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Christine Helm

Coming Soon: Smarter Balanced Assessment

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are academic learning goals for grades K-12 in math and English language arts, first launched in 2009.

They present a set of benchmarks that represent what students are expected to know and be able to do in grades K-12. They represent fewer standards than the previous Washington State Grade Level Expectations

and require students to develop a deeper level of understanding within each standard. Our teachers have spent the past four years becoming more familiar with the standards, which has led to enhanced rigor and expectations of students in every classroom. Students are asked to read and write with more complexity, and to think more deeply about how their reading and writing affects their lives and the world around them.

Because the MSP state assessment was designed to measure the Washington State Standards, this year we are shifting to a new version of a summative assessment called "Smarter Balanced" or S-BAC, which is aligned to the CCSS. Next spring, students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will use computers to take this assessment in math and reading. Writing will be assessed through students' short and long answer responses and their description of the steps used when solving a problem. Test questions are designed to ask students to analyze and synthesize information, to write essay responses, and to answer in-depth questions to show how much they understand and can incorporate the CCSS goals. This is not a timed test, so students will have adequate time to work on the assessment questions.

Teachers are strategically preparing students by asking them to explain how they solved the problem or citing the text with evidence to support their opinion. Students are encouraged to engage in meaningful discourse that pushes their thinking. Our 3rd-, 4th-, and 5th-grade students will be piloting the "Typing Agent" program in our computer lab and will have the opportunity to practice at home as well.

Parents can prep their children by asking them to explain their thinking or their process in solving a problem, or analyzing how two things are the same or different. Your child can take a Smarter Balanced practice test by going to www.smarterbalanced.org and selecting *Take the Practice Test* or going to www.smarterbalanced.org/practice-test/

Game Night is TONIGHT! Don't Miss It!

Don't forget Game Night **Thursday, Oct. 23** from 6:30-8 pm in the Cafeteria. Games from Blue Highway Games will be available from 6:30-8 pm in the Cafeteria for you and your children to play. Volunteers are still needed to learn or just help play some of the games; if you can arrive at 6, please contact Jen Ellis at JenniferEllis.206@gmail.com.



Your Used Books Can Help a Class Library

Do you have gently used 1st- and 2nd-grade-level books that your child has outgrown? Thurgood Marshall Reading Specialist Anne Lyons is helping our new Grade 1-2 teacher, Lacey Sheridan, create a classroom library.

They would love series books such as Magic Treehouse, Mercy Watson, Little Bear, Nate the Great, Poppleton, Frog and Toad, Horrible Harry, Li'l Bill, Fly Guy, Katie Woo, or Amelia Bedelia.

Please drop off books at the front office marked "Attn: Ms. Lyons" by **Friday, Oct. 31**. Also needed: bookshelf units. If you have those to spare, please email a photo and dimensions to our 1st-grade parent volunteer, Karen Pinkard (Karen@pinkard.org).

EVENT CALENDAR

Thurs., Oct. 23

Coffee with Principal May
2:45-3:30 pm in Library



Game Night

6:30-8 pm in Cafeteria

TONIGHT!

Mon., Oct. 27-Fri., Oct. 31

Conflict Mediator Training
8:15-9:25 am in Library

Wed., Oct. 29

Two-Hour Early Dismissal



Fri., Oct. 31

Book-o-ween Celebration
Wear Book-themed Costumes to School!

Now through Oct. 31 ...

Annual Giving Fund Fall Challenge Match
Double your TM donation this month!
Forms in office or online @ tmlink.org

Sat., Nov. 8

Intro to Parent Leadership Workshop
8:30 am-3:30 pm in Library

Tue., Nov. 11

No School (Veterans Day)



Thurs., Nov. 13

Washington Middle School
Information Night
6:30-8 pm in Stevens Elem. School Cafeteria
(also Thurs., Dec. 5, 6:30-8 pm, at Washington Middle School)

Fri. Nov. 14

Thankful Fall Party/Dance/Potluck @ Gym
Reflections Art Competition deadline

Wed. Nov. 19

Picture Day Retakes

TUTU'S PANTRY

Oct. 20: PEACE/Kindergarten Donations

Oct. 27: 1st-Grade Donations

Nov. 3: 2nd-Grade Donations

Nov. 10: 3rd-Grade Donations

Nov. 17: 4th-Grade Donations

Dec. 1: 5th-Grade Donations

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

Note to School Visitors

Please be advised that there have been a number of car prowls in the Thurgood Marshall neighborhood—including a number of cars broken into during Curriculum Night. Do not leave anything of value or interest in your car while attending evening events at school.

Reflections Art Competition

REFLECT on the theme. CREATE an original work. BE RECOGNIZED!

We're pleased to announce Thurgood Marshall Elementary's participation in the annual National PTA *Reflections* art competition. The theme this year is "**The world would be a better place if...**" and submissions are due **Friday, Nov. 14**.

