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Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

NOVEMBER 20, 2014

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 12



**Principal
Katie May**

Getting the Most From Your Conference

The staff and I look forward to seeing you at conferences this Saturday, Monday and Tuesday. If you have not scheduled a conference with your child's teacher, now is the time! Educating a child requires a partnership between the school and the family. Thurgood Marshall teachers try to find many ways to communicate regularly with parents through emails, newsletters and blogs. Fall conferences are one of the few times that

teachers have the opportunity to sit with parents and discuss their child's learning. We value this time with you, as it allows us to share work samples and insights about your child's learning –academic and social!

Some advance preparation will help you get the most out of your conference:

- Ask your child whether there is anything s/he would like you to discuss with the teacher. This may give you insight into academic or social challenges.
- Jot down questions or topics you want to address at the conference.
- Remember that our conferences are tightly scheduled. Plan to arrive a minute or two early and finish at the end of your allotted time. If you run out of time, ask the teacher when you might be able to speak again.
- Share observations about what is going well for your child at school, things that especially interest your child, and appreciations about the teacher.
- Remember that a focus of the conference is to share how your child is doing and areas of strength or concern. Be open to suggestions from the teacher and share your thoughts about how your child may best be helped. Teachers are happy to give you ways to support learning at home when they see you are open to this.
- Take notes so you can more easily share with your child, as appropriate.
- If you and the teacher decide on a new approach with your child, plan a time to check back in.

Most importantly: our staff wants to help and work with you. Please let us know how we can support your student.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Fall Dance sponsored by our PTA last Friday! Students were having a wonderful time, the DJ was great, and the decorations were clever. School staff especially appreciated the "Communi-tree," and students and staff have continued to add leaves noting things they are grateful for. As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, I am thankful to be part of the Thurgood Marshall Community. I have enjoyed getting to know you and your children and our hard-working teachers, and feel lucky every day to be here.

Staffing updates:

- Emily Goldner, Room 106 PEACE Academy teacher, will be resigning as of Nov. 28. The position is posted and we will be hiring soon.
- Mindy Huss will return on Dec. 1 to co-teach the Room 113 2nd-graders with Sarah Gese. Thank you to Sarah, who has been full time while Mindy was on maternity leave.

Patience Requested on Advanced Learning Testing Dates

All students whose applications met the Oct. 2 deadline will be scheduled for testing. Please be patient. Parents will be notified by phone or email. Testing takes place throughout November, December, and January.

Many students will be offered the opportunity to test on Saturdays at the John Stanford Center, because of space limitations at school sites. Most K and 1st-grade students will be tested at their school during regular hours, as will all students who cannot participate in Saturday testing.

EVENT CALENDAR

Fri., Nov. 21

Annual Fund *Friends & Family* form due

Mon.-Fri., Nov. 24 – 28

No school all week: Parent/teacher conferences and Thanksgiving holiday



Mon.-Fri., Dec. 1-Dec. 5

Thurgood Marshall Book Fair!
9 am-4:30 pm each day in the Library



Fri., Dec. 5

Washington Middle School Information Night
6:30-8 pm at Washington Middle School

Thurs., Dec. 11

Principal Coffee with special guest
Interim Superintendent Dr. Larry Nyland
9:15-10 am in Library



Thurs., Dec. 11 & Fri., Dec. 12

Washington Middle School Tours
7:50-9:15 am

LOOKING AHEAD

Mon., Dec. 22 – Fri., Jan. 2

Winter Break—No School



Sat., Jan 24, 2015

Pancake Breakfast

TUTU'S PANTRY

Nov. 17: 4th-Grade Donations

Dec. 1: 5th-Grade Donations



Questions? Contact Tutu's Pantry Coordinators Kim Enochs at kimenochs@comcast.net or 206-604-1202 or Maggie Trapp at maggietrapp@yahoo.com or 206-399-8320.

Assistant Principal Update

Principal Katie May has announced that the search for a new Assistant Principal will be pushed back to springtime, when there will be a larger pool of applicants. New Interim Assistant Principal **BiHoa Caldwell** will be able to serve until early February.

Ms. Caldwell was a Principal at Aki Kurose and other Seattle middle schools for more than 20 years until retiring. She has recently



taken on temporary positions for Seattle Public Schools, including Interim Principal at TOPS K-8 (2011-12), Interim Executive Director for Special Education

(2012-13), Interim Director of Employee Relations (2013) and Construction Principal for the Meany Middle School Design Advisory Team (2013-2014).

Ms. Caldwell will be the contact person for grades K, 2 and 3.

\$24K for Art Project on TM Campus



A \$24,300 grant from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods will support creation of an outdoor artwork at our school to commemorate Thurgood Marshall's legacy. The plans include a **Thurgood Marshall Day community celebration** in February to help gather ideas for the artwork, which will be installed this summer in the grassy area next to MLK Way. Thurgood

Marshall PTA will help engage the community and organize events. A local youth art organization, Coyote Central, will lead the process, and engage middle-school students as the primary artists. If you're interested in getting involved or have ideas, email pta@tmlink.org.

Girls on the Run Needs Coaches...

A Girls on the Run (GOTR) program is being proposed at Thurgood Marshall, but requires a minimum of two volunteer coaches! GOTR is a **fun, non-competitive program** that uses the power of running to educate and prepare girls in grades 3-5 for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living. Participants run and play active games, talk about important issues, eat snacks and learn how to celebrate being a girl. The program runs after school for 11 weeks, on Mondays and Wednesdays from March to May.



Coaches do not need to be runners! Training will be provided. If you are interested, please contact Brindy Bundesmann at brindylee@comcast.net before Dec. 1. More info about GOTR can be found at www.girlsontherun.org.

