

# PUP PRESS

Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

OCTOBER 31, 2013

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 9



## THE THURSDAY NOTE:

As we head into these last weeks of the 2013 year before winter break begins, I want to share with you the wonderfully inclusive and integrative ways our programs at Thurgood Marshall interact with one another. While it is evident that we serve three distinctly different programs - Peace Academy, General Education, and the Accelerated Progress Program (APP) - it may not be so obvious how these programs work together to meet the needs of our students.

Every Friday morning at our all-school assembly we celebrate diverse student performances, highlight positive character traits, and say the Thurgood Marshall pledge in one voice. At our first assembly this year Principal Julie Breidenbach explained how we are a diverse community of learners with different needs. For example, most students sit on the floor during assembly, but our students from the Peace Academy sit in chairs next to their teachers. Julie explained that while we are all expected to display good audience behavior during assembly, sometimes Peace Academy students may call out or may need to walk around because they have a different way of communicating and behaving. She explained that we should continue to attend to the performance, that it is nothing to be alarmed by when someone communicates differently. Being flexible, accepting and compassionate of others is truly a part of the culture here at Thurgood Marshall.

We also integrate programs through classroom inclusion. Once a week fifth grade students in Mrs. Kierstead's class join some of our Peace Academy students for a 40-minute Physical Education class. Last week Mr. Shin asked the students to pay each other compliments at the end of class. Many beautiful compliments were exchanged. Every student from Mrs. Kierstead's class specifically complimented each child from the Peace Academy for trying their best and for having a positive attitude. These positive relationships often carry over into recess where some of the children choose to play together. Classroom integration is a powerful way for our children to experience and learn compassion, empathy, and gratitude. Unfortunately such integration doesn't always happen naturally. A common response to someone who is different from us is to be fearful or withdrawn. Mrs. Kierstead teaches her students that differences are nothing to be afraid of and that acting with compassion can feel really good.

Some of our Peace Academy students are included in academic classes with Mrs. Howard-Powell's second grade class and Mrs. Swarts' kindergarten class. Both classrooms openly welcome students with autism as they solve math problems side-by-side. It is amazing to watch our second graders take ownership of welcoming the Peace Academy students and to watch them demonstrate mastery of math concepts when explaining their thinking to a student with autism. For students with autism who are developmentally ready to integrate, spending time in the general education setting is a critical learning experience for practicing social interactions and observing peer models.

Thurgood Marshall is to be commended for these efforts to integrate as a learning community and to maximize the potential of every child. We acknowledge that we have areas for growth and there are other opportunities that may benefit our students. I welcome your feedback and questions.

- Assistant Principal Christine Helm

## Special Note: Mad Science

There will be no Mad Science class on Thursday, Oct. 31 due to instructor unavailability. The final class will be held on Nov. 21.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### November 4

Picture Retake/Class Group Photos

### November 11

NO SCHOOL - Veterans Day

### November 15

All-School Fall Dance  
6-8 pm in Cafeteria

### November 21

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

### November 23-27

Parent-Teacher Conferences

### November 25-29

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

### December 14, Saturday

Pancake Breakfast  
9-10 am in Cafeteria

## TUTU'S PANTRY CALENDAR

Non-perishable food donations can be placed in the large red bin inside the school entrance.

### November 4

2nd Grade Donations

### November 12

3rd Grade Donations

### November 18

4th Grade Donations

### December 2

5th Grade Donations

### December 9

PEACE & Kindergarten Donations

### December 16

1st Grade Donations

## You Don't Want to Miss This!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15th from 6-8 PM in the cafeteria



Don't forget your cameras because there will be more than just dancing at the upcoming Fall Dance. Fun activities are planned, including a fortune teller, craft and activity tables, and a bean bag toss plus a few surprises! This year there will be food available for purchase so please bring cash if you wish to eat.

We still need donated fall décor, e.g., uncarved pumpkins, leaf garlands, scarecrows, etc. If you have anything that might work, or you would like to help, please contact the Chair at [shyla@consciously-chic.com](mailto:shyla@consciously-chic.com).

