



Pathfinder K-8 Compass

Volume IX, #7

March 24, 2008

Pathfinder K-8

Building community by honoring all traditions

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

Amazing Auction!

Fantastic news from *Pathfinder 2008... Under the Big Top!* It really was the biggest and best auction ever...as of press time, the auction has grossed just over \$58,000! Wow! This exceeds last year's tremendous results by \$11,000. This is an amazing outcome and we are thrilled!

A fabulous evening was enjoyed by close to **200 members** of Pathfinder's generous and fun-loving community. With an amazing circus atmosphere brought about by upbeat music, jugglers, tightrope walkers, and trapezes hanging from the ceiling – and ongoing encouragement by Auctioneer Andy Darring (dressed in top hat & red ringleader jacket!) – the silent auctions were crowded with bidders deciding what to buy from an amazing array of choices!



Auction-goers soon found their way to their tables after they ooh'ed and aah'ed over a tableful of mouth-watering desserts (all baked by Pathfinder or Friends-of-Pathfinder bakers) and viewed the fabulous Kid Art up for bid. We were pleased to have several Pathfinder alumni families join us, especially Steve Sundquist, newly elected School Board Member.



Prior to the kick-off of the Live Auction, the crowd was welcomed by PTSA Co-Presidents Eric Baer, Heidi Jindrlich and Principal David Dockendorf via a pre-taped video. Esteemed Auction Co-Chairs **Akemi Hart** and **Lilith Lysistrada** were warmly acknowledged, as were all who contributed to this wonderful event. It truly does “take a village” to create an event of this size – there were so many people who worked hard to create this evening of fun & fundraising. For taking on **Committee Lead** roles, huge kudos and much gratitude to: Naoko Barker, Sheila Boyer, Jimmy Cleary, Leslie Cole, Amy Daly-Donovan, Ruth Herman-Dunn, Tammy Kaiser, Jennifer Kocir, Kathy McLaughlin, Mo Malkin, Janice Marshall, Brent Morgan, Leslie Peterson, Joey Shearer-Harvey, Laura Staley, Celia Thomas, Thomas Prowell, Wendy Prowell, and Lashanna Williams.

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6-7-8 Grade Teachers at Pathfinder K-8

The previous issue of *The Compass* included profiles of a few of the 6-8 grade teachers. This issue continues profiling our upper grade teachers.

Marco Behar—6th Grade Math/Science, Falcon Clan Teacher



I have been in the teaching game since the mid 1980's. I have degrees from Huxley College of Environmental Studies (WWU). I studied Environmental Health, and my focus was on Biochemistry (1980). I have a History degree from the University of Washington (1985). My focus was US History. I earned my teaching certificate from Central Washington University. I have worked with middle school students during my entire career. I enjoy the curiosity and energy of these emerging young adults. I taught History at Mattson Junior High in Kent for 6 years. I have been at Pathfinder since we added the

upper grades at Pathfinder.

Its fun at this point in my parenting life to think about my favorite children's books. I currently have three teenagers. However, I read to them all for a string of many years. My favorite books I read to my kids were Good-night Moon, The Giving Tree, and later on Harry Potter. I enjoyed reading the toddler books that were rich in sounds and fun to read. These days I read a lot of non-fiction. I am on my own quest to learn as much as I can about Physics and Cosmology.

A holiday tradition I enjoy is having my family and friends over for potato latke's for Chanukah each year. I also enjoy Christmas morning with my family. I grew up in a Jewish home. However, I have participated in Christmas since I met my wife Kathleen many years ago. I love having a Christmas tree with all the special ornaments that our family members have and I just love the family memories we have shared over the years.

My family gives my life meaning. My wife Kathleen is a Project Manager with King County. She is one of the brightest and funniest people I know. We have 3 kids. All went to Pathfinder. Brianna (18) and our twins Chloe and Aiden (13). I have to include our ChuWeiner (Chihuahua and Dachs-hund) Bubba & Rasi who give our family great joy. I live in West Seattle and I enjoy being part of the West Seattle community that Pathfinder School is part of.



The Pathfinder staff want to hear from you with ideas, concerns or suggestions.

To reach staff by phone call 206-252-9710.

To reach any Pathfinder K-8 staff member by e-mail, go to the web site.

