

PUP PRESS

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Principal
Katie May

Coming Alive for a New School Year

I would like to officially welcome you and your child back for the 2017-18 school year at Thurgood Marshall! After a quiet summer of planning, it was fun to see the school come alive with the energy at our annual Ice Cream Social on Tuesday!

First-Day Packets: Thank you, PTA volunteers, for helping prepare the packets of paperwork that went home yesterday.

Parents, please make sure that your child's lunch form is

returned to school immediately so there is no interruption to meal service. It is extremely helpful to us if you can send the rest of the forms back to the office by **Monday, Sept. 11**. Later, we will send you verification forms for updating your contact information. The District is working to have them available online before we send the hard copies home, to save time for some families.

School Supplies: A very BIG thank-you to our PTA and especially to parent Molly Harris for organizing the purchase of classroom supplies for our entire school. Molly has been working for months to organize this project. Thank you also to all the parents and students who compiled and delivered the items to classrooms! If you have not yet had a chance to help cover the cost of the supplies (\$40 per student), you can use a credit card at www.tmlink.org or send in a check made out to "Thurgood Marshall PTA" clipped to the Supplies Form arriving home tomorrow (Friday) as part of a PTA Packet of information. If \$40 is not possible, pay what you can. We want every child to have what they need for a successful school year.



Ms. Kovacs-Storlie

Administration: Assistant Principal Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie and I are looking forward to working with our teachers, your children and you! Each year we divide our responsibilities so that you know who to go to if you have questions or need help.

Sabrina will be supervising Grades 2 and 5. You can also go to her with questions about specialists and non-classroom teachers.

I will be in charge of kindergarten and Grades 1, 3 and 4. We will each be handling the Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings for our respective grades.

Sabrina will be the primary contact for school discipline. If you have a question about something happening in a classroom, please see your child's teacher first. The teacher wants to support your child and work with you to create a wonderful school experience for your child. If you still have questions after you talk to your child's teacher, please be in touch with Sabrina or me. *Continued on Page 2*

EVENT CALENDAR

TOMORROW, Fri., Sept. 8: Enrichment Program registration opens at 7 a.m. Catalog was sent home; use paper form or go online to register by Sept. 17 at www.tmlink.org/enrichment.

TOMORROW, Fri., Sept. 8: New Families Orientation & Tour, **REVISED TIME:** 8-8:40 a.m. Ask questions, meet other parents.

Mon., Sept. 11: First day of Kindergarten; Welcome Tea for K parents, 8:55 a.m., Library.

Tues., Sept. 12: 5th-grade Potluck, 6-7:30 p.m., Cafeteria. Siblings welcome! See below.

Wed., Sept. 13: 4th-grade Potluck, 6-7:30 p.m., Cafeteria. Siblings welcome! See below.

Thurs, Sept. 14: Curriculum Night, 6:30-8:30 p.m. See schedule on Page 2.

Sun., Sept. 17: Enrichment sign-up deadline.

Mon., Sept. 18: 3rd-grade Potluck, 6-7:30 p.m., Cafeteria. Siblings welcome! See below.

Tues., Sept. 19: 2nd-grade Potluck, 6-7:30 p.m., Cafeteria. Siblings welcome! See below.

→ Full year of events on flier in PTA Packet, and in the online calendar at www.tmlink.org!

TUTU'S PANTRY



Tutu's Pantry serves 20-30 TM families weekly with a free weekend supply of food. **If your family would like to benefit**, please fill out the form (sent home in the PTA Packet and also available at

www.tmlink.org). **Tutu's Pantry depends on donations of non-perishable items**, and this space will list grade levels asked to make a special effort during the current or upcoming week. Donation bins are in the front hall.

Week of Sept. 11: PEACE & K asked to donate!



Congratulations to Nicki and Avery Gorter! Donovan Gabriel Gorter was born on Sept. 5, at 9 pounds, 5 ounces! We expect Mrs. Gorter back in Room 109 in January.

Meet Families at Grade-Level Potlucks; Note New Start Time of 6 p.m.

Grade-Level Potlucks that start next week are more than just a great way to connect with other TM families: You'll also experience some terrific food! Many parents (perhaps you?) create dishes that reflect cultural heritage or a cooking interest. (But just bring what you can.) The PTA will provide water, plates and cutlery.



