

# PUP PRESS

Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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Assistant Principal Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie

## Working Toward Goals & Lots of Bottles

It is wonderful to witness the academic progress our students are making every day. But teachers and kids are also very busy working together toward social, emotional, and even personal health goals. Here are a few tidbits I hope you'll enjoy:

**Playfield parity:** Currently I am working with two 5th-grade boys on how to improve dynamics and organization out on the playfield. They are drafting maps for how to divide the playfield, will determine how many cones we should purchase and where to place them in order for recess games to go more smoothly.

**Democracy in action:** Last week I received a proposal from two 4th-grade girls who want us to reconsider the composition of Student Council and how members are appointed. I encouraged them to submit their ideas in writing, and look forward to vetting their plan with the current Council.



**Recycling Victory!** Our Green Team collected 4,018 plastic bottles during the recent 2-week recycling challenge sponsored by a company that transforms them into clothing fibers. Students were so excited to put their used plastic bottles to good use. Every morning I saw children arriving with bags of empty bottles.

**Our kindergarten classes collected the most per child:** the 45 students brought in 505 bottles! They will enjoy a pizza party tomorrow as a reward. On Wednesday, the challenge sponsor, Repreve, will be coming to Thurgood Marshall to present a demonstration of how the plastic bottles are shredded and turned into fabric. For our school's efforts, every TM student will be receiving a ticket voucher for the Marvel Universe Live show that will be in Seattle next week. (Details to come.)

On a more-personal note, I am part of two teams of teachers that have signed up to do the "Healthy Wage Weight Challenge." We are weighing in together every Friday morning, sharing weight loss tips, and supporting each other to achieving our goals. Many of us think of non-academic learning as extracurricular or enrichment when, in fact, these endeavors are sometimes the very things that teach us who we are and why our learning is so very important.

## Free Friday Class: African Drumming & Dance

The third in our school's series of free Friday "Morning Movement" classes will transport 25 K-3 students who sign up by Feb. 18 into a world of African Drumming and Dance! (Capacity is limited; see sign-up form for details.)

The class, which runs 8:10-9:10 a.m. Feb. 26-April 1, will be led by Sumayya Diopp, a teaching artist with Arts Corps and The Nature Consortium. Ms. Diopp has danced, drummed and sung with youth, young adults and adults in the Seattle area for more than 10 years. She was trained by the "Jali" (traditional storytellers) in African dance.

A sign-up form is attached to this Pup Press and is available in the office.

## EVENT CALENDAR

**TONIGHT, Feb. 11, Follow-up to Equity event, 6:30-8 p.m., with free dinner!** See Page 2.

**Fri., Feb. 12, Thurgood Marshall Day Assembly, 9:35 a.m.** Parents welcome!

**Mon-Tues., Feb. 15-16, No school for students.** (Mid-winter Break.)

**Wed., Feb. 17, Official start to School Choice Period (Open Enrollment).** Through March 1. See [www.seattleschools.org/admissions](http://www.seattleschools.org/admissions)

**Thurs., Feb. 18, K/1 Family Reading Night, 6-7:30 p.m.**

**Tues., Feb. 23, Tour & Info Session, 5:30-7:30 p.m.** See [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org) for details.

## TUTU'S PANTRY

**Feb. 17-19: Short week: Everyone invited to donate food, especially peanut butter.** See [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org) for calendar updates.

## Yearbook Seeks Photos; Permission Forms Needed

Have you taken photos of life at Thurgood Marshall this school year? We need pictures for special pages in the Yearbook, including events, sports, time on the playground, a focus on 5th-graders, and everyday life at our school. If you go to <http://lpx.me/MWHU-FHEB-3W5N/>, theme-based folders await your upload of photos you're willing to share for potential inclusion in the 2015-16 Yearbook.

Thanks for your help as parent-volunteer editors, led by Traci Adair, create a book that highlights our school!

Also: **Forms were recently sent home with students who are missing signed permission to be in the yearbook.** We can't include photos of them, even in the class pages. If you received this reminder, send the signed form back as soon as possible.



## ***Dinner Included!***

### **Discussion Tonight on Next Steps for Equity**

Parents and staff have had chances earlier this year to understand our biases (“Blindspot”) and the equity gaps at TM this year. Now it’s time to move the discussion forward to actions! 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. TONIGHT (Feb. 11) for a free light dinner and open discussion.

**Free** child care and pizza for up to 30 school-aged kids. (You must RSVP in advance to [pta@tmlink.org](mailto:pta@tmlink.org).) All are welcome!

## ***Bullpup Briefs***

### ***4th-Grade Parents Sought to Plan 5th-Grade Promotion***

Are you a 4th-grade parent who enjoys planning celebrations? We are looking for a group of you to plan this year’s 5th-Grade Promotion event June 22.

