

# PUP PRESS



Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

### Nov. 15, Friday

All-School Fall Dance  
6-8 pm in Cafeteria

### Nov. 21, Thursday

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

### Nov. 23-27, Saturday-Wednesday

Parent-Teacher Conferences

### Nov. 25-29, Monday-Friday

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

### Dec. 2-6, Monday-Friday

Scholastic Book Fair in Library

### Dec. 14, Saturday

Pancake Breakfast  
9-11 am in Cafeteria

*\*Note: Last week's Pup Press incorrectly stated time as 9-10 am*

## TUTU'S PANTRY CALENDAR

Non-perishable food donations should be placed in the large red bin inside the school entrance, **or brought to any school event.**

### Nov. 18

4th Grade Donations

### Dec. 2

5th Grade Donations

### Dec. 9

PEACE & Kindergarten Donations

### Dec. 16

1st Grade Donations

### Jan. 6

2nd Grade Donations

### Jan. 13

3rd Grade Donations

## THE THURSDAY NOTE:



Do you ever wonder how teachers can possibly challenge all their students given the wide range of abilities and personalities in their classrooms?

It is no small task! The keys to success are: specific knowledge of each child's current skill level and an understanding of their grade level's developmentally appropriate benchmarks and standards. In education, the process of accepting and planning for different learning styles, developmental levels, personalities, and interests, with the intention of growing and challenging them all, is called "differentiation."

Differentiated instruction starts with a road map called the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The CCSS is designed to help teachers identify current learning levels and determine what each child needs to learn next in order to demonstrate growth. At Thurgood Marshall, we are discussing how we will prepare and hold our students accountable to the newer and more challenging standards of the CCSS. Our teachers are learning the new standards not only for their own grade level, but for the grade levels above and below in order to help students reach CCSS targets. Teachers use multiple measures to determine students' present level in each subject. We then track student progress across the year, adjusting learning targets based on their progress.

It's important for families to know that we provide multiple access points for the wide range of learners in our classrooms, and that this looks different in every classroom. While a lesson is generally designed around one topic, different tasks may be assigned based on interest level and/or ability. For example, everyone may be learning three digit addition problems, but a small group of students is ready to tackle single digit multiplication and the teacher thoughtfully presents choices so no child feels either "ahead" or "behind" the class.

Teachers are also having direct conversations with readers to find their "just right" reading level. While we all are learning to make predictions when we read, the child reading *Charlotte's Web* may have a very different analysis compared to the child reading *The Hunger Games*. We can keep the focus of the activity the same, and still challenge each student appropriately.

Please join me on Nov. 21 at the PTA meeting to learn more about the Common Core State Standards. I look forward to seeing you there!

-Assistant Principal Christine Helm



## Fall Dance this Friday at 6 pm

Our school Fall Dance is tomorrow, Nov. 15 from 6 - 8 pm in the cafeteria/gym. Join us for an evening of family fun! You don't want to miss:

- Food truck vendor, LocalDogs will sell yummy hot dogs
- Activities and crafts for all ages
- Music and dancing



If you haven't yet, please sign up for a 30-minute slot to volunteer at the dance. Sign up online at [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/508084EA9A62BA64-fall/5932664](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/508084EA9A62BA64-fall/5932664).

We hope all students will dance along with us to everyone's favorite song, "What Does the Fox Say?" You can learn the steps to this popular and funny dance online at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWJPM5ui44](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWJPM5ui44).

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

## Help Display Student Art



Our lovely and busy art teacher, Ms. Martin, has requested a volunteer art liaison to help gather, compile and hang our students' beautiful artwork around the school.

If you can help, please email Ms. Martin at [bamartin@seattleschools.org](mailto:bamartin@seattleschools.org). Thank you!

