

## Our Fifth Update

or

**By the end of this week some kids will write better than they are writing today.**

*A Readers Guide to This 826 Seattle Update:*

*To accommodate the skimmers I have bolded and underlined key topics in paragraphs in the attached pdf version. Feel free to skip over everything else if you are in a hurry.*

*-Teri*

I wish in the world of email there was an audio component one could add for special occasions. This would be one of them and we would be having a drum roll: **826 Seattle is opening our doors this Wednesday (did you read that: *this Wednesday*) – October 12 – to tutoring.** We've worked on this project for over two years. What started out as a little idea, batted around by a few of us, including Dave Eggers and Ninive Calegari at 826 Valencia, has now grown to, well, frankly, The Real Deal.

It is **thanks to many, many people.** The store walls are up (thank you very much, Jim and friends) and painted (Susanne Forhan and Brian Barr and tons of volunteers) and the carpet down (Bill McCauley and Luke Sallee) and the lights "cleaned up" (Steve Bucklew) and the office up/happening (Heidi and a huge team of volunteers) and furniture donated and picked up (Microsoft and Seattle Schools and, again, several particularly fit and helpful volunteers) and the office shelves stocked (hurrah for Barrie Trinkle) and today the computers are being hooked up in The Space (thank you very much computer whizzes from Villa Academy, including Kevin Leen, my former intern years ago at Hutch School) and the Store Folks (who get written about like a sports team, you know, like: The Sonics) have scrounged (which IS a good verb) fabulous things from Boeing Surplus and Ballard Hardware and who knows where Web finds this stuff.... **826 Seattle is looking pretty darn good.**

**We had our first youth advisory board meeting last night!** Kids from Ingraham High School, Whitman Middle School and Center School are the charter members. Together we are deciding what books we need in our library, what kinds of workshops we should have and what to name the post in the middle of the room.

**A Call for Specific Help:** We have some wonderful folks interested in teaching some great creative writing workshops. Our youth advisory board has asked us to specifically look for folks who would be able to teach college entrance essay writing and SAT Prep. They are also interested in having qualified career/college counselors come to 826 (once a month?) and help students decide on their futures. If you or someone you know might be good at this, please contact us!

- **Tutoring starts October 12.** 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. All subjects – mostly high school kids to start.
- As soon as we work out the bugs and have enough tutors trained, we'll start a 3:00 – 5:00 session for all ages.

If you want to tutor and haven't filled out our on-line volunteer application please do so.

- Again, **as soon as we can, we'll start our writing workshops.**

Why **we think kids will come:** We keep getting emails from kids and parents asking when we will open. Katja Shaye is doing outreach into the schools. We went to Ingraham High School last week and met with the language arts teachers who said things like: This is the best thing I've heard about in ages. And: When can you start coming to our classrooms? And: Can we make it an assignment that our students come to you? (Answer: no...we want kids coming on their own.) This week Katja is visiting every language arts class at Ingraham, including the ESL classes.

This is just the beginning. She will then go to other schools.

- (this is in italics because Paul Hughes wrote this. He is captain of the Store Folks team.) ***Greenwood Space Travel Supply Co. will open Thanksgiving weekend-- just in time for holiday shopping. Thank you to all of the amazing store volunteers, who have been working many, many, many hours to do the million things that need to be done to make this deadline (ordering products, building fixtures, tromping through salvage and surplus yards, creating interactive and video displays, schmoozing/wheedling/haggling with vendors, designing and writing packaging, logos, and signs, and just generally being geniuses on a tight budget).***

*The store still needs the perfect industrial- or lab-style cash-register counter (roughly 2.5' x 5'), so holler--and snap a pic!--if you find something promising. That goes for any surplus or vintage electronics or lab equipment, too. And old chalkboards! We can always use more big, old chalkboards.*

*Definitely plan to do all your holiday shopping at GSTS! You'll be supporting 826 and getting gifts weird enough to impress even your most clever friends. Like where else in the greater Greenwood area can you buy a one-liter bottle of Uncertainty? (Yes, to fuel a Heisenberg drive. Or to encourage doubt, which can be healthy and appropriate in certain space-related situations. Certainty will also be sold by volume.)*

(back to Teri) **Who We Are:** (AKA: the folks most likely to have office hours.)

