

PUP PRESS

Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

SEPTEMBER 5, 2013

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

A LOOK AHEAD

September 12th

2nd Grade Potluck at 5:30pm-7:00pm in school cafeteria

September 17th

PTA General Meeting at 6:30-8:00pm in school library

September 18th

K & 1st Grade Potluck at 5:30-7:00 pm in school cafeteria

September 18-20th

5th Grade to Camp Orkila

September 19th

3rd Grade Potluck at 5:30-7:00pm in school cafeteria

September 24th

4th Grade Potluck at 5:30- 7:00pm in school cafeteria

September 25th

Curriculum Night/Open House
Grades K-2nd, PEACE: 6pm-7pm
Grades 3rd-5th: 7:00pm-8:00pm

October 2nd

5th Grade Potluck at 5:30- 7:00pm in school cafeteria

October 3rd

Picture Day

November 15th

All-School Fall Dance in the evening (exact time TBD) in school cafeteria

November 21st

PTA General Meeting at 6:30-8:00pm in school library

December 14th

All-School Pancake Breakfast & Student Art Walk at 9:00am in the school cafeteria

THE THURSDAY NOTE:



Welcome to another school year! This is my thirteenth year as a principal, and never have I experienced a more interesting start to the school year. The transition to our new student information system has certainly tested my patience. We finished printing final class lists just ten minutes before the start of the sneak peek event.

Thank you all for understanding that there will be glitches as we implement the new system. No matter the challenges, Thurgood Marshall teachers and staff are excited to open their classrooms and are eager to challenge our almost 500 students.

I'd like to thank the parent volunteers who worked on September 3rd. This dedicated group made short work of the important task of putting together the first day packets. Please be sure to read over all the forms and return the necessary ones. It's okay to take a few days with this task, with one exception. The form to qualify for lunch support must be returned ASAP so that children will continue to receive the support.

I am excited to welcome Ms. Helm, our assistant principal. Though the entire school will benefit from her presence, I am especially fortunate to have someone to collaborate with and share the work load. For the first time ever, I will be able to focus more deeply on fewer tasks. Ms. Helm will be the administrator in charge of grades K-3; I will have grades 4 and 5. So if you have a question about the curriculum, an IEP, a discipline situation, or a classroom question, see Ms. Helm if your child is in grades K-3.

Should you have a question or concern about what is happening in your child's classroom, please take it first to the teacher before contacting Ms. Helm or me. I can assure you that this is an exceptionally professional and committed teaching staff who will listen and respond with respect and compassion.

Also, the playground is now open after school for students and their care-givers. Students must be accompanied by an adult as this is unsupervised time.

Curriculum Night is September 25th. Classroom presentations for K-2 and PEACE Academy students are from 6pm-7pm, and from 7pm-8-pm for grades 3-5. For families that cannot find childcare, I offer a very minimally supervised childcare option in the lunchroom. One staff member will check students in and out, and a second staff member will circulate to keep the peace. Students need to bring their own work and/or activities. We will accept students in grades K-5, but no younger, due to the very minimal adult supervision.

Welcome back for another great year!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

It was wonderful to meet so many of you at the First Day Coffee and Tea. Thank you to all the parents/guardians who have already signed up to volunteer this year. Below are some specific volunteer positions still in need of help.

Pup Press Distribution: Copy and distribute the Pup Press to classrooms on Thursday mornings. As little as 1.5 hours required, less once we go electronic!

Fall Dance: Help plan the all-school Fall Dance scheduled for November 15. A great opportunity if you like music, decorating or party planning.

Lunchline Help: Volunteer during the lunch hour (11am-12pm) to help the lines run smoothly.

If you are interested in any kind of volunteering at Thurgood Marshall please contact Volunteer Coordinator Wendy Eckert at: wseckert@yahoo.com or (206) 769-8842.

WELCOME FROM THE PTA

On behalf of the Thurgood Marshall PTA, we welcome you to the new school year! This Friday your student will be coming home with a packet of information from the PTA. Please review it for details about upcoming events, the Annual Giving Fund, the latest Before/After-School Enrichment Classes, and our School Directory.



