

# PUP PRESS



Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

DEC. 8, 2016

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 13



Principal  
Katie May

## New Options in Education Technology

Last year we created a committee to review technology use at Thurgood Marshall and plan for the future. The committee developed ideas for enhancing the breadth and quality of learning through the use of technology, and proposed levels of equipment, technology and technical support to allow teachers to use technology in their everyday curriculum to meet the Common Core and state standards.

There are a number of factors that inhibit TM teachers' use of technology, most notably, a lack of devices. That will change however, this winter, when we receive the machines purchased with technology levy dollars.

Last weekend, Assistant Principal Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie, kindergarten teacher Mona Tu and I had the chance to attend the EdSurge Tech for Schools Summit in Issaquah. We heard teachers from around the area talk about innovative uses of technology that enhance their students' learning. We also attended presentations by technology companies and experienced products that support student collaboration, assessment, data collection and interpretation, curriculum development, and professional growth for teachers. The best of these might find their way to our classrooms to be piloted by a teacher or a grade level.

It was exciting to see these products. As one example, Yup Technologies offers tutoring 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. Students use Yup's app to take a picture of a problem they are stuck on and send it to a tutor, who is supposed to respond promptly. (See <https://www.yup.com>.)

This week Code.org is working with schools around the country to celebrate an "Hour of Code." Learning to code teaches students problem-solving and critical thinking skills. Anyone who has learned a new technology knows that the process also teaches resilience as you overcome mistakes. Students may be more motivated to learn these skills through technology. Anyone can visit <https://code.org/learn> to try a one-hour tutorial designed to teach basic coding skills. There are more than 100 activities to try (in 45 different languages). At Thurgood Marshall, our librarian, Merilee Hudson, will be leading students through coding activities this week. Grades 4/5 teacher Will Miller took a class in teaching coding this summer, and he has been following up with coding lessons for his students.

We will post our teachers' favorite websites and resources for you to explore with your child. Look for more technology implementation once our new devices arrive.

## Black Family Advocacy Support Group Forming

Come to the first gathering of the Black Family Advocacy Support Group (BFASG) 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday (Dec. 14) in the Thurgood Marshall Library!

The group will create a safe, supportive place for parents and students to voice concerns and/or offer suggestions to make the school environment more welcoming to Black families. The group will also identify ways to effect positive change, and will feature meeting with guest speakers and special topics to help everyone stay engaged with and informed of events affecting our students.

*Continued on Page 2*

## EVENT CALENDAR

**Through Sun., Dec. 11: Winter Enrichment registration continues.** Catalog online. Was sent home last week; extras at office. Discount of 90% for families eligible for Free/Reduce Price Lunch. See [www.tmlink.org/enrichment](http://www.tmlink.org/enrichment).

**Tues., Dec. 13: Special Enrichment registration help session,** 9:15-9:45 a.m., Library. Problem or difficulty with registration? Come to this special post-deadline help session, and we'll get your student signed up.

**Wed., Dec. 14: Black Family Support Group Meeting,** 6:30-8 p.m., Library. See below, left.

**Thurs., Dec. 15: Deadline to retrieve Lost & Found items.** Most items to be sent to charity.

**Thurs., Dec. 15: TMagination: Math & Engineering Night,** 5:30-7 p.m. Potluck (optional): bring pizza. Night of games for the whole family. See flier!

**Fri., Dec. 16: 1-hour early dismissal:** 2:45 p.m. Winter Break is Dec. 17-Jan. 2.

**Tues., Jan. 3: School resumes.** Most Winter Enrichment classes begin this week.

→ More online at [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org)!

## TUTU'S PANTRY.

**Week of Dec. 12: Grade 5** is asked to donate non-perishable foods. *Especially needed* are peanut butter, jelly, cereal, noodles, rice and beans. Bins are in the front hall. (Donations welcomed from all.)

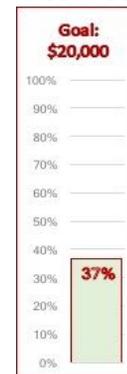
## Annual Fund Short of Goal; Give Now & Gift is Doubled

The PTA Annual Giving Fund's Winter Campaign has raised about \$7,340, but our goal is \$20,000, so if you are planning to give, we would love to hear from you now!

There are many great things about Thurgood Marshall, and one of them is PTA fundraising. At TM, we don't have bake sales or auctions. We ask only that you give a monetary gift. **And, during this month, a group of generous donors will match your donation** dollar for dollar (up to a total of \$20,000). *Small or large, your gift will make double the difference for our students.*

### How can you give?

- Send a check via "kid mail" or USPS to Thurgood Marshall PTA, 2401 Irving St., Seattle WA 98144
- Use a credit card at [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org).
- Questions? Contact us at [giving@tmlink.org](mailto:giving@tmlink.org).



