

# PUP PRESS

Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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**Principal  
Katie May**

## STRIVING FOR EQUITY

This week, our school completed an application to be part of the Phase I implementation of Racial Equity Teams in Seattle Schools. The Seattle Public Schools Department of Equity and Race Relations is teaming up with the City of Seattle’s Race and Social Justice Initiative and the Racial Disproportionality in Discipline Committee to create a five-year plan to institutionalize educational and racial equity in our schools. I believe that Thurgood Marshall is ready to be among the first schools in Seattle to lead the way in this initiative, as we continue to reflect on our practices and how we create a school

that is responsive of the needs of all our students.

Part of the application asked that we describe our school readiness to embrace this undertaking. As I reflect on our efforts this year so far, I am impressed with the Thurgood Marshall staff’s engagement in this process. We know we have work to do, and we are eager to take it on. While this is just a beginning, I thought you might be interested in seeing the highlights of our equity work this year. We have:

- Created school-wide expectations for all students based on our motto: **Keeping it R.E.A.L.** (Resilient, Empathetic, Accountable, Lifelong Learners).
- Regularly met to **review academic data** for students who are underachieving, and to plan academic interventions to support their progress.
- Used the theme of “**Building Bridges**” with parents, students and staff to highlight the importance of the work that we are doing and that still needs to be done.
- Partnered with Communities and Parents for Public Schools (CPPS) to hold a parent leadership training. From this work, a new parent group, **Bullpup Parents**, was created to give all groups of parents a voice in school matters and a chance to connect.
- Restructured our **Building Leadership Team** to include parent representation from each of our three programs and parents who mirror the diversity of our school.
- Formed an **Arts Team** that has the central goals of bringing diverse groups of students together through the arts and using the arts to teach students about diverse cultures.

*(continued on page 2)*



## MARCH MATCH-NESS

**5 Days Left to Double Your Donation!**

March Match-ness challenge amount

**\$12,500**

Raised so far

**\$7,805**

**Only 4 out of 10 TM families have donated this year.** New donors, your gift is needed now more than ever so we can reach our goal! **Donate by March 31** so our school will receive additional funds matching your gift.

**(It’s important! Learn how AGF supports arts education on page 2!)**

## EVENT CALENDAR

**Fri., March 27**

Spring Enrichment Forms Due

**TOMORROW**

**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 Director  
Stephan Blanford  
10-11:30 am at Douglass Truth Library Branch

**Mon., April 13-Fri., April 17**

Spring Break: **NO SCHOOL**



## TUTU’S PANTRY

**THIS WEEK’S BIGGEST NEEDS:**

CANNED BEANS (black, baked, etc.)



**March 30-April 3:** 2nd-Grade Donations

**April 6-April 10:** 3rd-Grade Donations

## Smarter Balanced Resources & Test Dates for Each Class

The District has produced a video designed to help families understand Smarter Balanced and view portions of the test format:  
[www.bit.ly/1D0yfh2](http://www.bit.ly/1D0yfh2)

In addition to the video, new resources have been added to the District’s Smarter Balanced page: [www.bit.ly/SeaSmartBal](http://www.bit.ly/SeaSmartBal)

**IMPORTANT: Testing dates** for each TM class are posted at [www.bit.ly/SBtestdates](http://www.bit.ly/SBtestdates). Some copies of the flier sent to Grades 3-5 families last week omitted this information.

## Think Small for Tutu’s Pantry

Tutu’s Pantry appreciates all the recent donations! Especially appreciated? Small or individual sized boxes and cans — some of those backpacks can get heavy for kids to tote!

## Special Ed Regional Meetings

The Special Education Department will be hosting regional meetings for families to learn about upcoming changes. Visit [www.bit.ly/1HK5i60](http://www.bit.ly/1HK5i60) for information.

## Free Gardening Enrichment Class!

A free **Gardening Enrichment class** was inadvertently omitted from the Enrichment catalog; please see the PTA web site for details about this class for Grades K-5 held on Wednesday afternoons:  
[www.tmlink.org/?p=2467](http://www.tmlink.org/?p=2467).



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## Your Donations Bring Drama to All Students

This winter and spring, **Seattle Children's Theatre** is providing an **Artist Residency** at our school. Working with our teachers, professional drama instructors plan grade-appropriate lessons from 30 minutes to an hour or more every week. All classrooms have **dedicated time with SCT**, and PEACE Academy students may join their buddy classrooms.

