

PUP PRESS

Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

FEB. 16, 2017

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 21



Principal
Katie May

Summit Focuses on Gifted Ed Equity

Last week, I attended the first-ever Equity in Gifted Education Summit at the University of Washington. Districts around the state were represented by board members, central office leaders, advanced-learning specialists, principals and parents. (Thank you to TM parents Trinia Washington and Devin Bruckner and Grade 5 teacher Sam Egelhoff for attending!) The conference was hosted by the Robinson Center for Young Scholars, which

provides programs for gifted students and professional development for teachers. Speakers from the UW and around the country addressed issues pertaining to equity for advanced learners, especially identification of and service provided for those “historically disenfranchised by race, ethnicity, culture or language.”

The Equity Summit had three goals:

1. **Enable better understanding of equity as it relates to gifted education.**
2. **Bring communities together to share equity initiatives, and gain awareness of what is currently happening, both in this state and around the country to address equity in educational systems.**
3. **Develop ongoing partnerships and collaborations to challenge inequitable policies, procedures, and practices through education, leadership and advocacy for change.**

One of the presenters, Principal Maria Breuder of Seattle’s McGilvra Elementary, is doing doctoral work on equity in gifted education. Maria presented information about disparities in Seattle’s Advanced Learning programs and suggestions for moving forward. She has shared her slides. (See <http://bit.ly/Breuder17>.)

Some of my takeaways from the conference:

- **Other districts near Seattle, notably Everett and Renton,** are managing Advanced Learning programs that do not have the disparities in representation between white and minority populations.
- **Additional tools for identifying advanced learners** include tests in Spanish; measurement of the pace at which a student learns English; non-verbal, verbal and quantitative testing; and translators to support the testing process.
- **Because our brains are more flexible when we are younger, a “sweet spot” for gifted education is preschool to 3rd grade.** That is important both for how children begin to develop beliefs about themselves and for the learning opportunities to which they are exposed.
- **We can’t separate the social, cultural and political context from the academic content.** If there’s a cultural mismatch, students don’t feel safe, they are unable to be creative, and their academic performance is affected.

The summit did not solve the problems we are aware of in underrepresentation of some student groups in Seattle’s Advanced Learning programs, but it moved this conversation forward. Summit participants are being encouraged to stay in touch and to continue networking. Beginning to recognize and talk about the lack of equity is an important step to creating change.

The Robinson Center has information and presentations pertaining to the summit at <http://bit.ly/UWequitysummit17>.

EVENT CALENDAR

Through Feb. 24: Open Enrollment. Submit School Choice forms during this period. If you don’t meet this deadline, your student may lose priority, for example, for entering a new school with limited capacity. Questions and answers at <http://bit.ly/AdmissionsFAQ17>.

Mon.-Fri., Feb. 20-24: No School (Midwinter Break).

Thurs., March 2, Black Family Advocacy Support Group Meeting. 6:30-8 p.m., Library. See Page 2.

Tues., March 7: Special Education Community Meeting, 6-7:30 p.m., McClure Middle School, 1915 1st Ave. W. Central Region families invited to hear presentation by District officials & bring questions.

Wed., March 8: Final 2017 Info Session & Tour for prospective families, 8:45-10 a.m. No RSVPs. Tell your friends who are considering TM!

Fri., March 10: Spring Enrichment registration opens online, 7 a.m. See <http://www.tmlink.org/enrichment>.

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

TUTU’S PANTRY.

Week of Feb. 27: Grade 1 is asked to make a special effort to donate non-perishable foods. Bins are in the front hall. (Donations always welcomed from all.)

Thanks for Participating!

It was wonderful to see the families who were able to join us National African American Parent Involvement Day and our Thurgood Marshall Assembly on Monday! We know it is difficult to make time to come to school and we want you to know it matters to us

and to your children. A big thank you to members of Thurgood Marshall’s Black Family Advocacy Support Group – Trinia Washington, Angie Jenkins and Lita Hawkins – for help in planning, organizing and helping the day run smoothly!

– Principal Katie May



State Court of Appeals Judge Michael Spearman speaks at the Thurgood Marshall Day Assembly Monday.

Snow Makeup Day on June 26

The school day canceled by snow on Feb. 6 will be made up on Monday, June 26. It becomes the new final day of school, with dismissal 1 hour early. June 23 will revert to regular dismissal.

