



## 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.

## Explaining the Magic of Pathfinder

*by Audrey Kaplan*

As we approach this ‘season of enrollment’, it is often helpful to think about how to articulate what is great about Pathfinder – those things that make it unique, especially in a time of uniform curriculum and district standardization. Now that I have one student out of Pathfinder, I have a greater understanding of my own thoughts on how Pathfinder stands out – and I also realize how difficult it was to explain just why I so strongly believe in this place before I had some comparison. Hopefully, my thoughts, and those of others who have shared their, will inspire you to reflect and share with others why you are here too.

So much about Pathfinder is about respect. Respect for learning. Respect for individuals. Respect for community. For the environment. For growth: academic, social emotional, physical. Respect for self. It’s in the goals of the BLT, the PTSA, the school mission. It’s about being whole in so many ways... but I’m getting too gooey, how about specifics.

**Denise LaRoque**, Pathfinder 6th grade teacher and parent of an alumni, says with confidence that Pathfinder students are different. “I can tell a Pathfinder student – they are **deep thinking, open-minded, comfortable with diversity, not afraid to speak their mind and quick to volunteer.**” Our students can manage projects, organize their work, take time to care for each other – all this and camping too!

For our family, Pathfinder has enriched our students’ academic experience to truly have a **love of learning** – to be **critical and creative thinkers**. I didn’t fully appreciate it until I saw my son striving to understand the concepts in high school and not just going through the motions to get the grade (and with a 3.9 GPA he is getting the grades too). I can now appreciate this unique investment in how my daughter and other Pathfinder students approach new information. They eat it up – wanting more, asking questions, pushing themselves to figure it out. It’s not about being right, it’s about understanding something inside and out.

**Jen Giomi** said it well, during a recent conversation, “**Learning is a process** at Pathfinder K-8. They encourage the process even if it doesn’t bring you to the right answer...Over time, I’ve come to believe what I want for my kids is for them to find something fulfilling to do with their life. And to make good choices about who they spend their life with. I think Pathfinder encourages them down that path. They are asked what they think academically, asked

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## What is the Value of Free Advice?

by Sarah Kelly

A teacher used to tell me that free advice is worth nothing. While I don't make it a practice to argue with teachers, the one exception to this statement is your Native Advisory Board (NAB). Your NAB has had a hard time figuring out whether anyone knows that we exist or if they do know of us, who it is we are and what is we actually do. So let's start with the basics, and then you can decide what the advisory board's advice is worth to you.

According to founding board member Kelly Riggle Hower, the NAB "...formed four years ago to involve Pathfinder families and native elders in working together to support heartfelt, cohesive Native American culture education as part of Pathfinder's core teaching, and to link those working on this with hardworking Pathfinder members on staff, PTSA and BLT and with Native American organizations in the Seattle area." The NAB is currently made up of parents and teachers, though we have had students on the board. Membership never required native heritage and still doesn't, but knowledge of or interest in native culture is helpful. The Native Advisory Board is open to all who wish to join and work toward NAB's purpose and objectives.

The stated purpose of the Native Advisory Board on the school website is, "Respect our Seventh Generation by facilitating Pathfinder's work on the Native American foundation from which we teach about a variety of cultures."

Um ... what?

Right, so, let's start from the beginning: the phrase "Respect our Seventh Generation" is an idea which comes from the Iroquois Confederacy, a concept that the current generation shall make decisions today with the frame of mind they are working to benefit their descendants seven generations from now. To put this in perspective: think about the decisions our great-great-great-great-grandparents made two hundred years ago and how they affect us now. How different would our lives be right now if this was how our ancestors made their decisions?

A lofty idea, to be sure. This is why our focus is on cultural intelligence. No matter the culture, we all love our families and want to protect them – it's the approach that's always different, and one is no better than the other. Learning this lesson early and often promotes peace and an understanding of others which cannot be learned in a cultural vacuum.

