

PUP PRESS



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Principal
Katie May

Seeing Results from Blended Classes

I wanted to give you an update on our Social Studies program. Anecdotally, we are seeing a shift in relationships between students. This started slowly at first, with a few students beginning to connect. At our most recent Social Studies Steering Committee meeting, teachers reported that friendships are really developing across settings (not just in Social Studies). A parent mentioned that she hears her child and their friends more often

talking about new kids. Ms. Kovacs-Storlie and I see students regularly eating with children they have gotten to know in Social Studies. Our Art, Music and PE teachers, who have classes blended across programs in 1st and 4th grade, frequently let me know how well this works. Given our focus on becoming a more-connected learning community, I am gratified to see students from different programs form relationships.

Our Parent Survey received 132 responses, and reflected about the right proportion for each grade. About 18 percent of respondents had students in General Education, 2 percent in the PEACE Academy, and 80 percent in the Highly Capable Program. Here's some of what we learned:

Want to Meet with Teacher? Please Give Advance Notice

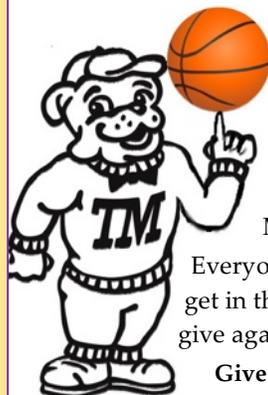
Parents, our teachers want to work closely with you, listen to your concerns and be a partner in your child's education. If you wish to meet with a teacher, please do your best to set up a time in advance, rather than popping in. A teacher's day is very full with planning for and preparing lessons, meeting with grade-level teammates and intervention specialists, working with individual kids, and teaching the full group.

Teachers find it difficult to just drop what they are doing to meet with a parent if they have already allotted that time to preparing a lesson. A teacher in the middle of instructing a class cannot interrupt student learning to meet with a parent. Thank you for your understanding!

– Katie May

- 60 percent of parents report their child talks about Social Studies at home
- 72 percent of parents report their child has made friends with a child outside of their program this year.
- 95 percent of parents reported that they felt positive (61 percent) or neutral (34 percent) about our Social Studies program.
- Many of you (92 percent!) would like more information about what students are learning in Social Studies.
- Most of you would prefer that information to come through the Pup Press and teacher newsletters.

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Mr. Bullpup asks that you to take your best shot.

Donations Doubled for 'March Match-ness' Only

Join the "Big Dance" to support our school!

As budget cuts loom, we need your help **more than ever** to raise the PTA funding that supports key programs at our school. Thanks to a generous group of donors, we've created a **2-for-1 play**. Every dollar donated in March, up to \$15,000, will be **DOUBLED!**

Everyone at Thurgood Marshall can help us earn the match: **Benchwarmers** ... get in the game and make your gift **NOW!** **Already gave?** Go for the rebound – give again! The PTA spends \$300/student annually and must raise \$160,000, total.

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., Questions? Reach Fundraising Co-Chairs Heather Bauer and Stacey Kryman at giving@tmlink.org.

EVENT CALENDAR

TONIGHT, 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.

March 31: Deadline to order Yearbooks. Forms were sent home, or go online at <http://bit.ly/TMyearbook17>.

April 3-5: Grade 5 Class Trip to Camp Orkila.

Thurs., April 6: TM Community Night, 5-7 p.m. New event incorporating the former Multicultural Night.

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

TUTU'S PANTRY.

Week of March 27: Grade 5 is asked to make a special effort to donate non-perishable foods. Bins in front hall.

Consider PTA Board Positions

As many of you know, part of what makes our school great is the PTA. It builds community with events, coordinates volunteers, runs the Enrichment Program, raises funds, and much more.

The PTA Board drives most of these activities, and positions are available for 2017-18: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications Chair, Events Chair, Fundraising Chair, Volunteer Chair, to name a few. All roles can be shared by two co-Chairs to help ensure a rewarding, flexible experience.

Would you consider joining the PTA Board next year? You can learn more by contacting Jennifer Ellis at jenniferellis.206@gmail.com or viewing www.tmlink.org/info/join-pta-board.

YMCA Offers March 31 Parents' Night Out

YMCA is hosting a Parents' Night Out 6:30-9 p.m. Friday, March 31, at Bailey Gatzert Elementary! The cost per family is \$30/one student, \$20/each additional. All proceeds benefit the West Seattle YMCA scholarship fund. Contact Sterling Nelson at sterlingnelson@seattleyymca.org or (206) 718-5705 to reserve!

