



THE THURSDAY NOTE:



Thank you to everyone who participated in Curriculum Night! We appreciate the effort our teachers put into creating their presentations and handouts. Those materials provide a clear overview of what students will learn and the positive behavior expectations necessary to ensure an effective learning environment.

Parents are a child's primary and lifelong teacher and at Thurgood Marshall we strive to have strong connections with all of our families. We welcome your extra effort to attend evening school events, to chaperone field trips, to volunteer in classrooms. Your feedback and perspective on your child's development is very important to us. Thank you for your effort to attend events like Curriculum Night and Parent Teacher conferences to deepen the relationship with your child's teacher.

Parents often ask me what they can do at home to help their child feel more successful in school and to increase their motivation to learn. I tend to break it down into three main categories: 1) basic self-care 2) more dialogue and inquiry 3) embracing struggle and acknowledging mistakes as learning opportunities. These suggestions may be obvious to you, but they are so important that I think they warrant repeating.

Basic self-care looks like getting enough sleep each night, eating well-balanced meals with at least half the plate full of fruits and vegetables, limiting screen time and encouraging movement and play-time daily. Children thrive with some structure and routines in place. Having a dedicated time and space for nightly reading, writing and homework without any distractions is a great way to teach your child to increase their stamina and ability to focus on and complete school work. It's also important to celebrate milestones when your child successfully completes his homework in a timely manner or moves up a reading level – these are precious moments to acknowledge and brag about so your child knows that it is important to you.

How often have you asked your child what they learned today only to receive a one word answer or a shrug of the shoulders? I have stopped asking broad open-ended questions and replaced them with specific detailed questions like: What did you read today? What did the character do? What do you notice about that? What does that make you think? Why do you think that? You are encouraging your child to think and form an opinion based on the world around them and you are conscious of holding back your thinking so they can formulate their own opinions. We live in a dialogue-rich world so I encourage you to ask questions about your child's thoughts and feelings to help develop their conversational skills.

Learning involves struggle and messiness and sometimes it feels uncomfortable. Mistakes are important opportunities to reflect on and try differently next time. The attitude we display throughout the learning process is a powerful way to influence a child's motivation to learn. Celebrate hard work and perseverance and the belief that with repeated effort we can meet with success and you will nurture a mastery-oriented and resilient child.

Thanks for reading my two cents!

- Christine Helm, Assistant Principal Thurgood Marshall Elementary



Picture Day is Monday

Don't forget that Picture Day is this Monday, October 7th. Order forms are going home today with your student. Check students' backpacks for your order form and be sure to return it with your student by Monday.

EVENTS CALENDAR

October 3rd

Deadline for APP application

October 7th

Picture Day

October 11th

NO SCHOOL

October 30th

2-Hour Early Dismissal

November 11th

NO SCHOOL

November 15th

All-School Fall Dance

November 23rd - 27th

Parent-Teacher Conferences

November 25th - 29th

Thanksgiving Break

TUTU'S PANTRY CALENDAR

October 7th

4th Grade Donations

October 14th

5th Grade Donations

October 21st

PEACE Academy Donations

October 28th

1st Grade Donations

November 4th

2nd Grade Donations

November 12th

3rd Grade Donations

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UPDATE: Annual Giving Fund

Total: \$45,142.50

Participation Rate: 20%

Fall Challenge Success!

The PTA raised over \$17,000 during the last week of our Fall Challenge Match, bringing us one-third of the way to our Annual Giving Fund and participation goals for the year! A HUGE thank you to the families who donated this fall and to the generous families who contributed the matching funds to inspire others to give.

You are welcome to donate to the Annual Giving Fund at any point in the year. Remember each and every donation makes a difference.

Please visit us online at www.tmlink.org or contact Casey Sommers at caseypilar@gmail.com for more information.

Thank you again for supporting Thurgood Marshall!

A New Group of Conflict Mediators

We are thrilled that our school counselor Ms. Kaloper is working again this year with a student group of conflict mediators. Right now she needs adult volunteers to help prepare students for their recess duties. Volunteers will assist with role playing and oversee small group work. Are there three or four parents available from 8:30-9:30 am the week of October 21-25th?

Ms. Kaloper would also love a volunteer to help assemble training booklets on October 15th or 16th.

Please contact Meg Kaloper if you can help at (206) 252-2808 or mrharris@seattleschools.org.

Help Plan the Fall Dance



We are still looking for a volunteer to Chair the all-school Fall Dance on November 15th. The PTA has already secured a DJ to provide music and entertainment.

The Chair will help coordinate the creation of posters, decorations for the gym, food arrangement, and manage volunteers to assist with set-up/clean-up.

The Fall Dance is a popular and fun event, with no fundraising or cost to families. Let's make this year's dance another success!