Why is native culture a central idea from where we teach of other cultures? Why not choose some other culture? First, we pay homage to the concept of the original idea of respecting the seventh generation. Secondly, we stay true to the Founding Mothers' intentions to reverse a history of a dominant



### NAB Members in attendance this year:

Amy Hallingstad

David Dockendorf

Denise LaRoque

Elaine Roe Dilazzaro

Kelly Riggle-Hower

Lynette Martin

Rose Rapoza

Sarah Kelly

Thomas Martin

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Your Native Advisory Board works hard to advise native culture events at Pathfinder K-8.

We invite you to learn, enjoy and appreciate it all.

## Free Advice

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culture, assimilating children by force. Finally, we wish to do away with the idea that indigenous culture is a dying culture by making it applicable in our daily lives here and now.

Now, we've talked about honoring the future and the past ... so what are we doing in the present? The members of the NAB focus on the planning of cultural events at Pathfinder K-8. If you ever attended a Culture Night or other cultural celebrations such as Salmon Homecoming or Multi-Cultural Night, you have witnessed the NAB in action. We lead efforts to make the fry bread and run the craft tables, we decide on the drummers, storytellers and other activities.

The NAB meets five times per school year to support four Culture Nights per year. Starting this year, the NAB held a special meeting beginning cooperation with staff to not only support two Expedition culminating events but to bring in artists in residence throughout the school year relating to the Expeditions. Our role in this cooperative effort is to advise on and support best practices to teach students cultural education from our foundation of Native American culture studies. The December 4th "Rethinking Thanksgiving" Expedition culminating event (article featured in the last issue of the Compass) was supported by the NAB with the sharing of information and suggestions. Also this year we are focusing in on academic excellence by brainstorming ideas to our students perform in standardized tests without becoming robotic test-takers.

Your NAB works hard to advise native culture events at Pathfinder K-8, we invite you to learn, enjoy and appreciate it all for free.

The next NAB Meeting is December 2. For more details or if you or your student have an interest in joining or helping the NAB, please contact Sarah Kelly at [sivadogg@msn.com](mailto:sivadogg@msn.com) or Kelly Riggle Hower, Bat Clan teacher, if you are without email access.



## Resources for learning more:

- ◆ **Center for World Indigenous Studies:** <http://cwis.org>
- ◆ **Pathfinder NAB web page:**  
<http://www.seattleschools.org/schools/pathfinder/NAB.html>
- ◆ **Wikipedia entry on Seventh Generation:**  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven\\_generation\\_sustainability](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_generation_sustainability)
- ◆ **History on the founding of Pathfinder K-8 School:**  
<http://www.seattleschools.org/schools/pathfinder/Roots.html>

## PTSA News

### November Wrap-up

The PTSA school year continues on its strong path. There were three terrific events in the month of November. The **Native Advisory Board** hosted a great **Culture Night** on November 6th. Fry bread and Indian tacos were served to all. Kids and adults alike enjoyed making great crafts such as button blankets, talking sticks, copper etchings, friendship bracelets and beaded objects, dream catchers and rattles. **Thomas Martin**, Orca Clan teacher, led the kids in several drum circles, which were hugely popular. Storytelling circles were led by **Kelly Riggle Hower**, Bat Clan teacher. The event was well attended and it was a fun and relaxing evening spent enjoying community. Thanks to everyone who staffed a craft station and helped to host such a great evening.

The **Birds, Bees & Kids** night November 14th was definitely a different kind of fun. **Amy Lang**, MA came and spoke to a crowd of about 75 interested parents from Pathfinder, Schmitz Park and Lafayette on the topic of how to talk to your children about sex. The evening was both fun and funny, and very informative. The food was yummy and even included a delicious chocolate fountain with a great selection of fruits and cookies for dipping. Thanks to **Wendy Nathan** for organizing this event and to all who helped with the food!

**Family Fitness Night** November 18th was again a big event this year. Sponsored by **Communities in Schools**, **Subway** and the **Seahawks**, it was a fun evening of community and fitness. Subway hosted a healthy dinner and Pathfinder's Hi Jacks and Unicycle Teams performed. Later in the evenings Lou set up an obstacle course in the gym and Seahawk Seagals led a conversation on nutrition and taught a fun and jazzy dance routine to a large group of kids and parents. Thanks **Lou** for hosting a great event!!

