



# Pathfinder K-8 Compass

Volume X, #6

March 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.**

## Link Up to 6-7-8

*by Audrey Kaplan*

Winter is often a time of reflection and in Pathfinder's Upper Grade Humanities it is happening in many ways. From 6th grade studies of Ancient Empires to 8th grade's integrated unit on Race, Class and Democracy, our students are using reading and writing to access incredible information and doing amazing things with it.

### Sixth Grade Humanities with Denise

Ancient Empires are the theme these days in Denise's class – so far our students have learned about China, Mongolia and Egypt with Greek and Roman Empires to come (and maybe more). The focus of study is on lifestyles, geography, history, and, of course, the fun stuff too– like about the pyramids. This unit on Ancient Empires will culminate with one of three projects (by student choice): (1) A traditional research report on an Empire of the student's choice; (2) A student may develop a thesis statement and write an essay addressing how that thesis applies to six ancient empires (for example, 'Men and Women are treated differently'); or (3) Students may write a piece of historical fiction based in an empire of their choice. Wow! That sounds like a great set of options... I hope we get a chance to see the results.

To prepare for writing such works, students have other writing and reading to do as well. The sixth grade has entered its Fiction Writing unit – focused on realistic, historical and fantasy styles. To support this, students are also reading historical fiction works. From *The Captive*, set in the 1700s, to *The Watsons go to Birmingham*, set in 1963, students are enjoying a variety of books in their literature circles.

### Seventh Grade Humanities with Allie

Unfortunately, this author was unable to connect directly with teacher Allie regarding the latest and greatest in seventh grade humanities, however, there is plenty of evidence of exciting happenings to be found. This year is focused on US History, writer's and reader's workshop. And what a historical year it is. As our students move through history, they are learning the historical context of the many media references around our new president's administration. In focusing on writing, students, with parental support, spent mid-winter break not just editing but actively revising work, creating a stronger essay then worked alone. A quick look at Allie's website ([www.teacherpage.com/allieokner](http://www.teacherpage.com/allieokner)) reveals an in depth and thorough story development project as well.

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## Link Up to 6-7-8

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Students are using I.A.D.D. (Inner thinking, action, dialogue, description) to fill out the story outlines they created in class. Pushing our them to a higher level of success and accountability, prepares all our students for high school and beyond.

### **Eighth Grade Humanities with Ami**

Race, Class and Democracy is the prevailing theme of the current integrated humanities unit for Pathfinder's 8th grade students. The class is studying film (Spike Lee's *When the Levees Broke*) and literature (primarily *Our America: Life and Death on the South Side of Chicago* by LeAlan Jones and Lloyd Newman, both teens upon writing the book), music and other media. Lessons examine the role of race and class in two American tragedies: New Orleans in the days following Hurricane Katrina and growing up in South Chicago and the death of five year old Eric Morse at the Ida B Wells Housing Project.

Students are challenged to use the lens of the ideals of American democracy to see if those ideals apply to everyone; and if not, how and when they do apply, if it is just, and what we can do in the future to improve, as individuals and as a nation. This is pretty serious stuff they are learning about. Teacher Ami knows this personally; she has family in New Orleans and once tutored at the Ida B Wells Housing Project. She is taking the content slowly and acknowledges the need for lots of time for reflection and discussion. And, of course, lots of writing – responsive, analytical and persuasive.

The final projects are two fold. First, the students will examine the situation in Chicago and conduct a Mock Trial, looking at poverty in America, nature verses nurture, social verses individual responsibility and who is to blame for Eric's death. Next, students will pick an aspect of the aftermath in New Orleans to research and analyze. This will lead to a class forum presentation and the development of proposals to ensure better outcomes in the future. And finally, our students will learn about public advocacy and involvement by sending their compiled suggestions to appropriate leaders and government agencies (from the Mayor of New Orleans to the Army Corps of Engineers to the Department of Homeland Security).

Pathfinder students have an incredible capacity for high-level learning and I always enjoy watching and hearing about it happening. If you are the parent or guardian of a 4th or 5th grade student and want to hear more about what Pathfinder Upper Grades have to offer your student, please make a point of coming to the Upper Grade Open House on Thursday, March 12th. It's a night with dinner and discussion just for you and your student. There are lots of benefits to a small learning community for the middle school years. Hope to see you there!



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## Kudos Korner

### Volunteers Enrich the Pathfinder Experience

*from Linda Thomson:* Hugs and kisses to **Wendy Eckert** for taking on the Auction!



