

PUP PRESS



Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

FEB. 18, 2016

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 20



Principal
Katie May

Equity Work Continues

Our PTA hosted a powerful equity meeting last Thursday, resulting in committees to continue the work on specific issues:

- **Engage with the District on HCC identification and recruiting policies** so that the HCC program better reflects the diversity of our District-wide student population.
- **Research the Advanced Learning testing and appeals process, and disseminate information** to TM families who may be interested in the HCC program.
- **Planning for PTA enrichment programs through an equity lens.**
- **Make recommendations about program integration on field trips.**
- **Support academic integration** between programs.
- **Create a protocol for school-wide events** to consider how to make them more inclusive of all families.
- **Advocate that the District provide additional funding** (i.e., Title 1 federal support) **for our Gen Ed program.**

Everyone was very enthusiastic and excited to get started with concrete projects.

The evening began with a light dinner and review of our process so far. We read Blindspot: the Hidden Biases of Good People by Anthony Greenwald as a school community, and then inviting him to our first PTA meeting of the year to lead our discussion. In January, the PTA hosted an equity panel discussion featuring District officials and a parent advocate, who reviewed District efforts towards equity and listened as our parents shared their ideas.

You Can Still Be Involved

There is always room for involved family/staff, so please let Ms. May know (kjmay1@seattleschools.org) if you are interested in participating in any of the committees and she will connect you with the group.

The plan for last Thursday's meeting was to develop action steps. We broke into four stations, each facilitated by a staff member on our Equity Team: Bianca Gomez, Sam Egelhoff, Cora Glass and Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie. These stations reflected the big ideas that have been raised so far by our community: Title 1 funding (a federal program for schools where at least 40 percent of students qualifies for free and reduced-price lunch); PTA Enrichment Program and field trips; academic integration of programs; and school events/community outreach. Participants discussed the issue at each given station for about 15 minutes and then rotated to the next one, so everyone could give input on each big idea.

I would really like to thank all of the wonderful parents who have been supporting our work in this area. I would especially like to recognize Casey Sommers and Jamie Fackler, our PTA Co-Presidents and my partners in this work. At each of the meetings or events we have held to discuss equity, there has really been a sense that all of us are working to create a better school for all students. Thank you also to our wonderful staff who are leading this effort!

EVENT CALENDAR

TONIGHT, Feb. 18, Kindergarten/1st-grade Family Reading Night, 6-7:30 p.m. Dinner & child care provided. No RSVP needed.

NOW through March 1, School Choice Period (Open Enrollment). Submit forms or go online to register for school or program change. See www.seattleschools.org/admissions

Sat., Feb. 20, Open Meeting with School Board member Stephan Blanford, 10-11:30 a.m., Capitol Hill Library, 425 Harvard Ave. E.

Tues., Feb. 23, Tour & Info Session, 5:30-7:30 p.m. See www.tmlink.org for details.

Wed., Feb. 24, Global Reading Challenge, TM Library, 1-2 p.m. Watch TM teams compete!

Fri., Feb. 26, Deadline to take PTA Survey

Tues., March 1, Central Region Special Ed. Meeting, 6-7 p.m., Madrona K-8, 1121 33rd Ave.

Thurs., March 3, Blue Highway Game Night, 6-7:30 p.m., Cafeteria. Volunteer! See Page 2.

TUTU'S PANTRY

Feb. 22-26: Grade 1's turn to donate food. See www.tmlink.org for calendar updates.

MAP, SBA Test Schedule Available Next Week

Principal May has been working on the schedule for spring standardized testing. She will make this public for parents next week, after teachers have had a chance to review it and look for any conflicts with their schedules, field trips, etc.

While the District's Smarter Balanced Assessment window opens on March 14, TM is likely to be able to postpone testing until after Spring Break ends on April 18.

Spring MAP tests for kindergarten and first- and second-grade students will be during the first 2 weeks in June.

Continued on Page 2

Take PTA Survey NOW!

The PTA wants your opinion on how well it supports our community, including the Enrichment Program, meetings and other activities. Help the PTA decide where its money and efforts should go by taking the survey at <http://bit.ly/PTASurvey2016>.

Don't delay! Deadline is Friday, Feb. 26.

Volunteers Needed

Get on Board for Game Night March 3

Learn new ways to have a blast as a whole family! Blue Highways Games comes to Thurgood Marshall on Thursday, March 3, to present a night of free fun. Blue Highways staff will introduce an assortment of board games and help kids (and adults) learn how to play them. If you discover a game you love, you can order it for delivery to school the next week. **Games start at 6 p.m., but arrive at 5:30 for an appetizer potluck! Bring easy-to-eat snacks** (veggie/fruit platters, hummus and pita, etc.), so that we can keep the games mess-free. Sara Dickerman, the volunteer coordinating the event, needs assistance with set-up, supervision and cleanup. Sign up at <http://bit.ly/TMGamesVolunteer> or email her: saradickerman@hotmail.com.



