

# PUP PRESS



Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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Principal  
Katie May

## Getting Set for Statewide Testing

We are working to get our 3rd- to 5th-graders prepared for the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) this spring. This is our District's second year of using this annual state-mandated assessment, which measures how well students are meeting College and Career Readiness Standards in math, reading and writing. The online assessments help us view student growth and determine which students may need more support or more

challenge. To read more about these assessments, please visit

<http://www.seattleschools.org/students/academics/assessments>. At this site, you

can take a practice test, view videos about the assessment, or link to other test-related websites.



Your child may spend a small portion of his or her time at school using the "Typing Agent" keyboarding instruction program. Many teachers have their students use this program once a week, and it may be useful for your child to practice keyboarding at home, too. Since the SBA is all online, keyboarding skills may ease the test-taking experience. You may want to ask your child's teacher about how to access Typing Agent from home.

### Scheduling

Our school's testing schedule is below. We are ready to accommodate students with special needs. Some classes have fewer testing blocks, but will have longer test sessions. Testing time varies from about 2.5 to 4 hours per subject, and most students will test for about an hour per session.

On assessment days, please do your best to avoid taking vacations. You don't need to prepare in any other way at home, but you and your child are welcome to walk through the practice tests linked from our assessment web page.

### Test Schedule:

#### **3rd Grade** (Note: All HCC classes will test with their afternoon groups.)

Gomez: May 10-13; May 23-26,

Glass: April 19-22; May 10-13

Jensen: April 26-29; May 3-6

Kingsbury: April 26-29; May 24-27

#### **4th Grade**

Alison Miller/Kohls: May 3-6; May 17-20

MacDonald: May 17-18; May 24-25

Will Miller: May 17-18; May 24-25

Serpe: May 17-18; May 24-25

#### **5th Grade** (These classes also take a science assessment annually.)

Egelhoff: April 20; May 17-20; May 23; May 25-27

Kierstead: April 21; May 19-20; May 26-27

Paul: April 21; May 19-20; May 26-27

Von Beck: April 20; May 19-20; May 26-27

## EVENT CALENDAR

**TOMORROW, Feb. 26: Jump Rope for Heart donations deadline.** (Donation forms were sent home 2 weeks ago.)

**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](http://www.seattleschools.org/admissions)

**Mon., Feb. 29, EXTENDED Deadline for PTA Survey.** Offer opinions on PTA spending, more: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TMPTA2016>

**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.

**Mon., March 14, Math-a-palooza,** 6:30-8 p.m. Fun math games for all levels. To celebrate "Pi Day," bring pie (apple pie, pizza pie, any kind!).

## TUTU'S PANTRY

**Feb. 29-March 4: Grade 2's** turn to donate food. We really need staples, such as peanut butter, jelly and canned veggies. Thanks.

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

## Put Your Stamp on our School

### Take PTA Survey by Monday

We want to hear from you – but no later than 9 a.m. Monday (new deadline)! The PTA Survey can be found at <http://bit.ly/PTASurvey2016>, and asks for your opinion on:

- ✓ Enrichment programming
- ✓ Creation of learning opportunities that bring kids together, across programs
- ✓ Communications
- ✓ How to make events more welcoming
- ✓ Priorities for PTA focus areas

**Results** will be reported out early next month. Thank you for helping us shape our work and support our school!

### Thought about Enrolling Your Child in Free African Dance & Drumming Class?

As of our print time on Thursday, a few spots remained in the new free Friday Morning Movement class for Grades K-3, Feb. 26 (tomorrow) to April 1. Signup forms are available in the office. Hurry!

# 'Champion Marshmallows' Team Moves On in Global Reading Challenge

The "Champion Marshmallows" will advance to the next round in the 2016 Global Reading Challenge after defeating several other TM teams of 4th- and 5th-graders yesterday. Feven Aregawi, Gwyneth Hawkins, Isabel Oakes (Captain), Natalie Blanchfield, Oliver Mazner, Sabrina Yassin, Virginia Buckley and Torin Hough (Assistant Captain) flawlessly answered all of the questions, which were drawn from 10 books read by public school students throughout Seattle. The Marshmallows will advance to the regional final at the Central Library March 11.

Thurgood Marshall last won the citywide competition in 2011.

The full list of books is at <http://bit.ly/GlobalReading16>.



Teams in TM's Library during yesterday's Global Reading Challenge.