## 77% Decrease in Aggressive Behaviors

Three cheers for our Conflict Mediators! Since our Conflict Mediators and Recess Mentors began duty in late October we have seen a 77% decrease in office referrals for behaviors such as physical aggression, defiance, and other problematic playground behaviors that accompany conflicts. The hard work and dedication of our Mediators and Mentors is helping to make our school a happier and safer place for all students. Thank you for all that you do, Conflict Mediator Team!

- Ms. Kaloper, School Counselor

## October Collection of Box Tops a Success!



We are happy to report that the box tops collected at school last month will bring in over \$130 to Thurgood Marshall. So keep collecting and bringing in those box tops.

Be aware there are two competing programs out there: "Box Tops for Education" and "Labels for Education." Thurgood Marshall participates in the "Box Tops for Education" program, and the box tops look like the one shown above.

## Student Directories Are Here

The all-important School Directory was handed out last week to every student, so please check those backpacks for a bright yellow directory. We know families rely on this valuable resource to get in touch with other families for playdates and birthday parties, as well as for contacting staff members. This is one way your PTA Annual Fund contributions are put to good use every year.

The PTA Board would like to extend a huge "THANK YOU!" to Cara Holloway for her tremendous time and energy on this project. It takes a great deal of time and perseverance to produce this, and we all appreciate it. Be sure to thank Cara if you see her.

If you did not receive a Directory, please contact us at [president@tmlink.org](mailto:president@tmlink.org).

## ✂ Donate (or Receive) a Thanksgiving Meal-in-a-Bag ✂

A reminder that next Friday, Nov. 22, we will distribute the ingredients for a full Thanksgiving meal to our families in need. If you would like to donate a meal, please contact Barbara Staley at [bstaley@comcast.net](mailto:bstaley@comcast.net).

If you would like to receive a Thanksgiving-meal-in-a-bag, please complete this short form below and send it to the front office.

Thanksgiving-in-a-Bag: Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Room Number \_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

## Ass't. Principal & Counselor Join Nov. 21 PTA Mtg.

Please join us **Thursday, Nov. 21, at 6:30 pm in the Library** for the PTA General meeting. School Counselor Meghan Kaloper and Vice Principal Christine Helm will be joining us. See the "Thursday Note" from Ms. Helm in this week's *Pup Press*. If you have a question for either of them, please email us at [president@tmlink.org](mailto:president@tmlink.org).

## A Word from Our Students

This year 5th graders in Mrs. Kierstead's class are joining Peace Academy students for PE class once a week. Below one student shares how the experience has impacted her.

Working with the Peace Academy has been so cool. After going out to recess and having PE with them, I was inspired to write this article. Everyone in our class and Mrs. Humphrey's class enjoys it. I think it's really just amazing to get to work with them, from playing tag, to talking about super heroes, and just being with them. I never really knew much about the Peace Academy before this, but once I got to know and understand them, I realized that we had a lot more in common than I thought. When we play at recess, my Peace Academy friends have similar interests and enjoy playing on the monkey bars as much as us. We go to PE with them on Thursdays, and playing tag is so much fun! I feel really lucky that I have had the chance to get to know the Peace Academy.

- Rylee Jo Bundesmann, 5th Grader in Mrs. Kierstead's class

## Shop to Support Our School

Do you shop online? Remember that for each purchase made on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), via the [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org) web site, 6% is donated back to Thurgood Marshall. **Note:** you must start your shopping via the Amazon link on [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org) in order to help Thurgood Marshall.

Business owners who wish to donate a portion of their proceeds to the PTA Annual Giving Fund may contact us to learn how we can help publicize fundraising promotions. For more information, please contact us at [caseypilar@gmail.com](mailto:caseypilar@gmail.com).

## The Latest on SPS "Growth Boundaries" Plan

The Seattle School Board met yesterday evening to discuss possible amendments to their Growth Boundaries plan. The impact of these amendments is not yet known. We will post any relevant news online at [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org) later this week and will send an email update to all families who have supplied the PTA with their email address.