

PUP PRESS

Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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**Principal
Katle May**

BIG ACHIEVEMENTS THIS MONTH

I am pleased to let you know that Thurgood Marshall Elementary has just been named a recipient of the **2014 Washington Achievement** award. The Washington Achievement Awards (www.bit.ly/1HuMvyn) are sponsored by the Washington State Board of Education and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. They celebrate Washington's top-performing schools and recognize achievement in many categories.

Washington Achievement Award winners are selected using the State Board of Education Revised Achievement Index and are based on **statewide assessment data** for the three previous years. The award is given in six categories: Overall Excellence, High Progress, Reading Growth, Math Growth, Extended Graduation Rate and English Language Acquisition. Thurgood Marshall Elementary is being recognized for **High Progress**. It is wonderful to have this recognition of the consistent effort and hard work of our teachers, students and school community!

In late March, I wrote about our application and efforts to be chosen as part of the Phase I implementation of **Racial Equity Teams** in Seattle Schools. 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. We were recently notified that **we have indeed been chosen to participate!** The Department of Equity and Race Relations for the District let us know that we are one of 9% of SPS schools that will be partaking in this endeavor and one of the 53% of applicant schools that were chosen. From our acceptance letter:

*We chose your school because you had a well thought out application, which reflected a readiness to engage in racial equity work, and you had plans for your own building Equity Team. We are all very excited to work with you and the other 8 committed school communities as we begin Racial Equity Teams in Seattle Public Schools this year:
Nathan Hale, Olympic Hills, John Muir, Seattle World School, South Shore K-8, Wing Luke, Sealth High School and Rainier View.*

We are very excited about how this new program will support the efforts currently underway in our school.

Pup Pride: Families From Every Classroom Support AGF!

Thank you to all the families and friends of our school who made our 2014-2015 Annual Giving Fund a success! With generous contributions, we have **met our goal of \$130,000**, providing more school library hours, supporting our school counselor, funding classroom libraries and teacher grants, and enriching our children's education with drama instruction by Seattle Children's Theatre.

Extra special recognition goes to **14 families who committed over \$41,000** to create three Challenge Matches, which our school community met with enthusiasm in October, December and March. Your generosity inspires us all!

With gratitude,
Jenny Ott & Stacey Joanovic
2014-15 Annual Giving Fund Co-Chairs

2014-15 Annual Giving Fund
\$131,450 raised
216 donors
48% of TM families contributed
Participation from **every classroom**
Giving participation by grade:
Kindergarten: 22%
1st grade: 48%
2nd grade: 36%
3rd grade: 72% (**WOW!**)
4th grade: 40%
5th grade: 48%

It's not too late to add your support!
GiveBIG to TM on May 5!
(see page 2)

EVENT CALENDAR

Friday, April 24

Bingo Night!
6-7:30 pm in Cafeteria

TOMORROW

Wed., April 29

Dessert Potluck; 6:30 pm, Cafeteria & Playground

Thurs., April 30

Principal Coffee w/technology consultant Jim Dunnigan
9:15 am in Library



Sat., May 1:

Deadline for May 16 Mariners tix (*see flier*)

May 4-8

Teacher Appreciation Week



Tues., May 5:

GiveBIG Day (*see page 2*)

Thurs., May 21

Spring Instrumental Concert

TUTU'S PANTRY

THIS WEEK'S NEED: PB & JELLY

April 20-24: 4th-Grade Donations

April 27-May 1: 5th-Grade Donations



Bingo and Pizza TOMORROW!

Come watch the Big Wheel spin tomorrow night, **Friday April 24** starting at 6 pm. We'll have **pizza and prizes** and Seattle's favorite Bingo personality, **Bing Wheeler**, will be spinning his giant bingo wheel and keeping things fun. Bring the whole family!



Today (Thurs., April 23) is the last day to **drop off items** at the front office to be used for prizes. Small items welcomed and appreciated!

Volunteer positions still open:
www.bit.ly/Bingo2015atTM



Staff Appreciation Week

Staff Appreciation is May 4-8 and we need your help to make this a special week at school. There are volunteer opportunities for everyone, from **dropping off food** for staff meals to bringing in a **bouquet of flowers** to **being on site** to help with events and more.



Viewing volunteer opportunities and signing up is easy with our Sign Up Genius page. Go to www.bit.ly/1F7eTHo to get involved with this fun week! Please contact Heather Bauer (hdbauer@gmail.com) with any questions.

Smarter Balanced testing continues for many students this month and next. The schedule is available on www.tmlink.org.

Send Our Teachers to College with GiveBIG

With Seattle's citywide day of giving coming up on May 5, the PTA Board has set a **stretch goal for an exciting NEW opportunity for teachers** that Principal Katie May has proposed for PTA funding.

Our goal: To raise an additional \$5,000 for the Annual Giving Fund so that the PTA can **help send thirteen Thurgood Marshall teachers** to the prestigious **Columbia Teachers College Reading and Writing Institutes** this summer.

When the PTA Board learned about this chance to support our teachers' professional development, we felt it was important enough to ask our school community for help one last time. Plus, **your gift on GiveBIG day (May 5) can help Thurgood Marshall earn matching dollars from the Seattle Foundation.**

GiveBIG to Thurgood Marshall on May 5!

