

PUP PRESS



Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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THE THURSDAY NOTE:



It has been a year of unexpected transitions at Thurgood Marshall Elementary and we have weathered them as a unified community by staying focused on our students' best interests. I wish to thank the staff, students, and families for supporting me as Interim Principal this year; it has been a tremendous learning experience and a privilege to serve our community in this role. I'm excited to welcome Katie May as our new Principal and I look forward to helping her make a smooth transition.

Last week the Seattle School Board adopted a new elementary math program called Math In Focus. As you may know, in 2012 we received a three-year waiver from using the District-wide curriculum (then, Everyday Math) so that we could teach enVision Math. This waiver is good through the spring of 2015, and we will continue implementing enVision Math until then. At the end of year three, we'll review our math data and determine whether to switch to Math In Focus or stay with enVision. We have seen a significant increase in our Math test scores on both MAP and MSP tests over the past two years and we feel confident with our plan of action. Our teachers like that the materials offer opportunities to differentiate tasks to challenge all students and it is aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

Progress Reports will be sent home on the last day of school, Thursday, June 19. Backpacks will be packed full with desk contents, school projects, and writing notebooks so you may need to dig around a bit to find the Progress Report!

In mid-August you will receive a back-to-school letter from Principal Katie May, including a school supplies list. These will also be posted on our website. Class assignments will be announced on September 2, the same day we host our Ice Cream Social in the cafeteria.

Bell times will remain the same for the 2014-2015 school year. The playground and cafeteria will open at 9:10 am. The warning bell will ring at 9:25 and school will start promptly at 9:30. Dismissal will once again be at 3:40 pm.

We are so pleased our Library will be open this summer on Tuesdays from 3-7 pm. My motto for summer reading is simple: "An hour a day keeps the Summer Slide away."

I'd also like to thank our PTA Co-Presidents Sharmila Williams and Tasha Irvine for their tremendous energy and dedication to our community. Julia Janak is responsible for publishing the Pup Press this year and I am so grateful for her many hours of editing. Thank you to Ben Kim, Daphne Dejanikus, Caroline Clark, and all of the volunteers who made the 5th Grade Legacy paver project come to life. The pavers really make the space attractive and safe so kids won't slip in the mud when arriving to school. Thank you to Mr. Shin and Jennifer Hobbs, and our many volunteers for planning and hosting tomorrow's Field Day. Thank you to the teachers and the committee for planning the 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony coming up on June 17. There are so many people to thank for their generous support of our school - too many to name! - and I am humbled by your kindness.

Have a wonderful, fun, relaxing summer with your children. We can't wait to see you in the fall!

- Christine Helm, Interim Principal

Library Reminders

Library books are due June 13. If books are not returned, report cards will be withheld until the book is accounted for. Students who forget may return books over the summer to receive report cards. We cannot accept money for lost books; please replace a lost book with a similar title in good condition. Students returning next year may check out one book, return it during the summer and then check out additional books. The Thurgood Marshall Library will be open from 3-7 pm every Tuesday this summer.

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

Calendar of Events

TONIGHT, June 12

4th Grade Picnic @ 5:30-7 pm on the playground

June 13, Friday

Field Day & School BBQ
Craft Fair in Library

June 17, Tuesday

5th Grade Promotion @ 2-3:30 pm

June 19, Thursday

Last Day of School!
Early dismissal @ 2:40 pm

2014-2015 School Year

Some dates to keep in mind for next school year:

September 2, Tuesday

Ice Cream Social @ 2:30-4 pm in school cafeteria

September 3, Wednesday

First Day Tea @ 9:45 am in school cafeteria

September 9, Tuesday

PTA General Meeting @ 6:30-8 pm in school library

September 11, Thursday

5th Grade Potluck @ 5:30-7 pm

September 15, Monday

4th Grade Potluck @ 5:30-7 pm

September 16, Tuesday

3rd Grade Potluck @ 5:30-7 pm

September 17, Wednesday

2nd Grade Potluck @ 5:30-7 pm

September 18, Thursday

K/1st Grade Potluck @ 5:30-7 pm

September 17-19, Wed-Fri

5th graders to Camp Orkila

September 25, Thursday

Curriculum Night

Oh, The Places They'll Go!

It's almost time to celebrate our 5th graders transition to middle school! The 5th grade Promotion Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, June 17, 2-3:30 pm in the Cafeteria. Light refreshment provided.