If you are interested please contact Volunteer Coordinator Wendy Eckert at: wseckert@yahoo.com or (206) 769-8842.

Student Council Begins

Student Council began this week for 4th and 5th graders. Each 4th and 5th grade class chose representatives who will give up their lunch recess and meet on Tuesdays to discuss issues and plan for special events at the school. This is a working lunch in the library. As they eat, the representatives discuss issues and concerns that they are bringing from their classmates. Students learn the process of introducing and debating an idea of their own. They learn about compromise and the process of working with others and what happens if no one likes their idea. The faculty advisors for student council are Ms. Robinson, Ms. Quinlivan and Ms. Hudson.

If you have questions about student council, please contact me at 206-252-2775 or via email at mhudson@seattleschools.org.

- Merilee Hudson, Thurgood Marshall Librarian

Reminder: Fall Enrichment Calendar

As a reminder for parents here is the Fall schedule for all our Before and After School enrichment classes.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Morning 8:10 - 9:10 am	Morning 8:10 - 9:10 am	Morning 8:10 - 9:10 am	Morning 8:10 - 9:10 am	Morning 8:10 - 9:10 am
Guitar Beginning (Music Room) Karate (Gym) Spanish (Room 209)	Japanese Beginner (Room 210)	Guitar Returning (Music Room) Karate (Gym) Spanish (Room 209)	Basketball (Gym) Japanese Intermediate (Room 103)	Chess Club (Cafeteria)
Afternoon	Afternoon	Afternoon	Afternoon	Afternoon
Sewing (Room 101) 3:50-5:20 Golf (Gym) 3:45-4:45 Engineering Fundamentals (Room 205) 3:45-5:20	Ipad Animation w/Lego (Library) 3:45-5:20	Creative Computing w/ SCRATCH (Computer Lab) 3:45-4:45	Mad Science (Room 201) 3:50-4:50 Drama: Greek Myths (Cafeteria) 3:45-4:45 Tennis (Gym) 3:45-4:45	Engineering Challenge (Computer Lab) 3:45-4:45 Jewelry (Room 101) 3:50-5:20

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

DRAFT

Thurgood Marshall PTA General Meeting Minutes from September 17, 2013

In attendance (in order of sign-in) - Sharmila Williams, Ben Kim, Tania Westby, Kurt Edelman, Annette Sherr, Karen Pinkard (sp?), Amy Vore, Casey Sommers, Tasha Irvine, Brindy Bundesmann, Scott Engan, Erin Baebler, Katy Ransom, Hazel Rideout, Lauri Nakamoto, Agen Schmitz, Alle Hall, Wendy Eckert, David Shelton, Angie Jenkins, Donna Dugan, Jinna Kim, Ralina Joseph, Carolyn Pugh, Mica Dibuz, Ann Easton, Amy Harper, Jeannie Revello, Kathryn Saxer, Karen Zeribi (sp?), Natalie Zheng, Jill Raynor Holderoft, Stacy Mcc (sp?), Ann McCurdy, Jenny Sapora, Julia Janak, Sade Brown, Dana Cogswell, Stacey Joanovic

Welcome/Introductions

PTA Co-President Sharmila Williams opened with a big welcome to the attendees and a reminder to check the weekly Pup Press for a schedule of PTA general meetings going forward. Sharmila introduced herself, her Co-President Tasha Irvine, and offered an explanation of what the TM PTA does, with an emphasis on community building and fundraising. Relevant to fundraising, she described the important PTA function of funding certain staff members such as Merilee and Ken, two of the evening's guest speakers. With the description of PTA sponsored events was a brilliant slideshow courtesy of TM parent Ben Kim, highlighting past concerts, a pancake breakfast with art walk and a 5th grade legacy project, to name just a few.

In an effort to highlight further what TM PTA funds do, two TM specialists were introduced:

TM Music Specialist Ken Pendergrass gave some current year program stats: there are 169 instrumental music students this year and 109 choir students at TM. Ken Pendergrass began teaching in 2002. He has a background in band with a graduate degree in choral conducting. Many schools have instrumental music programs with a single teacher shared among several schools. TM is unique in that Ken is the full-time music program instructor and he gets to teach both general music to the students as well as the optional instrumental music program. Ken's objective is to get students on an instrument for two years, through 4th and 5th grade, and he feels they will usually continue on with that instrument in middle school. He is happy to share his love for music through teaching.

Specialist Merilee Hudson described her job as TM Librarian: she is a very critical resource at a school with such a heavy emphasis on reading, and one of her many important roles is to connect kids and books. She also helps with communication literacy programs which enables kids to use technology to research various topics. A parent asked how kids are matched with appropriate reading material - Merilee explained that students are matched with appropriate books with a guided reading program (see attached yellow hand-out). She also runs the Global Reading Challenge - pulling 4th and 5th grade kids school-wide to read books together and compete against other students in other schools, both locally and beyond. She will also run TM Student Council this year for 4th and 5th grade kids. She really enjoys bringing kids together across all grade levels and programs.