Bullpup Briefs

TM 5th-graders Collecting Garments to Help Foster Kids

Fifth-graders from Girl Scout Troop 43852 are collecting **new socks and underwear for the Amara Emergency Sanctuary**. The Sanctuary is a place for boys and girls ages infant to 17 to go if their parents can't take care of them, and the kids are awaiting foster-care placement. **Sizes most in need are 3-8.** Please put your donations in the bin in the front office. The drive ends March 7. Questions: carolynpugh@gmail.com.

Jumping Rope for a Cause

Donations for the Jump Rope For Heart program will be taken through Feb. 26. Kids can support the American Heart Association and receive lanyards and other prizes from Mr. Shin, who lends jump-ropes at recess or in the gym. Thanks for helping fight heart disease!

TM Assembly on Q13 News

Q13 News covered the Feb. 12 Assembly focused on the legacy of Thurgood Marshall. To see the (brief) video report: <http://bit.ly/TMonQ13>.

More Trophies!

TM's chess team took 2nd place in the Presidential Scholastic Tourney at Olympic View ES in Seattle Feb. 15! The team: (top row, from left) Cameron Kono and Aiden Taylor and (bottom, from left) Forest Berg, Graham Cobden, Noah Lefkowitz and Kyle Cobden. Forest and Graham won 3 points in



the Grades 4-12 open section. Kyle, Cameron and Aiden each won 4 points in the Grades 4-6 U900 section. Noah, in his first tournament, won 1.5 points in the 4-6 U900 section. (A draw results in a half-point.) Both Cameron and Aiden qualified for the 2016 State Elementary School Championships in Tacoma on April 16, Go Chess Pups!

PTA Meetings to Offer Parent Education

Mark your calendars for these PTA meetings:

Tuesday March 22, 6:30-8:15 p.m. – “**The Wild, Wild Web: Keeping Your Kids Safe in the Digital World,**” with **Kathy Slattengren**.

Digital media offers amazing possibilities to kids, but also allows them to get into serious trouble. We'll discuss guiding your kids around their use of the internet, cellphones, social media and video games.

Tuesday, May 24, 6:30-8:15 p.m. – “**Birds + Bees + Kids**” with **Amy Lang**.

Learn why, when, and how to have easy, effective, and age-appropriate conversations with your kids about the birds and the bees. A very popular class everyone needs to attend!



Meghan Kaloper
Counselor's Corner

2 Great Resources for Digital-Age Dilemmas

Many families have approached me with questions about technology, screens, and how to protect kids. There is a great deal of personal choice involved in choosing what your family norms will be

around screen use and digital devices in the home.

With that said, I want to share two great resources to help you in the process of creating expectations around responsible digital citizenship, limitations on screen use, and more! These two resources have information for families but they also have some great information and games for kids to help teach them the skills they need to be safe and responsible with their technology use. If you have further questions, feel free to follow up with me for more ideas!

Common Sense Media:

www.commonsensemedia.org

Netsmartz: www.netsmartz.org/Parents

Testing Schedule *from Page 1*

“While we will reserve a few days for make-up testing, your child is likely to do their best if they test under typical conditions with their classmates,” Ms. May says. “When our schedule comes out, please review it carefully and arrange appointments or other absences with the test schedule in mind as much as possible. Let your child’s teacher know of any concerns.”

TM K and Grade 1 students have completed their winter MAP testing. This assessment is taken on a computer and typically takes about an hour each for math and reading. MAP measures your child’s developing skills through a series of questions that adapt to your child’s level of learning. The results will help teachers measure a child’s growth and determine whether he or she may need more support or more challenge. The results also may be a factor in Advanced Learning eligibility. Let your child’s teacher know if you have questions. MAP scores are now online for private viewing, on “The Source.” Log-in and other info about The Source are at: http://bit.ly/SPS_Source.



Girls on the Run

Spring Session at
Thurgood Marshall

Register Now!

Deadline Friday February 26

WHO: Girls Grades 3-5 - No Running Experience Required

WHAT: 10 weeks of celebrating all that makes you unique

Make new friends and recognize your inner strength. Through a series of games and activities we will explore challenges girls face at this age. In the process we slowly build our endurance for the culminating event – a celebratory 5K with all Puget Sound area Girls on the Run participants.

WHEN: February 29 through May 9

Monday/Wednesday from 3:45-5:15pm at Thurgood Marshall. Girls are required to attend both Monday and Wednesday sessions. The 5k takes place on May 7 at Magnuson Park in Seattle.

HOW: Online Registration Deadline February 26

Please visit: <http://girlsrun.org/registration/>. Paper registration forms available in the school office. Cost is \$185. Sliding scale and full scholarships available.

Contact Donna Dugan with any questions: ddugan@seattleschools.org