Denise LaRoque—6th Grade Humanities, Hawk Clan Teacher



I have been a teacher for a very long time. I started out as a special education teacher way back in 1978 in the Federal Way District. I think back, now that I am at the end of my career, and can honestly say I would go into education again if I had to do it all over again. I started at Pathfinder as a half-time kindergarten teacher in 1994. Back then, there were only 7 classroom teachers and I was the only teacher with my own children. My son started going to school here when he was in the 2nd grade and went all the way through till 8th grade. My daughter started as a kindergartener and made it through 6th grade before she transferred to a school near our home.

When I was young, I read constantly. Actually, I still do. Back then, I went through a few series: The Black Stallion books, all of Nancy Drew and Sue Barton nurse books. Later on, my favorite books, which I read many times, were Rebecca and Jane Eyre. I always hoped my kids would inherit my love of reading. My son did not read much as a middle schooler or high school student. But now that he is almost 21, he is discovering books. He has been reading Mark Twain's essays and many biographies. Who would have guessed?

Growing up in a family of 7 kids, we didn't take many vacations to distant places. Too expensive. But we did have something called Adventure Day during our time in Southern California. Many Sundays would find us all piling into our Volkswagen bus and heading off to places unknown. We just let it happen. We might find ourselves at the beach or in the desert or at our grandparents house; and one time, we actually saw a blimp land.

I am having a great time teaching middle school. I have been reading aloud to the kids as often as I can. We are on our third novel. What other job can one have that lets you read out loud? How lucky I feel.



Shelly Sibert—8th Grade Math/Science, Crow Clan Teacher



I have been a teacher for 7 years now, all of which have been at Pathfinder K-8.

My favorite children's book was *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. I love this book because any time that I had a bad day it could always make me laugh—plus my mom would read it in really funny voices.

One of my favorite family traditions is when my dad flies my whole family to Arizona for Spring Training. We always stay in the Biltmore Hotel and go out to yummy dinners. I love to spend the time with my family away from everyone's everyday life- laughing, eating good food, cheering on the baseball players...so much fun.

I am having my first baby in April. I think that this little boy will bring a whole new set of "spring traditions" and memories. I am so excited to meet him and introduce him to the Pathfinder community.



Look for the profiles of other Pathfinder staff members in next month's issue of *The Compass*.



Link Up to 6-7-8

Earth Day 2008 – Got plans? Well Pathfinder 8th graders sure do!

On Friday, April 11th** Pathfinder will be the place to be for the Earth Festival! Our 8th graders are planning an extensive, informative, fun-filled event for the entire school.

I recently had the chance to sit down with our 8th graders and find out about the current plans. They were very welcoming and had a lot to share with me about what they are planning and why they are passionate about educating others.

All this excitement started with a visit from Sustainable Seattle. The students spent two days learning about new product production and distribution, advertising techniques, and our cultural tendencies to want new products, which leads our ‘old stuff’ to the ultimate destination – the landfill. Students learned the environment costs of this one-way trip. And they want to see about making some changes around here to stop the damage.

One major component of the 8th grade plan for making a difference is to re-start campus composting. Our prior attempts at school-wide composting were not sustainable due to a lack of program leadership, difficulty getting students to do the ‘dirty work’ of rotating the compost and lack of a good use for the compost that was maturing. Considering these issues, 8th grade students have examined other school programs and are working with Cedar Grove to develop a realistic workable plan for Pathfinder K-8.

The program (as yet un-named) will focus on educating student monitors in each clan, who will in turn educate their classmates about composting during lunch. Compost will be collected each day, moved to a larger outdoor dumpster and collected by Cedar Grove once a week. While the initial program will have upfront costs, the students foresee such a reduction in school waste that the costs will be covered by the district within one year.

But why stop with food waste. Other students are concerned that while we have classroom recycling – it’s just not as good as it could be. These students are focused on making more appealing – jazzed up posters and labels to remind everyone that Pathfinder K-8 needs to reduce what goes into the garbage and increase the appropriate use of recycling bins.

In an attempt to find out how knowledgeable our community is about recycling, a few aspiring directors will be out to quiz students, teachers, parents and ‘people on the street’ about recycling and waste reduction. So when the video camera comes your way, be ready to shine, and learn, about how you can do your part.

The Earth Festival promises to be an exciting way to jump start Pathfinder K-8’s new waste reduction program, but you can be sure our students don’t expect you to come just to talk trash. They will have many different booths, games and activities geared to all different ages and interests.

