

PUP PRESS

Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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Principal
Katie May

PREPARING FOR THE SBAC

SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) Testing will begin next week for 3rd- through 5th-grade students. This test gives us a picture of how well our students are performing with respect to Common Core State Standards. We will use this information to plan for individual students and also to make curricular decisions. This test has a new format that you can learn more about at: smarterbalanced.org. On this page, you will also find a video with more information, access to practice tests, and answers to commonly asked questions.

Teachers have been working with students on practice tests and items similar to what they will receive on the actual test. Familiarity with the format helps students feel comfortable with the test, improving their performance.

How you can help at home:

- **Talk to your child about the SBAC.** Let them know that you know they have been working hard to prepare and that you have confidence in their ability. Talk to them about the importance of trying their best so the test shows what they know.
- **Relax and remain positive.** When children are overly anxious about their performance, they do not perform as well.
- Make sure your child is getting **plenty of rest.**
- Have your child eat a **healthy breakfast** each morning. Protein-rich snacks promote thinking throughout the day.
- Make sure your child **attends school regularly and is on time** to maximize his or her learning.
- Please be sure your child is **at school each day of testing.** If your child is sick, please keep him or her home and we will arrange a make-up session.
- If you know in advance that you will miss any portion of the testing, please tell your child’s teacher right away so we can arrange **alternative test dates.**

See the *SBAC Testing Schedule* section on the right for your child’s testing dates.

Progress Reports This Week

Elementary Progress Reports will be sent home with your child tomorrow (Friday). Math Placement Recommendations for our 5th-grade students will be included with their Progress Reports.



MARCH MATCH-NESS

YOU DELIVERED IN THE CLUTCH!

Our spring challenge was a Slam Dunk!

THANK YOU to the **80 families** who contributed in March, including new donors, 2nd- and 3rd-time donors, and friends and relatives of our students.

And here’s what’s really amazing: We need **less than \$1,000** to reach our **2014-15 goal** for the Annual Giving Fund!

Can you help? Learn more on page 2.

P.S. If **27 more families** make a first-time donation – just 1 or 2 per classroom – we can reach **50% participation.** That would really give us a **home court advantage!**

EVENT CALENDAR

Sat., April 4

Meet School Board Director Stephan Blanford
10-11:30 am at Douglass Truth Library Branch

Mon., April 6

Special Ed Regional Meeting, Central Region
6-7 pm, Washington Middle School Lunchroom

Tues., April 7

PTA Board Meeting (open to all parents)
6:30-8 pm in Library

Thurs., April 9

EXTENDED deadline for **Yearbook Forms!**

Mon., April 13-Fri., April 17

Spring Break: NO SCHOOL



Friday, April 24 is Bingo Night!

TUTU'S PANTRY

THIS WEEK'S NEED: CANNED CORN



April 6-10: 3rd-Grade Donations

Send in Your Yearbook Content!

We’re building the yearbook right now! Send any photos of school events ASAP:

www.dbinbox.com/Thurgood_Marshall_Yearbook

We have extended the deadline for order forms to **Thursday, April 9**; our publisher WILL NOT print extra copies for later sale.

Book Exchange Next Week

Next week, **April 6-10**, the Library will host a book exchange during Library time. Please have students bring in old, gently used books to trade. This is a fun and inexpensive way to stock up on books to read during Spring Break. Please, no picture books!

SBAC Testing Schedule

The number of days of testing varies by grade. **Dates in bold** indicates a change from the letter sent home earlier this month.

- Mrs. Gomez: April **6**, 7, 8, 9, May 19, 20, 26, 27
- Mrs. Glass: April **6**, 7, 21, 22, May 19, 20, 21, 22
- Ms. Serpe: April **8**, 9, 21, 22, May 19, 20, 21, 22
- Ms. Jensen: April **6**, 7, 8, 9, May 12, 13, 14, 15
- Ms. Kingsbury: April **6**, 7, 8, 9, May 12, 13, **26**, 27
- Ms. Miller: May 12, 13, 14, 15, May 19, 20, 21, 22
- Mrs. MacDonald: May 12, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 26, 27
- Mr. Miller: May 12, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 26, 27
- Mr. Paul: April 29, 30, May 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 26, 27
- Mrs. Kierstead: April 29, 30, May 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 26, 27
- Mrs. von Beck: April 29, 30, May 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 26, 27
- Mrs. Egelhoff: May 5, 6, 12, 14, 15, May 21, 22, 26, 27

FREE Gardening Class

Places are still available in the **free** Wednesday afternoon Gardening Enrichment class; for details, see: www.tmlink.org/?p=2467.

We're So Close to Our Goal for the Year!

WOW! We've received "March Match-ness" contributions from **80 families, including new donors, 2nd- and 3rd-time donors, and friends and relatives** of our students. Your inspiring generosity helped us meet our \$12,500 challenge and qualify for matching funds from several TM families.

