

PUP PRESS

Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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Principal
Katie May

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

You may have heard teachers and school staff talk in past years about aligning curriculum to Washington State Standards. Each state in the U.S. has their own educational standards which set the scope and sequence of skills that students should have mastered by the time they finish each grade. Read more at:

www.k12.wa.us/CurriculumInstruct/learningstandards.aspx.

Of course, having separate standards for each state leads to gaps in curriculum and instruction between states. In the past few years, the National Governors Association, the Council of Chief State School Officers, and other education leaders have worked to develop a set of standards for students nationwide. These have become known as the **Common Core Standards**.

The Common Core Standards are a progression of skills that students learn as they move through their K-12 school years. These standards focus on math and language arts. They are not a curriculum per se, and they do not dictate that particular textbooks or literature be used; these are still decisions to be made by teachers, schools and districts. A key difference with the Common Core Standards is that they require teaching that delves more deeply into a subject, rather than trying to cover many areas in a superficial way. As we examine the standards, we notice that there are differences in when certain content should be taught. For example, students are expected to read and be able to discuss more complex text at an earlier level. There is more of a focus on informational text (non-fiction) than has been seen in past state standards.

This year is our state's first year in rolling out the new **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)** assessment that aligns with the Common Core. To assess that students are mastering the skills in the Common Core, the assessment will look less like multiple choice and involve more analyzing and synthesizing of information, to show that students have a deep understanding of the material. The SBAC replaces the MSP that was used in the past, although 5th-grade students will take the science MSP.

If you would like more information about the Common Core, please check out the PTA website at www.tmlink.org for more resources and join us for our **parent coffee**, at 9:15 am Monday, March 9 when we welcome **Kathleen Vasquez**, Literacy specialist for Seattle Schools, as she discusses our transition to the SBAC.

Here's to developing strong skills for all of our students!



MARCH MATCH-NESS IS HERE!

"Catch" the flier coming home today

EVENT CALENDAR

Mon., March 9

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

Thurs., March 12

Mathapalooza! (See attached flier) 6:30-8 pm in Cafeteria



Tues. March 17

African American Family Gathering 6-8 pm at Graham Hill Elementary School (5149 S Graham)



Wed., March 25: Two-hour early release

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



SAVE THESE DATES

- April 24 Bingo Night
- May 4-8 Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 16 Mariners Game
- May 21 Spring Instrumental Concert
- May 26 Final General PTA Meeting
- May 28 Spring Choir Concert
- May 29 Move-a-Thon
- June 3 Seattle Storm Concert
- June 10 Fifth Grade Promotion
- June 11 Field Day

TUTU'S PANTRY

The Pantry is getting bare after this year's generous holiday giving. Please send in donations to make sure we can keep sending food home to our students.

➤ **THIS WEEK'S BIGGEST NEED:**
PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY



- March 9: 5th-Grade Donations
- March 16: K/PEACE Donations
- March 23: 1st-Grade Donations

Standardized Test Is Focus of Principal Coffee on Monday

All are welcome to join Principal May for coffee on **Monday, March 9 at 9:15 am** in the Library to hear from an expert on the state's new standardized test, **Smarter Balanced**.

Kathleen Vasquez, SPS Program Manager for Literacy and Social Studies will answer your questions on this and other standardized tests.



For more information, and links to the Smarter Balanced practice test and more, see the PTA website (www.tmlink.org).

Mathapalooza Next Thursday

Don't miss **Mathapalooza** night next **Thursday, March 12** from **6:30- 8 pm** in the Cafeteria. All families welcome to come play dice games, card games, board games and carnival-style games, and to eat "pie" in honor of Pi day. (Participants encouraged to bring homemade or store-bought pies of all kinds!) Please see the attached flier for details.



Can you help? Volunteers needed; see www.bit.ly/TMmathnight

African American Family Gathering

Improve **education for African American students**, improve **school and family partnerships**, and get the latest updates for our African American students and families at the **African American Family Gathering**, held **Tuesday, March 17, 6-8 pm** at Graham Hill Elementary School (5149 S Graham St.)



Hosted by Seattle Public Schools for families in the Central and Southeast regions, you'll be able to give your input on the following topics and more:

- **Schools' goals** for African American students
- **Changing start times** for high school students
- **Discipline of African American students** in Seattle Public Schools

Special Guests: Kelly Aramaki, Southeast Regional Director and Sarah Pritchett, Central Regional Director

Includes food and activities for kids!

For more information, contact volunteer parent leader Emijah Smith at (206) 841-9397 or e-mail ashantimichai@gmail.com.

