

PUP PRESS

Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

JANUARY 22, 2015

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 18



**Principal
Katie May**

THE SMARTEST KIDS IN THE WORLD

Now and then, when I finish a book about education or parenting or child psychology that has relevance for teachers and parents, I feel the need to share it with others. I have found myself working the book *The Smartest Kids in the World* by Amanda Ripley into numerous conversations, and thought I'd share a bit about it with you. The purpose of this book is to explore why U.S. students are falling behind students in other countries, as measured by the PISA (Program for International Student Assessment), a test given to 15-year-olds around the globe. Ms. Ripley most closely examines the education systems in Finland, South Korea and Poland – three countries that differ in many ways yet are all more successful on the PISA than the United States.

A few of my take-aways from this interesting book:

- Parental efforts can yield big returns in children's education – no surprise here: Parents who read to their children every day or almost every day make a difference. Their children perform much better (up to a full year better) in reading by the time they are fifteen. This is an easy thing to do and it pays big dividends for our children. If you are not reading to your child every day – start now!
- As kids get older, parents who discuss movies, books and current affairs with their children have teenagers who perform better in reading. The concept is that when you talk to your children about important big ideas, you teach children to become thinking adults. Students who fell into this category "not only scored better on PISA but reported enjoying reading more overall."
- If you feel pressed to read for pleasure yourself, you will love this: parents who read for pleasure on their own have children who are more likely to enjoy reading, too. Sounds like a great reason to curl up on the couch with a good book!
- Parents who act as coaches to their children, seeing the education of their children as one of their jobs, and spending time at home systematically teaching their children each day (a model typical of parenting in Asia), raise children who perform better in school and actually enjoy reading and school more than their peers. This is contrasted to the typical American "booster" style of parenting that is centered more on praise and preservation of the child's self-esteem and less on competition.
- One of the top predictors of children's academic success is not IQ but self-discipline. Motivation, empathy, self-control and persistence are the traits that help students persevere on their work, keep trying when tasks are difficult, and follow through on their commitments. This sounds suspiciously in line with a growth mindset, doesn't it?

Thank you to all the parents and family members who joined us for our MLK Day Assembly. I hope we see some of you again tomorrow morning at 9:35 am as the **Kaleidoscope Dance Company** performs for our school.

Flipping Pancakes, and Other Ways You Can Help at TM

- The **Pancake Breakfast** is THIS SATURDAY. Most volunteer slots are filled, but we can always use more help: visit the **Signup Genius** page at www.bit.ly/TMpancake15
- Can you spare 30 mins. this week to **help hang student art** for the pancake breakfast? Contact art teacher Ms. Zirngible at 206.252.2272 or blzirngible@seattleschools.org
- Ms. Patu can use help sorting **office paperwork**. Stop by the office if you can help.
- **Yearbook volunteers** can contact Kathryn Saxer: katesaxer@gmail.com.

Questions? Contact Jen Ellis at jenniferellis.206@gmail.com or (206) 276-4982.

EVENT CALENDAR

Thurs., Jan. 22
Instrumental Music Concert
7 pm in Cafeteria

TONIGHT!

Sat., Jan. 24 (THIS WEEKEND!)
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)



Thurs., Feb. 5
Adv. Band/Orch/Choir Concert
7 pm at Washington Middle School



Fri., Feb. 6 is Thurgood Marshall Day!
Special Assembly, 9:35-10:25 am in Cafeteria

Community Celebration (**with TM choir!**)
4-5:45 pm, 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

Thurs., Feb. 26
Principal Coffee
9:15 am in Library



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Fri. Apr. 24
Bingo Night & Art Walk
5:30-7 pm

Wed., June 10
5th-Grade Promotion

TUTU'S PANTRY

Jan. 26: 5th-Grade Donations

Feb. 2: PEACE/Kindergarten Donations

Feb. 9: 1st-Grade Donations

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



TM 'Lobbyists' Invade Capitol



Rep. Pettigrew meets constituents Neko and Mason!

Five parents and seven students represented Thurgood Marshall in Olympia Jan. 19 for PTA Focus Day. In addition to **attending a rally** on the Capitol steps, the group met with State Sen. Jamie Pedersen and State Rep. Brady Walkinshaw (both D-43rd District), plus State Rep. Eric Pettigrew and an assistant to State Sen. Praymila Jayapal (both D-37th).

Legislators said they appreciated the hundreds of postcards each received from constituents who filled out the Washington State PTA's recent online survey. Pedersen and Walkinshaw said the postcards **really do help support arguments for priority issues**.

Other highlights included 5th-grader Mason Ott calculating, for the aide to Jayapal, the amount of extra time needed to give kids their state-mandated PE minutes. And Walkinshaw appeared stunned when parents explained that they are buying copy paper and cleaning supplies for schools.