### Looking Ahead

There are lots of events as we move toward winter break beginning with the **Elder Luncheon**, November 26th. If you haven't already done so, invite a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or special neighbor to this festive lunch. It's a great opportunity for the kids to show off their school, friends, classrooms...all the things important to them in a day at school.

**Wreath making** is the next big event. Please do all you can to support wreath making! There are many ways to help. You can collect and donate greens, make wreaths, provide childcare while others make wreaths, sell wreaths to friends and neighbors and at the Farmers Market and buy wreaths. We need people to do all of the above. Pick the thing that best suits your time and skills. Wreath making funds the outdoor education program at Pathfinder, one of our signature programs and a greatly enriching experience for our kids.



Keep your eyes open for news about the next PTSA meeting date and time.

## PTSA News

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Contact **Darlene Williams** for more information [williams.darlene@comcast.net](mailto:williams.darlene@comcast.net) or phone 219-3799.

**Pathfinder's Culture Celebration** December 4th will be a special one. It is the culmination of the fall culture studies program, Rethinking Thanksgiving. *(See page 9 for more information about this special evening.)*

Dust off your arts and crafts skills and make some items for the Pathfinder **Craft Fair** December 11th. Every year there is a great assortment of creative and unique items for sale. Kids, parents and friends of the community are all invited to participate. Stay tuned for more details.

## Seattle Public Schools Closures and Repurposing

If you have been following the press lately, you'll likely have heard that the Seattle School District is facing a budget shortfall for the coming 2009-2010 school year. As a result of this and several other issues, the School Board has voted to once again look for opportunities for school closure/re-purposing (using existing buildings for new or different purposes). The Superintendent's preliminary recommendations regarding this issue are expected to be announced this Tuesday, November 25th.

We do not know if or how Pathfinder might be affected by this. Be assured that the PTSA leadership team has been following this issue very closely. Pathfinder representatives have been at every meeting regarding closures and new student assignment plans, and at every School Board meeting for the last month in an effort to monitor what is going on and contribute to the conversation as appropriate.

Pending the District's preliminary recommendations, the PTSA will provide information to the community. Please feel free to contact Jennifer Giomi [jgiomi@comcast.net](mailto:jgiomi@comcast.net) or phone 937-2247 if you have questions. For your information the following are the District guidelines for closing and re-purposing schools.

At the School Board meeting on November 12, Superintendent Maria L. Goodloe-Johnson outlined the guidelines staff will use in making recommendations to close or repurpose buildings. Five specific guidelines will be used:

- ♦ **Geographic Need:** How to balance capacity across the district to ensure the appropriate number of seats in each geographic area.
- ♦ **Building Condition:** Recent surveys and analyses will be used to evaluate the quality and condition of each building, using factors such as cost of maintenance, lot size, etc.
- ♦ **Cost per Pupil:** How non-instructional costs per student, including both core staffing and administrative mitigation, compare with District averages.
- ♦ **Proximity:** Whether other nearby schools serve the same grade levels.
- ♦ **Academic Performance:** Whether the school has made the expected annual academic progress under the federal No Child Left Behind law.

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## Pathfinder Auction

Mark your calendars **now...** and make sure it's the right date! We inadvertently published an incorrect date in a recent Compass. The real deal is **Saturday March 14**, at the Brockey Center at South Seattle Community College . . . the place to be! Ask friends and family to save the date, too.

The Pathfinder K-8 annual auction is the biggest fundraiser of the year, last year we raised over **\$52,000**. All our children benefit! Funds generated are used by the PTSA to help support such things as our art program, assemblies, culture studies, tutoring, teacher professional development, as well as supporting our library, and after-school activities just to name a few.

The auction is a terrific event to be involved in. Lots of time? A little time? We can use it all! Can you donate an item or service? Volunteer your time? Attend the auction and buy some of the wonderful procured items? Lots of folks participating and lots of good items make for a wonderful, successful auction!