Connecting Before Correcting: Parents Learn Positive Discipline at PTA Meeting

At last week's PTA meeting, attendees enjoyed an interactive and informative discussion on **Positive Discipline** led by Dr. Jody McVittie of Sound Discipline. Dr. McVittie led parents through thought-provoking exercises to help them understand useful Positive Discipline techniques such as how encouragement helps kids more than praise and how to be both **kind and firm**. If you weren't able to make it, read the meeting handout at www.bit.ly/2015-TMPTA-PosDis



Other meeting news included Principal May updating attendees on **next year's enrollment numbers**, news on two March math nights (see the calendar on Page 1), and information on a PTA grant that will provide a **technology readiness profile** for TM. PTA Board President Tasha Irvine highlighted upcoming school events (including a Seattle Storm night) and explained the process for assembling next year's PTA Board. Interested in more information on available positions? Mail pta@tmlink.org.

For more detailed information, read the Draft Minutes at www.bit.ly/1GnCRyh

"Roots of Empathy" Taught By Baby Luka



Meghan Kaloper
Counselor's Corner

This year, we decided to pilot the *Roots of Empathy* program here at Thurgood Marshall. **Roots of Empathy** is an experiential learning curriculum that focuses on raising levels of empathy and self-awareness. The most unique part of this experience is that all lessons are **taught using a baby and his/her parents** as a model for understanding attachment, attunement, and empathy. Currently, I'm working on this curriculum with **Ms. Powell's class** with the help of **baby Luka** and his parents, Steph and Brian.

We asked the kids what they have learned so far this year from the Roots of Empathy program and here are their insights:

"I learned we have to be careful with a baby."

"I learned that Luka is going to be like us!"

"I'm learning to stop bullying."

"I learned what to do when my sister is mean to me and how to handle it."

"I learned that we need to be kind to each other."

"I learned that things are harder when you are a baby."

"I feel good when baby Luka comes."



Baby Luka playing in a classroom for Roots of Empathy

We hope to expand this program in the future and we look forward to continuing to **watch baby Luka grow, change, and develop his skills!** For more information about **Roots of Empathy**, please visit their web site: www.rootsofempathy.org

Yearbook 2015 Forms Coming Home Soon



Look for Yearbook order forms to come home soon. Please upload photos to www.dbinbox.com/Thurgood_Marshall_Yearbook. All photos considered!

TM Briefs

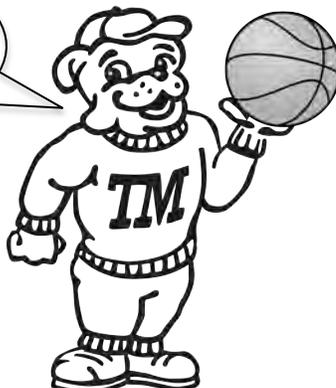
- **Interested in Before-School Running Club?** The club is open to all students and still needs two volunteers: one for coaching and one to coordinate email (which could be done from home). See *last week's Pup Press* for more details. If you think your child would like to participate, or you have time to help before school, contact Ms. Graham, TM's occupational therapist, at magraham@seattleschools.org by **Monday, March 9**. *Running is a great opportunity to get those wiggles out!*
- **Last call for 3rd-, 4th-, and 5th-grade girls** for the **Ultimate Frisbee** team (practices after school on Tues/Thurs, and games on Saturdays). Contact Coach Baird Johnson for an application at 206-495-5253 or at baird.m.johnson@gmail.com.



MARCH MATCH-NESS!

Brought to you by YOUR Thurgood Marshall PTA!

Supporting the
Annual Giving Fund
is a SLAM DUNK!



We still need to raise **\$30,000** for the Annual Giving Fund to meet our **\$130,000** goal and maintain PTA-supported programs.*

Help us beat the buzzer by teaming up with donors who have just created the year's last challenge match!

The play: If we raise \$12,500 in March, a group of Thurgood Marshall All-Stars will match the funds dollar for dollar and contribute another \$12,500.

Everyone at Thurgood Marshall can help us earn the match!

- **Benchwarmers**...get in the game and make your gift!
- Already gave? Go for the **one-and-one!**
- Kids: You, too, can **drop a dime!**
- Hey, we'll even take a **granny shot.**

BONUS: Every family that donates to the Annual Giving Fund in March will be entered in a drawing for **4 free tickets** to TM Night at the **Seattle Storm** game on **June 6** at Key Arena!



Don't let the clock run out! With your help, we can make our goal!

