

PUP PRESS



Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

MAY 3, 2018

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 30

We Need Your Generosity to Close \$50,000 Gap



Principal
Katie May

PTA President
Jen Ellis

This column often highlights the ideas, people and activities that help make Thurgood Marshall such a special place. Our school has an inspiring combination of motivated staff, engaged parents and – of course – energetic students. But this week, we need to point to an area in which we are lagging: the PTA’s fundraising.

Budget cuts are never pleasant, and we are writing this column to appeal to you to help us avoid them. The PTA still must raise nearly \$50,000 to meet its obligations this year.

We believe our community can rally, and reach this goal.

We hope you already know what the PTA’s \$190,000 in spending means to Thurgood Marshall.



Because of these funds, we have a Counselor and a **full-time** Librarian who touch the lives of hundreds of students each week.



Because of these funds, we have the hours of tutoring needed to help our youngest readers reach or exceed grade level.



Because of these funds, every classroom teacher has a “grant” to buy the supplies and equipment not provided by the School District.

We could go on, but it is likely you have already learned about the full impact of PTA funding through Pup Press, emails, Tmlink.org or the PTA letter that you should be receiving in the mail this week.

Now, we need action. By you. The PTA must raise this \$50,000 by May 15, when its Board will make critical budget decisions. If you have already responded to one of the PTA’s earlier fundraising campaigns, we are asking you to consider giving again, at a level you consider personally significant. If you have not yet made a donation this year, we hope you will be generous.

We know that not every member of our community has the means to donate funds, but if you do, it is time. The easiest ways to help us close this gap are:

- **Online with your credit card** at www.tmlink.org.
- **A check made out to TM Annual Giving Fund**, sent to the TM Main Office (“Attention: Annual Giving Fund”) or **via USPS**, to TM PTA, 2401 S. Irving St., Seattle, 98144.
- **Transmission of appreciated stock.** (Contact us at giving@tmlink.org.)

If you have questions, please contact Grade 3 parent Jennifer Lan, the Annual Giving Fund’s chairperson, at giving@tmlink.org. Thank you.

District Creating Advanced Learning Task Force

The District is forming an Advanced Learning Task Force to “re-examine and re-envision how Seattle Public Schools serves students who bring the aptitude, potential and ability for above and well above performance on state standards.” Parents, staff and other community members can apply to join the

Continued on Page 3

EVENT CALENDAR



May 1-31: Bike to School Month. Ride, scoot or skate and tally your minutes so TM totals a ton of hours on wheels. We might win prizes! Printable calendar on which students tally hours: <http://bit.ly/TMbike18>

May 7-11: Staff Appreciation Week. Volunteers needed: <https://tinyurl.com/TMTeacherAppreciation>

Tues., May 8: PTA Board Meeting postponed to May 15.

Wed., May 9: Bike to School Day. If you can only bike (skate, scoot, etc.) to TM on one day, make it today!

Thurs., May 10: Spring Instrumental Concert. 7 p.m., Cafeteria. Strings arrive by 6:30, others by 6:45.

Tues., May 15: PTA Board Meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Library. Agenda: 2018-19 budget, recruitment, more. Qs? Jen, pta@tmlink.org.

Tues., May 15: PTA General Meeting Postponed. Rescheduled to June 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Topic will be “Emergency Preparedness.” Details to come.

Tues Wed., May 16: Black Family Advocacy Support Group Meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Library.

Thurs., May 17: Coffee with Principal Katie May, 8:40-9:30 a.m., Library. Topic TBA.

➔ **Full year of events online** at www.tmlink.org!

TUTU’S PANTRY

Week of May 7: Grade 5 families, please donate! We are low on staples such as peanut butter, jelly and other non-perishable items.

