

# PUP PRESS



Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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## THE THURSDAY NOTE:



As we plan for next school year, there have been some questions about how split-grade classrooms work and how students are assigned to them. We understand that as parents your primary concern is that your child's needs are met. As educators, we also want each of our students to learn in the environment best suited to their needs. Our staff carefully considers gender, ethnicity, learning styles, and other criteria when placing students. In a split classroom, birthdates are also considered, although they are not the only factor considered.

Parents sometimes ask how the needs of both grades can be met by one teacher in a split-grade classroom. Keep in mind that even in single-grade classrooms teachers serve the needs of a range of learners. Education researchers estimate a typical classroom has a developmental range of five years. Any teacher will tell you they always plan for a variety of levels in order to meet the needs of their students. Many teachers at Thurgood Marshall are already welcoming a portion of a split class into their rooms for math or science. We also have support teachers to help lower the student-teacher ratio and maximize the instructional time.

Recent studies on the effect of split classrooms have found no significant difference in student achievement when comparing students from single-grade rooms to split-grade rooms. In fact, students in split-grade rooms scored just as well in their attitude towards school and their own self-image as did their peers in single-grade rooms. According to some teachers, students in split-grade rooms develop a stronger sense of independence, and benefit from an expanded social group that includes friends from another grade.

Ultimately, the best way to help your child succeed in either a split-grade or a single-grade classroom is to establish a relationship with the teacher early on. As the year progresses, share your concerns with the teacher. I believe that understanding how the classroom is managed, and how your child's specific needs are being met, will help alleviate any concerns you may have and help your child feel comfortable in the classroom. Please know that we care about your child and will do our best to give your child a rewarding learning experience!

- Katie May, Incoming Principal

## Dreambox Update

Please note: Tomorrow, May 30, will be the last day of before-school Dreambox.

## Your PTA Needs Your Feedback

Please take our 5-minute, anonymous survey. Your feedback will help the PTA improve programs for the 2014-2015 school year. Online at: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/TMPTA2014](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TMPTA2014) Please submit by June 6. Paper copies available at the school office.

**Thanks for taking time to help us improve!**

## PTA Meeting Tonight

Please join us tonight at 6:30 pm for the last PTA meeting of the school year. A workshop from Savvy Parents, Safe Kids will teach us some easy tips and tools to make our children's safety fun, not scary.

**TONIGHT, 6:30-8:30 pm in  
the Library**

## EVENT CALENDAR

### TONIGHT, May 29

PTA General Meeting @ 6:30 pm

### SATURDAY, May 31

5th Grade Paver Installation @ 9 am

#### June 3, Tuesday

Spring Choir Concert @ 7 pm

#### June 4, Wednesday

Early Dismissal @ 1:40 pm

#### NEW! June 5, Thursday

Volunteer Appreciation @ 3:40 pm

#### GRADE LEVEL PICNICS

5:30-7 pm on the playground

#### June 9, Monday

Kinder/1st Grade

#### June 10, Tuesday

2nd Grade

#### June 11, Wednesday

3rd Grade

#### June 12, Thursday

4th Grade

#### June 13, Friday

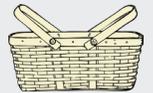
Field Day & BBQ

#### 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 2:** 3rd Grade Donations

**June 9:** 4th Grade Donations

**June 16:** 5th Grade Donations

## VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

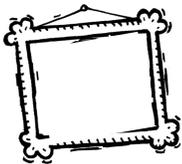


**BBQ:** We are looking for five more volunteers to help from 10 am -1 pm on June 13 during our school BBQ. Please contact Kitchen Manager Angelina Rios at 206-252-2741 if you can help. Thank you!



**FIELD DAY:** We are in search of a few more volunteers for Field Day on June 13, especially at the face painting station! We also need help at the soccer, gaga ball, and water balloon stations.

Sign up online at [www.je9095.wix.com/tmfieldday2014](http://www.je9095.wix.com/tmfieldday2014). Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to help!



**HANG ART:** Caroline Clark, our long-term substitute art teacher, could use a parent's help to hang recent watercolor artwork in the school hallways. Please contact her if you can help at [ceclark@seattleschools.org](mailto:ceclark@seattleschools.org).

Stop by the Judkins Street Cafe (across the street from school) to view watercolor artwork inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe from Ms. Gano's 1st and 2nd grade students.

## Student Council Update

The Thurgood Marshall Student Council is planning two events to help raise money for cancer research and sponsor Mary McCann's mother in the "Obliteride" this year.

The Craft Fair on June 13: Students will make and sell items in the library (details available in the library). Each class will be invited to "buy" items with their class at a time that doesn't interfere with Field Day.

The Penny and Coin Drive, June 9-13: Students may vote for their favorite comic book character by dropping coins into a bucket. Choices are: Black Widow, Spiderman, Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman and "Other." The character that receives the most coins will be the winner.

## Summer Reading



On June 9, Mynique Adams of the Douglass-Truth Library will present the Seattle Public Libraries' Summer Reading Program to our students. This year's theme "Summer of Learning, Zone In" will emphasize science. SPL is a wonderful partner to keep kids reading and learning during the summer, so please check it out!

## For All You Do, We Celebrate You!



After all the Teacher Appreciation events this month, the Thurgood Marshall staff is ready to return the favor! Please come to our Volunteer Tea Party on **Thursday, June 5, 3:45-4:30 pm** on the playground. Ask your student(s) to come to the playground for a popsicle when school ends. Teachers will be on duty to watch students while you visit with other volunteers and school staff. If it rains, we will meet in the cafeteria.

## ATTN: 5th Grade Families

**PROMOTION:** Tuesday, June 17, 2014 is your child's Promotion Ceremony. It will be held in the Cafeteria from 2:00-3:30 pm.

**PAVER PROJECT:** We will install the pavers created by our 5th-graders as their going-away gift to the school on Saturday, May 31 at 9 am. All are welcome! If you have a wheelbarrow, shovel or good gloves, please bring them. Fingers crossed for no rain!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSITION:** As the school year comes to an end, I'm helping 5th graders prepare for the transition to middle school. During my last classroom visits I covered topics such as gossiping, peer pressure, and the conflicting feelings students may have about coming changes. Counselors from Washington Middle School visited our school today with a brief presentation about middle school life.

I encourage you to review the Student/Parent Handbook of your upcoming middle school to familiarize yourself with the school's rules and expectations, and identify the staff you can turn to if you need help. Kids may want to check out the PBS website to learn some exciting things about middle school at: [www.pbskids.org/itsmylife/school/middleschool](http://www.pbskids.org/itsmylife/school/middleschool).

You will be missed! - Ms. Kaloper, School Counselor

**Have an article for Pup Press?** Send it to Julia Janak at [julijanak@gmail.com](mailto: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.