

PUP PRESS

Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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**Principal
Katie May**

EMPOWERING LIFELONG LEARNING

Each week at our Friday Assembly, I try to integrate a “word of the week” into what we are talking about. We have created a Word Wall in our Auditorium with laminated words posted that represent various values. This past Friday, we talked about what it means to be a Lifelong Learner. I talked to the students about making the most of their school experience each day, using the old expression “you can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink.” A few students

shared their understanding of how this relates to school and I think most students got the idea that while teachers do their best to prepare interesting lessons and share new ideas, it is ultimately up to each of us to make the best possible use of that information.

A number of students and a few staff members shared their learning goals. These ranged from learning the multiplication tables, learning to do a cartwheel, practicing French (me!), and raising their reading level. This is a great time of the year to brush off goals that your child started the year with and help them make a plan to accomplish them. We all do our best when we have a clearly stated goal we are measuring our progress against. Teaching children to set goals for themselves and follow through on them is an important part of teaching growth mindset – when we set our intention and work hard, we CAN achieve. For information on SMART goal-setting for students that I have also shared with teachers, visit <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/smart-goal-setting-with-students-maurice-elias>

Recent School Events

Last week was a busy one at Thurgood Marshall! We hosted the District’s Highly Capable Services Advisory Committee and a coffee talk with School Board Director Dr. Stephan Blanford, and we held a training for parent volunteers interested in literacy tutoring with our kindergarten and 1st graders. (NOTE: If you are interested in tutoring, it’s not too late! Please be in touch with Mrs. Swarts, Ms. Naze, Ms. Carney or Ms. Sheridan for more information.) Then on Tuesday, we welcomed Central and Southeast families to Thurgood Marshall for an African-American Parent Meeting.

Coming Right Up: Pancake Breakfast & Art Walk

Bring the whole family to breakfast at Thurgood Marshall at this favorite traditional event. Parent volunteers will serve pancakes, chicken sausage, fruit, coffee and juice. Wander through the gallery of student artwork, catch up with old TM friends, and make new ones!



When: Saturday, Jan. 24, 8:30-10:30 am

Where: Thurgood Marshall Cafeteria

Cost: There is no charge for this event, but a \$5-10 donation per family is suggested to help cover expenses.



Can you spare an hour to help? We still need 12-15 volunteers to set up, flip pancakes, hang artwork and more. To volunteer or get more details, visit the **Signup Genius** page at www.bit.ly/TMpancake15

Questions? Email Jen Ellis at jenniferellis.206@gmail.com.

Please Be Considerate When Parking Near School



When picking up or dropping off kids, **please help us be good neighbors** as well as comply with the city parking ordinances: do not park in (or block) neighborhood driveways. Thank you—Thurgood Marshall staff.

EVENT CALENDAR

Mon., Jan. 19

No School—Martin Luther King Jr. Day ★

PTA Focus Day in Olympia (see page 2)

Thurs., Jan. 22

Conflict Mediator/Recess Mentor Meeting
8:25-9:25 am in Library

Instrumental Music Concert
7 pm in Cafeteria



Sat., Jan. 24

Pancake Breakfast and Art Walk
8:30-10:30 am in Cafeteria



Thurs., Jan. 29

Choir Concert
7 pm in Cafeteria



Fri., Jan 30

No School (Day Between Semesters) ★

Fri., Feb. 6 is Thurgood Marshall Day!

Special Assembly, 9:35-10:25 am in Cafeteria

Community Celebration, 4-5:45 pm at the Northwest African American Museum

Thurs., Feb. 12

School Info & Tour for Prospective Families
8:45-10 am (check in at Main Office)

Fri., Feb. 13

Multicultural Celebration
5:30-7 pm in Cafeteria



Mon., Feb. 23

Evening Tour for Prospective Families
(see www.tmlink.org for schedule)

Tues., Feb. 24

PTA Meeting w/guest speaker on Positive Discipline, 6:30-8:30 pm in Library



TUTU'S PANTRY

Jan. 20: 4th-Grade Donations

Jan. 26: 5th-Grade Donations

Feb. 2: PEACE/Kindergarten Donations

Feb. 9: 1st-Grade Donations

Feb. 16: 2nd-Grade Donations



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

Some Enrichment Spots Still Available

Parents! There's a few spots open in this quarter's **Japanese, Advanced Scratch programming** and **World Music** classes.

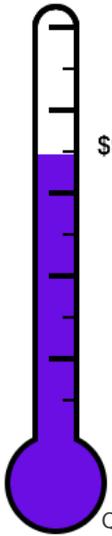
To enroll, please email coordinator Sudeshna directly at sudeshnanw@gmail.com

Annual Fund Corner: At 71% of Goal!

GREAT NEWS: Over \$45,000 raised in December!

Goal: \$130,000

It was an incredible month for the Annual Giving Fund thanks to **donations from many families, including grandparents!** We met our initial Winter Challenge Match goal of \$10,000 early in the month, and one of our families offered an additional \$10,000 to match more gifts! All told, we added **\$45,207** to the fund in December and are 71% toward our total goal of **\$130,000**.



\$90,875

Don't forget employer matching programs!

Many local employers—including Microsoft, Boeing, Expedia, Google and the Gates Foundation—will match employee donations to non-profit organizations like our PTA. Some will even provide a cash match for your volunteer hours at school! Please **check with your employer** to find out whether they have a matching program and what is required to receive the match.

Questions? Please mail us: giving@tmlink.org

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE ANNUAL GIVING FUND!

