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Principal
Katie May

PTA MEETING UPDATES

Much of my information this week was shared at Tuesday evening's PTA General Meeting. I'm sharing again here in case you were not able to attend.

Math Night! Please bring your family and join us **Thursday, March 12**, from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Cafeteria for math fun! There will be lots of games to appeal to all ages.

We will also be hosting a **Middle School Math Info Session** on Wednesday, March 25 from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Library. Anna Box, District Math Curriculum Specialist and Kurt Cohrs, Math Department Head at Washington Middle School, will be with us to talk about math options for incoming 6th-grade students.

We will be re-posting our **Assistant Principal position** this spring. Many of you have let me know that you are interested in being part of the hiring team. We will need two parents as part of this committee. Once we have dates for our interviews, I will reach out to those who have expressed interest. The first step in the process is for the District to hire prospective applicants for the School Leader Pool. After this, we can begin to screen applicants and set up interviews.

We have received our **enrollment projections** for next year. We are currently at 520 students, and we are projected to increase our enrollment to 558 students, adding two classrooms (one General Education and one HCC classroom). I will keep you posted as I hear from the Facilities Department about the plan to house our additional students.

Technology – Our PTA funded an Opportunity Grant that will allow us to work with technology consultant Jim Dunnigan. Our work will start with completing a School Technology Readiness Profile, analyzing hardware and software, and surveying staff to help us determine our next technology steps. This work will begin this spring.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) updates: *(The SBAC is the standardized assessment that will replace the Measurement of Student Progress (MSP).)*

- This week our 3rd- to 5th-grade students will be doing some **practice tests** to familiarize students with the types of questions they will see – formats are a bit different from what they have been exposed to in the past – and to give the technology a trial run so we hopefully avoid glitches during the actual test. Students may feel a bit worried about the test – **this is just practice and will not be scored**. We want students to know that what is important is for them to work hard and do their best – as with any part of school!
- We are working out our schedule for the actual test (our window is from March 10-May 29) and will send you final schedules once they are complete, in the next week or so. We ask that you do your best to **avoid any planned absences** near the test schedule, as our time for make-up tests is limited.
- The District has provided us with keyboards to support the technology required for this test. Some students will be taking the computer portions in the Computer Lab and some will be using iPads and keyboards.
- I have invited Kathleen Vasquez, Program Manager for Literacy and Social Studies, to our next parent coffee on **Monday, March 9**, at **9:15 am** in the Library. Kathleen is very knowledgeable about the SBAC and can answer all your questions. I hope you'll join us!

EVENT CALENDAR

Thurs. Feb. 26, Mon. March 2

Seattle Public Schools Tech Vision Town Halls
<http://www.bit.ly/SPSTech15>

Mon., March 2

Read Across America day; students celebrate reading all week, including an author visit from **Martha Brockenbrough** and other events

Thurs., March 5

Info Session and Tour for Prospective Families
8:45-10 am

Mon., March 9

Principal Coffee with Katie May and SPS testing expert Kathleen Vasquez
9:15 am in Library



Thurs., March 12

Math Night (see details this issue!)
6:30-8 pm in Cafeteria



Wed., March 25: Two-hour early release

Middle School Math Info Session
6:30-7:30 pm in Library

TUTU'S PANTRY

March 2: 4th-Grade Donations

March 9: 5th-Grade Donations

Questions? Contact Kim Enochs at

kimenochs@comcast.net/206-604-1202 or Maggie Trapp at maggietrapp@yahoo.com/206-399-8320.



Play Math Games on Pi Day

To celebrate Pi Day, Thurgood Marshall is having a **Math Night** at school on **Thursday, March 12** from **6:30- 8:00 pm** in the Cafeteria. At this event, we'll play fun math games for all ages and stages! Volunteers needed: see www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A49ACAE29A1F49-math



New Keyboarding Enrichment Class

Watch your inboxes for news on upcoming weeklong after-school keyboarding classes offered by Keytime. The classes will occur in the weeks between the Winter and Spring Enrichment sessions to avoid scheduling conflicts with other enrichment offerings. Keyboarding skills will be useful as some school projects and testing for 3rd-4th-, and 5th-graders begin to occur online.