## Do You Shop on Amazon.com?

When you use our school link to shop online at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), you earn 6% of each purchase for the Thurgood Marshall PTA – at no additional cost to you! Visit [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org) and click on our Amazon button. Bookmark it and start your Amazon shopping here every time.

## A Sweet Treat for Our Troops

Donate some or all of your Halloween candy to be sent to deployed U.S. service members and wounded soldiers. Place candy in the labeled box located in the school's main office from Oct. 31 - Nov. 8.

## Your PTA Thanks You For Your Feedback

Thank you to all the Thurgood Marshall families that provided feedback to the PTA regarding the District's "Growth Boundaries" proposal. It was very helpful! We used the APP survey results to help craft our response to Superintendent Banda and the School Board Directors. Our letter and the results of our APP survey, plus the Seattle Council PTSA's letter to the District, are all online at [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org).

The Superintendent's final recommendation will be released on Nov. 1 and the School Board will vote on the proposal on Nov. 20. Please email us at [president@tmlink.org](mailto:president@tmlink.org) if you have any thoughts or comments.

## A Greenway in Our Neighborhood

The City of Seattle is planning to install a neighborhood greenway - a residential street that provides a comfortable place to walk, ride a bike, skate and run - in the 23rd Avenue Corridor between East Roanoke Street and Rainier Avenue South. To help finalize the greenway's route, the City is gathering input at a Community Open House on Wednesday, Nov. 6, from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Nova High School auditorium located at 300 20th Avenue East.

For more information please visit the project website: [www.seattle.gov/transportation/23rdgreenway.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/23rdgreenway.htm) OR contact Maribel Cruz at [Maribel.Cruz@seattle.gov](mailto:Maribel.Cruz@seattle.gov).

## Emergency Forms Must Be Turned In Now

Hopefully you already turned in your completed Emergency Forms to the school. If you have not received the TWO forms sent home with students last week, please contact the main office immediately for a copy. You must complete hard copies, so we are unable to email the forms to you. These forms will help staff and students locate you in the event of a school evacuation.

## Tutu's Pantry Needs Friday Volunteers!



We need your help to get backpacks ready for students to take home on Fridays. We currently have 35 students signed up to receive food for the weekends.

Please consider spending some time on Fridays, maybe with a group of your friends, packing food into backpacks. We need 3 to 4 people to help.

Our other volunteer needs are: • Monday morning "shelver" (1 person); • Thursday AM or PM "shelver" (1 person); • Communications volunteer to send email reminders and thank you notes (1-2 people); • Program coordinator for the next school year with training provided this year (1 person); • Holiday giving coordinator (1-2 people).

If you can help, please contact program coordinator Barbara Staley at [bstaley@comcast.net](mailto:bstaley@comcast.net) or 206-355-5601.

## Award Winning Author Visits Our School

On November 13th the award winning Northwest author Paul Owen Lewis will visit Thurgood Marshall to share his work and his writing process during an all-school assembly. Mr. Lewis has received many awards for his children's picture books, including a 1996 American Book Award, the 1995 Best Children's Book of the Pacific Northwest, and a 1996 Washington State Governor's Award. Two of his books, *Storm Boy* and *Frog Girl*, highlight the style and icons of Northwest coast Native Americans.

If you would like to purchase a signed copy of one of Paul Owen Lewis' books, please complete the attached form and return it with payment to Mrs. Hudson, Thurgood Marshall Librarian, by Nov. 8.

## Free Flu Vaccines

Help protect yourself and your family from the flu this season. The Public Health Department is providing free flu vaccines on Nov. 2 at several locations. You will not be asked for proof of health insurance or citizenship. The vaccine is for people 6 months and older, especially pregnant women, the elderly and people with health problems like diabetes and heart disease.

### When:

Saturday, Nov., 2, 10 am – 1 pm

### Where:

Columbia Public Health Center, 4400 37th Ave. S., Seattle, WA  
Eastgate Public Health Center, 14350 SE Eastgate Way, Bellevue, WA  
Renton Public Health Center, 3001 NE 4th St., Renton, WA  
Federal Way Public Health Center, 33431 13th Pl., Federal Way, WA

Visit [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org) for more school news and updates.

**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.