Families rally on the Capitol steps

This legislative session promises to be a big turning point for education in Washington as lawmakers respond to the State Supreme Court's McCleary decision, which requires increased K-12 funding. The TM lobbying group heard loud and clear that this is a high priority for the law makers. The PTA will keep you posted on ways you can be involved.

Full Winter Enrichment Schedule Online

Do you have children taking before- or after-school Enrichment classes? A complete schedule with room numbers for each class can now be found online at the TM PTA website:

www.tmlink.org/newsandevents/enrichment-program

Questions about the Enrichment program? Mail Sudeshna Sen at sudeshnanw@gmail.com

Wanted: Guidance on How PTA Funds Are Spent

The PTA is looking for parent volunteers to participate in our **budget committee**. The budget committee works with the PTA treasurer, Building Leadership Team and Principal May to determine funding needs for the next school year. The committee will meet in person 1-2 times in February. Most follow-up to those meetings will happen via email. If you are interested or need more info, contact Brindy Bundesmann at brindylee@comcast.net



Seeking Treasurer for 2015-16

Our current treasurer's term ends this year and we're looking for a successor. Joining the budget committee is a great way to see if this job might interest you. If you're interested, contact Brindy, above.

Join the 'Bullpup Parents' Google Forum

Join the **Bullpup Parents Google Forum** to connect with others and find out about what's happening in the TM community!

The **Bullpup Parents Google Forum** is a private forum created by the families involved in this fall's Parent Leadership Workshop. The online email 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. *There is no commitment, and it's an easy way to stay informed.*



Visit groups.google.com/d/forum/bullpup-parents to join. Questions? Please email pta@tmlink.org.

TM Briefs

- Free talk on "The Opposite of Spoiled: Raising Kids Who Are Grounded, Generous, and Smart About Money" at the Evergreen School **Mon., Feb 9** from 7-9 pm.: Register at www.evergreenschool.org/podium/default.aspx?t=184221&rc=1
- Remember, when picking up or dropping off kids, do not park in (or block) neighborhood driveways.

Tutu's Pantry Supporter Profile: Japanese Presbyterian Church and Nurse Molly Chin

Tutu's Pantry is an all-volunteer effort that sends home backpacks of food every week to over thirty Thurgood Marshall families, which is possible through donations from our own generous families as well as through **amazing community support**. As a way to thank all these much-appreciated champions, the Pup Press is running a series of profiles of our amazing community donors.

To kick off, we'd like to acknowledge TM's own **Nurse Molly Chin** and her church, the **Japanese Presbyterian Church**, avid supporters of not only Tutu's Pantry, but our entire school. A few of the "Presby" volunteers explained what motivates them to contribute:

Church Pastor Kerry Kaino comments that "Whether it's through sharing food items or school supplies or other avenues of caring, we are glad to care for our neighborhood school."

Tim, a church member, has made deliveries to Thurgood Marshall several times over the last few years, noting that "More than a ton of food has been collected and donated to Tutu's Pantry by Presby. Imagine a Kia Sportage, back seats laid flat, packed to the top, and the passenger seat stuffed full." Tim's wife, Doreen, explains other ways they have helped: "Not only have we been able to help children and their families by collecting food, clothing items, and school supplies, we've also been able to help a teacher pack up her classroom at the end of the school year and unpack at the beginning of the next school year. This helps make our neighborhood stronger and helps our children."

Nurse Molly appreciates the value of giving, saying: "Blessing others helps to build a strong, loving community. The youth groups at Japanese Presbyterian Church have donated books and food, and my own daughter Aliya held a food drive in her class. Tutu's Pantry helps to teach all ages about the importance of community."

Thank you, Japanese Presbyterian Church, for all that you do!

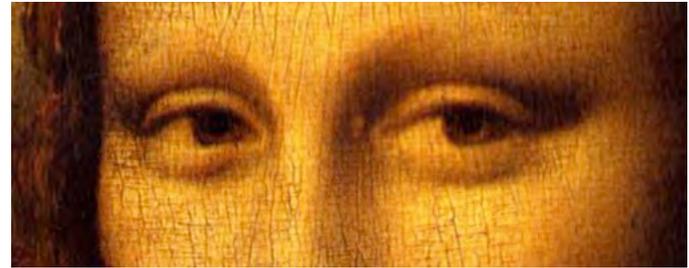


Food!



Gluten-free and
vegan options!

Art!



Free*

2015 Thurgood Marshall Pancake Breakfast & Art Walk

Enjoy pancakes, sausage, fruit, beverages, more.
Walk the hallways to enjoy our students' art.
Volunteer at <http://tinyurl.com/TMPancake>

Sat., Jan. 24 • 8:30-10:30am • TM Cafeteria



***Free; \$5-10 donation suggested per family**

Sponsored by the PTA! Thanks to Art Teacher Beth Zirngible and the staff!