If you would like to learn more about organic foods, you could stop by and speak with James or Mario about how they have helped transform how their families eat. Mario shared how he discussed organic foods with his mother and they now shop at the Farmer’s Market for organic produce, stating “even though it’s more expensive, it’s so much better for you it’s like you are buying more.” Meanwhile, another group of students are hard at work procuring food items to sample at the Festival.

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Pathfinder
K-8 students
are making a
difference.

Link Up to 6-7-8 (continued from page 4)

Maybe your kids would rather play than learn... well they better watch out, because in classic Pathfinder form they can have a bit of both! Scavenger hunts, three legged races, question challenges, balloon games, bowling, a mystery box and a trebuchet (a cool catapult) will entice students to laugh and learn about just how much they can make a change. Briana and Crystal let me know that they “wanted [others] to have fun and learn.”

Who likes to play in the dirt? Some Pathfinders do, especially knowing that PTSA is working on facilities improvements to the upper grades (be sure to look for information about the May 10th event- here’s hoping for sun!). A small but dedicated group is learning about how to improve our planter’s soil and have targeted an area of the playground to “pretti-fy” Ahri explained with a smile.

And what upper grade Festival could be complete without talking about clothes? Of course, they need a fashion show! Makayla believes that “instead of throwing away clothes, you can just make something new” and Izzy agreed that “clothes don’t have to be new to look cool.” As trend-setters at Pathfinder, these 8th graders and their classmates are developing clothing, bags and gadget covers for models from 4th to 8th grade from otherwise discarded clothing and material. They hope to encourage second thoughts before throwing away items and rushing off to the mall.

No sewing skills? That’s okay, head over to the crafting booth. Hats, angels, musical instruments and gifts are just a few of the items available to make or observe. Paying close attention to the different interests and skills of each grade band, this group of students will have a wide variety of projects available to try. They requested a little help however. Please take a look at the donation request list and see if there is something in your home that could be re-used into something new.

Levi expressed that re-using items to make new toys and crafts shows us how to “be kind to the environment.” I think that is really the message all the 8th graders hope to get across. They have a great Earth Festival planned and I encourage everyone to make an effort to stop by and see it in action.

Pathfinder K-8 students are making a difference.

*** Yes, they know April 11th is not exactly Earth Day – but please keep in mind the ever so pregnant teacher Shelly would like to be there!*

Audrey Kaplan, mother of 7th grader Alyssa, and Pathfinder graduate Theo

206-932-5560, ask4peace.now@gmail.com



Amazing Auction! (continued from page 1)



Transforming the Brockey Center into the festive space that it was took great effort from the following folks who spent the full day on Saturday **setting up and preparing for the big event!** Elliott Toler-Scott led the effort, organizing volunteers and keeping things moving. Thanks very much to: Eric Baer, Naoko Barker, Sarah Carter, Leslie Cole, Amy Daly-Donovan, Juan DeLeon, Jean Hamilton & Terry Simpson, Michael Harris, Audrey Kaplan, Jennifer Kocir, Lynette Martin, Brent Morgan, Mike O’Leary, Leslie Peterson, Eric & Laurie Reinhardt, Joey Shearer-Harvey, Darlis Smith, Celia Thomas and Chris Twombly. Also lending a hand were Pathfinder Students Alyssa Kaplan and Bailey Marshall and Pathfinder Alumni Connor Donovan and Keara Collins.

We also appreciate the volunteers who kept things going smoothly **during the evening** – Jimmy Cleary, Steve Tolzman, Elizabeth Chaison, Tammy Kaiser, Mo Malkin, Celia Thomas, Brent Morgan, and friends from Alki PTSA, Schmitz Park PTSA, and Arbor Heights Pre-School. Extra special thanks to **clean-up crew** Eric Baer, Akemi Hart, Wendy Nathan, Michael Harris, Leslie Peterson, and Greg Williams. We are extremely grateful for the many other volunteers who helped in big and small ways to make the auction happen.



A very special element of the evening was the presentation of the “*Where There’s a Will There’s A Way*” Award. This award was presented by George Tibbits and Angel DiChellis in honor of their son Will, a former Pathfinder student. Each year, the honor goes to a teacher, staff member or adult volunteer in the Pathfinder community who does an outstanding job of helping our children learn and develop, and does so in the spirit of Pathfinder – through dedication, innovative thinking, creativity and honoring the differences, strengths and uniqueness of each child. This year’s honor focused on the overall goals and values of Pathfinder and the recipient was **Amy Daly-Donovan**, parent and PTSA volunteer.