A special thanks to Merilee and Ken for taking time out of their evenings to speak to the parents of TM!

Regular meeting agenda resumed. Minutes from May 15, 2013 were approved.

Treasurer's Report - Brindy Bundesmann

Brindy went through the approved budget for the 2013/2014 school year and the proposed changes to the budget. Changes for budget were approved. See attached hand-out.

Fundraising Update - Casey Sommers

Exciting news! We have already raised \$26K, more than we raised through the entire month of September last year. This year, there will be three big pushes rather than a continuous year-long push. Casey explained that other than the Amazon and PCC give-backs and the TM Box-Top program, the Annual Fund is the ONLY way TM raises money - no auction, no gift wrap. Any amount received is greatly appreciated - please consider sending in a contribution in the TM Annual Fund envelope that went home with kids in the first week PTA packets so we can keep up the great momentum. This year's theme is ultimate frisbee - we look forward to seeing that frisbee fly through the foyer as our contributions continue to come in.

Events Report - Scott Engan

Grade level potlucks past and present are a fabulous way to meet your student's classmates and families. Look for reminder flyers that will go home with your child from school. This week's potlucks are the Kindergarten/1st Grade on Wednesday and the 3rd Grade will take place on Thursday. Also upcoming are the Fall Dance and Pancake Breakfast, to take place in November and December, respectively. In addition to already-established events, any event suggestions are very welcome and appreciated. See Scott Engan if you have additional event ideas!

Volunteer Report - Wendy Eckert

Some upcoming events that require additional volunteers are - Shoes That Fit with TM Nurse Molly Chin on 9/26 and 9/27 and the Vision and Hearing Screenings that take place in the TM library on 10/8 and 10/9. Pup Press distribution needs one or two people once a week for an hour on Thursdays for hard copy Pup Press distribution. Fall Dance is looking for a chair as well! Please see Wendy Eckert if you are able to help with any of these events. A big thanks to those of you who have already signed up!

DRAFT

Thurgood Marshall PTA General Meeting Minutes from September 17, 2013

Community Report - Ben Kim

Several community events took place last year - and plenty more to come this year. This is an opportunity to get to know both the TM family and the local community as well as have lots of fun while doing a good service. See Ben Kim if you have ideas for future projects or if you would like to be involved as a community project volunteer.

APP/AC Report - Sharmila Williams gave report in Jennie Wyatt's absence

Join the list serve for e-mail updates! Lots of discussion about boundary changes etc.. impacting programs like APP. Community meetings start taking place next Monday in various communities. October 1st meeting is at Hamilton Middle School. Bob Vaughn has retired, Steven Martin is current interim head of Advanced Learning.

Principal's Report - Julie Breidenbach

Student number 500 arrived today, 501 will arrive on Friday! TM is a full house. Neighborhood assignment plan allows kids to opt-back to neighborhood school if option school didn't work out, hence the growth at this late date. Julie gave a transportation update - buses are improving daily, but do let Julie know if something other than tardiness is taking place on your student's bus. MSP scores from last year for 4th and 5th grade students are in the mail. MAP testing starts next week. As MAP is not used as part of teacher evaluations, this is most likely the last year for MAP.

Regarding curriculum, we are heading into our second year with Envision math. We are familiar with content standards, next focus will be on practice standards. This is a year for fine-tuning what students have been learning thus far and practice using mathematical instruments appropriately. Kids will be doing more problem solving this year.

Lots of routines and rules to follow at TM - it helps with a school of this size and it also gives the kids some structure and predictability. Fire drills are less common now - we are doing three lockdowns and two shelter-in place-drills rather than just the straightforward fire drill as it is less likely that we will deal with a fire and more likely that we deal with a minor emergency of a different type.

Julie discussed news from an earlier SPS board meeting - because of tremendous student body growth, a proposed change is to open a West Seattle APP program, potentially at Fairmont Park, a school that will be re-opened next year. It would be an OPTIONAL program - students from West Seattle may also choose to remain at TM. Kids in West Seattle do spend as long as two hours on the bus each day - so this may be a welcome opportunity to some. Julie is talking to someone from the district on the various options and making sure that all West Seattle families have a voice in what is being discussed. Julie will keep the PTA up to date - news is also available at the SPS website.

End Minutes

Please join the Thurgood Marshall PTA for a General Meeting. Our next meeting is on November 21, 2013 from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM in the school library. All are welcome.

Visit the Thurgood Marshall PTA online at www.tmlink.org.