Our Plan for New & More Technology

This fall, a committee of parents, staff and District representatives began meeting to discuss technology use at Thurgood Marshall. This “Technology Team” was formed to build on the Technology Readiness Survey that a PTA-funded consultant, Jim Dunnigan, conducted last year. Our committee considered staff readiness to implement technology, types of technology best used in particular grades, staff technology training, curricular needs, and equity considerations related to technology.

The team made the following recommendations:

• Grades 4 and 5 will be prioritized for technology spending, with the goal of one laptop for every three students.
• Laptops (rather than tablets) best suit the needs of the older grades.
• Increased lower-grade use of existing iPad carts will be possible because of additional laptops purchased for older grades.
• Additional laptops for General Education classrooms will be purchased in consideration of equity needs. These laptops will support academic intervention software programs.
• The purchase of additional iPads will allow primary teachers to check out four to five iPads to create a learning center in their classrooms.
• Technology use should be integrated to enhance existing curriculum rather than being an add-on.
• Staff will develop a curriculum map for technology-related skills that will be targeted at each grade level, including digital safety and citizenship (some of this is currently being taught as part of our library curriculum or through Ms. Kaloper’s guidance curriculum).

After many conversations with the team and with central office technology leaders, our team has developed a plan for spending our District levy-supported technology allocation. Our basic plan includes:

• Refurbishing computers in our lab that have outlived their warranty.
• Purchasing three laptop carts and enough laptops to bring our ratio to one computer to every three 4th- and 5th-grade students.
• Purchasing a minimum of two additional laptops for each General Education classroom.
• Purchasing nine more iPads for use in primary classrooms.

We will work together with our PTA Board to raise funds for technology beyond what the levy allocation will cover. We expect to see the purchased items in use by December 2016. Many thanks to the parents and school and District staff who shared their time and expertise to customize a plan to fit the needs of our school!

Family Games Tonight: Potluck at 5:30, Playtime at 6

Roll the dice tonight (March 3) and take a chance on family fun at Game Night! Volunteers will help you enjoy board games brought to TM by Blue Highways Games. Kids will get to vote for their favorite game, and the winner will be donated to Thurgood Marshall. Bring mess-free snacks (fruit/veggie plates; pita and dip) for the potluck at 5:30. Game-playing will run from 6-7:30. Free!

EVENT CALENDAR

TONIGHT, March 3, Family Game Night, 5:30 p.m. potluck; 6-7:30 games; Cafeteria.

Tues., March 8, African American Family Gathering, 6-8 p.m. Improve education & family partnerships. Rainier Beach HS Library, 8815 Seward Park Ave. S. (See attached flier.)

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! (See flier.)

Thurs., March 17, Tour & Info Session for prospective families/students, 8:45-10 a.m.


Wed., March 23, 2-hour early dismissal (140)

Thurs., March 31, “Parenting with Positive Discipline,” 7-9 p.m., TM Library. (See flier.)

TUTU’S PANTRY

March 7-11: Grade 3’s turn to donate food. See www.tmlink.org for calendar updates.

PTA Must Raise $60,000

March Match-ness Challenge!

It’s time to get in the game for Thurgood Marshall! We still need to raise $60,000 to meet our 2015-16 fundraising goal of $160,000 and we need your help to get there.

Help us beat the buzzer by teaming up with donors who have created our March Match-ness Challenge Match! The play: If we can raise $15,000 in March, a group of Thurgood Marshall All-Stars will contribute another $15,000, getting us that much closer to our goal.

Don’t let the clock run out. The PTA spends $300 per student annually. With your help, we can ensure PTA-funded programs continue to support teachers and students daily. (See page 2 for an example!)

Give online at http://tmlink.org/?p=3619, send contributions via kid mail or postal mail to Thurgood Marshall Annual Fund, 2401 S. Irving St., Seattle, WA 98144. Qs? Contact us at giving@tmlink.org.
‘RULER’ is Helping Students Handle Social & Emotional Challenges

You may have heard that your student is learning about RULER, the program that helps us recognize emotions in ourselves and others, label and express emotions appropriately, and self-regulate.

Teachers are being guided on RULER by a team of School Counselor Meghan Kaloper and teachers Jennifer Ward, Katie Humphreys and Bridgette Carney.

“Ms. Kaloper helped me tailor RULER for my students,” says Grade 3 teacher Cora Glass. “In science, before we began our latest unit on Motion & Design, teams wrote Charters that have helped guide their work. We begin each session by reading your charters to remind ourselves of the positive intentions we set at the beginning.”

