

PUP PRESS

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Principal
Katie May

Potential Impact of 2017-18 Budget

Each winter, the District provides our school with a budget allocation that allows us to make some choices on spending and staffing for the following school year. I bring proposals to our Building Leadership Team (made up of TM staff, parents and administration), which then presents its recommendation to staff for a vote. In addition, our generous PTA provides the support for staffing not covered by our District allocation, such as .5 of

our full-time Librarian and all three days a week of our Counselor. In the past two years PTA dollars have also funded two of our literacy tutors.

For 2017-18, our planned budget and staffing has been significantly decreased, just like every other school in our District. The cuts are in response to the District's worst-case scenario, a budget shortfall of \$74 million that has been blamed on the Legislature's choices not to fully fund basic education appropriately.

As you may know, last week the Legislature voted to resolve the "Levy Cliff," an issue that would have prevented the District from collecting the full amount of education taxes approved by Seattle voters. This action should reduce the projected deficit by \$30 million, but we will not escape cuts unless the Legislature takes additional action this spring. On March 29, based on feedback from constituents including union and parent leaders, Superintendent Dr. Larry Nyland will share overall recommendations with the School Board.

I will only learn about our updated staffing and budget allocation following Spring Break, but here is the worst-case scenario we planned for. We would have needed to cut four teaching positions – three classroom teachers, the .5 (half-time) PE teacher position we added this year, and a .5 teaching position the District allots to larger elementary schools. In past years, we have used this "extra" teaching position to fund .2 of our ELL teacher's time and .3 of our Reading Specialist's time. (Each .2 equals 1 day/week of staff time). We are projected to enroll roughly the same number of students next year, but under the worst-case scenario, we would have 20 classroom teachers – instead of 23. That would mean significantly larger class sizes and six split-grade classrooms. (In the past, the District has provided additional staffing to help avoid splits, but that relief isn't included in the original 2017-18 budget.) We hope the updated staffing allocation will help us reduce the number of splits.

In making budget decisions, Thurgood Marshall must keep equity and the needs of our students in mind. Although we face cuts of staff who focus on intervention (one literacy tutor and about .3 of time for intervention teachers), we plan to devote what is left of our discretionary funds to these positions.

Our school has faced challenges together before, and I am confident that we will work together to overcome this one, too. I have been impressed with how our staff has pulled together to think about what is best for children. I am not yet ready to release staff or classroom configurations – you will see these closer to the end of the year – but I will keep you in the loop about what we hear about our budget.

EVENT CALENDAR

Sun., March 19: Spring Enrichment registration ends.

March 20-24: Winter Enrichment classes end.

Wed., March 22: Early dismissal, 1:45 p.m.

Wed., March 22: Game Night, 6-7:30 p.m. Try out new games for FREE. Potluck (bring non-messy appetizers).

Volunteers needed: <http://bit.ly/TMgames17>. See p. 2.

Thurs., March 23: Coffee (en Español) with Assistant Principal Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie. Biblioteca, 9:15-10 a.m.

Thurs., March 23: Equity Action Teams meeting, 6-8 p.m. Hear progress and share your ideas. See <http://tmlink.org/info/equity-in-education-initiative>.

March 27-31: Spring Enrichment classes begin.

Tues., March 28: "Undoing Racism & Teaching Equity to our Children," 6-8:30 p.m., Library. FREE workshop for parents of all backgrounds. Please RSVP at <https://undoingracismtm.eventbrite.com>. See p. 2.

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

TUTU'S PANTRY.

Week of March 20: Grade 4 is asked to make a special effort to donate non-perishable foods. Bins in front hall.

TM, Get Ready to Rumble!

\$60K Needed to Reach Goal



It's time to get in the game for Thurgood Marshall! We still need to raise some \$60,000 to meet our 2016-17 fundraising goal of \$160,000 and we

need your help to get there. **Help us beat the buzzer** by teaming up with the generous donors who have created our **March Match-ness Challenge Match!**

The play: If we can raise \$15,000 in March, a group of Thurgood Marshall All-Stars will contribute another \$15,000, getting us much closer to our goal.

Don't let the clock run out. Thurgood Marshall PTA spends \$300 per student annually. (For full details on what your dollars do, see <http://bit.ly/WhereYourDollarsGo>.)

With your help, we can ensure PTA-funded programs continue to support teachers and students daily.

Give online at <http://bit.ly/TM2017AGF>, or send donations via kid mail or by postal mail to Thurgood Marshall Annual Fund, 2401 S. Irving St., Seattle, WA 98144. Questions? Contact us at giving@tmlink.org.

Bullpup Briefs

Atención: Café para Familias Hispanohablantes 23 de Marzo

Los invito a que nos acompañen a nuestro primer Café para Familias hispano-hablantes en donde estará nuestra subdirectora Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie discutiendo temas de interés así como preocupaciones específicas de nuestras familias latinas. Será el jueves 23 de marzo a las 9:15am en la biblioteca, no es necesario RSVP. Tendremos café y champurradas!

