

PUP PRESS



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THE THURSDAY NOTE:



As your new Assistant Principal, I wish to express how thrilled I am to join the Thurgood Marshall community! Thank you for warmly welcoming me. I can't help but notice what an efficiently run school Thurgood Marshall is. I consistently hear our staff stress the importance of hard work and practicing every day to achieve your goals. I feel right at home with this philosophy.

For the past two years I served as Assistant Principal for Whittier Elementary, and before that I was a primary teacher for nine years. I believe the most important determinant of quality education is the relationship between teacher and student, and the level of rigor that takes place in the classroom. I work to develop collaboration between parents, community members, and educators to create a powerful support system for our students. My role this year is to support the staff, students, and families in Grades K – 3, and to support literacy instruction in classrooms in order to increase every child's love and mastery of reading and writing.

Your child may have mentioned that he or she was already asked to produce three on demand writing assessments this year. These assessments are required in grades K-5 and provide teachers with a true baseline of their students' skills in personal narrative, opinion, and informational writing. Students will repeat this process in the spring and be able to acknowledge the progress made during the year.

We look forward to seeing families for Curriculum Night on September 26th. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your child's teacher and learn their plans and expectations for your child this year. Please remember the parking lot fills up quickly and be respectful of our neighbors by leaving driveways clear on the surrounding streets.

We respectfully request that *all* children stay at home for Curriculum Night due to the large number of people in the building and the nature of the conversation in each classroom. One adult will be available in the cafeteria to supervise only those students of Thurgood Marshall who cannot be left with an adult at home. Unfortunately, we cannot supervise younger or older siblings.

I look forward to getting to know each one of your children and as many parents as I can. You can reach me at cmhelm@seattleschools.org or (206)252-2802.

- Christine Helm, Assistant Principal, Thurgood Marshall Elementary

Grade Level Potlucks



Join other families in your child's grade for a "get acquainted" potluck dinner. This is a family event for everyone, including siblings. Socialize with the families and children that your child is interacting with and learning with each day. Put those names and faces together! Potlucks will be held in the cafeteria from 5:30-7:00 pm on the following days:

3rd Grade: TONIGHT! 4th Grade: Sept. 24th 5th Grade: Oct. 2nd

Instrumental Music and Choir Begins

If you have a 4th or 5th grader beginning an instrument this year, you should have received a note from Mr. Pendergrass and/or Mr. Yarr confirming the instrument and lesson time for your student. If not, please contact Mr. Pendergrass right away at ependergrass@seattleschools.org. **Note:** Students need an instrument and book for lessons starting the week of September 30th.

Choir starts next week! Prep Choir for grades 1-3 meets Tuesday before school from 8:10-9:10 am starting September 24th. Cantate Choir for grades 4-5 meets Thursday before school from 8:10-9:10 am starting September 26th.

CALENDAR

Tonight!

September 19th

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

September 23rd

SPS Boundary Change Meeting 6:30pm-8:00pm
Mercer Middle School

September 23rd

2nd Grade Donates to Tutu's Pantry

September 23rd

Choir Starts

Potluck!

September 24th

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

September 25th

SPS Boundary Change Meeting 6:30pm-8:00pm
West Seattle High School

All School!

September 26th

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

September 30th

3rd Grade donates to Tutu's Pantry

September 30th

SPS Boundary Change Meeting
6:30pm-8:00pm Meany Building

October 1st

APP AC Meeting 6:30pm-8:30pm
at Hamilton Middle School

Potluck!

October 2nd

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

October 3rd

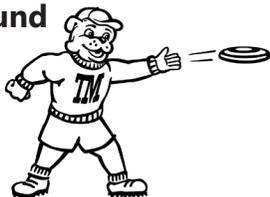
Deadline to submit APP application for your student

October 7th

Picture Day

Great Start for Annual Giving Fund

We are off to a great start having already raised more than \$26,000 in the first two weeks of school. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has already donated.