The evening got into full swing thanks to our dynamic duo, **Andy Darring** and Auctioneer **Shira Rosen**. The Live Auction was certainly lively and great items were sold to the many lucky winners who raised their paddles all night long! A special element of the evening was a short DVD presentation produced by Pathfinder parent **Phil Eidenberg-Noppe** celebrating our Native Culture Studies program and the impact on students. The DVD featured teachers, staff, parents, and students and inspired much generous giving to support our unique program.

The dedication and commitment of our school community is truly inspiring. We give our deepest gratitude to all who supported this amazing event by attending, procuring or donating items, helping with clan art, buying items and activities, volunteering and helping out in a myriad of ways before, during, and after the event.



Can you give money to support to the Culture Studies program?

Culture Studies Program

This year's Auction Fund-an-Item supported the enhancement of Pathfinder's Culture Studies Program (honoring Native cultures). We want to enable Artists-in-Residence, Native historians, and others to provide more hands-on experiences for Pathfinder students (working in classrooms and at all-school assemblies on special projects) to increase knowledge and appreciation of Native culture and enhance community in our school. Our goal is to raise \$12,000 to support this program. The generosity of this year's auction-goers brought in close to **\$6,800**, a good start for this inspiring goal! Thank you, thank you, thank you.

If you were unable to attend the auction but want to help enrich our unique Pathfinder Culture Studies program, send a direct donation (fully tax-deductible) to Pathfinder PTSA. Please note if you want it to go to Culture Studies or to the general fund and mail it to 5012 SW Genesee Seattle 98116, or send it in to school with your child.

Thank you for supporting our kids and helping to keep our school special.

Auction Art Preview Provides Fun and More!

by Leslie Cole

The Pathfinder cafeteria was transformed into an art gallery on Thursday, March 6th to celebrate 2008 auction clan art. The first ever Pathfinder Auction Art Preview boasted art from K - 8 classrooms and raised more than \$1000 to kick off the Under the Big Top auction event.

Members of the Pathfinder community, including teachers, parents, and children, gathered to view the results of the hard work that many clans began before Christmas. Lamps decorated with artwork, tile work, graffiti tiles, copper etching, quilts, afghans, mosaics, a wooden bench, a birdbath, and a tin work bougainvillea were only some of the exciting projects the community admired again and again throughout the evening.

Our own Andy Darring performed as Master of Ceremonies raffling off a case of Girl Scout cookies and a week of basketball camp at Seattle University, as well as spirit gear door prizes. The drawing for a \$100 classroom gift among all clans who finished art for the art walk went to the Owl Clan. Visitors were able to sign up for spots in group events, buy tickets to the auction, and enjoy home-baked goodies and drinks.

Thanks to the Pathfinder community for making our first-ever Auction Art Walk such a wonderful success!



Donations for Earth Festival

Pathfinder 8th graders are looking for the following items to help with the Earth Festival on April 11th. Of course, used items are more than welcome! There is a donation box on the school stage or you may contact teacher Shelly at mmsibert@seattleschools.org.

For Craft Group

- ◆ Paper towel rolls (just the cardboard, clean)
- ◆ Toilet paper rolls, (just the cardboard, clean)
- ◆ Jars with lids (clean)
- ◆ Old stuffed animals (clean)
- ◆ Old puzzle pieces
- ◆ Old retractable pens
- ◆ Styrofoam balls 1.5” to 2” diameter (old ornaments?)
- ◆ Pipe cleaners
- ◆ Thread & sewing needles
- ◆ Googly eyes
- ◆ Beads, bobbles, nuts, washers, etc. for bracelets



For Beautification Group

- ◆ Donations or loans of equipment are requested. (If a loan, please label it well!)
- ◆ Soil rake
- ◆ Shovel
- ◆ Trowels
- ◆ Pruners
- ◆ Starters of native plants – for sun or shade
- ◆ Good soil – not sandy



Thank You to Our Generous Auction Donors!

Please patronize these businesses and say thanks for supporting Pathfinder! Also, great thanks to the MANY Pathfinder families who donated such fabulous goods and services to this year's auction.

