

PUP PRESS



Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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Assessment Information

Dear Parent:

Measurement of Student Progress (MSP) scores will be sent home this week for students in 4th and 5th grades. MSP testing begins the spring of the 3rd grade year and we receive student results in the fall. The MSP is the Washington State standardized test that students take each year. This test gives us information about how our students are performing individually, and also about how well our curriculum is meeting the needs of our students overall.

Your child's performance on the MSP is a combination of many factors – their academic content knowledge, their ability to sustain concentration over a long period of time, how they felt on the day of the test, and emotional factors such as test-taking anxiety. Because of this, we treat the MSP as one measure of your child's progress, along with what we know about your child's learning through teacher observation and assessment and other standardized assessments.

Teachers at every grade level have been giving their students **on-demand writing assessments**. These are basically opportunities for students to write for a set time period – generally 30-45 minutes. These assessments give teachers information about areas of strength and weakness in their writing and help us plan instruction. We also use these early assessments to show growth over the course of the year, as we repeat them again in late spring. We are highlighting writing as a curricular focus school-wide this year, based on our student data. While Thurgood Marshall has maintained strong, steady growth in most areas, our data point to writing as the weakest area for our students.

We will begin **Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing** in the coming weeks, as well. This year, the District requirement is for students in K-2nd grade to be screened; kindergarten students will be tested in the spring only, and 1st- and 2nd-graders will be screened in fall and spring. Students in 3rd grade and above will take the MAPs only if they are new to the District and do not have MAP results from the previous spring. MAP is used to help place students in interventions, measure growth, and screen for highly capable services and advanced learning programs.

Reminder: Students will have a two-hour early dismissal Wednesday, Sept. 24. Teachers will use this time together for professional development work in writing.

To continual progress!

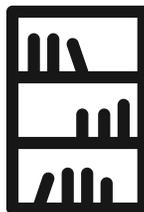
Katie May, Principal

Remind Students to Return Books (and Get More!)

Our wonderful librarian, Merilee Hudson, reports that over 500 children have been through the Library and checked out books. She hopes that parents will remind children each week to return their books to the Library on the following days:

Library Days and Classrooms

- Monday: 109, 202, P1
- Tuesday: 107, Preschool
- Wednesday: 110, 111, 112, 116, 201, 204, 206
- Thursday: 104, 106, 113, 115, 205
- Friday: 101, 108, 203, 207, 209, 210, P2



By returning their books, children get the excitement of checking out a new one to bring home. "It is so fun to watch their excitement as they find a book," Ms. Hudson says, "and it is so hard to have to tell them that they cannot check out a new book this week."

EVENT CALENDAR

Thurs., Sept. 18
K & 1st-Grade Potluck
5:30-7pm in Cafeteria

TONIGHT!

Fri., Sept. 19
Day of Caring

Mon., Sept. 22
Coffee with Principal May
9:15 am in Library



Tues., Sept. 23
Instrumental Music Information Night
6-8 pm in Music Room

Tues., Sept. 23
African American Family Gathering
6-8 pm at John Muir Elementary School
Library, 3301 S. Horton St.

Wed., Sept. 24
Two-Hour Early Dismissal



Tues., Sept. 30
Picture Day (Bring forms!)



Thurs., Oct. 2
Curriculum Night
6-6:45 pm K-2 & PEACE (Classrooms)
6:45-7:15 pm Presentation (Gym)
7:15-8 pm Grades 3-5 (Classrooms)

Fri., Oct. 10
No School (staff professional
development)



Thurs., Oct. 23
Board Game Night
6:30-8 pm in Gym

TUTU'S PANTRY

Sept. 22: 2nd-Grade Donations

Sept. 29: 3rd-Grade Donations

Oct. 6: 4th-Grade Donations

Oct. 13: 5th-Grade Donations

Oct. 20: PEACE/Kindergarten Donations

Oct. 27: 1st-Grade Donations

Questions? Contact Tutu's Pantry Coordinators
Kim Enochs at kimenochs@comcast.net/
206-604-1202 or Maggie Trapp at
maggietrapp@yahoo.com/206-399-8320.

Last Call for PTA Forms

Please return your PTA forms by **Tuesday, Sept. 23**. Annual fund forms may be returned at any time.

DEADLINE REMINDER

PTA forms, including Enrollment, are due **TUESDAY, SEPT. 23**

Questions about the PTA? We'd love to answer them! Email us at pta@tmlink.org.

Counseling News from Ms. Kaloper

Hello to all our families! I look forward to partnering with you to ensure a safe and successful school year for all our students. I am at our school Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, providing classroom guidance lessons and small group counseling, as well as some short-term one-on-one counseling with students.

I will always ask permission from a family prior to inviting a student to participate in a group or in one-on-one counseling sessions. Students do have the option to self-refer to come see me for short-term problem-solving help.

To learn more about the counseling program and services available, please see the counseling web page: on the Thurgood Marshall PTA website tmlink.org, click on "Counseling Services" under "Useful School Links." For a direct link, go here: <http://goo.gl/IGSWwn>

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me!

