

# PUP PRESS

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## Addressing Racial Disparity in Discipline

On Tuesday the U.S. Department of Education released data from surveys of almost all the public schools in the nation. Among several sobering findings: “Racial disparities in suspensions reach all the way down into preschool: Black children represent 19 percent of all preschoolers, and 47 percent of all those who were suspended.” (See <http://wapo.st/1VOj4PX>.) Most of you know we have been working intentionally and diligently to address equity issues this year. Our building’s Race and Equity Team (RET) has been very busy, involving itself with the PTA’s Equity Action Teams, the annual Student Climate Survey and critical examination of our own academic and programmatic disproportionality. RET this week looked at this year’s disciplinary-actions data and read an article about how to address the issue of racial disparities. (See <http://bit.ly/DisciplineIssues>.)

The article suggests five components:

1. **Use effective instruction to reduce the achievement gap;**
2. **Implement school-wide positive behavioral interventions and supports to build a foundation of prevention;**
3. **Collect, use, and report disaggregated student discipline data;**
4. **Develop policies with accountability for disciplinary equity; and**
5. **Teach neutralizing routines for vulnerable decision points.**

While the road ahead is a long one, our team was pleased to see that Thurgood Marshall has already taken steps toward each of the five actions. To begin with, we maintain a constant focus on effective instruction. A big part of leadership is instructional leadership; Katie and I engage in the observation and evaluation process thoughtfully and carefully. We visit classes frequently and find opportunities for teacher leadership. We have organized lab days when teachers observe one another and hear/give feedback. New teachers are mentored through the District’s Staff Training Assistance and Reflection (STAR) program and are assigned mentors within the building. Most of our staff meetings are dedicated to content and pedagogy.

Our school-wide positive behavioral interventions include RULER, a comprehensive social-emotional regulation program used in all our classes. Most of

*Continued on Page 2*

## Students Invited to Create Items to Sell during Craft Fair Benefiting Cancer Research

Fall and spring Student Council members are organizing a Craft Fair during Field Day, June 17, to raise money for cancer research at Seattle Children’s Hospital and Research Foundation. Students are invited to create something to sell using their own donated materials. (*Manufactured or resale items will not be accepted.*) Sign-up sheets will be in each classroom and students are asked to put a value (25-cent increments) on their sale items. In the past, friendship bracelets, duct-tape wallets and bookmarks have been popular sellers. Items must be **brought to**

**school by June 16.** Student Council members will handle final preparation of the items.

Students will be able to buy items on Field Day during a scheduled class time, and should bring cash or an already-completed check made out to Thurgood Marshall Elementary. All proceeds and/or collections, net of expenses will be held in trust by Seattle Public Schools until disbursed to Seattle Children’s Hospital and Research Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

## EVENT CALENDAR

→ **TONIGHT, Thurs., June 9: Equity Action Teams meeting, 6:30-8 p.m.** Come even if you have not yet participated! No child care, but kids welcome. Info at <http://bit.ly/TMEquity>.

**Mon., June 13: Gr. K-1 Picnic, 5:30-7 p.m.** Bring dinner, drinks. (No picnic in event of rain.)

**Tues., June 14: Gr. 2 Picnic, 5:30-7 p.m.**

**Tues., June 14: Deadline for donating books** for classroom use or Little Free Library.

→ **And: Deadline to return “lost” TM Library books! Book damaged or gone forever?** No worry. Just provide another (similar) book as replacement.

**Wed., June 15: Gr. 3 Picnic, 5:30-7 p.m.**

**Thurs., June 16: Gr. 4 Picnic, 5:30-7 p.m.**

**Thurs., June 16, Choir Concert, 7 p.m.**  
→ Help needed setting up chairs at 3:40 p.m.

**Thurs., June 16: Deadline for bringing in** homemade items for Crafts Fair at Field Day.

**Fri., June 17: Field Day** (during school).  
Volunteers needed: <http://tinyurl.com/TM-fieldday>.

**Mon.-Fri., June 20-24: Book Exchange at TM** Library. Trade your gently used books!

 **Wed., June 22: 5th-Grade** Promotion, 5:30-7 p.m.

**Fri., June 24: 1-hour early dismissal** (2:40 p.m.) on final day of school.

**Tues., June 28: Library open, 4-7 p.m.** Open every Tuesday through Aug., with popsicles!

**Tues., July 5: Playground meetup, Gr. K-2,** 4-5 p.m. Full schedule at [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org).