26brix Restaurant	Darigold, Inc.	Mae's Phinney Ridge Café	Sharon K. Farrar Jewelry
A Balanced Approach	Dick's Drive-In	McCormick & Schmick's	Sheraton Seattle
Aaron's Bike & Repair	Dimitriou's Jazz Alley	Menashe & Sons Jewelers	Shoofly Pie Co.
Aqua Verde Café & Paddle Club	Diva Espresso	Mo Malkin, Atty at Law	Silver Cloud Inn
Akasha Soul Remembrance	double entendre Design	Mooers Stained Glass	Sockeye Video Productions
Alki Auto Repair	Dream Dinners	Museum of Flight	Spence Photography
Alki Lumber & Hardware	Dressaage Dancers	Museum Quality Framing	Square One Books
Alki Tae Kwon Do	Duke's Chowder House	My Sisters & Me @ The Luncheonette	Stacey Weldan Tayler, LMP
All That Dance	Dunville Gallery	Natalie Fobes Photography	Studio 2 You
American Dance Institute	Elhot Metal Fabricators	Northwest Outdoor Center	Sylvan Learning Center
Art Wolfe, Inc.	Elliott Bay Brewery & Pub	Odyssey Maritime Discovery Center	Taproot Theatre Company
Arts West Playhouse & Gallery	Endolyne Joe's	On the Boards	The Fiber Gallery
Bakery Nouveau	Etherea Salon Spa	Pacific Science Center	The Forsythe Studio
Blackstock Lumber	Eye Can Art	PCC Natural Markets	The Red Balloon Company
Blazing Trails Childcare	Fremont Place Book Co.	Philharmonica Northwest	Tiempo
Blue Willow Catering & Luncheonette	Funky Jane's Consignment Garage	Phinney Ridge Animal Hospital	Top Ten Toys
Book It Repertory Theatre	Garlic Jim's Pizza	Pratt Fine Arts Center	Tom's Automotive
Bowen at the Color Group	Georgetown Brewery	Quality Cleaners	University Bookstore
Brocklinds	Gypsie Goss, LMP	Roxbury Lanes	University of Washington Athletics Department
Burke Museum	Half-Price Books	Rudy's Barber Shop	Vertigo High Access Services
C&P Coffee Company	Henry Art Gallery	Salon Serenite	Walla Walla Inns
Cappy's Boxing Gym	Highland Ice Arena	Scarecrow Video	West 5
Century Ballroom	Hot House Spa & Sauna	Seattle Aquarium	West Seattle Cellars
Children's Bookshop	Interbay Golf Center	Seattle Arts & Lectures	West Seattle Junction Assn.
Chinoise Café	Intiman Theatre	Seattle Bug Safari	West Seattle Karate Academy
Choice Organic Teas	Ivar's/Kidd Valley/ Spud's Restaurants	Seattle Children's Theatre	West Seattle Nursery & Garden
Chris Wells	Jillian's Billiard Café	Seattle Fire Department	West Seattle Thriftway
Christine Cannon	Julia's Restaurant	Seattle Police K-9 Unit	Westin Hotels & Resorts
Circa Restaurant	Junction True Value Hardware	Seattle Post-Intelligencer	Whole Life Yoga
Comedy Underground	KING-5 Television	Seattle Repertory Theatre	Wide World Books & Maps
Courtesy Tire	Lake Union Courtyard by Marriott	Seattle Thunderbirds	Yazdi
Crown Pacific Fine Foods	Landmark Theatres	Seattle Tilth Association	YMCA of Greater Seattle
Curious Kidstuff	L'Ecole No. 41 Winery	Seattle University Men's Basketball	Zulu Sound Studio
D.A. Burns & Sons	Lewie Corp.	SevenStar Women Kung Fu	
Dahlia Lounge	Liberty Bell Printing	Shadowlands	



PTSA Presidential Palaver and Putterings

by Heidi Jindrich

We've been as busy as cats being herded by a roomful of rocking chairs here in your PTSA these days. Jennifer Giomi has been spearheading some big facilities initiatives (such as the new Pathfinder Campus Map on the wall by the door to the Auditorium), and Akemi Hart led the Pathfinder Auction Committee to accomplish a phenomenal auction "Under the Big Top." Give them a big round of applause when you see them, because they really are "all that."

