Preventing Summer Reading Loss

Research shows that children in poorer populations are far more likely to experience summertime loss of reading skills than kids in middle class or more affluent families. One of the main reasons is the difference between having books at home or not. Each summer the loss increases and, over the years, becomes a severe achievement gap. Getting children of lower socioeconomic status reading over the summer is the most effective way to change that dynamic. Effective summer reading includes some key practices, in which the student:

- Chooses books based on interests. This is especially important for early readers. Matching books to a student’s reading level is less important than interest.
- Makes a goal of reading at least 10 books.
- Owns books (versus borrowing them); research across more than two dozen countries found that a home library is critical.
- Reads series books that often have highly predictable structures.
- Reads books that are slightly challenging and definitely not below their reading level.
- Has parents or guardians involved in the reading process.
- Sees parents set an example – create your own summer reading list and ensure your children have the opportunity to see you reading. Plan some time to read together.
- Feels that summer reading is fun, not work!

If your home library needs to be supplemented, talk to our wonderful Librarian, Merilee Hudson (206-252-2775 or mhudson@seattleschools.org). She is planning the Summer Reading Kick-Off (on the evening of June 2) and is committed to helping every one of our students read all summer long. The TM Library will be open 4-7 p.m. Tuesdays after school ends (June 28 through Aug. 23). You can also talk to your classroom teacher about borrowing books. And the Seattle Public Library offers a summer reading and learning program. (See http://bit.ly/SPL2016summer.)

Encouraging your child to read this summer is the best thing you can do to get your child prepared for the 2016-2017 school year.

PTA Approves ’16-17 Officers & Budget; Hears ‘Birds + Bees’ Strategies

The Thurgood Marshall PTA on Tuesday night approved the 2016-17 budget and heard tips on how elementary school parents can best present their kids with information about the “Birds + Bees.” Members also elected the Executive Board for next year: Karen Pinkard (President), Lauri Nakamoto (Vice President), Jen Ellis (Treasurer) and Stacey Joanovic (Secretary). The spending plan of just over $172,000 will again cover the salary of the School Counselor and half of the cost of TM’s full-time Librarian. The PTA will continue to support literacy tutoring, classroom grants to each teacher, theater, dance and other arts curriculum, and many special events and smaller
The Perfect Volunteer Role Is Waiting for You at TM

The PTA is looking for new volunteers! See whether something below matches your interests or talents. Even if not, we’d love to find a spot for you! Email us at pta@tmlink.org.

Tutu’s Pantry Volunteer
Do you have ideas about how to get grocery store or food bank donors to regularly support our pantry? Would you like to be more involved in helping Tutu’s Pantry?

Legislative Chair
Are you interested in following state and local education issues? Do you feel passionate about school funding issues and McCleary? The PTA is looking for a volunteer to keep the Board updated on happenings and occasionally write short blurbs for the Pup Press.

Pup Press & PTA Communications
Do you enjoy writing and editing? Posting to social media? Playing with website design? Helping with Pup Press or other PTA/school outreach might be perfect for you!

Enrichment Volunteer
Would you like to work with vendors and make sure we have the classes families want at TM? Our Enrichment Coordinator could use help running our terrific program.

Other opportunities: Arts at TM, Yearbook, Library, Garden and more! Contact us or see www.tmlink.org/info/volunteering/.

PTA Meeting
Continued from Page 1

programs. The 2016-17 goal for the Annual Giving Fund will remain at $160,000, with additional revenue from grants and retail partners.

Guest speaker Amy Lang started her presentation with background on the issues surrounding kids and the “Birds + Bees.” She led the group in an interactive discussion that included topics such as how to link facts and values in your discussions, what to cover at each age, books that are the best resources for each age, and the current statistics on teen pregnancy and STDs in the United States.

Much of the information is on her website, www.birdsandbeesandkids.com.

More details from the meeting are at http://tmlink.org/about/pta-board-meeting-minutes/.

Check Out Summer Camp Options

Looking for some fun and interactive camps and activities for your students to tackle this summer? Summer is a great chance to try something new, step out of our comfort zones, and build our confidence as we explore the world. Take some time with your child to look through these summer camp options and brainstorm what they might want to try as a new activity or challenge. Many camps offer scholarships, meals, and sometimes transportation if asked. If you are seeking something in particular and need assistance, feel free to contact me (206-252-2808 or mrkaloper@seattleschools.org) and I would be happy to help.

