

PUP PRESS



Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TOMORROW!

Feb. 7, Friday

Pajama Day

&

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

Specific needs include: canned vegetables, canned fruit, peanut butter, and tuna fish. Donations of non-perishable food can be left in large red bins in school entrance. Donation dates are:

Feb. 10: 1st Grade Feb. 24: 2nd Grade
March 3: 3rd Grade March 10: 4th Grade
March 17: 5th Grade March 24: K/PEACE



THE THURSDAY NOTE:

I am so pleased to welcome Birgit McShane to our Thurgood Marshall staff as our Interim Assistant Principal. Birgit (Bir-jet) is a retired Principal who served Seattle Public Schools for over 20 years. Since retiring Birgit has kept herself busy by serving as a substitute Principal at a number of Seattle schools. Birgit is an enthusiastic leader whose expertise will be invaluable to us during this leadership transition.

Mrs. McShane will be supporting students, teachers and families in grades 4 and 5, including IEP (Individualized Education Program) meetings for those grade levels. She will be supervising and overseeing the following: daily recess during lunch, transportation, MSP testing, MAP testing, and the Safety Committee.

I am very excited to be working with such a dynamic and experienced leader who I can count on and strategize with. Please be sure to introduce yourself to Birgit and make her feel as welcomed as I have felt.

Winter has finally arrived and while I am hoping for a blizzard in the mountains I wish to remind families to dress children warmly. We go outside for recess most days (even when it is drizzling) so hats, coats, mittens, heavy tights, boots, warm pants and sweaters are necessary during this cold spell.

- Christine Helm, Interim Principal

Staying Healthy May Mean Staying Home

- By Ms. Molly Chin, School Nurse

We all work hard to keep our students and staff healthy. Bringing a child to school with any of the symptoms below puts others at risk of infection. If all parents keep their sick children at home, we'll all have stronger, healthier and happier kids.

If your child has any of these symptoms, please keep him/her home, or make appropriate child-care arrangements:

APPEARANCE, BEHAVIOR: Unusually tired, pale, lack of appetite, difficult to wake, confused or irritable. This is sufficient reason to exclude a child from school.

EYES: Thick mucus or pus draining from the eye or pink eye (conjunctivitis).

FEVER: Temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.

GREENISH NASAL DISCHARGE, AND/OR CHRONIC COUGH: Child should be seen by a health-care provider; may be contagious and require treatment.

SORE THROAT: Especially with fever or swollen glands in the neck.

DIARRHEA: Three or more watery stools in a 24-hour period especially if the child acts or looks ill.

VOMITING: Vomiting two or more times within the past 24 hours.

RASH: Body rash, especially with fever or itching (excluding heat rashes and allergic reactions).

EAR INFECTION WITHOUT FEVER: Child may attend school, but needs medical treatment. Untreated ear infections can cause permanent hearing loss.

Volunteers Still Needed

We are still looking for volunteers to help with the following:

- Chair the annual Teacher Appreciation Week (May 5-9)
- Join the Nominating Committee for next year's PTA Board
- Serve on Budget Committee to determine how PTA funds will be spent next year; must attend two or three meetings and review proposals.

Please email Wendy Eckert for details at wseckert@yahoo.com.

What Time Will School Start Next Year?

The District has proposed a change to bell times at Thurgood Marshall for the 2014-2015 school year. The proposed NEW start time is 9:40 am, and NEW bus departure time is 4:00 pm. To learn more visit our website at: www.tmlink.org.

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



Annual Giving Fund Update:

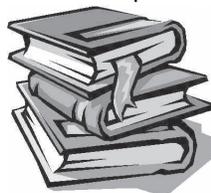
Double Your Donation in February & How The PTA Supports Our Library

Total Raised: \$106,096

The February Challenge Match is on - this month you can **DOUBLE YOUR DONATION!** Donations made in February will be matched (up to \$4,000) by a group of very generous Thurgood Marshall families.