## Fair's Impact: \$3,000 in Books for Library, Kids

Thank you for supporting Thurgood Marshall at the Book Fair last week. We grossed more than \$9,850, more than \$3,000 of which will go back into improving our Library and putting books in the hands of our children. We'll be able to spend nearly \$1,350 on new books and items from vendors other than Scholastic. We were able to use about \$1,500 to make sure that all students received a book of their choice: 158 vouchers were given out to students who could not afford a book or did not have money to spend at the Fair. And, donations of \$186 will buy for the Library books requested by students.

Librarian Merilee Hudson and Lead Parent Volunteer Tanaz Kannan are especially grateful for the volunteers who helped with setup, staffing and tear down. An extra thank you to Allison Dworkin, Kari Somerton, Trinia Washington, Jaimie Han, Natalie Zheng, Ann McNally, Andrea Radosevich, Suzi Egolf, Sharon Khosla, Susan Minogue, Laura Peterson and Elena Femenko.

### Get the Word Out: Jan.-March Dates for Info Sessions & Tours

Principal Katie May and the PTA in 2017 are offering school information sessions and tours on Jan. 26, Feb. 2, Feb. 7 and March 8.

We hope current TM families will pass on the word!

Some tours feature observation of classroom activities. An evening session includes a special presentation on the HCC program.

No RSVP is needed, but attendees must check in at the Main Office upon arrival.

If a family member needs a tour in a language other than English, such as Spanish or Vietnamese, please email [pta@tmlink.org](mailto:pta@tmlink.org). We will do our best to accommodate the request.

The following dates feature an info session with Principal followed by tour led by a parent volunteer. Optional Q&A session at end.

- **Thurs., Jan. 26**, 8:45-10 a.m.
- **Thurs., Feb. 2**, 8:45-10 a.m.
- **Wed., March 8**, 8:45-10 a.m.

Our evening session has a different format.

- **Tues., Feb. 7**, 5-6:30 p.m.  
5-5:45 – Highly Capable Cohort presentation and Q&A  
5:45-6:15 – Tour for all programs (no students or teachers will be present in classrooms)  
6:15-6:30 – Optional Q&A session covering all programs



Coach Bill Schill watches as the Chess Team hams it up after the tourney at Bryant Elementary School on Dec. 3.

### Bryant Fall Class Tourney

#### More Trophies for Chess Team

The TM trophy case is more crowded, thanks to success at the Bryant Fall Classic by 16 chess pups and three graduates (now 6th-graders at Washington Middle School).

TM took **3rd place in the Grades 4-6 section** at the tourney, held at Bryant Elementary in Seattle on Dec. 3. Congrats to 4th-grader Jack Ferguson (1.5 points), 5th-graders Zack Bukovec (2), Kyle Cobden (2.5), Misho Hubka (2), Noah Lefkowicz (1.5), Maddox Mayhew (1), Henry Porter (1.5) and Finn Terry (2); and 6th-graders Forest Berg (4), Graham Cobden (3.5) and Cameron Kono (2.5).

The **5th-place team trophy for Grades 1-3** was won by 1st-graders Frederick Barr (3 points), Owen Maryman (2); 2nd-graders Leonidas Davis, Ford Martin (1), Vinayak Venugopal (3); and 3rd-graders Walter Barr (3.5), Reece Cole (3.5) and Henry Ellis (2).

In individual awards, Vinayak was 10th among 2nd-graders; Walter and Reece were 3rd and 4th, respectively, among 3rd-graders, Graham won 2nd among 6th-graders and Forest was 5th in the overall Grades 4-6 section. Also, Vinayak and Forest are now qualified for the State Scholastic Chess Championships in Tacoma on April 29.

### Bullpup Briefs

#### **Summit to Focus on Equity Issues in Gifted Education**

A Feb. 9-10 "Equity Summit" is aiming to bring together diverse groups to discuss the disconnect between policies designed to serve gifted students in our state, and those historically disenfranchised within the system by race, ethnicity, culture or language. Organized by the University of Washington's Robinson Center for Young Scholars, the event will feature guest speakers from across the country. Attendance is free, but registration is required. See <http://bit.ly/EquitySummit17>.

#### **Message about Dismissal? Tell Us Early in the Day!**

If you need to get your child(ren) a message about dismissal, please call the office early in the day. Thanks for your cooperation! The number: 206-252-2800.

#### **TM Helps the Homeless**

Thanks to Thurgood Marshall families who donated socks or backpacks last month to "Survive the Streets." TM helped about 36 of the 275 homeless people that this small nonprofit aided with winter clothing and other items.

#### **Black Support Group Sets 1st Meeting**

*Continued from Page 1*

Children are welcome to attend. Feel free to bring your own dinner to the gathering. Light snacks will be provided.

