

# PUP PRESS



Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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## THE THURSDAY NOTE:



After much time and consideration I have decided to withdraw my application for the Principal position at Thurgood Marshall. At this time in my life, sustaining a healthy work/life balance is very important to me. I believe that I can best serve both our community and my personal life as the Assistant Principal. I look forward to helping transition a new leader next year, and I feel confident that we will form a strong team. I am truly grateful for all of your support and confidence over the past five weeks; it has been an amazing opportunity for me.

I am committed to the success of our thriving school, and am honored to continue to serve as Interim Principal. A small but significant set of staff departures has brought uncertainty to our community, so I hope it will help everyone to know that I will be ready to share my knowledge of Thurgood Marshall with our new leader. Let me also point out that most of our teachers are staying, and that the school's excellent reputation will attract many talented applicants for open positions. I will select teachers and parents to serve next month on hiring committees. If you are interested, you need to have completed the training facilitated by the Seattle Education Association (SEA). The next training is April 8; learn more at <http://tinyurl.com/SEAttraining>.

- Christine Helm, Interim Principal

## Help with Teacher Hiring

Get trained to help Ms. Helm with teacher hiring this spring. Upcoming trainings are Tuesday, April 8, and Thursday, May 8, both 4-5 pm, at the John Stanford Center. To register or get more details, email Regina Redmond at [SEA@washingtonea.org](mailto:SEA@washingtonea.org). Note: You do not need to repeat this training if you've taken it a previous year.

## BINGO, Pizza & Art Walk

Mark your calendars for a family night of fun with BINGO and pizza! The event begins Friday, April 4 at 5:30 pm with free pizza (provided by the PTA), followed by BINGO and prizes. Everyone is a winner! Be sure to check out the Art Walk in the hallway featuring new student artwork.

**Prizes are still needed for BINGO winners.** Drop off your "gently used" games, books, toys in Ms. Gano's classroom, across the hall from the main office.

## School Board Director to Speak at PTA Meeting

**When:** Thursday, March 27, 6:30-8:30 pm

**Where:** In the school library

**Why:** Our District 5 Seattle School Board Director, Dr. Stephan Blanford, will be speaking and will be available for parent questions, too.

Free childcare will be provided next door at the YMCA from 6:15-8:15 pm.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### March 20, Tonight

Central Region Town Hall at Garfield High School, 400 23rd Ave. 6:30-8:30 pm

### March 26, Wednesday

2-Hour Early Dismissal @ 1:40 pm

### March 27, Thursday

PTA General Meeting @ 6:30 pm in Library with Guest Speaker

## A LOOK AHEAD

### April 4, Friday

Bingo Night @ 5:30 pm in Cafeteria

### April 14-18, Monday-Friday

NO SCHOOL - Spring Break

### April 27, Sunday

Mariners Game @ 1:10 pm

### May 5-9, Monday-Friday

Teacher Appreciation Week

## TUTU'S PANTRY

March 24: Kindergarten/PEACE  
March 31: 1st Grade  
April 7: 2nd Grade  
April 21: 3rd Grade  
April 28: 4th Grade  
May 5: 5th Grade

## Registration Closes Friday

The registration period for Spring Enrichment classes ends tomorrow! There is still room in all classes, except Engineering Challenge.

**\*\*Spanish needs four more students to continue.\*\***

We are looking for parent volunteers every afternoon from 3:40-3:50 pm to help students transfer to their after-school activities. If you are able to help, please contact Sudeshna Sen at [sudeshnanw@gmail.com](mailto:sudeshnanw@gmail.com) or Caryn Gold at [carynlgold@yahoo.com](mailto:carynlgold@yahoo.com).

**Want more?** Visit the Thurgood Marshall PTA online at [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org) for more Pup Press, a calendar of school events, and more.

## Two Assemblies Focus on Anti-Bullying Themes

During last Friday's assembly, teachers performed a skit based on the book, "One" by Kathryn Otoshi. Each character in "One" is represented by a color and has a different personality. Blue is quiet while Red is hotheaded. Red bullies Blue. Orange, Yellow and Green see Red's behavior and don't like it, but they don't speak up or stop it. Then One comes along. One stands up to Red and says, "No." Then the colors unite against bullying, with each becoming a number. Red feels very badly and retreats because all of the numbers stand up for themselves. Then One invites Red to join them as number Seven. The last line in the story is, "Sometimes it just takes One voice to make everyone count." I hope this simple performance will have a lasting impression. Teachers will follow up with class meetings to reinforce the message that kids can unite and speak out against hurtful behavior.

