

# PUP PRESS

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Principal  
Katie May

## Improvement in 2017-18 Budget

At the end of last week, we had some good news regarding our budget for 2017-18. Recent action in the State Legislature restored \$24 million in local levy funds to the District budget. Of that money, the School Board restored \$16.6 million back to schools in the form of staff. [Full details at <http://bit.ly/SPSbudgetApril5>.]

At Thurgood Marshall, we have back most of what we lost in the earlier proposed budget. We received two classroom teaching positions, a half-time PE position, and a half-time "certificated core" position (meant to address needs of a large elementary school). Since enrollment is predicted to remain about the same as this year, we were facing large classes and many split-grade rooms.

**With our new staffing allocation, we are able to maintain reduced K-3 class sizes.** This means that classrooms will average 22 for kindergarten, 24 in first and second grade and no more than 25 in third grade. The remaining HCC classes will be full, but not over 28, with slightly smaller classes in our General Education program. I have been able to reduce the number of split-grade classes from six to three.

Of course, these numbers are a bit theoretical until we have more solid enrollment numbers, but things are definitely looking up! To learn more about the District's 2017-18 budget process, visit <http://bit.ly/SPSbudget17>.

### Other bits of news:

- **Thurgood Marshall will again be able to apply for the waiver needed to continue our blended Social Studies program.** A number of you have sent me or the School Board letters of support about your child's experience in Social Studies. To offer your feedback, email me at [kjmay1@seattleschools.org](mailto:kjmay1@seattleschools.org) (or just reply to the emailed version of Pup Press).
- **Kindergarten Jump Start dates will be Aug. 21-25 (9 a.m.-noon).** This is a wonderful opportunity for incoming kindergartners, who experience time with their teachers in our school before the official start. We have found that students who attend have a much smoother start to kindergarten. Registration information will be sent after Spring Break.
- **Join us for Thurgood Marshall Community Night 5-7 p.m. TONIGHT (Thursday)!** Bring a potluck dish to share (label ingredients if possible, to help those with allergies), and visit your child's classroom to see projects he/she has created. This is a great opportunity to visit classes at the next grade level, as this event also serves as our Spring Open House.



## Books Disappearing from Little Free Library. Your Help Needed!

Don't worry – student readers (not thieves) are taking those books, just as intended. However, the Little Free Library (by the flagpole) is looking empty. If you have children's books others might enjoy, please just add them to the shelves.

Have a lot of books to donate? Put them in the box inside Ms. Gese's classroom door (C-102). Ms. Gese can answer any questions: [sdgese@seattleschools.org](mailto:sdgese@seattleschools.org).

## EVENT CALENDAR

**TONIGHT, Thurs., April 6: TM Community Night, 5-7 p.m., Cafeteria.** See classroom projects & visit next grade level up. Potluck. See Page 2.

**TOMORROW, Fri., April 7: Assembly featuring student performances, 9:45 a.m., Cafeteria.** See what was created in connection with Community Night.

**April 8-16: Spring Break.** School resumes April 17.

**Mon., April 17: Mariners Ticket Order deadline.** (Game on May 6.) Flier was sent home in March; download at [tmlink.org](http://tmlink.org). No charge for up to 4 tickets for families who qualify for free school lunch, but you must fill out this form.



**Fri., April 21: NEW deadline to order Yearbooks.** Forms were sent home, or at <http://bit.ly/TMyearbook17>.

**May 1-5: Staff Appreciation Week.** Volunteers needed! Contact Kimberlee at [volunteering@tmlink.org](mailto:volunteering@tmlink.org).

→ All events in the online calendar at [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org)

## TUTU'S PANTRY.

**Week of April 17: Grade 1** is asked to donate non-perishable foods.



Can you identify them? Answers on Page 2.

## Yearbook Still Available

The deadline to buy the 2016-17 Thurgood Marshall Yearbook has been extended to April 21! Just \$16 for a delightful sampling of memories and photos of friends.

But, don't wait any longer.

1. Go to [www.yuenluistudio.com](http://www.yuenluistudio.com) and click on School/Sports/Yearbooks
2. Select Order Yearbooks
3. Click View Gallery for 2016-2017 Thurgood Marshall Elem Yearbook Prepay.
4. Complete the online order process.

Questions? Have photos? Contact volunteer Yearbook Editor Jen Hobbs: [jen@jenfu.org](mailto:jen@jenfu.org).