Final Reminder: Join TM Families at State PTA Rally in Olympia Mon., Jan. 19

Families from Thurgood Marshall and around the state will be going to Olympia on **Mon., Jan. 19** (MLK Day—no school) for **PTA Legislative Focus Day**. Bring the kids for a noon rally on the State Capitol steps for adequate school funding and other important education issues! Meet with legislators from the 43rd and 37th Districts and tour the Capitol building.



Register at www.wastatepta.org/meetings/focus_day/

If you and your child are interested in joining a Thurgood Marshall group at the rally, let us know at pta@tmlink.org.

PTA Meeting: Positive Discipline

The next PTA meeting, held Tues., Feb. 24 from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Library, features a special presentation on **Positive Discipline by Sound Discipline** (www.sounddiscipline.org).

At the meeting, you'll learn:

- What "Positive Discipline" is and how it is used at Thurgood Marshall
- How Positive Discipline is helpful in building resilience and ending power struggles
- Ways to translate these techniques to home use

Refresher Training for Mediators & Mentors

Conflict Mediators and Recess Mentors: please attend a refresher training meeting **Thurs., Jan. 22 from 8:25-9:25 am** in the Library to discuss successes and challenges and get a refresher on training skills as well as a chance to discuss any hopes to switch roles in the coming months. Thank you for helping to get your child to school early that day. Questions? Please mail Ms. Kaloper at mrharris@seattleschools.org.

Join the *Bullpup Parents* Google Forum

Are you interested in creating spaces for families to connect, planning a New Parent Orientation in the fall, and in helping all families feel a part of the TM community?

The **Bullpup Parents Google Forum** is a private forum created by the families involved in this fall's CPPS Parent Leadership Workshop. The forum is open to any Thurgood Marshall parent/caregiver who would like to be involved in sharing ideas, finding out about volunteer opportunities, and connecting with each other. Visit groups.google.com/d/forum/bullpup-parents to join. Questions? Please email pta@tmlink.org.



Love TM? Share it on Facebook

Seattle Public Schools launched a recent Facebook campaign inviting families to tell them what they love about their Seattle Public School. If you have a favorite teacher, program, or just want to share something special about TM, visit the Facebook page at www.bit.ly.com/ILoveMySPS. You can also read what other families are saying about their schools.

Girls on the Run: On Your Mark, Get Set, Coach!

The PTA has been working to bring Thurgood Marshall an amazing after school program called **Girls on the Run** (www.girlsontherun.org). Our school has been approved as a Girls on the Run (GOTR) site and we already have a site liaison that will handle all registration, planning and logistics.

All we need now are coaches!

Please consider volunteering your time. **Coaches do not need to be runners!** Coaches need to commit to the following requirements:

- Attend the program two afternoons/week, **Mondays & Wednesdays from 3:45-5:15 pm** for 11 weeks (March-May)
- Attend required coach **meetings and training**
- Attend the **GOTR 5K** event at the end of the season and supervise program participants

Please help bring this valuable program to TM! For other requirements, and to learn more about the program, see the [full article on the PTA website](#).

For more information on becoming a coach, please contact Brindy Bundesmann at brindylee@comcast.net or 206-604-0756.



Smarter Balanced Test Coming in Spring

The Smarter Balanced is the new standardized test that all 3rd-5th grade Thurgood Marshall students will take this spring. This test was created to reflect the more rigorous National Common Core State Standards. Spring 2015 is the baseline year, so may result in lower scores than we have been accustomed to on the previous state test, the Measurement of Student Progress (MSP).

Another change from the MSP is that students will take the test online. TM is working hard to prepare 3rd- through 5th-graders for the test through rigorous instruction and keyboarding skills. Please take a moment to **read the Smarter Balanced flyer** accompanying this week's issue for more information and a website where you can have your children take a practice test.

Preparing Students for Success

In schools across the country, teachers are implementing new academic standards that provide consistent guidelines in English and math at each grade level and help prepare students to graduate high school ready for college and the workplace. These new benchmarks challenge students to develop a deeper understanding of subject matter, learn how to think critically, and apply what they are learning to the real world.

To help parents, teachers, and school leaders know whether students are on the path to success, states joined together to develop improved tests of student achievement. The Smarter Balanced assessments will replace existing tests in English and math for grades 3-8 and high school in the 2014-15 school year. Administered online, these new assessments will adapt to each student's ability, giving teachers and parents better information to help students succeed.

Key Features

- ✓ Measures critical thinking with questions that ask students to demonstrate their research, writing, and problem solving skills
- ✓ Assessments are untimed and students can take breaks so that they can do their best
- ✓ Accessibility resources for all students and accommodations – such as Braille – for those who need them
- ✓ Developed with input from K-12 teachers, higher education faculty, and other experts

Helping Kids Graduate Ready for College and Career

Smarter Balanced member states have worked with thousands of educators to design and test the assessments so that they meet the needs of teachers. Smarter Balanced is more than just a year-end test. Teachers have access to tools that help them check in on student progress throughout the year, including a Digital Library of teaching resources and optional interim assessments that help teachers plan and improve instruction.

“[Students] think it’s way cooler to take the test online rather than the old bubble-in multiple choice.”

– Superintendent and principal, California

“This assessment asks students to think and make connections with multiple and complex texts, presenting their ideas in a variety of formats. It asks students to create thoughtful responses. This is a significant and important change from the multiple-choice assessments we’ve been giving for years.”

– Teacher, Idaho

Learn More

- Visit the Smarter Balanced website:
<http://www.smarterbalanced.org>
- Follow us on Twitter:
[@SmarterBalanced](https://twitter.com/SmarterBalanced)

Take the Test

- Gain familiarity with the test software platform and sample test questions for grades 3-8 and 11
- Take the Practice Test:
<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/practice-test/>