Offer your Opinions on Social Studies

We have put much thought, planning, time and effort into our Social Studies curriculum this year. This is the first year that our General Education and Highly Capable Cohort students have learned Social Studies together in mixed classes. Although it is hard to believe, we soon will be halfway through the year, so we would like to check how well you feel this approach is working. We have created a brief survey at this address: http://bit.ly/TMSS17.

You are welcome to use a school computer to take the survey. Just check in at the school office and we will find you a computer to use. Should you not be able to take the survey online, a paper copy is attached to the printed version of Pup Press. If possible, please save our staff from spending time doing data entry! Complete the survey on a smartphone, tablet or computer.

We recently surveyed our 1st- through 5th-grade students about their experience as well. Once the results are compiled, we will let you know areas of strength and for improvement, as well as how we will use this information moving forward.

A few other notable items:

- **Some parents have been dropping their children off at the curb in the bus lane.** Please do NOT stop to drop children in that lane, which is denoted by a curb painted yellow or red. This blocks our buses, and parents may be ticketed by police. Please pull into our parking lot and drop students along the curb areas where our carpool loop is. Thank you!

- **Many students are arriving to school with gum.** Gum is not allowed at school – please be sure your child keeps it at home.

- **It was nice to see such a large parent turnout for our MLK Day Assembly.** Despite the technical difficulties, our students put on a performance that inspired by the Mercer Island based Bezos Family Foundation, which will increase its assistance to needy children in Nicaragua and Indonesia based on the number of hands it receives. More information on this global effort: http://studentsrebuild.org/youthuplift.

- **Tomorrow (Friday, Jan. 20), we have two events** you are welcome to attend:
  - At 9:40 a.m., Seattle Opera will perform “Cinderella en Espana” at our assembly.
  - At 3:15 p.m., all classes will travel our hallways for a “Hope Walk” to view colorful paper “hands” our students have created. This artwork was inspired by the Mercer Island-based Bezos Family Foundation, which will increase its assistance to needy children in Nicaragua and Indonesia based on the number of hands it receives. More information on this global effort: http://studentsrebuild.org/youthuplift.

**At PTA Meeting on Tuesday, Hear Impact of Budget Crisis**

What are the possible effects of the District’s projected 2017-18 budget shortfall? Can parents do anything? Find out at the PTA General Meeting 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday (Jan. 24).

The special guest will be Jolynn Berge, the District’s Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance. **Everyone is welcome!** You do not need to be a PTA member to attend. Child care may be available; announcement no later than Monday. Questions? Email pta@tmlink.org.
Club Leads to Random Acts of Kindness

Kindness Club attracted 83 2nd- and 3rd-graders this year! With so many kiddos, Ms. Lizzie and I divided the club into four groups, each of which will meet for 5 weeks at lunchtime to learn about kindness, compassion and empathy. As a group, we will meet for a mini lesson, discussion and interactive activity. Each student is also given a “homework” assignment to perform a random act of kindness during the week.

This club is voluntary. It is meant to encourage the spread of kindness and compassion throughout our school. Participants get to know new people and make new friends. We hope these young leaders will help make our school community more welcoming and inviting for everyone! Questions? (206) 252-2808 or mrkaloper@seattleschools.org.

Interested in Starting All-Girl Chess Club?

TM parent Katherine Barr is wondering whether there is interest in creating a “girl power” chess club next year. She is hoping to hear from families whose daughters might enjoy an all-girl Enrichment class led by an amazing female coach. (Stevens Elementary has had a successful class for several years.) Contact her at katherine.barr@gmail.com or through her recent post on the Bullpup Parents Facebook page.

Not a member of Bullpup Parents? It is a private Facebook group run by an amazing female coach. (Stevens Elementary has had a successful class for several years.) Contact her at katherine.barr@gmail.com or through her recent post on Bullpup Parents Facebook page.

Sign Up for Ultimate Now

The sign-up form for TM’s coed Ultimate Frisbee teams is going home with Grades 3-5 students this week. The form and info are also on www.tmlink.org. Practices start Feb. 28, with games running through May.

Volunteers Needed: Art Walk, Breakfast, Tours

Pancake Breakfast & Art Walk: Short shifts at the event, 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28 (or hang art Jan. 23-27). Sign up at http://tinyurl.com/TMpancake2017.

Tour Guides: Show our building and talk about TM with potential new families Jan. 26, Feb. 2 or March 8. Principal May leads a short info session at 8:45 a.m. in Library; tours afterward until 10 a.m. Contact Karen Clemens Pinkard: karen@pinkard.org. Guides also needed Feb. 7 (evening session).

Class Representatives: Send an occasional e-mail to other parents. As of last week we still needed helpers with kids in Rooms 107, 204, 207, 210, P2, Y1. Contact Laura: penutt2@msn.com.

Concert Setup on Jan. 26 (instrumental) and Feb. 9 (choir): Help right after school by setting up chairs in the Cafeteria. Or, help put away chairs after the performances, which begin at 7 p.m. The more hands the quicker it goes!

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COME TO THE NEXT PTA MEETING!

6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, in the Library

SPECIAL TOPIC

Budget Crisis 2017: What Might Happen to our Schools?

Guest Speaker: JoLynn Berge,
Assistant Superintendent for Budget and Finance
for Seattle Public Schools

You probably already know that the 2017-18 Seattle Schools budget faces a deficit as high as $74 million, and that District officials are awaiting decisions by the Legislature that may reduce that gap. Now, it’s your turn to learn more! Ask Ms. Berge questions such as:

• How might our children’s education be affected by the shortfall?
• What can we, as parents, do to help?

JoLynn Berge joined Seattle Public Schools as Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance in June 2016. She is responsible for ensuring that an effective management and budget system is in place to support schools. Ms. Berge has an impressive leadership background in finance and the public sector. She came to SPS from the state Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, where she served in several financial leadership roles, including Chief Financial Officer.

All are welcome to this event! (No requirement to be a PTA member.)

The meeting will also include other brief items, such as a school report from Principal May.

Child care is not yet confirmed as available for this meeting. Watch for an announcement on www.tmlink.org, Facebook and the PTA email list no later than Monday, Jan. 23.
Thurgood Marshall’s Annual Pancake Breakfast & Art Walk

Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017
9 - 11 a.m.
IN THE THURGOOD MARSHALL ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA
FREE! Suggested Donation of $10/family
• Bring a donation for Tutu’s Pantry •
• Invitation is open to our neighborhood •
“Drop and go” not permitted. You must stay at event.
* Gluten-free and Vegetarian Options *

Volunteers needed. Short shifts! Sign up at http://tinyurl.com/TMpancake2017