Next Friday, March 28, the Taproot Theatre Company will perform "Wild Wes," a play about addressing and responding to bullying and harassment in school. In this story, Wes struggles at school, but with the help of a friend and a supportive teacher, learns to Recognize, Refuse, and Report bullying behavior as well as how to stand up for others. Taproot incorporates the same "Steps to Respect" bullying prevention curriculum used in all classrooms at Thurgood Marshall Elementary. This assembly is a joint effort of the school counseling department and the PTA.

- Christine Helm, Interim Principal

## Remaining PTA Board Positions for 2014-2015

We are looking for volunteers to fill the last few open PTA Board positions for next school year: the Annual Fund Co-Chair (Accounting) and Annual Fund Co-Chair (Promotions), and the Membership Chair. If you are interested please contact our Nominating Committee Chairperson, Casey Sommers, at [caseypilar@gmail.com](mailto:caseypilar@gmail.com). Job descriptions can be found online at [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org), click on "Volunteering" under Get Involved.

## Classroom Snacks Now Available from Tutu's Pantry

In keeping with the mission of Tutu's Pantry of supporting student readiness to learn, we are pleased to now offer teachers free school-time snacks for classroom use. As you may know, teachers often reach into their own wallets to support their kids and keep them focused. Tutu's Pantry now gladly accepts donations of classroom-appropriate snacks (peanut free, please).

## Fun Facts Quiz

Really?!

1. Who once did animation and graphic design work for TV shows *The Today Show*, *Meet the Press* and *The Nightly News with Brian Williams*?  
A. Ms. Helm   B. Ms. Martin   C. Ms. Miller
2. What sport did Mr. Long do in high school?  
A. Golf   B. Track and Field   C. Gymnastics
3. Which teacher was a founding member of Americorps VISTA and helped to rebuild Southern Los Angeles after the 1992 Riots?

Answers: 1. C. Ms. Miller 2. C. Gymnastics 3. Ms. Howard-Powell

## Organize a "Positive Discipline" Class

We'd love a volunteer to organize a "positive discipline" parenting class at Thurgood Marshall. It would involve scheduling the class, advertising for participants (in our community and surrounding areas), and organizing child care for the six to seven week class. We already have a highly recommended facilitator for the class, but we need a volunteer to organize it. Please email Principal Christine Helm at [cmhelm@seattleschools.org](mailto:cmhelm@seattleschools.org) if you are interested.

## Yearbook Orders Due April 1

Yearbook order forms went home this week in children's backpacks. The order deadline is April 1. You may order two ways: 1) Complete the form and send into school, or 2) Order online at [www.yuenluistudio.com](http://www.yuenluistudio.com); click on "Online Viewing" and search for Thurgood Marshall Elementary School. Yearbooks will be delivered the last week of school.

## Reminders

### Reps for Building Leadership Team

Parents are needed to serve on next year's Building Leadership Team (BLT). Attend monthly meetings to discuss school budget, improvement plans and staff professional development. For details email Wendy Eckert at [wseckert@yahoo.com](mailto:wseckert@yahoo.com).

### Farewell Gift for Principal Breidenbach

This is the final week to contribute to the farewell gift for Principal Breidenbach. Sign the Memories Book, located in the Main Office, with your thoughts and well wishes. You may also mail a check or cash to Laurie Milodragovich, 730 S. Rose St., 98108. Contact Laurie if you have questions at [lmilodragovich@msn.com](mailto:lmilodragovich@msn.com).

### Lost and Found

There are a lot of nice things going unclaimed in our Lost and Found. Please come take a look! The Lost and Found area is located on the left just inside the school's main entrance.

### Parents: Avoid Car Break-ins

This is a reminder to all parents to please remove valuables from your parked cars during pick-up. Break-ins have occurred in broad daylight. Let's err on the side of caution.

### Required Training for Volunteers

As of Feb. 1 all volunteers in Seattle Public Schools must complete an online course on Adult Sexual Misconduct Prevention. Current volunteers have until the end of the school year. Find it online at <http://tiny.cc/asmsps>

**Have an article for Pup Press?** Send it to Julia Janak at [juliajanak@gmail.com](mailto: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.