

## THE THURSDAY NOTE:



I hope everyone had a restful and relaxing spring break! I was happy to get my hands dirty in the garden removing weeds and planting flowers. It felt both grounding and affirming to see the tangible results of my labor and make my space attractive. Now it's time to look ahead to MSP testing and to meeting our new Principal!

The Measurements of Student Progress, or MSP, testing starts next Tuesday and goes through Friday for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade

students. The MSP tests students in reading, mathematics, writing (grade 4), and science (grade 5). See the calendar at right for the testing schedule. This is the last year for the pencil-and-paper test; next year the MSP will be replaced by a national online test called Smarter Balanced.

The MSP is not a timed test, so students have all day to work; however, we encourage them to be as efficient as possible. We only ask our students to do their *personal best*, and we encourage them not to feel anxious about testing.

You can help at home by ensuring your child is well rested, well fed, and confident in their ability to answer the test questions. You may want to talk with your child about reading directions carefully, and to view this test as a way to show off how much they already know!

### Welcome to our new Principal

I am very excited to welcome new Principal, Katie May, to our community. She will attend our May 7 Open House for all current families, as well as the next staff meeting to introduce herself. She will begin in her new role on July 1. She and I are getting acquainted and I'm sharing with her the many qualities that make the Thurgood Marshall community so special. You can read more about Ms. May below or online at [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org).

- Christine Helm, Interim Principal

## Our New Principal Is Announced!

The District has announced the appointment of Katie May as Principal for the 2014–15 school year at Thurgood Marshall. She will begin in her new role on July 1. Most recently, Ms. May spent three years as Principal at the Seattle Hebrew Academy, a PreK– 8 school. She has a strong social justice focus and believes in building relationships.

The hiring committee was particularly impressed with the creative programs Ms. May implemented in her previous school experience, her history of collaboration, and her understanding of diversity in education. (Read more about Ms. May in Superintendent Banda's letter posted on our website at [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org).)

We give our heartfelt thanks to Interim Principal Christine Helm for her amazing work and dedication to our school during this transition.

## Summer Hours for Library

This summer our school library will be open on Tuesdays, from 3-7 pm, starting June 24 through August 19. Children and their parents may stop in and pick up good books to read!

We hope to see you this summer.

### Volunteer for Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week is coming up May 5-9. There are many ways to help show your appreciation during this fun-filled week.

You can now sign up online to volunteer! Please visit:

[www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FABAE2FA1FD0-teacher](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FABAE2FA1FD0-teacher)

P.S. The sign-up tool can be accessed from our website at [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org).

## UPCOMING EVENT

### April 27, Sunday

Mariners Game @ 1:10 pm

## MSP TESTING

### April 29, Tuesday

4th Grade: Writing (1 of 2)

### April 30, Wednesday

3rd, 4th, 5th Grade: Math

### May 1, Thursday

4th Grade: Writing (2 of 2)  
5th Grade: Science

### May 2, Friday

3rd, 4th, 5th Grade: Reading

## A LOOK AHEAD

### May 5-9, Monday-Friday

Teacher Appreciation Week

### May 7, Wednesday

Open House for current families  
@ 6:30-8 pm

### May 15, Thursday

Games Night @ 6:30 pm

### May 22, Thursday

Spring Instrumental Concert @ 7 pm

### May 23, Friday

Reading Kick-off Event @ 5 pm

### May 26, Monday

NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day

### May 29, Thursday

PTA General Meeting @ 6:30 pm



For the second year in a row Thurgood Marshall is participating in The Seattle Foundation's Annual GiveBIG Day. Each donation made to Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA between midnight and midnight on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, will receive a portion of the matching funds raised by The Seattle Foundation. The more we raise on GiveBIG Day, the greater the match will be!

How to donate on May 6:

- Go to [www.seattlefoundation.org](http://www.seattlefoundation.org)
- Search non-profits for "Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA"
- Click on the "Donate Now" button
- Complete the form, click "Submit" and you're done!

Please plan on supporting Thurgood Marshall PTA as part of our community's biggest day of giving in the year!

