

PUP PRESS



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Principal
Katie May

Don't Miss Arts, Involvement Events

This week's article is about keeping you informed of what is happening around our school in the upcoming weeks:

The Arts: We had a great turnout at our **PTA Pancake Breakfast and Arts Walk**. Thank you to Art Teacher Beth Zirngible and her volunteer art hangers. Our school looked amazing for the breakfast, and the art is still up, so if you missed it, sign in at the office and take a self-guided tour of our halls!

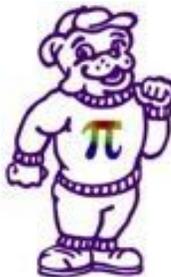
Our **Choir Concert** last week, directed by Kelsey French, also received rave reviews! There are a few more musical opportunities coming up: Tonight is the **Side-by-Side Music Event**, featuring students from TM and other elementaries playing with older children at Washington Middle School. Tuesday (Feb. 9) is the **Instrumental Music Concert** at Thurgood Marshall. Both events begin at 7 p.m.

National African American Parent Involvement Day is Monday (Feb. 8). Thurgood Marshall and our PTA are co-sponsoring a breakfast in recognition of this celebration. If you are an African American parent, please join us for a something to eat in the Library from 9:15-9:45 a.m., and a visit to your child(ren)'s class from 9:45-11. Grandparents welcome, too!

PTA Equity Meeting Follow-up: At our next meeting, on Thursday, Feb. 11, we will be discussing areas that staff and parents have identified as concerns and discussing action steps to take to move our school forward. Please join us to make your voice heard! (See flier sent home with this Pup Press.)

School Tours began in January and will continue through May. Our goal is to give prospective parents a look at our school in action and answer their questions. We try to be thoughtful about these tours to minimize disruption to classes that are in session. If you have friends or neighbors considering our school, please let them know that they are also welcome to attend evening events.

Thurgood Marshall Day will be Friday, Feb. 12. This annual celebration at our school celebrates Justice Thurgood Marshall and his achievements. The late Justice Marshall will be the focus of our 9:35 a.m. assembly, with class performances and visits from judges. Parents are always welcome to join us for Friday assemblies.



Math-a-Palooza is a newer tradition for our school. Last year, teachers decided that "Pi Day," March 14 (as in 3.14) was the perfect time for a celebration of math. Join us once again this year for math games and activities for all ages, and a pie potluck!

This year our **Multicultural Night** will be held just before spring break on Thursday, April 7. Our school has many cultures to appreciate! This event is still being planned, so hold the date and stay tuned!

PTA Board Urges 'Yes' Vote on Both School Levies

The PTA Board has voted to endorse both of the Seattle Schools levies up for renewal. The Operations Levy covers 25 percent of day-to-day school costs for teachers, instructional assistants, arts, supplies, books and much more.

The Capital Levy pays for school building and classroom improvements, repairs such as earthquake-proofing, additional science labs, updated technology and capacity-building for the growing student population.

Ballots must be mailed and postmarked by Tuesday (Feb. 9), or dropped off by 8 p.m. that day. For locations, see <http://bit.ly/BallotDrop-off>.

Be sure your vote counts. More about the levies at <http://bit.ly/SPSlevies2016>.

EVENT CALENDAR

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

Mon., Feb. 8, National African-American Parent Involvement Day. TM parents invited to breakfast (9:15-9:45 a.m.) and classroom visits (9:45-11 a.m.)

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

Tues., Feb. 9, Deadline to vote in school levies election. See below.

Thurs., Feb. 11, Info session & tour for prospective families. 8:45-10 a.m.

Thurs., Feb. 11, Follow-up to Equity event, 6:30-8 p.m., with free dinner! See details at left.

Fri., Feb. 12, Thurgood Marshall Day Assembly, 9:35 a.m. See details at left.

TUTU'S PANTRY

Feb. 8-12: Kindergarten & PEACE Academy's turn to donate food.

See www.tmlink.org for calendar updates.

Library Website Has It All

Use this shortlink – <http://bit.ly/TMLibrary> – to check out Ms. Hudson's TM Library website for information about:

- **The Global Reading Challenge.** TM teams face each other on Feb. 24.
- **List of new nonfiction** paid for by PTA fundraising (your contributions!).
- **Links to the Thurgood Marshall Library catalog.** If you ever wonder if we have a particular book, go to the TM Library page and browse the catalog.

You are also welcome to download e-books! Need a username? Use "studentsps" and the password "access" – good for all District on-line resources.

Latest on Advanced Learning Test Reporting, Enrollment

Students in grades K-2 who score 94 or above on the Cognitive Abilities Screening Form are invited to take the full CogAT if they wish to be considered for Highly Capable services, the Advanced Learning Office has announced.

That score also satisfies the cognitive requirement for Advanced Learner/Spectrum eligibility.

Advanced Learning eligibility decisions will be made when cognitive and achievement data have been assembled for review, before the end of February. These decisions will be communicated as they are made. Families should not call the District for scores; no scores are available until decision letters are sent.

Open Enrollment for School Choice is Feb. 17 to March 1. Please see the Advanced Learning Enrollment page to learn how to enroll even if you haven't received a decision letter: <http://bit.ly/AdvLearningHowTo>.

Join Parents to Discuss Kids' Social Pressures

Do you miss the conversations you had in PEPS, Co-op, or at the park when your kids were younger? Are you looking to share ideas with parents on technology use, raising kind and resilient children, and navigating friendships in school?