*from Lisa Clayton:* This year as part of electives for our upper grades, we have started the student assistant program. Sixth, seventh and eighth graders now have an opportunity to work in the office, gym, younger classrooms and for upper grade teachers, during their PE or Art time. Thanks go out to this quarter's TA's:

- ◆ **Emily Hancock** in the Bat Clan
- ◆ **Aaliya Kish** is the Frog Clan
- ◆ **Morgan Pikul** in the Salmon Clan
- ◆ **Mercedez Reboca** in the Turtle Clan
- ◆ **Ricky Rojas Rubio** in the Blue Heron Clan
- ◆ **Nick Barth** in the Spider Clan
- ◆ **Brianna Cheung** in the Bat Clan
- ◆ **Cody Feierfeil** in the Otter Clan
- ◆ **Emma Khan-Jones** for the Office
- ◆ **Tristy Lucca** for Lisa Clayton
- ◆ **Andrea Reboca** for the Turtle Clan
- ◆ **Jennifer Gutierrez** for Allie, P10
- ◆ **Madison Higdon** for Denise, P9

and to lunch room assistants: **Abbi Lapchis, Jordan Campbell, Vivian Dandy, Caleb Dykstra, Kelsea Guillen, Cindy Huynh, Mia Kaiser-Nielsen, Jay Ruiz, Jamal Thomas, Riley Wood**



*from Akemi Hart:* Thank you to **Hazelynn Floyd** for organizing our student story writers and encouraging them to read their works for story slam at the Paramount Theatre.



*Would you like a special 'thank' going out to school staff or a volunteer(s)? Please send your note to: [makeupbyakemi@earthlink.net](mailto:makeupbyakemi@earthlink.net) with the staff or volunteers name and note of how they helped.*

## Auction – Last Call for Volunteer Help!



We are ready to RIDE THE WAVE!!! Thank you to our wonderful community for bringing us to near capacity for Saturday's auction – ticket sales were terrific and it looks like we just may sell out this year!

Please visit the Auction page of the website for the most up-to-date list of all the wonderful items and experiences up for bid. ([www.seattleschools.org/seattle/pathfinder/auction2009.html](http://www.seattleschools.org/seattle/pathfinder/auction2009.html)) Thank you to all of our generous donors! A few really fun items – for every budget!

- ◆ One hour scenic flight around Puget Sound
- ◆ Kids' Rainy Day Fun Pack – games, games, games
- ◆ Dog sitting while you're away!
- ◆ Fabulous Portland weekend getaway
- ◆ Guided tour of Seattle Fire House #5 and Fire Boat
- ◆ Gamers' Paradise – hang with a video game designer!
- ◆ 3-1/2 dozen freshly baked chocolate chip cookies
- ◆ Catered dinners for you and your friends
- ◆ Beautiful art and handmade jewelry

We still need some help on Auction Day ... if you can't make it on Saturday night, can you help with set-up during the day? We need folks to help with decorations, arranging items, and overall organizing. For Auction Night ... you know you love numbers and using an adding machine! Come help with cashiering – we would love to have 1-2 more cashiers between 5-9pm (please come at 4:15 for training – several breaks are provided).

We also need a few more folks to help with closing silent auction tables, running bid slips from the live auction to the cashiers, and "spotting" bidders for the auctioneers. Two-hour shifts from 6-9pm are available. This is a FUN way to be involved and you don't have to spend a nickel! Food & dessert for all volunteers included!

Contact Wendy Eckert ASAP if you can volunteer or with any auction-related questions: [wseckert@yahoo.com](mailto:wseckert@yahoo.com) or 932-6497.



"We still need some help on Auction Day ... if you can't make it on Saturday night, can you help with set-up during the day?"

We need folks to help with decorations, arranging items, and overall organizing."

## Clan Art Projects at Math Night

What a great night of math, pasta, and ART!! The creativity of our Pathfinder artists on display was inspiring ... from copper-etchings of Mee Kwa Mooks native plants to a sunburst of mosaic to whimsical mushroom stools ... the variety was amazing and the quality impressive. Thank you so much to all the students, teachers, and volunteers who helped to make these beautiful pieces.

Last year Kid Art raised over \$4,000 at the Auction – we know this year will be wildly successful as well. We hope to see many of you on Auction Night next Saturday March 14, ready to raise your bid paddles high!

Special thanks to Leslie Cole for leading the Clan Art and Auction Preview Night efforts again this year and to Wendy Eckert for managing all the details!

Photos from Machel Spence on this page show off a few of the special works of art that you can bid on.



## PTSA News

by Jen Giomi

March is big month for PTSA at Pathfinder K-8. With the Math Night/Auction Art preview event, the Pathfunder "Ride the Wave Auction", K-5 and K-8 Open Houses and Enrollment Tours, and Design Team meetings all happening this month, there are lots of opportunities to get involved in the community. We hope everyone will take advantage of the great events planned and attend and/or volunteer, if your time allows.