Upcoming events and phenomena you need to know about now are:

- ◆ The PTSA General Meeting (*Thursday, 3/27*)
- ◆ Portable Painting Extravaganza (*Saturday, 5/10*)
- ◆ Pathfinder PTSA Idol (*a.k.a., PTSA Board member talent search*)

PTSA General Meeting

This next General Meeting will be a fun one, where you will have the opportunity to learn some Salsa and Ballroom dancing from professional dance instructors!

But first, you will get to vote on approval of a \$10,000 request by Pathfinder, which your PTSA Board has already voted unanimously to approve, but which needs to be sent to you, the General Membership, for a vote before it is finalized. The super-short skinny of it is, we need to temporarily make up for a shortfall due to the Weighted Staffing Standards being newly instituted by Seattle Public Schools for all school staffing next year. Your PTSA Board members will discuss the matter with you, and David Dockendorf will be there to answer your questions.

After that and other matters of business are attended to, you can shake your booty until you drop (or until 8:30)!

Portable Painting Extravaganza

No, we're not going to make paintings that we can carry around, but rather, paint the upper grade portables! In colors that blend in with the landscape and say "come inside and learn and be happy!" So put **May 10th** on your social calendar, and let's show mucho support to those upper grade students, teachers, and other staff who reside out there. (*Read all about it on page 11.*)

And if you want to go over the top, come the weekend before to do the prep work with Elliot Toler-Scott and me.

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The next PTSA
General
Meeting will be
on
**Thursday,
March 27th,**
from **6:45 pm**
to **8:30 pm**



Facilities News

by Jennifer Giomi

Things continue to move along in the facilities committee. The new school map is up in the main entrance. Yeah! If you're in the building, take a minute to check it out.

We worked in the month of February to get the proposed portable colors on-line for community comment. However, after many attempts we still could not get the virtual colors to match real life colors and have settled for a "hard copy." The palette of colors along with a suggestion box was displayed at the auction. It will also be displayed at a staff meeting in the near future, the next general PTSA meeting 3/27 and, hopefully, in the main hallway display case. Along with the color options is a mock up of the proposed signage for the portables. Please give us your comments! We plan to wrap up the comment period by the first week in April.

We have done some initial work to get paint donations and expect this to be our main work in the month of April. If anyone has a contact in the painting business that might be able to get a paint donation for us, please contact Jennifer Giomi 937-2247, jgiomi@comcast.net. We will need approximately 40 gallons of different paint and stain. Our primary need is for a base color. Authentic Home will tint the base paint/stain for us, if necessary.

Finally, put Saturday, May 10th on your calendar! We are planning that this will be more than just a Pathfinder "Clean-up" Day. It will be a Pathfinder "Transformation" Day. Seattle Works will be at Pathfinder to help us paint the portables, weather permitting. We will also have teams doing other jobs: cleaning up the amphitheatre, gardening in the front flower beds, etc. Don't miss out on all the fun!!

Seattle Works at Pathfinder **Saturday, May 10th.**

Put it on your calendar!



First Graders **Gaby Rose** (Salmon clan) and **Madeline Rainwater** (Blue Heron clan) show off our new campus map!

PTSA Presidential Palaver and Putterings *(continued from page 10)*

Pathfinder PTSA Idol

It's that time of year when those of us on the PTSA Board decide to hang up our spurs, go another round, throw in the towel, or write bad mixes of sports idioms.

No matter how much fun we have all had serving you tirelessly, some Board members may choose to exit. So as we close out this academic year over the next couple of months, please consider being a Board member and helping to fill their shoes, and/or adding your own distinctive fashion of footwear.

Maybe 2008-2009 will be your turn to be the new Pathfinder PTSA Idol!

'Mini Al Gore' Talks to Junction Restaurateurs

by Matthew G. Miller

(reprinted with permission from the West Seattle Herald)

Tyler Simpson convinced his parents and older brother to compost their food scraps into the yard waste at home. Now, he's working on restaurant owners, persuading them to switch from plastic to compostable take-out containers.

"In one million years, it'll still be there," Tyler says. His mother, Jean Hamilton, prompts him. "The Styrofoam, you mean?" "It doesn't seem right," he says. "We're consuming too much."

Tyler, a 9-year-old third grader at Pathfinder School, has started his own organization "Green To-Go." Armed with samples of paper boxes and cups, donated by Duke's Alki Chowder House, Tyler spent Wednesday after school in the Junction.

