

PUP PRESS

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Principal
Katie May

Oct. 19: A Day to Focus on Racial Equity

On Wednesday, the teachers' union will create a day of solidarity to focus attention on racial equity and the value of the lives of our African American students. Seattle Education Association members are choosing to wear Black Lives Matter t-shirts or stickers as symbols of their commitment to our students and to equity in education. Our teachers will be providing a context in their classrooms about the event and talking about what students

can do to help every member of the Thurgood Marshall community feel valued.

Why a focus on Black Lives Matter? Why not All Lives Matter? SEA's intent is to uplift our black students and affirm our teaching corps' commitment to eliminating opportunity gaps and ensuring excellence in education for every student. Seattle currently has the fifth-largest achievement gap in the nation between black and white students, which vividly illustrates the need to do better by our students of color. The national Black Lives Matter movement began as a social media hashtag in response to police killings of and violence against black people. The movement brings attention to harsh racial inequities in our society.

Oct. 19 events include 6 p.m. rally with educators. Page 2

District's "Close the Gaps" initiative, kicking off Oct. 17:

<http://bit.ly/SPSOppyGaps>

Three articles to read before you talk to your child about Black Lives Matter and racism:

<http://bit.ly/BLMkids2>

<http://bit.ly/BLMkids3>

<http://bit.ly/BLMkids4>

TM Equity Action Teams to meet Oct. 24. Page 2

There is also a local context for the Oct. 19th day of solidarity. Last year, Leschi Elementary and South Shore K-8 held events, organized by the schools and black community members, to show recognition and support for black students. This September, John Muir Elementary planned a similar event to welcome students back to school. Threats were made toward John Muir prior to the action and the school was pressured to cancel the event. In spite of this, black community members showed up to support students and carry out portions of the event. Shortly afterward, the SEA voted to stand in solidarity with John Muir and other schools who are doing important racial

equity work by wearing Black Lives Matter t-shirts on Oct. 19.

As a District we are united in our commitment to our students. We believe that black lives matter in the classrooms of Seattle Public Schools (SPS). The work of eliminating the opportunity gap has taken hold. Around the District, schools are building relationships and engaging in the work of supporting each and every student. **The District has announced a new campaign called #CloseTheGaps** to increase awareness of the need to eliminate opportunity gaps and accelerate learning for all students – specifically for black students and other students of color. Parents received a communication about the Oct. 17 launch of this campaign. (See <http://bit.ly/SPSOppyGaps> for more information.) While SPS outperforms similar districts academically and is considered a high performing urban district, we still have unacceptable opportunity and achievement gaps.

Our Thurgood Marshall community is welcome to stand with Seattle educators and show their support by wearing Black Lives Matter t-shirts, stickers or buttons.

EVENT CALENDAR

TOMORROW, Fri., Oct. 14: No school for students. (Day of learning for teachers & staff.)

Sat., Oct. 15: School Board member Stephan Blanford community meeting, 10-11:30 a.m., Douglass Truth Library, 2300 E. Yesler Way.

Tues., Oct. 18: PTA General Meeting, 6-8 p.m., Library. You do not need to be a PTA member to attend. (See article below.)

Wed., Oct. 19, Day of Solidarity for Racial Equity. See articles at left and on Page 2.

Thurs., Oct. 20, Earthquake Drill. National Great ShakeOut Day is focused on safety in event of earthquake: www.shakeout.org/washington/

Mon., Oct. 24: Equity Action Teams Meeting, 5:30-7 p.m., Library. Hear about our efforts and ideas for this year. All welcome! See Page 2, or visit <http://tmlink.org/info/equity-in-education-initiative/>

Wed., Oct. 26, 2-hour early dismissal, 1:45 p.m. (Teacher professional development.)

Thurs., Oct. 27, Coffee with Principal, 9:15-10 a.m., Library. Topic TBA. Bring questions!

→ **Full year of events in the online calendar at** www.tmlink.org – subscribe to it today!

TUTU'S PANTRY.

Week of Oct. 17: Grade 4 is asked to make a special effort to donate non-perishable foods. Especially needed: pasta/sauce (smaller jars, preferably not glass) and canned veggies and proteins other than peanut butter! Bins are in the front hall. (*Donations always welcomed from all.*)

PTA Meeting on Tues. Offers Tools You & Kids Can Use

Come to the first PTA General Meeting of the year, and walk away with new ideas for working things out with your kids during stressful situations. School Counselor Meghan Kaloper will discuss Positive Discipline and "RULER" techniques used at Thurgood Marshall ... and we'll learn how we can use those tools as parents. We will also hear from Principal Katie May and vote on the PTA Standing Rules (see amendment proposal at <http://bit.ly/2016amend>).

The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday (Oct. 18) in the TM Library, but come at 6 for an appetizer potluck with parents and teachers. **FREE child care, including pizza,** for 30 school-aged children by the YMCA in the cafeteria – RSVP to pta@tmlink.org.