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## Spring Baseball Fever Has Struck

Thanks to your overwhelming response Thurgood Marshall Elementary will turn out in record numbers for the Mariners v. Rangers game on April 27. If you ordered tickets, they will be delivered to teachers for distribution. PLEASE check backpacks carefully. No replacements are available. Go M's!

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## PTA Board Members 2014-2015

Below is the proposed PTA Board for next school year. A vote will take place at the PTA General meeting on Thursday, May 29.

Co-President- Tasha Irvine  
Co-President- Casey Sommers  
Vice President- Scott Engan  
Treasurer- Brindy Bundesmann  
Secretary- Lauri Nakamoto  
Fundraising Chair Promotions- Jenny Ott  
Fundraising Chair Accounting- Stacey Joanovic  
Communications Chair- Cliff Meyer  
PEACE Academy Rep- Annette Sherr  
PTA Teacher Liaison- Donna Dugan  
Volunteer Chair - Jen Ellis  
Membership Chair- Maggie Trapp  
Community Relations Chair- Ben Kim  
Events Chair- Daniella D' Louhy

## Annual Giving Fund Update: 93% of the Way There!

**Goal for the year:** \$130,000 **Raised so far:** \$121,303 **Need to raise:** \$8,700

**Participation Goal for the year:** 60% **Current Participation rate:** 46%

Did you know the majority of contributions made to the Annual Giving Fund are used to help fund staff positions at Thurgood Marshall that are not fully funded by the district? This includes our counselor, librarian, music teacher, and recess aide – all of whom truly make a difference in our students' lives!

This week we highlight the work of counselor Meghan Kaloper who is at school three full days a week, thanks to the help of PTA funds! We spoke with Ms. Kaloper about the importance of PTA Opportunity Grants, also made possible by your contributions to the Annual Giving Fund.

*When are you at Thurgood Marshall and with whom do you work?*

I'm here every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and I do the following:

1) Teach whole-class lessons to all ALO and APP classes using the *Second Step* curriculum, and other materials, 2) Run small group counseling, 3) Work individually with students, 4) Facilitate weekly meetings of the Student Support Team, 5) Collaborate and confer with families, and with teachers, 7) Train and oversee the Conflict Mediator program, 8) Coordinate the Kindness Klub.

*How did you use the PTA-funded Opportunity Grant?*

I was thrilled to use the Opportunity Grant to attend two days of the 2014 Washington School Counselor Conference in Seattle, where I learned cutting edge information about new techniques, ideas, and research based interventions to better help our students.

*What impact will the conference have on students and families at Thurgood Marshall?*

The conference introduced me to new methods for engaging and supporting families in unique ways. Next year I will conduct even more family outreach and collaboration to ensure our community's needs are being met. I also learned some fun and exciting ways to engage kids in conversation about careers and their future. Next year I plan to create a "career exploration" curriculum for our students because career growth and development is often overlooked at the elementary counseling level.

*Would you like the Opportunity Grants program to continue?*

Yes! Thanks to the PTA Opportunity Grants, teachers and staff have a unique opportunity to make professional leaps and bounds. The grants can help expose us to new and exciting materials in order to best serve our students and our community. Thank you again for all your support!! I couldn't do it without YOU!

Please consider making a donation to the Annual Giving Fund to support staffing at our school and the Opportunity Grants program. We are 93% of the way to our annual fundraising GOAL!

See box above left for information on our biggest donation day of the year - GiveBIG Day on Tuesday, May 6.

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## On-line Resources and eBooks

Many of the online resources and eBooks used in the Thurgood Marshall library can be accessed from home via the District school website (not the PTA website) at [www.marshalles.seattleschools.org](http://www.marshalles.seattleschools.org). Click on "Library Catalog" or "Online Resources" on the right side. You can immediately download eBooks to your computer from the library catalog. Use the username and password below.

Username: studentpsps Password: access

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**Have an article for Pup Press?** Send it to Julia Janak at [julijanak@gmail.com](mailto:julijanak@gmail.com). If your e-mail submission is not acknowledged within 24 hours, please call or text to confirm receipt at 206-473-0980.