



## TOPS at Seward School

Before and After School Program  
(206) 709-8487

### Upcoming Dates

Sept 28- Early Dismissal at 12:40pm

Oct 14 - Full Day Camp at Kids Co. (no school)

Oct 19 - Family Potluck

Oct 26 - Early Dismissal at 12:40pm

Nov 11 - Veteran's day, no school OR Kids Co.

Nov 21-23 - TOPS Parent - Teacher conferences. Kids Co will be open for Full Day Camps

Dec 19-22 Winter Break camp (no school)

Dec 27-30 Winter break (Kids Co. closed)

### Kids Co. at TOPS Staff

Aaron Norikane  
Program Director

Rachael Sofian  
Lead Teacher

Nicole Capozziello

Lily Chen

Hector Miguel

Andrew Ulmer

Ashli Zijdemans



## NEWSLETTER

# We're getting bigger (and hopefully better)!

A note from the Director...

The Kids Co. at TOPS program has tried to meet the demands of the community by expanding and, hopefully, improving! Our program can now take up to 40 kids in the afternoon (an increase of up to 10 kids!) with an increasing population of children from Lowell Elementary.

I'll let you know about some of the exciting things going on with our curriculum on page 2 of this quarterly newsletter. But in the mean time I wanted to remind you all that I'm here for you and your kids for anything and everything. Our staff work really hard to support and encourage your child(ren) but we may miss things so please don't ever hesitate to come to me for help or support!

Since expanding our program we have expanded our use of the school including utilizing the library for Homework and Reading time for our upper grades (with occasional K-1 grade days!). We've also added another staff person so we keep our low staff-to-child ratios! We're really excited to welcome our new staff: Lily Chen, Hector Miguel, and Ashli Zijdemans. Lily comes to us with 2 years coursework in American Sign Language and child-care experience. Hector has a BA in Deaf Studies and has just moved up from California. Ashli attends Seattle U. and most recently has worked at the Pacific Science Center!



Thanks again for being a part of our program. We look forward to a wonderful school year! -Aaron

## Parent Reminders

Here are some things to remember:

- **IMPORTANT: Remember to CALL if your child will not be at Kids Co.** It saves staff time from finding them, which could be better spent with the kids or dealing with an emergency!
- **Changes to your schedule** require 30-days notice for billing. *But* you can add a day with much shorter notice, as long as there is space in our program.
- Look out for sign-up sheets for **Full Day camps**. Sign-up early to reserve your space. Signing up commits you to paying (unless you drop before the deadline).
- **Staff are here for you!** Please ask them about your children's day...what they did, who did they play with, what did they learn, etc. **We love to share!**

## Upcoming Events

Please remember to sign up for:

- Full Day Camp Oct 14th
- Full Day Camps Nov 21-23 (sign-up sheet usually out 3 weeks prior)

### Fall POTLUCK for Kids Co. at TOPS !

Keep an eye out for an invitation to our get-together Wednesday Oct. 19th from 6:00-7:30pm. We'll be celebrating the annual "Lights On After School Programs" which highlights the importance of quality programs for school-age youth!



# Happenings at Kids Co.!



**Monthly Themes**—Kids Co. is continuing with hosting monthly themes to help our staff come up with great activities and help our kids get into a specific subject area! This month's theme is Farming and Harvest which finds the kids doing great activities such as: Corn Husk harvest dolls, Planting seeds, Paper Mache pumpkins, Cooking Ratatouille, Leaf prints, and during early dismissal our "Egg-stravaganza day". The calendar is posted on our Parent Board just inside Kids Co. and on our website!



**Choices, choices** - We encourage children to make their own choices and to follow through with their decision. During Enrichment Time the kids get to choose from our Active Game (usually outdoors and with movement, teamwork, and gross motor skills) and our Enrichment Activity (usually indoors like Cooking, Art, Science, Drama, etc.). Children are asked to try out the activity for at least 15 minutes. And often times they LOVE it!

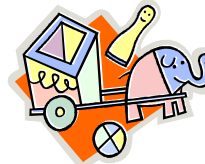
**What's for snack?** - Every month we post the Snack Schedule for you and your kids to take a look at. Remember to check the menu for foods your kids may not like. That way you can send an alternate snack with them so they have energy for all the fun activities at Kids Co.! We try to serve nutritious and balanced snacks and we always encourage kids to "try out" new things! You'd be surprised at what they'll eat here at Kids Co. that they won't go near at home :)



## THINGS TO KNOW

### Policies at Kids Co. at TOPS:

**Toys from home:** We have been asking kids to leave their toys at home or in their backpacks. Our concern is that the kids' toys will get broken or lost. Additionally, we want to be sensitive of kids that don't have the "newest" toys or can't afford to bring toys. Occasionally there will be certain days that will be "Bring toys from home day" that we'll keep you informed of.



# kids:

*Before and After  
School Program*



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**Computer Use:** Kids Co. programs encourage kids to try new activities and interact with others. We want to support this by limiting the use of the computers to play games to once per week. We have also asked kids not to use the internet unless they are doing research on a topic they are interested in. However kids are always welcome to use the computers to help them do their homework.

**Homework Time:** With the earlier school times we can continue to offer a dedicated Homework & Reading time for 20 min each day! Kids can do homework during either that 20 min. or during our activity time. Unfortunately we cannot *always* monitor whether or not kids finish their work, but we will definitely do our best to encourage them to work on it! We promise to do what we can to support your kids academic achievement!

