‘ShakeOut’ & Other Drills Vital for Safety

One of the main responsibilities of the Thurgood Marshall Safety Committee is to plan and monitor all drills. By the time you read this, we will have participated in the Great Washington ShakeOut, a statewide opportunity to practice how to be safer during big earthquakes: “Drop, Cover and Hold On.” The ShakeOut is intended to encourage individuals, families, communities and organizations to review and update emergency preparedness plans and supplies, and to secure our space in order to prevent damage and injuries. (See [http://www.shakeout.org/washington](http://www.shakeout.org/washington).) We also have had one fire drill this year, and will conduct another on Oct. 28, monitored by our local fire station.

During drills, each staff person has assigned roles and responsibilities. One of the first things Katie May and I do is lock the front doors. Why? During most drills we need to secure the building to ensure the safety of our students and staff, and follow certain protocols. For example, if a big earthquake actually occurs, we will follow a specific plan for how to dismiss kids to parents. (Students would be gathered on the playfield and released to parents through the gate at the flagpole.)

Other Safety Committee responsibilities include assessing the safety and efficiency of transportation procedures, and day-to-day operations within the building. This year we have been particularly focused on cafeteria behavior. Our schedule, space and number of students make lunch a time that absolutely needs to be well monitored and managed. We have struggled to ensure that children are listening to adults, following directions, and being safe.

**How can you help?** Talk to your children! Ask them about how lunch is going and what could be modified to make it better. Talk to them about bus behavior. Encourage them to share details about what is going well and what isn’t. Review with them how drills go and what the behavioral expectations are. Ask if they understand why we do what we do during those drills. **Last but not least, please** remind your kiddos that the staff here at TM are here to field suggestions, requests, problems and questions. We want to hear from your kids about the things they wonder about or don’t understand. We want to do all we can to ensure they feel safe and taken care of.

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**EVENT CALENDAR**

- **Mon., Oct. 24:** Equity Action Teams Meeting, 5:30-7 p.m., Library. Hear about our efforts and ideas for this year. All welcome! See below, or visit [http://tmlink.org/info/equity-in-education-initiative/](http://tmlink.org/info/equity-in-education-initiative/)
- **Wed., Oct. 26:** 2-hour early dismissal, 1:45 p.m. (Teacher professional development.)
- **Thurs., Oct. 27:** Coffee with Principal Katie May, 9:15-10 a.m., Library. Topic: Social Studies and your questions! The coffee is free!
- **Mon., Oct. 31:** Book-o-ween. Dress as characters from a favorite book. No full-face masks, no weapons, fake or otherwise.
- **Wed., Nov. 2:** Retakes & Class Photo Day. No charge for retakes; no obligation to purchase.
- **Fri., Nov. 4:** PTA Reflections art submissions deadline. Music, film, writing, movement or other creative projects also eligible! Theme: “What’s Your Story?” Entries to Art Room. Info: Beth Zirngible, bizirngible@seattleschools.org, or www.pta.org/reflect .
- **Fri., Nov. 4:** PTA Fall Family Pajama Dance & Food Drive, 6:30-8 p.m. See attached flier.

**TUTU’S PANTRY**

- **Week of Oct. 24:** Grade 5 families are asked to donate non-perishable foods (in bins in the front hall). **Not in that grade? Donations welcomed from all.**

**Action Teams Meeting on Mon.**

Join Parents, Staff in Creating Change at TM & at District

Learn what the school’s Equity Action Teams are doing (and join the effort if you’d like) at their first meeting of the year: 5:30-7 p.m. Monday (Oct. 24) in the Library.

The current teams, a blend of parents and staff, are focused on initiatives affecting field trips, the PTA Enrichment Program, TM’s Title I federal funding status, HCC diversity, school events and selected integration between academic programs.

Come and help with plans for this year. You need not be a current team member: this grassroots effort welcomes new ideas and revision of the current set of initiatives.

There is no commitment to join a team, so check it out! Kids are welcome to become involved in the discussion, or just read in the library.

Counselor Clues in Parents to RULER’s Techniques for Creating Calm

School Counselor Meghan Kaloper Tuesday offered an interactive look at how to better use “RULER,” the set of techniques taught at Thurgood Marshall to help students regulate their emotions. The featured speaker at the first PTA General Meeting of the year, Ms. Kaloper also described her role at TM, including classroom lessons, small group counseling, individual services and the Conflict Mediator and Recess Mentor programs. The position exists at TM thanks to PTA fundraising. Ms. Kaloper’s handouts and PowerPoint are at http://tiny.cc/PTAminutes.

The meeting, led by President Karen Pinkard, also included a review of the 2016-2017 budget, introduction to fundraising efforts, approval of the PTA Standing Rules and a report by Principal Katie May.

Most of the PTA’s roughly $170,000 of annual support for the school is raised through the Annual Giving Fund. But every extra dollar helps, and the PTA is now selling PCC Scrip Cards, which return to the PTA 5 percent of a customer’s purchases at the natural foods market. (Buy the $10 reload-able cards at PTA events, or by emailing PTA@tmlink.org.)

The newly approved PTA Standing Rules, which specify procedures for managing the organization, include a minor amendment updating the list of Board positions and clarifying how certain Board members are elected.

Ms. May took questions on topics such as the school’s homework policies. She invited parents to the next Coffee with the Principal (9:15 a.m., Oct. 27, Library), when Social Studies “blending” will be discussed. In response to parent requests, the Nov. 17 Coffee will start at 8:30 a.m.

