



Principal  
Katie May

## Understanding our Report Cards

Progress reports will be sent home next Friday, Dec. 15. In talking to parents about report cards over the past few years, I have noticed that as clear as teachers feel they are being in assigning grades and comments, there can still be confusion. You are always welcome to talk to your child's teachers or to me about your questions.

We measure the academic benchmarks on our report cards by using a scale of 1-4. This reflects your child's progress towards specific grade-level standards. The scale is:

- 1 – Below performance expectations for this time
- 2 – Approaching performance expectations for this time
- 3 – Meeting performance expectations for this time
- 4 – Exceeding performance expectations for this time

Standards-based grading is different from traditional grades of "A," "B," "C," etc., that most parents received growing up. The numbers do not equate to traditional grades (i.e., a "4" does not equal an "A"). They are not an average for work that a student has done over the first trimester. If a student really struggled with a concept at the beginning of the year (and received mostly "1"s), but by the end of the first trimester had demonstrated consistent grade-level understanding (and earned "3"s), that child would not receive an average of the "1"s and "3"s (a "2"). The student would receive a "3" because he or she had become able to meet the standard. A child who met the standard early on and continued to do grade-level appropriate work throughout the trimester would also receive a "3."

*The purpose of standards-based grading is not to compare your child to other children, but rather to provide information about how your child is progressing toward learning the expected grade-level skills.*

The report card may also have an area marked "N." This indicates that a particular skill has not yet been addressed by the teacher. Because teachers cover a range of skills across grade levels, they do not address every standard in every trimester.

The "Learning Behaviors" section of the report card offers information about behaviors that promote learning, such as perseverance, organization and self-control. This section is scored:

- S – Strength (consistently uses skill across subjects and settings)
- D – Developing (applies skills in most subjects and settings)
- E – Emerging (beginning to apply skills in some subjects and settings)

Please pay special attention to the attendance shown on your child's report card.

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## District Asks Families to Check Emergency Contact Info

A new online system is intended to improve the school's access to family contact and other information in an emergency. Families are urged to verify this data. Please log into The Source at <https://ps.seattleschools.org/public/> and click on "Data Verification Form." Details on Page 3. Questions? Call the office at 206-252-2800.

## EVENT CALENDAR

TODAY through Sun., Dec. 10: Winter Enrichment registration. Deadline is midnight Sun. Scholarships! See Page 3. [www.tmlink.org/Enrichment](http://www.tmlink.org/Enrichment)

Tues., Dec. 12: Kindergarten RULER Night, 5:30-7 p.m. Details to be sent home to K families.

Thurs., Dec. 14: Coffee with the Principal, at NEW TIME, 9-9:45 a.m., Library. Focus on TM's mission & vision. Bring questions for Ms. May. Free coffee!

Fri., Dec. 15: Last day before Winter Break. Enjoy the vacation! (Progress reports come home this day.)

Tues., Jan. 2: School resumes.

Tues.-Fri., Jan. 2-5: Most Winter Enrichment classes begin. (See catalog.)

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

## TUTU'S PANTRY

Bring non-perishable items in cans and boxes.

Dec. 11-14: PEACE & K asked to donate!

## Give Now to Annual Fund: Donation Will be Doubled



The PTA's 2017-18 Winter Giving Campaign is in full swing, thanks to the generous families who used Facebook to donate more than \$6,000 on Giving Tuesday last week!

Even better, we are excited to tell you that a group of families has challenged the rest of us: For every dollar donated (total of \$20,000), they will match your gift to the Annual Giving Fund. Yes, your \$1=\$2!

In all, the Fund must raise \$170,000 this year, to help fund our full-time Librarian, Counselor, tutors and much more.

So, we are all asked to donate what we can, as a monetary gift. At TM, we don't have bake sales or auctions. How can you give?

- Send a check via kid mail or USPS to Thurgood Marshall PTA, 2401 Irving St., Seattle WA 98144
- Go online, to [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org).

Questions? Contact volunteer Jennifer Lan (Grade 3 parent) at [giving@tmlink.org](mailto:giving@tmlink.org).

## Watch Out for Sales Tax!

# Hard Choices Made as Fair Rings Up \$2,500 for Library

The Library will gain about \$2,500 for books and other expenses, thanks to the nearly \$9,000 in sales at last week's Book Fair, Librarian Merilee Hudson reports. (Online sales figures aren't yet in hand.)

Many children were excited to get a book and something fun, such as crazy pencils and or erasers. But Ms. Hudson also notes that "the Book Fair is the first time many of our children have had a chance to handle money and make hard choices." Some students were introduced to sales tax only when they found their intended purchases cost more than expected.

**The hottest item this year was no surprise:** "The Get Away," by "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" author Jeff Kinney, sold 40 copies. "The War that Saved My Life" and "The



Wish" were also big sellers.

The Book Fair provides about a third of the library budget each year. The Fair's proceeds also covered the cost of 109 books for students identified by their teachers as needing assistance. (The children received a voucher so they could shop for a paperback.)

Ms. Hudson thanks everyone who shopped, and especially the many parents who purchased books for classroom libraries. "A big thanks also to the parents who volunteered to staff cash registers, advise shoppers and count pennies," she says, "as well as those who contributed tax money for all the kids who forgot to figure it into the cost of their books.