** Turn over to learn more about the impact of the Annual Fund at Thurgood Marshall, plus donation instructions & a fun basketball glossary!*

MARCH MATCH-NESS!

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YES, I/we will make a gift to TM PTA's Annual Giving Fund in the amount of: \$ _____

I have enclosed a check made payable to Thurgood Marshall PTA.

I prefer to pay by credit card and will make my donation through the PTA website: www.tmlink.org

My employer, _____, will match my donation.

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Student: _____ Grade _____ Student: _____ Grade _____

Please return to school or mail to

TM ANNUAL GIVING FUND, PO Box 22305, Seattle WA 98122-0305

To give online, click the Donate Now link at <http://www.tmlink.org>

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Does all this basketball lingo have you confused?

Slam dunk: (v) To score by putting the ball directly through the basket with one or both hands. (n) A shot made by dunking.

Buzzer beater: A shot taken before the game clock of a quarter expires but that does not go in the basket until after the clock expires and the buzzer sounds.

Benchwarmer: A player who sits on the bench for most if not all of the game.

One-and-one: A free-throw attempt which, if made, allows the player a second free-throw attempt.

Drop a dime: To make an assist without looking.

Granny shot: An underhand shot taken using both hands, usually as a free throw.

Shot clock: A timer designed to increase the pace (and subsequently, the score) by requiring a shot to be released before the timer expires.

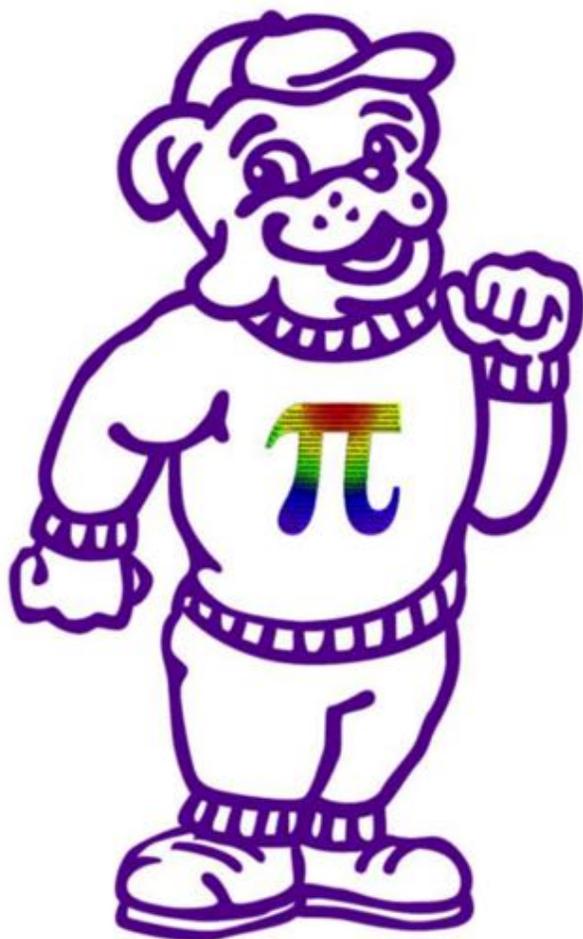
Basketball puns aside...YOUR contribution makes a big difference!

Your support of the Annual Giving Fund (AGF) helps our children, teachers and staff every day by paying for resources and programs that the school district doesn't provide. Thank you!

- Capital projects like the installation of overhead projectors in all classrooms.
- 50% of our full-time librarian's salary, ensuring that every child sees Ms. Hudson every week.
- 100% salary support for our school counselor, Ms. Kaloper, who brings social and emotional learning to our classrooms and helps our
- students through ups and downs at school.
- Drama instruction from Seattle Children's Theatre and Seattle Shakespeare Company.
- Grants for teacher-initiated classroom and school-wide projects that enhance learning and enrichment for our students.

Come and have *sum* FREE fun at the 1st Annual Thurgood Marshall

MathaPalooza



Thurs., March 12: 6:30-8 pm, Cafeteria

Fun: Games for all ages (Dice • Cards • Carnival-style • Board • *Even some games for people who think they hate math!*)

Potluck: Share your favorite pi(e). (Apple • Quiche • Meat • Pizza • ???) Can't bring or buy something? Free pizza & drinks available.

Help: We need volunteers for shifts as short as 30 minutes. Go to <http://bit.ly/TMmathnight>



This night really is for all ages! Parents and guardians, play with your kids. Kids, give them a chance to win! People who think math isn't fun, this night is for you, too! And, don't forget to celebrate Pi Day at your home on Sat., 3.14!