

November 2006

Dear 826 Seattle Fans,

It is fall and things are extremely busy at 826 Seattle. Things are always extremely busy at 826 Seattle in a sort of chaotic and exciting way. Most importantly, there are a ton of kids around, every day, all day. This is very, very good.

We are almost finished with our most fun fund-raiser ever: the mustache-a-thon where 26 men have spent the past six weeks growing mustaches to benefit 826 Seattle. Meanwhile a bunch of (primarily) women have been fund-raising for them. If you haven't checked out www.826mustaches.blogspot.com I suggest going there immediately. You might just be inspired to sponsor one of our mustache farmers. It's just a click away.

We also had a wonderful fund-raising breakfast at the Sheraton Hotel. It was our first ever and done in classic 826 Seattle style. How many fundraising breakfasts have you attended at 7:30 a.m. that featured space travel supplies for sale and an 8 mm, black-and-white silent movie featuring 826 Seattle students, dressed as space aliens, touting the virtues of our organization?

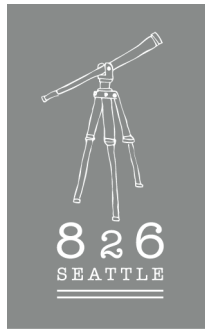
We, as always, are determined to push the envelope...just a bit.

Speaking of envelopes: we raised over \$34,000 at this breakfast, mostly delivered in the form of checks and credit card numbers written on pledge envelopes.

Speaking of space: here is a small poem written by Danny Moyer. He lives in Pennsylvania and is in the second grade.

Moon Friends

So many children_
looking at the moon_
all around the earth
and we all like each other
it's peaceful to look at the moon_
it's peaceful to be friends_
maybe older people_
should look at the moon_
then the whole world_
would be peaceful.



I read this poem at the breakfast. We live in a time that needs more poems like this one.

I could wax poetic about writing and our futures and the need for young people to express themselves. In fact, I take great pleasure in waxing but I recognize that not everyone is interested, so if you have any interest in an email exchange with me about the power of writing, send me an email (terihein@826seattle.org). I'll write you back.

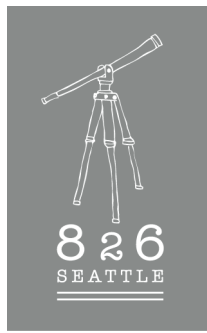
But for now, I'll just stick to the facts:

We opened our doors just one year ago. We offer writing workshops, after-school tutoring in all subjects, field trips to teachers who bring their students to us during the day. Tutors also support teachers with their writing projects in their classrooms.

Here is our report card so far:

- By June of last year we had an average of ten students every afternoon for drop-in tutoring.
Currently, one year later, our average number of K – 12 students each afternoon is 25 with new students arriving almost every day.
- Last February we started offering field trips on Thursdays. Teachers from around the city brought their classes for writing workshops. By the end of the year we had a field trip scheduled almost every Thursday.
This year we are offering two field trips each week and are currently booked through March. Schools from as far south as Tacoma and as far north as Whatcom County have contacted us. We've even had teachers wish to schedule for the '07 – '08 academic year!
- We did a very successful publishing project with the Indian Heritage and John Marshall Alternative School last year. For six weeks 22 mentors worked one-on-one with these at-risk high school students to put together a collection of essays about their families. We published their work in a book called, "It's Not Always Happily Ever After."
We have just started our first in-schools project with First Place, a school for K–6th graders living in transitional housing. A group of 2nd and 3rd graders are writing essays on the topic of "Home."
Further, we have three in-schools projects planned with John Marshall, including:
 - Writing for alternative newspapers – co-sponsored by The Stranger
 - Writing for radio – with the help of our KUOW friend, John Moe
 - And a second book - maybe the theme this year will be "Beginnings" since John Marshall School is slated for closure after this year.

We receive inquiries almost every week from other schools seeking our services.



- Last year we offered 18 writing workshops in the evenings and weekends from November through June. They were rarely full, but we were able to help 142 students. With summer came long waiting lists for every one of the workshops we offered. In fact, the number of students on the waiting lists often exceeded the 20 students we could accept in each class.

Since September we've had eight workshops, ranging from college-entrance essays to writing bedtime stories. So far almost every workshop is full with additional hopefuls on waiting lists. We've enrolled a total of 162 students.

And we are currently finishing the Three Elements Writing Contest, partnering with Hartley and Marks who publish Paperblanks products, to present a total of \$5,000 worth of scholarship money to three different young authors. Over 80 students enrolled in the requisite workshop to enter the contest. Our board member Sherman Alexie will announce the winners and read the winning entries aloud at our birthday party on December 2.

At this rate, we anticipate making an impact on the writing lives of over 2,401 different students during the '06 - '07 academic year.

And this is only after one year of existence and a budget of \$310,000.

We have so much to be hopeful about, and to look forward to.

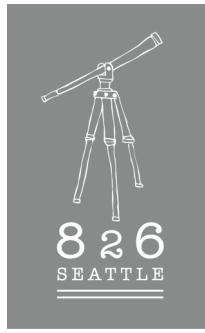
Watch for our holiday card – an original creation by one of our favorite volunteers Tim Miller. In the card you will get three things:

- a) a thank you for helping us
- b) a discreetly enclosed pledge envelope (who are we kidding...if we want to keep offering free things to young people somebody has to pay for it)
- c) a discount offer for our space travel supply store (which, by the way, is the perfect place for unexpected holiday presents)

(Studies have shown that there is someone on 94.3% of holiday shopping lists across the galaxy who doesn't yet have a Diversion Deployment System (\$22.00 each).

Also, test cases find that our Alien Brains (\$3.00 each) fit easily into your Earth humanoid-sized holiday stocking, leaving plenty of room for tangerines and candy canes, if your holiday ritual includes such things.)

For those of you already stocked with Alien Brains and Diversion Deployment Systems, you might want to consider Dave Egger's new book. "What is the What" is a book he wrote in collaboration with Achak Deng, and tells the fictionalized story of Deng's flight from Sudan. Time Magazine and The New York Times have raved about it. At this



writing I'm still waiting for McSweeney's to send our store copies and thus, haven't read it. But here's what I know: Once they arrive, I'm buying a copy immediately. Dave Eggers has a gigantic heart, Achak, as a 'Lost Boy of Sudan' must have a very moving story, and I think people do their best writing when their hearts are in it.

If you buy the book at the Greenwood Space Travel Supply Co. part of the proceeds go to Valentino Achak Deng Foundation that benefits Sudanese refugees in The United States. The remainder goes to 826 Seattle. That's what you call a win-win, a double-whammy, a two-fer-one. However, I'm sure any self-respecting independent bookstore will also have copies and if you can't buy from us, go buy from them.

Lastly, come visit on December 2 when we celebrate our first year birthday. Sherman Alexie will announce the winner of our Three Elements Writing Contest, Sean Nelson (yes, of Harvey Dangerfield) will sing Happy Birthday. Ellen Forney will be drawing things and I think Natalie Portman's Shaved Head will make another appearance. Of course, the store will be open selling Diversion Deployment Systems and Alien Brains to meet all of your holiday and space travel needs.

See you there.

Teri

PS: Just in time for the holidays, 826 Seattle has been joined by Celine Rabago, our new store manager and events coordinator. Celine comes to us from the mid-west where she helped run the Minnesota Children's Museum and the Providence Children's Museum. She has retail experience, marketing experience and grew up Seattle. We are certain that under her tutelage, the Greenwood Space Travel Supply Store will blossom into the Universe's foremost purveyor of space travel supplies, as if it weren't already.