

PUP PRESS

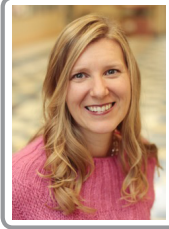


Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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THE THURSDAY NOTE:



I am honored and excited to be stepping up as Interim Principal at Thurgood Marshall for the rest of the year! I will miss working with Julie, and I wish to thank her for giving me so many leadership opportunities this year and also helping the community to get to know me. I love this school and feel very fortunate to have found a community dedicated to educating all children to their highest potential. Our staff is extremely intelligent, hard-working and collaborative, all of which strongly influences how amazing our students are!

My overall plan is to keep the school running as usual and approach all issues the way "Julie" would have, so as to implement a seamless and predictable transition. I will be continuing my stance of listening and learning about our school culture in order to understand the history and context of how and why we operate the way we do. While I will work hard to support the entire staff, I will also continue to support and supervise students and families in kindergarten through 3rd grades. We will hire an interim assistant principal who will supervise and support the teachers, students and families in grades 4 and 5. I will work with this person to assure the needs of the teachers, students and families are met.

My current professional goals as a Principal are:

- 1) School Culture and Safety
 - Promoting shared leadership, collaborative decision-making and problem-solving
 - Delivering proactive and transparent communication with all stakeholders
 - Leading assemblies that promote a positive school culture
- 2) Instructional Excellence
 - Defining a common understanding of best instructional practices
 - Delivering useful feedback to support and elevate instructional practices
 - Strategically supporting our struggling students to attain positive results
 - Measuring students' achievement, and ensuring that every child is growing
- 3) Community Engagement
 - Hosting community events where all families feel welcome and see themselves as invested partners in their children's education

I thank you in advance for your confidence and support as I make this exciting transition. I also welcome your feedback, suggestions and assistance in shaping the bright future of our school.

- Christine Helm, Interim Principal

EVENTS CALENDAR

TONIGHT! Jan. 23 @ 7 pm
Instrumental Concert

Jan. 31, Friday
NO SCHOOL - Day Between Semesters

Feb. 7, Friday
Lunar New Year Celebration at 5:30 pm in the Cafeteria

Feb. 12, 26 & March 5
School Tours @ 8:45 am
Meet in Library

Feb. 17-21
NO SCHOOL - Mid Winter Break

TUTU'S PANTRY CALENDAR

Non-perishable food donations can be placed in the large red bins inside school entrance. Grade levels may donate by week (see below).

Jan. 27:	5th Grade
Feb. 3:	Kindergarten/PEACE
Feb. 10:	1st Grade
Feb. 24:	2nd Grade
March 3:	3rd Grade
March 10:	4th Grade

Cover That Cough

Please remember this is the height of flu season. Cover your cough and wash your hands often. Let's keep our students and staff healthy!

Thank you.

Safety Announcement: Lockdown Drill

Next week we will have a lockdown drill. Teachers will review the procedures with students beforehand and the drill will last for about 10 minutes. This will prepare us in case a harmful intruder is on or near our campus. In such an event, we would lock all doors and hide in safe places. Please talk about this as a family in order to reduce any unnecessary anxiety. Thank you.

Volunteers Still Needed!

We are looking for a volunteer to chair our annual Teacher Appreciation Week (May 5-9). We also encourage interested parents/guardians to join the Nominating Committee for next year's PTA Board. If you want to reach out to members of our diverse community, consider joining the Connecting Community Committee. Please email Wendy Eckert for details at wseckert@yahoo.com.

Want more? Visit the Thurgood Marshall PTA online at www.tmlink.org for more Pup Press, a calendar of school events, and more.

Concert Tonight Made Possible by Your Donations



Total Raised to Date: \$102,550

Did you know the Instrumental Music Concert tonight is made possible by your donations to the PTA Annual Giving Fund? The Seattle School District does not fully fund the music program at our school, so the PTA helps pay the salary for Mr. Pendergrass, our wonderful choir and band teacher. Unlike many Seattle schools, at Thurgood Marshall we are fortunate to have both general music classes for all students and instrumental music for 4th- and 5th-graders. As a result, our students are well prepared for the outstanding music programs at Washington Middle School and Garfield High School.

