

PUP PRESS

Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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In keeping up with 21st-century skills, Thurgood Marshall Elementary offers our students two computer-based learning tools, *iRead* and *Dreambox*. The digital program *iRead* helps students in our General Education program grades K-2 to improve foundational reading skills. The online math program *Dreambox* has proven to help students raise mathematic achievement and improve number sense skills.

Classrooms participating in *iRead* visit our computer lab for 20 minutes every day to engage in reading activities such as: naming letters and sounds, sounding out words, learning high frequency, multi-syllabic and root words, as well as reading e-books. *iRead* reinforces the same concepts and skills taught during reading class, but in a computer game-like way that many children find appealing.

Students in participating classrooms can access *iRead* online at home by following these steps: 1) Enter in the URL field: <http://scholastic.com/iread/familyportal> 2) Click on the red Login button on the right side 3) Enter the school zip code: 98144 and click OK; select the district name: Seattle Public Schools and click Go 4) Select *iRead* and 5) Enter your student's unique username and password.

Every student already has a unique username and password, please ask your child's teacher to share that information with you. We highly encourage students to use *iRead* at home to practice their reading skills. I also encourage parents to review the *iRead* website for information on how to help "raise a reader."

In addition to *iRead*, we use an online math program called *Dreambox* that the kids love. Students work independently on skills identified by the program as growth areas. As skills improve in one area, the program adjusts and moves on to higher levels and other skills. Every morning before school, starting at 8:10 am but no later than 8:30 am, students in our General Education program grades 2-5 may use *DreamBox* in the school computer lab. There will be a teacher or a teaching assistant present to help students if they get stuck.

Dreambox can also be accessed at home by following these steps: 1) Enter in the URL field: <https://play.dreambox.com/login/znc2/thurgoodme> 2) Select your child's teacher 3) Enter your child's name, 4) Select your child's password, or picture password.

Since *Dreambox* is an online program there's no software to download! All you need is a high-speed Internet connection and Adobe Flash. Adobe Flash is free and is included with many Internet browsers.

Thank you for reading to the end! If there is a topic that you would like to see in a future issue of the Pup Press, please let us know.

- Christine Helm, Assistant Principal



APP Families: Your Immediate Action Needed How Do You Feel About the Proposed Changes to APP?

Last Friday Seattle Public Schools (SPS) released a revised "Growth Boundary" proposal that includes specific changes to the APP delivery model. You should have already received notice from SPS asking for your feedback. On the following page we outline the proposal and how to provide feedback to SPS, as well as to the Thurgood Marshall PTA.

Continued on other side...

EVENTS CALENDAR

October 18th

Planning meeting for Fall Dance
3:00 pm in Staff Lounge

October 21st - 25th

Conflict Mediator Training
8:15 - 9:30 am in Library

October 30th

2-Hour Early Dismissal

October 31st

"Book-a-ween"

November 4th

Picture Retake/Class Group Photos

November 11th

NO SCHOOL

November 15th

All-School Fall Dance

November 21st

PTA General Meeting
6:30-8:00 pm in Library

TUTU'S PANTRY CALENDAR

Note: Delivery of backpacks begins this Friday, October 18th

October 21st

PEACE/Kindergarten Donations

October 28th

1st Grade Donations

November 4th

2nd Grade Donations

November 12th

3rd Grade Donations

November 18th

4th Grade Donations

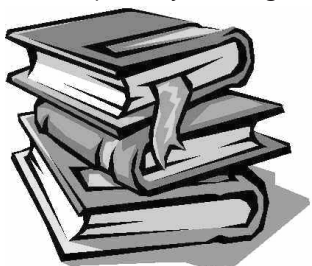
December 2nd

5th Grade Donations

"APP Changes" continued from front...

