

PUP PRESS

Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

JUNE 4, 2015

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 36



**Principal
Katie May**

Standardized Testing Update

We all breathed a sigh of relief last Friday when our Smarter Balanced Assessment window closed. We are now officially done with the SBA for this year. We had a big learning curve our first time through with this test, both in terms of the content of the test and with the testing platform and technology to support it. The SBA is aligned with the Common Core Standards and reflects skills that are aligned with College and Career Readiness. The assessment includes writing at every grade level (not just 4th, 7th and 11th as the MSP did), new question types, and performance tasks that require students to demonstrate

research, writing and problem solving skills. In addition, the SBA has two Computer Adaptive Testing sections, meaning that the questions increase in difficulty as students get more responses correct, which gives a more accurate assessment of student ability level.

Our students took the SBA entirely online. This means that students were required to type all of their responses. While we did start using the District-supported Typing Agent program this winter, most students are just at a beginning level in their keyboarding skills. We know that this is a factor in students being able to compose their responses on the computer. In addition, we did experience some technical difficulties during testing – iPads occasionally freezing or needing to be restarted – which can interfere with student performance. Finally, the testing interface required students to compare texts and write responses, which meant they needed to scroll between texts. For children who are less fluent in technology use, this can add another level of complexity to the test.

The timing of the state assessment score reports has changed from June to September. These are the score reports from students' spring Smarter Balanced tests in reading, writing and math. Last month, the District told families that the score reports would likely be sent home with final report cards in June. Due to unanticipated delays at the state level, the District will now send score reports home in September, as well as posting scores online to the Source. September is the typical timing for state assessment score reports. Thank you for your patience as we work with this new assessment system. For more info, see the Smarter Balanced web page: www.bit.ly/SBA-SPS

If your student is a 3rd-grader who scores at a level 1 on their ELA assessment, you will be contacted by your child's teacher to discuss a support plan before the end of the year. This plan may include summer school, a summer reading program, or additional school supports.

Our kindergarten, 1st- and 2nd-grade students will be taking the MAP (Measurement of Academic Progress) test this week and next in reading and math, concluding our standardized testing for the year.

PTA Elects Officers, OKs Budget & Examines TM's Tech

PTA members elected 2015-16 **Board officers** (see sidebar), **thanked extraordinary volunteers**, and approved the **budget for next year at the general meeting on May 26**. The last half of the meeting featured **Jim Dunnigan**, a consultant hired by the PTA to review current and potential uses of technology at the school. Mr. Dunnigan presented his findings and led an interactive and informative discussion, and Principal May noted that in 2015-16, the school will add a part-time staff member focused on education technology.

The minutes, budget, and Mr. Dunnigan's report are attached to the electronic version of the Pup Press and can also be found at <http://tmlink.org/?p=433>.

Yearbooks Go Home Next Week; Last Chance to Buy One

Look for **yearbooks to come home next Wednesday**, June 10. A very (very!) limited supply is available for last-minute orders on a **first come/first served** basis. Sign up and put a check for \$13.75 made out to "Thurgood Marshall PTA" (or cash) in the manila envelope in the Front Office by **June 11**. Questions? Mail katesaxer@gmail.com

EVENT CALENDAR

Thurs., June 4

TODAY!

Volunteer Appreciation Event
3:45-4:30 pm on Playground (Cafeteria if rain)

2nd-Grade Picnic, 5:30-7 pm on Playground

Sat., June 6

CPPS: A Better Way Meeting, 9:30 am-1 pm
www.cppsforseattle.org/a-better-way/

TM Night at Seattle Storm, 6 pm

Mon., June 8

3rd-Grade Picnic, 5:30-7 pm on Playground

Tues., June 9

Final tour for prospective families
11 am-noon (sign in at Office)

4th-Grade Picnic, 5:30-7 pm on Playground

Wed., June 10

5th-Grade Promotion, 4:30-6 pm in Gym

Thurs., June 11

Field Day (see page 2)

Tues., June 16

Last Day of School (**UPDATED**)
(one-hour early dismissal)

SUMMER EVENTS

Summer Playdates (July and August)

www.tmlink.org/?p=2636

Library Open Hours

Tuesdays in summer from 4-7 pm

Check our Bullpup Parents Facebook group for other events:

www.facebook.com/groups/TMBullpupParents

TUTU'S PANTRY

THIS WEEK'S NEED: RICE

June 1-5: **4th Grade**

June 8-12: **5th Grade**

Donations for next year welcomed!



