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Principal
Katie May

Inclusion, race equity and belonging at Thurgood Marshall

I have been spending a lot of time thinking about inclusion lately, particularly as it pertains to equity for our students. We have worked hard over the last several years to make sure that Thurgood Marshall is a place where students can all feel included as they learn. This plays out in our Social Studies classes at each grade level, where we worked to receive a waiver from the district to enable this to allow students from each of our three programs to learn together. And yet, our school is not a perfect place. We still see incidents of exclusion on the playground or in classrooms. We still have students who do not always feel they belong at Thurgood Marshall.

I recently spoke to a group of 3rd Grade parents about this. They shared their desire for our school to be a place where students feel responsible for each other, where students are empathetic and sympathetic, where we have better policies and practices to address race. They noted that they want to find ways as parents to connect what students are being taught at school to what they learn at home.

Racial equity is something that we have spent much time talking about at our school. We have Equity Action Teams that parents and staff participate in (Next meeting Nov. 7, 6-8:00 p.m.) and we have a Staff Race & Equity team that meets regularly to set goals and implement action to improve the experience for students and staff of color in our school. We have a group of staff that are participating in a 21-Day Challenge Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge from Eddie Moore, author of [“The Guide for White Women Who Teach Black Boys.”](#) This work is something that we will never be finished with or good enough at, yet it is still critical that we continue to make these strides for the benefit of all of our students. *Continued on Page 2*

Conversations about Race, Thu. Nov. 1, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

The Conversations About Race Equity Team community discussion group for TM and school staff meets Thu., Nov. 1, 6:30-8:00 p.m., TM Library. EVERYONE WELCOME! Please watch these short videos for discussion:

- The Origins of Race in the US: <https://www.pbs.org/video/the-origin-of-race-in-the-usa-wbm41s/>
- Jay Smooth: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Discussing Race: http://illdoctrine.com/my_tedx_talk_how_i_stopped_wor/

Here's information about the norms we are currently using in the group: <https://fakeequity.com/2017/05/26/color-brave-space-how-to-run-a-better-equity-focused-meeting/>. We'll also discuss article/book selection for the next meet up and are looking for people who want to facilitate future discussions.

Contact Dionne Malatesta dmalatesta@hotmail.com with questions.

*Childcare will not be available, but children are welcome to join us in the Library.

Mix It Up at Lunch Day, Fri., Oct 26

Get ready for **Mix it Up at Lunch Day!** We're promoting the Teaching Tolerance program and our goal is to encourage students to meet new people, cross social boundaries and discover connections between themselves and people they do not yet know during lunchtime. Students will be given a color of the rainbow earlier in the day and at lunch they will sit at the table that corresponds to their color. Since they will be sitting with new people there will be conversation starters on every table to help the students engage with one another.

There will even be a DJ for an end-of-lunch Dance Party with new friends!

EVENT CALENDAR

TOMORROW: Fri., Oct. 26, Mix It Up at Lunch Day, all lunchtimes! See below.

TOMORROW: Fri., Oct. 26, Deadline for PTA arts contest “Heroes around Me”

Wed., Oct. 31, Book-O-Ween! Dress as your favorite literary character!

Thu., Nov. 1, Conversations about Race, 6:30-8:00 p.m. TM Library

Mon.-Tue., Nov. 5-6, Health screening event, all day. See below.

Fri., Nov. 9, Family Dance, 6:30-8:00 p.m. TM Cafeteria

Mon., Nov. 12, Veterans Day, No school

Full year of events online calendar at www.tmlink.org!

Got news? **Contact Pup Press Editor, Tracy Bonaccorso** (tracybonaccorso31@gmail.com) or text 206.240.6318

TUTU'S PANTRY



Tutu's Pantry serves 20-30 TM families weekly with a supply of free weekend food. **If your family would like to benefit**, please fill out the form available in the office or www.tmlink.org and return to your child's teacher or the office.

Tutu's Pantry depends on donations of non-perishable items. Donation bins are in the front hall. See Page 2 and flyer for details on Thanksgiving Meal-in-a-Bag.

⌘ HEALTH SCREENING EVENT: Mon.-Tue., Nov. 5-6. Looking for 25-30 more volunteers to help our school nurse with screenings to make sure kids are able to see and hear their teachers well. This is a great way to meet many TM kids and parents! Full day commitments preferred, but morning or afternoon shifts also welcome. No experience needed – training is provided.

Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/tmhealthday>.

LGBTQ Families Dinner, Thu., Nov. 8, 6-8:00 p.m.

The annual LGBTQ Families Dinner will be held Thu., Nov. 8 from 6-8:00 p.m. at Meany Middle School. Members of the school board will be there to welcome LGBTQ families and their friends. All SPS families and staff are welcome to attend! This event is brought to you by the Health Education Office. Dinner and entertainment will be provided.