Currently, we are seeking volunteers to round out our fun and dedicated Auction Committee. The specific areas currently needed are:

- **Database entry:** entering donor information and creating item descriptions for the event catalog.
- **Decorations chair:** work with auction team to decorate the venue.
- **Dessert auction chair:** enlist 15-25 bakers to provide scrumptious desserts for the auction, and arrange for drop-off and set up of the goodies on Auction Day.
- **Procurement team:** work with chair to ask, ask, ask in person or make follow-up phone calls.
- **Ticket sales/promotion:** this lead uses all our PR resources to get the word out about ticket sales; confirms payments and reservations.
- **Kid Art co-chair:** Works with fellow chair to procure the raison d'etre of the auction, Clan Art!
- **Item pick-up:** collect auction items from school 3-4 times per week, 'register' items on tracking log. Transport items to storage.
- **Thank you team:** help draft and send prompt thank you letters to all our fabulous donors.

Questions or ready to pitch in? Contact your Auction Co-Chairs **Wendy Eckert** (wseckert@yahoo.com or 932-6497) or **Stephanie Druxman** (sdruxman38@gmail.com).



Save the Date

**Saturday,  
March 14th**

Pathfinder  
Auction 2009

*Ride the Wave!*

## Spirit Gear

Show your Pathfinder pride by purchasing T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and tote bags. Spirit Gear will be for sale at the Craft Fair, December 11th (cash or check only please). You can also pick up an order form from the front office. Questions? Please contact **Carolyn Swaab** (caswaab@msn.com) or **Holly Rikhof** (holly.rikhof@comcast.net).

Current inventory available for purchase:

### Compass logo

- Hooded sweatshirt (Youth M, Adult L): **\$25**
- T-shirt (Youth S, M, L, Adult S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL): **\$10**
- Knit beanie (cuff or no-cuff): **\$14**
- Tote bag: **\$5**



### Dreamcatcher logo

- Crew sweatshirt (Child S, Adult M, L, 2XL): **\$20** or **2 for \$30**
- T-shirt (Adult M, XL): **\$8** or **2 for \$10**



## Birds and Bees and Kids

Amy Lang came to Pathfinder on November 14 and spoke to a packed house of 75 parents yearning to learn how to talk with their kids about sex. She was dynamic and funny and made us feel right at ease discussing this taboo topic.

The evening focused on helping us get through our personal feelings about sex so that we can discuss sexuality and helping us find words that are positive. Amy recommends not one 200-minute conversation but 200 one-minute conversations. These conversations should start when children reach the age of 3 and continue throughout childhood. She says it is important not to overwhelm our kids with information but to give them the facts about where our children came from. Amy also encouraged when we talk about sex to say things like “sex is for adults in committed loving relationships, not for kids” and “children and teenagers’ minds and bodies are not ready for sex.”

To emphasize how important it is for parents to have a conversation with children about sex Amy referenced a study done asking kids who was their biggest influence in making decisions around relationships and sex. The study concluded that parents were the biggest influence. Yes, parents are a bigger influence than peers. While parents believe that peers and media have more of an impact on kids’ decision making, it’s not true. We are influential and that is why these conversations are so important. Start talking!

If you could not attend this fabulous talk, check out more about Amy and other opportunities at [www.birdsandbeesandkids.com](http://www.birdsandbeesandkids.com). And if you are interested in meeting to check in and get some parent-to-parent support around how conversations are going, come to Coffee to a Tea at 6:30 on December 11. Please RSVP to **Wendy Nathan** 932 4409, [nat.tolz@juno.com](mailto:nat.tolz@juno.com).

### Wanted: Truck for Occasional Use

Have a truck or know someone who does? Willing to put it to use for a good cause?

Please contact **Darlene Williams** to put yourself (and your truck) on a list that will be used by the PTSA to request help when we need large items picked up (i.e. greens for wreath making, auction items, etc.) The PTSA will contact the people on the list in a rotation to fill truck needs.