Patterns of Creativity in Art Room

Art Teacher Beth Zirngible reports: We are working hard on our artwork so the Thurgood Marshall hallways can again be filled with color!

- Kindergartners used lines to make tempera paintings, showed off their cutting and gluing skills to make a shape collage, and are working on paper weaving.
- First-graders are sharing what they know about geometric and organic shapes to draw and paint a germ.
- Second-graders are using line, shape and pattern to decorate a Henna-inspired tracing of their hand.
- Third-graders are using line, shape and pattern to make a black-and-white doodle or Zen tangle.
- Fourth-graders have just begun on radial symmetry designs.
- Fifth-graders are in the first stages of their “Baseline Assessment,” which asks them to show depth in a still-life drawing by using overlapping, size, and placement. At year’s end, these students will use those techniques to show depth in a landscape for the Cornerstone Assessment. These two assessments are the Seattle Public Schools’ 21st Century Skills Arts Common Assessments.

I am eager to hear what your hopes and dreams are for your children in art. I am also looking for an area of growth you might see for your child, and how I can facilitate that in the art room.

Please call 206-252-2800, or email: bzirngible@seattleschools.org.

From left, “Henna Hands” created by 2nd-graders; “Zen Tangles” by 3rd-graders; “Lines by a kindergartner.

Bullpup Briefs

Fri. is Deadline to Provide Input on ’17 Bell Times

In 2017-18 elementary schools will add 20 minutes a day, except for a weekly early-release day 1 hour shorter than the others so teachers can collaborate.

The District is asking families to offer their preferences by Oct. 21 on how the changes should be made. Six proposed alternatives are posted, including three in which Thurgood Marshall’s start time would be 10:15 a.m. or later on the early release day. More info, and the survey, is at http://bit.ly/2017timechange. In addition, printed surveys are available in the front office, in multiple languages.

Enrichment Asks Input on Current, Future Classes

Interested in suggesting ideas for the PTA’s Enrichment Program? Help us plan for the Winter and Spring seasons by taking our very short survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TFall2016. Currently enrolled families should already have received this link, and can also help us judge the quality of our current classes. Thank you for helping!

Celebrate Book-o-ween at TM by Dressing Up on Oct. 31

It’s a TM tradition to put on a fun and inclusive celebration of our love of reading on Oct. 31. All children and staff are asked to dress for Book-o-ween as characters from a favorite book. Please, no masks that cover a face. No weapons of any sort. Please ask your child’s teacher if you have questions.
‘Mix It Up at Lunch’ Day Creates New Friendships

What is Mix It Up at Lunch Day, scheduled for Oct. 25? It is part of a national campaign launched in 2002 by the nonprofit Teaching Tolerance to encourage students to identify, question and cross social boundaries. Schools participate on the last Tuesday in October each year.

In surveys, students have identified the cafeteria as the place where divisions are most clearly drawn. So for just a day, we ask students to move out of their comfort zones and connect with someone new over lunch. It’s a simple act with profound implications. Studies have shown that interactions across group lines can help reduce prejudice. When students interact with those who are different from them, biases and misperceptions can fall away.

If you are interested in helping Assistant Principal Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie plan for the event or on Oct. 25, email askovacsstorlie@seattleschools.org. Info: http://www.tolerance.org/mix-it-up/what-is-mix.

Social Studies is Topic at Principal Coffee Oct. 27

Principal Katie May will be hosting the year’s second “Coffee with the Principal” 9:15-10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 27, to focus on the new “blended classroom” Social Studies format and take questions on that or other topics.

Bring your coffee cup to the Library! If you are unable to join us, email Ms. May questions: kjmay1@seattleschools.org.

The third Coffee (Nov. 17) will be at an earlier time, 8:30 a.m., in response to parent requests. The topic has not yet been announced.

Special Honor for Students

TM Choir to Perform at ‘State of the District’ Event

Music Teacher Kelsey French has just learned that the Thurgood Marshall Choir has been selected to perform at Seattle Public Schools’ “State of the District” event on Monday, Nov. 7, at Franklin High School.

Just one school group is invited to perform, so this is a tremendous honor for our students!

Superintendent Dr. Larry Nyland will be the primary speaker at the event, which is likely to be covered by the media. Last year, he highlighted the achievements of educators and staff, community partnerships, and students of the past year as well as challenges and opportunities.

Students should arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. for a sound check, and they will perform “Man in the Mirror” by Michael Jackson toward the beginning of the meeting. Although the Choir will only be singing one song, this will be a great experience.

Transportation must be provided by families. Let Ms. French know if your student will not attend, or if you have questions: klfrench@seattleschools.org.

WHEN
Nov. 7, 4:30 p.m. (The event is from 5-7:30, but students may leave after performing).

WHERE
Franklin High School
3013 S Mt Baker Blvd, Seattle, 98144

Shopping at Amazon.com, Office Depot, Bartell Drugs and other businesses? Your purchases can support TM! See http://bit.ly/ShopforTM.
PTA Fall Family Pajama Dance & Food Drive

Friday Nov. 4th 6:30-8:00pm in cafeteria

Potluck: Share some pizza & slumber party snacks!

Bring a donation for Tutu's Pantry

DJ Eric is returning to spin the music...
come dance in your pj's, make art, build a blanket fort!

This is a Family event, adults must attend with kids.
Sign up to help at: http://tinyurl.com/pajamadance