Arts education is an important part of our children's learning, and **drama instruction like this is only possible** because of **generous support** from the PTA's **Annual Giving Fund**.

Here's what our teachers say:

"Drama class was a supportive space where students were encouraged to try out their ideas. Students were asked to imagine and explore characters and their motivations, consider what it means for actors to 'be in relationship' with each other, and work together to create scenes that connect with their audience."

—Sarah Gese, 2nd-grade teacher



"Our SCT teaching artist demonstrated different ways an actor uses his or her voice and body to create a character. He then asked each student to choose a voice and body movement to introduce him or herself, which created a lot of excitement and generated many smiles. This exercise connected nicely with the

kids' recent efforts to 'show not tell' in their written stories, as written descriptions of voice and body language are a big part of showing not telling."

—Rob Long, 1st/2nd-grade teacher

"My students love the opportunity to engage in creative learning. They get to move their bodies and express themselves, which helps them stay connected to learning for the rest of the day."

—Samantha Egelhoff, 5th-grade teacher

**Thank you to all the families** who generously contribute to the Fund and make **drama instruction available to all our children!**

**It's easy to help!** Donate by credit card at [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org) or send a check to school (payable to Thurgood Marshall PTA).  
**A challenge match will double all donations in March!**

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

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## Parenting Book Discussion Group Forming

Are you interested in joining a **Parent Discussion Group** using a book that can help us all raise **competent and caring kids**? Counselor Meghan Kaloper and the PTA are teaming up to launch a pilot discussion group around the book *Face to Face* (<http://www.family-empower.com/face-to-face/>) this spring. The book will be available for purchase or checkout.

Meetings will be held on eight Tuesdays, starting **April 21**, from 9:30-11 am\* at the YMCA Child Care Building next to school.

To join the group or get more information, please e-mail Ms. Kaloper at [mrharris@seattleschools.org](mailto:mrharris@seattleschools.org) and include your name and the names of your children and the grades they are in.

\*Future discussion groups will have the flexibility to be held in the evenings or additional times during the day.

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## NEWS – Bingo Night – NEWS

Seattle's favorite Bingo host, "Bing Wheeler," has accepted our invitation to host **Family Bingo Night** on **Friday, April 24**. He will be bringing his big wheel and is guaranteed to keep us all laughing.



So mark your calendar and join us for a night of **big wheel spinning, free food and great prizes!** Games begin at 6pm. Sign up to volunteer here: [www.bit.ly/Bingo2015atTM](http://www.bit.ly/Bingo2015atTM)

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## Open PTA Positions for 2015–16

There's no mystery about how things get done in the PTA – it's just a dedicated group of friendly volunteers! **If you're curious to learn more, please consider attending our next PTA Board meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 6:30-8 pm** in the school library.



It's no exclusive club! We **strongly encourage new parents** to get involved! Open positions include:

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

To learn more about open positions, please contact Jen Ellis at [jenniferellis.206@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferellis.206@gmail.com).

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## Equity (continued from page 1)

- Received a grant from **Sound Discipline** to participate in a monthly review of our **discipline data** through a very structured process, to help us find patterns and inequities that need to be addressed.
- Provided **Equity Training for all staff**, taught by Angelique Jenkins of Seattle University.
- Hosted an **African-American Family Meeting** in January.

We also formed partnerships between classrooms around the school to bring students together in new ways including:

- In **"Moral Dilemma"** groups, all four 5th-grade classes are mixed each Friday. Teachers present critical thinking exercises to their groups, and students problem-solve together.
- A 5th-grade class partners with a PEACE Academy class for a **weekly PE time**. As the 5th-graders support the PEACE Academy students in PE activities, they learn from each other.
- 1st- and 2nd-grade **"Friendship Days"** in the fall mix up the classes. Students participate in activities in each classroom, getting to know each other and the primary teachers better.
- Reading Buddies** are partnered at grade levels throughout the school.
- Open seating** at lunch helps students meet new friends.
- Thoughtful scheduling of programs such as **5th-grade Soccer Referees** encourages mixing of students across programs.
- Teacher **Professional Learning Communities** were formed around grade level standards so that teachers across the General Education and HCC programs work together (i.e., a 4th-grade General Education teacher works with 3rd-grade HCC teachers, as they all use the 4th-grade Common Core Language Standards).