Bring item based on student's last name:

- A-M: Main Dish
- N-R: Side or Salad
- S-Z: Dessert

All potlucks are 6-7:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria:

- Tues., Sept. 12 - Grade 5
- Monday, Sept. 18 - Grade 3
- Tuesday, Sept. 26 - Grades K&1
- Wed., Sept. 13 - Grade 4
- Tues., Sept. 19 - Grade 2

Start a Scary & Exciting New Year with 'Hello'



Counselor's Corner
Meghan Kaloper

Welcome to another school year! We are excited to return, and hope your kiddos are too. We recognize that sometimes the start of school can be both exciting and scary, especially for those who are starting at a new school. All teachers and staff will be working hard from the beginning to make sure everyone has lots of opportunity to meet new people, engage with others, and have fun! Our whole school is focusing on building community and relationships as we work together this year. Starting next week we will be participating in a nationwide program called "Start with Hello" to help stop social

isolation before it starts. Each day teachers will lead students through activities that will allow students to build relationships and help those who may feel lonely. To learn more about this program and how you can help foster these ideas at home, please check out the brief parent guide at <http://bit.ly/HelloBrochure>. Thanks! I look forward to another year of working with you and your students! Reach me at mrkaloper@seattleschools.org or 206-252-2808. I am in the building Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

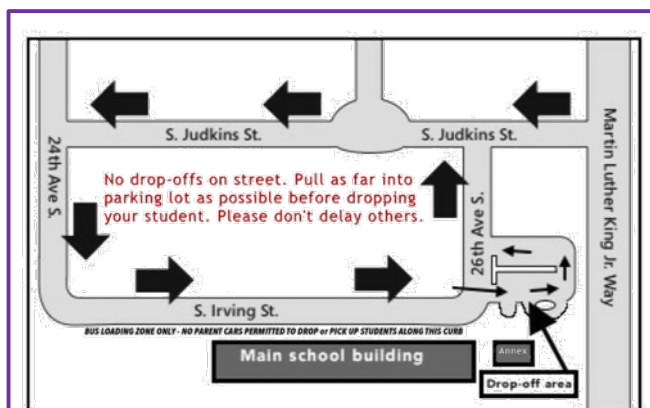


Katie May column

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Enrollment: Our enrollment is at an all-time high – more than 580 students! This number may rise or fall in the next few days. We have experienced fluctuations in our class lists as we continued to add split-grade rooms or increase class size to accommodate all students. Next week, the District is expected to increase or reduce staffing at some schools in response to higher or lower enrollment. If teachers are added at Thurgood Marshall, we may reshuffle a bit so that class sizes can be reduced. I will do my best to keep you informed. Please be patient with us throughout this process. If you know you will be attending TM this year, but your child will miss class for any reason in the first week of school, please notify our school office ASAP!

Best wishes for a great start to the year!



Don't Jam Irving St.!

Help Keep Kids Safe at Drop-Off

Traffic flow at the beginning and end of the day will take a little longer as we all adjust to the drop-off and pick-up routine. Please take a deep breath and listen to the instructions from our staff. It is easiest and safest for our children if we all treat South Irving Street as a one-way eastbound road. If you are driving here in the morning, it is important that you either park and walk your child to the playground (which opens at 8:40), or drive as far forward as possible in the parking lot's drop-off zone, which is in front of our classroom annex building. Help us avoid a dangerous traffic jam! If you are walking, please use the crosswalks. We want your child to arrive safely!

Curriculum Night on Thurs., Sept. 14

On Thursday, Sept. 14, come to TM to learn what your students will be learning! The schedule:

6:30-7:15 p.m. – Classroom presentations for parents of **Grades K-2** and **PEACE Academy** students.

7:15-7:45 p.m. – Gather in gym for Principal's presentation and introduction of our specialists.

7:45-8:30 p.m. – Classroom presentations for parents of **Grades 3-5** students.

Bullpup Briefs

Enrichment Program Offers Longer Sessions

Registration opens 7 a.m. tomorrow (Friday) for the fall session of the PTA Enrichment Program, which for the first time will offer some 2-hour-long classes (on early-dismissal Wednesdays).

Options cover a wide range, from sports to arts to computers to chess, and more.

Most classes start the week of Sept. 25 and end just before Winter Break.

Catalogs should have arrived home yesterday (Wednesday). Listings will also be on www.tmlink.org/enrichment (as of Friday). That address is the starting point for easy online registration. The catalog offers a paper form.