Seattle Storm Night Out

In addition to our Night Out with the Seattle Mariners in May, we will be giving **equal time to basketball** with a school outing to a Seattle Storm game in June! Watch for details about how to get tickets in future issues. Dates are below.

Saturday, May 16: Mariner's Night Out

Saturday, June 6: Seattle Storm Night Out

Before-School Running Club Forming

Interested in having your child get a chance to run before school starting in spring? Margaret Graham, Thurgood Marshall's occupational therapist, is interested in starting a before-school **running club**. An experienced running club coach, Deirdre Doyle, who has run a cross-country program at St. Joseph's school on Capitol Hill for the past seven years, has volunteered to help.



The plan is to have the club start before school on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays starting about 8:45 am with stretches and running, but kids could join in the running as late as 9:10/9:15 am and get some running in before school starts.

To get the club started, Ms. Doyle would like:

- a couple of volunteers to be assistant coaches
- someone with yoga or stretching experience to help with warm-ups (optional)
- a volunteer coordinator to handle sign-ups and e-mail questions
- an indication of who would be interested in the program, including the student's grade/age and what time they might be arriving at school.

If you can help, or think your student might participate, please contact Ms. Graham at magraham@seattleschools.org by Monday, March 9.

Annual Fund: It's for Our Kids

We are more than halfway through the school year! Please consider a donation to the Annual Giving Fund; donations of any amount help support programs like drama, a school counselor and our recent technology grant (see Principal May's column).

PE News from Mr. Shin

In PE, students will be working on our fitness goals this week and begin fitness testing in March and April. Please encourage your child to do five crunches, a 10-second hamstring stretch, and five push-ups every night, or in the morning when they wake up. **Let's work those abs, pectorals, triceps, and hamstrings.**



Anyone can do a push-up!

Also, we will be doing our last two Beep Tests for this school year during the last two weeks of March and into April. The Beep Test is a test of students' cardio-respiratory endurance; ask your student how it works!

TM Briefs

- **Ultimate Frisbee needs a few more 3rd-, 4th-, or 5th-grade girl players** to be able to have two Thurgood Marshall teams play in the league. Ultimate Frisbee is an exciting game that anyone can play and focuses on teamwork and fun.
- **Round up those Box Tops!** Box tops from many grocery items benefit Thurgood Marshall, and our coordinator is picking up the latest batch on Friday. Please send in any box tops you have collected with your child tomorrow (or anytime!); collection boxes are located in each classroom and in the front office.
- **Have some great photos** of the school year to share in the Yearbook? Upload them to www.dbinbox.com/Thurgood_Marshall_Yearbook



Tutu's Pantry Supporter Profile: Emerald City Rotary Club

Tutu's Pantry is an all-volunteer effort that sends home backpacks of food every week to over 30 Thurgood Marshall families, which is possible through donations from our own generous families as well as through **amazing community support**. This week, we spotlight the Emerald City Rotary Club, a longtime supporter of Tutu's and other programs at our school (including next month's *Read Across America*).

John Fowler of Rotary told us what it means to him to support Tutu's:

About four years ago, Sophie Solomon, Tutu's Pantry founder, spoke at the Emerald City Rotary Club, and told the story of Tutu's Pantry. I personally found this upsetting—that in Seattle kids might not be reaching their full potential because they were hungry.

I couldn't let this happen, and while I couldn't do a lot to personally to make a difference, I felt that by becoming a champion at Rotary for the Pantry I could at least go some way toward making the Pantry work.

Since Sophie spoke at our club, the Emerald City Rotary has supported Tutu's Pantry through our twice-a-year grant cycles that provide both specific project funding (the purchase of the wheeled backpacks) and operating expenses. Last fall I requested a grant of \$1,000 for general operating expenses, and the Grant Committee increased my request and awarded the Pantry \$1,500!

Learning is hard enough. Kids shouldn't have to do it on an empty stomach!

Thank you, John Fowler and the Emerald City Rotary Club, for all that you do!



Can you help Tutu's? This week, Tutu's Pantry could use some specific donations to help families with **breakfast** (single-serve cereals or oatmeal packets), **lunch** (jars of peanut butter), and **dinner** (pasta sauce). You can send donations to school with your child; items go in the red plastic bins near the front door of the school.