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Principal
Katie May

Be Prepared for Conference with Teacher

Teachers and I look forward to seeing parents and guardians at conferences this Saturday, Monday and Tuesday (Nov. 19, 21 and 22). If you have not been in touch with your child's teacher to schedule a conference, now is the time! Educating a child requires a partnership between the school and the family. Thurgood Marshall teachers try to communicate regularly with parents through emails, newsletters, blogs and other methods.

But the fall conference is one of the few times when teachers have the opportunity to sit with individual parents. We value this time with you, as it allows us to share work samples and insights about your child's learning, social as well as academic.

Here are some ways to prepare to get the most out of your conference time:

- **Ask your child in advance if there is anything s/he would like you to discuss with the teacher.** This may give you insight into social problems or academic challenges.
- **Write down questions** or topics you want to be sure to address.
- **Our conferences are tightly scheduled. Plan to arrive a minute or two early** and finish at the end of your allotted time. If you run out of time, ask the teacher when you might speak again.
- **Share positive observations.** What is going well for your child at school? What has s/he been especially interested in? And, please mention anything you appreciate about the teacher!
- **The focus of the conference is to share how your child is doing and areas of strength or concern. Be open to suggestions** from the teacher, and offer your thoughts about how your child may best be helped. Teachers are happy to suggest ways to support learning at home when they see you are open to this.
- **Take notes about what you discuss**, so you can refer back to them and share with your child, as appropriate.
- **If you and the teacher have decided to try something new** with your child – a new plan for learning or for supporting behavior, for example – set a time to check back in to discuss the results.

Most importantly of all, remember that all of our staff are here to support you and your child as best we can. We want to help you and work with you. Please let us know if there is something we can put in place to support your student.

Book Fair Flier in Today's 'Kid Mail'

The annual Book Fair won't pop up in the TM Library until Nov. 29, but you'll see a preview flier in today's "kid mail." And you won't need to wait that long: online shopping starts Nov. 23 at www.scholastic.com/bf/thurgoodmarshallelementary. Share that link with your extended family! Proceeds supply about one-third of the TM Library's budget, so we hope you'll make the Fair your "go-to" bookstore this season.



EVENT CALENDAR

TODAY, Thurs., Nov. 17: Postponed: Coffee with Principal Katie May. Will be on Dec. 7.

TONIGHT, Thurs., Nov. 17: African American Family Gathering, 6-8 p.m., Rainier Beach HS. Discuss student success. Free food! See Page 2.

TOMORROW, Fri., Nov. 18: Most Lost & Found items donated to charity. Don't wait to check it.

TOMORROW, Fri., Nov. 18: Final School Day for students before Thanksgiving Break. Regular dismissal time.

Sat., Mon. & Tues, Nov. 19, 21 & 22: Parent-Teacher Conferences. Requires signup; contact your child's teacher if you don't yet have a slot.

Wed.-Sun., Nov. 23-27: Thanksgiving Break.

Tues.-Fri., Nov. 29-Dec. 2: Book Fair. Shop with your children, or send them with a check or cash). Online, too! See <http://bit.ly/TMbookfair16>.

Fri., Dec. 2: Winter Enrichment registration begins, 7 a.m., at www.tmlink.org/enrichment. Catalog online on Nov. 30; sent home Dec. 1.

→ More online at www.tmlink.org!

TUTU'S PANTRY.

Week of Nov. 28: Grade 3 is asked to donate non-perishable foods. Bins are in the front hall. (*Donations always welcomed from all.*)

Annual Fund Will Feature Dollar-Match Opportunity

Watch your mail for a PTA letter about a special opportunity: a "Winter Challenge Match" that will make your gift to the Annual Giving Fund double in value. To encourage giving, a generous group of donors has agreed to match every donation in this period up to \$20,000, total!

The PTA must raise \$160,000 this year to:

- Pay salaries so our school has a Counselor and a full-time Librarian;
- Offer grants for teachers and staff to purchase books and other resources;
- Pay for K/1 classroom tutors, who markedly improve reading skills;
- Provide dance, theater and other special arts programs and assemblies;
- *Do much more for our children.*

More info at <http://bit.ly/GivetoTM>. Thank you.

