

PUP PRESS



Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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**Principal
Katle May**

PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR – ALREADY?!

While it is only the middle of March, we already are busy with planning for 2015-16! March is the month of budgeting and planning for next year's staffing needs. The District has told us to expect 560 students—about 40 students more than we have this year. We anticipate adding two classes (and two more portables), but are awaiting confirmation from the District. I will let you know as I learn more.

We are also thinking about how best to meet student needs. We are always looking for parents who can commit to volunteering weekly to work with students on literacy and other tutoring activities. Thank you to those of you who are already supporting the children in this way. I am working closely with our PTA to plan other ways to support tutoring next year—another example of how your donations to the PTA Annual Giving Fund will directly impact students' learning.

Speaking of impact, we are thrilled to have an AmeriCorps participant working 20 hours per week this spring. Sam Gilliam, "Mr. G." to the students, is part of the AmeriCorps Foster Grandparent program for seniors. Mr. G. will be working closely with 1st- and 2nd-grade students every morning. Please say hello if you see him in our hallways!

We receive many requests from parents to visit our classrooms or have their students "shadow" a classroom for a day. We do our best to limit disruption to classroom learning, and adding additional adults and students to the mix can be tricky. We ask that families who are interested in visiting our school come during regularly scheduled tours. Our last tour for the year will be **May 20**. More information is on our website, marshalles.seattleschools.org, or the PTA website, <http://www.tmlink.org>.

Spring Open House in May

Save the date for the Thurgood Marshall Open House on Thursday, May 14, 6:30-8 pm.

You'll be able to visit your child's current class to see some of their work on display. And, you can also visit classes at the next grade level, to meet teachers, and see what the work looks like. Prospective families can also visit at this time. Children are welcome!

MARCH MATCH-NESS

*Everyone at TM can
help us meet our goal!*

March Match-ness challenge amount

\$12,500

Raised so far

\$5,645

Make your donation today to receive 1:1 matching funds. If we can "beat the buzzer" and raise \$12,500 by **March 31**, a group of TM families will add **another \$12,500** to the Annual Giving Fund!

(Learn how this supports our library on page 2!)



EVENT CALENDAR

Wed., March 25: Two-hour early release

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



Fri., March 27

Spring Enrichment Forms Due

Wed., April 1

Deadline for **Yearbook Order Forms!**

Thurs., April 2

Operations/Capital Levy Meeting
6:30-8 pm, Meany Middle School

Sat., April 4

Community Meeting w/School Board Member
Stephan Blanford
10-11:30 am at Douglass Truth Library Branch.

DATES TO SAVE

Fri., April 24: Bingo Night

Thurs., April 30: 4th/5th-grade Choir
at Garfield

Thurs., May 14: Spring Open House
at Thurgood Marshall



Thurs. May 21: Instrumental Music Concert
at Thurgood Marshall

Thurs. May 28: Choir Performance
at Thurgood Marshall

TUTU'S PANTRY

> **THIS WEEK'S BIGGEST NEEDS:**
SINGLE-SERVE CEREAL/OATMEAL
CANNED VEGETABLES



March 16-20: K/PEACE Donations

March 23-27: 1st-Grade Donations

March 30-April 3: 2nd-Grade Donations

Bingo Night in April

Mark your calendars now! Thurgood Marshall Elementary is hosting a **Family Bingo Night** on Friday, April 24.

If you have a prize to donate to our fabulous prize tables, or want to get involved in this year's event, mail Brenda at belskifackler@gmail.com



Seattle Special Ed (SPED) PTSA Meeting on Monday

The SPED PTSA serves and advocates for all **students with disabilities and their families**. Meetings are held monthly at John Stanford Center, Room 2700, from 7-9 pm; the next meeting will be Monday, March 23. To be discussed: **the state of SPED within the District**, the RC-CAP, Open Enrollment, **Smarter Balanced** tests, and more. For more information, visit www.seattlespecialedptsa.org/

Without Donations, Less Library Time?

Did you know that libraries at many Seattle public schools are only open part-time? Not at Thurgood Marshall. The PTA raises funds to **keep the library open all day** because literacy and reading are so essential to the school's mission.

"It takes time to get to know our students and help each one find the books to meet their needs and interests, whether they are preschool pre-readers or older students reading well beyond grade level. Thanks to the Annual Giving Fund support, I can do my job well, keep the library open for recesses and throughout the entire day, and truly help make our library the hub for literacy at our school." – Full-time TM Librarian Merilee Hudson, whose position is partially funded by the PTA



Here are some of the extra (and amazing!) activities that Ms. Hudson can undertake with a full-time schedule:

- **Author visits, book talks and story times** to broaden our young readers' horizons. There are more books out there than Captain Underpants!
- **Lessons in library skills**, including online library resources, research strategies, and the famous **Dewey Decimal rap!**
- **Recess library times** for students to explore books and use computers to work on projects using software like Inspiration and MS Word.
- **Partnerships with classroom teachers** to pull books and gather resources to support special classroom units.
- **Summer library hours** to make sure that students have access to books and reading suggestions during the break.

Every donation to the Annual Giving Fund, of any amount, helps the PTA provide important funding for programs like a **full-time librarian, school counselor, classroom grants** and **drama instruction**.