For questions, contact Trinia Washington: 206-406-7403 or [trinia.washington@live.com](mailto:trinia.washington@live.com).

Note: This group is open to all families with a special emphasis on the education of African American and underrepresented minority students.

#### **DOING HOLIDAY SHOPPING? TM CAN BENEFIT!**

**If you are shopping at Amazon.com, Office Depot, Bartell Drugs and other businesses, you can support TM!**

For example, if you start your Amazon shopping by clicking the special link atop [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org), the PTA will receive about 6% of your purchase prices. No cost to you! *This is separate from the Amazon "Smile" program.*

See <http://bit.ly/ShopforTM>.



I learned how to ask teachers and other staff for exactly what my children needed. It was a great use of my time."

- Trinia Washington, Thurgood Marshall parent of 2nd-grader



# WINTER QUARTER | 2017 FAMILY CONNECTORS UNIVERSITY @ GARFIELD HIGH SCHOOL 6-8PM WEDNESDAYS

**SIGN UP NOW! Deadline is Dec. 15 for January-March session**

Family Connectors University is a 2-credit course through our partnership with North Seattle College. During this ten-week course, families gain knowledge and skills to support children's academic success in the Seattle Public School system. Tuition is only \$37.25. **Scholarships are available!** We offer free tutoring for K-12 youth at each site during class sessions.

**\*\* Winter quarter begins January 11th, 2017! \*\***



**Wednesdays 6-8pm • Garfield High School  
400 23rd Ave, Seattle, WA 98122**



## Family University Topics

1. Family Engagement Best Practices
2. Navigating the School System
3. Advocating for your Child
4. Culturally Responsive Communication
5. Common Core Standards
6. Understanding School Data
7. College and Career Readiness
8. Education Policy and Politics
9. Leadership Skills
10. Community Connections and Organizing

### CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO

**Maria Rodriguez**

206-252-0248

[mrodriguez@seattleschools.org](mailto:mrodriguez@seattleschools.org)

Office of School Family Partnerships

[www.seattleschools.org/familyconnectorsuniversity](http://www.seattleschools.org/familyconnectorsuniversity)

**Or speak with TM parent  
Trinia Washington, who took  
the course recently:**

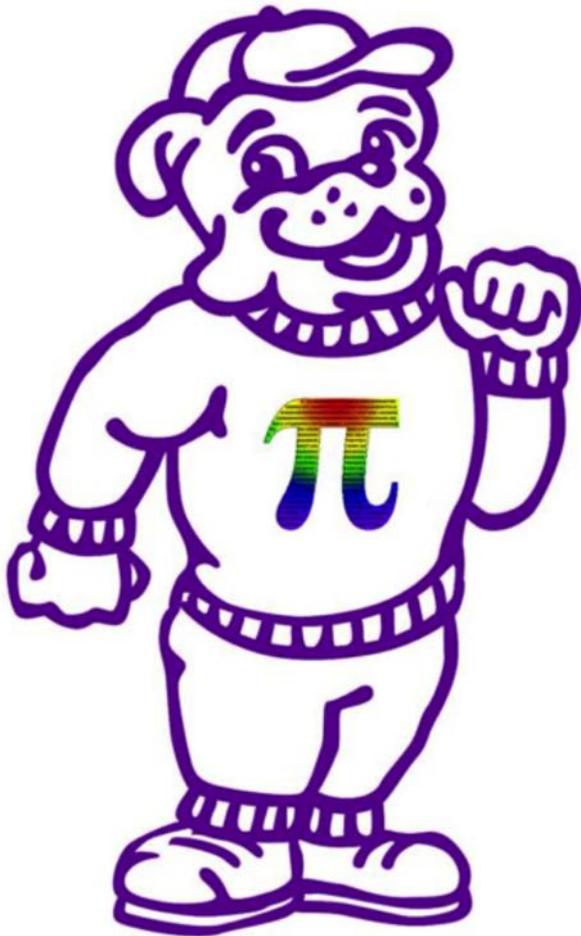
206-406-7403

[trinia.washington@live.com](mailto:trinia.washington@live.com)

*Calculated to be FUN!*

# TMAGINATION

## *Math/Engineering Night*



- Enjoy games and other activities with math and engineering themes!
- Among our engineering challenges are building a “flinker” & building a tower!
- Potluck (optional): Bring Pizza! Beverages also needed, but we’ll have water available.

• • • All ages welcome! • • •

**5:30-7 P.M., THURSDAY, DEC. 15**  
**IN THE THURGOOD MARSHALL GYM**

*This night really is for all ages! Parents and guardians, play with your kids. Kids, give them a chance to win! People who think math or engineering aren’t fun, this night is for you, too!*