SPRING UPDATES: PLANNING AHEAD

This week, I wanted to keep you abreast of our planning and preparation for next year.

Technology: Thanks to our PTA-funded Opportunity Grant, we have been working this past month with Jim Dunnigan, a technology consultant. Jim met with nearly every staff member and our PTA Board, and reviewed how we currently use technology on our campus. The result of this work was a Technology Readiness Profile. This profile will help guide us in making decisions as we create a vision of technology for Thurgood Marshall. I hope you will join us for the Principal Coffee this month on April 30 at 9:15 am when Jim Dunnigan shares his technology findings with our parent community.

Student Growth for 2015-16: As I have previously shared, we are predicted to grow from our current 520 students to 560 next year, adding a 2nd-grade General Education class and a 4th-Grade HCC class. I met with our District facilities representative this week to discuss where these extra students will go! It looks like we will be able to add another portable close to our current portable. This will cause us to shift our kindergarten play area slightly, but should otherwise have minimal impact on our campus.

Assistant Principal Hiring: Many of you have asked about our timeline for hiring a permanent Assistant Principal. Last week the District let me know that they are currently placing administrators who have requested transfers and the hiring pool should be opened in the next couple weeks.

Friday Assembly: This week’s assembly is brought to us by the Hope Heart Institute. The program will focus on fitness and nutrition. In addition, a special surprise will be unveiled this week for our school community! As always, we love to have families join us.

Next week, school will be closed for Spring Break, April 13-17. We will see you back at Thurgood Marshall on Monday, April 20. While we are in our final trimester of the year, we still have much important learning left to do. Please be sure your child arrives at school on time each day, well-rested and ready to learn!

TM 5th-Grader Throws Out First Pitch at Mariners Game

When 5th-grader Malachi Wayman plays for his Seattle Central Little League team, the New York Black Yankees, there might be 25 fans on hand. Last night, 25,000 people saw him throw the ceremonial first pitch at Safeco Field just before the Mariners faced the Los Angeles Angels. Ms player Rickie Weeks caught the pitch – said to be a strike – watched by Commissioner of Baseball Rob Manfred, who had asked the Mariners to pick a Little Leaguer for the honor. The Ms called Seattle Central, and the League chose Malachi in honor of his family’s commitment to SCLL, including the many hours of volunteer time proud dad Matt Wayman has devoted as a coach.

Matt noted, “Malachi has shown interest in baseball since he was old enough to pick up a bat. It was second nature to him, as his grandfather played three years in the minors.”

Seattle Central (www.seattlelittleleague.org) serves nearly 300 players, including other TM students. SCLL baseball team names are taken from the old Negro Leagues (roughly 1890s-1940s), both as a celebration of African-American traditions in baseball and reminder of the impact of discrimination. Girls’ softball teams are named in honor of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, which operated 1943-54.

Prizes Needed for Bingo Night

Just a few more weeks before Family Bingo Night! We’ll have pizza and games starting at 6 pm on Friday, April 24, but we still need PRIZES. Help make this night fun by bringing new or gently used items to the front office.

Just a few suggestions for prizes:

- board or card games
- jigsaw puzzles
- arts-and-crafts sets
- unused gift certificates

Interested in volunteering to help at this exciting event? Jobs range from distributing bingo cards to handing out prizes to eager winners. Sign up at www.bit.ly/Bingo2015atTM

CORRECTION: Today’s Bingo flier has an incorrect email address to contact about prizes; correct address is belskifackler@gmail.com

Speaking of the Mariners…

The Seattle Mariners take on the Boston Red Sox next month, on Saturday, May 16, at 6:10 pm, and Thurgood Marshall will have a special section for families and friends to watch the game together!

Watch for a flier to come home after break to learn how you can buy tickets.
Book Discussion Group Expanded

We are still seeking interested parents to take part in the Tuesday morning *Face to Face* book discussion group beginning after Spring Break! In addition, if you want to participate in the book group but the day/time doesn’t work for your schedule, you now have the option to participate remotely on your own time!

Simply follow along with the reading at home and participate in discussions through our private online Facebook group.

Please email Ms. Kaloper at mkharris@seattleschools.org by Monday, April 13 if you wish to participate either a) in person, or b) remotely and she will order the book for you. Thank you!

PTA Volunteering: What’s Involved?

As we seek out new volunteers to fill open slots next year, many parents have asked, “So what’s involved?” Here are the “Cliffs Notes” for some of the roles:

- **Treasurer** – You hold the purse strings! Manage the PTA budget, write the checks, and help school staff take advantage of their PTA funds.

- **Annual Giving Fund Promotions Co-Chair** – Think of fun ways to get our community involved in giving to the PTA. This year we had “March Match-ness!” You help decide what it will be next year!

- **Events Chair** – Be our party czar! Be the go-to consultant for Event Team Leads as they plan our popular events like Fall Dance and Bingo Night.

- **Communications Co-Chair** – Strengthen and inform our community through resources such as Pup Press weekly newsletter, TMlink.org, PTA bulletin board and more. Tasks are split among 3-5 people.

- **Directory Editor** – Playdates, carpooling and homework help can only happen if we can reach each other—create the student directory that makes this possible!

- **Pup Press Editor** – Solicit and edit articles, do simple layout and write headlines to ensure the TM community knows who, what, where, when and why. Can be split into co-editorships.

For more detailed descriptions of the PTA Board positions, see: [www.tmlink.org/info/join-pta-board](http://www.tmlink.org/info/join-pta-board)

For information on other available positions (like Box Tops Coordinator or Class Rep) contact Jen Ellis at jenniferellis.206@gmail.com

Survey for 2016 Capital Levy

Seattle Public Schools’ Buildings, Technology and Athletics/Academics (BTA IV) 2016 Capital Levy will be submitted to Seattle voters in February 2016.

You can provide input regarding possible projects that may be included in this capital levy by filling out this survey before April 30, 2015: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/HZ7VQHM](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HZ7VQHM)

To learn more, or find out additional ways to provide input (including surveys available in other languages such as Spanish, Somali, and Vietnamese), visit the SPS Levy page at [www.bit.ly/SPSLevies16](http://www.bit.ly/SPSLevies16).

For information about previous BTA capital projects, please visit bta.seattleschools.org.

Have an article for Pup Press? Send it to Dana Armstrong at pup-press@mail.com. If your submission is not acknowledged within 24 hours, please call or text 206-419-5523.
Won Anything Lately?

You’ll like the prizes at our all-ages

Bingo Night

Presented by the Thurgood Marshall PTA

FREE!

6-7:30 pm • Friday, April 24
Thurgood Marshall Cafeteria
No child care for pre-schoolers, but all can play!

Did we mention that there will be prizes?

Have a prize to donate? Contact Brenda at belskifackler@gmail.com
Have more fun by volunteering? Sign up at www.bit.ly/Bingo2015atTM