Our Biggest 'Thank You'

As we bid farewell to the 2013/14 school year, we'd like to thank the many volunteers who helped our school events, publications, and ideas come to fruition. It takes the dedication, energy and enthusiasm of many volunteers to make it all possible.

It was a year of transition, and thankfully our community of staff and families came together to ensure our school remained the excellent place of learning that it is. Whether you are a classroom volunteer, event chair, or fundraising donor, you help create a positive vibe in our community for all to enjoy. We thank all of you for your tremendous work in the following areas. Without you, our school wouldn't be the vibrant place that it is!

Enrichment Program Co-Chairs - Sudeshna Sen and Caryn Gold

Enrichment Catalog Editor - Dana Armstrong

Pup Press Distribution - Cliff Meyer & Erinn McIntyre

Tutu's Pantry Coordinator - Barbara Staley

Scholastic Book Fair Coordinator - Barbara Staley &

Karen Sampson-Liu

Yearbook Editor - Kathryn Saxer

Directory Editor - Cara Holloway

Class Rep Coordinator - Ralina Joseph

Box Tops Coordinator - Ann McCurdy

T-shirt sales Coordinator - Yuko Kobayashi

Reflections Chair - Maggie Trapp

SharePoint Guru - Jeremy Mazner

Fall Dance Chair - Shyla Wilcynski

Pancake Breakfast Chairs - Audrey Querns & Mark Lovre

Bingo Night Chair - Scott Engan

Mariners Game Coordinator - Janet Chung

Teacher Appreciation Co-Chairs - Jenny Ott & Amy Vore

Game Night Chairs - Janet Chung & Wendy Eckert

Field Day Liaison - Jen Hobbs

5th Grade Legacy Project - Daphne Dejanikus

5th Grade Promotion Chair - Katy Ransom

PTA Board Members

Vice-President - Scott Engan

Treasurer - Brindy Bundesmann

Secretary - Katy Ransom

Fundraising Chair - Casey Sommers

Communications Chair - Julia Janak (Pup Press Editor,

Webmaster, Bulletin Boards)

Volunteer Coordinator - Wendy Eckert

PEACE Academy Representative - Annette Sherr

Teacher Liaison - Donna Dugan

Community Relations (and "do-anything" volunteer) - Ben Kim

Membership Chairs - Katy Ransom & Erinn McIntyre

APP AC Representative - Jennie Wyatt

BLT Representative - Perry Lee

Health Screening Coordinator - Laurie Milodragovich

Library Volunteer Coordinator - Laurie Milodragovich

Summer is nearly here, and we hope that you will relax, enjoy and cherish the time off. Thank you all for a great year!

- Sharmila Williams & Tasha Irvine, PTA Co-Presidents

Yearbooks Still Available

A limited number of yearbooks are still available for purchase. To order, please put a check for \$13, payable to Thurgood Marshall PTA, in the designated envelope in the front office by the end of the school day on Tuesday, June 17. Include your student's name and room number on the payment. Yearbooks are also available on scholarship; pay what you can up to \$13. Yearbooks will be distributed the last week of school.

Mark Your Calendar: Summer Playdates

Join us this summer for several grade-level playdates held on the Thurgood Marshall playground in conjunction with the Library open hours on Tuesdays. It's a chance to meet up with old friends and welcome new students and families.

July 8: Grades 4-5, 5:30-7 pm; July 15: Grades 2-3, 5:30-7 pm

July 22: Grades K-1, 5:30-7pm; Aug 5: Grades K-1, 3:30-5pm

Aug 12: Grades 2-3, 3:30-5pm; Aug 19: Grades 4-5, 3:30-5 pm

Together We Raised Over \$131,000

The Thurgood Marshall PTA thanks you for helping us raise \$131,482.97 this year for the Annual Giving Fund! Over 50% of families made gifts to help support our staff and programs, and provide grants for teachers. The school thanks you for your generosity and support!

There is still time to donate in June

To make a donation, please send it to school, drop it off in the office, or mail your donation to TM Annual Giving Fund, P.O. Box 22305 Seattle, WA 98122. Checks can be made out to Thurgood Marshall PTA. You can also donate online at www.tmlink.org.

