

PUP PRESS

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Principal
Katie May

'Formative Assessments' Help Students

At Thurgood Marshall this year, **formative assessment** has been a regular topic of conversation. What is it? Formative assessment includes any formal or informal tools a teacher uses to gauge what students know in order to modify instruction to improve learning. Formative assessments help show where students are struggling so that a teacher can immediately address the problems. Another value is to help students identify their strengths and weaknesses, so they can set goals for improvement.

A formative assessment is any type of assessment that can be used to modify instruction. For example, a teacher can plan his or her next small-group reading lesson by first listening to the students read. Other examples include an exit ticket, a quick writing sample, or a pre-test at the beginning of a math unit. This is in contrast to state-mandated end-of-year tests, such as the Smarter Balanced Assessment, which is a **summative assessment** and is not used to immediately inform instruction (partially because we don't receive results until the end of the school year or later).

John Hattie, an educational researcher who has analyzed thousands of research studies to determine the best ways to improve student learning, lists formative assessment and feedback to students among the 10 most powerful strategies. When students are informed of learning targets and are taught to track their progress by using the results of formative assessments, student growth is even more likely. When students see that their efforts move them toward their goals, they are more likely to gain a growth mind-set and be motivated toward future successes.

You can support your child in school success by talking to them about specifically what they are learning and what they are doing to improve their skills. Encouraging children to pay close attention, to give their best effort, and to use positive self-talk all will help their success in school.

➤ **Correction:** Figures at right correct the Seattle numbers in last week's Press.

| | Asian | Black | Hispanic | Two or more races | White |
|----------------------|-------|-------|----------|-------------------|-------|
| HCC at TM | 17% | 4.3% | 4% | 15% | 60% |
| All Seattle Students | 15.8% | 16.4% | 12.4% | 8.5% | 45.6% |

African American Parent Involvement Day on Feb. 8

All African American parents at TM are invited to breakfast and classroom visits on Monday, Feb. 8, National African American Parent Involvement Day. After a light meal in the Library from 9:15-9:45 a.m., parents will have a special opportunity to visit their student's class until 11 a.m. The Involvement Day is celebrated annually on the second Monday in February. Please join us!



White House aide Ivory Toldson to speak at Feb. 6 event to plot paths for education of African American males. Page 2.

EVENT CALENDAR

Today/Tomorrow, Enrichment classes start.

TONIGHT, Jan. 28, Choir Concert, 7 p.m.

Wed., Feb. 3, PTA Focus Day (lobby at Capitol for school funding). See <http://bit.ly/PTAatCapitol>.

Thurs., Feb. 4, Side-by-Side Concert, 7 p.m., Washington Middle School. Gr. 4-5 students join middle-school students to make music!

Mon., Feb. 8, National African-American Parent Involvement Day. TM parents invited to breakfast (9:15-9:45 a.m.) and classroom visits (9:45-11 a.m.) See below.

Tues., Feb. 9, Instrumental Concert, 7 p.m..

Tues., Feb. 9, Deadline to vote in school levies election.

Thurs., Feb. 11, Follow-up to Equity event, 6:30-8 p.m., with free dinner! See below.

TUTU'S PANTRY

Feb. 1-5: Grade 5's turn to donate food.

See www.tmlink.org for calendar updates.

Jumping Rope for a Cause



The Jump Rope For Heart program kicks off **tomorrow** (Friday) with a 9:35 assembly featuring a very talented group of jumpers from another school. The day also is the start of our fundraiser for the American Heart Association. Students will learn about ways that they can keep their heart healthy while at the same time exercising and getting a good cardio workout. They might even learn their own jump-rope routine. Envelopes (donations) will be collected on Feb. 26, and prizes for meeting certain criteria will be awarded. Mr. Shin will offer details to the children in P.E. class.

Dinner & Discussion on Feb. 11

Followup on Equity Event

Learned about "Blindspot" and equity gaps at TM and in the District? Have thoughts about what is important to you regarding equity, and **ideas for creating change**? Join Principal May, staff and parents 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, for a free light dinner and open discussion. **Free** child care and pizza for up to 30 school-aged kids. (Must RSVP to pta@tmlink.org.) All are welcome!

'My Brother's Keeper' Event Focuses on Education of African American Males

Ivory Toldson, an Obama Administration official focused on higher education, will be the featured speaker at "My Brother's Keeper Symposium: A Call to Action" on Saturday, Feb. 6. The theme is "Plotting the Education Path for African American Males (all children)." The 9 a.m.-3 p.m. event, at the John Stanford Center, offers breakfast and lunch and free child care. Email Sabse.09alliance.17@gmail.com or call 206-772-4916 or 206-725-7138 to register. Translation in Somali and Spanish.

