Elementary Grade Reporting

Progress reports will be sent home tomorrow. In past years, I have found that it is helpful to have an explanation about elementary report cards and our grading system, which is a bit different from the grades most of us received in elementary school. We measure the academic benchmarks on our report cards by using a scale of 1-4. This reflects your child’s progress toward specific grade-level standards. The scale is as follows:

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 1-4 do not equate to traditional grades (i.e. a “4” does not equal an “A”). They are not an average. If a student really struggled with a concept at the beginning of the year (and earned scores of mostly “1”s), but demonstrated consistent grade-level understanding by the end of the first trimester (earning a “3”), that child would receive a “2” (the average of “1” and “3”). She or he would receive a “3.” Likewise, a child who met the standard early in the trimester and continued to do grade-level appropriate work would also receive a “3.” The purpose of standards-based grading is not to compare your child to other children, but rather to inform you how well your child is progressing toward the expected grade-level skills.

Please pay special attention to the attendance shown on your child’s report card. We know that parents work hard to be sure that their students come to school on time every day. If you are noticing many 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 9:30 and continues until 3:40 dismissal. We want your child to benefit from all that happens here!

Finally, be sure to look at the Learning Behaviors. This section will give you insight into the behaviors that are important for school success. Help your child set a goal or two about what s/he will work on each day to increase their skill in any areas with lower ratings. These behaviors are included on the report card because they support your child in doing their best learning at school. As always, let us know if you have questions!

Idea's Wanted: Best Names for Programs at TM?

Thurgood Marshall’s Building Leadership Team is considering name changes for how we refer to two of our programs: General Education and Highly Capable Cohort. (Peace Academy – Preschool and Elementary Autism Center for Education – has already been renamed from “Service Model 4.”)

We are hoping for new ways of referring to our General Education and Highly Capable programs that engender a sense of pride in the students who attend.

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**Pancake Breakfast Will Make You Flip**

Mark your calendar for the annual Pancake Breakfast & Art Walk: 8:30-10:30 a.m., on Saturday, Jan. 23. You’ll enjoy food, friends and art on the walls throughout the school. Admission is by donation.


**More Volunteers Needed**


**PUP PRESS EDITOR / CO-EDITOR:** Help edit and/or design our school’s weekly newsletter! 2-6 hours per week.
Email Cliff: cliffm99@gmail.com.

**ART DISPLAYS:** Ms. Zirngible seeks 1-2 volunteers to keep a steady flow of artwork going up on the walls for display. 2x/month, flexibly scheduled.
Email: blzirngible@seattleschools.org

**FRIDAY ASSEMBLY HELPERS:** Set up/take down chairs for Friday morning assemblies, 9:15-10ish, in the Cafeteria.
Email: klfrench@seattleschools.org

**Today is Last Day to Find Lost Items!**

Collect your items from the Lost and Found by the end of the day TODAY. Volunteers will be be taking leftover items to a thrift store tomorrow.

**Thurgood Marshall Sets Tours, Info Sessions**

Principal Katie May and the Thurgood Marshall PTA will offer five different winter and spring dates for school information sessions and tours (including observation of classroom activities). The first date is Tuesday, Jan. 19, a 9:15-10 a.m. tour. See [tmlink.org](http://tmlink.org) for all dates.

No RSVP is needed. Please email pta@tmlink.org if a family member needs a tour in a language other than English, such as Spanish or Vietnamese. We will do our best to accommodate you.

**District Offers Kindergarten Admissions Nights**

Five Kindergarten Admissions Nights will be held in 2016, including 5:30-7 p.m. Jan. 7 at Beacon Hill School. (See seattleschools.org for more dates.) In addition, Thurgood Marshall ES will again be offering Jump Start to incoming kindergartners, Aug. 22-26, 2016. The program gives the new students a gentle introduction to elementary school life.

**Enrichment Registration to Go Online in January**

The PTA is pleased to announce that, starting in January, Enrichment Program registration will be available online and with a credit-card payment option. You’ll also still be able to pay by check. The catalog will be out on Jan. 4.

**Reminder:** Sponge Language School’s classes at TM restart Monday, Jan. 4. A few spots are available in Spanish (8:10-9:10 a.m. on Mondays), and the fees are prorated. Sponge registration and information is at [www.spongeschool.com/sign-up](http://www.spongeschool.com/sign-up). Questions? Send an email to info@spongeschool.com or call (425) 274 – 5188.

**Assistant Superintendent Will Be Panelist for ‘Equity’ Discussion at PTA Meeting**

Join parents and staff on Tuesday evening, Jan. 12, for a conversation about “What is Equity?” in Seattle Public Schools and at Thurgood Marshall.

What does “equity” mean? What are we doing to work toward it? Thurgood Marshall staff have been working through this since the summer, and now parents and guardians will have a chance to consider the issues. Special guests, who will lead the discussion, will be:

- Michael Tolley – SPS Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning
- Anita Morales – SPS Equity and Race Relations Specialist, and coach for Thurgood Marshall staff
- Matthew Okun – Consulting Teacher, SPS Office of Advanced Learning

Our schedule:

- **6-6:30 p.m. Social time:** bring an appetizer to share!
- **6:30 p.m.** Principal May’s Report and PTA Business – Reports on arts, the upcoming schools funding levy and PTA Focus Day at the Capitol
- **7-8 p.m.** Equity Panel

All are welcome. (PTA membership *not* required.)

**FREE child care** (including pizza dinner) at YMCA if you RSVP to pta@tmlink.org. Limited to 30 school-age kids - no guarantee without confirmation.

**Send Your Ideas for New Names**

*Continued from Page 1*

Each program, while furthering our goal of unifying our learning community.

We would love to have student and community voice in the new names, and will be working with our Student Council to get student input.

*These titles will in no way change the structure of the program or the service that students receive.*

Please send your best ideas to Principal Katie May at kjmay1@seattleschools.org. Thank you!

→ What is the Building Leadership Team? See [tmlink.org/?p=3388](http://tmlink.org/?p=3388)

Have an article for Pup Press? Send it to Cliff Meyer at cliffm99@gmail.com. If your submission is not acknowledged within 24 hours, please call or text 206-366-5413