Be on the lookout for information about the next PTSA General Membership meeting tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 25th. The program is being worked on, but will likely include an update on the move to Cooper.

On that note, a big thank you to everyone who has helped with enrollment tours or still plans to: Lynette Martin, Sharon Aliza, Dan Floyd, Akemi Hart, Amy Daly-Donovan, Joey Harvey, and Marti Rickel. Having a parent attend tours with David is a great benefit to those families touring. The chance to get a parent's perspective of a school and ask questions of someone other than teachers or administrators makes the tours more complete and interesting, and calls attention to the great parent and caregiver support our school enjoys.

Upper grade parents, if you're interested and have bit of time there are a few scheduled tours that still need parent representation. They are:

- ◆ **March 12 from 10:45 to 11:45 am**
- ◆ **March 6 and 18 from 12:45 to 1:45 pm**

It's also the time of year to start thinking about next year's PTSA Board nominations and volunteer positions. We are always looking for new people to get involved. There are all kinds of options available. If you have any interest in learning more about various volunteer jobs and/or Board positions, please contact Jennifer Giomi at [jgiomi@comcast.net](mailto:jgiomi@comcast.net) or phone 937-2247, or any other Board member you happen upon. They'd all be happy to give you the scoop. The 2009-2010 school year will definitely be an exciting year to be involved.

Also, if you are currently in a volunteer position and you are thinking about continuing in the same capacity next year, please let the Board know. In past years we've inadvertently given jobs to new people not realizing the previous year's volunteers were generously planning to continue in their job.

In closing, thank you again to the entire community for being so respectful of the Cooper community and the situation created by the District's Capacity Management process. Good work is happening in the Design Team and there will be more detailed information available to the community soon. Thanks for your patience!



"Be on the lookout for information about the next PTSA General Membership meeting tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, March 25th.**

The program is being worked on, but will likely include an update on the move to Cooper."

## Take Out Food & Sharp Shoes: Single Mother in a Nuclear Family

by Kelly Riggle Hower

My mother was not sweet  
but as she was. A little dangerous.

Eyes like whiskey and Coke,  
strong straight nose,  
a mouth whose lines  
shouted  
“love me.”

Take out barbecue pork  
was her comfort vice,  
her source Lee's, Richland's favorite spot  
for greasy Chinese and flammable drinks  
in a dirty bar glass.  
Plastic sword and three cherries.

My brothers dipped circles of pork into pale  
searing mustard only once, then clung to the  
ketchup-y red sauce and left the white-hot mustard  
to mother and me. We dragged our pork rounds through it,  
covered them with sesame spread evenly as nuclear seeds,  
before laying each bite on our tongue to lift our heads  
in a great roiling cloud,  
invisible, possibly  
lethal.

My hands unsheathed her  
feet, long and slim, thin-skinned as dry weather irises,  
blue-veined. Elegant toes a little raw  
from being shoved into regulation  
Come get me shoes  
10 hours tending bar  
at the European Health spa.

Old men leered  
from behind tall carrot juices,  
winked between flaccid celery sticks and tiny  
drink umbrellas.

The air in our house carried her rage like the scent of sagebrush  
across fenced desert,  
foretelling a coming  
storm.

## Blazing Trails Closed This Summer

by Sarah Cannon, Head Teacher!

We must CLOSE this summer of 2009 due to the move from the Genesee Hill building to the Cooper Elementary building.

The definitive reason the facilities department gave that we cannot have a summer program at the Cooper site is construction. Cooper was built as an elementary school and Pathfinder is a K-8, so there are accommodations that must be made to update the middle school classrooms. This means we will have construction workers and machinery on site throughout the summer. It has been made clear to us that it is too much of a liability for the district to have children on the premises while these improvements are being made.

We are profoundly sorry for the impact this will have on our families. Please, be assured that we did everything we could think of to have some kind of summer option available. Here are some suggestions we have for you:

- ◆ Start looking for options and planning for summer NOW! Some programs are already open for registration.
- ◆ Search on the internet. You may find an option you hadn't considered before like summer overnight camps like Orkila, Campfire or Camp Long.
- ◆ Network with other parents. Think outside the box. You might be able to create a coop and share with other parents or hire a high school student who needs summer work.
- ◆ Check with Childcare Resources. They know what childcare programs are available and who has free spots.
- ◆ Brainstorm options with your kids and your friends. Something crazy and do-able may come out of it.