Deadline is Sunday, Sept. 17. Students eligible for free lunch are invited to register for a class at **just 10%** of the normal fee.

Choir Registration Soon; Meetings Begin in Early Oct.

The before-school meetings of the Thurgood Marshall Choir, led by Music Teacher Kelsey French, will start the first week of October and will meet 7:40-8:40 a.m., day(s) to be determined. Registration forms will arrive home in the next week or so. Choir is a free program supported by donations and the PTA.

Be in the Family Directory!

Have you provided contact info for the Family Directory? You can do it online by starting at <http://tmlink.org/dir/> or use the paper form distributed in classrooms. (No need to do both!) The email address you provide ensures you'll be on classroom and PTA e-lists. If you also provide your postal address and phone number, you'll make it easier for fellow parents to connect. A free copy of the Directory will be sent home with every student next month.

Privacy Options Available

The paperwork sent home Wednesday includes a form titled "FERPA PreK-8." This form enables you to make privacy choices in areas such as use of your student's photos in the TM Yearbook. If you don't return the form, any previous "FERPA" choices you made will remain in effect.



Dear Thurgood Marshall Families:

Some of you have wondered about our new lunch arrangements. I'd like to explain more about this.

This year we are having students eat lunch first and then go to recess. There are a number of reasons. We made this change after we began addressing this year's schedule with our Building Leadership Team last spring.

As our enrollment has grown, our lunches have become quite full, making pick-up in the lunchroom for up to nine classes at a time a chaotic experience for our students and teachers.

Our staff requested a return to a system in which teachers can pick up students from the recess, which is usually outdoors and offers more room to spread out and more points of exit from recess back into classrooms. In addition, moving lunch before recess:

- Is better for diabetic students and other students with special needs.
- Enables teachers to more effectively help students wash hands prior to lunch.
- Creates a calmer start to lunch, which is especially important for our Kindergartners and 1st-graders – and particularly at the start of the year, when many students don't yet know how to use their lunch-payment codes.

Parents may be concerned that lunch will leak over into recess. Our teachers and staff are paying special attention to prevent any loss of valuable play/relaxation time. Teachers are aware that it is a necessity to have students arrive in the lunchroom right on time. Lunchroom staff know they must dismiss out to recess promptly. As a parent myself, I value time spent playing and we want our students to maximize each minute of recess time!

We have also heard concern that, as we begin the year, tables have been assigned to classes. (We are mixing classrooms across two or more tables by program.) This arrangement better allows us to teach students the lunchroom procedures and expectations. **We plan to have open seating back in place in a short time**, as students grow accustomed to the process. Our goal is a calm, safe lunchroom for all!

A few parents have been concerned that students feel they need to earn the right to sit together and are not clear how to do this. I apologize if adults were not clear in our message yesterday. We want students to understand our lunchroom process so that they are able to have lunch in a safe, pleasant environment. We will work on our messaging today!

Please feel free to call 206-252-2800 or contact me at kjmay1@seattleschools.org or Assistant Principal Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie (askovacsstorli@seattleschools.org) if you would like to talk more about this.

Katie May, Principal



Join the adventure of **Cub Scouts**

Pack 9 Capitol Hill / St. Joseph Parish

**Please join us on Thurs., Sept. 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Joseph School auditorium to join or learn more about scouting.
St. Joseph School – 700 18th Ave E, Seattle, 98112**



Pack 9 Scouts explore the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge.

Pack 9 FAQ

Who can join Cub Scouts?

Any boy in 1st - 5th grade. Our Pack includes boys from different neighborhoods and schools in Seattle. Our pack is led by parent volunteers, who receive training and support from the Boy Scouts of America.

What are your activities?

Highlights from last year include:

STEM related projects: Building bristle bots, recycle design/build challenge and constructing / racing Pinewood Derby cars.

Community service projects: Assembling hygiene kits for homeless youth and singing Christmas carols at Tent City.

Outdoor skills training:

Day hikes, geocaching, and a 2 night campout at Deception Pass.

When do you meet?

Scouts meet three times per month. There are two, one hour evening meetings, and an activity or field trip on a weekend, typically lasting 2-3 hours.

Need more info?

To learn more visit our website www.seapack9.org or contact Rob Sumner (parent volunteer scout leader) at robsumner@gmail.com