

# PUP PRESS



Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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Assistant Principal  
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Kovacs-Storlie

## School Leaders are Lifelong Learners

Last weekend Principal Katie May and I had the good fortune to attend the annual conference of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) in Boston. This year's theme was "Empower." After three days of hearing about innovative and relevant topics in the field of education, I returned to Seattle feeling empowered and inspired. Some of the highlights included hearing from Dr. Jill Biden, General Colin Powell (Ret.), and writer Zaretta Hammond.

Many of you may not know that when Jill Biden was Second Lady, she was also teaching English full time. It is impressive but not surprising. Many educators I know and love possess this type of commitment to their students. Gen. Powell talked about leadership in a way I hadn't heard before. He shared some of his secrets to success: being present, establishing and maintaining trust, and understanding our greatest challenges deeply enough so that they become solvable problems we are capable of fixing. Ms. Hammond, who wrote "Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain" (the book all Thurgood Marshall staff read last summer) was nothing short of brilliant! Katie and I walked out of her session with a much richer understanding of the concepts and ideas in her book and what we can do to continue strengthening the culturally responsive teaching at TM.

The conference's areas of focus included: the whole child, transformational leadership, global engagement, poverty and equity, redefining student success, and teaching and learning. At TM, we are also focusing on these areas. Although we may not use the same language or approach as was discussed at the conference, I found it reaffirming to connect what we do every day with what education leaders and researchers consider critical to success.

- **The Whole Child** – We have built a strong culture and emphasis on our students' social-emotional health. Through the RULER curriculum, close collaboration with the PTA, events aimed at engaging all families, and many other approaches, our staff does not see kids as test scores, but rather as individuals with unique stories, strengths and needs.

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\$7-\$2  
Wow!

### Ball's in Your Court: Support PTA Programs

We've raised about \$2,500 in the March Match-ness campaign, but still need many more contributions to reach \$25,000. That's the amount that will be matched by a set of donors who are challenging us to bring our best game so that the PTA can provide part or all of the salaries for our Librarian, Counselor and Tutors. **The bonus light is on now:** Donate before the 1-for-1 match expires.

The PTA annually spends more than \$300 per TM student because our District does not fund certain staffing and services. Your dollars take care of classroom and curricular needs that could be left unmet if the PTA's efforts fall short.

So, give today at [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org), or send a gift (via "kid mail" or postal mail) to TM Annual Fund, 2401 S. Irving St., Seattle, 98144. Questions to [giving@tmlink.org](mailto:giving@tmlink.org).

## EVENT CALENDAR

**TODAY & TOMORROW, March 29-30: Most Thurs. and Fri. Spring Enrichment classes start.**

**TONIGHT, Thurs., March 29: Community Night, 6-8 p.m., Cafeteria.** View student projects reflecting family heritage (classrooms will be open) & other activities including ribbon-making for TM's "Wishtree." Potluck – bring family-heritage dish (optional). Volunteers needed: <http://tinyurl.com/TMcommunity>. See Page 2.

**TONIGHT, Thurs., March 29: Superintendent Finalists Forum, 5-8:15 p.m., Stanford Center.** See below.

**TOMORROW, Fri., March 30: Assembly features Community Night performances, 9 a.m., Cafeteria.**

**April 4-6: Grade 5 trip to Camp Orkila.**

**Thurs., April 5: Katherine Applegate, 9:30 a.m., Cafeteria.** Author of "Wishtree" & "Home of the Brave" reads from new work. Parents/guardians welcome! Book order form at <http://bit.ly/Applegate18>. See Page 2.

**Fri., April 6: Dads Movie Night: "Wonder," 6-8:30 p.m., Cafeteria.** (Doors open at 5:45.) Presented by Bullpup Dads & open to all families. (NO drop-and-go.) FREE, including popcorn. See Page 2.

**April 9-13: Spring Break – No school.**

→ Full year of events online at [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org)!

## TUTU'S PANTRY

**Week of April 2: Grade 1 families, please donate!**



Juneau



Spencer



Swift

## 3 Are Superintendent Finalists; Board Seeks Your Feedback

The Seattle School Board has selected three finalists for the job of Superintendent:

- Denise Juneau, former Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction,
- Andre Spencer, Superintendent of Harrison School District 2 in Colorado Springs, Colo.,
- Jeanice Kerr Swift, Superintendent of Schools in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Each will appear for a portion of a public forum 5-8:15 p.m. tonight (Thursday) at the John Stanford Center (2445 3rd Ave. S.). Information on each educator and feedback forms are at <http://bit.ly/SupeFeedback18>.

The Board anticipates voting on Wednesday to authorize contract negotiations with one finalist.

