

PUP PRESS



Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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THE THURSDAY NOTE:



Dear Students, Staff and Families,

The safety of our students, staff and families is of the utmost importance at Thurgood Marshall Elementary. Last Thursday we were notified that suspects in a violent crime had left their vehicle nearby on MLK Way. School District officials determined

that a lockdown wasn't needed, because we were not in imminent danger, but instructed us to bring everyone inside, a procedure called "shelter in place." Ms. Breidenbach quickly communicated the details to staff members via walkie-talkie, and within minutes the students were inside, thinking that we called a rainy day recess. Given the apparent lack of danger, we felt it was not important to share the details with the students at that time. Ms. Breidenbach used the School Messenger system to notify all families that children who cross MLK to walk home would need a caregiver to accompany them.

This incident reminded us how important it is for the main office to have accurate contact information for all of our families. Our automated system directs messages to the phone number that families have designated as their "home" number. If you would like messages on a different line, please contact our administrative secretaries at 252-2800, and ask them to update your "home" number. It is also important to provide our school with an email address for important communications as well.

During the same afternoon, a mistake by our bus company caused a group of 1st- and 2nd-grade students and teachers to be delayed at Seattle Children's Theatre until 4:30 p.m. On behalf of our school and the District's Transportation Department, I want to apologize to everyone affected by this failure. Thank you to the teachers and chaperones, who cared for, entertained and fed the kids while they waited for the bus.

Yesterday, students were released early so our staff could learn together. We spent an hour studying how to engage students in talking about their thinking when solving a math problem. Then for two hours we learned about close reading strategies, and how readers interpret both non-fiction and fiction texts by thinking deeply and analytically about a text. We appreciate this time together to collectively deepen our understanding of best instructional practices.

We hope to see you tomorrow at our Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly at 9:35 am in the cafeteria!!

- Christine Helm, Assistant Principal



Inbox Delivery Starts Jan. 23!

This is the last paper issue of *Pup Press*. Next week you will receive this newsletter in your inbox! Don't miss an issue; make sure we have your current email address.

EVENTS CALENDAR

TONIGHT! Jan. 16

PTA General Meeting @ 6:30 pm
* Free childcare provided at YMCA *

Jan. 23, Thursday

Instrumental Concert

Jan. 20, Monday

NO SCHOOL - MLK Day

Jan. 31, Friday

NO SCHOOL - Day Between Semesters

Feb. 7, Friday

Lunar New Year Celebration at 5:30 pm in the Cafeteria

Feb. 12, 26 & Mar. 5

School Tours @ 8:45 am
Meet in Library

Feb. 17-21

NO SCHOOL - Mid Winter Break

TUTU'S PANTRY CALENDAR

Non-perishable food donations can be placed in the large red bins inside school entrance. Grade levels may donate by week (see below).

Jan. 21: 4th Grade
Jan. 27: 5th Grade
Feb. 3: Kindergarten/PEACE
Feb. 10: 1st Grade
Feb. 24: 2nd Grade
Mar. 3: 3rd Grade

PTA Meeting Tonight!

Tonight at 6:30 pm guest speaker Amy Lang will present "Birds + Bees + Kids" at the PTA meeting in the Library. Lang will discuss age-appropriate ways to approach this topic with kids. Lang's talk is designed for adults.

Free childcare will be provided at the YMCA next door to our school. Please arrive at the YMCA early to sign in your child. You must provide a cell phone number. Children should bring a book, homework or other quiet activity.

We hope to see you tonight!

ISO Fridge and Stove

We are "in search of" a used refrigerator and stove in good working condition to replace the damaged appliances in the Staff Room at school. If you are remodeling your kitchen, please consider donating your used fridge and/or stove to our school. Please contact Donna Dugan at ddugan@seattleschools.org if you can help.

Want more? Visit the Thurgood Marshall PTA online at www.tmlink.org for more Pup Press, a full calendar of school events, and more.

Instrumental Concerts

ATTN PARENTS! We need help setting up chairs. Setup will take place on Jan. 23 in the morning and after school. Stop by the Music room to volunteer.