Meghan Kaloper, MA Ed., NCC

Volunteering 101

Thank you to everyone who has expressed interest in volunteering at school, with a special welcome to new parents and community members.



The Seattle School District requires all volunteers to 1) submit a completed Volunteer Application Form with background check prior to working with students, and 2) complete a brief online course on Adult Sexual Misconduct Prevention online at <http://tiny.cc/asmsps>. The application and background check form are available in the school office or at <http://bit.ly/SPS-Volunteering>

When you come to school to volunteer, please stop by the front office, sign in and pick up a badge to wear while you're at school.

Volunteer Needs For This Week

Here are some positions we hope to fill:

- **Vision and Hearing Screenings** - Nurse Chin needs full-day (preferred) or partial-day volunteers on Oct. 7 or 8. Contact Melanie Nalbandian at locrianmelanie@gmail.com.
- **Lunchroom Volunteer Point Person** - Explain Thurgood Marshall's lunchtime routine to new lunchroom volunteers.
- **PTA Legislative Liaison** - Advocate for school needs by working with the Washington State and regional PTAs on legislative issues affecting education and funding. You'll inform PTA members about local and state issues, and guide our community to take action to impact policy decisions. A guidebook is available from Washington State PTA. Requires 2 or more hours a month.

There are more opportunities available! If you are interested, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Jen Ellis at jenniferellis.206@gmail.com or (206) 276-4982.

Signed Up for Enrichment Classes Yet?

There's room in all Enrichment classes, but the deadline is **Tuesday, Sept. 23!**

Please hurry up and enroll—especially in **Jump for Joy (Jump Rope)**, **Spanish**, **Math Games** (all levels), **Advanced Scratch, Guitar** or **Japanese**. These classes are at risk of being cancelled if we don't get enough signups!

Questions? E-mail Sudeshna Sen at sudeshnanw@gmail.com.

Bring in Your Box Tops!

Each year Thurgood Marshall parents collect Box Tops for Education, and annually, it brings in a few hundred dollars, for over \$5,000 since we started the program!

Please send your box tops to school with your student. Each teacher should have a collection box in the classroom, or you can drop box tops off at the office.



Ann McCurdy, Box Tops Volunteer

Wondering about Enterovirus?

Enterovirus, which is causing illness in children across the Northwest, has been reported in the Seattle area. Seattle/King County Public Health offers the following information:

- The virus does not have a cure, and this year's flu shot does not include vaccination against it.
- The virus usually causes cold-like symptoms, but sometimes comes with severe respiratory symptoms like coughing and difficulty breathing.
- Children with asthma and respiratory issues are at the most risk for any complications.
- Children don't need to see a doctor unless they have severe and worsening cold symptoms, or difficulty breathing.

Here are some steps children can use to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid sharing kisses, hugs and cups or utensils with people who are sick.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick.
- Catch your cough in your sleeve to reduce spread.
- Prevent respiratory illness by getting your flu shot.

Letters for Vosti

A short reminder that families who want to send cards or notes to former 3rd-grade teacher Ms. Vosti should drop them off in the large envelope marked **Vosti** in the front office or send them into school with your child by **Friday, Sept. 26**.

Please email Casey Sommers at caseypilar@gmail.com or Brindy Bundesmann at brindylee@comcast.net with any questions.

DRAFT
Thurgood Marshall PTA General Meeting Minutes
Sept. 9, 2014, 6:30-8:00pm

Attendees (as listed on sign-in sheets): Tasha Irvine, Casey Sommers, Katie May, Jenny Ott, Ann McCurdy, Dana Armstrong, Cliff Meyer, Daniella D'Louhy, Jen Ellis, Annette Sherr, Scott Engan, Beth Zirngible, Kelsey French, Jeanne Hoppe, Stacey Joanavic, Donna Dugan, Angie Jenkins, Lauri Nakamoto, Karen Pinkard, Laura Peterson, Marianne Wilson, Victor Yagi, Noelle Mathias, Bill Brewster, Jay Smith, Juan Valbuena, Trinia Washington, Julie Van Arcken, Andrea Radosevich, Laura Culberg, Devin Bruckner, Susan Minogue, Tania Westby, William Hwang, Tae Jeong, Terri Hough, Greg Miller, Vivian Erickson, Meena Selvakumar, Sara Ullman, Elizabeth Cook, Deborah Caul, Patty Pearson, Tamara Mildon, Natalie Zheng, Julia Hibarger, Pozay Allen, Goon Mehrotra, Viabhav Bhatia, Lynn Davis, Gary Jeweler, Stephen Montsaroff, Maggie Trapp, Francie Bluming

Welcome and Brief Introductions -- Tasha Irvine and Casey Sommers, Co-Presidents

Tasha and Casey began the meeting by introducing this year's Board members to the general membership. Casey explained the PTA communication plan for disseminating information and receiving feedback, which will be mainly through the Pup Press. Casey also outlined the new CPPS initiative that TM is participating in this year. There will be a parent leadership training this Fall as part of the CPPS program. The minutes from the last general PTA meeting (5/29/14) were approved.

