Right Time for Math & Engineering Night

In recent years, Thurgood Marshall has hosted a Math Night on or around March 14 (3.14) to celebrate “Pi Day.” This year we are celebrating TMagination: Math and Engineering Night tonight (Dec. 15), 5:30-7 p.m.

Why the change? We are taking a multi-pronged approach as we transition to new national standards for science. The Next Generation Science Standards were written in part as a response to our quickly changing economy and work force. Careers in science, technology, math and engineering today are not what they were when we adults were kids. The coalition of science and teaching groups that developed the standards said that “A significant difference in the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) is the integration of engineering and technology into the structure of science education. This integration is achieved by raising engineering design to the same level as scientific inquiry in classroom instruction when teaching science disciplines at all levels and by giving core ideas of engineering and technology the same status as those in other major science disciplines.” So having a math and engineering night is one response to our new collective responsibility of having kids master new and more challenging standards. (To learn more about NGSS, see www.nextgenscience.org.)

We tend to think about careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics as origins of innovation in our economy. However, this is not quite true anymore. We must ensure scientific and technological literacy for all students.

Holding a Math and Engineering Night now allows us to recast the focus and start the conversation earlier in the year. We will have math games, engineering challenges, and of course, pizza (pie)! If you are so inclined, bring a dish to share. Or bring a math game to share. We are always looking for new games to introduce to our students and their families.

The Common Core math standards ask us to develop stamina and be problem solvers. Even if you don’t understand how to do a problem, you can coach your child by asking good questions, modeling stamina, and developing a genuine curiosity for doing the math. Math and Engineering Night is the perfect opportunity for practicing these skills.

New Goal: Let’s Get $30,000 in Matching Funds!

Thank you for your incredible response to the Winter Challenge Match. We are excited to announce we have raised $20,000 for the Annual Giving Fund and met the match.

We have secured $10,000 more in matching funds, so the challenge is still on! If you haven’t given yet, your donation can still be matched 1:1. Send in a gift via kid mail or USPS, to TM Annual Giving Fund, 2401 S. Irving St., Seattle WA 98144. Or give at www.tmlink.org. Learn more in the attached flier.

Thank you for your support of our kids and our school.
Help Available to Families Dealing with Changes

Family changes big and small can take a toll on young minds. Sometimes as educators, we notice big shifts in students at school, but we aren’t sure what might be going on in a student’s life.

If you and your family are going through changes or transitions, we want to help support you and your child in any way possible. Sometimes a child gains great relief just knowing that a counselor or teacher understands what is happening outside of school. Changes might include moving, job change, relatives staying with you, separations or divorce, death in the family, sick pet, new sibling or a new activity outside of school.

The more that adult family members are able and willing to partner with myself and other school staff, the better we are able to work as a community to support and encourage your child. We appreciate hearing from you and look forward to connecting if and when changes or additional supports are needed! Reach me at mkaloper@seattleschools.org or (206) 252-2808.

TM Entries in PTA’s Reflections Contest

Congratulations to the 12 TM students whose work in literature, photography, dance choreography and visual arts advanced to the citywide level of the national PTA’s annual “Reflections” program. Our entrants (whose work is posted at http://seatlereflections.com) are:

Literature
Torin Hough “I’m Slow and Steady like a Hardwood” (Gr 5)
Luke McNally-Crain “Me and Dad at Greenlake Catching Lots and Lots of Fish” (Gr 1)

Photography
Vinayak Venugopal “A Hungry and Solitary Bee” (Gr 2)
Abby Nakamoto “Me in My Room” (Gr 5)

Dance Choreography
KeyShawn Williams-Gibson “Papa Was a Rolling Stone” (Gr 5)

Visual Arts
Tenzin Phentok “Walking in the Forest” (Gr 3)
Maia Solverud “Tiny Aged Trip” (Gr 2)
Lydia Knight “The Playing of Lydia and Sophia” (Gr K)
Michelle Arimura “Keep Calm and Learn On” (Gr 4)
Romy Vos “Self Portrait” (Gr 5)
Lourdes Fomenko “The Nature in Danger” (Gr 2)
Noemi Weinheimer “Redhead in Japan” (Gr 3)
Double your gift with the Winter Challenge Match!

Supporting our Thurgood Marshall PTA is so critical, given Seattle Public Schools’ potential $74 million budget shortfall. **Your gift is more important than ever before, so we can continue to provide what the District doesn’t fund:** school counselor, full-time librarian, literacy tutors for all K/1 students who need the help, school supplies, and theater, dance and other arts programming.

The PTA spends **$300** per student annually. Every donation helps, so please give today.

If you give now, you will automatically be participating in our **Winter Challenge Match**. A generous group of donors has agreed to match your gift 1:1, making it go even further for our students! **We now have $30,000 in pledged matching funds**, so please help us meet our goal.

- Do you have a check in your wallet for the AGF? Turn it in via kid mail or send it to TM PTA Annual Giving Fund, 2401 S. Irving St., Seattle WA 98144.
- Been meaning to give online? Go to **www.tmlink.org** and make it happen!

Thank for your support and dedication to making Thurgood Marshall a great school for our kids!

Questions? Contact us at giving@tmlink.org.

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☐ **YES, I/we will make a gift to support Thurgood Marshall students in the amount of:**

☐ $5  ☐ $10  ☐ $25  ☐ $50  ☐ $100  ☐ $300  ☐ $500  ☐ $750  ☐ $1,000  ☐ Other

☐ I have enclosed a check made payable to Thurgood Marshall PTA.

☐ I will make _______ monthly contributions of $_______ each.

☐ I prefer to pay by credit card and will make my donation through the PTA website: **www.tmlink.org**

☐ My employer, ________________________________, will match my donation.

Name(s)________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________ City____________________ State _______ Zip ____________

Email___________________________________________________ Phone____________________________________________

Student: _____________________________ Room # ______   Your relationship _____________________________________

Student: _____________________________ Room # ______   Student _______________________________ Room # ______