Food for Thought on Lunchtime Rush

Does your child complain that he or she doesn’t have enough time to eat lunch? Our staff at TM takes lunchtime very seriously. We try to make sure that kids are eating their food, minding the expectations of the lunchroom, being safe and cleaning up, all within the 20-minute period.

This year, we cannot adjust the lunchtime schedule or the many other factors that go into the time allotted for lunch. What we can do is encourage students to follow the rules and routines established so that they are feeling less rushed.

We are trying to help:

- Students to heed the whistle at the end of recess and go straight into the lunchroom;
- Children who brought food to swiftly find the bin where their lunchbox is stored; and
- Lunch-buyers to get in an orderly line, quickly choose their fruits and veggies and decide in advance which hot item they want. (It also helps when children have their pin number memorized!)

Many students enjoy playing games like Magic or Pokémon during their lunchtime. We don’t discourage this, but we notice that some kids are spending more time playing than eating. If your child is coming home very hungry or with uneaten food, ask them to reflect on how they spend their valuable lunch minutes. I know how frustrating it can be to spend good time and money packing a stellar lunch, only to have it returned home half-eaten!

Although we have thought carefully about our routines and procedures, we are continuously thinking about how to make things better. In fact, Mrs. Kierstead’s class held a class meeting on the topic, and then sent two representatives, Arno Harden and Etta Shack, to discuss with me how to improve the flow, safety, and time management of 3rd lunch. I’ll vet their ideas with staff and hope to begin implementing some suggestions in January.

Don’t Delay! Make Your Gift Today

The Annual Giving Fund campaign is in full swing and we have raised $7,500 to date. Our Winter Challenge Match goal is $20,000, so we would love to hear from you this month. There are so many great things about Thurgood Marshall, and one of them is PTA Fundraising. At TM, we don’t have bake sales or auctions. To support the PTA and make a difference for our students, all you have to do is give a monetary gift!

How can you give?

Send a check via kid mail or USPS to Thurgood Marshall PTA, 2401 Irving St., Seattle WA 98144 … or go to tmlink.org.

Questions? Contact the AGF team at giving@tmlink.org.

Have You Taken the Annual Giving Fund Winter Challenge?

Your donation will be doubled!

Raised so far: $7,500

EVENT CALENDAR

TOMORROW, Friday, Dec. 11
Pajama Day! (but please wear sensible shoes)

Dec. 14-18, Book Exchange Week
Trade some in, take some home. Details below.

Dec. 17, Last Day for Lost & Found
Items will be removed & given away Dec. 18.

Dec. 18, Early Dismissal (2:40 pm)
→ Winter Break, Dec. 19-Jan. 3

TUTU’S PANTRY
Dec. 14-18: PEACE & K’s turn to donate food.

ENRICHMENT CLASSES REMINDER
Final class dates vary – please check yours.
See www.tmlink.org for calendar updates.

Book Exchange Next Week

Stock up on books to read during Winter Break! Trade in your gently used books for 1 ticket each. Then use your tickets to “buy” books to take home. (They all sell for 1 ticket each.)

The Exchange will be in the Library, available during recess and students’ regular library time.

Many students have made reading gains this fall; let’s keep up that momentum!
**$3K Windermere Grant for Field Trips**

Thurgood Marshall has received a $3,027 grant from the Windermere Foundation to cover 2015-16 field-trip costs for all Grades 3-5 students eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunch.

“We try to make sure that all students have an equal opportunity to participate in the activities at their school, and try to help enrich their lives,” said Windermere’s Julie Friedman.

The money was secured through a new PTA initiative to seek grant funding for TM needs. Thank you to 5th-grade parents Jorji Knickrehm, who wrote the grant application, and Larry Wilcynski, Listing Manager at Wilcynski Partners, and a Windermere real estate agent. And, thank you to Windermere!

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**Volunteers Needed!**

Start now, start in January: you decide.

More listed at tmlink.org.

**PUP PRESS EDITOR / CO-EDITOR:** Help edit and/or design our school’s weekly newsletter! 2-6 hours per week. Email Cliff: cliffm99@gmail.com.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST ASSISTANTS:** Help put on this joyous community-building event Jan. 23. Email Kimberlee: berlee@zipcon.com.