Flowers, Food, Notes

Help Appreciate our Staff

Staff/Teacher Appreciation is next week and the PTA is hoping for 100 percent participation from TM families! Here are some ideas:

- **Drop off flowers at TM 8-9 a.m. Monday.**
- **Drop off an item 9-11 a.m. Wednesday for the special staff luncheon that day.**
- **You and your child can write thank-you notes to teachers and staff. (Don’t forget PE, art, music and others!) Put notes in “Keepin’ it Real” mailboxes out at drop-off and pick-up next Thursday.**
- **Bring an item 7:30-8 a.m. Friday for the special staff breakfast.**

Details at <https://tinyurl.com/TMTeacherAppreciation>, where you can sign up for one of these tasks. Or, just show up with your contribution!

Thank you for showing our teachers and staff that you appreciate their patience, creativity, and the hard work and long hours they put in day after day!

Taking a Deep Dive at State Math Olympiad

Seven teams of TM 5th-graders went swimming on Saturday, yet they didn't get wet. Instead, they were immersed in math problems – including one about a swimming pool – posed during the 2018 Washington State Middle School Math Olympiad.

In this event, the teams gain points for correct answers, plus the work shown and written explanations of their process. TM, participating at the West Woodland Elementary site in Seattle, was honored with a variety of medals, ribbons and certificates. (The Olympiad recognizes effort without pitting schools directly against each other.)

Our squads, led by Ms. Kierstead, Ms. Egelhoff and many parent coaches,



TM Math Olympians show off awards Saturday at West Woodland Elementary School, joined by Kimber Kierstead and Samantha Egelhoff, the 5th-grade teachers who coordinated the school's participation.

chose to tackle 6th-grade level problems. The students were given an hour for the swimming problem's many parts, which included calculations of volume, lap times and other tricky elements. Five shorter sessions tested knowledge in specific

content areas, such as geometry, ratios and probability.

Congratulations to the 26 students who put extra effort into math for several weeks, practicing during school and during free time (with their trusty parent coaches)!

Time to Bike to School!

Has your student started rolling into Bike to School Month?

It's easy to log the minutes ridden each day on the calendar sent home with Pup Press last week. (If TM totals enough time, kids will be eligible for special prizes.) If you need the calendar, copies are at the Main Office or at <http://bit.ly/TMbike18>.

If your child can only ride one day, make it on Bike to School day: Wednesday, May 9. And, yes, it counts if the rider is on a scooter, unicycle or skates.

We will need full participation from all TM bicycle riders to beat last year's record!



Southbound Lanes, Bus Routes

23rd Ave. Work & Detour to Begin Soon

The Seattle Department of Transportation's contractors on May 14 will begin about a year of construction on 23rd Avenue S. between S. Jackson Street and Rainier Avenue S. Starting May 16, southbound 23rd Avenue S. between S. Jackson Street and S. Massachusetts Street will be detoured to Martin Luther King Jr. Way S. Northbound traffic will be maintained. The detour is needed to ensure the safety of crews and the traveling public, and is expected to stay in place for the duration of construction. Info: <http://bit.ly/23rdAvePhase2>.

ALSO: Metro Routes 4 and 48 will detour to Martin Luther King Jr. Way S. starting May 14, northbound as well as southbound.

Much of the street will be redesigned to have three lanes. Other work includes replacement of water mains and drains.

Bullpup Briefs

Take your Turn: PTA Board, Other Roles

Many hands make light work. That's why more people are needed for next year's PTA Board. Your interests will match a role! Treasurer? Events Co-Chair? See www.tmlink.org or contact PTA Nominating Committee members Tasha Irvine (tashasirvine@gmail.com) or Casey Sommers (caseypilar@gmail.com).

Sheets, Towels, Socks Sought for Homeless

The 4th-grade Junior Girl Scout Troop 48638 is still seeking your help to support people experiencing homelessness at Mary's Place Family Shelter. Based on current needs, we are collecting: *lightly used or new* twin-size bedsheets and bath towels, and *new* underwear and socks of all sizes. Put donation in the box in the front office. Deadline: mid-May.

Help Plan Grade 5 Promotion on June 19

Fourth-grade parents, join the committee planning 5th Grade Promotion on June 19! (TM tradition is to enable 5th-grade families to enjoy the event without leading it.)

