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Goodbye, Classroom. Hello, Learning!

One of my favorite moments during the Grade 5 trip to Camp Orkila this year was during a nighttime walk. I joined a group of girls as they were about to step out of a moonlit field into the much darker forest. Every student and adult took careful steps and stayed right behind the person ahead of them. The scariness of being out in the dark was palpable. Our guide chose a place for us to pause, beneath low-lying branches. As we sat on the soft earth, we all began to listen and learn from our confident camp

counselor. She identified the structures in our eyes that help us see in the dark and asked the girls to describe how different the forest looked at night.

As I listened to the girls and settled into the participant-observer role, I was struck by the importance of leaving the classroom – and home – for educational purposes. There we were, learning about the physiology of our eyes while paying close attention to the sharpness of the bark and leaf silhouettes, and gradually becoming more comfortable in the dark. On our way out of the darkness back to the cabins, I overheard some of the girls saying they weren't as afraid as they had been just a few minutes before. They trusted their eyes; their self-confidence had grown.

The relevant and immediate integration of knowledge with experience is the stuff of dreamy pedagogical goals. I began to think about other field trips where that has happened: I have helped 3rd-graders realize that Chinatown is just as much a part of their city as their own neighborhood; 4th-graders at the SAM learn to make origami that integrated the colors and shapes of the Pacific Northwest; and 2nd-graders take notes at the aquarium so they could later write "aquarium all-about's."

[Students] see one another move around the world – which casts well-known friends and less-known peers in different lights.

While planning field trips is often tedious and time consuming, it is usually worth the extra effort. Students experience things together for the first time. They see one another move around the world – which casts well-known friends and less-known peers in different lights. Kids witness their teachers learning

and trying new things. I think the parent chaperones on our Orkila trip all would also claim to have similar new understandings of their own kids and teachers.

I am proud to also share that we strive to make field trips an equitable experience. Many of you make scholarships available through donations sent in with field trip forms and during our annual Move-a-thon. (That event is May 12 this year, and you'll hear more about it next week). We have established a field trip policy that ensures students from all programs have similar opportunities at each grade level. And many of our partner organizations, such as the YMCA, also provide scholarships so that no student is turned away due to lack of funds.

Orkila was a wonderful experience for our 5th-graders and the adults that accompanied them. I am especially grateful to the 5th-grade teachers, Counselor Meghan Kaloper and her intern Lizzie Ward, Ms. Jama, and all the parents that came along. I am already looking forward to returning next year!

EVENT CALENDAR

TONIGHT, April 20: 6th-Grade Math Info Night, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Aimed at current 5th-grade families.

TOMORROW, April 21: NEW final deadline to order TM Yearbook. Forms were sent home. Online ordering at <http://bit.ly/TMyearbook17>. Just \$16.

Fri., April 28, Bingo Night, 6-8 p.m., Cafeteria. Free! Prizes, potluck! More details on attached flier. Fun for volunteers, too: <https://tinyurl.com/TMbingo2017>.

May 1-5: Staff Appreciation Week. Volunteers needed! Sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/TMappreciation17>.

May 1-31: Bike to School Month. Bike to School Day will be May 10. Details to come.

Sat., May 6: TM at Mariners, 6:10 p.m. Ticket order deadline was April 19.

→ Full year of events online at www.tmlink.org!

TUTU'S PANTRY

Week of April 24: Grade 2 families are asked to donate non-perishable foods (in bins in the front hall). *(Anyone can donate any day.)*



TM Wins Achievement Award

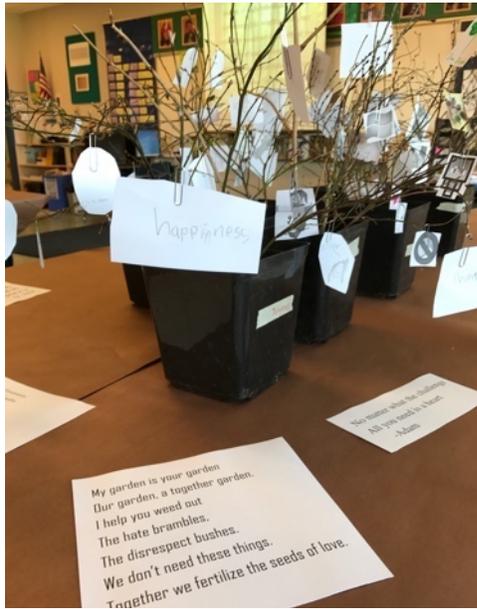
Thurgood Marshall Elementary is receiving the 2016 Washington State Achievement Award for sustaining "High Progress" in performance by students on statewide tests such as the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Schools qualify for the High Progress designation if, over the past three years, they are in the top 10 percent of schools making the most progress in reading or English Language Arts and Math combined scores.