Who: All instrumental students (4th and 5th Grades; Band and Orchestra)

What: Winter Concert for family and friends

Where: Cafeteria

When: Thursday, Jan. 23 at 10:30 am for a special assembly and at 7:00 pm for an evening concert.

On Jan. 23 students should bring their instruments to the Cafeteria at 9:30 am for a special practice before the assembly. Please arrive that night for the evening concert at 6:40 pm.

What to Wear

You've worked hard on this music! Dress up and look good, because you will sound good!

Girls: a dress or blouse with a skirt is preferred; nice slacks/pants with top is ok. No faded or old jeans.

Boys: a shirt with a collar (polo type shirt is ok). No faded or old jeans.

-Mr. Pendergrass and Mr. Yarr



Nominating Comm. for PTA Board

Would you like to help recruit and nominate members of the PTA Board for the 2014-2015 school year? Please email Casey Sommers at caseypilar@gmail.com if you are interested.

Lunar New Year Celebration & Potluck

Friday, Feb. 7, 5:30-7:30 pm, School Cafeteria

Join us in the cafeteria to celebrate the Year of the Horse. Arts and crafts activities, delicious food and entertainment will be provided!

Bring a family favorite dish to share. Please label your dish if it contains nuts.

We are asking for volunteers to help set up and clean up for this event. Set up will be at 4:50 pm and clean up at 7:15 pm.

Please email Cindy Gano at cmnumata@seattleschools.org if you are interested in helping. Thank you!

Volunteers Needed for 'Teacher Appreciation Week' & Mariners 'Family Night'

We are looking for a volunteer coordinator for two school events: Teacher Appreciation Week and the Mariners "Family Night." Help celebrate our wonderful teachers the week of May 5 with five days of surprises, like flower deliveries and potluck lunches. New ideas welcome! This year with your help we could join the 450+ schools across the state that celebrate "Family Night" with reduced price tickets to a Mariners game. We need a volunteer from our school to work with the Mariners' event planning staff to distribute flyers at school and collect forms/checks from interested TM families. The Mariners staff supply all necessary paperwork and flyers. Game dates are in April and May.

If you are interested in either opportunity please email Wendy Eckert at wseckert@yahoo.com.

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

Openings Remain in Enrichment Classes

Parents: There's still time to register for Winter Enrichment! **Space is available in most classes**, especially Drama, Spanish and Japanese. Please note that Engineering Challenge is full, as is Sewing. If your child would like to join a class, please turn in your registration form with check at the Main Office. Email any questions to Sudeshna Sen at sudeshnanw@gmail.com or Caryn Gold at carynlgold@yahoo.com.

PTA Funds Emergency Supplies for School

For the next few weeks, the *Pup Press* will highlight how your donations to the Annual Fund are put to great use at our school. This week we spoke with 2nd Grade parent and PTA Community Liaison, Ben Kim, about the newly purchased Emergency Kit supplies.

Q. Why is this important for Thurgood Marshall?

A. Last year when the Thurgood Marshall Safety Committee met to discuss emergency drills, we realized our emergency supplies were dangerously low. An inventory revealed that almost all of the Emergency Backpack supplies were either missing or had expired. Emergency Backpacks are kept in the classrooms and carried out by teachers during drills.

Q. What did the PTA funds pay for?

A. The PTA paid to replace the contents of Classroom Emergency Backpacks for all K-5, Peace Academy and ELL classrooms, as well as the Library, Gym, Music and Art rooms. Each backpack now includes: a first aid kit, water pouches, CPR mouthguards, a whistle, a flashlight with new batteries, a pair of work gloves, and dust masks.

Q. What might additional PTA funds pay for?

A. My next project is to restock our Disaster Relief bins with glow sticks, duct tape, wind-up solar radios (with emergency light and cell-phone charger), matches, water purification tabs, tarps, ropes, and trauma kits. We are off to a great start with the PTA's initial investment and anticipate maintenance costs to be minimal.

Thank you Ben, for all your hard work!

Remember if you donate this month you will receive a Thurgood Marshall license plate frame! Donate online at www.tmlink.org, mail to: TM Annual Giving Fund, PO Box 22305, Seattle WA 98122, or send your donation into school with your child. Thank you!