Newly Elected 2015-16 PTA Officers

Co-President: Casey Sommers

Co-President: Jamie Fackler

Vice President: Ben Jim

Treasurer: Jen Ellis

Secretary: Lauri Nakamoto

Yes, You Can Find It

Our lost-and-found bins are overflowing with lunchboxes, jackets and other items. Please have your child check the bins for any missing items. **Everything will be donated on the last day of school, Tuesday, June 16.**



TM Raises Funds to Improve Water in Nepal

Students, staff, and families raised a whopping **\$854.56** for **Splash**, an international safe water organization working in Nepal and focused on children. Thank you to the **Student Council** for coordinating the fundraiser and to **Hugo King** and **Tenzin Phentok** and their families for helping raise awareness and collecting and counting all of our coins to make the donation. Hugo spent several hours counting many, many coins!



2nd-grader Hugo King carries a flag at the recent Walk for Nepal.

Fifth-graders **Ceci Miovic** and **Saskia Meyer Irons** were deeply concerned about the conditions for families living in Nepal in the wake of the recent earthquake. The girls created a lemonade stand last weekend, raising over **\$70**. They donated all the proceeds to Thurgood Marshall's Nepal penny drive. We can be proud of our students' commitment to working for clean drinking water for all!

Donate to Splash at www.splash.org/nepal-earthquake.

Help Us Play at Next Week's Field Day

Please come help out on Field Day, **Thursday, June 11**. **Volunteers can** sign up online for the activity they want to do or supervise, including **gaga ball**, **tug of war**, **the potato sack race**, **water balloon toss** and **help with the BBQ**.

The best slots are going fast, but several stations still need a few more steady hands, such as face-painting! (You know that even a modest level of artistic skill will make most kids very happy.) Well-behaved siblings are welcome to accompany volunteers.

Event schedule (morning volunteers are needed at 9:15):

- **Morning:** K-2nd Grade & PEACE: 9:30-11:30 am
- **BBQ Lunch** for everyone
- **Afternoon:** 3rd-5th Grade: 12:45-2:45 pm



Please sign up at www.bit.ly/FieldDayTM2015.
Questions? Email Jen Hobbs at jen@jenfu.org.

Library Books Due Next Week ... or Else!

Library book reminder: All library books are due back to the library next week. If you think your child has lost a book, you can simply replace the lost book with a similar book in good condition. It does not have to be new, and does not need to be the same book.

5th-grade parents: It has been our practice to hold a child's report card until borrowed library books are returned. Again, if your child has lost a book please replace the book with a similar book. Report cards are held in the office along with a list of the missing books. Books can be returned through the end of June, since the Front Office will be open then.

"Bee" a Summer Reader: The library will be open on Tuesdays from 4-7 pm each week during the summer break. This is a great time to get books that have been highly in demand. Lots of books have been returned and are ready for check out! Watch for fliers to come home with more information on summer reading and learning opportunities.



Neighborhood Notes

The Central District Annual **Hopscotch** neighborhood event takes place on **Saturday, June 6**. Family-friendly activities occur all day, including sidewalk and rummage sales, **free hotdogs**, a Juneteenth celebration, and a **carnival** with music, a magic show, and more. The event starts at 10 am in **Flo Ware Park on Jackson Street** with the carnival in the afternoon and evening.

For details, see www.hopscotchcd.com

Monday marks the beginning of a **20-month-long construction project near 23rd Avenue** to replace the water main across a long stretch. The three-phase project will cause all northbound lanes (in whatever stretch is being worked on) to be closed for months, with just one southbound lane open. Traffic will be diverted to MLK Jr. Way. Families who drive from the North End to Thurgood Marshall might see their drive time affected in both directions.

Learn more: www.seattle.gov/transportation/23rd_ave.htm

Tutu's Pantry Supporter Profile: Mercer Island's French American School of Puget Sound

Mercer Island's French American School of Puget Sound has a history of supporting Tutu's Pantry, and our school's weekly food donation program would not be what it is without the wonderful support we receive from both the parents and the students at FASPS. Karina Klepach explained to us what the program means to her and to FASPS:

Shari Damphousse and I were new parents at FASPS when we were asked to co-chair FASPS's Tutu's Pantry committee. We enthusiastically accepted. As we dove into the program's operations, we asked our community and ourselves: *What IS Tutu's Pantry?* The answers have evolved from "our parent food donation program" to "a lifeline of support: tangible, via food donations, and intangible—moral and emotional support, via personal notes exchanged between the students" and "a learning tool for future generations via in-class discussions of socio-economic issues."