Since 1969, the Reflections program has encouraged millions of students to explore their artistic talents by creating works of art for fun and recognition. Annually, hundreds of thousands of students participate in the Reflections program through their local PTAs. Students in pre-school through grade 12 are encouraged to submit works of art in the medium of their choice— dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts — reflecting on a specific theme.

There also is a special artist division option for students with disabilities to ensure that all students have the opportunity to participate in the program. Students are recognized each year for their artistic ingenuity to bring the theme to life in a way that is personal and meaningful.

Ms. Zirngible will be incorporating this theme into her art classes' lesson plan to encourage student participation, and flyers will go home with students next week. For more information about the program, visit pta.org/Reflections, or contact Jen Ellis at JenniferEllis.206@gmail.com.

Time to Send In Those Box Tops

Have you been collecting box tops? Ann McCurdy, the box top coordinator, will be collecting box tops from Thurgood Marshall on Monday afternoon (**Oct. 27**). Have your child bring your Box Tops to his/her classroom (there are boxes in each classroom) or to the main office now. **Each box top brings money to our school!**



Roots of Empathy—Help Needed

Are you a proud parent with a new baby that will be **two- to four-months-old** in October? You and your baby could be a *Roots of Empathy* family.

Roots of Empathy is an award-winning program for elementary school children which has been bringing the wisdom of parents and babies into classrooms since 1996 to help children to learn about a baby's needs and development, and let children see a loving relationship grow between parent and baby. Classes are taught by a Roots of Empathy Instructor trained to give lessons on how a baby grows, naming and talking about feelings, and thinking about the feelings of others. The heart of Roots of Empathy is the neighbourhood parent and infant who join the Instructor in the classroom for Family Visits. There are nine visits during the school year and each is about 30 minutes long.

For more information, see www.rootsofempathy.org. If you'd like to sign up, contact Jen Ellis at JenniferEllis.206@gmail.com.

Book-o-ween: Get Your Costumes Ready!

Friday, Oct. 31 is Book-o-ween. Students (as well as teachers and staff) can wear book-themed costumes to school. Costumes cannot be violent, and no weapons are permitted.



Meghan Kaloper
Counselor's Corner

Small Group Counseling

Starting in November, I will be running small group counseling for students who may need additional support or skills building in various areas. If you think your child would benefit from small group counseling, please contact me and let me know which group would be a good fit and what your concerns may be.

Groups will run during the school day and we always do our best to avoid core academic times. If you have questions or referrals, please contact me at mrharris@seattleschools.org.

The group topics include:

- **Making friends:** learn how to make new friends
- **Friendship problems:** learn how to solve problems
- **Divorce support:** learn about divorce with others
- **Grief/Loss:** share with others who have lost someone
- **Academics:** get support with organization and study skills
- **Emotion management:** learn how to stay cool and calm

We Need You ... to Volunteer!

Here are some available volunteer positions:

- **Front Office Help:** Ms. Patu and Ms. Dickey need help sorting paperwork in the office. Drop in if you have a few minutes to spare.
- **Conflict Mediator Training:** Ms. Kaloper needs parent volunteers during the 4th- and 5th-grade Conflict Mediator training, Monday through Friday, Oct. 27-31, 8:15-9:25 am. Email mrharris@seattleschools.org to sign up.
- **Enrichment Assistant:** Work closely with the Enrichment Coordinator in scheduling and registering students in the before/after school Enrichment Program. Estimated commitment time: 3 sessions per year, 5-10 hours per session.
- **Pancake Breakfast Chair:** Plan and execute an all-school pancake breakfast scheduled for **Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015**. Work with volunteers who can assist with procurement, cooking, serving, and clean up. A written job description and task list is available. *10 hours in Oct & Jan.*
- **PTA Classroom Reps:** Serve as the liaison between the PTA and your child's class. *Ms. Dugan, and Ms. Humphreys* still need reps.
- **Fall Dance Volunteers:** Volunteers will be needed the day and night of the dance. Contact us for more information.



For more information, or more opportunities, go to tmlink.org/info/volunteering or contact Volunteer Coordinator Jen Ellis at jenniferellis.206@gmail.com or (206) 276-4982.

Thankful Party/Dance/Potluck in Nov.

Mark your calendar for the Fall Thankful Party/Dance/Potluck on **Friday, Nov. 14**. Details coming soon!

Reminder: Enrichment Class Pickup

A reminder to **please pick children up promptly at the end of after-school enrichment classes**. The class instructors and Enrichment Coordinator Mr. Paul have to wait until all children are picked up from classes, so they would greatly appreciate your cooperation.

Pick up times and locations are listed in the Enrichment catalog on the tmlink.org website. If you need immediate help, please contact Sudeshna Sen (sudeshnanw@gmail.com).