

PUP PRESS



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FEBRUARY 12, 2015

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 21

POSITIVE DISCIPLINE BASICS AT OUR SCHOOL

Thurgood Marshall is a **Positive Discipline School**. What does this mean exactly? In a Positive Discipline school, every adult:



**Principal
Katie May**

- Understands that positive relationships and school climate are critical to successful student learning.
- Implements principles of mutual respect and encouragement
- Focuses on long-term solutions to misbehavior at individual, class and school-wide levels
- Views mistakes as opportunities to learn, and misbehavior as opportunities to practice critical life skills.

We believe that discipline is about teaching and learning. If a student was unsuccessful in math class, we think about what skills

they need to learn to be successful. Similarly, when students misbehave, we think about what skills they need to learn in order to behave appropriately. This does not mean that there are not consequences for inappropriate behavior; it means that we try to make sure that consequences are related to the behavior that occurred. In addition, we track our school discipline to look for patterns of misbehavior and then address these with students by re-teaching our school expectations or refining procedures so that students can be successful.

Positive Discipline was developed from the work of Alfred Adler, Rudolph Dreikurs, Jane Nelsen and others, who believed that people seek a sense of belonging and significance in their interactions with others. A key belief is that we have the most influence on others when we have relationships founded on mutual respect. The appropriate response to misbehavior is to focus on solutions without shaming and blaming, and to address the belief behind the misbehavior.

General PTA Meeting with Jody McVittie from **Positive Discipline:** Tues., Feb. 24, 6:30-8:30 pm in the Library (free child care at the YMCA; elementary school ages only)

An essential piece of Positive Discipline at school is regular class meetings where students learn to give appreciations (compliments) to each other, to use respectful communication skills, to brainstorm and role-play difficult situations, and to solve problems. We also teach students skills for self-regulation. Students not only learn how to calm themselves, but also what is happening in their brain when they become upset or “flip their lid.”

Jody McVittie of Sound Discipline has been partnering with Thurgood Marshall for a number of years. She trains staff (currently ten Thurgood Marshall staff members are enrolled in a 5-week Positive Discipline class!), supports our Data Team in analyzing student behavior, and has also surveyed students to learn more about their feelings about school. She will be speaking at our next PTA meeting. I hope you can join us to learn more!

Some resources to help learn about Positive Discipline:

- Sound Discipline website for training sessions, parenting classes and other resources: <http://www.sounddiscipline.org/>
- Dr. Daniel Siegel demonstrating what happens in the brain when we “flip our lid”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DD-1fP1FBFk>
- *Positive Discipline* by Jane Nelsen
- The Puget Sound Adlerian Society Parenting Calendar lists area parenting classes based on Positive Discipline principles: <http://www.psasadler.org/calendar.pdf>

EVENT CALENDAR

Fri., Feb. 13 **TOMORROW!**
Multicultural Celebration & Potluck
Bring a potluck dish reflecting your heritage
5:30-7:30 pm in Cafeteria

Sat., Feb. 14
Dr. Stephan Blanford Public Meeting
10-11:30 am at Capitol Hill Library

Mon., Feb. 16 & Tues., Feb. 17
No School (Mid-Winter Break)

Mon., Feb. 23
Evening Tour for Prospective Families
(see www.tmlink.org for schedule)

Tues., Feb. 24
PTA Meeting w/Jody McVittie from Positive Discipline, 6:30-8:30 pm in Library

Mon. Feb 23-Thurs. Feb. 26 & Mon. March 2
Seattle Public Schools *Tech Vision Town Halls*
See www.bit.ly/SPSTech15 for details.

Mon., March 9
Principal Coffee
9:15 am in Library

TUTU'S PANTRY

Feb. 16: 2nd-Grade Donations

Introducing Anne Fitzpatrick

Please join Principal May in welcoming Anne Fitzpatrick – **Mrs. Fitz** to students – to Thurgood Marshall. Mrs. Fitzpatrick retired as principal from Kimball Elementary in June 2013 and has come back out of retirement to support other elementary schools, most recently Leschi Elementary. She will be overseeing Kindergarten and Grades 2 and 3; please contact her with any questions or concerns related to these grades.



Mrs. Fitz will be stepping into BiHoa Caldwell's position as she takes off for a few weeks of travel. Ms. Caldwell will return March 12.

Multicultural Celebration TOMORROW

Join our multicultural celebration tomorrow from 5:30-7:30 pm in the Cafeteria: special guests, the **Lion Dance Team** from Franklin HS!

