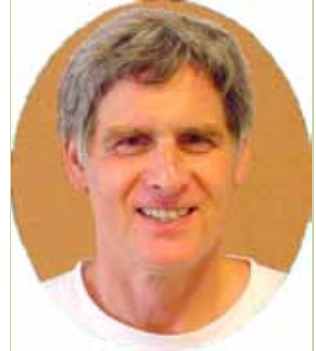
The rapid growth of the team has resulted in many orders of HiJax and an offer of a substantial discount if I would post highlights of our performances on YouTube which I gladly did.

Our supplier was so thrilled by our performance that he is donating 6 pairs of HiJax to the school.

You can see the HiJax performance on YouTube:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzbTk5-LQP4>.

Family Fitness Night

Family Fitness is a night not only of performances by the Unicycle and HiJax team, but also is a night where we come together and emphasize the importance of nutrition and daily exercise as a major component of a healthy lifestyle. This year we filled the auditorium with over 200 people!





PE Half Year Highlights

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Special thank yous to **Petrina Fisher** and **Janeal Stevens** from **Communities in Schools of Seattle** for organizing the event, to **Subway** for providing the food and to the **Seattle SeaGals**, cheerleaders at the Seahawks games, for having one of their wonderful cheerleaders lead a very well attended class in the techniques of cheerleading.

Kids Marathon

The Kids Marathon is a great event that presents students the monumental task of completing a 26.2 mile marathon, just like the adults do. However, the students run and walk their first 25 miles over a month and a half, at their own pace. Upon completing their 25 miles, about 4,000 students converge on Memorial Stadium for the final 1.2 mile run that will complete the 26.2 mile marathon.

Congratulations to the 15 students, Lou and David the Principal for following through on their commitment and completing the full marathon!

Middle School Basketball Teams

Though our basketball teams have not won very many games this year, I am very proud of the Boys and Girls teams for playing hard from beginning to end, regardless of the score and never giving up. There have been several games where we had only 5 players and everyone had to play the entire game, as we had no substitutes.

As their PE teacher, I have been very impressed by the team's conditioning!

Individual Achievements

Strength:

Most Pull-ups: Fernando – 26

Longest Flex Hang: Colby – 88 seconds

Speed & Endurance

Lap Run: Joe – 38 seconds

Mile Run: Joe – 5:38

Pacer Run: Joe – 141 laps

PE News

by Lou Cutler

Juggling Team Has First Performance

The Pathfinder Juggling Team had their first ever performance at Monday Morning Meeting and did an excellent job. The team is currently made up of all 4th - 5th grade students and we are always looking for new members.

If you are interested in joining or just working on your juggling skills, you can come in any morning and practice before school from 8:45 to 9:05.

Based on how hard the team has been practicing, I'm looking for great improvement and many new tricks when they perform again at a Monday Morning Meeting in a few months.

Girl's Middle School Volleyball Team

Pathfinder will have their first ever Girl's Volleyball team that will compete in the Middle School Volleyball League. There will be a meeting for all girls interested in playing on Tuesday, February 10th. I will be attending a coaches meeting on Monday the 9th, so I will have all the schedule information for games at the Tuesday meeting.

Practices will be on Monday & Thursday from 3:15 - 4:30. Our first practice will be Monday, February 23rd.

If you have any questions, please give Lou a call at 252 - 9738.





Editor's Blurb

Submission Timeline

The next issue of *The Compass* will be published and sent home on Monday, March 9th. Please submit your writing, artwork and photos no later than **Monday, March 2nd**. There are no restrictions on length, but the work may be edited, as necessary, to fit into available space.

<i>Articles Due</i>	<i>Publication Date</i>
March 2, 2009	March 9, 2009
March 30, 2009	April 6, 2009
April 27, 2009	May 4, 2009
May 26, 2009	June 1, 2009

Contact Information

Beth Bakeman, bbakeman@comcast.net, 206-605-1327



Culture Night

Pathfinder K-8 Calendar

Tuesday, February 12th

Science Fair, 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Monday, February 16th through Friday, February 20th

No school, President's Day and Mid-Winter Break

Friday, February 27th

Seattle Symphony Field Trip, Water Hall

Wednesday, March 4th

2-hour Early Dismissal, 1:10 pm

Thursday, March 5th

Math Night & Auction Art Walk

Saturday, March 14th

PTSA Fundraising Auction, 5 pm to 9 pm

Friday, March 20th

No School, Professional Development Day

Monday, March 30th through Friday, April 3rd

No school, Spring Break

Monday, April 13th to Friday, May 1st

WASL testing

Wednesday, May 20th

2-hour Early Dismissal, 1:10 pm



Pajama Day

Saturday, March 14th

Ride the Wave!

Pathfinder's Annual Fundraising Auction

5 pm to 9 pm at the Jerry Brockey Center, South Seattle Community College



Pathfinder K-8 School

5012 SW Genesee Street

Seattle, WA 98116

www.seattleschools.org/schools/pathfinder/

206.252.9710