## Attendance on Report Card

*Continued from Page 1*

We know that parents are working hard to be sure that their students come to school on time each day. If you are noticing a large number of tardies or absences, please talk to your child's teachers so that we can develop a plan to support your child. Learning begins the moment your child enters the classroom at 8:55 and continues until dismissal at the end of the day. We want your child to benefit from all that happens here! When students consistently arrive late, they are missing the same subject each day, which can impact their learning. It is also a bit disorienting for them to have to play "catch up" and figure out what they have missed.

### Bullpup Briefs

#### **Kindergarten Needs Toys**

Ready to clean out your closet and de-clutter? Room 101, our newest kindergarten classroom, could use donations of Duplo blocks, puzzles, play-doh, blocks, and similar toys. Please drop donations off at the office or directly to Room 101.

#### **Clothing for Nurse's Office?**

Items are needed in the nurse's office! If possible, please consider a donation of: small and medium children's pants, underwear, and socks; string cheese, jerky, and plain crackers. Items can be left with the nurse. Thank you!

#### **More Student Council Reps**

We've learned about two more Student Council Representatives, elected from Ms. Duarte's classroom: Julius Han and Loudon Christiansen.

#### **Congrats, Ms. Serpe & Ms. Shaw**

The TM community would like to offer congratulations to two staff who were both engaged to be married this past weekend – Ms. Cat Serpe and Ms. Alex Shaw. We are excited to wish them luck on this exciting new chapter in their lives!



### **Know the Code**

TM thanks Brook Riggio, dad to Eli and Micah, for talking to the classes of Ms. Sorenson and Mr. Miller about computer careers in recognition of Computer Science Education Week. During his lesson, each student had the opportunity to create a typing game. Mr. Riggio works for Code Fellows, the original intensive code school in Seattle.

## Board Votes Against Plan with High School, HCC Changes

The Seattle School Board voted 5-2 late last night against approving 2019-20 boundary changes intended to relieve overcrowding at Garfield and other high schools and also spread opportunities for advanced learning for 9th grade and above.

The action also delayed confirmation of other elements of the 2018-19 Student Assignment Plan, which must be approved before families can make school choices during "Open Enrollment" in February.

More information is at [www.seattleschools.org](http://www.seattleschools.org).

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### ***Snowballs at Snow Ball!***

Last Friday's Annual PTA Family Dance, the "Snow Ball," certainly lived up to its name (above). Students and parents dressed up (or didn't), enjoyed a potluck and pizza, danced, played games, created art and did much more in the redecorated and relit Gym/Cafeteria! Thanks to PTA Events Co-Chairs, Kimberlee Barber and Quisa Wright for leading the gala!



## **Have You Considered Yoga, Guitar, Soccer? Enrichment Program Deadline is Sun.**

The deadline for enrolling in Winter Enrichment classes is midnight on Sunday! Some classes are full but some great options remain, including:

- American Artists: students will use mixed media to create work inspired by a diverse collection of our nation's artists.
- LEGO: Jedi Engineering features Star Wars-themed motorized LEGOs for Grades K-2.
- Soccer: Run! Kick balls!
- Yoga: Your child will start the day mindful, centered.
- Beginning Guitar: Mr. Ryan is a great teacher!

### ***Volunteer on Wed., Gain a Free Class***

The PTA Enrichment Program is seeking a volunteer for Winter Quarter's Wednesday afternoons, primarily focused on helping students find their classes. Your child will receive a free class! Contact Eldon at [enrichment@tmlink.org](mailto:enrichment@tmlink.org).

### ***Help TM Revise Vision & Mission at Coffee with Principal on Thursday***

Join Principal Katie May for a free warm beverage and to talk about your vision for our school! The next Coffee with the Principal will be 9-9:45 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 14. (This is a new, later time.)

Staff are working with the Building Leadership Team to develop a new Vision and Mission statement and will share what they've heard so far, and listen to your ideas.

Parent volunteer Kim Echols will translate into Vietnamese, and it is expected that the Coffee will include interpreters for other languages, too.

The coffee is free, provided by the PTA.

## **Letter from District Asking Families to Ensure that Emergency Contact Information is Accurate**

*The following letter is being sent to all families via email. We are reprinting it in Pup Press in case you didn't receive it.*

Seattle Public Schools is excited to announce the online version of the student data verification form for the 2017-18 school year, powered by InfoSnap. The form will be available from Nov. 30-Jan. 5 for this school year. In the future, the form will be available every September for back to school updates. This process replaces the paper data verification form sent home at the beginning of each school year. The system is a secure and green process, which allows the district to verify all student demographic, emergency and medical information for your child.

To fill out your student's data verification form, please log into The Source by going to <https://ps.seattleschools.org/public/> and click on "Data Verification Form."

Note: The system allows for only one data verification form to be submitted per student. If another legal guardian has initiated filling out the data verification form, you will receive an error indicating that the form is associated with another account.

If you have multiple students at the district, you will fill out a data verification form for each student. We would appreciate all families to take action and complete these forms as soon as possible to ensure we have your student's most current information. If you do not have access to the Internet, you can go to a public library to use a computer to complete the process or contact your child's school to request a paper copy. If you have any further questions, please contact your child's school office.

Sincerely,

Katie May, Principal, Thurgood Marshall Elementary