

# PUP PRESS



Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

OCTOBER 8, 2015

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 4



Principal  
Katie May

## There Will Be a Test: Assessments at TM

Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) scores were sent home this week for students who are currently in 4th and 5th grade. SBA testing begins the spring of the 3rd-grade year and we receive student results in the fall. The SBA is the Washington state standardized test that students take each year. This test gives us information about how our students are performing individually, and also about how well our curriculum is meeting the needs of our students overall.

Your child's performance on the SBA is a combination of many factors – their academic content knowledge, their ability to sustain concentration over a long period of time, how they felt on the day of the test, and emotional factors such as test-taking anxiety. Because of this, we treat the SBA as one measure of your child's progress, along with what we know about your child's learning through teacher observation and assessment and other standardized assessments.

Assessment is an important part of good instruction. Most of the assessment your child will participate in is formative – this is assessment that helps inform our instruction. Teachers can make decisions about what your child needs based on the results. This type of assessment happens every day as students complete in class assignments, exit tickets, or work in small groups with their teacher. Summative assessments, such as the SBA happen at the end of the year and help us know if we have reached our learning goals for students.

Teachers at every grade have been giving their students on-demand writing assessments. These are basically opportunities for students to write for a set time period – generally 30-45 minutes. These assessments give teachers information about areas of strength and weakness in their writing and help us plan instruction. We also use these early assessments to show growth over the course of the year, as we repeat them again in late spring.

Our teachers also give students Reading Assessments to determine their instructional reading level. We want our students to be aware of their level so they are able to pick "just right" books – not so hard that *(continued on p. 2)*

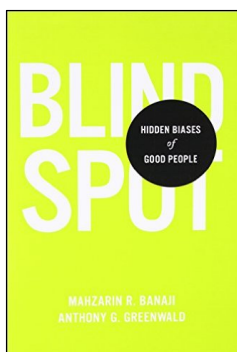
### An Apology for Issues with Enrichment Communication

The PTA apologizes that Enrichment Program enrollment emails were delayed. Please email Percy Allen at [percyallen2@gmail.com](mailto:percyallen2@gmail.com) if you have any enrollment questions or concerns.

**Important:** Friday classes do NOT start tomorrow (which had originally been a student day off). Their first meeting is Oct. 16.

## PTA SOCIAL, MEETING TUESDAY

All are Welcome to Join a Discussion about Hidden Biases, Led by Special Guest



We are honored to have UW Professor Anthony Greenwald join us for a discussion about biases we may not be aware of. Dr. Greenwald is the co-author of "Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People" and creator of fascinating online tests that you can take to learn about your own hidden prejudices. See <http://tmlink.org/?p=3000>

The meeting starts at 6:30 pm, Oct. 13, in the TM Cafeteria, but **come at 6 pm for an appetizer potluck** with parents and teachers. **FREE** child care, **including dinner**, for 30 school-aged children at the YMCA – RSVP to [pta@tmlink.org](mailto:pta@tmlink.org).

## EVENT CALENDAR

Friday, Oct. 9

Assembly, 9:40 am. Poet Daemond Arrindell. Parents always welcome. (See details on page 2.)

**TOMORROW**

Tuesday, Oct. 13

Parent Social & PTA General Meeting, in Cafeteria  
6 pm: Appetizer Potluck  
6:30-8:30 pm: Meeting (see story below)

Oct. 14-16

5th-grade class trip to Camp Orkila

Thursday, Oct. 15

Family Health and Fitness Night at 5:30 p.m.  
Please RSVP by returning your form to school

Wednesday, Oct. 28

Two-hour early dismissal

## TUTU'S PANTRY

Oct. 12-16: 2nd-grade donations

**THE WEEK'S NEED:** jelly, pasta sauce and cereal

See [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org) for calendar updates.  
Questions about the PTA or want to get more involved? Email us at [pta@tmlink.org](mailto:pta@tmlink.org)

## Health & Fitness Night Offers Food, Fun, More

Get ready to play on the rock wall, try golf, snack on creative treats, and dance along with a Zumba instructor at Health and Fitness Night! The free fun happens at TM on Thursday, Oct. 15, from 5:30 to 7:45 pm.

The Hope Heart Institute and Molina Healthcare sponsor the event, which offers Zumba (5:30), free dinner (6:00) and games (6:30), as well as prizes and health tips and resources from community organizations. The entire family is welcome.

Please RSVP to your child's teacher. (An info form was sent home last week.)

## Principal's Column:

(continued from p. 1)

they get overly frustrated, and not so easy that they are not progressing in their learning. This year, every teacher is assessing math fact fluency in addition to giving an end-of-year math assessment for their current grade.