Last year we started the tradition of having the younger class put on the event, and we have a great set of plans already created. The 5th-grade families really appreciated the chance to enjoy the event without having to put it on. Please contact [pta@tmlink.org](mailto:pta@tmlink.org) if you can help.

### ***Teachers Plan ‘Walk-In’ to Show Support for Funding***

The Seattle Education Association is leading a Feb. 18 “walk in” before morning bell time at schools such as Thurgood Marshall. The point is to encourage parents, students and staff to show support for adequate state funding for education. Details are expected to be publicized next week.

### ***Musicians Receive Support***

Thank you to 5th-grader parent Kaleo Quenzer for providing a 24-foot-long temporary screen that improved the ambiance of the Cafeteria stage for this week’s rousing instrumental concert! Thank you also to all who helped with chair setup and takedown, and all the other ways our singers and musicians need support during the concert season!

### ***Advise the Superintendent!***

New members are sought for the African American Male Scholars Advisory Committee to the Superintendent. 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>.

### ***Go Online for Open Enrollment***

Open Enrollment for School Choice is Feb. 17 to March 1, but you can go online now to submit the form(s). See [www.seattleschools.org](http://www.seattleschools.org) for details or who to call for help.



### ***Out of (the Social) Order***

At the Feb. 5 Assembly, TM teachers perform a play based on the book “Two” by Kathryn Otoshi. The story, using numbers as the characters, delves into changes in friendship, the need to compromise and other social dilemmas.

### **Both Public School Levies Winning with 70% of Vote**

According to results posted on the King County Elections website, both Seattle Schools levies are likely to pass with more than 70 percent of ballots cast. The three-year \$758 million Operations Levy is expected to cover about 25 percent of day-to-day school costs for teachers, instructional assistants, arts, supplies, books and more. The six-year \$475 million Capital Levy will pay for school building and classroom improvements, repairs such as earthquake-proofing, additional science labs, updated technology and capacity-building for the growing student population.

### ***PTA’s Budget Season is upon Us: Your Ideas Wanted***

The PTA is working in parallel with Principal May and the Building Leadership Team to establish the 2016-17 PTA Budget. The PTA Budget Committee consists of three parent volunteers and the current PTA Treasurer; the budget is due to the District in mid-March (to enable staffing decisions affected by PTA funds).

Because the PTA typically funds a grant for staff salaries (currently primarily supporting our librarian and our counselor), we need to have that portion of our

budget finalized and approved for that District deadline.

The remaining allocation of PTA funds will be decided on and approved by the membership at our PTA General Meeting in May.

### **Watch for Survey next Week**

The PTA wants to hear from you! Please look out for a survey to be available Feb. 18-26, and send suggestions on how you would like to see funds spent to [pta@tmlink.org](mailto:pta@tmlink.org).



# FREE CLASS for K-3 kids!

## African Drumming & Dance

with SUMAYYA DIOP

(FRIDAY MORNING MOVEMENT CLASS: SESSION 3)

8:10-9:10 am, Feb. 26; March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1

MUST commit to attend all 6 class sessions

**Registration Deadline: Thurs., Feb. 18**

Sumayya has danced, drummed and sung with youth, young adults and adults in the Seattle area for more than 10 years. Trained by the "Jali" (traditional storytellers) in African dance, Sumayya brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and skill to teaching. Sumayya is a teaching artist with Arts Corps and The Nature Consortium.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The new arts opportunity for students at Thurgood Marshall continues...! Our Morning Movement classes, held 8:10-9:10 am Fridays in the Thurgood Marshall gym, are **free of charge**, thanks to The Creative Advantage, a program that supports arts opportunities in central Seattle public schools, to ensure access to quality arts education for all students.

We are offering four different class series this year and each session lasts six weeks.

Our third session will be African Drumming & Dance with Sumayya Diop.

Limit is 25 students, and the class is open ONLY to **K-3 students**. You **must commit** to come to each class in the six-week period. Note: *We hope to give many of our students an opportunity to be in our Morning Movement classes this year.*

We are targeting various grade levels in different sessions so everyone gets a chance to participate.

**TO REGISTER:** Fill out the information at the bottom of the slip and return to your teacher as soon as possible, but no later than Thursday, Feb. 18. Capacity is 25; we will confirm enrollment by Monday, Feb. 22.



Sincerely,  
The Thurgood Marshall Elementary School Arts Team

Questions? Contact Daphne Dejanikus  
at dsdejan@hotmail.com.

My child \_\_\_\_\_ would like to attend the Morning  
(student's name) (student's grade)

Movement class on Friday mornings from 8:10-9:10, Feb. 26-April 1. I agree to each of the following conditions:

- My child will be able to attend each of the sessions.
- I will provide my child with transportation to school, if needed. (No school buses arrive at that hour.)
- I will make sure that my child arrives on time and follows school expectations for appropriate behavior.
- I give Thurgood Marshall Elementary School permission to photograph my child for in-school-only use.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_