Commitment to Taking on Bullying

If students are to feel connected and happy at school, they must feel physically and emotionally safe. I wanted to share our most recent efforts to make Thurgood Marshall a safe place for all. Last year, only about half of our students taking the annual climate survey said they believed “adults are aware and respond when someone is being bullied.” We were disheartened, considering our efforts to handle unkind behavior. These include visits to each classroom by School Counselor Meghan Kaloper to teach how to recognize, refuse and report bullying. Our staff strongly felt we could do more to help students believe that adults will support them if they are bullied, and we wrote this goal into our Continuing School Improvement Plan.

During our last early dismissal day, Ms. Kaloper trained all staff how to recognize bullying and how to respond in ways that support the victim and help the person who is bullying. In addition, we wrote a more comprehensive school-wide bullying policy and clear procedures so that everyone is aware of how to respond in a consistent way. Download the policy from our PTA website: http://bit.ly/TManti-bully.

The first step to addressing bullying is to recognize it when it occurs. We define bullying as:

mean or hurtful behavior that is usually repeated over time. Bullying is one-sided, occurs in a relationship where there is an imbalance of power, and results in or intends to cause a seriously harmful or distressing impact on the targeted student.

Students know our bullying definition as:

Bullying is unfair and one-sided. It happens when someone repeatedly hurts, frightens, threatens or leaves someone out on purpose.

Some unpleasant interactions between children may not be defined as bullying, such as arguments or two-sided name-calling and even some types of physical altercations. These behaviors will still be addressed, but not as bullying.

Our staff have committed to closely monitoring students to watch for signs of bullying and to step in when we see them. We teach all students how to communicate assertively, how to be upstanders when they see bullying occur, and how to report bullying to an adult. We also work closely with students who exhibit bullying behavior to teach them how to be positive leaders, rather than using their power over other students in negative, hurtful ways. We are mindful that while it is upsetting when students make the choice to bully, this behavior comes from a need that is not being fulfilled or from a lack of skill, and we will teach students more adaptive ways to interact with others. We will involve parents as we become aware of these issues, and we will follow the District discipline code.

The code on bullying at the elementary level is to teach the student that his or her behavior is bullying, and conference with the family. We then assess whether the student needs additional skills training, and whether a behavior plan must be implemented. Parents, if you become aware of bullying behavior, please let your child’s teacher know. Working together, we can create a school climate that supports students interacting with each other in healthy, friendly ways.

Thank You, Donors: $52,928!

You delivered in the clutch and made our March Match-ness challenge a slam dunk! Thank you to the many families who contributed in March, including new donors, second-time donors and relatives of our students.

Together, we raised $52,928 in March and a total of $148,532 this school year. Our goal of $160,000 is in sight. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to Thurgood Marshall Elementary.
Help Create a More Inclusive HCC Program

Our school’s committee working to increase diversity in the HCC program is looking for help from more parents – especially black and Latino parents. Part of our plan to support a more diverse HCC community is to encourage more families of color to participate in the program. Black, Latino, Pacific Islander and Native American families are disproportionately under-represented in the HCC program, and insights and experiences from families of color are a critical part of our equity work at Thurgood Marshall. We would love to hear about your experiences in the HCC program, whether or not you are able to join the committee. Please contact Brian Terry (206-755-5943, brterry@gmail.com) to talk about your experiences or consider participating in our committee.

Wow, 3,863 Books!

Our March Read-A-Thon was a rousing success, with 3,863 books logged! At Friday’s morning assembly, Principal May began the celebration with a reading from “Benito’s Dream Bottle,” by Naomi Shahib Nye. Some 500 Thurgood Marshall students then nestled in for reading in their snuggly pajamas on class blankets.

Several kindergarten parents read with their children, teachers read aloud and students read solo or with a student from their buddy classroom. Our Read-In concluded with a poem by first-graders Ruwayda and Ruth.

A shout out to Kelly Mulligan and the other parent volunteers who made certain every classroom had two cozy blankets. Many thanks, also, to Ms. Sheridan and Ms. Von Beck for co-planning. The joy of reading is alive at Thurgood Marshall!

Greatness – but Defeat – in Global Reading Challenge

“The Champion Marshmallows” valiantly answered 22 out of 24 questions in the March regional round of the Seattle Public Library’s Global Reading Challenge but it wasn’t enough for a place in the finals. “It was one of the most competitive meets that the Global Reading Challenge has ever had,” said Central Library staff member Mary Palmer. (Later in March, Thornton Creek ES won the championship.)

