

# PUP PRESS

Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

DECEMBER 4, 2014

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 13



**Principal  
Katie May**

## HOW WE USE TECHNOLOGY AT TM

Technology is an important part of 21st century learning. We incorporate technology use into our program for a number of reasons: to increase student motivation; to extend projects by adding video, sound, and new formats; and to allow students with special needs to be able to participate in ways they couldn't without technology. The most important reason is not to teach students to use a new app or to make a PowerPoint presentation, but to open the world up to our students and allow them to experience things that they couldn't otherwise. A recent example: for Veterans Day, Ms. Sheridan's 1st-grade class Skyped with her brother, who is serving in the army, to let them learn a bit more about military service.

Of course, there are some constraints around technology use. In addition to one or two student computers in each classroom, we have a computer lab that can accommodate a class at a time and two iPad carts that allow another two classes at a time access to the Internet, word processing or learning applications. When a teacher reserves computer time, he or she is thoughtful about the activity the class will be engaging in because time is limited. In addition, balance is important. We want students to be moving, playing, and engaging in hands-on learning, in addition to time spent in front of a screen. We are mindful of what is developmentally appropriate for our students at each grade level.

*Here are some highlights of how technology is being used by our students:*

Students use **Dreambox** in the lab to practice math skills. They use **iRead** in the lab and as a classroom literacy center to develop their reading skills. Students read **Tumblebooks** on the computer, and use **iPads** to practice phonics skills and read eBooks.

Some teachers use **YouTube** as a resource for students to hear other people modeling reading aloud or to show short clips to illustrate concepts they are covering in a lesson. Our teachers use their **document cameras, presentation stations and projectors** every day as they project a read-aloud book, display and discuss student work, access digital EnVision math lessons with their class, or show brief videos or other online visuals to illustrate concepts being studied in science and social studies.

Students use **iPads** to create videos – we have enjoyed some of these in our Friday Assemblies. Older students also use **Xtramath** to practice their facts, use iPads to research topics and create **Prezis** to share what they are learning. In the library, students can access the twelve student computers to “create” at recess – using **Paint.net, Word, Scratch, and Inspiration**.

In addition, librarian Merilee Hudson teaches all 3rd-grade students basic Microsoft Word skills. She also teaches students about digital safety, including how to choose appropriate websites when searching topics on the internet. Many of these resources are available at home, too. If you need login information, please contact your child's teacher.

If you are interested in learning more about educational technology topics, here are a few resources:

[www.commonsemmedia.org/](http://www.commonsemmedia.org/)

Parent resources, including movie and video game recommendations

[www.thinkbeforeyoulinkinschool.com/](http://www.thinkbeforeyoulinkinschool.com/)

Digital Safety Program for parents, teachers and children

[www.pbs.org/parents/childrenandmedia/](http://www.pbs.org/parents/childrenandmedia/)

PBS Parents

[www.netsmartz.org/Parents](http://www.netsmartz.org/Parents)

Information for parents, teachers, and children

[www.k12.wa.us/EdTech/Standards/default.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/EdTech/Standards/default.aspx)

Common Core Standards in Educational Technology

## Hear Interim Superintendent at Coffee with Principal on Thurs., Dec. 11

Bring your questions for Interim Superintendent Dr. Larry Nyland to a special Coffee with Principal Katie May 9:15-10 am next Thursday (Dec. 11) in the Library. Dr. Nyland, whom the School Board is considering for the permanent job, was State Superintendent of the Year in 2006 while at the Marysville School District. He came out of retirement on Aug. 1 to take on the Seattle role after former Superintendent José Banda left for a post in California. Dr. Nyland is a product of Seattle schools, including Roosevelt High.