Board Discusses Advanced Learning Issues, Asks for Data on Equity

The School Board's work session on Advanced Learning (AL) Programs last week raised concerns and questions about (1) gaps in equity and disproportionality in who is in the program, (2) challenges in the program model and delivery and (3) questions around who is considered "gifted," and how "giftedness" is defined and identified.

During the Oct. 5 meeting, Board members acknowledged widespread dissatisfaction with current programs ("Advanced Learning Opportunities," Spectrum and the Highly Capable Cohort). The members also recognized that the complex, interrelated issues of AL make it difficult to define scope and focus for any sustainable change. One approach would involve small changes to the current system; the other would be fuller revamping (presumably including delivery model as well as the process for deciding eligibility). Members didn't offer a clear sense of direction moving forward.

The Board asked for more data about equity and achievement in the program. One director mentioned keen interest in the TM experience of blended social studies this year. Although this meeting did not include public comment, members had

received from a TM Equity Team proposals aimed at improving equity in HCC eligibility and enrollment. While members of the Equity Teams who attended hoped this concern might emerge as the top priority, the Board for now is only requesting more data about recruitment and identification, and more scrutiny of program definition and delivery of AL services. Another AL work session is planned for March.

All Welcome at Equity Action Meeting Oct. 24

Learn what TM Equity Action Teams are doing (and join the effort if you'd like) at their first meeting of the year: Monday, Oct. 24, 5:30-7 p.m. in the Library. You'll hear:

- what the Equity Action Teams are all about
- updates from the teams (Field Trips, Enrichment, Title I, HCC Diversity, School Events, Academic Integration)
- plans for this year, including new ideas and revision of the current set of initiatives.

You don't need to be on an existing team to check it out! Teams are open to new members and ideas. Kids welcome to join or just read in the library. Info: <http://tmlink.org/info/equity-in-education-initiative/>

Opportunities Galore

Just Do It: Volunteer

Show your moves! Become a TM volunteer:

Fall Dance: Help us make the gym into a giant blanket fort (of sorts) for the Fall Family Pajama Dance & Food Drive Nov. 4! Sign up: <http://tinyurl.com/pajamadance>.

Assemble emergency backpacks and accompanying binders for each classroom, ASAP. Email Assistant Principal Storlie-Kovacs at askovacsstorli@seattleschools.org.

Parking Lot Flow Directors are needed! If you drive your student to or from school, you know why! Please contact Ms. Storlie or Ms. May to coordinate.

Lunchroom Assistance: Join kids at the tables to model ideal conduct; help with PIN input and serving to move the lines faster; prep in the kitchen; help clean up after each shift of students. Email Manager Kim Echols: kiechols@seattleschools.org (or if your preference is to hang out with kids, just show up after signing in at the office). Questions? Just want to get an email with opportunities? Email volunteering@tmlink.org or visit www.mlink.org/info/volunteering.

Shop to Support TM Programs

Did you know that your purchases at retailers such as Amazon.com, Office Depot and Bartell Drugs can support TM? For example, we can earn 6 percent back at Amazon! Info at <http://bit.ly/ShopforTM>.



Detail from SEA t-shirt

Oct. 19 T-shirts Available; Day to End with Rally

TM parents interested in wearing the Seattle Education Association "Black Lives Matter" t-shirt may still be able to receive one. Contact Jen Ellis at jenniferellis.206@gmail.com.

The Day of Solidarity mounted by the Seattle Education Association will culminate in a "Black Lives Matter to Educators" rally 6-8 p.m. Oct. 19 at Washington Hall (153 14th Ave., in the Central District). All are welcome!

This event will feature educators, parents, students, and activists discussing their vision for supporting black lives at school. The event will also present musicians, poets and Grammy award-winning artist Kimya Dawson.

Bullpup Briefs

How to Add that 20 Mins? Take Survey by Oct. 21

In 2017-18 elementary schools will add 20 minutes a day, except for a weekly early-release day 1 hour shorter than the others so teachers can collaborate.

The District is asking families to offer their preferences by Oct. 21 on how the changes should be made. Six proposed alternatives are posted, including three in which Thurgood Marshall's start time would be 10:15 a.m. or later on the early release day. More info, and the survey, is at <http://bit.ly/2017timechange>. In addition, printed surveys are available in the front office, in multiple languages.

Meet Board Members at LGBT Families Dinner Nov. 3

Join School Board members at the District's annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Families Dinner, 6-8 p.m. Nov. 3 at Washington Middle School. All SPS families and staff are welcome! This event is brought to you by the Health Education Office and the Office of School Family Partnerships. Dinner and entertainment will be provided. Please RSVP with the number of people in your party to Lisa Love in the Health Education Office at 252-0982 or love@seattleschools.org.