

# PUP PRESS

Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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Principal  
Katie May

## Mixing It Up for Social Studies & More

This week, we began our “blended” Social Studies classes. At each grade level, we break up homerooms in order to create student groupings that cut across our academic programs. I met with teams of teachers to work on the logistics of how to get students from their homeroom class to their Social Studies teacher’s class, and on Monday the blending began.

Why do we blend classes for Social Studies?

Blending classes takes extra work on everyone’s part. Our staff feel the benefits for our students are worth the investment of time and planning.

- At TM, we have three unique programs, and students from each program learn separately for much of the day. Social Studies is a chance for all students to learn together.
- Social Studies is the area of content that prepares students to live and work in a diverse world. What better way to learn about diversity than learning in a diverse environment?
- Because our HC program is mostly made up white students and our Scholars program is made up of mostly students of color, learning together in Social Studies means that students are integrated during this time.
- Students benefit from learning in an environment with people who see the world in different ways. The range of diversity in our school gives students the opportunity to practice critical thinking skills as they consider ideas that may be different from theirs and as they express their own ideas to other students.
- Students meet and interact with students in other classes. This opens the door for new friendships to form. We saw lots of new relationships blossom last year, and students reported satisfaction in making new friends.
- Students have the opportunity to learn from another teacher.
- Teachers feel ownership for the learning of not just their own class, but students throughout the grade level. The more invested all staff members are in all students, the more support students will receive, and the better students will do.



*Continued on Page 2*

## Did You Know...? Find Out in Pup Press & Tmlink.org!

- **Sunday is the Enrichment signup deadline.** Newly added classes on Wednesday p.m. are Scratch and 3D Modeling. Terrific options for other days include Mixed Media Art; Legos: Intro to STEM; Yoga; and Basketball: [tmlink.org/enrichment](http://tmlink.org/enrichment)
- **If you want to be in the Family Directory**, as well as on class e-lists, you need to provide your contact info to the PTA every fall. Go to [tmlink.org/dir](http://tmlink.org/dir)
- **Volunteers are needed in the Lunchroom** (and for other tasks!) See the flier attached to today’s Pup Press for opportunities that are fun and flexible.

## EVENT CALENDAR

**TONIGHT, Thurs., Sept. 14: Curriculum Night, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** Gr 3-5 parents may arrive at 7:15. No child care available, but kids are OK in the classroom.

**SUN., Sept. 17: Enrichment sign-up deadline.** New Wednesday afternoon courses! See [www.tmlink.org/enrichment](http://www.tmlink.org/enrichment)

**Mon., Sept. 18: 3rd-grade Potluck, 6-7:30 p.m., Cafeteria.** Siblings welcome! See Page 2.

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

**Sept. 25-29: Start of most Enrichment classes.**

**Tues., Sept 26: K& 1st-grade Potluck, 6-7:30 p.m., Cafeteria.** Siblings welcome! See Page 2.

→ Online calendar at [www.tmlink.org!](http://www.tmlink.org!)

## TUTU’S PANTRY

**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. 18:** Grade 1 asked to donate!



## What is Tutu’s Pantry, Anyway?

### Food When It’s Most Needed

Nearly every week of the school year, a small but mighty PTA program provides families with a backpack of food for weekend meals. Tutu’s Pantry, led by volunteer Maggie Trapp, assists some 100 people in 25 families, on average.

What’s in the backpack? As pictured above, staples such as peanut butter, vegetables and fruits, pasta and cereal. Or whatever non-perishables are donated by TM families, responding to the request in Pup Press.

**Need food?** The application is easy, and can

*Continued on Page 2*

## Turn in Passports, Get Treats

### The Many Rewards of Reading



Librarian Merilee Hudson will host a Summer Reading Celebration at lunchtime Sept. 26 for all students who finished their "Summer Reading Passport," or who read five books from the Sasquatch or Young Reader's Choice list.

Students should bring their completed passport or Sasquatch/YRC list to Mrs. Hudson as soon as possible to receive an invitation to the celebration, which will feature games, special treats and prizes.

Students who are new to the school or who lost their passport can check in with Mrs. Hudson for an alternative reading list that will allow them to enjoy the celebration, too. Questions? Email [mhudson@seattleschools.org](mailto:mhudson@seattleschools.org).

### Lunchroom Volunteers Needed ASAP

Lunchroom helpers are urgently needed to help students maneuver through the lunch line and elsewhere, 11:45-12:45. A quick and easy way to ensure our 580 students both eat and play! Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Ann McNally at [volunteering@tmlink.org](mailto:volunteering@tmlink.org) if you can do a shift or two.