## EVENT CALENDAR

**Fri. Dec. 5**

LAST DAY of Book Fair!  
9:30 until noon in the Library



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

**Mon., Dec. 22 – Fri., Jan. 2**

Winter Break—No School



## LOOKING AHEAD

**Sat., Jan 24, 2015**

Pancake Breakfast

**Thurs., Jan 29, 2015**

Choir Concert in Cafeteria

## TUTU'S PANTRY

**Dec. 1:** 5th-Grade Donations

**Dec. 8:** PEACE/Kindergarten Donations

**Dec. 15:** 1st-Grade Donations

**Jan 5:** 2nd-Grade Donations

**Jan 12:** 3rd-Grade Donations

**Jan 20:** 4th-Grade Donations



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

## TM Briefs

**Chess Club Wins Third Place!**

Congratulations to the TM Chess Club for winning **third place** in the Grades 2-4 Team category of the Chessmates Fall Kick-off tournament on Nov. 22. Participating Chess Club players were: **Graham Cobden, Kyle Cobden, Darien Cole, Cameron Kono, and Kallen Young**. Graham, Kyle, and Kallen qualified for the Washington State Chess Championship in Spokane on April 25, 2015. **Go Chess Bull Pups!**



**Book Fair is only open UNTIL noon** on

Friday. Books can be purchased online through Friday at [www.bit.ly/TMbkfair14](http://www.bit.ly/TMbkfair14)

It's the **last week for most Enrichment**

**classes**; please check the catalog for details. Exceptions: Friday Creative Arts & Crafts (12/12), Japanese (12/9), Spanish (12/15), and Karate (12/17).

## Annual Fund Corner – It's Annual Giving Time!

The PTA kicked off a Winter Challenge Match in honor of **#GivingTuesday**, a national day of giving. If we can raise \$10,000 in donations, several families will **match the funds** and contribute another \$10,000. Every gift—**of any size**—made in December will count toward this challenge. Send your gift to school or donate online at [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org). **Thank You, Donors!**

In November we reached an important milestone: **Over 100 TM families** have contributed to the Annual Giving Fund so far! Donations have ranged from \$5 to \$5,000, and **EVERY GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!**

### Your Dollars at Work

Here are a few examples of how the Annual Giving Fund impacted our school, staff and students this fall:

- The PTA completed the second phase of a two-year capital project to **ceiling mount the computer-linked overhead video projectors** in every classroom just in time for the first day of school.
- A PTA Opportunity Fund Grant helped launch the Keeping it R.E.A.L. program (Resilient, Empathetic, Accountable, Lifelong Learner), funding **banners and wristbands** for every student.
- Fifteen teachers and specialists used Classroom Grants to purchase **books, art supplies, math kits and supplies** to support classroom learning.
- School counselor Meghan Kaloper, whose salary is fully funded by the Annual Giving Fund, trained over sixty of our fourth- and fifth-graders to serve as **conflict mediators** and **recess mentors** to help other students solve problems in a positive and respectful way.

### Donation Jar

Check out the new Bull Pup Donation Jar on the front hall bulletin board. Can your student figure out how much each coin represents?



## Announcing the Reflections Art Finalists

The **Reflections Art competition finalists** have been selected! 50 entries were submitted for the Reflections art contest and three judges scored each art piece. Based on the scores, 12 pieces (the most permitted) were chosen to advance to the the Seattle PTA Council level. These pieces are listed below; congratulations to all the entering students for their hard work!

### Photography:

- Sofia Irene Slack "More Dogs, Fall Colors, and Cute Animals" (Ms. Jensen)

### Primary Visual Arts (K-2):

- Kamren Williams "No Littering" (Ms. Kohls)
- Sameeksha Singh "Lovely Circus" (Ms. Naze)
- Lena Inez Walton "No Automobile Pollution" (Ms. Gese)
- Scarlett Kenyon Baebler "Bullying" (Ms. Kohls)
- Natalie Lucia Brown "Recycling" (Ms. Gese)

### Intermediate Visual Arts (3-5):

- Elise Niomi Meriam Farstad "The Core of Earth's Heart" (Mr. Paul)
- Evelyn Dibuz "Before / After" (Ms. Kingsbury)
- Laura Hwang "No Pollution" (Ms. MacDonald)
- Avery Rosnick "Broken" (Ms. Kierstead)
- Malachi Wayman "No Gun Territory" (Ms. Egelhoff)
- Virginia Buckley "Nature Day" (Ms. Serpe)

Special thanks to organizers Jen Ellis and Jen Hobbs and to the competition judges: Jason Bourguignon (neighborhood artist), Danielle Troy (photographer & middle school art teacher), and Tim Marsden (school neighbor and former Reflections Chair at Orca).

