2016 Starts with Routines, ‘Equity’ Event

Welcome to a new year! Although we are now a little more than one-third of the way through our school year, after a break it can feel like starting all over again. As I greeted students and parents arriving back at school on Monday morning, I saw more than a few who told me that they were still settling back into their “school routine.” It can be tricky to go from vacation freedom back to routines, but that structure helps your child do their best at school. What’s most important to a successful school day? A good night’s sleep and breakfast! We will also be reviewing routines at school, with teachers giving reminders about classrooms routines and procedures and areas that can sometimes be “hot spots” at school – the lunchroom, bathrooms, hallways and playground. We want to set your child up for success!

Jan.12 PTA Meeting: Focus on Creating Equity in Education

On Tuesday, Jan. 12, please join us for our next “Equity” event, as part of the PTA meeting at 6:30 p.m. We will welcome:

- Michael Tolley – SPS Associate Superintendent for Teaching and Learning
- Stephan Blanford – Seattle School Board Member
- Anita Morales – SPS Equity and Race Relations Specialist, and coach for Thurgood Marshall staff
- Trish Campbell, SPS Central Region Supervisor, Special Education
- Matthew Okun – SPS Consulting Teacher, Advanced Learning

Each of these panelists is in a unique position to talk about the progress their department is making toward creating an equitable learning environment for Seattle students. I will be recapping the efforts our school has made so far as we continue the conversation about how to make Thurgood Marshall a school that is welcoming and supportive of all our students and families. After our panel presentation, families will have the chance to talk to each other and ask questions of the panelists. I am so pleased that we were able to have these guests join us and share their viewpoints. I hope you can take advantage of this unique opportunity to get your questions answered, as well.

All are welcome. (PTA membership *not* required.) 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.

RULER ‘Self-Regulation’ Ideas at Next Coffee

Principal Intern Laurie Kazanjian and School Counselor Meghan Kaloper will discuss the RULER program at the next Coffee with Principal. Come to the Library 9:10-10 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 20, to learn more about how RULER helps children develop self-regulation strategies and how you can use this to support emotional wellness at home.

The coffee will also launch this year's Parenting Book Discussion Club. We will set dates/times to discuss “Face to Face” (www.family-empower.com/face-to-face/), and try to accommodate day and night schedules. Come to find out more about both! Learn about RULER at ei.yale.edu/ruler

School Wins Statewide Award for 4th Straight Year

Thurgood Marshall has again won the nonprofit Center for Educational Effectiveness’s “School of Distinction Award” for being in the top 5 percent of Washington state schools raising academic achievement over the last 5 years. TM is one of only nine schools to be honored 4 years in a row. (Two schools have won the award 5 consecutive years.) For elementary schools, the criteria are state assessments in literacy arts and math.
Volunteers Needed for Breakfast, more

Sign up now to help with the annual Pancake Breakfast & Art Walk: 8:30-10:30 a.m., on Saturday, Jan. 23. Take a 60- to 90-minute shift that day (or earlier in the week if you want to hang art!)

You’ll still have plenty of time to enjoy the food, chat with friends and walk through school to see student art. Admission is free; donation of $10 per family suggested.


Call for help continues...

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.

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

GIRLS ON THE RUN HELPER: Assist coach during afternoons. Email Donna: ddugan@seattleschools.org.

Feb. Vote on Levies to Fund Public Schools

Seattle voters will be asked in the coming weeks to vote on preserving funding for Seattle Public Schools, through a three-year Operations Levy. This funding measure would replace the current expiring levy, which provides over 25 percent of the basic funds operating the public schools.

Also, the proposed six-year Buildings, Technology and Academics/Athletics IV (BTA IV) Capital Levy replaces the BTA III capital levy approved by Seattle voters in 2010. BTA IV will provide funds for upgrades and renovations of aging school facilities on a timeline intended to ensure a safe, secure teaching and learning environment.

Supporters of the levies offer more info at www.schoolsfirstseattle.org/ and plan a rally on Saturday, Jan. 9, at 10 a.m., at 210 S. Hudson St.

Enrichment Registration Online; Deadline is Jan. 15

Classes are already filling up in the PTAEnrichment Program! Registration, at tmlink.org/enrichment, continues through Jan. 15; most sessions start the week of Jan. 25. Use the handy credit-card payment option! You may instead pay by check if you use the paper form attached to the catalog.

