

PUP PRESS

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Principal
Katie May

A Start to Examining 'Equity' at TM

On Tuesday, the Thurgood Marshall PTA hosted a discussion of "Equity" with a panel including Associate Superintendent for Learning and Teaching Michael Tolley, School Board Director Stephan Blanford, Equity and Race Relations Specialist Anita Morales, Central Region Supervisor for Special Education Trish Campbell and Advanced Learning Consulting Teacher Matthew Okun. Each was chosen to talk about the

progress his or her department is making toward creating an equitable learning environment for Seattle students. They were joined by Emijah Smith, a parent volunteer who convenes the District's African American Family Gatherings.

The conversation was fascinating – both for what the panelists shared and in the questions and comments that came from our parent audience. Some highlights:

- **The Seattle School District has developed a Racial Equity Analysis Tool** for ensuring equity in decision-making: <http://bit.ly/equitytool>
- **Mr. Tolley said that the District is taking a "targeted universalism" approach.** Powell, Menendian and Reece define this as "identifying a problem, particularly one suffered by marginalized people, proposing a solution, and then broadening its scope to cover as many people as possible."¹ This is sometimes referred to as the "canary in the coal mine approach," and it works because what is good for the marginalized group is generally good for larger groups, too. This is the idea behind the African American Male Initiative being developed by the District.
- **Students seeking qualification in the Advanced Learning Program are given special consideration based on cultural diversity,** socioeconomic status, linguistic background and identified disability.
- **All 2nd-graders in Title 1 schools were screened for Advanced Learning eligibility** last year and this year. Other changes to try to create more equity in testing are the addition of a parent rating scale, notification about testing in seven languages posted on social media and added to every school's first-day packets, and collaboration between the Advanced Learning Department and the Rainier Scholars Program, the Special Education Department, and the Department of Equity and Race Relations.
- **The Advanced Learning Department is considering the implications of eliminating private testing appeals to Advanced Learning,** noting that a number of surrounding districts do not accept these appeals.

	Asian	Black	Hispanic	2 or more races	White
HCC at TM	17%	4.3%	4%	15%	60%
All Seattle Students	7.2%	4.5%	21.7%	7.1%	57%

One final interesting piece of information shared by Mr. Okun was the breakdown in race in our HCC program as compared to the District.

Finally, thank you to those of you who managed to make it out on a rainy night to be part of the conversation. **We are planning a follow-up meeting at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 11,** so that we can continue to discuss issues raised at this meeting and other Thurgood Marshall family concerns related to equity. Stay tuned!

¹ "The Importance of Targeted Universalism," March/April 2009 issue of *Poverty & Race*

EVENT CALENDAR

Sat., Jan. 23, Pancake Breakfast & Art Walk, 8:30-10:30 a.m. See Page 2.

Mon-Fri., Jan. 25-29, First week for most Enrichment classes!

Thurs., Jan. 28, Choir Concert, 7 p.m.

Wed., Feb. 3, PTA Focus Day (lobby at Capitol for school funding). See Page 2.

Thurs., Feb. 4, Side-by-Side Concert, 7 p.m., Washington Middle School. Gr. 4-5 students join middle-school students to make music!

Tues., Feb. 9, Instrumental Concert, 7 p.m.

Thurs., Feb. 11, Equity event TBA, 6:30-8 p.m.

TUTU'S PANTRY

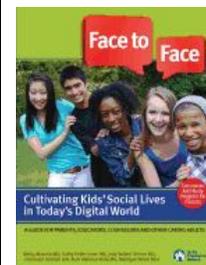
Jan. 25-29: Grade 4's turn to donate food.

See www.tmlink.org for calendar updates.

Discussion Group Forming on Good Parenting Choices

Join with other parents to talk about a book that can help us raise competent and caring kids! Counselor Meghan Kaloper and the PTA are launching a parent-led discussion group around the book "Face to Face." (See www.family-empower.com/face-to-face/).

If interested, use our "Doodle" poll at <http://bit.ly/TMbookclub16>, where you can select your time preference for meetings (morning, afternoon, evening). The group(s) will meet a total of 8 times. "Face to Face" will be available for purchase or checkout.