His mother warns him not every restaurant will switch. He tells her, "That's not an option!"

It is quiet before the dinner rush. Tyler goes door-to-door with one colleague, Dane Jacobson, a 10-year-old fourth grader. At first, Tyler shuffles his feet, avoiding eye contact.

"We're trying to tell people to not use Styrofoam," Tyler mumbles. Guadalupe Murguia, assistant manager at Puerto Vallarta, fails to hide his smile. "And can you tell me why?" Dane pipes in. "Because it's bad for the environment!"

Tyler finds Puerto Vallarta and Taqueria Guaymas use plastic take-out containers, but Easy Street Cafe and Mishiko use paper. Though Husky Deli uses Styrofoam trays for meat and cheese, a manager said he is testing compostable utensils made from corn.



GREENER TAKE-OUT Dane Jacobson (far left) and Tyler Simpson show compostable to-go containers to Guadalupe Murguia, assistant manager at Puerto Vallarta. Tyler wants restaurants that use Styrofoam to switch to environmentally friendly cardboard and paper. Photo by Matthew G. Miller.

Uptown Espresso, home of the velvet foam, uses paper cups, recycles glass and composts coffee grounds. Dane jokes, "Wouldn't it be funny if it was 'home of the Styro foam'?"

Tom Tum Koong uses plastic. Because Yummy Teriyaki is a chain, the man behind the counter said he can't switch.

Tyler has been recycling more since he saw *An Inconvenient Truth* in the theater. At home, Tyler shows off his copy of the book, a present from his uncle. "He was really, really into that," says his mother. "He's like a miniature Al Gore."

After Christmas in Atlanta, Tyler couldn't find recycling bins for their newspapers, cups and "the bags for these really excellent cookies the hotel had." He packed it all home to Seattle for proper disposal.

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A copy of this newsletter can be found on the News & Events page of the Pathfinder K-8 website at

<http://www.seattleschools.org/schools/pathfinder/news.html>

'Mini Al Gore' Talks to Junction Restaurateurs *(continued from page 12)*

"Tyler collects little things in his pockets to bring home and put in the yard waste," his mother says. "I have to be careful before I do his laundry."

Two weeks ago, a mother of a friend of his brother's "talked about green stuff," telling Tyler about paper take-out boxes. He spent a whole day researching "compostable containers" on the Web, asked friends at school to join, and picked a date to canvass.

"I told him he should tell his mother first!" she says.

Recycling and food scraps are Tyler's self-appointed chores at home. A plate beside the kitchen sink has a crumpled napkin and two crusts of toast. "These are compostable," he says, and pries the lid off a quart-sized reused yogurt tub. It's already full. So are the recycle bins under the counter.

"It's time those were taken out," calls his dad from the living room. "I respect him for what he does," says his dad, Terry Simpson.

"I admire his tenacity," says Hamilton. "It's nice to see him learn that little things can make a difference. "And we're very proud of him."

In the Junction, Tyler's spiel improves with practice. "We're a large group of people who wants restaurants to stop using Styrofoam to-go containers because it's bad for the environment."

Elliott Bay Brewery and Pub composts, recycles, and donates its tired fry oil to make biodiesel. A manager says the owners even invest in wind energy.

At Maharaja, rice and soup is sent home in paper containers, but Lee's Asian Restaurant and Be's Restaurant both use Styrofoam.

Tyler wants to take his message farther, to restaurants on Alki and in the Admiral District. He wants to convince one of his favorite places, Pailin Thai, to stop using Styrofoam for take-out.

Every Sunday, Tyler's family eats out at Puerto Vallarta. He brings his own containers to take leftovers home, refusing the restaurant's.

"Someday, you're going to invent something that will help save the Earth," Hamilton tells her son.

Tyler replies, "Well, of course, Mom!"



P.E. News from Lou

African Dance Class Rocks Pathfinder

Eric Wilson came to Pathfinder on March 13th and delighted a class of 30 with one hour of joyful, rhythmic dance and exercise that the Pathfinder gym has never quite experienced before. Eric will be making a return visit on Thursday, March 27th from 3:20 to 4:30 pm. If you like to dance, exercise or have a good time, this is a class that you don't want to miss.

The class is open to all students, staff and parents and the cost is \$5.00 per person. All students are welcome, though K-1 students got pretty weary after about 20 minutes, so class is probably most appropriate for students 2nd grade up.