Heidi Broadhead came from heaven. She is called our Operations Manager or OM, a job title I find, well, soothing. She oversees the finances and the store and the day to day well being of 826 Seattle. She is also a very accomplished, pro writer (which now in our organization gets used on grants and press releases).

Rob Lightner: He might have been on that same bus with Heidi from heaven. He is our Volunteer Coordinator and has been managing the OVER 350 VOLUNTEERS on our list in between his own (you guessed it) writing career. (What would you expect?)

Julia Littlefield: Julia is our work study student (I think) or maybe she is an intern. Julia is very smart, studies graphic design at Seattle U, and isn't afraid to pick up heavy furniture.

Melody Kadlub: Melody has been here since the beginning. She is now working as an intern (I think) with Rob managing volunteers. I do not believe that Melody sleeps since she also goes to school (Seattle U) and works (in the bookstore) and does tons of stuff for us.

Me. Director: I make sure 826 Seattle is doing quality programming and I raise money. (If you have money, please call.) And, speaking of money, the buck stops

with me. I taught for years and have written lots of different things from a memoir and essays to teacher materials.

It's a slippery slope to start naming folks as there are so many doing tons of stuff for us. The above is just a short list of folks who might even have semi-regular hours at 826 Seattle. There are lots more.

**Office Hours: 12:00 – 5:00: Monday through Friday.**

You may wonder who to ask about specific things at 826 Seattle since we don't have a program assistant or secretary type person who handles the questions: send an email with your question to [info@826seattle.org](mailto:info@826seattle.org). Or call 206-725-2625 and ask whoever answers (which could be just about anyone at this point).

Two more things:

**Bumbershoot.** We cannot have an update without mentioning the huge success of our Bumbershoot weekend. There was the cocktail party (thanks to 7 million hours of several people's work - mostly Lisa Verhovek's) and Lemony Snickett's event in the afternoon at Bagley Wright and then the evening event at McCaw Hall with Dave Eggers, Death Cab for Cutie, Mike Doughty, Daniel Handler and Sarah Vowell (all donating their speaker fees to 826 Seattle), at which we raised \$12,000 in quarters, dollar bills and a few checks. Dave Eggers wrote the best article, which appeared in The Stranger:

<http://www.thestranger.com/seattle/Author?oid=23125>

Lastly (are you still with me?) a couple of wish list items besides those described above:

- **We want** five clocks that are large and identical. (You can come visit to see why.) They could be like these IKEA clocks:

[http://www.ikea.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/ProductDisplay?catalogId=10101&storeId=12&productId=22140&langId=-1&parentCats=13716\\*13721](http://www.ikea.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/ProductDisplay?catalogId=10101&storeId=12&productId=22140&langId=-1&parentCats=13716*13721)

- **We need** to get a utility closet(s) with doors that we can put in our kitchen area so we don't have to look at the Ajax, mop bucket and extra toilet paper while we are microwaving our enchiladas. Again, Ikea comes to the rescue for visual aides:  
[http://www.ikea.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/ProductDisplay?catalogId=10101&storeId=12&productId=16664&langId=-1&parentCats=10104\\*10173\\*10186\\*10515](http://www.ikea.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/ProductDisplay?catalogId=10101&storeId=12&productId=16664&langId=-1&parentCats=10104*10173*10186*10515)

So, **you've reached the end**...a good meeting place for skimmers and lovers of the verbose. Another potential meeting place would be 8414 Greenwood Avenue North. Stop by for a hello, and be on the alert for notice of our Grand Opening, probably sometime in early December.

Find us at: 206-725-2625 or [info@826seattle.org](mailto:info@826seattle.org)