**ART DISPLAYS:** Ms. Zirngible seeks 1-2 volunteers to keep a steady flow of artwork going up on the walls for display. 2x/month, flexibly scheduled.

Email: bzhirngible@seattleschools.org

**FRIDAY ASSEMBLY HELPERS:** Set up/take down chairs for Friday morning assemblies, 9:15-10ish, in the Cafeteria.

Email: klfrench@seattleschools.org

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**Last Chance for Lost & Found!**

Collect your items from the Lost and Found by the end of the day Dec. 17. Volunteers will be be taking leftover items to a thrift store on Dec. 18.

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**Donate Old XL T-shirts**

For a Girls Scouts project, TM students Evelyn Dibuz and Jayden Richards are collecting used XL T-shirts for making dog and cat toys to donate to the Humane Society, Emerald City Pet Rescue, and the Doney Memorial Pet Clinic. Donation boxes are in one classroom in every grade level.

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**Winning Chess Team?**

The TM Chess Bullpups continued their hot streak, winning the 2nd-place trophy (at left) in the Grades 4-6 section in the Bryant Fall Classic last Saturday, Dec. 5.

Forest Berg, Graham Cobden and Andrew Nakamoto (a former TM student now in 6th grade at Washington MS) won 1st, 4th and 5th place in the overall 4-6 grade section, respectively. Andrew’s score qualifies him for the State Championships in the spring.

Kyle Cobden and Cameron Kono each won 2 points, Luke Vallejo gained 1.5 points and Lyndon Vaivao, who attended a tournament for the first time, gained 1 point in the 4-6 section. Go Chess Bullpups!

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**Register for Free Hip-Hop Dance Class**

The new free dance opportunity for students at Thurgood Marshall continues! Attached to this Pup Press is the info and registration form for Session 2 of Morning Movement Series, Hip-Hop with Chris Daigre, open to all grades (capacity 25). It will be held 8:10-9:10 am on Fridays, Jan. 8-Feb. 12; registration by Dec. 16 is required, with enrollment-status confirmation by Jan. 4.

Watch in February for info about Session 3, African Dance & Drumming, taught by Sumayya Diop, for Grades K-3. (We are targeting various grade levels in different sessions so everyone gets a chance to participate.)

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**Bullpup Briefs**

**Scholastic Book Fair Raises $2,400 for Library Purchases**

Thanks to all who made the Book Fair last week a wonderful success! Some 25 parent and student volunteers kept the Fair running smoothly, handling tasks such as helping students count money and make choices! Free books were provided to 88 students, and many more students were able to purchase books even if they were short the cost of tax. The Fair grossed over $8,000, providing $650 in book purchase credit at Scholastic and about $1,750 in cash to be used for supplies, events and book purchases from other vendors.

**‘Equity’ Panel Discussion at PTA Meeting on Tues., Jan. 12**

Join us Jan. 12 for a conversation about Equity in Seattle Public Schools and at Thurgood Marshall. What does “Equity” mean? What are we doing to work toward it? Special guests to be announced soon. Enjoy our 6-6:30 p.m. social time (bring an appetizer to share); meeting starts at 6:30.

**FREE child care** (including pizza dinner) at YMCA if you RSVP to pta@tmlink.org. Limited to 30 school-age kids - no guarantee without confirmation.

**Students Learn Computer Skills through ‘Hour of Code’**

Students in Grades 3-5 have been using their library period this week to participate in the “Hour of Code” nationwide computer science initiative. Each class was introduced to the Hour of Code website and chose an activity to try. Many students have had their first chance to try out coding. See www.hourofcode.com/us.

**Washington MS Tour Tomorrow**

Washington Middle School is offering Info Nights & Tours for incoming families, open to 4th- and 5th-grade parents & students. Tours are tomorrow (Dec. 11) and Feb. 19 at 7:45 a.m.

The next Info Night is Feb. 11, 6:30-8 p.m., and features Principal Susan Follmer and a panel of current students. More info: washingtonms.seattleschools.org.