It's easy to help! **Donate online** with a credit card or PayPal on www.tmlink.org or send a check in with the giving form at www.bit.ly/TMGivingForm
Donations made this month are doubled!

Questions? Please email TM parents & AGF Co-Chairs Jenny Ott & Stacey Joanovic: giving@tmlink.org.

Class Recordings on Music Website

Visit **Ms. French's music website** for recordings of Thurgood Marshall students singing and playing recorders in music class!

thurgoodmarshallmusic.wordpress.com



Spring Enrichment Class Registration Forms Due Next Friday ...

Spring Enrichment starts the week of April 6. (Karate and Sponge language classes continue without breaks.)

The Enrichment catalog was sent home with students last week. The catalog and registration form can be found at bit.ly/TmEnrichPage

Registration ends Friday, March 27. This deadline is final.

Questions? Please email Percy Allen at percycallen2@gmail.com.

... and Winter Enrichment Classes Ending

Winter Enrichment classes are ending this month; please make sure your child is aware of when his or her class ends. These classes have already ended: Basketball, Capoeira, Creative Computing with Scratch (Basic), Drama: Dark Portal, Guitar (Advanced), Mad Science, World Music

Classes ending this week: Art Club with Willow, Chess Club, Going Places with Friends, Golf, Guitar (Beginning), iPad Lego Animation, Minecraft Code with Raspberry Pi, and Tennis

Classes ending next week: Creative Computing with Scratch (Advanced), Engineering Lego Challenge, Puppetry

Karate, Japanese, and Spanish continue through the spring quarter.

Thurgood Marshall's Most Wanted: Open PTA Positions for 2015-16!

Make a difference and connect with other families; we have many open positions on the PTA for next year:

- Co-President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Annual Giving Fund/Promotions Co-Chair
- Communications Co-Chair
- Events Chair
- Pup Press Editor
- Directory Editor
- And more!



If you are interested in one of these positions, or learning about other open volunteer roles for next year, please contact Jen Ellis at jenniferellis.206@gmail.com. **Detailed job descriptions** are available to help you understand the roles, and we're happy to chat with you about your specific interests, skills and talents.

Help Select PTA Board Nominees

Help recommend nominees for next year's PTA Board by volunteering for the **Nominating Committee**. Email Jen Ellis at jenniferellis.206@gmail.com.

TM Briefs

- Yearbook order forms (sent home last week) are due April 1. Send them back to school or order your yearbook online at www.yuenluistudio.com (click **Online Viewing**, then search for **Thurgood Marshall Elementary Yearbook**).
- Have you visited Thurgood Marshall Elementary's **Facebook page** yet? Go to www.bit.ly/TMElemFacebook





Seattle Public Schools – Summer 2015 KINDERGARTEN JUMP START

August 17-21, 2015

What is Jump Start?

Jump Start is a way to help children and their families begin school ready – and excited – about learning. It is a weeklong experience for new kindergarteners and their families to learn about their new school. Children will become familiar with the school building, staff, and typical school-day activities and practices.

Jump Start aims to help young children:

- ▶ experience joyful learning
- ▶ learn school readiness behaviors
- ▶ become more comfortable with the school environment

Jump Start also aims to:

- ▶ help teachers to get to know students better
- ▶ allow teachers to assess students' skills and strengths

This summer, elementary and K-8 schools across the city of Seattle will offer Jump Start the week of August 17-21.

Jump Start will run for five consecutive half-days (usually 9 a.m. to noon). Parents/guardians will have a chance to meet with the school principal during the week. Interpreters will be available for children who are English-language learners. Transportation is not provided.



How can I sign up my child for Jump Start?



Families who have enrolled their child in kindergarten will receive a letter from their assigned school inviting them to participate. Families will need to reserve a space and return needed health and safety forms ahead of time. Check the list of participating schools on the reverse side of this flyer to see if Jump Start is offered at your school.

Comments from past Jump Start participants

- ▶ *“This transition really eased my worries. This has been a great week. I’ve been telling everyone I know.”* - Parent
- ▶ *“My child is usually shy; since attending Jump Start, she smiles more, is engaged in the classroom activities and is making friends.”* - Parent
- ▶ *“The students were much more relaxed and calm. The dynamic of my class is really close and children settled in a lot faster this year – I believe because of Jump Start.”* - Teacher
- ▶ *“It started the school year with a different climate. We are now reaping the gains.”* - Principal

For a list of participating schools, see other side.



Schools participating in Jump Start 2015

Alki	Maple
Arbor Heights	Martin Luther King, Jr.
Bailey Gatzert	McDonald International
Beacon Hill International	McGilvra
Broadview-Thomson K-8	Montlake
Concord International	North Beach
Dearborn Park International	Northgate
Dunlap	Olympic Hills
Emerson	Olympic View
Fairmount Park	Orca K-8
Gatewood	Pathfinder K-8
Graham Hill	Queen Anne Elementary
Green Lake	Roxhill
Hawthorne	Sacajawea
Hazel Wolf K-8	Salmon Bay K-8
Highland Park	Sand Point
John Hay	Sanislo
John Muir	South Shore K-8
John Rogers	Stevens
Lafayette	Thurgood Marshall
Laurelhurst	TOPS K-8
Lawton	Van Asselt
Leschi	Viewlands
Licton Springs K-8 @ Lincoln	West Woodland
Lowell	Wing Luke
Madrona K-8	