Advisory Panel Needs You!

New members are sought for the African American Male Scholars Advisory Committee to the Superintendent. The Committee advises Superintendent Larry Nyland on how the District can better work with African American students achieve academic success and develop socio-emotionally. The panel meets twice monthly and includes parents, guardians, community members, teachers, staff and City of Seattle representatives. The nomination deadline is Feb. 19. See <http://bit.ly/SPSAAMSAC>.

Help Decide Where PTA Funding Goes in 2016-17

Among the volunteer opportunities listed on tmlink.org this week:

Budget Committee: Help decide how PTA funds will be spent next year. The committee will meet twice in February and work with the PTA Treasurer, Building Leadership Team and Principal May. Contact Jen Ellis: jenniferellis.206@gmail.com.

PTA Legislative Chair: Have you been thinking about McCleary, SPS and the upcoming school-leaves election? Help keep TM parents informed about state and local education matters by volunteering as the PTA's Legislative Chair. Time commitment is very flexible. Contact Kimberly, berlee@zipcon.com.

Join Parents to Discuss Kids' Social Pressures

Join with other parents to talk about a book that can help us raise competent and caring kids! Counselor Meghan Kaloper and the PTA are launching a parent-led discussion group around the book "Face to Face." (See www.family-empower.com/face-to-face.)

If interested, use our "Doodle" poll at <http://bit.ly/TMbookclub16>, where you can select your time preference for meetings (morning, afternoon, evening). The group(s) will meet a total of 8 times. "Face to Face" will be available for purchase or checkout.

"Face to Face" was written by a team of pediatricians, educators, counselors and parents. It offers an overview of current ideas and research in the fields of child development, brain science and parenting that can help to inform parenting choices. Topics covered include:

- Friendship Starts at Home
- Outside Influences, including Consumerism and Lookism, Gender Stereotyping, and Overuse of Digital Technology
- Navigating Friendship and Social Groups
- Peer Mistreatment
- Fostering Resilience



Chess success

From left, Kyle Cobden (3 points), Andrew Nakamoto (4), Graham Cobden (4) and Forest Berg (4) celebrate at ChessMates WinterFest tourney on Jan. 23. As the TM Grades 5-8 team, Andrew, Graham and Forest combined to win 2nd place. As individuals, 5th-graders Forest and Graham won 3rd and 4th place, respectively in their section, and Andrew (former TM student now at Washington Middle School) tied for 1st place in the 6th-grade standings.



Choir Concert TONIGHT! Don't miss it!

Bullpup Briefs

500 & Counting! Recycle Plastic Bottles for Contest

Students have brought in more than 500 recyclable plastic bottles to help Thurgood Marshall win prizes in a competition mounted by a company that uses the plastic to create fiber for clothing. Keep sending those bottles in through Feb. 8!

Info on Support Group for Parents of 'Gifted' Kids

Learn about a new support group for parents of gifted children during an info session 8:30-9:15 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10, in the TM Library.

SENG (Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted) Groups are guided discussion groups based on the book, "A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children," by James Webb, et. al. Together, parents learn about the social and emotional needs of gifted children and related parenting issues.

Anne van Roden and Gloria Sandford, group leaders, are both experienced parents of gifted children and licensed mental health professionals. They will share SENG concepts to help parents understand the unique social and emotional needs of their children, and develop tools to address challenges.

See <http://bit.ly/SENGgroups> for more about what a SENG group has to offer.

Ultimate Deadline is Tues.

Play Ultimate with the Thurgood Marshall Co-ed Ultimate Frisbee Team! Sign-up forms are due Feb. 2. **Forms were sent home with Grades 3-5 last week**, and are also at the main office and downloadable at <http://tmlink.org/?p=3453>.

Lobby for School \$ on Wed.

Join other PTAs from around the state on Feb. 3 in Olympia to rally for adequate school funding and other issues. Visit <http://bit.ly/PTAatCapitol> to register for "Focus Day 2016." Let others at TM know you're going (and create carpools) by contacting the PTA at pta@tmlink.org.

Last year, parents turned out in record numbers and had a clear impact.

School Reports Online

The 2014-15 School Reports are now online, showing a brief snapshot of a school's academic growth, student climate, accountability, family and staff engagement, and overall school performance. The TM report is at <http://bit.ly/TMreport-14-15>. The website allows viewers to look at the responses of very specific student groupings.