Please note that in order for the PTA to communicate with you, or to include you in our School Directory, you must complete these forms. We thank you in advance for taking the time to complete them!

DEADLINE September 13: Before/After School Enrichment registration form is due. All other PTA forms due September 20.

The PTA information packet also includes details about volunteer opportunities. Please consider finding a way, small or large, to contribute your time. Getting involved in school events is a rewarding way to connect with the Thurgood Marshall community. We welcome your suggestions, and the PTA Board is happy to support you.

To kick-start the year and help you meet the families and students in your child's grade, the PTA hosts "grade-level" potlucks in September and October. All potlucks will be held in the school cafeteria from 5:30-7:00pm. Please see the Calendar in the Pup Press to learn when your grade's potluck is scheduled.

FALL ENRICHMENT CLASSES ARE HERE!

The Thurgood Marshall PTA sponsors a variety of before and after school enrichment programs. Enrichment Class Catalogs will be sent home this week in the PTA Welcome Packet.

Registration forms for the Fall Session are **DUE FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13**. Classes begin the week of September 23rd. Some classes fill up quickly so please register early. For more prompt registration, return the form and payment to the Enrichment box in the front office. Classes are open to all Thurgood Marshall students and siblings from other schools. Scholarship funds are available.

Corrections to Catalog: Math Circle is only for grades 2-3, *not* for grades 2-5 as stated in the catalog. Karate uniforms will cost \$25. No karate on 10/14.

Questions? Please contact Enrichment Program Coordinators Sudeshna Sen at sarashinanikki@gmail.com or Caryn Gold at carynlgold@yahoo.com.

DRESS CODE FOR P.E.

Please make a note of your child's P.E. day(s) for each week; for some classes it changes by the week. Required dress for P.E. days are as follows:

Boys - Regular school clothes with athletic shoes are acceptable. They may also wear shorts and a t-shirt with athletic shoes. No black heeled shoes/dress shoes.

Girls-Athletic shoes and regular school clothes are acceptable. No bare midriff. No thin-spaghetti strap tops. No sheer tops. No heels. No dangling earrings or bracelets. Stud ear rings are fine. If your child wears a skirt, wear shorts underneath.

COUNSELING AVAILABLE

School Counselor Meghan Kaloper, MA Ed., NCC, will continue to offer guidance lessons in the classrooms, run small counseling groups, consult with teachers and families, and work with some students one on one. She is currently seeking students for the following groups:

- ♦ Divorce support group ♦ Grief/Loss group
- ♦ Friendship making group ♦ Social Skills group
- ♦ Anger/Emotion management group

Other classroom-wide and group counseling opportunities will occur throughout the year. Contact Ms. Kaloper if you would like your student to receive additional support or practice working on specific skills at mrharris@seattleschools.org or (206) 252-2808.

Read more about the counseling program on the Seattle Public Schools website at www.marshalles.seattleschools.org under "Services." Coming soon to the PTA site at www.tmlink.org.

TUTU'S PANTRY: LET'S FILL THOSE BINS!

Created as a way to extend the school's subsidized breakfast and lunch program throughout the weekend, Tutu's Pantry is a weekly food donation program designed to help families in the Thurgood Marshall community who would like some assistance. Backpacks full of food donations are sent home with students each Friday while school is in session. Any family currently enrolled in Thurgood Marshall who feels they would benefit from the program may apply. Families may opt-in or opt-out at anytime during the school year.

Food items will be collected in the big red bins inside the main school entrance. Non-perishable items are needed, such as canned meats, pasta, rice, beans, peanut butter and cereal. Tutu's volunteers sort and distribute the food.

The first food-filled backpacks go home with students on Friday, October 4th. See the schedule below for suggested weekly grade-level food donations.

Sept. 9: PEACE	Sept. 30: 3rd Grade
Sept. 16: 1st Grade	Oct. 7: 4th Grade
Sept. 23: 2nd Grade	Oct. 14: 5th Grade

Watch the Pup Press for future donation dates!

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