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**Principal
Katie May**

RAISING READERS AND WRITERS

I am writing to you this week from New York, where I am attending a conference at Columbia Teachers College Reading and Writing Project (TCRWP). Thurgood Marshall teachers – and many teachers at other elementary and middle schools in our district and around the world – use the **Readers and Writers Workshop** model to teach literacy skills. If you are not familiar with this model, here is an overview in the TCRWP's own words:

*Project leaders work school-wide to help all students become powerful and independent readers and writers. In **writing workshops**, students learn to observe their lives and the world around them, and to collect, draft, revise, edit and publish well-crafted narrative and expository texts. They learn to use their writing skills to write about reading and to write within every discipline.*

*In **reading workshops**, students are explicitly taught the strategies and habits of proficient readers. They learn to talk, think and write well about their reading, and to live richly literate lives. Meanwhile in social studies and science classrooms, students rely on their literacy skills to synthesize, analyze, question, develop and apply knowledge as they are inducted into the world of academic literacy.*

Exposure to the workshop model produces students who enjoy reading and writing and who realize that they have important things to say. Because the mini-lesson and individual conferencing are central to the process, this model lends itself well to differentiation for students with varied levels of ability. Structures that promote accountability and engagement keep students invested in the process and allow teachers to make formative assessments about student understanding. Evidence of the success of this model is all over the halls of our school in the form of student writing.

Seeking 4th-Grade Parents to Plan 5th-Grade Celebration

Are you a 4th-grade parent who enjoys planning celebrations? We are looking for a team of 4th-grade parents to plan the **5th-Grade Promotion event** this June.

Jobs include being creative with invitations, certificates, and programs. If you're interested in decorations and food, there is a job for you too! The promotion event is **Wednesday, June 10, 4:30-5:30 pm**. We have lots of information from past promotions to help the team get started. Please contact pta@tmlink.org if you can help.



PTA Meeting Next Tuesday

Don't miss the sure-to-be-informative PTA Meeting with guest **Jody McVittie** speaking on **Positive Discipline**. Dr. McVittie is a co-founder of Sound Discipline and co-author of the *Positive Discipline Workbook*. Positive Discipline helps build resilience and defuse power struggles.



The meeting is **Tues., Feb. 24, 6:30-8:30 pm in the Library**. Free child care is offered at the YMCA (elementary school ages only).

Technology Vision Town Hall Events

Want to provide feedback and input into the District's Technology Vision process? Attend a **technology "Town Hall"** next week or on March 2. Go to www.bit.ly/SPSTech15 for locations, schedule and other details. Supervised children's activities will be provided. Translation services available. To submit ideas and comments, mail techvision@seattleschools.org.

EVENT CALENDAR

Mon., Feb. 23

Evening Tour for Prospective Families
See page 2 for details

Mon. Feb. 23-Thurs. Feb. 26 & Mon. March 2

Seattle Public Schools Tech Vision Town Halls
See page 2 for more information

Tues., Feb. 24

PTA Meeting w/Jody McVittie from Positive Discipline, 6:30-8:30 pm in Library



Wed., Feb. 25

Learning Garden Work Party w/Seattle Tilth
3:30 pm to dusk in Garden (west of Cafeteria)

Thurs., Mar. 5

Morning Tour for Prospective Families
8:45-10 am (see page 2 for details)

Mon., Mar. 9

Principal Coffee
9:15 am in Library



Thurs., Mar. 12

Math Night (watch upcoming issues for info)
6:30-8 pm in Cafeteria

TUTU'S PANTRY

Feb. 23: 3rd-Grade Donations

Mar. 2: 4th-Grade Donations

Questions? Contact Kim Enochs at kimenochs@comcast.net/206-604-1202 or Maggie Trapp at maggietrapp@yahoo.com/206-399-8320.



Website to Replace Student Assignment Letters

The District has created an **Assignment Look-Up Tool** on the Seattle Public Schools Admissions website at enrollment.www.seattleschools.org so families can identify their assigned school(s) both for this year and the next one. The tool will be available Feb. 23.

Families will **no longer be mailed a next-year assignment letter** for each student in mid-February. In the past, this extra step helped families transition to the New Student Assignment Plan as enrollment growth boundaries changed and while establishing attendance area schools and choice assignments.

Those **wishing to change their current or assigned school** can do so during Open Enrollment, Feb. 23-March 6. Full instructions on Open Enrollment and school choice can be found on the SPS website at www.bit.ly/Apply-OpenEnrollment or by contacting the Admissions office at (206) 252-0760.

