**All Students Are Welcome Here**

Thurgood Marshall is a school for all our students and their families. You are all welcome here. This is the message we want all our kids to hear every day. However, in light of current political events, we know that some students may be worried about how they will be accepted.

Our school adults will be meeting with their classes this week to talk about how students are feeling, and to review strategies to regulate their emotions and take care of themselves and each other. We want classrooms to feel safe, but we are seeing students react to stress they feel outside of school. This means we may spend more time on social and emotional learning, such as having class meetings and reviewing RULER lessons to help students to feel safe and remember that they have problem-solving strategies. When students feel fear, they are less likely to be learning.

A few students have approached me about organizing their own protest. I found this heartening. Our students realize they do have power, and are learning how to exert it to stand up for themselves and what they believe in. I will keep you posted.

During drop-off tomorrow (Friday), a group of parents and staff will stand together to welcome our students with signs declaring “Hate Has No Home Here.” Feel free to make your own sign and join in! You may be seeing demonstrations of this type around the District as we stand up for our students, particularly immigrant and Muslim families. (See box at right for more information.)

The Seattle School District has been putting on events to support families with information about immigrant rights. We will continue to post information about these events in Pup Press to make sure our families are informed. United We Dream has more about immigrant rights: [http://unitedwedream.org/toolbox/](http://unitedwedream.org/toolbox/).

**Show of Community Support Friday**

Parents throughout the District on Friday will be holding signs of welcome and support for their immigrant and Muslim neighbors. At TM, supporters are asked to arrive at 9:10 a.m. (and no later than 9:35), to stand along the sidewalk at the flag pole and to the west. Homemade signs are encouraged! (If you don’t have time to make one, some “Hate Has No Home Here” signs will be available. The graphics, as seen at left, are online at [https://hatehasnohomehere.wordpress.com/](https://hatehasnohomehere.wordpress.com/).)

There won’t be chanting; the idea is to simply welcome people to school and show community support for all kids and families, regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation.

**‘Open Enrollment’ Period is Feb. 13-24; Forms, School Assignment Info to be Online**

The District’s “Open Enrollment” period enables students to seek a spot at a school other than the one serving their “attendance area.” Your student’s current assignment for next year can be checked at [http://bit.ly/Assign17](http://bit.ly/Assign17). You will need your child’s date of birth and student ID number. (If you don’t know it, call 206-252-0760.)

Students are initially assigned to an attendance area school based on home address, but may apply to attend a different school or program through the School Choice process. Once enrolled, students normally remain at that school through the highest grade served unless families again seek a change through the Choice process. Some key dates:

- Feb. 6 – Choice forms available online
- Feb. 13-24 – Open Enrollment period (for submitting School Choice forms)
- Feb. 25-May 31 – School Choice forms still accepted, but may have lower priority
Volunteers Needed in Cafeteria & for Advocacy Efforts

Lunchroom Assistants are our most urgent need right! Join kids at the tables to model ideal conduct; help with PIN input and serving to move the lines faster; prep in the kitchen; help clean up after each shift of students. Email Kim: kiechols@seattleschools.org. (If your preference is to hang out with kids, you may just show up after signing in at the office).

Class Representatives: Send an occasional email to other parents, rally volunteers for projects. It’s easy to do! Does your child’s classroom need a rep? Contact Laura: penutt2@msn.com.

Legislative Advocacy Chair: Inform the PTA board and TM school community about education issues at the local and state level. Write for Pup Press, report to PTA meetings, and help coordinate advocacy. Email: volunteering@tmlink.org

Choir to Perform Feb. 9

The Winter Student Choir Concert is Thursday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. in the Cafeteria.

Music Teacher Kelsey French is asking students to arrive at 6:45, wearing dark clothing. Bring some fun props (sunglasses, glitter, hats, etc.) for the concert and also some non-perishable good for Tutu’s Pantry.

Ms. French needs parent volunteers to help set up chairs at 5 p.m. the day of the concert. If you can help, email her: klfrench@seattleschools.org.

Now on March 22

Games Night Date Switch

The Annual Games Night has moved to March 22 from its original March 2 date. TM’s festival of board games is presented by the PTA and Blue Highway Games, a Queen Anne store that will take purchase orders. (Free event! No obligation.) The event will start with an appetizer potluck at 6 p.m. (Share your non-messy dish and socialize before games start at 6:30 p.m.) Volunteers are needed to help demonstrate the games (for part of the evening). Email volunteering@tmlink.org.

Senate OKs GOP Ed Plan

Republicans in the state Senate have introduced a new plan for education funding, and it was approved 25-24 Wednesday night. It now heads to the House, but it is drawing heavy criticism from Democrats and others. The Olympian newspaper offers coverage by AP at: http://bit.ly/SenateEdPlan.
We will have activities throughout the day in recognition of National African American Parent Involvement Day. We will also be observing our annual celebration of Thurgood Marshall Day, in recognition of the late Supreme Court Justice.

**Come see what a day in your child’s life at school is all about!**

Join us all day or for the parts your schedule will allow. We look forward to your visit!

**Schedule**

8:30-9:15 – Light breakfast, Principal welcome, Book Talk with Librarian Merilee Hudson about children’s literature highlighting diversity

9:35-10:20 – Thurgood Marshall Day Assembly in the Cafeteria. (Whole school will attend.) Presentations from several classes, judges and lawyers in recognition of first African-American Supreme Court Justice.

10:30-11:20 – Visit 4th- and 5th-grade classes to hear judge presentations and Q&A sessions with students. (This is a traditional part of our Thurgood Marshall Day.)

**OR:** Parents may choose to visit their child’s class.

11:20-1:05 – Join your child for recess and lunch!
- 11:20-12:05 – Grades 4-5 recess and lunch
- 11:45-12:30 – Grades K-1 recess and lunch
- 12:20-1:05 – Grades 2-3 recess and lunch

1:05-1:35 – Art class open to parent visitors

1:40-2:10 – Music class open to parent visitors

2:15-2:45 – PE class open to parent visitors

2:45-3:15 – Tour of the building (meet in the Cafeteria at 2:45)

3:15-3:45 – Presentation by Assistant Principal Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie: “Supporting School Success at Home” (in Library)

This event is co-planned and co-sponsored by Thurgood Marshall Elementary and our Black Family Advocacy Support Group
Girls on the Run
Spring 2017
at Thurgood Marshall ES

What is Girls on the Run?
Girls on the Run is an after-school program that uses running to give girls the tools to celebrate their bodies, honor their voices, recognize their gifts and activate their limitless potential!

Who is it for?
Girls on the Run is for 3rd-5th grade girls of ALL fitness and ability levels. The only requirement is to believe in GIRL POWER!

Why?
Studies show that during adolescence, girls’ confidence drops about twice as much as boys’, and their risk for anxiety and depression goes up. Girls on the Run gives girls the tools & life skills to navigate the challenges in life. We want girls to be confident and know that they are capable of achieving anything.

To register, go to www.girlsrun.org or get form at TM main office
Registration deadline is Feb. 17.

Contact us at info@girlsrun.org or 206-528-2118 with questions.
Learn more about our program at www.girlsrun.org.