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Principal
Katie May

Making Discipline Policies Work for All

At last week's Principal Coffee, we hosted Erin Romanuk, our District's Program Manager for Discipline and Attendance. She is in the process of updating discipline policies and wanted to hear from parents, as well as letting them know the approaches the District is considering.

Seattle Schools is concerned about time students spend excluded from the classroom because of disciplinary action. The goal is a safe school environment for all, with students remaining in their classes each day. Concerns have been raised about disproportionate disciplinary action for students of color. This pattern is evident across the country, particularly for African-American males, but also for Latino and Native American students. In order to support students in spending more time in class, Seattle schools is focused on prevention first. Last year, the District placed a moratorium on elementary suspensions for disruptive behavior, rule-breaking and disobedience. Other practices to create a more positive school environment include:

- **Efforts to ensure a positive school culture.** Examples of this at Thurgood Marshall are our use of Positive Discipline school-wide to focus on teaching appropriate behaviors first, emphasizing problem-solving, helping students learn from mistakes rather than facing punishment, and reviewing school discipline reports to ensure our environment doesn't hinder student success.
- **Culturally responsive teaching practices.** Students do better when they feel included and safe at school, and when they see themselves reflected in the curriculum. Likewise, families feel more connected at school when they feel welcomed in the building and that programming relates to their concerns as parents. The District's work to implement and train Race and Equity Teams in schools, as well as providing equity training at each monthly administrators' meeting, is helping schools to think through changes needed to support all our students in success at school.
- **Restorative Justice.** This is the practice of bringing students together when a disciplinary incident occurs, so that they can "talk, ask questions, and air their grievances" about what happened. As with Positive Discipline, the focus is on restitution rather than punishment. This is a fairly new direction for the District, and trainings will help make this method more accessible to schools. Learn more: <http://bit.ly/Restore-Justice>.

Ms. Romanuk also discussed updates to the Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook (see <http://bit.ly/SPShandbook>). This document is long. TM parents suggested it could be split into a parent-friendly shorter version as well as a "lawyer" version that includes more detail. Ms. Romanuk explained that disciplinary hearing officers prefer parents to have all information they might need to appeal. "The Basic Rules of Seattle Schools" covers many questions about District expectations. (See <http://bit.ly/SPSBasicRules>.) Questions? Reach Ms. Romanuk at evromanuk@seattleschools.org.

EVENT CALENDAR

TONIGHT, Thurs., Jan. 26: Student Instrumental Concert, 7 p.m., Cafeteria. Free. (Strings arrive by 6:30; others 6:45.) Bring food for Tutu's Pantry!

TOMORROW, Fri., Jan. 27: Author Appearance by James Riley ("Half Upon a Time" fantasy series), 2 p.m., Cafeteria. Most kids in Gr 3-5 will attend; parents welcome.

Sat., Jan. 28: Pancake Breakfast & Art Walk, 9-11 a.m., Cafeteria. Free (\$10 suggested donation per family). Volunteers needed: <http://tinyurl.com/TMpancake2017>.

Wed., Feb. 1: No School: Day between Semesters

Sat., Feb. 4: School Board member Stephan Blanford community meeting, 10-noon, Douglass-Truth Library, 2300 E. Yesler Way.



Mon., Feb. 6: School Choice Form available online. "Open Enrollment" to register for non-attendance-area schools is Feb. 13-24. See <http://bit.ly/SPSenroll17>.

Thurs., Feb. 9: Choir Concert, 7 p.m., Cafeteria. Free. (Singers arrive by 6:30.) Bring food for Tutu's Pantry!

→ All events in the online calendar at www.tmlink.org

→ **NOTE:** Problems at our web-services provider are causing sporadic outages at TMLink.org.



TUTU'S PANTRY.

Week of Jan. 30: Grade 4 is asked to make a special effort to donate non-perishable foods. Bins are in the front hall. (Donations always welcomed from all.)

The Best Breakfast in Seattle

Art and Pancakes on Sat.



Actual serving size is ... smaller.

Bring the whole family to school on Saturday (Jan. 28) for pancakes, chicken sausage, fruit, coffee and juice (including options for vegetarians). Then, wander through the hallway "galleries" of student artwork and catch up with TM friends old and new.

It's the PTA's Annual Pancake Breakfast and Art Walk.

- **When:** Saturday, 9-11 a.m.
- **Where:** Cafeteria
- **Cost: Free;** suggested donation of \$10 per family to help cover expenses
- **Please bring canned items** and other non-perishable food for Tutu's Pantry!
- This is not a "drop and go" event. Parents must remain at the school.

Can you spare an hour to help? We still need volunteers to set up, flip pancakes and more. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/TMpancake2017>.

District's Budget Chief Presents Grim Outlook

Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance JoLynn Berge Tuesday provided a grim overview of steps the District may need to take to balance the 2017-18 budget.

Speaking at a general meeting of the Thurgood Marshall PTA, she said the \$74 million gap (nearly 10 percent of planned spending) may lead to increased class sizes (especially in Grades K-3) and other program and staff cuts. Ms. Berge explained how the shortfall has resulted in part from a "Levy cliff": the impending expiration of a state law that increased the level of funds school districts could collect through voter-approved levies. In addition, districts have been awaiting action by the Legislature to increase funding for education, as ordered by the state Supreme Court in its McCleary Decision. Her presentation slides are at <http://bit.ly/BergeInfo17>.