We also know now that we have two days (June 29 – 30) after the last day of school to vacate our portable. The district will come in after we've packed up and move all of our stuff, which is a great relief and answers many of the questions that we've had about this piece of the process. Once Pathfinder has been vacated, they will be shutting down this site, doing things like boarding up windows and cutting power.

Our things will then move into our new home along with Pathfinder's. We can then begin the process of cleaning up, doing repairs, painting and setting up our program. We are getting started on licensing the new child care facility now, but there are many, many pieces to this process. Much cannot be done until we are physically in the new child care space and can see what the needs doing. We will need to make any improvements and update the accessibility of the facility before licensing can be official. Our new childcare space will have to meet the 2009 accessibility laws and licensing requirements before we can license and begin operation in the fall.

Please, let us know if you have any other questions we can help answer.



## New Building, Possibly New Start Time and More...

The district is making a lot of change this year, and that pace seems to be accelerated by the economy and budget problems. Here are just a few of the things you should be aware of.

### Pathfinder K-8 Open House at the Cooper Building

As a result of the closures and consolidation process, we will be moving from the Genesee Hill building to the Cooper building next fall. The Cooper building is at **1901 SW Genesee Street**, on Pigeon Point.

We are having an open house at our future home this coming Sunday for current, new and prospective families. The open house will take place **Sunday, March 15th** from **11 am to 1 pm**.

We look forward to seeing you there!

### Proposed Change to 8:00 am Start Time for All K-8s

From the district website: "Seattle Public Schools is considering changes, starting in the fall of 2009, to the times that school starts across the District. In general, K-8 schools, middle schools and high schools would all start at 8:00 a.m.; and elementary schools would start at 9:15 a.m. Please view this FAQ sheet for more information." ([http://www.seattleschools.org/area/m\\_news/20090302\\_bell\\_time\\_faq.pdf](http://www.seattleschools.org/area/m_news/20090302_bell_time_faq.pdf))

The main reason for this proposed change is to streamline bus routes and supposedly save about 2.2 million dollars.

The District is moving very quickly on this and is not holding any community meetings or soliciting feedback from the public. With the Open Enrollment period under way, we can expect to hear the proposal to change start times announced as a final decision very soon.

If you have strong opinions about the proposal (in favor or against), please share them with the following people ASAP:

- ◆ Board member Steve Sundquist: [steve.sundquist@seattleschools.org](mailto:steve.sundquist@seattleschools.org)
- ◆ Tom Bishop (Transportation Manager): [tabishop@seattleschools.org](mailto:tabishop@seattleschools.org)
- ◆ Ammon McWashington (Tom's boss, oversees transportation): [mcwashington@seattleschools.org](mailto:mcwashington@seattleschools.org)
- ◆ Don Kennedy Chief Operating Officer: [drkennedy@seattleschools.org](mailto:drkennedy@seattleschools.org)
- ◆ Carla Santorno, Chief Academic Officer: [cjsantorno@seattleschools.org](mailto:cjsantorno@seattleschools.org), particularly with potential impacts on learning and academic achievement

### Meet with Steve Sundquist

Please join school board representative Steve Sundquist, **Wednesday, March 25th** at **9 am** at **Coffee to a Tea with Sugar** (4541 California Ave SW) for an informal opportunity to discuss education issues. This is a great time to discuss your views on the proposed change to the start time, and to learn about more proposed changes coming from the district.

## PE News

by Lou Cutler

Lots going on in PE Department this month!! HiJax, Unicycle and Hula Hoop teams will be performing at Pathfinder and around town, the Girls Volleyball team has their first game this weekend and the Track team begins practice this week. There is a Double Dutch team that will start up soon and I will finally learn to ride a unicycle by April 1st!!!

### Girls Volleyball

The first edition of the Middle School Girls Volleyball team is up and running and their enthusiasm and commitment to practice is wonderful to see. Their first game will be on Saturday, March 7th against Aki Kurose.

### Track Team

The Middle School Coed Track team will have their first practice on Tuesday, March 3rd. Practices will be on Tuesday and another day yet to be determined. The team will be coached by LaShaun Roberts and she brings lots of track knowledge and experience to the position. If you are interested in joining the team, it is not too late. The first track meet will be on Thursday, April 16th See Lou for more information.

### HiJax Team Stepping Out

Approximately 40 members of the HiJax team will have their first ever performance outside of Pathfinder, as they will be performing at the Bridge Park Retirement Center on Friday, March 6th. I have been told that the residents are really looking forward to the show, to say nothing of how excited the HiJax team is to show off all their skills. The HiJax team will also be performing at Monday Morning Meeting on March 9th.

