THE THURSDAY NOTE:

Did you know most students lose one or more months of academic gain over summer vacation? While I value summer as a time for relaxation and rejuvenation, I feel a bit anxious imagining our students losing the precious ground they gained over the school year. So, what can we do?

READING: Children should be reading 30 minutes a day throughout the year, and especially during the summer when they typically have more free time. Most libraries have wonderful reading lists posted on their websites.

For students who need a little encouragement, the summer reading program at Barnes and Noble bookstores offers one free book to a child who reads eight books on their own. The Seattle Public Library offers a free book of your child’s choice after ten books. A reluctant reader may be enticed to read a book that has been released in movie format; once they read the book, they get to see the movie (think “Beezus and Ramona” by Beverly Cleary). You might also want to check out:

- *Book Crush*, by Nancy Pearl, is full of wonderful book suggestions for children and teens organized by interesting categories, such as “Dewey Love Non-fiction? Dewey Ever!”
- The Guys Read website is dedicated to helping boys love books at www.guysread.com
- The American Library Association has reading lists to suit just about anyone! Online at www.ala.org, under Professional Tools, click on “Recommended Reading Factsheets.”

MATH: Help your child build fluency with math facts so they are better prepared for next year’s challenging math problems. Find ways to incorporate a few minutes of math every day over the summer. Depending on your child’s age, have them figure out the change for something they wish to buy, practice their fractions by doubling or halving a recipe, or play a board game that uses math. A quick Google search will turn up many websites with free math games that children love. Free math lessons for every level from beginner through college can be found at the Khan Academy online at www.khanacademy.org.

WRITING: Sometimes all it takes is the promise of a little extra adult attention to get our younger students creating/writing stories. Others are motivated if we provide supplies like fancy paper and pens, or let them use our computer. Ask an older relative to become an email “pen pal” with your tween (and remind your tween that Grandma may not understand common texting abbreviations!). Or tape a note to your child’s bedroom door, and encourage them to write back to you. Also find ways your student can practice their writing in “real world” ways, for example, try dictating a grocery list to your child.

In addition to the Three R’s, remember that children learn a lot by simply playing and exploring the world around them. Never underestimate what a child can learn as they dig in the dirt, study bugs in the backyard, or help in the garden! A little unscheduled time allows a child to reflect on all they are learning at day camp or on more structured outings.

I wish you all a wonderful summer - I’m already excited to see you back at school this fall!

- Katie May, Incoming Principal

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**EVENT CALENDAR**

**June 5, Today**
Volunteer Appreciation @ 3:40 pm on the playground

**June 6, Friday**
Coffee Chat with New Principal @ 9:10 am in the Library

**June 9-13, Monday-Friday**
Penny & Coin Drive

**GRADE LEVEL PICNICS**
5:30-7 pm on the playground

**June 9, Monday**
Kindergarten/1st Grade

**June 10, Tuesday**
2nd Grade

**June 11, Wednesday**
3rd Grade

**June 12, Thursday**
4th Grade

**June 13, Friday**
Field Day & BBQ
Craft Fair in Library

**June 17, Tuesday**
5th Grade Promotion 2-3:30 pm

**June 19, Thursday**
Last Day of School! Early dismissal @ 2:40 pm

**TUTU’S PANTRY**

**June 9: 4th Grade Donations**
**June 16: 5th Grade Donations**

**Picnics Next Week**

Celebrate the end of the school year at the Grade Level Picnics (see calendar above). Bring your own picnic dinner and blanket to the Thurgood Marshall playground. The YMCA will let us use their bathroom facilities since the school building will be closed. All picnics are 5:30-7 pm. Picnics will be cancelled in the event of rain.

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Want more? Visit the Thurgood Marshall PTA online at www.tmlink.org for more Pup Press, a calendar of school events, and more.
Haven’t Donated? It’s Not Too Late!

If you’ve been meaning to donate to the Thurgood Marshall Annual Giving Fund, it’s not too late! Thank you to all of the Thurgood Marshall families and friends whose donations helped us surpass our Annual Giving Fund goal of $130,000. Already more than 50% of Thurgood Marshall families have made donations at every level of giving. We are so grateful for your generosity and enthusiasm!

Gifts received before June 30 will help us reach our participation goal of 60% of families. If we receive donations from 45 new families - just two families per classroom - we’ll meet our participation goal! Donations of any amount are welcome.

To donate, please click on the Donate Now button online at www.tmlink.org. Or send a check into school with your child, or via mail to: TM Annual Giving Fund P.O. Box 22305 Seattle, WA 98122. All donations help support school programs like our full-time librarian and school counselor, enrichment classes and community events.

Thank you for coming together to support our students, teachers and staff at Thurgood Marshall!

Calling All 5th Grade Families!

The 5th grade Promotion Ceremony is almost here. Join us Tuesday, June 17 from 2-3:30 pm in the Cafeteria to celebrate your 5th grader! We recommend arriving at least 30 minutes early to allow time for parking and finding a seat in the Cafeteria.

From Our Librarian

All library books are due by June 13. Students in grades K-4 may check out a book during the last week of school. Lost books should be replaced with a similar book. Replacement books do not need to be new, just usable. We do not accept money for lost books.

Read Big with Young Readers Choice and Sasquatch: Pick up a summer reading list from the school library and read five to ten books, depending on your level, to become eligible to vote in the Reader’s Choice contest. Then join us in October for a special reading party. Open to students grades 2-5.

Note: The Thurgood Marshall Library will be open this summer on Tuesdays from 3-7 pm.

Student Council Fundraising

The Thurgood Marshall Student Council is planning two events to help raise money for cancer research:

The Craft Fair: Students will make and sell items in the library on June 13. Each class will be invited to “buy” items with their class at a time that will not interfere with Field Day.

The Penny and Coin Drive: Students may vote for their favorite comic book character by dropping coins into a bucket the week of June 9. The character that receives the most coins will be the winner.

Have an article for Pup Press? Send it to Julia Janak at juliajanak@gmail.com. If your e-mail submission is not acknowledged within 24 hours, please call or text to confirm receipt at 206-473-0980.