The next Coffee with the Principal will be conducted in Spanish, 9:15-10 a.m. on March 23 (in the Library) with Assistant Principal Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie.

Take Photos for Yearbook!

We still need Yearbook photos! So, how about taking some? Even if you are not a pro, Editor Jen Hobbs would love help getting more candid photos from classrooms and events. Contact her at jen@jenfu.org. Remember to order your Yearbook before March 31: at <http://bit.ly/TMyearbook17> or via the form sent home last week.



A chance to try games you've never heard of.

Play Games, Win Door Prizes on Wednesday

Ever heard of Unicorn Glitterluck, Skunk Bingo, Spot It, Gobblet, Telepathy Jr., Timeline, Katamino Duo, Gravity Maze, UnNatural Selection, One Night Werewolf, or Cover your A\$\$ets?

Neither have we, but experience has proven that the PTA's free Game Night (6-7:30 p.m., March 22) will introduce you to board-game fun and challenges your family will rave about. (Purchases possible, but not required.) Door prizes, too! **Optional appetizer potluck** (nothing too messy, please: think cheese and crackers).

Volunteers needed: Sign up at <http://bit.ly/TMgames17>.

Learn to Teach your Kids About Equity at Free Workshop

Join the FREE "Undoing Racism & Teaching Equity to our Children" workshop 6-8:30 p.m. on March 28 and learn how your family – of any ethnicity or background – can talk about racial identity and racism. Members of Families of Color Seattle (FOCS) will lead us in exploring systemic racism and parents' own understanding of their racial identity, power, privilege and oppression. RSVP to <https://undoingracismtm.eventbrite.com>.

FOCS is a non-profit organization connecting parents to build a loving community of families of color. FOCS leads community organizing, racial justice

Come to the Equity Action Teams' next meeting **March 23** (6-8 p.m, Library), to review progress and plan next steps. See free child care info below.

education, community dialogues and parent engagement. The workshop is hosted by TM's PTA, Equity Action Teams and the Black Families Advocacy Support Group.

Free care at both events for up to 30 children (ages 5-12) is available to parents attending. You **MUST** reserve your child's place in advance: Contact Sterling at 206-718-5705 or sterlingnelson@seattleYMCA.org.

PTA Reflections Arts Contest **Photo, Poem Honored**

Fifth-graders Abby Nakamoto and Torin Hough have won high praise in the statewide 2016-17 PTA Reflections competition. Torin's poem, "I'm Slow and Steady Like a Hardwood," received an Award of Excellence (second place) in Intermediate Literature. Abby won Outstanding Interpretation (first place) in Intermediate Photography for her "Me in My Room" montage of images. Her piece will advance to the national level of the competition!

Abby says her interest in photography started because "my dad would take cool pictures on vacation so I wanted to try it. I liked it so I kept taking photos."

Her favorite subjects to photograph? "Animals, landscapes and nature."

The PTA Reflections Program provides an opportunity for students to use their creative talents by expressing themselves through their own original works. The 2016-17 theme was "What is Your Story?" TM's PTA sponsored a schoolwide Reflections art competition in November. Twelve pieces were selected to represent our school at the citywide level at which five TM artists won awards. Abby, Torin and Romy Vos (visual artwork, "Self-Portrait") advanced to the statewide round. We wish best of luck to Abby in the national competition!



Torin Hough, left and Abby Nakamoto. See their winning creations at www.tmlink.org.

Don't Miss Out on Enrichment

Enrichment classes are filling up, but we can still provide some great recommendations. Energy to burn? Try out Flag Football or Tennis. (No equipment or skill needed!) Want an outlet for creativity? Read about our classes in STEM with Lego, Mixed-Media Art or Scratch (computer programming to create games and films). Registration closes Sunday, at www.tmlink.org/enrichment.

Free-lunch eligible? Pay as little as \$4.50!

Thanks, Mediators & Mentors!

School Counselor Meghan Kaloper reports that this week our Conflict Mediators and Recess Mentors have switched partners and jobs! They also visited Grades K and 1 to talk about their roles and to lead reminder lessons about how to use the Buddy Bench. Let's give these 4th- and 5th-grade leaders a big round of applause: their community volunteer work helps make our school a more peaceful and fun place to play. We appreciate all you do!

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.

Have an article for Pup Press? Send it to Cliff Meyer at pup-press@tmlink.org. If your submission is not acknowledged within 24 hours, please call or text 206-366-5413



Family Survey

Coming April 17 – May 19

Families of K-12 students can **participate in two easy steps!**

1 By **March 16**, make sure your child's school has your current email address on file.

2 Respond to the survey you receive in **late April** by email (or regular mail for families without email addresses).

About the Seattle Public Schools Climate Surveys

Surveys are administered in the spring of each school year to all families, school staff, and students grades 3 through 12. Results are used to guide improvements at the school and district level.

For more information, including results of the 2016 Family, Staff, and Student Surveys, please select **"School Climate Surveys"** at the following webpage:

www.SeattleSchools.org/performance

How will surveys be distributed?



Email



Paper

(Mailed to households with no email address on file)

Your opinion counts!