School Report -- Principal Katie May

Katie introduced herself to the membership and talked about the routines teachers and students are learning at the start of this school year. TM's overarching theme for this year is Building Bridges. Katie read a poem about bridge building and led a discussion about what bridge building might mean to each of us as it relates to TM. She outlined the big and little things we can all do to help the school feel like a place for everyone.

Katie then briefly discussed the SPS district goals for this year: 1) closing the academic opportunity gap, 2) using professional learning communities (i.e. teachers working interdependently to analyze and impact professional practice), and 3) building the "Seattle Way".

Katie spent the bulk of her presentation on the **TM goals for this school year**.

In brief, they are:

- 1) **Build a united learning community** Example actions: collaboration between teachers, facilitating mixed recess groups, grade-level blended programs, keeping it R.E.A.L. (i.e. teaching the qualities of Resiliency, Empathy, Accountability and Lifelong Learning), and using "growth mindset" perspectives.
- 2) **Ensure a positive tone in all areas** Example actions: using positive discipline in all classrooms, fostering positive greetings throughout the school, developing classroom ambassadors, and teaching conflict resolution strategies.
- 3) **Professional Learning Community** Example actions: PLC training for teachers and regular grade level team meetings. Writing/language will be our school-wide focus this year.
- 4) **Teacher support** Example actions: grade level planning meetings, support for planning, new teacher orientation, assigning mentor teachers, and creating professional development plans. There will be lots of professional development on writing for the teachers, since this is our curricular focus.

Katie finished by sharing more detail about the agenda and accomplishments for the three teacher in-service days that occurred right before the start of school.

Guest Speaker -- Beth Zirngible, Art Specialist

Beth is new to TM this year and is excited to be in such a supportive school for art education. She relayed her plans to integrate master artists and multi-cultural artists in the curriculum. She also plans to integrate art with what's being taught in math, science, and language arts in the classrooms. She expects there will be a variety of projects, from print-making and mixed media to drawing, painting, and ceramics. Beth would like to increase the amount of art displayed throughout the school and send more art home as well. She ended her presentation talking about the importance and benefits of art education.

Guest Speaker -- Kelsey French, Music Specialist

Kelsey is also new to TM this year, and she is excited to be here after four years at Northgate Elementary. Kelsey gave an overview of the national standards for music education and showed examples of the music curriculum we are using at TM this year. She also outlined the music schedule throughout the week for both band and choir. All this information and more can be found at her website at thurgoodmarshallmusic.wordpress.com.

(continued on reverse)

Calendar note: On Tuesday, 9/23, Kelsey and Dan Yarr will have a drop-in information night from 6-8pm in the music room to answer any questions parents may have regarding instrumental or vocal music.

A special thanks to Katie, Beth, and Kelsey for taking time out of their evenings to speak to the parents of TM!

Treasurer's Report -- Tasha Irvine

Tasha gave a quick overview of the PTA budget process that we use at TM. She highlighted the many beneficiaries of our PTA funds this year, which include paying for 100% of the counselor, 50% of the librarian, a recess aide, installation of overhead projectors in the classrooms, Seattle Children's Theater, special theater performances at assemblies, classroom grants for teachers, library books, art supplies, PE supplies and opportunity grants.

Fundraising Report -- Jenny Ott, Fundraising Chair

Jenny explained that the Annual Giving Fund is the primary fundraising activity for the TM PTA, as we don't have an auction or a big fundraising event at the school. Our goal for the 2014-2015 year is to raise \$130,000. Jenny noted that Annual Giving Fund information came home in the first week PTA packet. Jenny really wants everyone to participate and no gift is too small or too large.

Overview of the Year's PTA Events -- Daniella D'Louhy, Events Chair

Daniella gave a quick overview of the upcoming grade level potlucks, the principal coffee chat on 9/22, and the Fall Dance on 11/14. She encouraged everyone to come to the events and have fun with their kids and other families.

Volunteer Report -- Jen Ellis, Volunteer Coordinator

Jen outlined some of the major current volunteer needs, such as chair for the Fall Dance, and encouraged everyone to volunteer. There are many ways to get involved with TM at different levels of commitment, and it's a great way to meet other parents and teachers while helping the school at the same time. Jen will be contacting everyone who has signed up in the near term. Also, if you have any volunteering ideas, please feel free to contact Jen directly.

Q&A

The meeting finished with a 15-minute Q&A with Principal Katie May.

Meeting was adjourned at 8pm.

Missing Any Forms?

You can find PTA forms you need, such as the PTA Membership form, Tutu's Pantry Signup sheet and Enrichment Catalog, on the Thurgood Marshall PTA website's front page: visit tmlink.org and look for **PTA Forms** on the right of the page. (On the left of the page you can find a **Useful School Links** section with some useful school links, like links to Counseling Services information and Health Forms.)