### Unicycle Team is Growing

The Unicycle team has had a bunch of new members join the team recently and their energy and commitment to work hard will pay off in great performances. The Unicycle team will be performing at Monday Morning Meeting on March 23rd. We are always looking for new members to join the team. To join the team you need to be able to ride to the foul line. The Unicycle team practices on Friday afternoon from 3:15 to 4:30 pm.

### Double Dutch Team

The Double Dutch team is starting to come together and practices will take place before school at morning recess in the gym from 8:45 to 9:05 am. The





## PE News

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team was started by 8th grade students, though anyone who wants to learn how to do Double Dutch is invited to come in and practice. Official days of practice have not been announced, rather students are encouraged to come in and practice each morning.

### I Will Learn How To Ride A Unicycle

Those words have been said by me to my Unicycle team, dating back to the Clinton Administration, but this time I really mean it. Apparently, being able to teach someone how to ride a unicycle does not automatically mean you know how to ride yourself. I will now act on the advice I give to all my students: "If you want to be good at something, you need to practice, practice & practice!" My goal is to learn how to ride by April 1st. If that doesn't happen, I believe that I said I would be doing 1,000,000 push-ups. Stay Tuned!!



## Editor's Blurb

### Submission Timeline

The next issue of *The Compass* will be published and sent home on Monday, April 6th. Please submit your writing, artwork and photos no later than **Monday, March 30th**. 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 30, 2009	April 6, 2009
April 27, 2009	May 4, 2009
May 26, 2009	June 1, 2009

## Contact Information

Beth Bakeman, [bbakeman@comcast.net](mailto:bbakeman@comcast.net), 206-605-1327



Hi-Jax Team

## City Year Volunteers Love Pathfinder!

by Amy Daly-Donovan

City Year volunteers love Pathfinder!... and Pathfinder loves our City Year volunteers! You may have noticed several young people in bright red jackets at recent Pathfinder events or spending time with the Upper Grades. These wonderful folks are volunteers with an organization called City Year. City Year unites young people of all backgrounds for a year of full-time service, giving them skills and opportunities to change the world. For more information, visit their website: [www.cityyear.org](http://www.cityyear.org).

David Dockendorf met some of these volunteers over the summer and asked if they would be interested in working with our school. The response was an enthusiastic "yes!" and the kinds of things they've done since September include:

- ◆ Providing support and mentoring opportunities for many of our Upper Grade students.

They have motivated fifteen of our 6th, 7th and 8th graders to get involved with the Young Heroes Program, which provides community service for a variety of Seattle programs including parks, playgrounds, beaches, community gathering spots like Westlake, Seattle Center and much more. Young Heroes work three Saturdays a month from January through May.

- ◆ Attending and helping out at many of the Pathfinder and PTSA events.

They made wreaths, helped with Culture Nights, Curriculum Night, Math Night, and will be assisting with our PTSA School Auction and more.

City Year and Young Heroes love helping and being at Pathfinder K-8 School.

Teachers, staff and students at Pathfinder K-8 all agree that it's wonderful to have such committed young people modeling what it means to give to your community for our students and to show such interest in our kids to ignite that spark of what service means and looks like in action. Our hats are off to City Year and we look forward to partnering for many years to come. So, next time you see a friendly red-jacketed volunteer - say hi and thanks!

### Order PCC Scrip to Support Pathfinder

If you want to order PCC scrip to support Pathfinder, contact Amy Bullard 206.914.8961 or, [liamethan2@gmail.com](mailto:liamethan2@gmail.com). Or watch kid mail for order forms coming soon!



## Pathfinder K-8 Calendar

### **Tuesday, March 10th**

Upper Grades (6-7-8) Open House for new families, 6:30 pm to 8 pm

### **Tuesday, March 10th to Thursday, March 12th**

Sky Hall House and Homes Expedition: Duwamish Long House

### **Thursday, March 12th**

Upper Grades Enrollment Dinner for Pathfinder grades 4-5, 6:00 pm to 8 pm

### **Friday, March 13th**

Ride the Wave Spirit Day: Dress Hawaiian!

### **Saturday, March 14th**

PTSA Fundraising Auction, 5 pm to 9 pm

### **Sunday, March 15th**

Open House at Cooper Building, 11 am to 1 pm

### **Monday, March 16th**

Monday Morning Meeting with Roger Fernandez

### **Friday, March 20th**

No School, Professional Development Day

### **Thursday, March 26th**

Earth Hall Culminating Event of 'Where in the World?' Expedition

### **Monday, March 30th through Friday, April 3rd**

No school, Spring Break

## **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  
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[www.seattleschools.org/schools/pathfinder/](http://www.seattleschools.org/schools/pathfinder/)

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