TM has won a Washington Achievement Award three years in a row. Out of 2,200 public schools in Washington, ours is one of just 280 being recognized in this or other categories, according to an announcement by the state Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and state Board of Education. In all, 23 public schools in Seattle won at least one Achievement Award. To be eligible, they needed a 95 percent student-participation rate in statewide testing.

BEHIND OUR EYES ARE OUR STORIES



Celebrating Community Night
Families packed TM April 6 for the event (formerly known as Multicultural Night). Art reflected cultural heritage and other themes.



Your Number is Up Get Carded at Bingo Night!

The PTA's Family Bingo Night is almost here: 6-8 p.m. on April 28! Come to the Cafeteria for PRIZES and **Bingo calling by Eldridge Gravy** of local funk band Eldridge Gravy and the Court Supreme.

This event is FREE, and open to all TM families, including younger or older siblings. (No drop-offs.)

- **Potluck:** Please bring sides/desserts; limited amount of pizza available if you can't.
- **Have a prize to donate?** Contact Venessa: venessab@gmail.com.
- **Volunteers needed!** Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/TMbingo2017>.

Bullpup Briefs

Your Help Needed for Staff Appreciation Week

Help create thank-you notes, gifts and events such as a breakfast. Appreciation Week is May 1-5, but some tasks are scheduled for next week. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/TMappreciation17>.

TM's March Madness Basketball Isn't Over Yet

PE Teacher Dan Shin reports that the March Madness basketball tournament has been exciting. All teams worked together and had a great time. California and Washington will meet in the student championship game at 2:30 p.m. today (Thursday). Both teams will get to play against the teachers at 2:30 tomorrow (Friday). Thanks to all teams for participating!

Think about Summer Learning Opportunities

Families of children who are not yet working at grade level will be receiving a "Summer Staircase" application. This program fills quickly, so please return it ASAP! Learn more at <http://bit.ly/2017SPSSummer>. Other District summer programs offer low-cost music instruction. Read about one option, the Junior All-City Band, at http://www.allcityband.org/junior_allcity/.

Classes in Swimming, Water Safety this Spring

Spring is a great time for kids to learn swimming skills and practice being safe around water. Options near TM include the Meredith Mathews YMCA and Seattle Parks & Recreation's Medgar Evers and Rainier Beach Pools. Classes start soon at all locations. See <http://bit.ly/Yswimming> for YMCA programs (\$10 discount if you use the code SPRINGSWIM) and www.seattle.gov/parks/find/pools/pools-a-z for info on all 10 city pools.

Have You Responded to SPS Family Survey?

The District's annual "Family Survey" is being distributed through email and postal mail. Your responses are confidential, and are used to improve our schools!

Welcome PTA's New Legislative Chair

The PTA is thrilled to announce that Venessa Goldberg has joined its Board as Legislative Chair, helping alert the TM community to issues such as K-12 public education funding.

Venessa, a Seattle native, has a daughter, Lillia, in Mrs. Gorter's kindergarten. "I started volunteering about once a week to help the kids with their sight words," Venessa says, "and quickly saw that I had a lot more I could give to the school. The PTA Board was something I could give time to that would have an impact schoolwide."

By stepping into the unfilled Legislative Chair role, Venessa will be helping TM parents learn how they can advocate for our schools and push for full funding of education.

You, too, can have an impact, now or in 2017-18!

PTA Board members are critical to recruiting volunteers for many TM activities; raising some \$160,000 to help fill gaps in staffing, curriculum and supplies; and coordinating events that build community. The time commitment can be just a few hours a month. PTA Board positions that are being filled for next year include Treasurer, Communications Chair, Fundraising Chair and Volunteer Chair. Most roles can be shared.

Learn more by contacting Jennifer Ellis at jenniferellis.206@gmail.com or viewing www.tmlink.org/info/join-pta-board.

Help our Little Free Library Gain Some Courage

Why would the Little Free Library (just south of the flagpole) need courage? Because without your book donations, it's "spineless." Now, that you've groaned ... please help restock the library, which was the 2016 Grade 5 Legacy Gift. If you and your student can part with one or more gently used children's books, simply add them to the shelves.

If you have a large amount of books to donate, put them in the box inside Ms. Gese's classroom door (C-102). Ms. Gese can answer any questions: sdgese@seattleschools.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.

B-I-N-G-O! What does that spell?



WINNER!!!

**Come to Thurgood Marshall's
Annual Bingo night!**

Friday, April 28th 6-8pm in the cafeteria

Fun for the whole family--no drop offs.

FREE

BINGO CALLING BY NONE OTHER THAN

ELDRIDGE GRAY

OF ELDRIDGE GRAY AND THE COURT SUPREME



prizes!

WIN PRIZES, SEE YOUR FRIENDS, HAVE FUN!

**Potluck! Please bring a side dish or
dessert to share. Limited pizza provided
by the PTA.**



Volunteers needed! Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/TMbingo2017>

Have a prize to donate? Contact Venessa at venessab@gmail.com