Accurate Archers Abound



For the past two weeks, our 2nd to 8th grade students did their best impression of William Tell shooting an apple off his son's head, as the school district's archery equipment visited Pathfinder. It was quite impressive to watch the accuracy improve from class to class over the two week period as the amount of "Balloon Busters" soared as we reached the final days of archery.

Congratulations to Malakai for being the top archer in the Water Hall, Mitchell for having the top score in the middle school archery shoot-off and to Tyler for being the top "Balloon Buster" in the school. Tyler deflated...busted 4 balloons that were taped to the target with his pinpoint accuracy over the last two weeks.

Pull-Up Challenge

8th grade students **Mitchell** and **Rafael** were the pull-up champions in the school with 17 pull-ups... but their record was beaten on Monday as we saw history in the making as a very unlikely candidate from the kindergarten **Turtle Clan** emerged as the new pull-up leader. **Fernando** is a regular visitor to the gym during morning recess and he shocks and amazes everyone with his strength as he comes to the pull-up bar. Fernando's record a few weeks ago was 11 pull-ups..... the following week he did 15 pull-ups and as of Monday, he set a new personal record when he did 18 pull-ups.

This week is the whole school pull-up challenge, so I am confident that we will have a new pull-up record by the end of this week.

Free Swim Lessons for 3rd & 4th Grade Students

All 3rd and 4th grade students are eligible for free swim lessons and swimsuits through Seattle Parks and Recreation. Our students had a swim assembly last week explaining the program and the 3rd and 4th grade students should have received a swim voucher and brochure in the mail. The voucher is good for swim lessons at any Seattle pool and is good until December 31, 2008.

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P.E. News from Lou *(continued from page 14)*

Lou's 57 Lap Make A Wish Run Coming

This school year is really flying by, and as we approach spring, that means that my annual benefit run for the Make A Wish Foundation to celebrate my good health and my upcoming 57th birthday is not far away. The 57 lap, 9.5 mile run, is scheduled for Monday June 9th.

Over the past 4 years we have raised over \$7,500 for the Make A Wish Foundation. The Make A Wish Foundation is an organization that provides very special wishes that are tailor made for children between the ages of 2 to 18 who face the challenge of a life-threatening illness.

I have been a volunteer at the Make A Wish Foundation for over 12 years and I have seen first hand the power of a Wish and the amazing recuperative assistance that these special wishes have provided.



Everyone is invited to join me. You can run or walk from 1 to 57 laps at your own pace.

From past experience I have found out that it is never too early to start training.



Editor's Blurb

Submission Timeline & Guidelines

The next issue of *The Compass* will be published and sent home on **Friday, April 18th**. Please submit your writing no later than **Monday, April 14th**. There are no restrictions on length, but the work may be edited, as necessary, to fit into available space.

Contact Information

Send your feedback, suggestions, and submissions to:

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

Pathfinder K-8 Calendar

Monday, March 31st to Friday, April 4th

No School — Spring Break

Thursday, March 27th

PTSA General Meeting, 6:45 pm

Tuesday, April 8th

Family Night event following classroom FLASH program, 6:30 pm

Wednesday, April 9th

Sky Hall to Mee Kwa Mooks Park and the adjoining beach

Thursday, April 10th

Earth Hall's storytelling expedition culminating event, 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Friday, April 11th

8th grade Earth Festival

Monday, April 14th to Friday, May 2nd

WASL Testing Window

Wednesday, April 16th

Sky Hall to Camp Long

Friday, April 18th

Sky Hall movie night / parent night out

Sunday, April 27th

Candle making with Steve and Wendy

Thursday, May 1st

Water Hall's storytelling expedition culminating event, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Saturday, May 3rd

Copper etching workshop

Saturday, May 10th

Pathfinder work party with Seattle Works volunteers

Thursday, May 15th

End of the Year Culture Celebration Night

Friday, May 16th

Sleepover at school with Lisa and David

Sunday, May 18th

Salmon Clan Bowling Party, 2 pm to 4 pm

Wednesday, May 21st

2-Hour Early Dismissal, 1:15 pm

Monday, May 26th

No School — Memorial Day Holiday

Join us for the next PTSA
General Meeting

Thursday, March 27th, 6:45 pm to 8:30 pm

Details on page 10.



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