THE THURSDAY NOTE:

No doubt you have heard about the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) adopted by Washington State. As a result, at Thurgood Marshall there will be an increased emphasis on what CCSS calls “practice standards” in math classes across all grade levels. This I enthusiastically applaud!

“Practice standards” are the actions and behaviors mathematicians exhibit when performing math tasks. As an educator with 30 years in the elementary/middle grades, I believe these math standards are finally addressing the need for an articulated and well-balanced math curriculum for all elementary students. Excellent math instruction is two-pronged: 1) teach familiar skills like addition, subtraction, fractions, and decimals, and 2) introduce the kind of mathematical thinking necessary for application and use of skills.

Teachers will design instruction to incorporate the following practice standards. Students will:

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

I’ll expand on each of these eight practice standards in upcoming editions of the Pup Press.

Students can get additional math practice using the DreamBox website. If you did not receive information on your student’s DreamBox account, contact your classroom teacher for student username/password. iPad users may download the DreamBox app and use the school code, znc2/thurgoodme, to access the site.

Our school is invited to join in the “Math and Science Mashup Night” at John Muir Elementary School on Thursday, Dec. 5. See attached flyer for details. I’ll be there and hope to see many of our families there as well.

I’d like to thank our generous PTA for supporting author Paul Owen Lewis’ visit last week. His message was simple and direct: practice, perseverance, and resilience are what helped him become an author/illustrator. These are the same values we try to incorporate into everything we say and do here at Thurgood Marshall!

And a big thanks to the crew that pulled off the wonderful Fall Dance last Friday. If only I had the energy to hop up and down for two hours as many of our students did.

A final plea to all parents in hopes of preserving instructional time: Please make after-school arrangements prior to the start of school. Every time the office calls a classroom with an afternoon transportation notification, every person in that room is disrupted. Instructional time is precious. Every minute counts. Thank you!

- Principal Julie Breidenbach

TONIGHT: Ass’t. Principal & Counselor Speak at PTA Mtg.

Please join us tonight at 6:30 pm in the Library for the PTA General Meeting. School Counselor Meghan Kaloper and Vice Principal Christine Helm will speak about their work in our school and answer any questions.

Want more? Visit the Thurgood Marshall PTA online at www.tmlink.org for more Pup Press, a full calendar of school events, and more.
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.

Come Hungry to Pancake Breakfast on Dec. 14

Our school-wide Pancake Breakfast will be held 9 - 11 am on Saturday, Dec. 14, in the cafeteria. We will serve pancakes, chicken sausage, fruit, coffee, and juice. This is not a fundraising event; however there is a suggested donation of $10 per family.

One of the best places to be at the Pancake Breakfast is in the kitchen flipping pancakes with other TM parents and guardians. If you would like to volunteer on Dec. 14, contact Audrey Querns at aquerns@q.com for details.

Yearbook Needs Pictures of Fall Dance

Did you take photos of kids dancing, laughing, crafting, doing activities or just plain having fun at the Fall Dance? Please share your photos with our Yearbook coordinator. Upload photos at http://dbinbox.com/Thurgood_Marshall_Yearbook.

If you have questions, please email our yearbook coordinator Kathryn Saxer at katesaxer@gmail.com. Thank you!

Let’s Help Typhoon Victims in Philippines

The Thurgood Marshall Student Council is asking for your generous donations of sample-sized soaps, shampoos, toothpaste and other hygiene products for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan. The Red Cross has requested small products that can be easily distributed and are not perishable. Please help us help our global neighbors in the Philippines. Items can be dropped off in the library. Thank you!

Thank You for Fall Dance Success

Wow! What an amazing evening we all had dancing to the latest tunes at our Fall Dance last Friday. By all accounts, the Fall Dance was a hit with kids and adults alike.

We’d like to extend our deep appreciation and gratitude to Shyla Wilcynski, first-time Thurgood Marshall parent, for leading this annual tradition. Shyla made this Dance one of our most successful events with wonderful activities, decorations and ideas. In addition to Shyla’s leadership, Julia Janak found an incredible DJ - Eric Bakke of Bust a Move DJ - who made the evening fun for all. Wendy Eckert and Casey Sommers provided support through the entire process.

It takes many helping hands to run an event like this. We’d like to thank these volunteers for their time and energy: Hadar Iron, Audrey Quens, Tania Westby, Karen Zeribi, Leigh Mercer, Jorji Knickrehm, Jennifer Heydt, Mica Dubuz, Tim Vos, Ly Shumka, Kelly Mulligan, Nicole von suhr, Martha Brockenbrough, Catherine Hynds, Lynn Warner, David Parsons, Amy Vore, Scott Engan, Michelle & Kevin Peterson, Melanie Nalbandian, Ted Rosenberg, Steve Orser, Matt Siegel, Jessica Kowal, Phil Wallace and Larry Wilcynski.

Open House at Washington Middle School

Attention, 5th-graders! Washington Middle School will hold an Open House and several Tours for incoming 6th-graders for the 2014-2015 school year.

Open House for Incoming Students: Dec. 5, 6:30-8 pm
Tours for Incoming Students: Dec. 10, 12, 13, 8-10 am

Students must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Reservations are not required.

Washington Middle School
2101 S Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98144
(206) 252-2600

The Gift of Books

What’s the gift that keeps on giving? Books, of course! The Book Fair is open for student shoppers Dec. 3-6, but you can start shopping online beginning Nov. 27. All proceeds benefit the libraries at our school.

To shop online visit www.scholastic.com/bookfairs and click on “Find a Fair.” Enter our school zip code, 98144, and look for Thurgood Marshall Elementary.

Volunteers are needed for these shifts each day: 9-11 am, 11 am-1 pm, 12:30-2:30 pm and 2-3:30 pm.

Contact Karen Sampson Liu at ksampsonliu@gmail.com if you can help. Thank you!

Winter Session Enrichment Classes

Enrichment catalogs for our Winter quarter will go home with students on Thursday, Dec. 12. Registration ends Jan. 10. Scholarships are available for all classes. The catalog will be posted online at www.tmlink.org.

If you have questions please contact Sudeshna Sen at sudeshnanw@gmail.com or Caryn Gold at carynlgold@yahoo.com.

Growth Boundaries Update

As we went to press with this issue of the Pup Press, the School Board was set to vote on the latest proposal for the Growth Boundaries. Please visit our website at www.tmlink.org to learn how the vote went and learn the impacts to Thurgood Marshall.

We will discuss this issue tonight at the PTA General Meeting at 6:30 pm in the school Library.