## Rich Learning Experiences at Conference

*Continued from Page 1*

- **Transformational Leadership** – Being a principal is such a fulfilling and busy job! We attended sessions about how to develop our own skills so that we can be visionaries, learners, collaborators and instructional leaders in the best way possible. We will be bringing some of our leadership learning to staff meetings.
- **Global Engagement** – The TM Arts Committee and our Social Studies curriculum both include a focus on 21st-century skills and helping students understand their connection with their communities and the world at large. Through the arts and Social Studies, our students are getting instruction that fosters their abilities to participate as citizens in a global society. 
- **Poverty and Equity** – I am particularly proud of the efforts our community has made to remove barriers to enable learning and expand opportunities. Some of the elements helping our staff be educated about and aware of how important our role is in overcoming socio-historical circumstances: Race and Equity Teams; the Black Family Advocacy Support Group; blended classrooms during Social Studies; scholarships for PTA Enrichment classes; professional development centered around trauma-informed practices and closing the gaps.
- **Redefining Student Success** – Although we care about standardized test results, we also provide our students with many other opportunities to show us what they can do. Every day I see teachers and students engaging in formative assessment opportunities. We also include alternative ways to measure growth as part of the strategies within our Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP) and in the professional goals staff set for ourselves as part of annual evaluations. We also take the annual student climate survey very seriously and build goals around the data it produces. 
- **Teaching and Learning** – Some of the most interesting sessions I attended were about teaching and learning. I learned about ways to give teachers targeted and objective feedback on instruction; observed some very energetic teachers present about active participation techniques; and even attended a session about using hip hop to engage students and use the culture of hip hop as an anchor for instruction.

Being a lifelong learner can manifest itself in so many ways. Last weekend, it was wonderful to be a student instead of a leader, and to have the luxury of reflecting on how we can continually improve our practice so that every Thurgood Marshall student is getting their social, emotional and academic needs met. Oh, and if you bump into Principal May or myself, be sure to ask about the “epic ramen” story!

## Add to the ‘Wishtree’ at Community Night

Come to “Community Night” 6-8 p.m. tonight (Thursday) for dinner (potluck), performances and a “Wishtree” activity.

- **View student projects** (primary classrooms open 6-6:45 p.m., intermediate classrooms open 7:15-8 p.m.).
- **Write hopes/dreams** on a ribbon to be tied to a “Wishtree.”
- **Watch student performances** in the Cafeteria at 6:45 p.m.
- **Community Potluck:** If possible, bring a dish that is meaningful to your family. Please label your dish or bring a small card to list ingredients – especially if it contains common food allergens such as milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, soy, wheat, fish or shellfish. If a family member has allergies, consider only eating from the dish you bring.

### Bullpup Briefs

#### **Fill these Urgent Needs by Volunteering...**

**Enrichment Wednesday Afternoon Assistant:** You’ll help make sure kids are in the right places, and other duties. Get a FREE enrollment for your child. Contact [enrichment@tmlink.org](mailto:enrichment@tmlink.org).

**Bullpup Dads:** Pick any day this spring to volunteer at TM. You’ll do a variety of things. Sign up at <http://bit.ly/TMvolunteers>.

**Bingo Night Team Leader:** It’s fun to coordinate this April 29 event. Learn more: [berlee@gmail.com](mailto:berlee@gmail.com).

#### **Fill an Open Spot on ’18-19 PTA Board**

PTA Treasurer? Volunteer Coordinator? You’d enjoy stepping into these or other vital roles. See [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org) for information or contact PTA Nominating Committee members Tasha Irvine ([tashasirvine@gmail.com](mailto:tashasirvine@gmail.com)) or Casey Sommers ([caseypilar@gmail.com](mailto:caseypilar@gmail.com)).

#### **Author at TM on Thurs.; Book Fair on April 17**

Author Katherine Applegate (“Wishtree”) will be at TM at 9:30 a.m. next Thursday (April 5), so don’t miss the deadline to order her books from our partner, Third Place Books. The form (sent home last week) is at <http://bit.ly/Applegate18>.

The school really appreciates the support of the store, which is also holding a book fair for TM on April 17 at its Seward Park location (5041 Wilson Ave. S.). Third Place will be donating 20% of all sales that day to TM! We’ll take over their stage for read-alouds 6-6:45 p.m. The store café has dinner and snacks.

#### **Dads: Bring Kids to See ‘Wonder’ on April 6**

Bullpup Dads presents “Wonder,” the inspiring 2017 film, in the Cafeteria at 6 p.m., Friday, April 6. FREE, including popcorn! Doors open at 5:45. Note: not a drop-off event.

