

PUP PRESS



Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 28, Friday

Thurgood Marshall Day

March 5, Wednesday

Community Mtg re Principal Hiring
@ 6:30 pm in the Library

March 26, Wednesday

2-Hour Early Dismiss @ 1:40 pm



THE THURSDAY NOTE:

Welcome back from mid-winter break! I hope you enjoyed some fun family time, and your kids are rested and ready to learn! Many of us are experiencing emotions around our "cheese" being moved,* requiring that we adjust to change. I appreciate all the support, constructive feedback, advice, and help you have shared with me. I genuinely feel the sense of community here at Thurgood Marshall, where parents care about all of our students and are solution-focused.

There are two ways you can get involved as our school moves forward into the hiring process for the principal position, as well as teaching slots that will come open.

Principal Hiring Process

Sarah Pritchett, the Seattle School District's Executive Director who supervises the leadership at Thurgood Marshall will head the principal hiring process. Ms. Pritchett will meet with the teaching staff and the parent community separately to hear the characteristics most desired for our next leader. A hiring committee of 10-12 people will be formed, including four parents (three plus one alternate). Ms. Pritchett suggests one parent from each of our three programs. **Interested parents can contact the PTA who will be working with Ms. Pritchett to choose committee members (see "Help Choose Our Principal" at right).** The hiring committee will evaluate and interview applicants, picking three finalists. These candidates will meet with Superintendent José Banda, and he will make the final decision. Important dates:

- March 5: Ms. Pritchett meets with TM community, 6:30 p.m. in the Library
- March 22 and/or 23: Interviews with Hiring Committee
- Superintendent's decision timeline is unknown

Teacher Hiring Process

Teacher hires follow a process and timeline agreed upon by the District and the teachers' union, the Seattle Education Association. Thurgood Marshall's available positions for 2014-15 will first be advertised, in early May, only to internal candidates who are already part- or full-time certificated teachers in the District. After all the internal candidates have secured positions within the Seattle Public Schools, the remaining open jobs can be advertised to external candidates, in early June. **We always strive to have a parent on a hiring committee and we will have at least three hiring committees this spring. To qualify, parents must attend a one-hour training**.** When I am compiling a team I will look at the list of parents who have been trained, provided to me by SEA, and I will personally select and call parents to serve on the hiring team. It is not yet clear how much of our process will occur in May or carry over into June, but I will update you as soon as we have made decisions.

"Thank You, PTA"

On behalf of the teachers on the second floor, I would like to enthusiastically thank our generous PTA and its supporters for funding our request to ceiling mount the classroom projectors. The teachers and students are ecstatic about having more open space thanks to the absence of the projector cart. We are hopeful the first floor will be funded next year. Thank you all for your generous donations and support!

- Christine Helm, Interim Principal

Tomorrow's Assembly

We will celebrate Thurgood Marshall Day during our Friday Morning Assembly at 9:35-10:15 am. There will be class performances and the Honorable Susan J. Craighead, Presiding Judge in Courtroom E942, will address the audience. We hope you will join us!

Help Choose Our Principal Join Principal Hiring Committee

We are seeking four parent volunteers (three plus one alternate) to serve on the Principal Hiring Committee led by the Seattle School District (see Principal Helm's column at left). We hope to include a parent from each of our programs: PEACE Academy, ALO and APP.

No training required. Participants must be available for one evening meeting the week of March 17, and all day either Sat., March 22 or Sun., March 23. Final dates will be announced shortly.

Deadline to join is March 7. If you are interested, email us by 4 pm on March 7 at president@tmlink.org. Include the following information: 1) Your child's current grade level and teacher; 2) Briefly state why you would like to join the committee; 3) If you have ever served on a hiring committee before, either here or at another school. Previous experience is not required.

- Sharmila Williams & Tasha Irvine,
PTA Co-Presidents

* The best-seller "Who Moved My Cheese?" by Dr. Spencer Johnson is a wonderful read for anyone who wants to more easily deal with change.

** To learn about the 1-hour parent training visit: www.seattlewea.org and click on "Hiring Training" under Resources.

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

Two Days Left in February Challenge Match!

Goal for February: \$1,775 more to raise

Every donation made in the *next two days* will count toward the February Challenge Match. If we can raise \$4,000, a group of Thurgood Marshall families will match the funds; they will donate an additional \$4,000.

This is an opportunity we can't miss! Every gift - \$5, \$50, \$250, \$500 - makes a difference! Donations made now help staffing and program decisions for the next school year. We've already raised \$107,653 this year, and we are 83% of the way to our goal of \$130,000!

Please make checks payable to: "Thurgood Marshall PTA." You can mail donations to TM Annual Giving Fund P.O. Box 22305 Seattle, WA 98112, send them in with your child, or go to www.tmlink.org to donate online. Thank you!

PTA UPDATE

Open PTA Positions for 2014-2015

Several key Board and job positions will be open next school year and the PTA is seeking volunteers to fill the following roles. We hope some new families will join our great team of volunteers!

Co-President
Secretary
Annual Fund Chair
Membership Chair (new for 2014-2015)
WebMaster
Pup Press Editor

Please consider giving your time, energy and talent. If you are interested, please contact our Nominating Committee Chairperson, Casey Sommers, via email at caseypilar@gmail.com. Job descriptions available upon request.

Help Select PTA Board Nominees

Help interview and select nominees for next year's PTA Board by volunteering for the Nominating Committee now. If you're interested please email Wendy Eckert at wseckert@yahoo.com.

Winners of School-wide Global Reading Challenge



Congratulations to the Reading Seahawks Team on their first Global Reading Challenge win at Thurgood Marshall yesterday! The team continues on to the regional round held March 3 at the Seattle Central Library.

Team members are: Adnah Haid, Brittney Ramierez Osorio, Celina Tran, Guthre Oakes, Madelyn Tanabe, Malachi Washington, Theresa Do and Brooklyn Kenny.

Safe Routes to School Update

The City of Seattle has planned several Safe Routes to School projects for the streets around our school including curb ramps, spot pavement repair, and traffic calming directly in front of the school. They propose to install two speed humps - one on 26th Avenue S. and another one on S. Irving Street so drivers must slow as they approach the school crosswalk. Installation of the speed bumps is tentatively scheduled for this spring or summer.

Farewell Gift for Principal Breidenbach

Feb. 28 is your last chance to sign the Memory Book for Principal Breidenbach located in the Main Office. Please email Laurie Milodragovich if you have questions or would like to make a donation toward a farewell gift at lmilodragovich@msn.com.

What's So Different About Raising a Gifted Child?

Learn more about raising your gifted child at the day-long Connections Conference 2014 held on March 8 hosted by Seattle Public Schools. At the conference you can: learn from experts about gifted characteristics & needs; get specific parenting advice for the gifted population; collect resource information on where to get help; and learn the Washington State laws regarding gifted education. For more information visit the Northwest Gifted Child Association at www.nwgca.org.



Fun Facts Quiz

How well do you know our teachers and staff? Take our quiz and find out!



1. Who used to wear a grass skirt while living in a thatched hut in Micronesia?
2. School counselor Meghan Kaloper owns which of the following businesses?
A. Henna tattooing B. Summer camp C. Ice cream truck
3. Where was our Interim Vice Principal Birgit McShane born?
4. School librarian Merilee Hudson was born in:
A. Montana B. Japan C. Australia

Answers: 1. Interim Principal Christine Helm, 2. Henna tattooing, 3. Denmark, 4. Sasabo, Japan

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.