#### Bullpup Briefs

#### **Advanced Learning Referral Deadline: Sept. 22**

Think a more challenging curriculum might be a good idea for your child or a friend's? Parents can start the process of testing for entry into Advanced Learning Programs for 2018-19. However, the referral deadline is soon – Sept. 22. More at <http://bit.ly/2018-19AdvLearning>.

#### **Next Week: Potlucks for Grades 2 & 3**

Grade-Level Potlucks are a great way to savor new food and new friendships. Next up: Grade 3 (Monday) and Grade 2 (Tuesday), 6-7:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria. Bring a dish that reflects your cultural heritage ... or just grab something convenient! The PTA will provide water, plates and cutlery. Suggested assignments:

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

#### **5th-Graders Invited to Join Girl Scout Troop**

Join a new Girl Scout Troop for 5th-graders! Participate in girl-developed and girl-led activities for learning, fun, and helping others. Meets first and third Wednesdays, 2:30-4 p.m. at TM. Cost: \$55/year/girl + 4 parent volunteer hours. For details, see <https://tinyurl.com/Troop46963> or email Trena at [trena.redman@gmail.com](mailto:trena.redman@gmail.com).

#### **Open Meetings with School Board Member**

Stephan Blanford, the School Board Member representing Thurgood Marshall's neighborhood, will hold open meetings 10 a.m.-noon on Saturdays, Sept. 23 and Oct. 28. They are both at the Douglass-Truth Library, 2300 E. Yesler Way.

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](mailto:pup-press@tmlink.org). If your submission is not acknowledged within 24 hours, please call or text 206-366-5413

Income Chart - Effective From July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

Family Size	Yearly Gross Income	Monthly Gross Income	Twice Per Month Gross Income	Every Two Weeks Gross Income	Weekly Gross Income
1	\$22,311	\$1,860	\$930	\$859	\$430
2	\$30,044	\$2,504	\$1,252	\$1,156	\$578
3	\$37,777	\$3,149	\$1,575	\$1,453	\$727
4	\$45,510	\$3,793	\$1,897	\$1,751	\$876
5	\$53,243	\$4,437	\$2,219	\$2,048	\$1,024
6	\$60,976	\$5,082	\$2,541	\$2,346	\$1,173
7	\$68,709	\$5,726	\$2,863	\$2,643	\$1,322
8	\$76,442	\$6,371	\$3,186	\$2,941	\$1,471
Each additional household member add:	+\$7,733	+\$645	+\$323	+\$298	+\$149



Food for Thought  
Kim Echols

### Free Lunch Available

You may be eligible for free breakfast and lunch at school if you are within the income limits in the chart (above). Learn more at <http://bit.ly/SPSfreelunch>. You can apply online, or download forms in many languages. Don't miss some great free meals!

*Editor's Note: This column by Lunchroom Manager Kim Echols (a TM parent, too!) will appear periodically in Pup Press.*

### Weekend Meals from Tutu's Pantry

*Continued from Page 1*

be found at the main office or downloaded from [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org), the PTA website.

Tutu's Pantry is especially grateful to many supporters at Thurgood Marshall, and at the French-American School of Puget Sound and Japanese Presbyterian Church (just a few blocks away). A French-American school alumna, Sophie Solomon, is credited as having founded Tutu's Pantry at TM in 2009. Soon after, she talked about Tutu's to the Rotary Club of Emerald City, and they have been generous financial supporters ever since.

### 'Blending' in Art, Music, PE

*Continued from Page 1*

This year, we will work at keeping you better informed about what happens in Social Studies classes. Outside our office, you will see a bulletin board about Social Studies. Right now, it says "Watch this Space," but soon I will be posting information about Social Studies content and student work samples. You can also expect to see updates about what is happening in class coming home in regular newsletters from your child's teacher.

Last year, many parents and teachers requested that students be blended for "PCP" periods (Art, Music, PE) in addition to Social Studies. This year, you will see that has been built into most grade-level PCP times. The HC program is larger than the Scholars program, so it is not possible for every classroom, but we have created classes mixed between programs whenever possible.



# Help our School By Volunteering!

We owe so much of our children's outstanding experience at Thurgood Marshall to our active community of volunteers. Below are some specific positions that are in need of help. If you would like to volunteer, or find out more about any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Ann McNally, at [volunteering@tmlink.org](mailto:volunteering@tmlink.org) or 206-861-5730.

