A Day of Heritage, Involvement

The Monday before we left for Mid-Winter Break was National African American Parent Involvement Day. It was also our school’s “Thurgood Marshall Day,” which we hold each year to honor our namesake, the first African American Supreme Court Justice. A small group of parents joined us for a breakfast before school and other parents attended the assembly, joined their child for lunch, or visited at other times. If you attended our assembly, you enjoyed presentations from several classrooms as well as words of wisdom from judges and lawyers who later spoke to 4th- and 5th-grade classes. Thank you to State Court of Appeals Judge Michael Spearman, King County Public Defender Dua Abudiaib, and Private Attorney and Judge Pro Tem Sumeer Singla for sharing your time with our school!

Thank you also to members of our African American Family Advocacy Group for helping plan this day. If you have suggestions for improving our annual event, I’d love to hear them! TM held our first NAAPID in February 2016. At that time, families mentioned two things. The first was interest in hearing more about math curriculum, which we addressed through a Principal Coffee and math-related articles in the Pup Press. The second was concern over the difficulty faced by children seeking books with characters who looked like them. Our Librarian, Merilee Hudson, took this to heart and shared wonderful resources with parents at our NAAPID breakfast this year. You can find the very interesting PowerPoint presentation she shared in a new post on www.tmlink.org. The slides offer great information about current books featuring children of color as well as websites with more ideas.

Merilee shared another great resource with me – an app called “We Read Too.” It lists hundreds of books written by authors of color and featuring characters of color. You can find it at https://twitter.com/WeReadTooApp and you can also “like” We Read Too on Facebook to follow the conversation.

I am reading “The Forging of a Black Community: Seattle’s Central District from 1870 through the Civil Rights Era,” by Quintard Taylor. This is a fascinating book about the community our school is situated in. Dr. Taylor is a history professor at the University of Washington whose work focuses on the history of African Americans in the West. Dr. Taylor is featured in this week’s Seattle Times Pacific NW Magazine [see http://bit.ly/Quintard17], and in this article, I learned that he worked with others to create the website http://www.blackpast.org/, a 13,000-page reference guide on African-American history. This is an amazing resource that could be used to help your child learn more about the history of African Americans in our country.

EVENT CALENDAR
TONIGHT, March 2, Black Family Advocacy Support Group Meeting. 6:30-8 p.m., Library. See Page 2.

Tues., March 7: Special Education Community Meeting. 6-7:30 p.m., McClure Middle School, 1915 1st Ave. W. Families invited to hear presentation by District officials & bring questions. See Page 2.

Wed., March 8: TM’s final 2017 Info Session & Tour for prospective families, 8:45-10 a.m. No RSVPs. Tell your friends who are considering TM!

Fri., March 10: Spring Enrichment registration opens online, 7 a.m. Course info will be online by March 9, when the printed catalog is sent home. See http://www.tmlink.org/enrichment.

Tues., March 14: PTA General Meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Library. Topic: Math! Child care w/RSVP. Details below.

Sun., March 19: Enrichment registration deadline.

March 20-24: Final Winter Enrichment classes.

All events in the online calendar at www.tmlink.org

TUTU’S PANTRY

Week of March 6: Grade 2 is asked to make a special effort to donate non-perishable foods. Bins in front hall.

March 14 PTA Meeting
Get Excited about Math

The March 14 PTA meeting will feature Assistant Principal Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie talking about ways to inspire your student to like or love math! Learn:

- how math makes us better critical thinkers and problem-solvers;
- the beauty of math – how to love it if you don’t already;
- resources for parents and families.

Everyone welcome! You do not need to be a PTA member. The meeting starts at 6:30 in the Library, and we’ll also hear school-news updates from Principal May.

Free care for up to 30 children (ages 5-12) is available 6:30-8:30 p.m. to parents attending the meeting. You MUST reserve your child’s place in advance: Contact Sterling at 206-718-5705 or sterlingnelson@seattleymca.org.
**Black Family Advocacy Group Meets Tonight (Thurs.)**

The Black Family Advocacy Support Group meets tonight (Thursday), 6:30-8 p.m., in the Library. On the agenda: begin work on the top 3 issues/concerns the group chose:

- Diversity/Cultural Sensitivity Training for Staff, Administration, Students & Parents
- Family Engagement/Inclusiveness
- Support Group/BFASG

Children are welcome. Bring your own dinner if you like; light snacks will be provided. The group is open to all families, with a special emphasis on the education of African American and underrepresented and marginalized students. More info on BFASG: http://bit.ly/BFASGatTM.