Corporate Matches for Volunteer Hours

Did you know that many corporations will match volunteer hours, in addition to monetary donations? If you've donated time to Thurgood Marshall this year attending field trips, working in the classroom or at events, or in other ways, these hours could mean more dollars to support Thurgood Marshall. If you work for a company who matches donations, please inquire if they also match volunteer hours. If you have questions, contact Casey Sommers at caseypilar@gmail.com.

PTA Awards for Service

The Thurgood Marshall PTA Board honored several long-time, tireless contributors to our community at last week's PTA general meeting. The Golden Acorn Award for outstanding volunteer service was presented to Perry Lee, Kyle Shepard, Tina Shepard and Sharmila Williams. Principal Breidenbach was given an Outstanding Educator Award for her years of service to Thurgood Marshall Elementary. Thanks again to these outstanding members of our community. We wish them all the best in their new pursuits.

Thank You for Taking the PTA Survey

Thank you to the nearly 120 people who gave feedback in the PTA end-of-the-year survey. We are using the results to shape our plans for next year. Please stay in touch this summer by emailing us at pta@tmlink.org.

We realize that not every parent can attend PTA meetings, so we provide the entire TM community with the meeting minutes. We hope this will provide transparency, and simply keep you informed! If you have questions or concerns, we would love to hear from you! Email us at: pta@tmlink.org.

Thurgood Marshall PTA, General Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

May 29, 2014, 6:30-8:30 pm

In attendance - Katy Ransom, Sharmila Williams, Casey Sommers, Lauri Nakamoto, Perry Lee, Brindy Bundesmann, Martin and Kathryn Saxier, Laurie Milodragovich, Jen Ellis, Wendy Eckert, Cambria Ax, Scott Engan, Tasha Irvine, Greg Miller, Cliff Meyer, Tamara Mildon, Natalie Zheng, James Modie, Mark Shumka, Dan Kasha, Leigh Mercer, Sara Ullman, Ryland Brown, Julia Janak, Sade Brown, Susan Morrison and Rosa Lefkowicz

Sharmila began the meeting with an brief run-down of upcoming PTA events including the Grade Level Picnics, Field Day and 5th Grade Promotion. See attached agenda for date specifics.

Membership voted in the new elected officers of the Thurgood Marshall Board - Casey Sommers to Co-President and Lauri Nakamoto to Secretary. The complete board for the 2014-15 school year is:

Executive Committee:

Co-President - Tasha Irvine

Co-President - Casey Sommers

Vice President - Scott Engan

Treasurer - Brindy Bundesmann

Secretary - Lauri Nakamoto

Additional Chairs and Representatives:

Communications Chair - Cliff Meyer

Community Relations Chair - Ben Kim

Events Chair - Daniella D'Louhy

Fundraising Chair Promotions - Jenny Ott

Fundraising Chair Accounting - Stacey Joanovic

Membership Chair - Maggie Trapp

PEACE Academy Rep - Annette Sherr

PTA Teacher Liaison - Donna Dugan

Volunteer Chair - Jen Ellis

Tasha Irvine gave thanks to outgoing PTA members for their service to the school in the current and past years. Among departing parents thanked were Katy Ransom, Wendy Eckert, Barbara Staley, Laurie Milodragovich, Jenny Sapora, Jeanne Thompson, Steve Ball and Julia Janak. She then presented Golden Acorn awards to volunteers-extraordinaire Perry Lee, Sharmila Williams, Tina and Kyle Shepherd. An Outstanding Educator Award will go to Julie Breidenbach for all of her incredible years of dedication to the school.

PTA budget 2014/2015 Update and Approval - Brindy Bundesmann

The budget for next year is a few thousand dollars more than this current year's budget due to standard cost of living adjustments for salaries. We are starting to use some of our reserves by adding ceiling mounted projectors to all of the first floor classrooms this summer. All of the second floor classrooms were outfitted earlier this year and the staff has been extremely satisfied with them. This will benefit all students and staff in the coming years.

We anticipate healthy fundraising next year as well - \$130K is a reasonable expectation. We are funding (have made an obligation to the district) .6 Counselor time and .5 Librarian time - this will keep next year's staffing as it is this year. The 2014/2015 Budget was approved.

A parent asked about the contribution to the newly formed Fairmont Park Elementary PTA - and Tasha addressed this by saying that we are giving Fairmont Park up to \$1250 from Thurgood Marshall PTA dollars not spent this year - this will not take place until the end of the school year.

Child Safety Expert Kim Estes was introduced.

Meeting adjourned.