The Annual Giving Fund goal this year is 60% family participation, and so far we are at 38%. A donation of any amount counts as participation! Please make a donation today and help support the music program at Thurgood Marshall.

Everyone who makes a donation in January receives a free TM license plate frame. Make checks payable to "Thurgood Marshall PTA." Mail donations to Thurgood Marshall Annual Giving Fund, PO Box 22305, Seattle, WA 98122, send it into school with your student, or donate online at www.tmlink.org.

Questions? Please email Casey Sommers at caseypilar@gmail.com.

FREE Dental Screenings

Free dental screenings for all children will be offered on Feb. 23 at The Center for Pediatric Dentistry in honor of National Children's Dental Health Month. No reservations needed. Plenty of free parking. If you have questions please call 206-543-5800 or visit www.TheCenterForPediatricDentistry.com.

Who: All children ages 0-18; children with special needs especially welcome!

When: Saturday, Feb. 23, 9 am-12 pm

Where: The Center for Pediatric Dentistry at 6222 NE 74th St. (off Sand Point Way NE, inside Magnuson Park)

Get Creative with Bulletin Boards

Are you artistic/crafty/creative? We need a volunteer to help update and maintain the bulletin boards in the school's main entrance. Post photos from school events, celebrate holidays and the change of seasons, and much more! Your ideas are welcome and encouraged. Email Julia Janak at juliajanak@gmail.com if you are interested.

PTA Supports Transition to New Principal

The Thurgood Marshall PTA wishes Principal Breidenbach all the best as she transitions to her new role as Principal of Fairmount Park Elementary in West Seattle. She helped create an inclusive and powerful culture of learning here at Thurgood Marshall, and we will miss her greatly.

We're excited that Christine Helm has been named Interim Principal. During the past six months, Ms. Helm has brought her own brand of positive leadership to our school, and we look forward to her expanded responsibilities. Last night the PTA hosted a Q&A session with Ms. Helm and Ms. Breidenbach (visit www.tmlink.org for details) to address your concerns about the leadership transition, and we will continue working to ensure a smooth one.

We'll let you know if there are other opportunities for parent involvement. In the meantime, please email your concerns to us at president@tmlink.org.

Positive Discipline at Home: A Class for Parents

Is your child's behavior bugging you? Do you experience whining, power struggles, bedtime hassles, dawdling, ignoring? You are invited to join us on **Jan. 30, 6:30-8:30 pm in the school Library** to hear Sound Discipline present "Parenting with Courage and Conviction," about using positive discipline in the home. You will learn how to: 1) Reduce power struggles; 2) Discipline with kindness and firmness; 3) Help children become responsible problem solvers; 4) Build connections to share your values; and 5) Be effective and enjoy being a parent.

Keep Drama & Art Class Alive!

Dear Parents - We need one more student to keep the Drama class (Wed. @ 8:10 am) and the Art & Stories class (Tues. @ 8:10 am) alive! If your child is interested, there's still time to register. Confirmations for all other Winter classes have been emailed to students.

Classes start Monday 1/27. The Enrichment Winter Schedule is attached to this *Pup Press* and can be found online at www.tmlink.org. **Note:** Change in Beginning Guitar. **Note:** No class on Friday, Jan. 31.

If you have registration questions, email Sudeshna Sen at sudeshnanw@gmail.com. For vendor questions, email Caryn Gold at carynlgold@yahoo.com.

Ultimate Frisbee Team Sign Up

Attention 3rd-, 4th- and 5th-graders! Join the Thurgood Marshall Coed Ultimate Frisbee team! We expect to have at least two teams this year. **Sign-up forms go home today.**

Ultimate frisbee is a non-contact team sport played on a field similar to a football field. Points are scored when a team catches the frisbee in the opponent's end zone. There are no referees; players make all the foul calls and resolve all the conflicts on the field. Ultimate is guided by The Spirit of the Game, where the responsibility to play by the rules falls upon the players. Ultimate frisbee is one of the fastest growing sports in the United States, and is played in more than 42 countries around the world.

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.