“The charters have really helped my students stay on track and feel the things they truly wish to feel when working together,” Glass says. She adds that when an activity is about to start, the class often refers to the “Mood Meter,” a diagram that helps students recognize their emotional state. “I ask students to think about what region would be most helpful to move to in order to be successful,” Ms. Glass says.

Students are now learning about the third anchor tool, called a “Meta Moment,” in which they take a step back from the situation, to pause and think before acting.

Make a Difference through Equity Action Teams

There’s still time to become involved in action teams formed as a result of the Equity Meeting last month. The teams will work over email or in person, and a meeting of all groups will occur in April. Please contact a team leader, below, if you are interested:

1. Create protocol for school events
   - Robin Counts, robindCounts@hotmail.com
2. Identify areas for potential academic integration
   - Principal Katie May, kjmay1@seattleschools.org
3. Look at PTA Enrichment Program through an equity lens
   - Casey Sommers, caseypilar@gmail.com
4. Engage with District on HCC admission/recruiting to help reflect District diversity
   - Devin Bruckner, devinbruckner@gmail.com
5. Research HCC testing and appeals
   - Hannah Gribben, hannahum@hotmail.com
6. Field Trips (including all students from same grade level on trips)
   - Cora Glass, caglass@seattleschools.org
7. Advocacy and research around Title 1 funding
   - Trinia & Carroll Washington, tnbpeter57@yahoo.com & cjackw@att.net

Parent Book Discussion Group Starts on Friday Afternoons

The parent-led group will discuss the book “Face to Face” and how to raise resilient and caring kids. The group will discuss many topics including: outside influences of technology, friendships, peer pressure, and ways to stay connected as a family.

When: Fridays, 2-3:30 p.m., March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 22, 29, May 6
Where: At Thurgood Marshall, YMCA building

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

Ms. Kaloper, whose position is funded by the PTA Annual Giving Fund, works to make a difference in the life of every Thurgood Marshall student.

Ms. Kaloper recommends that parents learn more about these ideas and make them part of everyday life at home. Visit www.greatschools.org/gk.yale-tools-for-families for easy-to-use tools and videos to help you learn what your students are learning at school.

“If you need support, please do be in touch!,” says Ms. Kaloper, whose address is mrkaloper@seattleschools.org.

You can support social/emotional learning by every student by donating to the PTA Annual Giving Fund during March Match-ness. Do it now at http://tmlink.org/?p=3619.

Bullpup Briefs

Save the Dates: Multicultural and Bingo Nights in April

They are annual favorites! Multicultural Night is April 7 and Bingo Night returns on April 29. Mark your calendar.

Last Days to Donate Garments

March 7 is the final day that 5th-graders from Girl Scout Troop 43852 will be collecting new children’s socks and underwear for the Amara Emergency Sanctuary. Sizes most in need are 3-8. Donations go in the bin in the front office. Qs: carolynpugh@gmail.com.

Are You Buying at Amazon?

Did you know that Amazon.com and other retailers (such as Office Depot & Bartell Drugs) will rebate up to 6 percent of your purchases to our school or PTA? Start your shopping on Amazon.com by clicking the link on www.tmlink.org. (Note this is different from Amazon’s “Smile” program.) At Bartell, ask for a “B Caring” card. At Office Depot, just tell the cashier your affiliation with Thurgood Marshall.

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.
African American Family Gathering
Improve education for African American students!
Improve school and family partnerships!

Bring your ideas and solutions!

Please join us in a powerful evening sharing ideas to improve student success with the African American Male Think Tank. Come share your experience and expertise to ensure success for our African American students. We welcome all who care about the success of African American students. This includes parents, families, and community members.

When & Where:

*Tuesday, March 8, 2016 from 6:00 – 8:00pm*

Rainier Beach High School Library
8815 Seward Park Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98118

Special Guests:
Sarah Pritchett, Central Regional Director
& Kelly Aramaki, Southeast Regional Director

Food & Activities for kids!

Contact information: Emijah Smith, Volunteer Parent Leader
(206) 841-9397 or email: ashantimichai@gmail.com

In partnership with African American families and Director of Schools from SPS Central and Southeast Regions
CELEBRATE Pi DAY AT MATHA-PALOOZA ON 3.14

Monday, March 14
6:30 - 8PM
Thurgood Marshall Elementary

FUN MATH GAMES FOR ALL LEVELS.

To celebrate Pi day we are asking people to bring pie (PIZZA PIE, apple pie, pizza pie, any kind of pie!).
PARENTING WITH POSITIVE DISCIPLINE
Sahara Pirie, Certified Positive Discipline Lead Trainer
March 31st, 2016 7-9pm at
Thurgood Marshall Elementary School in Seattle
FREE EVENT