Seattle Parks and Recreation: http://www.seattle.gov/parks/camps
Youth Program Directory: http://youthprogramdirectory.org/
Seattle Summer Camp Listing: http://www.seattlesummercamps.com/
The Center for Children with Special Needs: http://caehn.org/resources-contacts/summer-camp-directory/

Bullpup Briefs
RSVP by Mon. for Summer Reading Kick-Off on June 2

The anticipation is building for the Summer Reading Kick-Off and Book Exchange 5:30-7:30 p.m. June 2, but the staff needs to know if you’ll be enjoying the event and the free dinner! Please RSVP, by using the paper form sent home last week or by going to www.tmlink.org/tm-event-rsvp/.

In addition to the Book Exchange (everyone gets one book; bring in more to trade, if you can!), the evening will feature an author appearance by Mark Holtzen, whose new A Ticket to the Pennant is available by pre-order. (See attached form.)

Offer Opinions to Aid Refresh of District & School Websites


Grades Still Competing for Prize in ‘Box Tops’ Collection

Student Council’s “Box Tops for Education” drive is in its final week! Although the ice-cream party has been claimed by 4th-graders from rooms 206 and P2, the grade band prize is still up for grabs.

The grade band that reaches its goal first gets extra recess and a chance to eat lunch outside. Box Tops, when sent by a school to be redeemed are worth 10 cents each, which will be allocated by Student Council for activities next year. Deadline is June 3.

Apply to Help Prepare for Schools’ Future Capacity Needs

The District is creating a Capacity Planning Task Force to advise the Superintendent on how to meet demands for future classroom space.

The task force will include parents/guardians, family, and community members who represent the diversity of our schools, and who can provide insight and perspective. Deadline for applications is June 15, 2016. For full info, see http://www.seattleschools.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=627&pageId=11000203.
Info about Author Appearance by Mark Holtzen
6:30 p.m., Thursday, June 2

We are proud to have author Mark Holtzen speak at our Summer Reading Kick-Off and Book Exchange! His book, A Ticket to the Pennant, is set in our own neighborhood. Which Rainier Avenue and other landmarks will you recognize? You can pre-order this book through Thurgood Marshall by filling out the form below and returning to the Main Office or Librarian Merilee Hudson!

In case you don't have the flier from last week, our schedule on June 2:

5:30-6 – Pizza Dinner and Book Exchange. (Pick a free book. If you can, bring in more books to trade!

6-6:30 – Sharing time with Mynique Adams of Seattle Public Library. Dinner continues.

6:30-7:15 – Parents of primary students meet with teachers from next year’s grade.

6:30-7:15 – Mark Holtzen will present and read from his book. Kids will be watched by staff (on playground or stay or at the book exchange inside.)

7:30 Event ends. All children picked up from playground or book exchange.

Tour the Seattle of 1955 with Huey, fan of the Seattle Rainiers, then our city’s major pro baseball team. Will Huey find his missing ticket to the big game? It’s somewhere in the neighborhood surrounding Sick’s Stadium! Huey visits shops such as the Italian bakery and the Japanese fish market. Featuring vibrant retro illustrations by Larry Gets Lost series creator John Skewes, A Ticket to the Pennant celebrates diversity and will be cherished by baseball fans young and old.

More about the book and author at http://www.markholtzen.com

Pre-order your copy of A Ticket to the Pennant by Mark Holtzen. Cost is $19.77 with tax.

Please return your order to Mrs. Hudson or the envelope in the office. Pick up the book at the event from Mr. Holtzen and have it signed! Mrs. Hudson will deliver the book if you cannot make it on June 2.

Name ____________________________________________ Classroom ______________________

I'd like to order _________ books. Please include $19.77 for each book. TOTAL PAID: $ ______________

Please make the inscription read To: ___________________________ (print the name)
YOU ARE CORDIALLYINVITED TO:

Cultivating the Genius of Black Children

STRATEGIES TO HELP FAMILIES CLOSE THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

Author and Keynote Speaker: Dr. Debra Ren-Etta Sullivan

Facilitated by: Bevette Irvis

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2016
6:00pm – 8:00pm
New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
124 21st Avenue, Seattle

Click here to register online: http://bit.ly/1SSIOZu
Registration is limited to 75 participants

Free Dinner & Child Care Provided
2.0 STARS Hours Available ($20.00 Cash Only)

Sponsored by:
African American Family Gathering
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Black Child Development Institute
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