And Speaking of Coaching ...



Thurgood Marshall's **Ultimate Frisbee** is also in need of coaches for the upcoming spring season. Ultimate is a unique and fun co-ed sport for all levels of players in grades 3-5. Coach Baird Johnson is returning this year, but needs other coaches and assistant coaches. Must be able to

attend Tuesday/Thursday practices after school and Saturday games.

Don't know the rules? Never played? Doesn't matter. Only enthusiasm, and most of all "spirit," count! Mail coach Baird for more info: baird.m.johnson@gmail.com.

Great Turnout at Fall Dance

A big shout out to the members of the **planning committee** for the Fall Dance, which attracted hundreds of festive TM parents and students to the Gym/Cafeteria on Friday. It helps to have professional decorators, caterers and event planners. Chuck Ely and Kimberlee Barber were in charge of the wonderful hand-made decor. Kristen Cole used her expertise as a professional caterer to whip the potluck into shape and supplied the surprise hot dogs. Shyla Wilcynski shared wisdom she'd gleaned as last year's chair and made sure this year's event was well advertised with signs, posters and backpack mail.

Thank you also to everyone who brought food, and all the volunteers who signed up or just showed up to lend their efforts. And most of all, thanks to Dance Chair **Traci Adair** for taking on the big job of organizing and encouraging!

Helping Keep Kids Safe on the Internet

Do you have concerns about your child being safe on the Internet? Because of limited computer access and lab time, Thurgood Marshall Counselor Meghan Kaloper is encouraging families to take their own steps to protect their children.



One resource useful for children in grades 3-5 is "Think Before You Link," provided by Intel, the computer company. It offers free, interactive, self-paced lessons in a game-like setting. Kids learn **important lessons about privacy settings, computer safety**, and about how talking with a stranger online is just as dangerous as talking to a stranger in person. Visit www.thinkbeforeyoulinkinschool.com/.

Volunteer for Book Fair and More...

Here are some available volunteer positions:

- **Office Help:** Ms. Patu could use some help in the front office if anyone has time to stop by.
- **Scholastic Book Fair:** Ten to twelve volunteers are needed for two-hour shifts between 9:30 and 4:30 daily **Dec. 1-5**. Contact Karen Sampson Liu at rastima22@yahoo.com. **URGENT!**
- **Pancake Breakfast Chair:** Plan and execute this all-school event on **Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015**. Work with volunteers who can assist with procurement, cooking, serving, and cleanup. A written job description and task list is available.
- **Shoe Drive Volunteers:** Help support the Nordstrom-sponsored shoe drive! We are looking for 5-10 volunteers to help students try shoes on and make sure they fit. We are hoping to receive the shoes early the first week of December (Dec. 1, 2, or 3) and need help from 9:30-11:15 am and 2-3 pm. Please email Kim Enochs at kimenochs@comcast.net if you can help. Thank you!



For more information, or more opportunities, go to www.tmlink.org/info/volunteering or contact Volunteer Coordinator Jen Ellis at jenniferellis.206@gmail.com or (206) 276-4982.

Tutu's Pantry Supports over 30 Students

Thank you, TM families, for your wonderful support of Tutu's Pantry! Our big red donation bins were positively **overflowing after last Friday's Fall Dance**. It is amazing to see such support from the community. The Fall Dance donations, along with all your grade-level weekly donations, are helping to fill backpacks of nutritious food each and every week for **over 30 of our students**. Thank you, Thurgood Marshall!



TM Briefs

Enrichment classes ending soon—if your child is in Enrichment, and you are not sure when their last class is, check the online catalog: www.bit.ly/Enrich2014Fall
Due to instructor makeup classes, a few classes run longer than others: Japanese class ends **Tues., Dec. 9** and the new Art class ends **Fri., Dec. 12**.

Spirit Wear Coming Home This Week—If you ordered school t-shirts or hoodies in October, your items will be sent home with kids by the end of this week. A big thank-you to PTA volunteer Karen Pinkard for coordinating this year. Questions? Email pta@tmlink.org.

THURGOOD MARSHALL BOOK FAIR

9:30 AM-4:30 PM • DEC. 1-5

 Brought to you by Scholastic Book Fairs

For one week each school year, we turn our much-loved Library into an exciting, kid-sized bookstore. Children can shop for books – and popular tchotchkes like bookmarks and erasers – during designated class times and recess. Family members are also welcome to visit; it’s a great place for holiday gift shopping.

Cash, checks and most major credit cards accepted. Please secure money sent to school with students in a coin purse or wallet (zip-top plastic bags also work well).

3 Things You Should Know about the Book Fair

1. Scholastic offers **profits from the Fair in either cash or books**. That helps us donate books to families without the resources to participate in the sale.
2. The Fair provides **40% of the library’s operating budget** for the school year. With the voracious readers we have at TM, the library’s collection is constantly being updated.
3. **Parents can purchase books to donate to classrooms**. The “Wish Well” has titles that teachers have asked to add to their classroom collections. Our goal is to add at least one new book to each collection.

3 Ways to Participate in the Book Fair

1. **Donate your time**. Volunteers needed to set up and run the bookstore. Shoppers are extremely cute.
2. **Donate your spare change**. Our “change exchange” near the cash register has saved many shoppers who learn about sales tax at the Fair.
3. **Shop!** Our bookstore is open Dec. 1-5 from 9:30 am-4:30 pm or shop **online** at bookfairs.Scholastic.com/homepage/thurgoodmarshallschool1 (from 11/26-12/5) Use cash, checks or major credit cards.

Please contact Karen Sampson Liu (email: rastima22@yahoo.com) if you would like to participate in the Book Fair.