SBA, Other Tests Arrive with Spring

With springtime come warmer temps, flowers ... and standardized testing. In particular, students in Grades 3-5 will soon be taking the “Smarter Balanced Assessment” in Math and English Language Arts.

The SBA is more than just a year-end test. Through it, teachers gain tools to check on student progress throughout the year, including optional interim assessments. I have been working with some of our teachers to give the SBA interim tests, analyze the results, and plan instruction to close learning gaps. The interim assessments also give teachers a much clearer idea how the statewide math and language arts standards are translated into test items. A close reading of the language used in the test questions gives teachers ideas for how to increase the rigor in instruction.

The SBA measures critical thinking with questions that ask students to demonstrate their research, writing, and problem-solving skills. To that end, at the beginning of the year, most of our teachers identified goals to focus on and improve writing skills in social studies and in other classes. In addition, we have carefully analyzed how the math standards are weighted, and examined how our curriculum reflects that weighting.

I think it is important for you to know that our teachers don’t “teach to the test.” We prepare children for taking this summative assessment by continuously aligning our instruction to the standards, examining our practice, and asking lots of questions.

Reasons Why District, School Hope for 100% Participation

Families who don’t want a student to participate in assessments must submit the refusal in writing, signed and dated, to the Principal. The refusal is good for one year, so it must be resubmitted annually. See http://bit.ly/SPSassessrefuse for a form, or submit your own clear, written and signed document.

Please consider: Students who do not participate will receive a "zero" score. A zero will hurt the school’s overall results. Enough refusals could jeopardize the District’s federal funding. Also, this year the District will begin using a student’s SBA scores as an achievement measure for Highly Capable eligibility, and Washington’s public colleges will use them for course-level placement.

We hope to have 100 percent participation this year!

– Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie

Schedule, by classroom, for SBA, other standardized tests – Page 2

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

Try New Enrichment Classes: Cheerleading, Running, More

No, Oprah won’t be enrolling in a Spring Enrichment class, but your child can! Registration runs from 7 a.m. tomorrow (March 10) through March 19, online at www.tmlink.org/enrichment. The catalog is being sent home today (March 9) via kid mail, (and can also be downloaded).

Among our new-for-Spring offerings are Cheerleading, Running Club, The Art of Nature and the Drama’s “Snow White.” Scholarships available! Pay as little as $4.50 if your student qualifies for free lunch. Questions? Email enrichment@tmlink.org.
**Bullpup Briefs**

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

Los invito a que nos acompañen a nuestro primer Café para Familias hispano-hablantes 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.

**2 Vital Equity Teams Events: Meeting & Racism Workshop**

The Equity Action Teams will hold their quarterly meeting on March 23 (6-8 p.m., Library) and are co-sponsoring a workshop on “Undoing Racism and Teaching Equity to our Children” on March 28 (6-8:30 p.m., Library). See http://tmlink.org/info/equity-in-education-initiative.

**Free child care (ages 5-12) will be provided by the YMCA for up to 30 children whose parents are at the event. You MUST reserve your place in advance: Contact Sterling at 206-718-5705 or sterlignelson@seattleymca.org.**

**Join Gr. 6-8 Math Committee or Just Take the Online Survey**


**Order Yearbooks by March 31**

Yearbooks are now on sale! You may order from the Yuen Lui company at http://bit.ly/TMyearbook17 or through the form sent home this week (drop it off in the main office).

The deadline is Friday, March 31. The yearbooks will be ready in late spring.

**PTA Needs You during ‘March Match-ness’**

The PTA’s goal of $160,000 of donated support for our school is in sight ... but we still need your help! Look for the “March Match-ness” letter in your postal mailbox soon! Thank you!

**Schedule for SBA, MSP Other Assessments**

TM staff have set this year’s schedule for Grades 3-5 Smarter Balanced, 5th-grade science Measure of Student Progress and other computerized assessments. Dates may change. Parents are urged to avoid student absences on their classroom’s test dates, but there will be makeup days.

**PE Offers Basketball Tourney, Lessons on Bike-Riding, Safety**

Grades 4 and 5 are experiencing “March Madness” It is the PE Department’s 3-v-3 half-court basketball tournament, which is designed to improve community, teamwork and sportsmanship, plus get the kids thinking about college. The winners play the teachers at the end of the double-elimination tourney (a team is out if it loses twice). Each team is randomly chosen to have a mix of boys and girls, grade levels and academic programs. The students choose college-team names.

The championship game will be April 20, with both teams taking a crack at the teachers on April 21.

Grades 3-5 PE classes for this and the next two weeks are featuring bicycle safety. Bikes and helmets are lent by Cascade Bicycle Club, but we ask that you supply your child with any one of the following: a hooded jacket, a hair net, baseball cap, shower cap, hat, x-large coffee filter or own helmet. Students learn to be good pedestrians as well as good riders: looking left, right, and left again before crossing, and obeying traffic signs. Students also learn how to ride safely in a group and which side of the road to use.

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Seattle Public Schools, SPS, provides Equal Educational Opportunities and Equal Employment Opportunities and does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race; creed; color; religion; ancestry; national origin; age; economic status; sexual orientation, including gender expression or identity; pregnancy; marital status; physical appearance; the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability; honorably discharged veteran or military status; or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal. SPS also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Have an article for Pup Press? Send it to Cliff Meyer at pup-press@tmlink.org. If your submission is not acknowledged within 24 hours, please call or text 206-366-5413
Come to the Next PTA Meeting!

6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, in the Library

· · · SPECIAL TOPIC · · ·

A Slice of Pi:
Helping our Students Love Math (More)

Guest Speaker: Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie,
Thurgood Marshall Assistant Principal

It is a Thurgood Marshall tradition to talk about and celebrate math on 3/14, also known as “Pi Day”! Ms. Kovacs-Storlie will share:

- how she became a math enthusiast
- hopes and dreams for all students of mathematics, and
- some ideas and resources for how you can incorporate just a little more math into your family’s day-to-day lives.

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

> > > > > If the spirit moves you on “Pi Day,” bring some pie to share! < < < < < <

The meeting will also touch on a few other items, and include a report from Principal May about how the SPS budget situation may affect the school in 2017-18.

Child care is Free (ages 5-12)! It will be provided by the YMCA for up to 30 children whose parents are at the event. You MUST reserve your place in advance: Contact Sterling at 206-718-5705 or sterlingnelson@seattleYMCA.org.
Yes, it’s time for Thurgood Marshall’s annual Game Night

6-7:30 pm, Wednesday, March 22
In the TM Cafeteria • Optional Potluck

Want to play some great games with actual human beings instead of animated avatars? Join us! It’s an early release day so don’t forget to come back for FREE food, fun & a chance for win door prizes!

➔ We need volunteers to help with games & setup/takedown. Just an hour or so! Sign up: http://bit.ly/TMgames17
➔ Potluck (optional): Bring light appetizers to share. Think quick, low-mess finger foods like cheese and crackers, veggies and dip, fruit or cookies.
➔ No obligation to buy, but if you find something new that you love, Blue Highway will have order forms, and games will be delivered the next week to your child’s classroom.