Summary of SPS Proposal for APP

The proposal adds two *optional* APP pathways in the South End, while maintaining the current pathway of Thurgood Marshall to Washington Middle School:



1. New pathway in West Seattle: Fairmount Park Elementary to Madison Middle School to Garfield High School/the optional International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Rainier Beach High School.
2. New pathway in SE Seattle: Wing Luke Elementary to Aki Kurose Middle School to Garfield High School/the optional IB program at Rainier Beach High School.

These programs may launch as soon as next school year. Thurgood Marshall Elementary currently has 320 APP students, and is expected to grow to 380 by the year 2022. The North End APP program has almost 600 APP students currently at Lincoln Elementary, and is expected to grow to over 700 by the year 2022.

In the North End, SPS proposes a single APP elementary location at Wilson Pacific, with three middle school pathways: Jane Addams, Wilson Pacific and Hamilton Middle Schools. The high school pathways remain Garfield High School or the optional IB program at Ingraham High School.

The entire SPS proposal is available online at: <http://bit.ly/GrowthBoundaries>

What is the potential impact to Thurgood Marshall APP families?

Your PTA Board is concerned that with limited SPS resources for advanced learning, the optional pathways might dilute the resources available to each location, including Thurgood Marshall. The District has not assured us there is additional funding to support the new APP sites. We are concerned that the redistribution of resources will result in inequities of APP delivery throughout the District.

Your Action Needed - 5 Minutes Only!

It should take no more than 5 minutes to complete these two brief surveys.

Step One by Saturday, October 19, at midnight

Complete a brief five-question survey to share your thoughts with the Thurgood Marshall PTA here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3QWX3TN>

Step Two by Monday, October 21, at 6 pm

Tell SPS what you think of the changes via their brief, two-question survey online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7BKFRS3>

Leave the number area blank and write "APP" in the "Other" Field. Under "Comments" please briefly state your thoughts on these changes.

Please email the Thurgood Marshall PTA at president@tmlink.org if you have questions. Thank you for your time on this important issue affecting Thurgood Marshall Elementary!

This Friday: Interest Meeting for Fall Dance

Please join us for a Fall Dance interest meeting this Friday, October 18th at 3:00 pm in the staff lounge at school. We will be planning the event, discussing decorations, games and activities, and more. Bring your own ideas, too! If you are interested please email our Fall Dance Chair Shyla Wilcynski at: shyla@consciously-chic.com for more information.

Visit the Thurgood Marshall PTA website at www.tmlink.org for more news from our school.

Conflict Mediator Update

Already 60 students from the 4th and 5th grades have applied to become Conflict Mediators! The training will be held Monday-Friday, October 21-25 from 8:15 am - 9:30 am.

All five days of training are required for students to become Conflict Mediators. Please arrive at the Library on time, having eaten breakfast, and ready to work.

If you have prior classes or commitments, please note that we are asking you to miss these next week. Without all 5 days of training, conflict mediators may not feel comfortable, prepared, or effective in their mediation techniques. Thank you for your understanding!

- Meghan Kaloper, School Counselor

Looking for Part Time Work?

Nutrition Services is now recruiting for Lunchroom Assistant positions! Be a part of the Nutrition Services Team, serving quality, nutritious meals in a friendly, caring environment. Individuals interested in part time work (1-3 hours) are encouraged to complete an on-line application at www.seattleschools.org. For more information, please contact Teresa Fields, Personnel Manager at 206-252-0681.

PTA Membership Cards

If you provided your email address when you joined the Thurgood Marshall PTA you will soon receive a membership card via email from the Washington State PTA. If you did not supply your email but would like a copy of your membership card, please email us at president@tmlink.org.

If you have not yet joined the PTA, you can complete the form (available online at www.tmlink.org under "PTA Forms"), write a check for \$12 (Individual Membership) or \$22 (Family Membership) and leave it in the Main Office.

Enrichment Calendar is Online

Find the calendar for Before and After School Enrichment Classes online at www.tmlink.org under "Useful School Links" on the left hand side.

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.