If you want to move clean boxes and large clean items but not clippings or dirt or paint, just let Darlene know. Also, let her know if your truck is available for a particular event or time of year, or year-round. Email [williams.darlene@comcast.net](mailto:williams.darlene@comcast.net) or phone: 206-418-8372.



Parents are the biggest influence on kids in making decisions around relationships and sex.

So start talking!



Join us  
December 4 for  
a fresh  
perspective on  
an old holiday.

## Pathfinder Rethinks Thanksgiving

### A Native American Perspective Informs a December 4 Thanksgiving Feast

by Kelly Riggle Hower

Pathfinder K-8 School will host members of the Duwamish tribe at a Thanksgiving dinner on December 4, 6:00-8:30 p.m. Pathfinder K-8 families will bring dishes which are both refreshingly different and warmly familiar, but the most important element will be the fresh perspective on an old holiday, a time to explore such tantalizing questions as...

A New England feast celebrated with Native American leaders emerging from tipis to serve turkey? The Wampanoag arriving at the feast in feathered war bonnets? The Puritans carrying religious freedom to a "new world?" These images from childhood are being examined as part of Pathfinder K-8 School's October and November exploration and celebration of Thanksgiving. This new look at Thanksgiving will culminate in the December 4 potluck with food and gifts prepared for Duwamish elders, to honor original and current residents of the land on which Pathfinder K-8 stands.

"Rethinking Thanksgiving" is a Pathfinder K-8 school-wide event, in which students, teachers, parents and native elders work together to find out more about a beloved national holiday. Native American teachers and craftsman will work with Pathfinder staff to guide students in age appropriate discoveries of our Thanksgiving roots, the myths and truths.



## PTSA News

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"As we examine these guidelines," Goodloe-Johnson noted, "we will do so in the context of three foundational questions to ensure that all students have access to a high quality education: 1) Do programs need to move to other areas of the district to improve access to these programs? 2) Do programs need to be added in areas of the district to improve access to these programs? and 3) How do closures or program moves relate to our students' academic needs and strengthen our fiscal health? Answers to these questions inform both immediate capacity changes as well as the longer-term changes to the District's Student Assignment Plan."

## PE News

### Pathfinder Ultimate Frisbee Team Wins Championship!!!

It has been 10 days since our Ultimate Frisbee team won the Middle School League championship, and the euphoria of winning in what seemed almost impossible circumstances makes the victory even more special.

By now, many people have heard the 30 to 40 minute version recap of the victory, but due to limited space, I will do a much shorter summary.

Friday night started with an overtime win against Mercer and that meant that our first game Saturday would be against the undefeated TOPS team. Laurie, one of our great parents and long time extraordinary tutor, brought Joe to our game in north Seattle to wish the team good luck before taking Joe south to play a soccer game in Tacoma.

Our team played it's best game of the year and beat TOPS. After an hour's rest, we played Eckstein. After a quick start, we soon found ourselves losing by 4 points and all looked lost as time was running out, when all of a sudden, our team came alive and scored the last seven points of the game to win.

This put us into the finals against Madison! Having only 9 players, fatigue was starting to take a toll on us and we once again fell behind by 4 points.

League Champion Ultimate Frisbee Team



Congratulations to our players: Diego, Keri, Harmony, Tyler, Joe, Lyric, Jasmine, Musili, Paul & Clausey. An extra special thank you to Mitchell and Makayla for all their coaching help and support and encouragement and to Laurie for making the long, long, long drives.



## PE News

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Things were looking very dire, when word came that Laurie was going to drive Joe back from Tacoma after his soccer game to help us out. With Joe's arrival, our team got a second and third wind and we started catching up. Amazingly, with only a second left we scored to send the game into over-time. 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!

Let me salute the players for their effort and never quitting even when they barely had the energy to run after 3 long games. Congratulations to our players: **Diego, Keri, Harmony, Tyler, Joe, Lyric, Jasmine, Musili, Paul** and **Clausey**. An extra special thank you to **Mitchell** and **Makayla** for all their coaching help and support and encouragement and to **Laurie** for making the long, long, long drives.