Best Wishes to Judkins Park Café!

Judkins Park Café will be closing its current location on Sun., March 1. The real estate will be used for new homes, and owner Michael McGloin hopes to find a new location.



So many parents and staff know that Judkins Park Café has been a wonderful partner to the school, regularly hosting student art displays and plying our community with coffee and tasty meals. The café will be greatly missed.

Stairway Mural to Be 5th-Grade Legacy Project

It's a tradition at Thurgood Marshall for 5th-graders to create a legacy art project. Previous class gifts include the colorful mural near the lunch room, the brick path from MLK Jr. Way to the school's sidewalk, and the sunflower mosaic beyond the side gate.



"Class of 2013"
brick path project

This year's project is a tile mural in the west stairway; each student will decorate a 4-by-4 inch clay tile. Parents of 5th-graders, please watch for a letter to come home in March, asking \$5-\$10 per family to help pay for supplies. The project team hopes to have students create tiles and have the mural installed by early May.

Spring 2015 Testing Windows

Here are the current test date windows for upcoming student testing. You will be updated as more specific testing schedules are available.

MAP Testing (Grades K-2): May 11–Jun. 12

SBAC Testing (Grades 3-5):

3rd-Grade ELA: March 9–April 23

3rd-Grade Math, 4th- and 5th-Grade ELA & Math: March 9–May 29

Science MSP (Grade 5 only) – May 12 (make-ups May 13-19)

Multicultural Night Thanks

Families who attended Multicultural Night saw performances by kindergartner **Sameeksha Singh**, **Sensei JoAnn's karate group**, **Capoeira Candias**, and the **Franklin H.S. Lion Team**.

A Big Thank You to all the staff and parent volunteers who helped with the planning, set-up and cleanup. Shirley Swarts led the charge along with committee members Sam Egelhoff, Shari Howard-Powell, Katie Humphreys, Amal Jama, Alison Miller, Ian Morgan, Kim Naze, Alex Shaw, Cathy Villeneuve and Beth Zirngible. Thanks also to Merilee Hudson for setting up a multicultural library corner, and to congregants from the Japanese Presbyterian Church for their help.

Friends Interested in HCC or Our School?

Do you have neighbors that are interested in learning about Thurgood Marshall? A friend trying to evaluate the Highly Capable Cohort (HCC) program? Although most families haven't received HCC eligibility letters yet for children who have been tested this year, this is open enrollment season, and we are running information sessions and school tours over the next several weeks. Now is the opportunity to learn about our school with two upcoming events:



Mon., Feb. 23:

- 5:30 pm – Highly Capable Cohort Program info session.
- 6:30 pm – Tour (classroom observation not available).
- 7-7:30 pm – General information session.

Thurs., March 5, 8:45-10 am – Info session, followed by tour.

No RSVP is needed, but you must check in at the Main Office upon arrival. Please email pta@tmlink.org if a family member who doesn't speak English needs a tour in Spanish, Vietnamese or other languages. We will do our best to accommodate you.

Read Across America Coming to School

The week of March 2, Thurgood Marshall will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday and participating in **Read Across America Day**. All students will receive a **new book**, thanks to the generous donations of the **Emerald City Rotary**. The book distribution will be a part of their library time that week.



On March 2, at 2:30 pm, the entire school will **"drop everything" and read!** Some classrooms are inviting special guests to read aloud to them and other activities that emphasize the fun and importance of reading. **Martha Brockenbrough**, author and parent, will be visiting with our **1st- and 2nd-grade classes** to discuss being an author and her books, *Finding Bigfoot* and *The Dinosaur Tooth Fairy*.

TM BRIEFS

- **The Thurgood Marshall Learning Garden** needs a little love to prepare it for the growing season. Come join Seattle Tilth garden educators and volunteers in an afternoon of work in the garden from 3:30 pm to dusk Wed., Feb. 25. No tools or knowledge needed, just bring a water bottle and sturdy shoes. Anyone over four years old welcome! *Questions?* Call Molly at 206-227-2130.
- **Do not leave your car unattended** in the drop-off zone (marked by a red curb). This blocks other parents who are trying to drop off their students, and backs up traffic.
- **Have some great photos** of the school year to share in the Yearbook? Upload them to www.dbinbox.com/Thurgood_Marshall_Yearbook
- **Sponge School**, which offers the TM Enrichment Program's language classes, will run weeklong camps in Spanish, Mandarin and Japanese June 22-July 24. Info at www.spongeschool.com/sign-up/summer-camp/.