## Bullpup Briefs

### May 16 Screening of 'Screenagers' at TM

Save the date for the PTA's FREE May 16 presentation of the award-winning documentary "Screenagers" (as part of a PTA Meeting).

The 68-minute film, suitable for kids age 10 and older as well as adults, offers surprising insights from authors and brain scientists on how we can empower kids to best navigate the digital world. More info is at [www.screenagersmovie.com](http://www.screenagersmovie.com).

The meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m., will include a brief period of other PTA business, such as a vote on the 2017-18 budget.

Free care for up to 30 children (ages 5-12) is available to parents attending. You MUST reserve your child's place in advance: 206-718-5705 or [sterlingnelson@seattleyymca.org](mailto:sterlingnelson@seattleyymca.org).

### Classrooms Meet March Reading Goals

Last month's special focus on reading has resulted in many classroom celebrations! The page-turning frenzy began with "Read Across America Day," on Dr. Seuss's birthday, March 2. Each of our 27 classrooms set an ambitious March reading goal (involving measures such as a number of pages or books). All but two succeeded, resulting in rewards: licorice treats and a special activity during library period. Some classes used the library computers, others went on a scavenger hunt, and one class ventured outside to read. (They perched on the play structure and enjoyed the sun on Monday.) Congratulations to all of our wonderful Thurgood Marshall readers!

### Nominations Due for Teacher of the Year

Students may wish to nominate a Thurgood Marshall staff member for 2017 Teacher of the Year honors. Last year, TM's Will Miller won the contest, sponsored by Ivar's and Kidd Valley restaurants, after being nominated by fourth-grader Rocco Daly! The school received a \$500 gift card for classroom supplies, a commemorative plaque and a visit by the Ivar's "Dancing Clam." See <http://www.ivars.com/teacher>. All entries must be received by May 19.

### Update on State's Proposed 'Gifted Ed' Funding

The Washington Coalition for Gifted Education reports that proposed 2017-2018 funding levels for highly capable programs are about the same as the current budget. The coalition notes that these levels are not keeping pace with the actual number of students eligible for advanced learning services statewide. More info at <https://wcge.wordpress.com>.

### Did You Identify the Kids in Page 1 Photos?

The photos in the Yearbook article are, from left, Barack Obama, Leonardo DiCaprio and Selena Gomez. None attended Thurgood Marshall!



## Potluck, Classroom Visits Tonight

### Don't Miss the Fun of Community Night

The popular annual "Multicultural Night" is back, with a few tweaks and a new name: Thurgood Marshall Community Night. It runs 5-7 p.m. tonight (Thursday, April 6).

- **View student projects** reflecting family heritage (classrooms open 5-6:30 p.m.).
- **Potluck in the Cafeteria:** Bring a dish to share that is meaningful to your family. Please label your dish or bring a small card to list ingredients – especially if it contains common food allergens such as milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, soy, wheat, fish or shellfish. If you or your child has food allergies, you may want to consider only eating from the dish you bring.
- **Meet** old friends or make new ones!
- **Volunteer** to supervise potlucks tables or help set up or take down: <http://tinyurl.com/TMcommunity>.



### Welcome Back, Island Explorers

Grade 5 has survived the annual trip to Camp Orkila on Orcas Island. Thanks to staff and parent chaperones for their time and patience.

## Improve the World: Join the PTA Board

OK, there **are** bigger ways to change the world, but PTA Board members **do** help ensure that Thurgood Marshall has adequate volunteers for many activities; extra funds for staffing, curriculum and supplies; and a rich variety of community-building events. The time commitment can be just a few hours a month, while having a large impact on our 550 students.

Some plum positions, such as Legislative Chair, are already taken, and other members are returning. However, **Board positions still potentially available for 2017-18 include:** President, Vice President, Treasurer, Communications Chair, Events Chair, Fundraising Chair and Volunteer Chair. All roles can be shared by **two co-Chairs** to help ensure a rewarding, flexible experience. As another alternative, you may wish to consider leading one of our special events.

Learn more by contacting Jennifer Ellis at [jenniferellis.206@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferellis.206@gmail.com) or viewing [www.tmlink.org/info/join-pta-board](http://www.tmlink.org/info/join-pta-board).

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Have an article for Pup Press? Send it to Cliff Meyer at [pup-press@tmlink.org](mailto:pup-press@tmlink.org). If your submission is not acknowledged within 24 hours, please call or text 206-366-5413