THE THURSDAY NOTE:
Welcome back from mid-winter break! I hope you enjoyed some fun family time, and your kids are rested and ready to learn! Many of us are experiencing emotions around our “cheese” being moved,* requiring that we adjust to change. I appreciate all the support, constructive feedback, advice, and help you have shared with me. I genuinely feel the sense of community here at Thurgood Marshall, where parents care about all of our students and are solution-focused.

There are two ways you can get involved as our school moves forward into the hiring process for the principal position, as well as teaching slots that will come open.

Principal Hiring Process
Sarah Pritchett, the Seattle School District’s Executive Director who supervises the leadership at Thurgood Marshall will head the principal hiring process. Ms. Pritchett will meet with the teaching staff and the parent community separately to hear the characteristics most desired for our next leader. A hiring committee of 10-12 people will be formed, including four parents (three plus one alternate). Ms. Pritchett suggests one parent from each of our three programs. Interested parents can contact the PTA who will be working with Ms. Pritchett to choose committee members (see “Help Choose Our Principal” at right). The hiring committee will evaluate and interview applicants, picking three finalists. These candidates will meet with Superintendent José Banda, and he will make the final decision. Important dates:

• March 5: Ms. Pritchett meets with TM community, 6:30 p.m. in the Library
• March 22 and/or 23: Interviews with Hiring Committee
• Superintendent’s decision timeline is unknown

Teacher Hiring Process
Teacher hires follow a process and timeline agreed upon by the District and the teachers’ union, the Seattle Education Association. Thurgood Marshall’s available positions for 2014-15 will first be advertised, in early May, only to internal candidates who are already part- or full-time certificated teachers in the District. After all the internal candidates have secured positions within the Seattle Public Schools, the remaining open jobs can be advertised to external candidates, in early June. We always strive to have a parent on a hiring committee and we will have at least three hiring committees this spring. To qualify, parents must attend a one-hour training**. When I am compiling a team I will look at the list of parents who have been trained, provided to me by SEA, and I will personally select and call parents to serve on the hiring team. It is not yet clear how much of our process will occur in May or carry over into June, but I will update you as soon as we have made decisions.

“Thank You, PTA”
On behalf of the teachers on the second floor, I would like to enthusiastically thank our generous PTA and its supporters for funding our request to ceiling mount the classroom projectors. The teachers and students are ecstatic about having more open space thanks to the absence of the projector cart. We are hopeful the first floor will be funded next year. Thank you all for your generous donations and support!

- Christine Helm, Interim Principal

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* The best-seller “Who Moved My Cheese?” by Dr. Spencer Johnson is a wonderful read for anyone who wants to more easily deal with change.

** To learn about the 1-hour parent training visit: www.seattlewea.org and click on “Hiring Training” under Resources.

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

**Open PTA Positions for 2014-2015**

Several key Board and job positions will be open next school year and the PTA is seeking volunteers to fill the following roles. We hope some new families will join our great team of volunteers!

- Co-President
- Secretary
- Annual Fund Chair
- Membership Chair (new for 2014-2015)
- WebMaster
- Pup Press Editor

Please consider giving your time, energy and talent. If you are interested, please contact our Nominating Committee Chairperson, Casey Sommers, via email at caseypilar@gmail.com. Job descriptions available upon request.

**Help Select PTA Board Nominees**

Help interview and select nominees for next year’s PTA Board by volunteering for the Nominating Committee now. If you’re interested please email Wendy Eckert at wseckert@yahoo.com.

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**Fun Facts Quiz**

How well do you know our teachers and staff? Take our quiz and find out!

1. Who used to wear a grass skirt while living in a thatched hut in Micronesia?

2. School counselor Meghan Kaloper owns which of the following businesses?
   - A. Henna tattooing
   - B. Summer camp
   - C. Ice cream truck

3. Where was our Interim Vice Principal Birgit McShane born?

4. School librarian Merilee Hudson was born in:
   - A. Montana
   - B. Japan
   - C. Australia

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**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.