## Potluck at 5:30

### Game Night on March 3

Roll the dice and take a chance on family fun with Thurgood Marshall's Game Night next Thursday, March 3!

The folks at Blue Highways Games ([www.bluehighwaygames.com](http://www.bluehighwaygames.com)) will bring an assortment of board games and plenty of experience so that you and the kids can get started with new games in no time. Games will be available to order if you like, but there is no need to purchase anything at this free event organized by the PTA.

The gaming will be 6-7:30 p.m., but **come early at 5:30 to mingle and join in an appetizer potluck**. We'll need to keep the game area clean and mess-free, so please bring "neater" snacks such as fruit slices, veggie plates, hard cheeses, pita and hummus or other dips.

We still need volunteers! Sign up at <http://bit.ly/TMGamesVolunteer>. Questions? Contact parent coordinator Sara Dickerman: [saradickerman@hotmail.com](mailto:saradickerman@hotmail.com).



## Bullpup Briefs

### Help TM 5th-graders Provide Garments for 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](mailto:carolynpugh@gmail.com).

### 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.

### Apply to Join Task Force to Find New Reading Curriculum

The District is setting up a K-5 "Reading Curriculum Adoption" task force, and applications are due Wednesday, March 2. See <http://bit.ly/SPSReading>.

### Last Days for Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment (for changing your school choice) ends on March 1. See [www.seattleschools.org](http://www.seattleschools.org) for details or who to call for help.

## Grades 3-5 Kids Need Headgear Starting Friday

Bicycle safety training is rolling in for Grades 3-5,

reports Physical Education Teacher Dan Shin. Run through the Cascade Bicycle Club, it will run for 3 weeks.



- **Starting tomorrow (Feb. 26) through March 18, all 3rd through 5th-graders will need some type of hair/sweat protection.** Parents, please send your child to school with his or her bike helmet, or alternative such as a hair net, baseball cap, shower cap, hoodie jacket or XL coffee filters.
- **Students are allowed to bring their own bicycle, but must supply their own lock (bike to remain outside).** Mr. Shin and Seattle Public Schools cannot be responsible for personal bikes. (Bikes are available at school for all others.)

## You Might Be Interested:

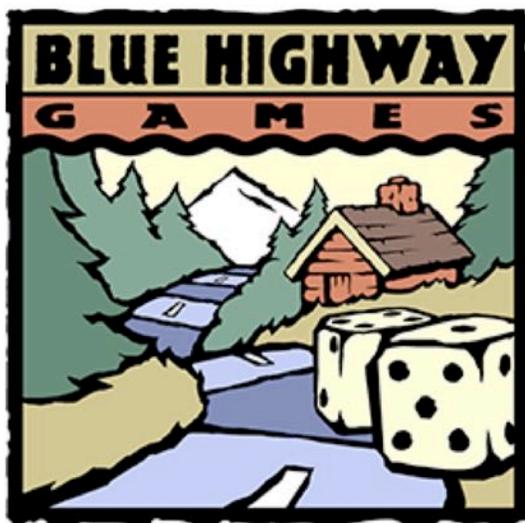
Prodigy Northwest is holding its "Celebration of Talent 2016" gifted-student education conference in Spokane on March 19. This conference is for educators, parents and families (children must be over age 4). Visit [www.prodigynw.org](http://www.prodigynw.org) for full information.

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The Seattle District "Summer Staircase" program will run June 27 to Aug. 5, 2016. This program is for students who are at or below grade level standards. Applications will be available in late spring.

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At [www.facebook.com/meanymiddleschool](http://www.facebook.com/meanymiddleschool), you can follow planning for the future Meany Middle School (opening in 2017 to relieve crowding at Washington Middle School). The next step is hiring the "planning principal" this spring.



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# Family Games and Fun!

**(and Appetizer Potluck)**

*Yes, it's the return of the always-popular*

# Game Night

**Thursday, March 3**

**in the Thurgood Marshall Cafeteria**

5:30-6 pm: Bring a non-messy appetizer to share  
(Suggestions: Pita & dip; veggie or fruit trays; hard cheeses)

6-7:30 pm: Discover all sorts of new games  
(Volunteers will help everyone learn how to play!)



We still need volunteers! Sign up at <http://bit.ly/TMGamesVolunteer>.

Questions? Contact parent Coordinator Sara Dickerman: [Saradickerman@hotmail.com](mailto:Saradickerman@hotmail.com).