**If you are unable to make a specific commitment but want to be contacted for opportunities as they arise during the year, please contact Ann McNally at [mcnally.ann@gmail.com](mailto:mcnally.ann@gmail.com) or 206-861-5730.**

**CLASS REP (One per classroom)** Serve as the PTA's connection to your classroom. It can be as simple as creating a class roster of emails and communicating PTA information with families. Optional responsibilities may include: recruit/assign classroom volunteers, help with party planning, help with teacher classroom prep, issue field trip reminders, among others ideas to be discussed with your child's teacher.

**LUNCHROOM HELPER** Help students maneuver through the hot lunch line and move safely through the lunchroom. *1 hour/week. Lunchroom helpers are especially needed now, as students are learning or re-learning lunchtime routines!*

**"PUP PRESS" DISTRIBUTION** Copy/distribute the weekly "Pup Press" school newsletter for each class. *1 hour/week.*

#### **GRAPHIC DESIGNER**

Help the PTA and school administration with occasional, ad-hoc graphic design projects.

#### **TUTU'S PANTRY ASSISTANT**

Help Tutu's Pantry coordinators organize food and supplies in the Tutu's Pantry, the PTA-run food bank. Pack backpacks on Fridays to be sent home with students-in-need. *1-2 hours/week.*

#### **ENRICHMENT ASSISTANT**

Work closely with enrichment coordinator in scheduling and registering students in the before/after school enrichment program. Estimated commitment time: *3 sessions per year, 5 - 10 hours/session.*

#### **LIBRARY ASSISTANT**

Help our librarian by sorting books and organizing the library to be a welcoming place for students. Help the librarian coordinate and run the fall Scholastic book fair. *1-2 hours/week, more if helping with book fair.*

#### **"ART WALK" TEAM LEAD**

Work with our art teacher to combine student art show with TM Pancake Breakfast in the winter and the TM Art Showcase in the spring. Recruit volunteers to help hang art for events. Estimated time for each art walk: *2 hours from home (3 - 4 if also hanging art at school).*

#### **PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Plan and execute an all-school pancake breakfast scheduled for January. Work with volunteers who can assist with procurement, cooking, serving, and clean up. A written job description is available if interested. *10 hours in Oct & Jan (mostly from home).*

#### **TEACHER APPRECIATION TEAM LEAD**

Work with other volunteers to plan and execute events for teacher appreciation week in May. A written job description is available if interested. *10 hours in April from home and 5-10 hours in May.*



# Sign up your student to SING in the TM Choir!



Dear Families,

I am excited to invite your student to join Thurgood Marshall's Choir program! With support from the PTA, Choir is FREE to students in **Grades 2-5**, and is an excellent opportunity for students to develop their vocal and general musicianship skills while experiencing a wide range of musical styles. (This is not a religious choir.) Students will have several performance opportunities, including the annual winter and spring concerts (dates TBA soon). They may also be invited to perform at school-wide assemblies and other special events throughout the year.

→ **Note: We are not able to accommodate students in Grades K and 1.**

Choir is much larger than a regular-sized class, and students are expected to be self-managers at all rehearsals and performances.

**WHEN:** Choir meets before school in the Cafeteria on **Thursdays from 7:40-8:40 a.m. (starting on Oct. 5).**

**COST: FREE.** The PTA hopes participating families will make an optional **\$20 contribution** to cover program costs. If you are able to do this, please make checks payable to Thurgood Marshall PTA and return with this form **OR** use the online registration option (see below).

**HOW TO SIGN UP your Grade 2-5 student:** This year, you may register online or by filling out this form.

→ **Online:** Go to [www.tmlink.org/choir-reg](http://www.tmlink.org/choir-reg) and fill out form. Credit cards are accepted if you are able to donate.

→ **Paper:** Fill out form below and return to me or the main office ASAP. Attach check if you are able to donate.

**QUESTIONS?:** Please email me at [klfrench@seattleschools.org](mailto:klfrench@seattleschools.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kelsey French

Music Teacher, Thurgood Marshall Elementary

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## 2017-18 CHOIR ENROLLMENT FORM (fill out one per student)

Student name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Classroom \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian email address (print legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

I was enrolled in Thurgood Marshall's choir last year: (please choose one)    YES                    NO

### **Choir member agreement:**

I will try my best, with the help of my family, to be on time to each rehearsal. I understand the importance of being a self-manager at rehearsals and performances.

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_