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Getting Here Is Half the Battle

Daily attendance is critical to school success. Making sure that your child arrives on time each day teaches your child that school is important. Even a kindergartener picks up on parental values towards education; it's not "just kindergarten" – it's your child's job! Missing just two days each month, whether excused or unexcused absences, results in a child missing 10% of the school year. This is considered "chronic absence."

Groundbreaking research from the National Center for Children in Poverty found that the negative effect of "chronic absence in kindergarten was associated with lower academic performance in first grade for any student, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. For low-income children, the connection to poor performance extended through fifth grade" (*Balfanz and Chang, 2013*). This same study found that 1 in 10 kindergarten and first grade students are chronically absent. These students are likely to struggle to meet third-grade reading standards and to continue a pattern of absenteeism that continues to impact them into secondary school.

Consider chronic tardiness as well: teachers think carefully about the start of the day. They set routines that help children settle into their learning. Children who arrive late miss this time. They feel disoriented when they enter the classroom in the middle of an activity. Late arrivals also create a disruption to the learning of the rest of the students and to the teacher who must find a way to help the child who is late or absent catch up.

If your child is sick, by all means, please keep them home to rest and recover. We understand that there are medical appointments or family emergencies that will occasionally keep your child from school. In all other cases, we want to see your children here at school!

On another note, Oct. 31 is approaching and Thurgood Marshall has a special tradition to mark this date ... Book-o-ween! We celebrate by asking students and staff to come dressed as their favorite book character. You might want to start talking to your child now about favorite books and what character he or she would like to be. We do ask that students stick to costumes that are not violent, and no weapons are permitted at school. I can't wait to see what ideas our students come up with!

Reminder: We have no school tomorrow, Oct. 10, as teachers will be working together on writing and math goals to improve instruction for students. We will see you on Monday!

Katie May, Principal

Calling All 4th- and 5th-Graders! Conflict Mediators Needed

Is your student ready to be a leader? Our annual **Conflict Mediator** and **Recess Mentor** program provides a great opportunity for 4th- and 5th-graders to use leadership and communication skills to help younger students solve problems and enjoy appropriate play at school. Applications, which were distributed this week in classrooms, are due to Counselor Meghan Kaloper by Wednesday, Oct. 15!

Conflict Mediators must attend all five days of training: 8:15-9:25 am Mon. Oct.-Fri. Oct. 31, in the Library. Families are responsible for the early morning transportation on these days. To learn more, see the FAQ section of the PTA website: tmlink.org/about/faq/

Parent volunteers are needed every morning. To help, contact Ms. Kaloper at mrharris@seattleschools.org.

EVENT CALENDAR

Fri., Oct. 10
No School (staff development) 

Sat., Oct. 18
Community Meeting with School Board Member Dr. Stephan Blanford
10-11:30 am at the Capitol Hill Library

Thurs., Oct. 23
Coffee with Principal May
2:45-3:30 pm in Library
Corrected Time!



Thurs., Oct. 23
Game Night
6:30-8 pm in Cafeteria



Sat., Oct. 25
All-City Tutor Training
9 am-1:30 pm at Central Library

Wed., Oct. 29
Two-Hour Early Dismissal 

Fri., Oct. 31
Book-o-ween Celebration
Wear Book-themed Costumes to School!

Sat., Nov. 8
Intro to Parent Leadership Workshop
8:30 am-3:30 pm in Library

TUTU'S PANTRY

Oct. 13: 5th-Grade Donations

Oct. 20: PEACE/Kindergarten Donations

Oct. 27: 1st-Grade Donations

Nov. 3: 2nd-Grade Donations

Nov. 10: 3rd-Grade Donations

Nov. 17: 4th-Grade Donations



Questions? Contact Tutu's Pantry Coordinators
Kim Enochs at [kimenochs@comcast.net/](mailto:kimenochs@comcast.net)
206-604-1202 or Maggie Trapp at
[maggietrapp@yahoo.com/206-399-8320](mailto:maggietrapp@yahoo.com).

Let's Play Games!

It's just about game time! Last year, we partnered with **Blue Highway Games** for a fabulous evening of games and more games! Come play with us!

Game Night is **Thursday, Oct. 23** from 6:30-8 pm in the Cafeteria. Bring the whole family to play fun, educational, high-quality games appropriate **for all ages!** No purchase is necessary, but some games will be for sale; a percentage of proceeds will benefit our school.

Parent volunteers are needed starting at 5:30 pm to help learn the games to help kids play! If you can help, contact Jen Ellis at jenniferellis.206@gmail.com or (206) 276-4982.