## Want to Help with Staff Hiring?

Several parents have asked how they can be certified to assist in staff hiring in Seattle Public Schools. Interested volunteers need to attend a single, free one-hour training session offered by the school district. The training only needs to be completed once during a volunteer's tenure in the district. Details on upcoming sessions can be found at [www.bit.ly/sps-int-14](http://www.bit.ly/sps-int-14).

## Holiday Shopping at Amazon

Use Amazon for your holiday shopping? Use our new **Amazon link** on [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org) to benefit Thurgood Marshall!

## New Teacher Profiles—By Thurgood Marshall Students!

Some Student Council members were happy to interview our new teachers so we can learn more about them.

### Ms. Bridgette Carney, 1st-grade teacher, by Lucie – 4th Grade

**What is your favorite thing about Thurgood Marshall or your class?** *Watching children learn and grow every day, and to see them get excited about learning.*

**What is unusual about your childhood or where you grew up?** *I didn't grow up in a city, but a small town, where my parents let me ride my bike almost everywhere without having to worry about my safety.*

**What are your interests and hobbies now and when you were a kid?** *Now: I like bird watching, hiking and spending time with my children. As a kid: I played a lot of sports including basketball, softball and long distance running.*

**(Student question) What do you like the most to teach your class?** *Literacy! I am a reading specialist. I love children's literacy and all forms of art and picture books.*

### Ms. Lacey Sheridan, 1/2 teacher, by Layth – 5th Grade

**What is your favorite thing about Thurgood Marshall or your class?** *What I like best about Thurgood Marshall is probably the R.E.A.L. sign. What I like about my class is it's a first and second grade mix and they're kind and they're hard workers.*

**What is unusual about your childhood or where you grew up?** *I have a brother and sister who are twins and I grew up around horses in Sacramento, California.*

**What are your interests and hobbies now and when you were a kid?** *When I was a kid I was really interested in fairies, garden fairies, all kinds of fairies! Now I find that I like yoga, hiking and kittens.*

**(Student question) What made you decide to come to TM?** *Thurgood Marshall interviewed me and I thought it would be a nice place to work. I liked the Wheel of Choice and R.E.A.L., so I'm glad I came to Thurgood Marshall!*

Watch for more interviews in future issues!

## DRAFT

### Thurgood Marshall PTA General Meeting Minutes

Nov. 18, 2014, 6:30-8:00pm

Attendees (as listed on sign-in sheets): Tasha Irvine, Casey Sommers, Katie May, Cliff Meyer, Jen Ellis, Jeanne Hoppe, Stacey Joanavic, Angie Jenkins, Lauri Nakamoto, Karen Pinkard, Laura Peterson, Victor Yagi, , Trinia Washington, Patty Pearson, Natalie Zheng, Julia Hibarger, Percy Allen, Molly Harris, Lisa Schaible, Mellissa S. Torres, Susan Morrison, Martin Niset, Carolyn Pugh, Brindy Bundesmann, Mynique Adams, Merilee Hudson, Meghan Kaloper

#### **Welcome & Upcoming Calendar -- Casey Sommers & Tasha Irvine, Co-Presidents**

Casey began the meeting by giving an overview of the upcoming PTA events listed at the bottom of the Agenda. Thurgood Marshall hosted an excellent CPPS Parent Training Session on November 8th for 23 parents across all programs and grade levels. The group will meet again in December to continue to work on their action plans, and interested parents can still join the group by contacting the PTA.

We applied for and received a grant from the Dept. of Neighborhoods for a community art project along the MLK road east of the YMCA building. Coyote Central will be making the art installation and there will be a chance for community input in the future.