All GiveBIG donations must be made online through the Seattle Foundation website. Watch for more info from the PTA about when and where to make your donation to support TM on May 5. If you have any questions, email giving@tmlink.org.

Bullpup Parents Spring Dessert Potluck

Please join us for a chance to **visit with other Thurgood Marshall families** and talk about **ways to build community**. If you are interested in helping plan informal social get-togethers, create gathering places for parents to talk, or work on a new all-school bulletin board in front of the school—or have other ideas about ensuring all families feel welcome and connected—please come! All parents, caregivers and children are welcome.



Date: Wednesday, April 29

Time: 6:30-8 pm

Place: Thurgood Marshall Cafeteria & Playground

Hosted by *Community & Parents for Public Schools*

Please bring a dessert to share!

Please RSVP to Laura James at lauraj@cppofofseattle.org Or 206-713-6663.

Meetings to Discuss School Start Times

Neighborhood meetings are taking place to discuss changing **bell times for students**. Currently, the District has identified three potential options regarding bell times, which will be the subject of the discussions:

- Flip elementary and high school bell times
- Extend the high school day by adding an optional seventh period then offer students the option of late arrival
- Keep things as they are

Meeting times are listed below. For more information, please visit neighbortoneighbor.www.seattleschools.org

Thurs., April 30, 7–8:30 pm at Hamilton International Middle School Commons (1610 N 41st St)

Tues., May 5, 7–8:30 pm at New Holly Neighborhood Campus Gathering Hall (7054 32nd Ave South)

Wed., May 6, 7-8:30 pm at Garfield H.S. Commons (400 23rd Ave)

Tues., May 12, 7–8:30 pm at Chief Sealth High School Commons (2600 SW Thistle St)

Key PTA Volunteers Sought for 2015–16

We are still eager to find volunteers to fill open slots next year. Volunteering is a great way to meet other involved families and keep in touch with what's going on at school!

- **Treasurer** –Manage the PTA budget, write the checks, and help school staff take advantage of their PTA funds.
- **Annual Giving Fund Promotions Co-Chair** – Think of fun ways to get our community involved in giving to the PTA.
- **Events Chair** – Be our party czar! Be the go-to consultant for Event Team Leads as they plan our popular events like **Fall Dance** and **Bingo Night**.
- **Communications Co-Chair** – Strengthen and inform our community through resources such as Pup Press weekly newsletter, TMLink.org, PTA bulletin board and more. Tasks are split among 3-5 people.
- **Directory Editor** – Compile the school directory containing families' address and phone number information.
- **Pup Press Editor** – Solicit and edit articles, do simple layout and write headlines. Can be split into co-editorships.

For information on these openings or other available positions (like Box Tops Coordinator or Class Rep) contact Jen Ellis at jenniferellis.206@gmail.com

Thurgood Marshall Spirit Flag Now Flying

Next time you walk by the front of the school, take a look up at the flagpole at our new **Thurgood Marshall Spirit Flag** featuring our friendly Bull Pup. The flag was designed by 4th-grader **Jacqueline Miller** from P1. Thanks to Jacqueline's parents for coordinating and funding the effort to create the flag, which was officially presented at an assembly before Spring Break.



The flag contest was a project of the **TM student council**, and was initially proposed by **Lucie Pearson**, a council member from room 101, as a way to build school spirit. Students in 3rd to 5th grades were allowed to submit designs, and the **entire school was asked to vote** on the seven designs selected as finalists.

Seeking Parent Contractors!

On occasion the school and PTA need to have a licensed contractor sign off on "self-help" projects. Time commitment is as little as signing off on plans or helping build out projects – it's up to you! If you are a **licensed contractor** and can provide this help, please email Jen Ellis at

Jenniferellis.206@gmail.com.





SEATTLE MARINERS

Thurgood Marshall Elementary School AT SAFECO FIELD



Game Date

RED SOX VS. MARINERS
SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2015 • 6:10 PM

View Level Seats For \$12.00 Rate

- Bring out your family and friends and join our school at Safeco Field to watch some exciting Major League Baseball action.
- We have a large block of seats reserved for the game, so order your seats now and join us for some fun at the ballpark.

Special Discount

View Level Seats for \$12

For all students and their families. **If you would like to sit with another family, please place one order for the entire group.** Orders are filled on a first come first serve basis and are based on availability.

Scoreboard Greeting

Watch for our school's name on the video board in the 4th inning for our special welcome to Safeco Field.

The Seattle Mariners are extending a discount ticket offer to the students, parents, faculty and staff at our school! Enjoy a special outing with your friends and family members!



To order tickets, fill out the form below and return it to the school office.

Deadline to order is May 1, 2015

Questions? Contact Janet at 206-406-4566 or janetc619@gmail.com

THURGOOD MARSHALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL • SAT., MAY 16, 2015

STUDENT _____

TEACHER & ROOM # _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN NAME _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

_____ A limited number of partial scholarships are available to cover one child and one guardian per family on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please check here if you are interested, and a PTA representative will be in touch.

of View Level Seats _____ @ \$12.00 = _____

If you would like to sit with another family, please place one order for the entire group.

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

***Make Checks Payable To: Thurgood Marshall PTA**