Today we highlight how donations to the Annual Giving Fund help support our library and our amazing librarian, Ms. Merilee Hudson. Some great things happening in the library this year are:

- Since September the library has circulated 14,850 books, or about 200 books a day.
- The library collection now includes 11,226 titles; a total of 15,634 books.
- When you combine the \$2,000 the PTA budgets for the library with the more than \$1,500 raised during the book fair (co-hosted by the PTA and library), our school spends about \$7 per student for books.
- The PTA funded a one-time grant of \$2,500 to purchase narrative non-fiction to meet the new Common Core Standards.
- Author Paul Owen Lewis visited several classrooms and held a whole-school assembly; an event made possible by a PTA Opportunity Grant.



Your donation helps support future great happenings in the library, such as a future visit from a non-fiction author, the Summer Reading Kickoff in June, book purchases, and more. Let's keep our library thriving!

Please make checks out to "Thurgood Marshall PTA." Mail donations to TM Annual Giving Fund, PO Box 22305, Seattle, WA 98122, send it into school with your student, or donate online at www.tmlink.org.

Farewell Gift for Principal Breidenbach

If you would like to contribute to a farewell gift for Principal Breidenbach, please mail a check or cash to Laurie Milodragovich, 730 S. Rose St., 98108. There will be a collection box at the Lunar New Year celebration tomorrow. We also encourage you to sign the Memories Book with your thoughts and well wishes for Ms. Breidenbach. The book will be available at the Lunar New Year event and later in the Main Office. If you have questions please contact Laurie at lmilodragovich@msn.com. Thanks!

Getting Kinks Out of PTA Email List

As the PTA is working to move communications online, we've encountered some bugs. Specifically our email list provider had trouble delivering to Yahoo email addresses and has also been sending duplicate emails days after the original message was sent. We're working hard to iron out the kinks! In the meantime we want you to know the *Pup Press* can always be found online at www.tmlink.org.

Winter Enrichment Classes Are Full

Enrichment classes for Winter quarter are off to a great start! The sign-up period is now closed. If you have questions please contact Sudeshna Sen sudeshnanw@gmail.com or Caryn Gold carynlgold@yahoo.com.

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.

Three Easy Ways to Improve Vocabulary

By Ms. Tara Kohls, 1st Grade

Expanding children's vocabulary is critical to their success in school and in life. There is a connection between a wider knowledge of vocabulary and increased comprehension because the more words children know, the more subtleties they understand, and the more nuanced interpretations they are able to develop. Learning

words requires much more than mere exposure; it requires usage in both speaking and writing. Kids love learning and using big, fancy words, and teachers who create literacy rich classrooms that highlight vocabulary throughout the school day often find their students' vocabulary skills increase.

1. Read aloud books with characters who love words. The goal is to ignite a passion for the discovery, use, and celebration of new words.
2. Choose books that focus on vocabulary. When you read aloud, pull out two to three words that are critical to understanding the book. Highlight these words by re-reading the sentence and talking about its meaning and use. Create a special poster to keep track of how often each word is used, like a vocabulary scoreboard.
3. Lift the level of everyday phrases by changing the words you use to give directions. Instead of 'talk to me,' say 'converse with me' or 'communicate with me.' 'Go to the kitchen' can become 'proceed to the kitchen.' The possibilities are endless!

A Family Gives Thanks for Tutu's Pantry

Tutu's Pantry is our food bank for TM students in need. We love to hear how Tutu's Pantry is helping our families! Recently we received this email from one of our families who receive a weekly backpack:

"I wanted to take the time to say THANK YOU for this great program! It has helped me and my three girls tremendously. I've been on chemo since July and grocery store runs have been less frequent. Knowing every Friday we will have a fresh loaf of bread means one less trip to the store, leaving me the ability to rest, instead of taking a 5, 3, and 1 year old to the store. So thank you! I truly appreciate the hard work, donations and time that go into Tutu's Pantry!"

Backpacks filled with non-perishable food are sent home every Friday with students whose families have requested assistance. Please keep the food donations coming during this traditionally "slow" period of the year. Specific needs include: canned vegetables, canned fruit, peanut butter, and tuna fish. You may leave donations in the large red bins inside the school's main entrance.