No One Out Yet in PE 'March Madness' Tourney

News from PE: the March Madness basketball tournament has been exciting, with students from different programs working hard together to reach a common goal. So far, Cal., UNLV and North Carolina looked impressive in their first round wins. No one is out in our double-elimination tourney, and a team in the losers bracket could still win it all. More results soon.

In the Art Room: Bubble Wrap, Giacometti, More

Art Teacher Beth Zirngible reports that kindergartners have been learning about texture by making rubbings from texture plates. Next, they will make a collage with bubble wrap and fabric. First-graders are drawing hot air balloons with patterns. Their balloons will be finished with painted tints and shades. Second and third grades are working on Modigliani elongated portraits. Fourth-graders are making a collage background, and gluing on their portraits for a Kehinde Wiley look. Fifth grade is sculpting Giacometti wire figures that will be layered with aluminum foil and paint. **Please help hang this wonderful art!** Email blzirngible@seattleschools.org.

Ask your Student about Social Studies

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We will be surveying parents again in May to see how the second half of the year has gone. In the meantime, we will be doing our best to help you feel more informed about what is happening in your child's Social Studies class. I have spoken to our teachers about being sure they include Social Studies information in their communications to you. The newsletters I have seen sent home in the last week did include this information. I do sometimes hear parents say that they are not seeing regular communication from teachers. If this is the case for you, please let your child's teacher know. Sometimes, a teacher's carefully crafted newsletters pile up at the bottom of backpacks. If you are not seeing communications, it may be that they are not making it home to you.

For the 40 percent of you whose child does not talk about Social Studies at home, some carefully crafted questions may elicit more information. Here are a few to try:

- **How is your Social Studies class different from your regular class?**
- **What's a new word you have learned in Social Studies?**
- **If you could choose, who would you sit by in Social Studies?**
- **Tell me about something you have made/created/pretended to be in Social Studies.**

→ *Next week – more on Social Studies content!*



Stephan Blanford
District V Director,
Seattle School Board

Cuts Threaten Equity Efforts

The impact of budget cuts is starting to become very real. You may know that we received some legislative relief, that greatly reduces the \$74M deficit we were expecting, but does not get us anywhere close to our anticipated expenses next year. Thus, we're looking at significant reductions.

The Superintendent proposed Tuesday night that Central Office bear the brunt of most of these cuts, which I believe could negatively impact our efforts to close opportunity gaps. I've asked that the Superintendent be clearer about his rationale for all cuts falling on Central Office and any assurances that he is prioritizing equity when making these cuts.

School Board Elections: Three of the seven positions will come up this summer and fall, and candidate filing deadlines are May 19. I have announced that I will not run again, so the District 5 position is available, as is District 4 (held by Director Peters) and District 7 (held by Director Patu). I'd be happy to talk to anyone considering throwing their hat in the ring, because I believe we need good candidates who are well informed about the issues that will face the District and the challenges of serving on the Board. Contact me at dsblanford@seattleschools.org.

Pup Press occasionally runs updates and commentary from elected and other Seattle School District officials. Dr. Stephan Blanford represents the region of Seattle that includes our school.

TM's Focus on Equity & Racism

Teams Meet Tonight; Workshop on Tues.

The Equity Action Teams meeting in the Library 6-8 **tonight (March 23)** will review progress and plan next steps. Child care info below.

Limited space is still available in the FREE "Undoing Racism & Teaching Equity to our Children" workshop 6-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday (March 28).

Learn how your family – of any ethnicity or background – can talk about racial identity and racism. Families of Color Seattle (FOCS) will help us explore systemic racism and

our understanding of racial identity, power, privilege and oppression. The workshop is hosted by TM's PTA, Equity Action Teams and the Black Families Advocacy Support Group.

Please RSVP to <https://undoingracismtm.eventbrite.com>.

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

TM Team Close in Global Reading Challenge Final

The perfect-answer streak of "Who Are We Again?" ended in the finals of the 2017 Global Reading Challenge at Seattle's Central Library Tuesday. The team missed four answers, but three teams – Leschi, Loyal Heights and Graham Hill – each missed just two and tied for first. Eight teams had made it to the finals. Congratulations to TM's Kamil Zerbi, ZiHeara Riley-Wiley, Natalee Manivong, Virginia Buckley, Mazin Quotah, Torin Hough, Howard Cheng and Kieralyn Lu. More info about the annual competition at <http://bit.ly/GRC2017>.

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