The Opportunities Offered by MLK Day

For the past three years I’ve observed our city become swept up in the excitement of the Seahawks football season and wondered, “What if we all got just as excited about ____?” Many words come to mind: for me they are education, the environment, social justice, peace. MLK Day is an opportunity to be swept up over all those things! It is meant to be a day on, not a day off. There are many opportunities in the city for celebrating one of our best national heroes.

- Learn, march, and rally at the 34th Annual MLK Seattle Celebration at Garfield HS. See www.mlkseattle.org.
- Give back: United Way has an incredible day of service by organizing dozens of service teams all over our region. See http://bit.ly/UWKCvol.
- Break bread with others: For example, a downtown MLK prayer breakfast. See http://bit.ly/MLKbreakfast.
- Go for a hike: all national parks are free on Monday, and all state parks are free Sunday and Monday! Enjoying nature with the family might be the perfect setting to have conversations to honor the spirit and mission of Dr. King.

Whatever you do, we hope you take the time to reflect on the importance of service, compassion, and equity with your children. Please join us at 9:45 a.m. tomorrow (Jan. 15) for our assembly, which will be dedicated to MLK Jr. Day.

Thank You for Donations to PTA

Thank you for your incredible generosity during our Winter Challenge Match! We met our initial Winter Challenge Match goal of $20,000 halfway through December, and one of our families offered an additional $10,000 to match more gifts! All told, we added over $69,000 to the fund in December, bringing us to 56% of our total goal of $160,000 for this school year. Missed the match? You’ll have another chance to double your dollars during our March Match-ness Campaign! And, don’t forget employer matching programs! Many local employers — including Microsoft, Boeing, Expedia, Google and the Gates Foundation — will match employee donations to non-profits such as our PTA. Some will even provide a cash match for your volunteer hours at school! Please check with your employer for details on how it can support TM.

Questions? Please email us: giving@tmlink.org.
Ideas on ‘Equity in Education’

Associate Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Michael Tolley speaks during Tuesday’s PTA meeting on equity in education, as School Board member Stephan Blanford, left, and Advanced Learning Consulting Teacher Matthew Okun listen. Tolley noted that the District now focuses strategic planning with a view to serve “each” child, instead of previous planning that referred to serving “all” children. The PTA thanks the six panelists, who also included SPS Equity and Race Relations Specialist Anita Morales, SPS Central Region Special Education Supervisor Trish Campbell and African American Family Gatherings Convener Emijah Smith. And thanks to everyone else who attended!

Principal Katie May plans follow-up sessions to consider specific ideas to improve equity at Thurgood Marshall. For a summary of issues discussed at this or other recent PTA meetings, see the PTA Meetings Minutes page on tmlink.org.

New Year, New Volunteer Opportunities

Budget Committee: Help decide how PTA funds will be spent next year. The committee will meet twice in February and work with the PTA Treasurer, Building Leadership Team and Principal May. Contact Jen Ellis: jenniferellis.206@gmail.com.

5th Grade Legacy Project: If you are a 5th-grade parent and are interested in working with other parents and students on this year’s legacy project, please contact Casey Sommers: cassepilar@gmail.com.

Pancake Breakfast & Art Walk: Sign up now to help at the event on Saturday, Jan. 23 or earlier in the week (for set-up and hanging of 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.) Sign up to volunteer at http://bit.ly/TMPancake2016.

Join Group at Capitol to Push for Education Funding

Join the collective voices of PTA members from across the state on Wednesday, Feb. 3, in Olympia for a rally on the Capitol steps at noon and meetings with legislators. Visit http://bit.ly/PTAatCapitol to register to attend “Focus Day 2016” and get more details. As of Jan. 14, information on transportation was not yet on that web page. If you plan to attend and/or want to be involved in helping to rally others, contact the TM PTA at pta@tmlink.org or Eden Mack, legislative chair for Seattle Council of the Parent Teacher Student Associations, at legchair@SCPTSA.org or 206-240-6648.

Bullpup Briefs

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 Katie May.

Come to the Library 9:10-10 a.m. on Wednesday, 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 plan to set dates/times that accommodate day and night schedules for discussion of the book “Face to Face” (www.family-empower.com/face-to-face).

All Spirit Gear Has Been Delivered; 1 Option Remains

All TM spirit gear has been sent home! If you have any questions or did not get an item, please contact Tara Hook at tarahook@hotmail.com.

NOTE: If you would like to exchange your women's Tek t-shirt for a women's regular-style t-shirt, please bring the Tek shirt to the front office.

Recycle Plastic Bottles at TM for Chance at Prizes

Students are being asked to bring in recyclable plastic bottles to help Thurgood Marshall win prizes in a competition mounted by a company that uses the bottles to create fiber for clothing. Bring in the plastic bottles starting on Jan. 22. More info to come.

Support for Parents of Gifted Kids

Learn about a new support group for parents of gifted children during an info session 8:30-9:15 a.m. Wed., Feb. 10, in the TM Library.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23
8:30 - 10:30 AM
IN THE THURGOOD MARSHALL ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA
FREE! Suggested Donation of $10/family
• Bring a donation for Tutu’s Pantry •
• Invitation is open to our neighborhood •
“Drop and go” not permitted. You must stay at event.
* Gluten-free and Vegetarian Options *