Workshop on 'Undoing Racism' on March 28

The "Undoing Racism & Teaching Equity to our Children" workshop set for 6-8:30 p.m. March 28 will enable you to focus on how your family can talk about racial identity and racism. Members of Families of Color Seattle will lead an exploration of systemic racism and participants' understanding of their own racial identity, power, privilege and oppression.

FOCS is a non-profit organization connecting parents to build a loving community of families of color. Founded in 2013, FOCS leads community organizing, racial justice education, parent engagement and more: <http://www.focseattle.com>.



The workshop is hosted by Thurgood Marshall's Equity Action Teams, TM's Black Families Advocacy Support Group and the TM PTA. Child care may be available.

Black Family Group to Tackle Key Issues March 2

The Black Family Advocacy Support Group (BFASG) will meet 6:30- 8 p.m. Thursday, March 2, in the Library to begin addressing its top three identified issues/concerns:

- Diversity/cultural sensitivity training for staff, administration, students & parents
- Family engagement/inclusiveness
- Support group/BFASG

Your voice is needed! Children are welcome. You may bring your own dinner; light snacks will be provided.

For questions or to be added to the group's e-list, contact Trinia Washington: trinia.washington@live.com or 206-406-7403. More information: <http://bit.ly/BFASGatTM>.

Volunteers Needed: Commitment as Short or Long as You Wish

Musician Demos: Do you (or an acquaintance) play an instrument at a professional level? Third-graders are learning about instrument families, and Music Teacher Kelsey French is seeking volunteers to do short demonstrations and Q&A sessions. Contact her at klfrench@seattleschools.org and include instrument to share and best times.



Games Night Coordinator & Helpers: Although Blue Highway Games will handle almost every part of Games Night on March 22, volunteers are needed to coordinate, help with the potluck and demo games. Contact Kimberlee at volunteering@tmlink.org.

Household Items Drive Leader(s): It was wonderful to see so many parents turn out on Feb. 3 to show their support for our Muslim and immigrant families. We are looking for one or more parents to lead a brief effort to collect household donations for immigrant/refugee families being resettled in our area. Contact ELL Teacher Cathy Villanueva: cavillanueva@seattleschools.org.

Lunchroom Assistants STILL needed! 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 Kim: kiechols@seattleschools.org. (If your preference is to hang out with kids, just show up after signing in at the office).

Early Pickup? Don't Wait to Call

If you need to give a message to your child about the pickup or dismissal, **PLEASE call early in the day.** Ms. Dickey and Ms. Patu get swamped with calls after 3 p.m. and cannot always get those messages to kids before dismissal.

ALSO: If you receive a phone message from the school, please listen to it before calling the office. This is especially important when we send a "robocall."

Bullpup Briefs

Deadline for Girls on the Run; Adult Running Partners Sought

The deadline for students in Grades 3-5 to register for Girls on the Run is Friday, Feb. 17. The program will be 4-5:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays starting March 6 and ending May 23. More info in the flier sent home with today's Pup Press or at www.girlsrun.org. Register online or with a form at the TM main office.

ALSO: GotR has a special opportunity for adults who can attend at least six sessions as "Practice Partners." See www.girlsrun.org/practice-partner.

Nurse's Office Lacks Heater, Coffeemaker



Nurse Molly Chin is seeking donations of a carafe type of coffeemaker (for hot tea to help kids!) and a small heater for the health room. Contact her at mchin@seattleschools.org.

You DO Have Yearbook Pix

School events! Field trips! You were there with your camera or cellphone and have some fun or candid photos to share, right? Right! 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.

Reading Challenge Correction

Congratulations to Kieralyn Lu, who was left off the list of members of "Who Are We Again?," the winning team in the Thurgood Marshall round of the Seattle Global Reading Challenge. Apologies to her and to Dana Curiel Mar, who was misidentified as a team member.

Math Festival at UW Feb. 25

Tickets (\$10-\$15) are available for the Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival at the UW Husky Union Building (HUB) 12:30-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25. The event, in its 6th year, is a noncompetitive celebration of great ideas and problems in mathematics, with dozens of tables of rich math problems and activities led by volunteers.

Information and ticket sales are at <http://mathforlove.com/julia-robinson-festival/>.