We are less than \$1,000 away from our 2014-15 goal of \$130,000. If just **27 more** families—just 1 or 2 per classroom—make a first-time donation, of any amount, we can reach our participation goal of 50%.

It's not too late. Your gift of any amount makes a difference to the PTA-funded programs that help all our students.

Consider what it costs for the PTA to support one student:

- \$25 pays for one month,
- \$100 pays for four months,
- \$250 pays for one school year, and
- \$500 pays for one school year of PTA support for TWO students



Can your family help in this final push to meet our 2014-2015 goals? Please make your gift today!

Donate by credit card or PayPal at www.tmlink.org (click the red "Donate Now" button) or by check payable to Thurgood Marshall PTA – send to school with your child or bring to the office.

P.S. - Every dollar received above \$130,000 will help us reach next year's Annual Giving Fund goal!

Open PTA Positions for 2015-16

- Co-President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Annual Giving Fund/
Promotions Co-Chair
- Communications Co-Chair
- Events Chair
- Pup Press Editor
- Directory Editor
and more!

To learn more, attend our next PTA Board meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 6:30-8 pm in the Library, or contact Jen Ellis at jenniferellis.206@gmail.com.

'Mr. G' is Senior Corps Gift to Our School

Sam Gilliam is a federal Senior Corps participant (see www.getinvolved.gov). Interview by student Teja Zeribi.



What is your favorite thing about helping students at Thurgood Marshall? I like seeing them learn and seeing the light in their eyes when they figure out something they've been struggling with.

What is unusual about your childhood or how (or where) you grew up? I was born in

Columbia, South Carolina. We were very poor and I was a poor student. My highest grade was a "C." No one knew I needed glasses so I couldn't see what the teacher was writing. Once I got glasses and I moved to North Carolina, my grades shot up.

What are your interests and hobbies? What were they when you were a kid? I like science and music of all kinds (NOT gangster rap or elevator music). As a kid, I liked science and music of all kinds.

What famous person would you like to have dinner with? Thurgood Marshall. Things that he did changed the world. I can remember what life was like before him and his life helped us so much.

Prizes Needed for Bingo Night

Plans for **Family Bingo Night** on **Friday, April 24** are shaping up, but we need your help! Drop off **new or gently used items** at the front office to be used for prizes, or sign up to volunteer: www.bit.ly/Bingo2015atTM



Games begin at 6pm.

April 6 meeting on Changes to Special Ed

The District is holding a Central Region meeting about changes in Special Education, 6-7 pm on April 6 at Washington Middle School. **Staff to be present include** Wyeth Jessee, the Executive Director of Special Education; Michaela Clancy, Director of Special Education; Kari Hanson, Director of School Based Special Education Services; the Regional Supervisor for our area; and the Special Education Ombudsperson. **There will be time for questions and comments.** Need more info? Contact Margo Siegenthaler at 206-252-0794 or masiegenthaler@seattleschools.org.

Tell SPS Your Opinion on School Start Times

SPS is working to engage the community and solicit feedback on important topics and decisions, such as whether to change **bell times for students** at the start and end of the school day.

A new program called **Neighbor-to-Neighbor** is to help facilitate discussions on topics such as bell time changes, and collect your thoughts and feedback. For more information, please visit neighbortoneighbor.www.seattleschools.org

Also, in the next few weeks, a survey on bell-time changes will be distributed. More at: belltimes.www.seattleschools.org

The Tuesday morning **Parenting Book Discussion Group** beginning April 21 is still looking for members; to join or get more information, e-mail Ms. Kaloper: mrharris@seattleschools.org

Route #4 To Be Suspended By Metro

Seattle Metro will **suspend Bus Route #4** service in the Thurgood Marshall area (when 23rd Avenue corridor improvements begin) starting in April. For a map, see: www.bit.ly/23rdAveImpacts

A group of Judkins Park neighbors are **circulating a petition** asking Metro to rethink this plan. To see the "Save Route 4" petition, visit this page on Change.org: www.bitly.com/1a353t4

Help with Meany Middle School Planning

Did you know that you can help plan the Central Region's new middle school? The Meany building, adjacent to Miller Community Center, will be renovated and re-open in September 2017.

Eventually it will house up to 850 students as the default school for ALL students in Grades 6-8 who live within the reference areas of Montlake, Stevens, Lowell, McGilvra, Madrona, Leschi and John Muir elementary schools. This means that many current 4th- and 5th-graders will start at Washington Middle School but switch to Meany in 2017-18. (HCC students will remain at WMS, and Madrona & TOPS K-8 will remain as "option" middle schools.)

Parents and community members are working together to develop ideas for the academic focus and direction of the future Meany. To learn more, contact Jennifer Emrich (Montlake & Garfield parent) at jen.emrich@comcast.net.