Reminder on Pickup, Dropoff Safety

Help us make sure every one of our children arrives to and from school safely by following our traffic procedures. We have found that everything moves more smoothly when we create a one-way traffic loop near our school.

• Drivers turning onto Judkins from Martin Luther King Way: please go west to 24th, then south on 24th, east on Irving and into the parking lot. This loop takes more time than a turn onto 26th, but we need to reserve that street for northbound traffic in the morning.

• If you enter Judkins from 23rd, please join the loop by making the first right onto 24th.

• In the parking lot, please enter in a single row for student safety. By driving into the lot in two rows a child’s life can be endangered as they pass in front of a row of offloading cars.

• Pull forward as far as you can, even to the cutout, to let your children out. If they are ready to go with their backpacks and a loving goodbye, we’ll help off-load them.

• Never unload in the street or in the entrance to the parking lot, even if the line is backed up, for obvious safety reasons. And if you plan to come into the school, please park on the “exit” side of our lot.

• Please take a minute to review the map, and remember the speed limit in the lot is 5 mph. Traffic violations: The speed limit in a school zone is 20 mph. We have been notified that traffic patrolers are on duty! That fine for speeding is $234. Also, no parking in the bus zone during posted hours, along the red painted curb or close to the hydrant! Your car may be ticketed/towed!

Play Ultimate with a TM Co-ed Team!

Ultimate is one of the fastest growing sports in the nation! Thurgood Marshall started a team in 2012 and is hoping to field three this year, open to girls and boys in Grades 3-5. Practices will be Tuesdays and Thursdays after school, starting Feb. 23. Games will be on Saturdays (March 12-May 17). Watch for sign-up forms going home later this month.

Questions to parent volunteer Baird Johnson, baird.m.johnson@gmail.com.

K Enrollment Info

Sessions Start Tonight

Five Kindergarten Admissions Nights will be held in 2016. Nearest TM are:

• 5:30-7 p.m. TONIGHT (Jan. 7), at Beacon Hill School (2025 14th Ave. S.).

• 5:30-7 p.m., Jan. 21, at Martin Luther King Jr. ES (6725 45th Ave. S.).

The events offer information, kids’ activities and translators for Spanish, Somali, Mandarin and other languages. (See seattleschools.org/admissions for more dates.)

Jan. 25 Presentation on School District’s Budget

Have you ever wondered how school funding, staffing and budgets are determined, but never knew who to ask? The Seattle Public Schools Finance team is presenting an evening dedicated to understanding the school budget process for parent involvement.

The event will be 6-8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 25 at the John Stanford Center. Details at http://bit.ly/SPSbudget.
Equity in Education – What Is It and What Can We Do?

This month’s PTA meeting will offer you the chance to learn how the District and Thurgood Marshall are working toward equity in education. You’ll hear from Principal Katie May about what’s happening at TM, offer YOUR ideas during small-group discussion and hear from guests:

• Michael Tolley – SPS Associate Superintendent for Teaching & Learning
• Stephan Blanford – Seattle School Board Member
• Anita Morales – SPS Equity & Race Relations Specialist; coach for TM staff
• Trish Campbell, SPS Central Region Supervisor, Special Education
• Matthew Okun – SPS Consulting Teacher, Advanced Learning

All appearing at the next PTA MEETING

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016 • TM Library
6 pm Appetizer Potluck • 6:30-8 Meeting & Discussion

FREE child care (including free pizza dinner) for first 30 school-aged kids to be signed up. RSVP to pta@tmlink.org. (You must confirm – no “night of” drop-offs!)

More Background: SPS is providing special training to a “Race and Equity Team” of Thurgood Marshall staff as we all work toward improving our kids’ education. In the fall, staff and parents learned about hidden biases in all of us (Blindspot author appearance). Now the PTA and Principal May are creating a conversation among parents, TM staff and key District staff to clarify what “Equity” is and means, and how TM can provide an equitable place to learn for all students.

⇒ Especially important: after our panel presentation, families will have the chance to talk to each other and ask questions of the panelists. We hope this will help guide our next steps toward equity at TM!