The Measures of Academic Progress Test (MAP) is used to help place students in interventions, and measure growth. This year, kindergartners will take this test in January, and 1st- and 2nd-graders will take it at the end of the school year. Our 5th-grade students will take the test in February to help us make math placement decisions, along with assessment information from their teachers.

### Conflict Mediators Sought

All 4th- and 5th-grade students are eligible to apply to become a Conflict Mediator or Recess Mentor! The students have had an introduction from Counselor Meghan Kaloper about what these roles mean.

Both of these important jobs require an initial training and some challenging (but fun!) work. If your child is interested, please encourage him or her to apply (applications are available through classroom teachers) and return the form to Ms. Kaloper or the classroom teacher.

Applications are due by Wednesday, Oct. 14. The training is Oct. 26-30, 8-9:25 am. This training is required and we cannot provide transportation.

Learn more about what it means to be a Conflict Mediator or Recess Mentor at the counseling services page: <http://marshalles.seattleschools.org/services/>



### It's Not Too Late to Join Choir

Your student can still pick up an enrollment form from Ms. French and return it ASAP.

Choir meets once a week for one hour before school, and performs several times during the year.

**Grades 1-3:** Tuesday mornings, 8:10-9:10

**Grades 4-5:** Thursdays mornings, 8:10-9:10

The first concert will be after winter break, date TBD.

### 'Pillars of Diversity' Poet at Fri. Assembly

Poet Daemond Arrindell will be at the Friday Assembly tomorrow (Oct. 9) to talk about his work with students on the "Pillars of Diversity" artwork installed on the TM campus in August. Parents are always welcome to enjoy these assemblies, which start at 9:40 am.

### Should TM Bell Times Change? Tell Us

The Superintendent is seeking parent opinion on a proposed change to the start and finish of the Thurgood Marshall day. The **draft** recommendation would switch TM bell times earlier in 2016-17, to 8:00 am and 2:10 pm. A survey sent home yesterday asks parents whether they prefer those times or 9:30 / 3:40. Please send the form back to school by tomorrow or go online: <http://tmlink.org/?p=3047>

### So Many Great Volunteer Opportunities...

#### Play Piano or Learn to Tune a Ukelele

Ms. French still needs 1) a **pianist** to accompany choir on Tuesdays and Thursdays before school and 2) **people to help tune ukuleles** twice a week, flexible scheduling. Email: [klfrench@seattleschools.org](mailto:klfrench@seattleschools.org)

#### Family Health and Fitness Night (Oct. 15)

Ms. May is looking for 10+ volunteers to assist with set-up/clean-up and activity stations. Free dinner included! Please sign up today or tomorrow. Email: [kjmay1@seattleschools.org](mailto:kjmay1@seattleschools.org)

#### Shoes that Fit

Ms. MacDonald needs assistants ASAP for measuring kids' feet and later, when new shoes arrive, delivering and making sure they fit.

Email: [msmacdonald@seattleschools.org](mailto:msmacdonald@seattleschools.org)

#### Several Teachers Still Need Class Reps

Check in with yours to see if your class is covered. Primary task is to email or otherwise communicate PTA information to parents.

#### Chair Setup on Tuesday (Oct. 13)

Can you meet right after school to set up chairs for the PTA Meeting? Please email Casey Sommers at [caseypilar@gmail.com](mailto:caseypilar@gmail.com) if you have 10-15 minutes to help. Kids welcome!

### Thurgood Marshall Briefs

#### School Makeup Days

The School Board last night approved the following makeup days

- Friday, Oct. 9
- Friday, Jan. 29
- Wednesday-Friday, Feb. 17-19. Mid-Winter break is reduced to Feb. 15-16 (including Presidents Day).
- Friday, June 24

#### Searching for a Pop-Up Tent

The PTA is looking for a 10'x10' pop-up tent for Coffee Thursdays and other community building events. Do you happen to have one? Please email us at [pta@tmlink.org](mailto:pta@tmlink.org).



#### T-shirts and TM Spirit Wear

Keep an eye out in the coming weeks for an order form for TM t-shirts and more. Thanks to 3rd-grade teacher Cora Glass, we will be rolling out a new, fantastic design this year. Go Bullpups!

**Attention Families of 2nd-Grade Girls:** Is your daughter interested in participating in a Girl Scout Troop? A local troop is being developed. All 2nd-grade girls are welcome. Meetings will take place at Thurgood Marshall or another close location, likely one Monday or Friday per month, after school. If interested, call or email Traci Adair at 206-251-4128 or [adairheeb@hotmail.com](mailto:adairheeb@hotmail.com) by Monday, Oct. 12.