Annual Fund Corner: Fall Challenge Match!

Fundraising for the PTA's Annual Giving Fund was off to a great start in September. More than 60 Thurgood Marshall families—representing all grades and nearly every classroom—made gift commitments totaling nearly **\$16,000**. A special thanks to these families for their early show of support for the resources and programs the Annual Giving Fund supports: our school **counselor**, full-time **librarian**, theater workshops, classroom grants and much more.



An additional group of families stepped forward in September to create a pool of funds for upcoming challenge matches. We are grateful for their extraordinary generosity, which will allow us to offer **dollar-for-dollar matching funds** as an extra incentive to support the Annual Giving Fund.

Today we're launching the \$10,000 Fall Challenge Match! If we can raise a total of \$10,000 in donations in October, this group of families will contribute an additional \$10,000. Every donation made in October will count in this challenge.

The Fall Challenge Match is a great chance to **"double your donation dollar"** and support the important programs and resources that help all our students grow and thrive. Please consider making your donation today to help us meet our goal!

Green donation forms are available in the office, or contact Jenny Ott, Annual Giving Fund co-chair: giving@tmlink.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

New Enrichment Class: Arts & Crafts!

We're excited to be able to open up a BRAND NEW after-school Enrichment class mid-quarter:

Arts & Crafts with Little Hands Creations!

Wednesdays 3:50-5:20 pm, grades K-5. Fee: **\$115**

Dates: 10/15, 10/22, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 12/3, 12/10
(No class 10/29 or 11/26 due to early release & holiday)

Expand your imagination and make some art! Students will learn new techniques in creating many different types of arts and crafts, such as jewelry, masks and crowns, to pop-up books, candles, rag rugs, wall hangings, sewing and knitting projects, snow globes, and papier-mâché. This class is designed to teach children with both beginning and advanced skills. All supplies included.

Teacher: Chelsea Cook, owner of Little Hands Creations (littlehandscreations@gmail.com, 360-510-2535). For a list of projects, visit www.little-hands-creations.com.

To register, fill out the Enrichment registration form (found on the tmlink website at bit.ly/Enrich2014Fall) and send it in to the Main Office or email Sudeshna Sen at sudeshnanw@gmail.com.

Can You Help? Volunteer Needs This Week

Thank you to all the parents/guardians who have already signed up to volunteer this year. Principal May says: "A big thank you to all our parent volunteers who ran two smooth days of health screenings! We appreciate you!"

Here are some available volunteer positions:

- **Front Office Help:** Ms. Patu and Ms. Dickey need help sorting paperwork in the front office. Feel free to drop in when you have a few minutes to spare.
- **Conflict Mediator Training:** Ms. Kaloper needs parent volunteers during the 4th- and 5th-grade Conflict Mediator training, Monday through Friday, Oct. 27-31, 8:15-9:25 am. Email mrharris@seattleschools.org to sign up.
- **Enrichment Assistant:** Help the Enrichment Coordinator with the before/after school Enrichment Program. More information is available if you're interested.
- **PTA Classroom Reps:** Serve as the liaison between the PTA and your child's class. These teachers still need a class rep: Ms. Dugan, Ms. Humphreys, Ms. Gomez, Ms. Jensen.
- **PTA Legislative Liaison:** Advocate for school needs by working with the Washington State and regional PTAs on legislative issues affecting education and funding. A guidebook is available from Washington State PTA. 2+ hours per month.
- **Garden Volunteer & Landscape Beautification Committee:** We are forming a new committee to help maintain and develop the garden and landscape at Thurgood Marshall, as part of the effort to make our school more welcoming. Hours vary and are flexible.

For more information, or more opportunities, go to tmlink.org/info/volunteering or contact Volunteer Coordinator Jen Ellis at jenniferellis.206@gmail.com or (206) 276-4982.

Still Time for T-Shirt Orders!

You can still place an order for school t-shirts and hoodies by **Friday, Oct. 17**.

Seen our shirts yet? If you haven't been to school on Pup Pride Friday and seen the purple and gray "parade," you can see samples of the shirts in the glass cabinet near the staircase, in the school lobby.



Order forms are available in the school office or on the front page of the PTA website: www.tmlink.org.

Celebrate Books on Book-o-ween!

Fern from Charlotte's Web? Dumbledore from Harry Potter? The Cat in the Hat? Thurgood Marshall students and staff can celebrate on **Friday, Oct. 31** by dressing up as book characters. Start thinking now about costumes!