The September 9, 2014 general meeting minutes were approved. The PTA also approved changes to our PTA Standing Rules. These changes include getting a business license and requiring a reserve fund.

#### **Volunteer & Reflections Art Contest Updates -- Jen Ellis, Volunteer Coordinator**

Jen noted that current volunteer needs include: 1) Book Fair volunteers during the first week of December, 2) Pancake Breakfast Chair, and 3) Enrichment Assistant. Contact Jen to get involved.

Also, Jen noted that we had a very successful Reflections Art Contest this year. Fifty students submitted entries, and a panel of judges selected 12 to go to the next level of the competition.

#### **Guest Speaker -- Mynique Adams, Douglass-Truth Public Library**

Mynique gave a wealth of information on how the Public Library can help us. These services include: 1) Homework help program, both at the library and via online help, 2) Research -- online resources, including databases, encyclopedia, etc., and 3) Next Five personal resource to help find new books to read. She also spoke and answered questions about the city-wide Global Reading Challenge. She concluded by encouraging us to come and explore the library.

#### **Guest Speaker -- Merilee Hudson, TM Librarian**

Merilee began by introducing herself and noting that she has been a librarian for 15 years. She is very appreciative of the PTA in supporting her salary and the many library programs we have at TM. She sees every TM kid each week. TM has a huge checkout rate. Last year, 28K books were checked out by students. Merilee's goal is to have kids excited about books and have lots of books for them to choose from when they visit. When purchasing books, she's thinking about all 3 programs and meeting everyone's needs. She also likes coordinating author visits, such as the recent visit by Kazu Kibuishi, author of the Amulet series. She recently got a grant from the Rotary to allow us to be able to put 3 free books in every student's hands. She also runs a book exchange to foster trading of books between students. She noted that she relies on volunteers to be able to do all these programs and she is very thankful for all their help. In addition to her library work, Merilee also leads Student Council. She ended by noting that there is an iPhone app for leveling books, Level It Books, that will allow you to determine if books are the right level for your student.

#### **Guest Speaker -- Meghan Kaloper, TM Counselor**

Meghan introduced herself and gave a brief overview of the incredible number of programs/services at TM that she oversees. This is her 3rd year at TM and she has previous experience in middle school and preschool. She provides services in 3 ways: 1) Classroom guidance for every classroom, working on emotion management, mindfulness, empathy, problem solving, learning skills, etc. 2) Small Group Counseling to work on specific areas such as friendship, social skills, divorce support, grief & loss, etc. and 3) Individual Counseling for a much smaller population. Additional programs that she manages include conflict mediators program, recess mentor programs, and Kindness Klub. Her School-Wide Initiatives include Wheel of Choice, Brain in the Hand, Buddy Bench and the Taproot Theatre Anti-bullying Performances. Meghan also works with Team Supports, such as Student Support Team, Data Team, and Teacher Consultation/Collaboration. Last, but not least, she also meets with Families and helps with referrals and other family resources.

A special thanks to Mynique, Merilee, and Meghan for taking time out of their evenings to speak to the PTA!

#### **School Report -- Katie May, Principal**

Katie began by outlining the latest staffing updates. As noted in the Pup Press, Christine Helm has left and been replaced by Bihoa Caldwell as the Asst. Principal. We are in the process of finding a new Asst. Principal, but we're waiting a bit to get a larger applicant pool. In addition, one of our Peace Academy teachers has given notice that she is leaving so we're interviewing for that position.

The TM Arts Team has met and is working on a vision of arts education at TM, which will be made public in the near future.

*(continued on reverse)*

Katie noted that there has been lots of parent interest throughout the district regarding lunch and recess. TM now has 3 lunch sections since we grew a little this year. Lunch is 20 minutes long, and we're doing recess first for the 2nd and 3rd lunch periods. Katie's working with a large group of students on making football fun and safe at recess. She is also working with teachers to try to include more movement in the classroom.