All donations help support staffing, the purchase of non-fiction books for the classrooms and library, classroom grants for teachers, and more. Every donation makes a difference!

The Annual Giving Fund is our **only** fundraising method during the year. ****By the end of September we hope to raise \$40,000 more and reach 20% participation. Please help us reach this fall goal!****

To make a donation: Return your completed Annual Giving Fund form (the *green* sheet in your PTA Welcome Packet) with a check made out to "Thurgood Marshall PTA." Mail to: TM Annual Giving Fund PO Box 22305 Seattle WA 98122, or send it into school in the envelope with your student. Donate online at www.tmlink.org.

Questions? Contact Casey Sommers, Annual Giving Fund Coordinator, at caseypilar@gmail.com.

Classes in Need of Students!

Several of our Enrichment classes are in danger of being cut due to lack of enrollment. There's still time to save them! Please contact Sudeshna Sen at sarashinanikki@gmail.com **by Friday September 20** if you wish to enroll in: Spanish, Artist Trading Cards, Basketball, Japanese or Math Circle.

Volunteer on Picture Day

We need one or two volunteers to help things run smoothly on Picture Day, October 7th. Please contact the Main Office if you are interested.

Tutu's Pantry: Sign-up Next Week!

If your student would like to start receiving a backpack full of donated food every Friday, please sign-up for our Tutu's Pantry program beginning next week. Look for a flyer in your student's backpack, and watch the Pup Press for updates.

If you are able to donate, please deposit non-perishable food items in the big red bins inside the school entrance. Thank you for helping Thurgood Marshall take care of its own!

From the School Board: Policy on Use of Pesticides

The Seattle School Board has adopted a policy to minimize the use of pesticides for such things as insects and weeds. They will focus on non-chemical controls such as good housekeeping in the classroom, the acceptance of weeds in lawns, and students' and volunteers' assistance to remove invasive plants and weeds in the landscape and school gardens.

School Board policy requires posted notification 48 hours prior to application of a pesticide. Every effort will be made to apply the pesticide during a weekend or student break. Please contact our Main Office if you have ideas on how to reduce the use of pesticides at our school.

Due Now - Student Directory Forms

Don't forget to turn in the blue student directory form (found in your PTA Welcome Packet). The Student Directory is *the* best resource for families who wish to connect with each other. Your child will have no listing without a form. Please send it to school with your child or drop it off at the Main Office by TOMORROW, Friday, September 20th.

Volunteer for "Shoes that Fit"

This year Nurse Chin is looking for two volunteers to help run the Shoes That Fit program. This only requires 2 to 3 hours on September 26th, and then 3 hours for distribution sometime in November. Shoes That Fit is an all volunteer network helping children in thousands of schools across the nation eliminate one of poverty's most visible and debilitating marks. Contact Molly Chin at mchin@seattleschools.org for details.

Computer Use in School: What You Should Know

While your child is a student at Thurgood Marshall he or she will have an opportunity to use the school computers. Many parents have expressed concern their child may be "surfing the world wide web" at school. Surfing the web is using the internet and World Wide Web without restrictions or without supervision. That doesn't happen in our classrooms, the Thurgood Marshall library, or in the computer lab. You should know that:

- All the computers are networked and filtered by the district. The filter blocks many websites, including Facebook, email and other social sites, and many on-line game sites and image sites.
- Computer time is very limited in classrooms and in the library.
- Children must use the library computers with a purpose. I have a list of programs/sites where students create something or find information. They may use computers for research with permission from their classroom teacher.
- All students sign an "Acceptable Use" form promising to use the computers safely, responsibly, and respectfully and not to infringe on copyright.

If you are still concerned, an "Opt Out Form" is available that would restrict your child to computer use only with the direction of the teacher for teacher selected sites.

In 18 years of teaching, I have not had a problem with the filter or the district. If anything the district errs on the side of caution. Please contact me with any questions at: mhudson@seattleschools.org or (206) 252-2800.

- Merilee Hudson, School Librarian

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.