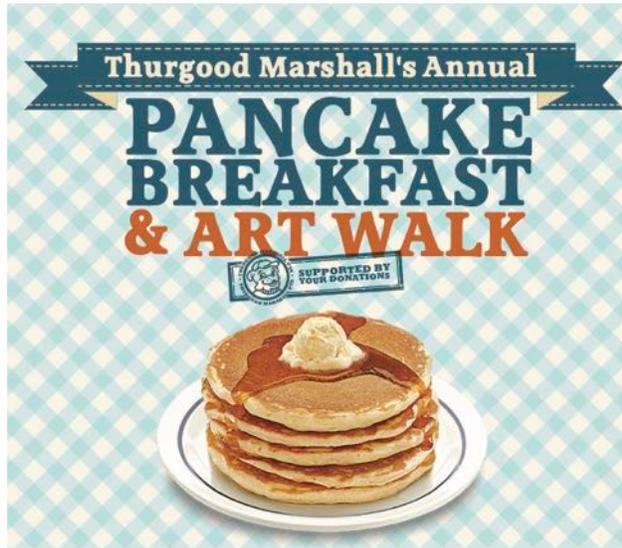
"Face to Face" was written by a team of pediatricians, educators, counselors and parents. It offers an overview of current ideas and research in the fields of child development, brain

science and parenting that can help to inform parenting choices. Topics covered in the book include:

- Friendship Starts at Home
- Outside Influences including Consumerism and Lookism, Gender Stereotyping, and Overuse of Digital Technology
- Navigating Friendship and Social Groups
- Peer Mistreatment
- Fostering Resilience

Art'n'Eatin' on Saturday

Don't miss Seattle's best opportunity to enjoy pancakes, chicken sausage and more, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday (Jan. 23) in the Cafeteria. Gluten-free and vegetarian options available. **Free**; suggested donation of \$10 per family. Then, walk the halls filled with amazing student art.



And: Volunteer at <http://bit.ly/TMPancake2016>. Bring items for Tutu's Pantry (especially needed: peanut butter, jelly, rice, pasta sauce, cereal, canned veggies.)

'Girls on the Run' Offers Fun, Challenges

The spring session of "Girls on the Run" at Thurgood Marshall is open to 3rd- to 5th-graders. Through a series of games and activities, the girls will explore and discuss experiences and challenges girls face at these ages. In the process they build endurance for a celebratory 5K with all Puget Sound area Girls on the Run participants.

The TM program is 3:45-5:15 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, Feb. 29-May 7. (Must attend both days.) Cost is \$185 with sliding scale and full scholarships available. Register by Friday, Feb. 26, at <http://girlsrun.org/registration/>. Questions? Contact TM teacher Donna Dugan: ddugan@seattleschools.org.



Help Decide Where PTA Funding Goes in 2016-17

Among the volunteer opportunities listed on tmlink.org this week:

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: caseypilar@gmail.com.

Focus Day 2016

Make a Difference at Capitol

Join other PTAs from around the state on Feb. 3 in Olympia to rally for adequate school funding and other issues. Visit <http://bit.ly/PTAatCapitol> to register for "Focus Day 2016." Let others at TM know you're going (and create carpools) by contacting the PTA at pta@tmlink.org. Last year, parents turned out in record numbers and had a clear impact.



Bullpup Briefs

Recycle Plastic Bottles Tomorrow for Contest

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 tomorrow.

Info on Support Group 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. Wednesday, Feb. 10, in the TM Library.

SENG (Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted) Groups are guided discussion groups based on the book, "A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children," by James Webb, et. al. Together, parents learn about the social and emotional needs of gifted children and related parenting issues.

Anne van Roden and Gloria Sandford, group leaders, are both experienced parents of gifted children and licensed mental health professionals. They will share SENNG concepts to help parents understand the unique social and emotional needs of their children, and develop tools to address challenges.

See <http://bit.ly/SENGgroups> for more about what a SENNG group has to offer.

Ultimate Deadline is Feb. 2

Play Ultimate with the Thurgood Marshall Co-ed Ultimate Frisbee Team! Boys and girls in Grades 3-5 are eligible. Cost is \$40; financial assistance available. Practices start Tuesday, Feb. 23. Games are on Saturdays, March 12 through May 14.

Sign-up forms are due Feb. 2. (Forms were sent home with Grades 3-5, and are also available for download at <http://tmlink.org/?p=3453>.)