## Family Fitness Night At Pathfinder

Family Fitness Night came to Pathfinder once again this year thanks to the sponsorship of **Communities in School of Seattle**, the generosity of **Subway** and the **SeaGals** cheerleading team. There is a good news/bad news scenario to the huge crowd that showed up. It was great to have so many people in attendance, but unfortunately, the crowd exceeded our expectations and we ran out of food. Please accept my sincerest apologies for running short of food.



Family Fitness Night



Family Fitness Night

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## PE News

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Entertainment was provided by the **Pathfinder Hi Jax team**, which now features 36 students, showing off their funky dance moves and jump roping skills. The Hi Jax team has shown amazing growth recently, as we get new members every day and by our show next week at the Elder Luncheon on November 26th, we may reach 50 team members.

The **Pathfinder Unicycle team** also performed and gave a sample of how very capable they are, but with the limited space, were able to show only a fraction of what they can do. The team has a bunch of new unicyclists who are very dedicated and making great strides. The Unicycle team will also be performing at the Elder Luncheon on the 26th.

The night came to a rousing end as a large group learned how to do some fancy footwork and dance steps from the SeaGal cheerleader and the gym was turned into a giant obstacle course, rope swing and monkey bar haven.

Thank you to everyone who showed up to support the idea of good health through exercise and nutritious diet and for being such a supportive and appreciative audience.

Finally, thank you to all the performers who worked very hard at all our practices. Your hard work paid off and your excellent skills were very evident in your performance at Family Fitness Night.

## Basketball Coach Wanted

We are looking for both a Middle School Boy's and Girl's Basketball coach. I will be able to help with practices for both teams, but I am not able to coach both teams as I did last year.

In addition to coaching experience, you will need to have a current First Aid and CPR card. Our season will start on December 4th and our games will be played on Thursdays at 2:45 and 4:30.

If you are interested, please give me a call at 252-9738.

### Family Fitness Night





### Photo Credits:

Photos of PE events by **Lou Cutler.**

## Editor's Blurb

### Save Some Trees: Get the Compass Electronically

If you want to get one or more electronic copies of *The Compass*, send an e-mail to Beth at [bbakeman@comcast.net](mailto:bbakeman@comcast.net). You can choose to receive these electronic copies in addition to, or instead of, your paper copy.

Just think how many trees we could save!

### Request for Submissions

Send me your **writing**, your **artwork** and your **photos** for next month's issue of *The Compass*. The more submissions we have from students, staff, parents and community members, the better our newsletter will be.

The submissions can be creative writing, news or updates, reporting on school events and field trips, or anything else you would like to share with the rest of the Pathfinder community.

### Submission Timeline & Guidelines

The next issue of *The Compass* will be published and sent home on Friday, December 19th. Please submit your writing, artwork and photos no later than **Friday, December 12th**. 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>
December 12, 2008	December 19, 2008
January 16, 2009	January 23, 2009
February 23, 2009	March 2, 2009
March 19, 2009	March 27, 2009
April 20, 2009	April 27, 2009
May 22, 2009	May 29, 2009

Please note that the day of the week for submission and publication varies because of school holidays.

### Contact Information

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

## Explaining the Magic

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to find what interests them – what animal, what part of a topic. [They are] in the habit of looking ... they are disciplined [in their learning] and [are taught to] not lose their voice. Pathfinder kids are encouraged to keep their voice.” She went on to say that given these skills, she is confident that her children will apply the same attitude to all aspects of their lives – jobs, relationships, children. They will continue to ask questions and seek out answers – and be okay with them right or wrong – knowing they are always learning and can keep figuring out.

**Community** is so strong here and so truly collaborative. Respect for community really does mean you are welcome — welcome to participate however you wish, and valued for each contribution big or seemingly small. But in reality there is no small. We are all part of the teaching team – teachers, tutors, all staff, parents, volunteers, mentors, and students. There is a voice for all and an ear to hear it. This doesn’t mean we don’t disagree, but it does mean differing opinions only challenge us to find the best answers. So, I guess you could say we are modeling that life-long learning through our community too. We are all here to make a vibrant, dynamic learning environment for all of our students.

