

# PUP PRESS

Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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Principal  
Katie May

## The Assignment Plan Proposal

Recent proposed changes to the Student Assignment Plan have resulted in a flurry of parent concerns and PTA responses. In particular, families have been concerned that the plan will result in cuts to special programs, such as the Highly Capable Cohort or services for English Language Learners.

On Tuesday, the web page for the Student Assignment Plan's Frequently Asked Questions was updated. It states that there are only two proposed changes to the plan:

1. Waitlists will now be dissolved on May 31, instead of Sept. 30.
2. The distance tiebreaker has been removed, in keeping with the Student Assignment Plan that was approved in 2009.

There are no proposed changes to programs, services or pathways, meaning no changes that would impact our HCC or SM4 (special education) services. That the changes were released shortly before the School Board of Directors was to vote on the policy understandably raised family concerns. The Board has delayed action on the plan.

**A number of parents worried that there would be no HCC program at Thurgood Marshall next year.** Stephen Martin, Director of the Advanced Learning Department, has assured me that there is no reason to worry about the future of HCC. In fact, there are Washington state laws that state the need and provide for Highly Capable programs. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction has more information: <http://www.k12.wa.us/highlycapable/>.

I will certainly keep you updated on this matter. The updated District Student Assignment Plan FAQ has more detail: [http://bit.ly/SAP\\_FAQ](http://bit.ly/SAP_FAQ).

## Enrollment Planner at Nov. 12 Coffee

I will be hosting a Principal Coffee next Thursday (Nov. 12) from 9:15-10 a.m. in our Library with Ashley Davies, SPS Director of Enrollment Planning.

Ms. Davies will address questions about how Student Assignment Plan changes might impact access to programs and enrollment. Ms. Davies came to the District in September after having held planning positions at the New York City Department of Education. If you are unable to join us, please email me your questions at [kjmay1@seattleschools.org](mailto:kjmay1@seattleschools.org).



Ashley Davies



## Order form due tomorrow

Don't miss your chance to get cool Thurgood Marshall spiritwear and beverage containers – including a free t-shirt. Forms were sent home 2 weeks ago and are available in the main office and at <http://bit.ly/TM-tee>.

## EVENT CALENDAR

**TOMORROW: Friday, Nov. 6**

T-shirt orders deadline: <http://bit.ly/TM-tee>

**Wednesday, Nov. 11**

No school (Veterans Day)

**Thursday, Nov. 12**

Coffee w/Principal, 9:15-10. Guest: **Ashley Davies**, SPS Dir. Of Enrollment Planning

**Friday, Nov. 13**

Fall Dance, 6:30-8 pm, Cafeteria

→ Volunteers needed: <http://goo.gl/dCSh7w>

→ Food drive for Tutu's Pantry

**Wednesday, Nov. 18**

Class Photo Day, plus individual retakes

**Saturday-Wednesday, Nov. 21-25**

Parent-teacher conferences; check with your child's teacher if you didn't sign up

→ **No school for students**, Nov. 23-25

## TUTU'S PANTRY

**11/9-13: Grade 2's** turn to donate food.

→ See flier about Thanksgiving Program

See [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org) for calendar updates.

Questions about the PTA: [pta@tmlink.org](mailto:pta@tmlink.org)

## Background Check

### Required for Volunteers

If you wish to volunteer at school, it is important to follow the steps to apply or renew your volunteer information.

Even if you have volunteered at Thurgood Marshall in the past, the District requires that each year you:

- ✓ review the District volunteer handbook and policy, and
- ✓ complete the volunteer application and background check.

Also, each volunteer must take the online Adult Sexual Misconduct Training, a one-time requirement.

Check <http://bit.ly/SPSVolunteer> or ask Ms. Patu in our school office.

Note that visitors and volunteers must sign in at the school office each time they enter the building.

Thank you for your help on this. We value your service to our school and our students' safety.

– Principal Katie May

## New Wrinkle for '16-17 Bell Times

A new version of the District's 2016-17 bell-times proposal directs the Superintendent to consider in the spring whether bus-route adjustments would allow some elementary schools with late starts – such as TM – to have their times moved earlier. Our school's bell times in 2016-17 are to be 9:35 a.m. and 3:45 p.m., 5 minutes later than this year. (Full list of schools, courtesy of KPLU: <http://bit.ly/1k8RNZ5>.) The School Board is scheduled to vote on the proposal on Nov. 18, after postponing it for technical reasons last night.



At Thurgood Marshall, the PTA conducted an online follow-up survey regarding parent/guardian preferences to present the Board a more complete picture of what would benefit our students. Our first survey found a roughly 50/50 split between the two official options: 8 a.m. and 9:30/9:40. It became evident that each proposed start time makes one population happy and leaves another really struggling.

Poll #2, online 10/29-11/2, added an 8:50 a.m. choice not offered to us by the District. It turned out to be the most popular option, and that data was sent to the Board:

Prefer 8:00 am - 32      Prefer 9:40 am - 31  
Prefer 8:50 am - 63      Any option acceptable - 2

The PTA thanks everyone for offering your choices and comments.

## Volunteers do so much for us...

**FALL DANCE** Get your glow on, on Friday, Nov. 13! All sorts of fun jobs you can do and also enjoy the event with your kids: Dance Maniacs will help kids get moving, Potluck Patrons will corral the food, much more. Sign up, see more options at <http://goo.gl/dCSH7w>.

**LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CHAIR** Inform the PTA board and TM school community about education issues at the local and state level. Write articles for Pup Press, report to PTA meetings, and help coordinate efforts for Focus Day and February "Schools First" Levy, which provides a large portion of the SPS annual budget. Email: [berlee@zipcon.com](mailto:berlee@zipcon.com)

**COMMUNICATIONS TEAM** Join the effort to keep the TM community up to date! Options range from occasional projects to Pup Press Editor. Contact Cliff at [cliffm99@gmail.com](mailto:cliffm99@gmail.com).

Other opportunities arise on short notice. Email Kimberlee at [berlee@zipcon.com](mailto:berlee@zipcon.com) to be on her list!



Counselor's Corner  
Meghan Kaloper

## Lunch Club to Create New Friendships

I am hosting a lunch club every Wednesday for 2nd- to 5th-graders interested in making new friends. Lunch club for 2nd- and 3rd-graders is in Ms. Kohls' room and the 4th- and 5th-graders are in Mr. Paul's room.

**Students:** bring your lunch, bring buddies (if you want!) and be ready to meet some new people! I will bring card games and activities and be ready to help facilitate social interactions.

**Parents:** encourage your kiddos to give it a try!

### Conflicts Being Resolved



Having spent last week immersed in training, Conflict Mediators and Recess Mentors are now at work helping solve conflicts and inviting younger students into positive group games during recess. The 53 4th-

and 5th-graders met every morning last week at 8 a.m. to learn special techniques. Now, they are on the playground, ready to roll in their new jobs!

I want to give a big THANKS to all these hard-working students as well as my teacher helpers, Ms. McIlhenny, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Will Paul and Ms. Hudson (who is loaning us her library space). We also couldn't make this program run without our early morning parent volunteers, who helped oversee our role-play practice.



## Taking On the Global Reading Challenge

More than 50 Thurgood Marshall 4th- and 5th-graders are about to embark on the Global Reading Challenge.

The Challenge, or GRC, is a "knowledge bowl" type of event sponsored by the Seattle Public Library. Participating public schools – 60 from throughout Seattle – form teams of five to seven students who collectively must read and remember details from 10 books picked by the Library. Each team member usually becomes an expert on two or three of the books.

Librarian Merilee Hudson will coordinate an in-school tournament on Feb. 24. The winning team goes on to a "regional" tournament and, if successful, to a citywide tournament in March at SPL's Central Library.



The program is supposed to be a fun, motivational reading challenge for all students. Last year Leschi Elementary and Orca K-8 shared the top prize. Thurgood Marshall last won in 2011.

Titles include "El Deafo," by Cece Bell, "How Tía Lola Saved the Summer," by Julia Alvarez, and "P.S. Be Eleven," Rita Williams-Garcia.

The complete book list is at <http://bit.ly/GlobalReading16>.

# Thurgood Marshall PTA Thanksgiving Matching Program



Thanksgiving is right around the corner! We have an annual tradition at Thurgood Marshall of sharing the spirit and tradition of Thanksgiving by matching families who want to donate ingredients for the meal with families who need that food to make the holiday complete. Through generous donations, we will provide a “Thanksgiving Meal-in-a-Bag” to each TM family in need.

**DONORS:** Prepare a “Thanksgiving Meal-in-a-Bag” with the following items in a doubled grocery bag:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● \$20 gift card to QFC or Safeway</li><li>● 2 cans of green beans</li><li>● 1 bag of cubed bread stuffing</li><li>● 1 box of instant mashed potatoes</li><li>● 1 can of cream of mushroom soup</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1 can of cranberry sauce</li><li>● 1 pound of yams or sweet potatoes</li><li>● 1 ready pie crust</li><li>● 1 can of pumpkin puree</li><li>● 1 can of evaporated milk</li></ul> |
|---|--|

Please email Jen Gotanda at [jgotanda@gmail.com](mailto:jgotanda@gmail.com) to confirm you will be participating, then deliver your bag to the front door area with the red bins on **Wednesday, Nov. 18**, between 9:15-9:45 a.m. Jen will be there to accept bags.

- **If you can't make it then**, please bring your bag to Ms. Patu or Ms. Dickey in the main office between Nov. 11 and 18. Our Tutu's Pantry volunteers will collect them from the office for distribution on Nov. 20. Thank you for your generosity!

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**RECEIVERS:** The Meal-in-a-Bags with the above supplies will be sent home with your student on Friday, Nov. 21. If your student is already a member of Tutu's Pantry, he or she will automatically get this meal. **If you do not receive a Tutu's backpack regularly, you can sign up** to receive this special Thanksgiving donation by doing one of the following:

1. Contact Kathryn Egolf ([kathryn.egolf@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.egolf@gmail.com)) **OR**
2. Fill out the information below and drop this form at the front desk.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's First & Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Room #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #

**Thank You!**

**Any questions?** Call or email Katie Egolf: (206) 725-8850 (home); (310) 433-0434 (mobile); [kathryn.egolf@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.egolf@gmail.com) or Jen Gotanda at [jgotanda@gmail.com](mailto:jgotanda@gmail.com)