This spring the TM PTA and Counselor Meghan Kaloper are jointly launching the second Parent-Led Book Discussion Group using the book, "Face to Face." (Learn more about it at www.family-empower.com/face-to-face.)

Groups meet eight times in the evening or during the school day, depending on parents' preferences. Cost is free. Books available for purchase or check out. Please email Casey Sommers at pta@tmlink.org for more information.



Counselor's Corner
Meghan Kaloper

Happy National School Counselor Week!

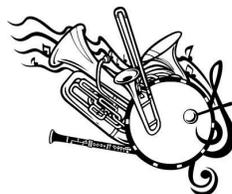
I wanted to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated PTA and hard-working families who have helped to fund my position here at Thurgood Marshall. I am honored to get to work with your students each day and feel that your students teach and challenge me (in a positive way!) on a daily basis. I am grateful our school and community believe school climate, social emotional learning, and relationships are priorities to be constantly improved.



Don't Miss the Great Music

Tonight: Side-by-Side Concert, 7 p.m. at Washington Middle School.

Feb. 9: Instrumental Concert, 7 p.m. at Thurgood Marshall.



Insight on Middle Schools

Washington Middle School is offering an info night and a tour open to 4th- and 5th-grade parents & students. (This is the pathway school for most TM students.)

- **Info Session:** 6:30-8 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 11, with Principal Susan Follmer and a student panel (all grades).
- **School Day Tour:** 7:45-9:15 a.m. Friday, Feb. 19. Meet in Cafeteria.

Go to washingtonms.seattleschools.org/ for more info, or contact Bridget Backschies (thetripbee@gmail.com) or Tasha Irvine (tashasirvine@gmail.com).

TOPS K-8, a possible option for families in the WMS service area, will offer an info session Tuesday, Feb. 23, 6:30-7:30 p.m. TOPS students are active participants, leaders, learners and contributors to social justice. See topsk8.seattleschools.org.

Bullpup Briefs

Taking Action on Education of African American Males

Ivory Toldson, an Obama Administration higher education official, will be the featured speaker at "My Brother's Keeper Symposium: A Call to Action" this Saturday (Feb. 6). The theme is "Plotting the Education Path for African American Males (all children)." The 9 a.m.-3 p.m. event, at the John Stanford Center, offers breakfast, lunch and free child care. Email Sabse.09alliance.17@gmail.com or call 206-772-4916 or 206-725-7138 to register. Somali and Spanish translation.

Advise the Superintendent!

New members are sought for the African American Male Scholars Advisory Committee to the Superintendent. The panel meets twice monthly and includes parents, guardians, community members, teachers, staff and City of Seattle representatives. The nomination deadline is Feb. 19. See <http://bit.ly/SPSAAMSAC>.

Last Days to Recycle Bottles

Those recyclable plastic bottles are about to help Thurgood Marshall win a competition mounted by a company that uses the plastic to create fiber for clothing. You can keep sending them in through Monday (Feb. 8)!

Support for '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 SENG 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 SENG group has to offer.

Feb. 11 Tour, Info Session

Thurgood Marshall PTA will host a school info session (with Principal Katie May) followed by a tour (led by parents) at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 11. Check in at the main office. No RSVP is expected. Tell your friends and neighbors!

National AFRICAN-AMERICAN Parent Involvement Day

at

Thurgood Marshall Elementary



Monday February 8, 2016

9:15-9:45am Light Breakfast in Library

9:45 - 11:00am Classroom Visits

African-American families and those of African descent are invited to join Principal Katie May for breakfast and conversation in the library. Visits to classrooms across the buildings to follow. Come for all or part of the morning.

Questions? Call us at 206.252.2800



Education & Connection Opportunities for Parents

are happening at Thurgood Marshall!

EQUITY: FOLLOWING UP

Free Dinner & Conversation on Thurs., Feb. 11

6:30-8 p.m. TM Library

Join Principal May, staff and parents for a free light dinner and breakout-group discussions on equity issues. Many of us have learned about our “Blindspot” and considered the equity gaps at Thurgood Marshall and in the District. What is important to you regarding equity? Do you have ideas for creating change? **All are welcome** to join us to share and discuss.

Free child care and pizza for up to 30 school-aged kids. (Must RSVP to pta@tmlink.org.)

Parent-Led Book Discussion Group

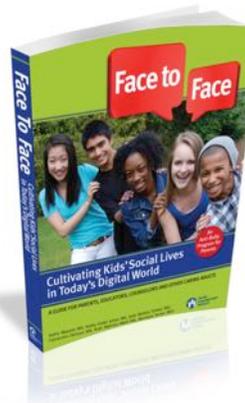
Around Raising Competent and Caring Children

Did you enjoy your PEPS or Co-op group? Are you looking to share and learn from other parents about raising elementary-aged kids?

This discussion group offers an opportunity to talk with other parents about topics such as friendships/social groups, finding a balance in our use of digital technology, and fostering resilience and compassion in our kids.

Last year the group met one weekday morning at the YMCA after drop-off. There is also the option of meeting on a weekday evening.

- Visit www.family-empower.com/face-to-face/ to learn more about “Face to Face,” the book that we’ll use to help our focus.
- Help schedule the meeting with our “Doodle” poll at <http://bit.ly/TMbookclub16>.



Also: Info session 8:30-9:15 a.m. Feb. 10 (in Library) about a possible spring “SENG” group to help parents understand the social and emotional needs of gifted children and gain parenting tools. SENG (Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted) concepts are described at <http://sengifted.org/programs/seng-model-parent-groups>.