**Wendy Nathan** wrote to me, “Community is really important to me, so I like to say that most of the parents **came to Pathfinder by choice**. This choice creates a cohesive environment and allows parents to become part of the community quickly. Teachers are very passionate about their work and believe in working with the ‘whole’ child not just their academics.”

**Akemi Hart** backs this up, saying “I feel that our school staff is open to well-thought-out ideas to help provide a more enriched environment for our children. We have a smaller community (400 for a K-8 as opposed to 900+ just for middle school)... which allows me, as a parent to recognize and chat with more kids and their parents. I am happy we are not an anonymous environment... I have a greater **support group**.”

**Beth Bakeman** shares her thoughts about the “amazing sense of community; connections among families, between families and teachers/staff... everybody knows who my kids are and I know that everybody will look out for them and care for them (intellectually, physically, emotionally).”

And Beth went on to share how she speaks of the **school staff**, the true heart of Pathfinder K-8:

- ◆ Teachers and principal **share the same educational philosophy**
- ◆ Incredibly strong **teacher collaboration**, in planning, daily curriculum decisions, and of course, expeditions

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“Community is so strong here.”

“Pathfinder kids are encouraged to keep their voice.”

“...everybody knows who my kids are and I know that everybody will look out for them and care for them...”



“The wisdom of community and caring that are taught at Pathfinder...”

“...tying things together and making connections to the world around us.”

“Academically rigorous, but still hands-on”

## Explaining the Magic

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- ◆ **Committed, talented teachers** who are **passionate** about helping every child learn and achieve their goals
- ◆ Keeps the joy of learning alive in children
- ◆ Helps children grow and learn, not only academically, but also socio-emotionally
- ◆ Helps children find their place in the world and **feel connected** to the world around them through environmental and social justice issue exploration

**Darlene Williams** expressed, “The wisdom of community and caring that are taught at Pathfinder are not as evident at other schools... **Pathfinder is an experience, not only an educational institution.**”

And a few more snippets about what Pathfinder K-8 is or does for those who like it short and sweet:

- ◆ Active learning
- ◆ Hands on experience
- ◆ Emphasis on tying things together and making connections to the world around us
- ◆ Cultural acceptance and teachings
- ◆ Expeditionary learning creates a door for a wider range of questions and learning in our every day life.
- ◆ Uses Native American principles as a basis
- ◆ Grade looping (staying with the same teacher for more than one year)
- ◆ On site before and after school program (Blazing Trails)
- ◆ Academically rigorous but still hands on
- ◆ Passionate about learning but respectful of children’s developmental time tables
- ◆ Buddy clans, TA program
- ◆ Upper Grade rigorous Rite of Passage/high school preparedness graduation requirement

**We, as adults sharing our experience, are the most important factor in the success of the promotion of our program.** What we say about Pathfinder influences others to take a look or pass us by. So, in this time of Thanksgiving, take a minute to reflect on what is important for you and your student, and take a risk at opening up to those looking for a unique and caring educational experience for any grade K through 8. I thank you all for that.

## Pathfinder K-8 Calendar

### Monday, November 24th to Tuesday, November 25th

Early dismissal, 1:15 pm for parent-teacher conferences

### Wednesday, November 26th

Elder luncheon

Early dismissal, 2:15 pm

### Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th

No school, Thanksgiving

### Tuesday, December 2nd

Bats & Salmon, Seward Park, tree expedition,  
9:30 am to 12:30 pm

### Thursday, December 4th

Blue Herons & Turtles, Seward Park, tree expedition,  
9:30 am to 12:30 pm

### Thursday, December 11th

Craft Fair

### Friday, December 19th

Early dismissal, 2:15 pm

### Monday, December 22nd to Friday, January 2nd

No school, Winter break



Family Fitness Night

## Saturday, March 14th

Save the Date — Pathfinder Auction

*Ride the Wave!*



Pathfinder K-8 School  
5012 SW Genesee Street  
Seattle, WA 98116

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

206.252.9710