A guide to putting on the event is available! If you would like to help in any way, large or small, email caseypilar@gmail.com.

Want to Start Boys' Running Program at TM?

"Let Me Run" is a nonprofit program using running as a focus to support 4th- to 8th-grade boys. Its first Seattle program has just started at Greenwood Elementary, and the nonprofit could help TM begin one: <http://letmerun.org/find-a-team/start-a-team>. Learn more at a free screening of "The Mask You Live In," which follows boys/young men as they navigate a variety of pressures. The screening is 7 p.m., May 17, at Mt. View Presbyterian Church. See <https://t.e2ma.net/message/e70bk/ietdrc>.

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.

Apply to Join Task Force

Continued from Page 1

task force, and help review the District's approach to services and supports for students, current and prospective processes for advanced learning identification, testing, assessment and eligibility in our district. Task force applications must be received by noon, Thursday, May 24.

Full info: <http://bit.ly/ALtaskforce18>.

Beginning June 2018 through June 2019, the task force will review laws, District policies and commitments, examine research and current best instructional practices for advanced and highly capable learners to make recommendations for necessary steps toward establishing highly effective practices befitting students and their families.

The task force will have four phases of work:

- 1. Adopting a Mission and Vision for Advanced Learning in Seattle Schools:**
The task force will review existing policy and laws and draft a clarifying mission and vision statement to be proposed to the School Board.
- 2. Defining and/or re-developing Advanced Learning Programs and Highly Capable services:** The task force will review high quality research and best practices about specific program elements and student services.
- 3. Ensuring Equitable Identification and Access:** The task force will review the district's existing identification, testing, assessment and eligibility procedures, current research, and best practices and outcomes from peer districts.
- 4. Districtwide Implementation:**
Considering the outcomes from Work Areas 1-3, the task force will provide recommendations regarding implementation across the District.

Student Display at Art Museum

The Naramore Art Show celebrates more than 200 artworks by Seattle middle and high school students at the Seattle Art Museum's "Community Corridor" gallery, 1300 1st Ave. The show is free, and runs through May 27. It is named in honor of the architect who designed many Seattle schools. Info at <http://bit.ly/Naramore18>



Got Game?

Mr. Paul goes in for the layup yesterday (Wednesday) in TM's staff vs. student version of March Madness. Ask your 4th- or 5th-grader who won!

Education Briefs

State Wants your Opinion on Education Spending

The Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is asking residents to take its survey on education budget priorities. OSPI is seeking input to develop a budget that moves our public schools from "basic" funding toward a system better designed to meet the needs of all learners. OSPI is first asking about the importance of 15 spending areas, broken into supports for students (such as class-size reduction and summer learning opportunities), supports for educators (e.g., professional development opportunities) and supports for buildings (e.g., school safety enhancements). Once OSPI has that data, another survey will ask for prioritization of the most popular activities. The survey has been translated into the nine most-spoken languages in the state. Go to <http://bit.ly/pickyourpriorities>.

District Looking for Info Tech Advisory Panel Members

The District is seeking parents, staff and students to serve on an Information Technology Advisory Committee that will meet monthly. Applications are due by May 11. Info: <http://bit.ly/ITAC18>.

YMCA Adds a Family Camp at Deception Pass Park

Among the YMCA's summer programs is a new family camp, July 19-25, at Cornet Bay Retreat Center, inside of Deception Pass State Park. Activities include lake swimming, archery, crafts, low ropes, and paddleboarding. See <https://tinyurl.com/cornetbay>. Save \$100 with this code: CornetBayFC18

UW Robinson Center Offers 'Challenge' Classes in July

Course listings and registration are available until June 1 for the UW Robinson Center's July Summer Challenge program for students in Grades 5-6. Learn more at <https://robinsoncenter.uw.edu/programs/summer/challenge>.

SHOPPING AT AMAZON.COM OR OTHER RETAILERS, SUCH AS BARTELLS AND OFFICE DEPOT?

You can support PTA programs at TM, at no cost to yourself! Details at www.tmlink.org.