## ENRICHMENT REMINDER

**Most classes end this week or next.** See catalog at [www.tmlink.org/enrichment](http://www.tmlink.org/enrichment) or instructor.

## TUTU’S PANTRY

**June 13-17:** Grade 4’s turn to donate food. .

## Discipline Disparity

*Continued from Page 1*

our teachers have also been trained in Positive Discipline and conduct frequent class meetings in which children are given the space and time to practice problem-solving and gratitude.

We've been working with Sound Discipline (<http://www.sounddiscipline.org>) to collect and analyze discipline data so that we can address the root problems. In fact, some of our teachers have started new routines and procedures around lunchtime and recess in attempts to reduce anxiety and the potential for behaviors that had emerged as patterns.

Our team worked with teachers to identify when to write up "blue slips" and have collaborated on the creation of behavior plans for students with high incidents of discipline. We've found that the discipline data differs greatly from program to program and we've started asking hard questions about how expectations are different between classes and programs. Not only have we thought about how to reduce the need to refer behaviors to the office, sometimes we've requested that teachers fill out more blue slips so that the data we are capturing reflects our day-to-day realities.

Lastly, we have begun the work of identifying situations in which our decisions may be informed by bias. Our focus this year has been on identifying bias and thinking about ways in which we can reduce it in our practice and beliefs. Next year we will continue to examine our own biases while learning more about developing strong structures and routines that reduce the impact of spontaneous decisions, and therefore bias, by making and relying on predictable and equitable practices.

Looking at national, state, Seattle District, and even Thurgood Marshall data can be frustrating and maddening. During moments when the road to equity and excellence for all seems too lengthy, I am reminded of the quote by Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Here at Thurgood Marshall we are thoughtful and committed and we are not so small. Everyone is welcome to join us in this mission!

## 'Little Free Library' Needs New or Gently Used Books

This year's 5th grade is creating an outdoor "Little Free Library" as its Legacy Project, and needs books for it! Room 210 is in charge of book procurement, and is asking each K-5 student to bring in ONE new/slightly used "favorite" book by **Tuesday (June 14)**. Room 210 is going to choose about five from each classroom for the Little Free Library. The others will become part of that classroom's library for the coming year.

"We felt this was a way to achieve our goal of stocking the Little Free Library with a wide variety of books, and also to

help re-stock all the classrooms, which lose some books every year," says teacher Marcie von Beck. "We are hoping this could become a yearly tradition, celebrating our generosity and our love for reading."

Room 210 understands that not everyone will be able to bring a book. **If you can help, do so by June 14.** Plans call for the Little Free Library to be installed near the YMCA building. Grade 5 parent/volunteer Ben Kim is building the customized cabinet, which is to be ready for an opening-day celebration on June 21.

### Bullpup Briefs

#### **Fun & Friends at Picnics Next Week**

Grade-level picnics are a great chance to add friendships and enjoy the playground! Bring food, blankets, outdoor toys, 5:30-7 p.m. If it rains, we will have to cancel that day's picnic. Know some incoming families? They are welcome! Schedule:

- **Monday, June 13: Grades K-1**
- **Tuesday, June 14: Grade 2**
- **Wednesday, June 15: Grade 3**
- **Thursday, June 16: Grade 4**



#### **Move-a-thon Raises \$8,400**

Move-a-thon 2016 raised nearly \$8,400, thanks to your donations and great effort by student runners and walkers. In 2016-17 TM will again have the funding to ensure that every student will be able to go on all class field trips (or 5th-grade camp) without regard to family financial circumstances. This year, these funds paid for hundreds of slots on field trips and at 5th-grade camp. These trips also provide time for students from different classrooms and programs to better get to know each other.