#### **Tomorrow’s Parents’ Night Out is Canceled**

The YMCA is apologizing for cancellation of the March 30 Parents’ Night Out child care. There was not enough interest.

#### **Yearbook Order Form Online & Sent Home**

“Kidmail” should be delivering home a Yearbook order form today. You can also order at <http://bit.ly/TMYearbook18>.

**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



# Family Survey

Coming April 16 – May 18

Families of K-12 students can **participate in two easy steps!**

- 1** By **March 30**, make sure your contact information at your child's school is up to date.
- 2** Respond to the survey you receive **the week of April 16** by email (or regular mail for families without email addresses).

## About the Seattle Public Schools Climate Surveys

Surveys are administered in the spring of each school year to all families, school staff, and students grades 3 through 12. Results are used to guide improvements at the school and district level.

For more information, including results of the 2017 Family, Staff, and Student Surveys, please select **"School Climate Surveys"** at the following webpage:

[www.SeattleSchools.org/performance](http://www.SeattleSchools.org/performance)

How will surveys be distributed?



Email



Paper

(Mailed to households with no email address on file)

*Your opinion counts!*

# Don't Let the Buzzer Beat Us!

We're in the final days of the Thurgood Marshall PTA's spring fundraising drive, "March Match-ness." But we need more parents, grandparents, guardians and friends to take and make some long shots.

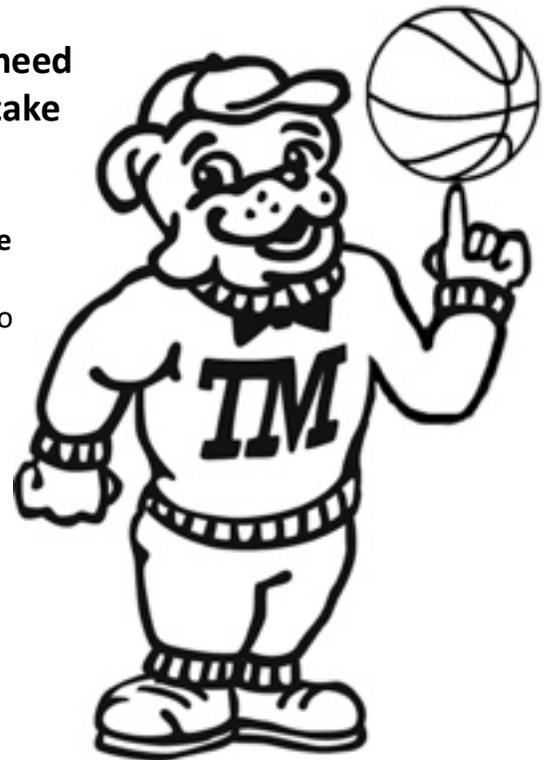
The PTA remains some \$70,000 away from the \$170,000 that must be raised in 2017-18 donations to maintain PTA-supported programs. There's still time for you to team up with a set of generous donors who created our March Match-ness Challenge Match!

**The play: If we can raise \$25,000 in March, a group of Thurgood Marshall All-Stars has agreed to contribute another \$25,000, getting us much closer to our goal.**

Everyone at Thurgood Marshall can help us earn the match:

- Benchwarmers ... get in the game and make your gift!
- Already gave? Go for the rebound and give again!

**DONATE online or by check! See below!**



***How does our PTA support Thurgood Marshall?*** Your donations pay for:

- **100% of the salary** for Ms. Meghan Kaloper, school Counselor
- **50% of the salary** for our full-time Librarian, Ms. Merilee Hudson
- **Drama/dance activities** led by Seattle Children's Theatre Artists-in-Residence
- **Grants available to teachers** and staff for classroom and school-wide needs
- **Literacy tutors** who are helping ensure that all students read at grade level or above
- **Special performances** at assemblies
- **After-school community-building events**, such as movie nights, the Fall Dance, Game Night & BINGO Night
- **The Tmlink.org website** and the Family Directory

Don't let the clock run out. **The PTA spends more than \$300 per student annually. With your help, we can meet our goal and ensure PTA-funded programs continue to support teachers and students daily.**

Questions about the Annual Giving Fund? Contact me at [giving@tmlink.org](mailto:giving@tmlink.org). Thanks for your support!

*Jennifer Lan*

3rd-grade parent and PTA Annual Giving Fund Chair

      **DONATE NOW! HELP US DOUBLE YOUR DOLLARS**       

- Go online right now with your credit card at [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org)
- Mail (or bring in) a check to Thurgood Marshall PTA Annual Giving Fund, 2401 S. Irving St., Seattle 98144
- Transfer shares of stock to the PTA. Contact [giving@tmlink.org](mailto:giving@tmlink.org) for further information