

# TERI'S UPDATE

OCTOBER 2008

## REMEMBERING PAUL NEWMAN

*RECENTLY* Paul Newman died. A couple of years ago, Paul came to visit 826 Seattle with his friend Stewart Stern. It was a very memorable meeting, which I tried to describe a bit on our website. In life, one rarely has the opportunity to meet someone who lived eight decades of life with his eye on the ball. That's what I'm thinking about Paul Newman these days. He kept his eye on the ball.



*Paul Newman kept his eye on the ball.*

## INTRODUCING THOMAS FAIZ

*It's* a new school year. Drop-In Tutoring is especially noisy this fall. And we have our **first-ever 826 Seattle Youth Mentor**, Thomas Faiz. Here's the idea: Thomas, a senior at Ballard High, is a worthy role model for our younger students, helping them with their schoolwork, modeling good homework discipline, and serving as an active member of our youth advisory board. Think about it: What will have more of a positive impact on our young students? Me (middle-aged woman) suggesting they do their homework or Thomas (**cool** high school senior) actually doing his work alongside them and helping them with their studies when they need it? You be the judge.

We chose Thomas because he has been attending Drop-In Tutoring for a couple of years now. In spite of his engaging personality, he was typically witnessed dragging in his 95 lb. book bag over his shoulder, looking exhausted after

a long day at school. We have discovered, however, that paying Thomas to do his homework in front of the other children as well as asking him to help them has had a remarkable effect on the guy. He **arrives promptly!** He is **lively!** He is **cheerful!** He answers the phone with alacrity! In summary, he good vibes everyone around the place.



*Thomas helps Japheth and Jeremiah.*

## ANNOUNCING THE NEXT 826 PUBLICATION

*You* may as well mark your calendars now for **December 13** – our **birthday party** and also the **publishing party** for a book of plays written by students from Hamilton International Middle School and Ramon Esquivel's Saturday workshop students. These students are all writing short plays with three characters only. We are going to have real live **professional actors** come to the publishing party and act out some of the play. You could **come to the book party, purchase a copy of the book**, have the young student authors **autograph your book, watch the professional actors** perform some plays, and then take the book home. In the privacy of your home, surrounded by loved ones, *you* could perform these plays. Maybe this is such a good idea that you will decide to purchase several copies of the book as **holiday gifts** for other friends and family who may also enjoy discovering new and theatrical ways to spend time with their loved ones.

## BABIES + MUSTACHES = A SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER

RECENTLY at an all-staff plus-families meeting, Justin asked who would be growing **mustaches** for our annual fundraising Mustache-athon. Boy, were we surprised when both **Anna Derya and Tilia raised their hands!** Given their ages (8 and 3 months respectively) and their gender (both girls) one would have cause for wonder: Will they actually be able to succeed? But studies have shown that children of community minded, generous parents can do **extraordinary** things in the name of helping others. In fact, Tilia spoke to her parents and she said, "I would like to grow a mustache for Uncle Justin's Mustache-athon and have my picture taken every week with my growing mustache and have people **donate money toward my mustache** – 100% of which goes to support the programs of 826 Seattle." Then Anna Derya chimed in, "I mean, it's only fair that Tilia and I do our part since we both plan to hone our writing skills at 826 Seattle when we are old enough. We've decided to team up as Team Nibblers and see if we can raise more money than any other growers."

All we can say is "Way to go girls!" Guess what...the Mustache-athon kicks off today and if you go to [www.826seattle.org/mustacheathon2008/](http://www.826seattle.org/mustacheathon2008/) you can see all the mustache growers and perhaps even take a moment to make a **pledge to support the work of Team Nibblers**, our Baby Philanthropists at 826 Seattle. And definitely return to the website in about a week to answer the question that is on all of our minds: **Can those two little girls really grow mustaches????** Go to the official Mustache-a-thon website and find out! Every week we'll be snapping photos of our growers and Team Nibblers will be there growing with the best of them.



<http://www.826seattle.org/mustacheathon2008/TeamNibbler.html>

Last year we raised a little over \$15,000 for 826 Seattle through our Mustache-a-thon. Can we do it again this year, given these tough economic times? Will you give what you can to help us out?

Speaking of money we've raised. We're proud to announce that **we raised over \$58,000** at our third annual **Don't Forget To Write (a check) Breakfast**. Huge thanks to all the table captains, breakfast committee, staff, the lovely folks at the Renaissance Hotel and especially to our emcee, Nancy Guppy and our keynote speaker, Tim Egan, for helping us. **It was a wonderful event.**

And, just to keep going on this note, our **gigantic thanks to DDB** who named us the recipient of their **putt-putt classic golf tournament**. Not only did some of us become raffle winners and a number of us cut quite a dashing swath across the putt-putt golf course, but the event raised over \$35,000 for 826 Seattle. This is just one part of the work that DDB is doing for us – the rest to be revealed in the future.

## WHAT WE NEED: VOLUNTEERS & A PUSH BROOM

**TRUTH:** We have about 1,000 volunteer applications on file.

**TRUTH:** We have about 380 active volunteers who do everything from tutoring to keeping our database current to painting our walls to working in our store.

**FALSE:** We don't need any more volunteers. If you have daytime availability and wish to work directly with students, please sign up! Even if you have only a couple of hours once a week (like you can get your employer to let you take a midday break for a few weeks), you could help us increase our offerings to schools. You could help us offer services to our Hamilton Middle School students, for example, and find yourself helping the likes of Vadim or Fatuma or Amy with their stories.



**THAT OTHER THING WE NEED:** A push broom. We need one. It's fall. We must sweep the leaves.

Happy Fall!

*Teri*