#### **Check these Summer, Fall Dates for Kindergartners**

The first day of school in 2016-17 is Sept. 7 for Grades 1-5. All Kindergarten students will start on Sept. 12. Teachers will be in touch with incoming K families to schedule "getting to know you" meetings Sept. 7-9.

Jump Start, a free program to ease kindergartners' transition to school, will be held each morning Aug. 22-26. Information will be mailed directly to entering K families, but if you know one, help pass on this news! Info: [www.seattleschools.org/](http://www.seattleschools.org/)

#### **Chess Team Takes 2nd in Tourney's Gr. 4-6 Division**

TM won 2nd place in the Washington Open Scholastic tourney's Grade 4-6 grouping on May 28. Cameron Kono won 3.5 points and Luke Vallejo 1 point in the 4-6 "U900" section. Forest Berg (4 points) Kyle Cobden (2) played in the 4-6 Open section. Graham Cobden won 3 points in 7-12 Open section. Go Chess Bullpups!



**Congratulations** to 4th-grade teacher Alison Miller, who welcomed a son, Nico, yesterday (June 8). Mom and baby were reported doing well.



Seattle Public Schools welcomes author

# Jessica Herthel

as she reads from her book

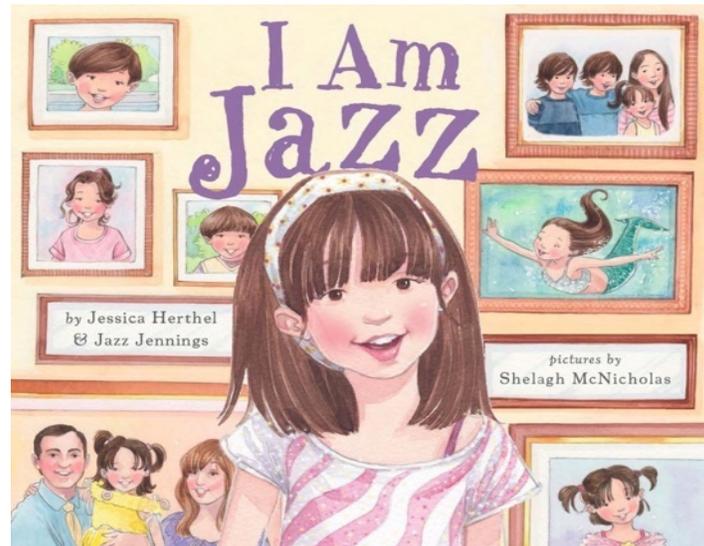
## “I Am Jazz”

a first-person story about being transgender  
by transgender youth and advocate Jazz Jennings and her co-author Jessica Herthel.

**4 to 6 p.m., Thursday, June 16**

**SPS John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence Auditorium  
2445 3rd Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98124**

**Workshops for educators, families, and kids to follow reading**



Jazz Jennings was one of the first transgender children to talk publicly about her identity and the challenges she has faced as a transgender youth. Herthel is not transgender, nor does she have any transgender children. In fact, she co-wrote the book based on her experience explaining to her daughters what “transgender” meant, hoping to create a book that other parents and caring adults would be able to use to start conversations with their kids.

This event is intended for families, students of all ages, as well as educators. Jessica will read her book, and answer audience questions within the first hour, and then we will break into one-hour workshops. Workshops are as follows:

- Families: a guided discussion about reflections from the book, what our students need from schools and questions/concerns families may have.
- Educators: discuss what age-appropriate content can and should be taught at various grade levels, as well as how to be supportive allies or role models.
- Students: a structured play space for younger participants and a guided empowerment activity for youth led by community agency staff.

For more information about this event, contact Lisa Love at 206-252-0982 or [llove@seattleschools.org](mailto:llove@seattleschools.org), or [www.seattleschools.org](http://www.seattleschools.org).



# GRADE-LEVEL PICNICS!

**5:30-7 p.m. • TM playground**

**Monday, June 13: Grades K/1**

**Tuesday, June 14: Grade 2**

**Wednesday, June 15: Grade 3**

**Thursday, June 16: Grade 4**



**Bring your own food, blankets, outdoor toys**

**Incoming families welcome**

**• *Sorry, canceled if it rains!* •**