To reserve space at this popular event, please RSVP with the number of people in your party to [Brennon Ham](mailto:brham@seattleschools.org) in the Health Education Office at 206.743.3564 or brham@seattleschools.org.

Last year, our staff Race and Equity Team set goals around reducing racial disproportionality in discipline. This year, we are learning more about Restorative Justice practices, something that the district is also moving towards. You can join me this Fri., Oct. 26 from 8:30– 9:15 a.m. in our school library to learn more about this topic.

Also this Fri., our students will be participating in Mix It Up at Lunch Day. This event was created by Teaching Tolerance, an organization that has long worked to promote justice and equality through education. Our students will be mixed up in a fun way and encouraged to eat with students outside their regular social group. There will be some novelties about the day to make it especially fun for all, including balloons, music and a special treat. Join us if you are able! (And special thanks to Ms. Damitio, Ms. Matsui and a group of 5th grade students for working on this.)

As I write this article early on Tue. morning, I am also planning this week's Wed. staff collaboration time, when we will be talking about what each of us can do to help our school promote inclusion for every single student in every class at every grade level. This must be an ongoing effort, and not just something that happens this Fri. at Mix It Up Day. I know this is something present in the minds of our teachers and staff, and I will continue to be in communication with you about what this will look like at our school.

I will leave you with a resource that we found going through suggestions from Eddie Moore. It is an organization called Embrace Race that provides resources for caregivers to help children learn and talk about race in a positive way. They have book lists, tip sheets and much more to support us in this important work. You can learn more here: <https://www.embracerace.org/tip-sheets.html>.

Katie

Greetings from Tutu's Pantry!



Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and we we'll continue the TM tradition of celebrating Thanksgiving by bringing families together through shared food. Through generous donations, we'll provide a "Thanksgiving Meal-in-a-Bag" to any Thurgood Marshall family. See attached flyer for information on signing up to give or receive a Thanksgiving meal. If you have any questions, please email Maggie Hooks (thurgoodmarshall@tutuspantry.org) or Jen Gotanda (jgotanda@gmail.com).

Things are going well in the pantry! We have a dedicated crew of volunteers, and generous donations from the TM community, the French American School of Puget Sound, and Fran's Bread. The pantry is pretty well stocked and the number of families receiving a weekly backpack is down. We are reaching out to the community to make sure that every family who needs a backpack gets one, and I will reach out to the community for anything the pantry needs.

Maggie

Your PTA has big plans for your student this year!

We need your help to achieve our fundraising goal. Please consider donating to the TM PTA. Your donation directly supports your child and their classroom by funding:

- Social-emotional growth and development for Ms. Melissa Matsui, school counselor (your PTA funds 100% of her salary)
- Mr. Michael Zetterberg, our full-time librarian (your PTA funds support 50% of this position)
- Dedicated recess aide and classroom tutors
- Special performances at school assemblies
- Dynamic classroom libraries and supplies for our teachers

Click the Donate link at tmlink.org or send a check payable to Thurgood Marshall PTA via your student.



Bullpup Briefs

Sign up for the PTA e-list!

News and event info throughout the year!
<http://tmlink.org/2018/06/07/sign-up-for-pta-e-list/>

⌘ = Volunteer/ PTA opportunities!

⌘ **PTA EVENTS COORDINATOR CO-CHAIR:** Meet and get to know the TM community by teaming up with our experienced events coordinator. Support Event Leads by relaying their needs to the PTA Board and showing them where supplies are. Contact volunteering@tmlink.org. 1-2 hours per event

⌘ **CAFETERIA ASSISTANCE AND LUNCH MENTORS:** Help our cafeteria staff with set up and last-minute prep- 11:30 a.m. daily. Lunch is a busy and exciting part of a child's day. Lunch mentors help students maneuver through the lunch line and elsewhere, help open packages, and have the opportunity to connect with students, 11:40 a.m.-12:50 p.m. daily. Help is appreciated anytime, even if you can only come once or twice!
Contact volunteering@tmlink.org with any questions.

⌘ **LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS:** Help Mr. Zetterberg with weekly library tasks including shelving books, book check out, bulletin board creation/updates, Makerspace activities and materials donation. 1-2 hours weekly shifts or as needed for specific projects. Contact volunteering@tmlink.org for sign-up information.

⌘ **CLASS CONNECTORS**
Class Connectors still needed for Ms. Anderson, and Ms. Howard-Powell! Contact [Andrea Fontana](mailto:awongfontana@gmail.com) at 206.498.0666 (awongfontana@gmail.com).

Lost and found overflowing again!

Just a reminder that we will be donating remaining items at the end of each month this year. Please remind your child to check for their lost items right away.



