Effective Parent-Teacher Conferences
We are holding our conferences this Saturday, Monday and Tuesday. *If you have not been in touch with your child’s teacher to schedule a conference, 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 – both academic and social!

Here are ways you might prepare to get the most out of your conference time:

- **Ask your child in advance if there is anything s/he would like you to discuss with the teacher.** This may give you insight into things that are hard academically, or social problems that are coming up. It may also give you information about what your child especially likes about school.

- **Make a few notes with your own questions or topics you want to be sure to address at the conference.** You may want to email questions you have to your child’s teacher in advance of the conference.

- **Remember that our conferences are tightly scheduled.** Plan to arrive a minute or two early and be prepared to finish at the end of your allotted time. If there is more that you hope to address, ask the teacher when you might be able to speak again.

- **Share positive observations** about what is going well for your child at school, things your child has been especially interested in, or what you appreciate 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 offer ways to support learning at home, so ask what you can do to support your child at home.

- **Take notes** about what has been shared so you can refer back to them and share with your child, as appropriate.

- **If you and the teacher will try something new with your child** – a new plan for learning or to support behavior, for example – set a time to check back in to see how things are working out.

Most importantly, remember that all of our staff is here to support you and your child as best we can. We want to help you and work with you. Please let us know if there is something we can put in place to support your student.
‘Measures’ of Emotional Support: Kaloper & RULER

Students at Thurgood Marshall aren’t just focused on academics. Thanks in large part to Mrs. Kaloper, our school counselor, they are building foundational social and emotional skills that will benefit them for a long time to come.

This year, Mrs. Kaloper is introducing the RULER program, which emphasizes that, according to research data, when students are better able to Recognize, Understand, Label, Express, and Regulate emotions (RULER), they benefit from stronger:

1) Attention, memory, and learning  3) Relationship quality
2) Decision making and judgment  4) Physical and mental health

“I’m most excited about the mood meter and the problem solving skills we will introduce later in the year,” Ms. Kaloper says. “These are tools that will benefit students now and far into the future.”

Being the counselor at Thurgood Marshall is a rewarding job. “Every day is different and each day there are new lessons, groups, and unexpected challenges,” she says. “I like that I am able to use creativity and fun additions in my lessons. Role-plays, read-aloud books, relevant games, and art are ways to expand learning and deepen students’ understanding of the material we are working on.”

To support the important work Ms. Kaloper does, please consider making a gift to the PTA’s Annual Giving Fund. PTA funds pay for 100 percent of her salary, giving our students exposure to the valuable social and emotional tools she brings to their educational experience. Donate at http://tmlink.org/?p=437.

Congrats to 12 Finalists in PTA Reflections Art Contest

Twelve Thurgood Marshall students will have their work entered in the citywide PTA’s Reflections Art Contest. There were 87 entries (up from 50 last year) and three local judges spent 2.5 hours scoring the pieces. Thank you to all entrants! The winners will be honored at tomorrow’s Friday Assembly. They are:

Grades K-2 Visual Arts

- Sinead Hough “Animal Sunset” (Mr. Long)
- Enzo Bonacorso “Dragon” (Ms. Huss)
- Lila Levinson “Abstract Painting of Wonder” (Mr. Long)
- Ayar Newman “The Amazing Circus” (Ms. Carney)
- Amelia Hart “Flying Imagination” (Ms. Kohls)

Grades 3-5 Visual Arts

- Audra Kim “Jack and the Beanstalk” (Ms. Kierstead)
- Romy Vos “Galaxy” (Ms. Serpe)
- Camille Ott “Wanderings” (Ms. Von Beck)
- Jeremy Cogswell “I Believe I Can Fly” (Mr. Paul)
- Tula Kurashige “Turaffe” (Ms. Von Beck)

Photography

- Rex Fleishman “Leaning Dome” (Ms. Kingsbury)

Music Composition

- Sofie Drton “Repeating in C Major” (Mr. Long)

Photos of the winning pieces will be posted on tmlink.org!

Volunteers needed!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST Plan and execute an all-school pancake breakfast scheduled for January. Work with volunteers who can assist with procurement, cooking, serving, and clean up. A written job description is available if interested. 10 hours in Nov & Jan (mostly from home).

PUP PRESS EDITOR or CO-EDITOR
Help edit and/or design our school’s weekly newsletter, and maybe we’ll win a Pulitzer Prize! Commitment adjustable: 2-6 hours per week. Contact Cliff Meyer. Email: cliffm99@gmail.com.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CHAIR
Inform the PTA board and TM school community about education issues at the local and state level. Write articles for Pup Press, report to PTA meetings, and help coordinate efforts for Focus Day and February “Schools First” Levy, which provides a large portion of the SPS annual budget. Email: berlee@zipcon.com.

FRIDAY ASSEMBLY ASSISTANCE:
Ms. French seeks 1-2 people to set up/take down chairs for Friday morning assemblies, 9:15-10ish, in the Cafeteria. Email: klfrench@seattleschools.org

KINDERGARTEN HELPERS
Read to students and help them practice sight words, work on math and more. Prep materials, too. You need not have a child in kindergarten! Email Mrs. Tu or Ms. Kent: mltu@seattleschools.org or nrkt@seattleschools.org.

African American Family Gathering on Dec. 1

Discussion of issues critical to education of African American students will be the focus of a gathering Tuesday, Dec. 1, 6-8 p.m. at the Garfield High School Library, 400 23rd Ave.

Free food, plus activities for the kids! You’ll hear about:

- Data on how our kids are doing
- The moratorium on elementary suspensions
- African American Male Initiative

Questions?: Emijah Smith, Volunteer Parent Leader, (206) 841-9397 or email: ashantimichai@gmail.com.