In this 2014-2015 school year our FASPS community donated over 330 bags of food to Thurgood Marshall, plus additional holiday donations. During the holidays, our hallway was packed with donations that tripled the usual weekly average of 15 bags. The Student Council organized an extraordinary and beautiful *Love in a Box* drive that brought joy to the holidays for 32 Thurgood Marshall children and their families. The touching Thank You notes from these children were shared with our community.

From the administration to the students, FASPS is committed to Tutu's Pantry, and our collaboration with Thurgood Marshall Elementary School is a reminder of how connected we all are in this world. Both Shari and I are grateful to have been given the opportunity to make a difference, and we sincerely hope that the students and their parents in the Tutu's program feel the love and support that the FASPS community sends each week.

'During the holidays, our hallway was packed with donations that tripled the usual weekday average of 15 bags.'

DRAFT -- Thurgood Marshall PTA General Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2015

6:30-8:45

Attendees (as listed on sign-in sheets): Tasha Irvine, Casey Sommers, Katie May, Lauri Nakamoto, Jennifer de la Cruz, Cliff Meyer, Percy Allen, Stacey Joanovic, Angie Jenkins, Bill Brewster, Dana Armstrong, Carolyn Pugh, Jamie Fackler, Karen Pinkard, Andrea Radosevich, Brindy Bundesmann, Deann Partlow, Natalie Zheng, Sven Liden, Destiny Bassett, Annette Sherr, Heather Bauer, Lisa Schaible, Kimberlee Barber, Victor Yagi

Welcome, Upcoming Calendar, and PTA Business – Tasha Irvine, Co-President

Tasha welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the upcoming calendar of important dates listed at the bottom of the agenda (see attached). She highlighted the upcoming choir concert, Seattle Storm game, end-of-year picnics, and the summer Tuesday play dates. Tasha also noted that there are three ways to keep in contact with happenings at TM over the summer: 1) email, 2) official TM website, and TM Facebook page.

We approved the minutes from the February General Membership meeting.

Tasha introduced the nominees for the TM PTA Board Executive Committee positions for the 2015-16 school year. The membership voted and approved the Executive Committee for next year as follows:

Co-President: Casey Sommers

Co-President: Jamie Fackler

Vice President: Ben Kim

Treasurer: Jen Ellis

Secretary: Lauri Nakamoto

Tasha then introduced the other chair members of the PTA board, as listed on the back of the agenda (see attached).

Volunteer Appreciation – Casey Sommers, Co-President

Casey thanked eight volunteers who have given so much of their time and talents to TM and are finishing their service this year. The honorees were Tasha Irvine, Dana Armstrong, Brindy Bundesmann, Ann McCurdy, Kim Enochs, Scott Engan, Daniella D’Louhy, and Cara Holloway. Those in attendance were introduced and given a small gift.

Treasurer’s Report and Budget Vote – Brindy Bundesmann

Brindy began by reviewing the budget process and timing for TM which has led to the draft budget (see attached). This draft budget was approved by the TM PTA Board at their early May meeting. Brindy outlined the major changes in this budget as compared to the current year’s budget and explained the rationale for each. The major changes include: 1) Increased Annual Giving Fund and Other Income goal to reach a balanced budget, 2) Increased tutor and playground support, and 3) New \$5K grant income to pay for a corresponding technology hardware expense. There was a brief Q&A period with questions regarding classroom and teacher grants, enrichment expense and teacher professional development. The membership voted and approved the draft budget as presented.

Guest Speaker – Jim Dunnigan, Technology Consultant

Tasha introduced Jim Dunnigan, an experienced technology consultant and instructor who has been working with the TM staff on a Technology Initiative Report (see attached). Jim led the membership in an interactive discussion of the current state of technology at TM and in education more generally. He shared his key findings and recommendations for TM and there was a lengthy Q&A session with Jim and Principal Katie May.

Meeting was adjourned.

Thurgood Marshall PTA
General Membership Meeting
May 26, 2015
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- 6:30 Welcome & Reminder of Upcoming Events
Approval of 2/24/15 Minutes
Approval of Board Slate for 2015-2016
Tasha Irvine, Co-President
- 6:40 Volunteer Recognition
Casey Sommers, Co-President
- 6:45 Treasurer's Report & Approval of 2015-16 PTA Budget
Brindy Bundesmann, Treasurer
- 7:00 Guest Speaker: Jim Dunnigan
Findings and recommendations regarding technology use at Thurgood Marshall, followed by Q and A session with Mr. Dunnigan and Ms. May

Upcoming Events:

- Thurs, May 28 Choir Concert @ 7pm w/ Bake Sale benefiting 5th Grade Tile Project
- Wed, Jun 3 K/1st Grade Picnic @5:30-7p on school playground
- Thurs, Jun 4 2nd Grade Picnic @5:30-7p on school playground
- Sat, Jun 6 TM at Seattle Storm Game @ 6:00 pm @ KeyArena
- Mon, Jun 8 3rd Grade Picnic @5:30-7p on school playground
- Tues, Jun 9 4th Grade Picnic @5:30-7p on school playground
- Wed, Jun 10 5th Grade Promotion @ 4:30-6 in school cafeteria
- Thurs, Jun 11 Field Day K-2/PEACE 9:30-11:30 & Grades 3-5 12:45-2:45
BBQ Lunch in between

Thurgood Marshall PTA Board Slate for 2015-16

Executive PTA Board:

Co-President	Casey Sommers
Co-President	Jamie Fackler
Vice President	Ben Kim
Treasurer	Jen Ellis
Secretary	Lauri Nakamoto

PTA Chairs and Representatives:

Communications Chair	Cliff Meyer
Fundraising Co-Chairs – Promotion	Jenny Ott and Heather Bauer
Fundraising Chair – Accounting	Stacey Joanovic
PEACE Academy Rep	Annette Sherr
PTA Teacher Liaison	Donna Dugan
Volunteer Chair/Co-Chairs	TBD
Tutu's Pantry Representative	Maggie Trapp
Events Chair	Brenda Fackler
Arts Liaison	Daphne Dejanikus
Bullpup Parents Coordinator	Karen Pinkard

Thurgood Marshall Elementary School PTA Budget 2015-16

Approved by the Membership on 5/26/15

INCOME

Annual Fund	\$160,000
Grant Awards	\$5,000
Annual Fund Expense	(\$1,000)
Other NET Income/fundraisers/membership	\$10,000
Net Annual Income	\$174,000

EXPENSES

Staff Funding Expenses	
<i>Salaries (Library/Counselor)</i>	\$83,902
<i>Music Teacher Stipend for choir</i>	\$1,250
<i>Classroom Grants</i>	\$9,900
<i>New Teacher Classroom Grant</i>	\$2,400
<i>Opportunity Grants</i>	\$5,000
<i>Classroom Tutor/Recess Aide</i>	\$20,000
Total Staff Funding Expenses	\$122,452

Student Enrichment	
<i>Assemblies</i>	\$3,000
<i>Drama</i>	\$16,500
<i>PNB Dance Program</i>	\$800
<i>Student Council</i>	\$500
Total Student Enrichment	\$20,800

PTA Operations	
<i>Bank fees, insurance, Licenses</i>	\$500
<i>PTA Meeting Expenses</i>	\$450
<i>Postage & Mailing</i>	\$200
<i>Printing</i>	\$400
<i>Family Directory</i>	\$1,000
<i>Office Supplies</i>	\$150
<i>Outside Services (web hosting, accountant)</i>	\$2,500
<i>Misc Expense</i>	\$100
Total PTA Operations	\$5,300

Grade Level & School Events	
<i>Pancake Breakfast</i>	\$0
<i>Bingo Night</i>	\$475
<i>Teacher Appreciation</i>	\$500
<i>Back-to-school coffee reception</i>	\$400
<i>Principal Coffee Chat</i>	\$360
<i>Lunar New Year/Multicultural Day</i>	\$350
<i>Admin Professionals Day</i>	\$100
<i>Fall Dance</i>	\$450
<i>Field Day</i>	\$500
<i>Yearbook</i>	\$50
<i>Grade Level Potlucks</i>	\$175
<i>Misc Events</i>	\$250
<i>Fifth Grade Celebration/Promotion</i>	\$500

Grade Level & School Events	\$4,110
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School Supplies	
Art Supplies	\$1,500
Library	\$2,000
Emergency Supplies	\$500
Classroom Libraries	\$5,500
Playground Equipment	\$1,000
Total School Supplies	\$10,500

Sub-Total Annual Expenses	\$163,162
One-Time Expenses	
Professional Development - Technology Initiatives	\$ 1,500.00
Technology Hardware- Dependant on Grant Awards Income	\$ 5,000.00
Sub-Total One-Time Expenses	\$ 6,500.00
TOTAL BUDGET Expenses	\$169,662
Net Annual Income	\$174,000
PTA Net Profit/Loss	\$4,338
Projected Carryover 2015-16	\$155,900

Calculations for 2015/16 RESERVE:		
Salaries		\$85,000
Drama		\$16,500
100% of contractual obligations		\$101,500
30% of additional annual expenses (not including 1x expenses)		\$16,549
DEFINED RESERVE		\$118,049

