

September 2006

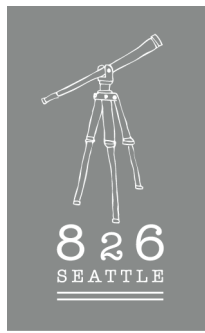
Dear 826 Seattle Friends and Fans,

It's time for my quarterly 826 Seattle update....except that according to my most recent calculations, the last update was in February, which makes this update about three months overdue. So much for quarterly updates. So much for consistency. I just read an Oscar Wilde quote on this subject: "Consistency is the last refuge of the unimaginative." Well, if there is one thing we don't lack at 826 Seattle, it's imagination. And we're working on consistency. I think it was our imagination that helped create a pretty phenomenal first year, if we do say so ourselves. Hence the lack o' regular updates.

Here's the news that's more than fit to print:

If you don't have your own copy of *It's Not Always Happily Ever After* yet, it's not too late. This collection of essays, stories, and poems written by students at John Marshall and American Indian Heritage schools is such a proud accomplishment for not only the young authors, but also for those of us at 826 Seattle who helped make the project happen. Thirty volunteer tutors, designers, and copy editors combined forces to help 27 high school students — many of whom had never had an adult help them one-on-one with their writing before — write about their families. It is, simply put, good reading. Copies are available in several bookstores in town, at our store, the Greenwood Space Travel Supply Co., and on Amazon.com. We are also very proud of *All Systems Go!, A Comic Book Anthology of 826 Seattle*. Comic book artist David Lasky volunteered his time to teach technique to a group of talented teenage comic book artists, and the result of their work is this colorful anthology. You will be amazed at the artistic talent packed into one book.

For you number heads in the audience, check out our first year in numbers, thanks to Alex's counting ability:



<b>Program Type</b>	<b># Programs/Hours</b>	<b># Students Served</b>
After-school tutoring	450 hours	124
Writing workshops	20	252
Field trips to 826 Seattle	12	261
In-school publishing projects	1	27
4th Fridays	4	23
<b>Total Students Served</b>		<b>687</b>

Not bad for a place that just opened its doors last October. Now, just imagine what we'll be able to pull off this school year.

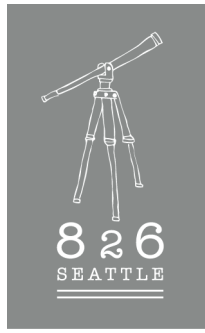
Other news since I last wrote in February:

In March, Alex Allred became our new Financial and Operations Manager when Heidi Broadhead moved on to write grants for us. After 11 years at Archie McPhee's, making magic with their numbers, Alex came over to our side to do the same. We love Alex because she can do math in her head really fast, she has tattoos (it's hard to find finance folks with tattoos), she is totally impassioned by our mission, and she possesses the requisite sense of humor and appreciation of the absurd that one needs to function well at 826 Seattle.

At last count, we had over 500 volunteer applications on file. If you happen to be one of the few people in Seattle who is not on our volunteer roster *and* you are available during the day, we still want to hear from you. We are growing our in-schools program, and we need a lot of good volunteers to help teachers in their classrooms. Visit our web site — [www.826seattle.org/support/volunteering](http://www.826seattle.org/support/volunteering) — and fill out our online application. Quick! Today! (And check out the rest of our new web site while you're there.)

Speaking of those 500 volunteers...thank you so much to Adam Grano, Paula Wong, Jon Dacaug, and Wells Oliver for the hours, days, months of work putting an amazingly lovely web site together. And thanks to Carla Leonardi who always takes such great pictures of our students.

Finally, thanks to all of you who attended our "People Talking and Singing" fundraiser at McCaw Hall on September 1. We feel so fortunate to have on our side the likes of John Hodgman, Daniel Handler, Jonathan Coulton, Ben Gibbard, Colin Meloy, Stephin Merritt, Sarah Vowell, Dave Eggers, and, of course, Smoosh. And yes, it is true, the pass-



the-hat did garner almost \$12,000! I should know — as I write this, a heavy bag of money is hidden under my bed. (All of you potential burglars can put down the white pages. My address is not listed, and by the time you read this the money will be safely in the bank.)

The future:

Greenwood Elementary has requested we “adopt” them. What that means remains to be seen, but we suspect our drop-in ranks will swell with their elementary students, even more of their teachers will take advantage of our free storytelling and screenwriting field trips, and they’ll be requesting our in-school assistance.

As for other schools, we were invited to attend the Broadview Elementary Back-to-School Picnic and as a result some of their students have started dropping by for after-school tutoring. Whitman Middle School is considering providing an after-school bus to deliver students to us. And, of course, we’re eagerly awaiting the return of our loyal students from Ingraham High School.

Things are really good at 826 Seattle. We’re adding new staff. We’re growing. More and more volunteers are working with us. All to help more young people write better. It’s that simple.

“Because in our culture the ability to express oneself effectively in writing opens large doors.”

Start with a quote. End with a quote. The opener, as I mentioned, is from Oscar Wilde, and the closer comes from Sherry Prowda and me, Teri Hein, in 2003 when we started talking about how to create a youth writing center in Seattle.

Stop by and visit.

Teri