The District's full array of budget information is at <http://bit.ly/SPSbudget17>. Want to tell legislators what you think about education funding? The Legislature's hotline is 800-562-6000 and specific contact info is available at <http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder>.

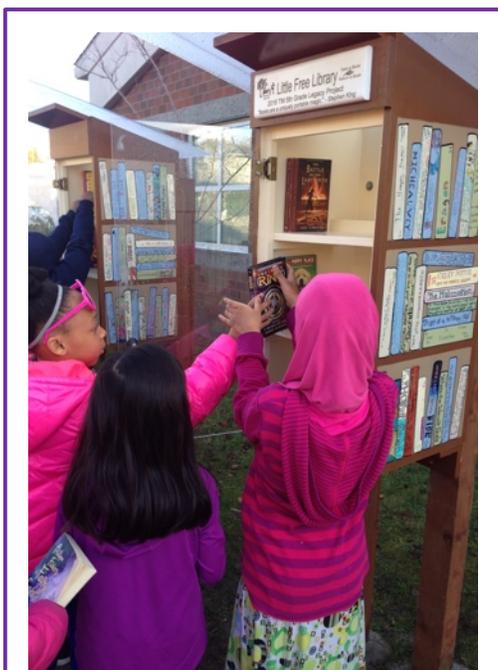
10 TM Teams to Face Off in Global Reading Challenge

Ten teams of 4th- and 5th-graders will vie next week to become Thurgood Marshall's entrant in the 2017 citywide "Global Reading Challenge" mounted by Seattle Public Library.

The 70 participating students read some or all of the 10 books selected by the Library, and must be prepared to answer content questions. The GRC teams have been working hard since last November, and the winning group will move forward to a regional competition from which one winner will advance to the citywide finals. TM won the city title in 2011.

Douglass Truth Branch Library's Mynique Adams and a volunteer will officiate the contest on Feb. 2, but we will not have space for additional observers.

To learn more about GRC, and see all the book titles: <http://bit.ly/GRC2017>.



Legacy of Books

The Thurgood Marshall Little Free Library is open! Thank you to last year's 5th-grade class for this wonderful legacy project and to Ms. Gese's 4th-graders, including those above, for being stewards of the library.

Key SPS Official Talks of Steps to Improve HCC Equity

Last Thursday's Equity Action Teams meeting featured special guest Wyeth Jessee, District Chief of Student Supports. Mr. Jessee, who oversees Advanced Learning, Special Ed and other areas, displayed data showing doubled HCC enrollment in four years, to nearly 8 percent of SPS students. However, the number of HCC students of color remains far below their total proportion. To improve equity, he and other staff are suggesting new outreach efforts to families and internal changes such as professional development to help staff better serve 2E students and be culturally responsive. Mr. Jessee also noted that the School Board has initiated reviews of the Spectrum program (this year) and HC Services (next year).

Attendees also took part in an activity to help put themselves in others' shoes. Later, Equity Team leads shared updates. More info: www.tmlink.org.

Seattle Public Schools, SPS, provides Equal Educational Opportunities and Equal Employment Opportunities and does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex; race; creed; color; religion; ancestry; national origin; age; economic status; sexual orientation, including gender expression or identity; pregnancy; marital status; physical appearance; the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability; honorably discharged veteran or military status; or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal. SPS also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Bullpup Briefs

Issues with PTA Website

We are sorry that access to Tmlink.org has been repeatedly interrupted this month. The company providing our website services has faced "denial of service" attacks from unknown hackers, and is working to resolve the issue. PTA email is unaffected.

Sign Up for Ultimate by Feb. 2

The sign-up form for TM's coed Ultimate Frisbee teams went home with Grades 3-5 students last week. The deadline is Feb. 2! The form and info are also on www.tmlink.org. Practices start Feb. 28, with games running through May.

Heater, Coffeemaker Sought

Nurse Molly Chin is seeking donations of a carafe type of coffee maker and small heater for the health room. Contact her at mchin@seattleschools.org.

Have Photos for Yearbook?

Taken some great (or even just good) photos of school events or field trips? Yearbook Editor Jen Hobbs would love to see them. (If you have a lot, she will provide a Dropbox location for uploads.) Contact her at jen@jenfu.org.

'Gifted Ed Day' in Olympia

The Coalition for Gifted Education is organizing an advocacy event in Olympia on Feb. 2. A 10 a.m. meeting at the Capitol will include legislators and other officials. To get a Gifted Ed Day info packet, email wagifted@earthlink.net. More at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/wagifted>.

Washington MS Info Session

Washington Middle School will present an info session 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday (Jan. 31) led by Principal Susan Follmer and current students. A tour of WMS is available 8:30-10 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 8. The events begin in the Lunchroom. No reservations required. Info at <http://washingtonms.seattleschools.org/>.

Support TM when Shopping!

When you shop at Amazon.com, Office Depot, Bartell Drugs and other businesses, your purchases can support TM! See <http://bit.ly/ShopforTM>.