Ms. Hudson is very proud of our team’s sportsmanship and effort, especially their long hours of practice. She noted many teammates hadn’t previously known each other. We salute Team Captain Isabel Oakes, Feven Aregawi, Gwyneth Hawkins, Natalie Blanchfield, Oliver Mazner, Sabrina Yassin, Virginia Buckley and Torin Hough.

Special Thanks to the Facklers

The PTA would like to thank PTA Co-President, Jamie Fackler, and Events Chair, Brenda Fackler, for their dedication to Thurgood Marshall these past two years. They were behind the big fun at Bingo Night, helped spearhead the crucial work of the Equity Teams, organized our PTA events, and directed the drainage project by the Pillars that saved all of our feet from mud this winter. Jamie and Brenda will bring their energy, passion and kindness to their new school and make a huge difference. Thurgood Marshall will miss you greatly. A huge thank-you to Trinia Washington for stepping into the PTA Co-President position this spring!

Fitness Testing to Start

Mr. Shin reports that P.E. will start the last round of fitness testing after Spring Break. You can help your child score well and stay fit by encouraging a morning routine of 5 pushups, 5 curls (crunches) and 10 seconds each for plank and for hamstring stretch. A short workout every morning will prepare them for school and for fitness testing. Have fun with it and work out together!

Bullpup Briefs

Enrichment Deadline Sun.

The PTA Enrichment spring registration deadline is Sunday! Amazing options in sports, computer, science, music, art, movement and so much more! Info at www.tmlink.org/enrichment.

Lots of New Art to Savor

Check out the new art! Locations are in parentheses (if not near usual classrooms).

Grade 5: landscape prints (near Room 208).
Grade 4: totem poles (1st-floor display case and Library); logo prints (upstairs).
Grade 3: landscape paintings and cherry blossoms.
Grade 2: Earth globe paintings (only near Room 101) and positive- and negative-space collages.
Grade 1: organic shape glue and chalk drawings, as well as Romare Bearden collages (Cafeteria area).
Grade K: shaded hands, Eric Carle collages.
Ms. Zirngible needs help hanging art. Visit Room 208 anytime. Thanks!

Help Revamp Library on Mon.

Help improve the TM Library on Monday, April 11, starting at 9:30. (Yes, during vacation.) We will spruce up the Library with new shelving and a new layout to expand our nonfiction. If you can donate an hour or so, please email Ms. Hudson at m hudson@seattleschools.org.

Last Day: Photos for Yearbook

The 2015-16 Yearbook still needs photos of TM activities. Don’t be shy! Deadline is tomorrow! Upload to Dropbox at http://dp.me/KQ8W-65A8-MRE7/. Questions? Email Tracy at adaireheeb@hotmail.com.

Curriculum, Bell Times Surveys

Don’t miss the chance to offer your opinions via surveys about the District’s English Language Arts curriculum (to be revised by 2017-18) and on the 2016-17 changes in bell times.

For the ELA survey (in multiple languages) and more info, see http://bit.ly/NewKSEL. Deadline: April 15.

For the bell times survey, which seeks to learn how start times affect your child’s meals, before/after-school activities and athletics participation, see http://bit.ly/BellTimesSurveyAgain. Our school could still be moved to an 8:45 am start time. Deadline: April 13.

Have an article for Pup Press? Send it to Cliff Meyer at pup-press@tmlink.org. If your submission is not acknowledged within 24 hours, please call or text 206-388-5413.
The Seattle Mariners are extending a discount ticket offer to the students, parents, faculty and staff at our school! Enjoy a special outing with your friends and family members!

To order tickets, fill out the form below and return it to the school office.

Deadline to order is April 25, 2016

Questions? Contact Andrea at (206) 399-9793 or andrea_radosevich@yahoo.com

STUDENT ____________________________ ____________________________
 TEACHER ____________________________ ____________________________
 DAY PHONE ____________________________ ____________________________
 EMAIL ____________________________ ____________________________
 WE WOULD LIKE TO SIT WITH ____________________________ ____________________________

*We will do our best to honor requests to sit with another family.

# of View Level Seats @ $12.00 = __________

Total Amount Enclosed $__________

*Scholarships are available to cover one student and up to 3 family members. Please mark below if you would like a scholarship.

We request a scholarship for __________ people (up to 4 total including the student)

THURGOOD MARSHALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL • MAY 14, 2016