**Book Exchange Continues to Fri.; Classes Set Lofty Reading Goals**

Library periods all week have been dedicated to celebrating a special day: March 2 (today) is the birthday of Dr. Seuss (the pen name of the late Theodor Geisel) and is also Read Across America Day.

The activities include a Book Exchange, which continues through tomorrow. Each K-1 student will receive a free book. Older students can bring in books that they want to trade for titles they haven’t yet read.

In addition, each of our 27 classrooms is setting a reading goal for March. For example, Ms. Von Beck’s first-graders are challenging themselves to read 5,000 pages. P2 students are to read four books apiece, each from a different genre so that they broaden their interests. P1 is aiming to read 30,000 pages. Classes meeting their goals will celebrate with a reading party, a “library scavenger hunt” or some other fun event.

Students in grades 3-5 will also have a chance to join “March Book Madness,” in which books “compete” for the votes of readers. The event, created by two teachers in Ohio, has tournament-style brackets. Students read pair of books, and vote to move one to the next round. See http://marchbookmadness.weebly.com/mg-novel-bracket.html. This is a fun way to inspire kids to try books they might not have otherwise read. They will be able to access the voting next week during their library times.

**Café para Familias Hispanohablantes: 23 de Marzo**

Los invito a que nos acompañen a nuestro primer Café para Familias hispanohablantes en donde estará nuestra subdirectora Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie discutiendo temas de interés así como preocupaciones específicas de nuestras familias latinas. Será el jueves 23 de marzo a las 9:15am en la biblioteca, no es necesario RSVP. Tendremos café y champurradas!

Our next scheduled Coffee with the Principal will be conducted in Spanish, 9:15-10 a.m. on Thursday, March 23, in the Library. Assistant Principal Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie will discuss general topics as well as specific concerns of Latino families.

**Special Education Dept. Offers Info Session with Top Officials**

A Special Education Meeting for staff and families in the District’s Central Region will be 6-7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 7, in the McClure Middle School Library (1915 1st Ave. W.).

Topics will include departmental changes and updates on the Continuum of Services for children with special needs. There will be time for feedback and chances to meet: Wyeth Jesse, Chief of Student Supports; Michaela Clancy, Director of Special Education; Trish Campbell, Interim Director, School Based Special Education Services; Margo Siegenthaler, Special Education Ombudsperson; Hannah Marzynski, the Special Education Parent Liaison.

The Regional Supervisor and other staff will also attend.
EQUITY ACTION TEAMS MEETING

6-8 p.m. Thurs., March 23, in the Library

Build understanding and connection between families at Thurgood Marshall! We welcome all to join!

Some of the areas in which Teams are working:

- Planning the Families of Color Seattle workshop on March 28 (see below)
- Creating community and culturally appropriate curriculum for Social Studies
- Advocacy for TM’s General Education program
- Advocacy for equity in the District’s HCC program ... and much more

Free care for up to 30 children (ages 5-12) is available 6-8 p.m. to parents attending the meeting. You MUST reserve your child’s place in advance: Contact Sterling at 206-718-5705 or sterlingnelson@seattleYMCA.org.

FIVE DAYS LATER, A VERY SPECIAL FREE WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS OF ALL ETHNICITIES AND BACKGROUNDS:

“UNDOING RACISM & TEACHING EQUITY TO OUR CHILDREN”

6-8:30 p.m. Tues., March 28, in the Library

This workshop will enable participants to focus on how families can talk about racial identity and racism with their children. We will be led by members of Families of Color Seattle in exploring systemic racism and parents’ own understanding of their racial identity, power, privilege and oppression.

Please RSVP: https://undoingracismtm.eventbrite.com

Free care for up to 30 children (ages 5-12) is available 6-8:30 p.m. to parents attending the workshop. You MUST reserve your child’s place in advance: Contact Sterling at 206-718-5705 or sterlingnelson@seattleYMCA.org.

This workshop is hosted by Thurgood Marshall’s Equity Action Teams, TM’s Black Families Advocacy Support Group and the TM PTA.


About Families of Color Seattle: FOCS is a non-profit organization connecting parents to build a loving community of families of color. Founded in 2013, FOCS leads community organizing, racial justice education, community dialogues and parent engagement. FOCS has connected more than 1,000 families into an intercultural and interethnic community.