Actual Carryover 2014/15	
Balance on hand 7/1/2014	\$199,893.90
Actual Carryover Expenses 2013-14	(\$3,129.82)
Carryover Matching Gifts 2013-14	\$3,983.58
Defined Reserve	\$117,998.00
Restricted Funds Tutu's Pantry	\$23,461.58
DIFFERENCE: Carryover minus Reserve/Restricted	\$59,288.08

Projected Carryover 2015/16	
Projected Carryover 2015/16	\$155,900.00
Projected income 2015/16	\$174,000.00
Projected Expenses 2015/16	\$169,662.00
Defined Reserve	\$118,048.60
Restricted Funds Tutu's Pantry	\$23,461.58
DIFFERENCE: Carryover minus Reserve/Restricted	\$18,727.82

Tutu's Pantry - Restricted Funds (not included in budget calculations)		
Tutu's Pantry Income 14/15	\$	6,425.00
Tutu's Pantry Expense 14/15	\$	(921.42)
Tutu's Pantry Carryover 13/14	\$	17,958.00
Total Tutu's Pantry - Restricted	\$	23,461.58

Technology Readiness Profile

Findings & Recommendations Only

(Complete Report Available from School)

Thurgood Marshall Elementary School

Prepared by

Jim Dunnigan
Dunnigan Consulting

April 27, 2015

Findings

The following items were identified as key findings in how technology is utilized at Thurgood Marshall:

1. A majority of the staff is *very* receptive to learning how technology and Apps can be used to enhance teaching and learning.
2. The technology equipment (iPads and Computer lab) being utilized for instructional purposes is not ideally aligned with the appropriate use and required access of the students using the tools. (i.e. The primary grades rely on the computer lab which creates logistical challenges and disrupts the rhythm of the classroom and the elementary grades (3-5) struggle with using iPads to save and share work efficiently. In addition, iPads are not physically located near K-1 classes.
3. Teachers need professional development on choosing Apps for the iPad that can be used to achieve student learning goals. All teachers need strategies and coaching on how to utilize iPads for instructional purposes. Teachers could benefit from seeing how technology tools can support and enhance curriculum goals.
4. Explicit and consistent instruction is needed to teach keyboarding in grades 3-5.
5. The computer lab space has a significant amount of abandoned equipment which has impacted the efficient use of the lab. The primary impediments are non-functioning headphones, broken headphone jacks on the computers, and non-functioning machines. Excessive numbers of non-working headphones present confusion on working vs. non-working headphones. There is no single person responsible for the room.
6. Standardized testing significantly compromises the ability to use technology on a consistent basis for instructional purposes.
7. Students have limited opportunities to use technology to research, create, communicate, or share digital information. They also need more opportunities to learn and use basic productivity tools.
8. General education students need *more* opportunities to use technology in school since they generally have more limited opportunities at home.

Recommendations

1. Teacher Professional Development

Provide teachers with opportunities to explore and evaluate iPad Apps that can support classroom learning objectives. This can be in the form of PLCs or a separate PD workshop. (The School District likely has resources that can be accessed to facilitate this work.)

2. K-1 Classroom Blended Learning Math Model

Consider implementing a “Blended Learning” instructional model using iPads with Primary grades (K/1) to support an individualized math program in the classroom. (As an alternative to computer lab time). Blended learning is a formal education program in which a student learns, at least, in part through delivery of content and instruction via digital and online media with some element of student control over time, place, path, or pace.

3. Ensure Keyboarding Skills Grades 3-5

Develop a systematic, measurable plan to ensure basic keyboarding skills for grades 3-5 both in school and at home. This will be critical for performance on the Common Core tests.

4. Infuse Appropriate Technology into Existing Projects

Explore ways to enable students to use digital tools for research, collaboration, creativity, expression and problem-solving aligned with learning standards. In a workshop model, collaborate in grade-level or subject-level groups to integrate appropriate technologies to create or enhance classroom projects. Examples might include: Students design websites as a means to enhance and share a research report, students create multimedia content to communicate information and ideas that effect change, students use programming tools to develop innovative and creative solutions for authentic purposes.

5. Laptop Purchase

Consider purchasing (PTA) laptop computers (30+Cart) to support integration of technology in the upper grades. This will also alleviate constraints during testing periods.

6. Refresh the Computer Lab

Surplus the abandoned equipment, remove all non-working headphones, check all headphone jacks on computers. Purchase working headphones as necessary. This can be done with a parent “work party” to make the process fun and uplifting! Assign someone on the staff to be in charge of the lab. (Stipend?) Meet personally with each after school program that uses the computer lab and go over expectations.

7. Establish a Tech Committee for next year.

This will help create momentum and move the school forward with technology initiatives.