– PTA Fundraising Co-Chairs
Heather Bauer & Stacey Kryman

TM Survey Seeks Your Opinions on Homework

TM staff are seeking parent/guardian input on homework. Please fill out a short survey online, at <http://bit.ly/TMhomework>. Parents may use computers in the Library. A paper version will be available at the office. See Assistant Principal Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie's notes from her Sept. 30 talk about homework, at <http://bit.ly/Homework16>.

New Classes in Winter Enrichment Catalog

The Winter Enrichment Catalog will be online Nov. 30, and feature many returning favorites as well as new classes such as:

- Intro to STEM with LEGO (Gr. K-2)
- Robotics using LEGO Mindstorms (Gr. 3-5)
- Floor Hockey
- Flag Football

Registration opens Dec. 2, with classes running Jan. 3-March 24. The PTA-coordinated program has adjusted its calendar this year to ensure no breaks while school is in session.

Graphic Has Tips for Dealing with Anxiety

Anxious child? TM Counselor Meghan Kaloper is suggesting you view an infographic at <http://bit.ly/AnxietyGraphic>. When you can quickly recognize how and why the brain and body transform in moments of anxiety, you can help alleviate the condition.



Trump in her 'Hopes & Dreams'

Many of our students expressed strong feelings last week about the results of the presidential election. Teachers provided an opportunity for the children to express their feelings by writing or illustrating their hopes and dreams for our country. Above, 2nd-grader Khalese Thompson, who is in Shari Howard-Powell's Grades 2/3 class, pictured herself holding hands with President-elect Trump.

Comment on Options for English Curriculum until Nov. 30

Through Nov. 30, Seattle Public Schools invites families, staff and community members to review instructional materials under consideration for use in K-5 English Language Arts classrooms. Input from the community will help the Adoption Committee, which includes TM teacher Marcie von Beck, to arrive at two finalists. There are two ways to review the materials: online and in person at six locations, including Madrona K-8 (1121 33rd Ave.) and South Shore PK-8 (4800 S. Henderson St.). Full info: <http://bit.ly/NewK5ELA>.

African American Family Gathering Tonight on Student Success

The District is hosting another in its series of African-American Family Gatherings, featuring free food and child care, 6-8 p.m. tonight (Thursday) in the library of Rainier Beach High School (8815 Seward Park Ave. S., Seattle, 98118). The focus will be student academic success and how to get the most out of parent-teacher conferences. Special guests include SPS Central Regional Director Sarah Pritchett. No RSVP is needed – just come and join our conversation! Questions? Volunteer Emijah Smith, 206-841-9397 or ashantimichai@gmail.com.

MONEY FOR NOTHING?

Not exactly. But if you are shopping at Amazon.com, Office Depot, Bartell Drugs and other businesses, your purchases can support TM! See <http://bit.ly/ShopforTM>.

Bullpup Briefs

Last Day to Donate Socks, Backpacks for Homeless

Thurgood Marshall parent Sophie Dubé is asking families to join her in donating new socks and used backpacks for Survive The Streets (www.survivethestreets.org), an annual Thanksgiving event helping Seattle's homeless.

Last year the small nonprofit that organizes this event helped almost 300 men and women.

Through tomorrow (Nov. 18), donate these items in the special collection box in the TM front hall. Reach Sophie at sophieandreedube@hotmail.com.

2017-18 Schedule Change: Earlier & Later Times Likely

In a Nov. 10 memo to the Seattle School Board, Superintendent Larry Nyland says he is likely to recommend that next year's schedule changes include:

- 10-minute-earlier start and 10-minute-later end to the school day. "If we can make transportation work, this seems to be the best middle ground," he said. Splitting the 20-minute school-day increase was the second preferred choice in the District's survey of stakeholders.
- 1-hour-a-week early release was much preferred by every group over a late start, and Wednesday is likely to be the recommended early day. Families preferred Friday, but that is when teacher absenteeism is highest. "We want our professional development to have highest impact and Friday afternoons are not the best time for this outcome," he said.

Final recommendations will be forwarded to the Board in January.

Still unclear: whether the District can afford to move to a (more expensive) two-tier bus system, which is preferred by families, especially in Tier 3, the 9:35 bell-time group that includes TM.

Message about Dismissal? Tell Us Early in the Day!

If you need to get your child(ren) a message about dismissal, please call the office early in the day. Thanks for your cooperation! The number: 206-252-2800.