**Learning Math . . . and So Much More**

Do you know the following “math facts”?

- **Kids who exercise frequently have stronger visualization skills.** That, in turn, helps them with mathematical problem solving.
- **Everyone is a math person.** If you have ever told your kids that some people are naturally good at math while others aren’t, they might believe math isn’t for them.
- **Pi (the ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle) can’t be expressed as a fraction, making it an irrational number.** It never repeats and never ends when written as a decimal. It seems to go on forever, just like a circle.

When we learn mathematics, we are learning the subject of math and more. We are learning how to visualize, think critically and strategically, and how to solve problems. We also are learning how things in the world are connected and the power of those relationships. Mathematics can even reveal and be beautiful.

Instilling a love of math in students is one of the things I miss most about not being in the classroom. **That is one reason why I was so eager to collaborate on Math-a-palooza, 6:30-8 p.m. on Monday (3.14).** We are planning a fun, interdisciplinary and educational event for children and adults. **Volunteers needed:** sign up at tinyurl.com/(TM-mathapalooza).

Whether you are a math enthusiast or just the idea of numbers makes you nervous, Math-a-palooza is for you! Children need to see lots of examples of adults willing to be playful with numbers and take risks. They need to hear and see that math is for everyone. It should be a yummy and worthwhile event. (We ask you to bring pie – of any type – to share; the PTA will provide pizza.) Looking forward to seeing you!

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**March Match-ness: Join ‘Big Dance’ to Support our School**

We need your help to raise much needed PTA funding to support key programs at our school. Thanks to a generous group of donors, we’ve created a 2-for-1 play. Every dollar donated in March up to $15,000 will be doubled! Everyone at Thurgood Marshall can help us earn the math: **Benchwarmers... get in the game and make your gift! Already gave?** Go for the rebound – give again! The PTA spends $300 per student annually. Give today online at tmlink.org, or send in a gift through kid mail or the USPS to Thurgood Marshall Annual Fund, 2401 S. Irving St., Seattle, WA 98144.

Questions about the Annual Giving Fund? Contact us at giving@tmlink.org.

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**Event Calendar**

- **Sat., March 12,** Meet with School Board member Stephan Blanford. 10-11:30 a.m., Douglass Truth Library, 2300 E. Yesler Way.
- **Mon., March 14,** Math-a-palooza, 6:30-8 p.m. Fun math games for all levels. To celebrate “Pi Day,” bring any kind of pie!
- **March 16-18:** FINAL session for most Wed., Thurs. & Fri. Enrichment classes.
- **Thurs., March 17,** Tour & Info Session for prospective families/students, 8:45-10 a.m.
- **March 21-22:** FINAL session for most Mon. & Tues. Enrichment classes.
- **Wed., March 23,** Early dismissal, 1:40 p.m.
- **Thurs., March 31,** “Parenting with Positive Discipline,” 7-9 p.m., TM Library.

**Tutu’s Pantry**

March 14-18: Grade 4’s turn to donate food. See www.tmlink.org for calendar updates.

**PTA Needs YOU in 2016-17**

Several key PTA positions will be open next school year, including:

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Job descriptions for most posts can be found at http://tmlink.org/info/join-pta-board/.

Please consider giving your time, energy, and talent. We hope some new families will join our great team of volunteers!

To learn more (no obligation!), contact our Nominating Committee Chairpeople, Jen Ellis (jenniferellis.206@gmail.com) or Ben Kim (audiattle@yahoo.com).
PTA Survey Shows Parent Interest in Equity, Teacher Support

Thank you to everyone who completed the PTA Survey in February. The survey results reflected a parent community that is overall very satisfied with the PTA’s efforts and Thurgood Marshall. There is a strong desire for equity and building community across programs and a strong push to support teachers.

The survey results and comments will guide the work of the PTA Enrichment Program team, TM’s Safety Committee, and the Equity Action Teams. The PTA will use the results to help make events more welcoming, form PTA priority areas for the 2016-17 school year, and continue to strengthen our communication and fundraising efforts.

Below are some highlights of the survey. Please go to tmlink.org to find a full report of survey results.

- More than 180 parents/caregivers completed the survey (136 HCC, 37 General Education, 3 PEACE Academy).
- 88% of Gen Ed and 84% of HCC respondents were interested or strongly interested in bringing together students from the different programs in one or more ways (free before/after-school activities, current events/social studies, PE, field trips).
- Parents would most like to see PTA events include name tags, get-to-know-you activities, small group get-togethers, kid-focused activities and free child care.
- Parents clearly feel that the top areas the PTA should prioritize are Support for Teachers and Equity. (See chart above.) A second tier of priorities appears to be Technology, Safety and State & Local Education Issues.
- Families would like to see shorter breaks between Enrichment Program sessions. We received many great course ideas, with much interest in sports, STEM and foreign languages.
- About 94% of respondents feel “well-informed” about PTA events. They cited Pup Press, plus PTA and teacher emails, as the most useful sources about news and events.