Please bring a potluck dish reflecting your cultural heritage. If you have time to help with the event, visit our volunteer page: www.bit.ly/TMMulticulturalVols

Parking Lot Reminder

Please do not leave your car unattended in the **drop-off zone** (marked by a red curb). This blocks other parents who are trying to drop off their students, and backs up traffic. If you need to leave your car, please pull into a parking spot.

Art Ideas Heard at Last Week's Forum

Students in Ms. Howard-Powell and Ms. Miller's classes and the school choir performed to a packed hall at the Northwest African American Museum on Friday afternoon during a community celebration commemorating Justice Marshall.



The audience also shared their ideas for the **public youth art project** commemorating Justice Marshall that will be installed on our campus this summer as part of Coyote Central's Hit the Streets program. Look for some of these thoughts on display at school. The project is funded in part by a Small and Simple Project Grant from the City of Seattle Neighborhood Matching Fund. Follow the project's progress at fhsm1k.blogspot.com/

Ultimate Deadline Extended to Feb 19

Thurgood Marshall's Ultimate teams are still seeking players from Grades 3-5! The deadline for registration has been extended until next **Thurs., Feb. 19**. We especially still need more **3rd-, 4th-, and 5th-grade girls** to help make sure the teams are balanced for competition with other schools. **Players:** tell your friends not to miss out. No experience is necessary – our very experienced coaches are focused on teaching – from the very basics up to advanced strategy and skills.



Signup forms went home with students last week. To download a form or learn more, visit www.bit.ly/TMUlt15

Annual Giving Highlight: Drama at Thurgood Marshall

Seattle Children's Theater and Seattle Shakespeare Company have arrived at Thurgood Marshall! Over the course of several weeks all our students will participate in special drama workshops to introduce acting skills, improvisation, role-playing and other techniques. Through dramatic play and performance, they will think creatively, practice listening and turn-taking skills, and work as a team with their classmates. Plus, it's lots of fun!



Thanks to the families and friends who support the AGF, the PTA can fund experiences like these that are above and beyond the standard curriculum. Drama instruction is one of the many in-school enrichment programs made possible by donations to our Annual Giving Fund.

Global Reading Challenge Results

Ms. Hudson congratulates the qualifying team, **The Name of This Team is Secret...**, for winning the in-school round of the **Global Reading Challenge**. The team answered 23 out of 24 questions correctly to be the 2015 Thurgood Marshall Champion. **Clio Vos** was the captain, and the other team members were **Edhil Haid, Vanessa Dunlap, Ellie Joanovic, Mea Shelton, Sidra Wernli, Jayden Hampton-Richards** and **Rukiya Bedeso**. Their next challenge will be the regional competition on Thurs. March 5 at 10:30 am at the Central Library.

Girls on the Run Registration Due Tomorrow

Turn in Girls on the Run registration forms **by tomorrow**. To get a form, or learn more, contact Brindy Bundesmann at brindylee@comcast.net or 206-604-0756.



Send Photos For the School Yearbook

Have some great **photos of the school year** so far? Let's put them in the Yearbook! Upload them to http://dbinbox.com/Thurgood_Marshall_Yearbook

Budget Season Upon Us—Ideas Wanted!

The PTA is working in parallel with Principal May and the Building Leadership Team to establish the **2015-16 PTA Budget**. Our budget committee consists of three parent volunteers and the current PTA Treasurer; the budget is due to the district in mid March.



Because the PTA typically funds a grant for staff salaries, we need to have that portion of our budget **finalized and approved** for that district deadline. The remaining allocation of PTA funds will be decided on and approved by the membership at our General PTA meeting in May.

Meanwhile, we want to hear from you! Send suggestions on how you'd like to see the funds spent to pta@tmlink.org.

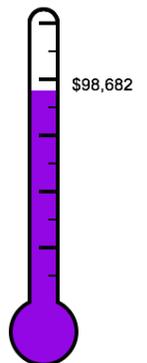
Help Us Reach 100%!

With budget season approaching, it's time to meet our fundraising goal! We still have **\$30,000** to raise to meet our Annual Giving Fund goal for this school year.

Reaching our goal lets the PTA continue to supplement what is provided by Seattle Public Schools, including not only drama programs, left, but:

- 50% salary support for our **full-time librarian**, providing weekly library time for every student and staffing for Global Reading Challenge and Student Council.
- 100% salary support for our **counselor**, who teaches social-emotional curriculum and supports student programs like Conflict Mediators and **Recess Mentors**.
- **Classroom grants** available to every teacher; opportunity grants that benefit the entire school.

Goal: \$130,000



Make your gift today and join over 170 families and friends who have said **YES** to the Giving Fund. **Donate online at** www.tmlink.org **or by check to Thurgood Marshall PTA.**