Katie introduced the parent reps on TM's BLT (building leadership team). BLT has responsibility for the CSIP (continuous school improvement plan), teacher professional development plan, and the school budget. She encouraged parents to contact the BLT with concerns or questions. The BLT has recently been discussing the boundary changes for TM starting with the 2015/16 school year, and Katie answered parent questions regarding these changes and the impact on our school's capacity. Lastly, she noted that keyboarding skills will be more important now that the common core tests will require typing. Our school volunteered and has been selected for a pilot typing program.

#### **Treasurer's Report -- Brindy Bundesmann, Treasurer**

Brindy gave a quick update on the budget. We're getting more opportunity grant requests from the teachers, which is great. We've funded new maps and globes for the 4th and 5th grade classrooms. Brindy noted that parents can partner with a teacher to sponsor an opportunity grant that touches a large number of students in the school. She also encouraged parents to go to [tmlink.org](http://tmlink.org) to get to Amazon when you shop.

#### **Fundraising Report -- Stacey Joanovic, Fundraising Co-Chair**

Stacey gave a quick update on the Annual Giving Fund. We had a great October, raising \$12K to get to a total of \$42K overall. We are also a third of our way to our participation goal. If you know of someone that would like to support TM, please fill out a Friends and Family report ASAP.

The meeting was adjourned.



### *A Very Warm Thanksgiving Thank You, from Your PTA*

As we celebrated Thanksgiving last week, we want to take this opportunity to say **thank you to the amazing community of parent volunteers** we have at Thurgood Marshall. Whether it is helping our teachers prepare homework assignments, reshelving books in the library, or picking up after a potluck feast or packing backpacks for Tutu's pantry, this school would not be the same without the **energy of our incredible families**. It is a joy to serve Thurgood Marshall, and we wish you and yours a terrific holiday season.



—Tasha Irvine & Casey Sommers, PTA Co-Presidents

*Here are just some of the many volunteers who have helped out with some ongoing needs and special events this year. There is not space to list all events and helpers, so please watch for more thank yous in future issues. (Please see the Nov. 12 Pup Press for thanks for our recent Fall Dance.)*

**Library Volunteers:** Tanaz Kannan (organizer and volunteer), Melanie Nalbandian, Bridgette Taylor, Cara Holloway, Karen Sampson Liu, Natalie Zheng, Susan Minogue, Tawnya Christiansen, Trinia Washington

**Hearing and Vision Testing:** Melanie Nalbandian (organizer and volunteer, with Nurse Molly), Amy Masterson, Cara Holloway, Chris Hoffer, Erinn McIntyre, Hazel, Jeanne Hansen, Jennifer Ellis, Kimberlee Barber, Laura Peterson, Laurie Milodragovich, Lexie Weil, Mai Nguyen, Marianne Wilson, MaryEllen DiGennaro, Meena Selvakumar, Natalie Zheng, Nicole Trimble, Shyla Wilcynski, Tara Hook, Terrie Hough, Trinia Washington, Vicky Lai, Willemijn de Clercq

**Communications:** Cliff Meyer (chair), Erinn McIntyre and Mellissa Torres (Pup Press printing & distribution), Leigh Mercer (bulletin board), Dana Armstrong (Pup Press editor), Stacy McCann (Pup Press proofreader), Sara Ullman (TMLink.org), Daphne Dejanikus (Class Rep coordination), Jeremy Mazner (SharePoint Email List Guru)

**Tutu's Pantry:** Kim Enochs and Maggie Trapp (organizers), Kimberlee Barber (backpack delivering), Holly Batt (backpack check-in), Noelle de Mesa Mathias (backpack packing and delivering), Katie Egolf (backpack check-in and Thanksgiving bags), Frank Lawler (backpack packing), Betina Simmons (backpack check-in), Suzanne Sowinska (Franz bread delivery)

**Enrichment:** Sudeshna Sen    **Family Directory:** Cara Holloway    **Box Tops:** Ann McCurdy    **T-shirts:** Karen Pinkard

If you know someone you'd like to have recognized, please mail [pup-press@mail.com](mailto:pup-press@mail.com). Apologies if we have missed your name.