Thanks, Counseling Interns!

Counselor Meghan Kaloper wants to extend a big thank-you to two helpers this year. Sophie Nelson is an undergraduate intern from Seattle Pacific University at TM since September. “Sophie helped with lessons, prep work and more,” says Ms. Kaloper. “She has been a wonderful teammate, especially during large classroom lessons.”

Ms. Kaloper also wants to thank Lizzie Ward, a graduate-level practicum student from Seattle University. For two months, Lizzie has worked with students 1:1 and helped run lessons and groups. Lizzie will be returning next year for a year-long counseling internship.

Today is their last day. TM thanks them for patience, service and caring for our kids!

Parent Book Group Tomorrow

The parent-led group will discuss the book “Face to Face” and how to raise resilient and caring kids. When: Fridays, 2-3:30 p.m., March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29, May 6.

At Thurgood Marshall, YMCA building

Interested? Please contact pta@tmlink.org. Books are available for purchase. For more info: www.family-empower.com/face-to-face.

Cat in the Hat Inspires!

The feline’s visit to last Friday’s assembly kicked off the Thurgood Marshall Read-A-Thon. Students are each setting a goal for number of books to read in March. Teachers will then report class totals so that Ms. Kazanjian can set a schoolwide goal for the Read-A-Thon. Students will try to reach that number (to be posted on a front bulletin board) by April 1!

If we reach the goal, a reading party will be held at the April 1 (Friday) assembly. Students are completing a Read-A-Thon writing sheet for each book read. (These will be posted outside their classrooms!) Let’s dive into reading!

Bullpup Briefs

Equity Action Teams Still Can Use Your Help

The Equity Action Teams are hard at work, looking at everything from HCC access to Title I funds. If you are interested in getting involved, go to tmlink.org/info/equity-in-education-initiative/ to see what the teams are doing. Contact info for team leaders is listed. Our next meeting will be 6:45-8 p.m. Thursday, April 21, in the TM library.

Seattle Police Meeting on School-related Safety Issues

Terrie Johnston, Seattle Police East Precinct Crime Prevention Coordinator, is meeting with Central District PTAs 6-7:30 pm March 21 at the Douglass Truth Library. Hear about:

- Physical safety to/from/at school
- Car prow/ prevention
- Workplace safety
- Police resources available to help keep children, teachers and staff safe at school.

If you have additional issues you’d like addressed, please notify Nancy Jensen nancymejensen@gmail.com, and they will be addressed.

Have an article for Pup Press? Send it to Cliff Meyer at cliffm99@gmail.com. If your submission is not acknowledged within 24 hours, please call or text 206-366-5413.
Family Survey
Coming April 18 – May 20

Families of K-12 students can participate in two easy steps!

1. By March 18, contact your child’s school to make sure your email address is correct.

2. Respond to the survey you receive in late April by email (or regular mail for families without email addresses).

About the Seattle Public Schools Climate Surveys

Surveys are administered in the spring of each school year to all families, school staff, and students grades 3 through 12. Results are used to guide improvements at the school and district level.

For more information, including results of the 2015 Family, Staff, and Student Surveys, please select “School Climate Surveys” at the following webpage:

www.SeattleSchools.org/performance
The Thurgood Marshall PTA Presents:

The Wild, Wild Web: Keeping Your Kids Safe in the Digital World

with Kathy Slattengren, M. Ed.

Digital media gives our kids access to an amazing wealth of possibilities. It also allows them to get into serious trouble with the click of a button.

If you have questions and concerns about your children’s use of technology, this presentation is for you!

- How do you teach your kids about the responsibilities and potential dangers with the internet, social media, video games and texting?
- What limits do you set?
- How do you allow your children to learn from their mistakes while guiding them to avoid huge mistakes?
- How do you keep up with technology changes that affect children?

Kathy Slattengren, M. Ed., has helped thousands of parents from across the United States to Australia through her online classes, presentations, coaching and books. Parents excitedly report their success in replacing yelling and threatening with calm, confident parenting. When your children’s behavior is really pushing your buttons, discover ways to set effective limits, invite cooperation and have a lot more fun together!

6:30-8:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 22

TM Library • FREE child care available *

This is a regular PTA meeting that will also include 15 minutes of other news/updates, including the plan for new technology purchases! All are welcome.

* In YMCA Building. Limited to 30 school-aged children. Pizza dinner provided! You must RSVP to pta@tmlink.org.