Goodbye, Classroom. Hello, Learning!

One of my favorite moments during the Grade 5 trip to Camp Orkila this year was during a nighttime walk. I joined a group of girls as they were about to step out of a moonlit field into the much darker forest. Every student and adult took careful steps and stayed right behind the person ahead of them. The scariness of being out in the dark was palpable. Our guide chose a place for us to pause, beneath low-lying branches. As we sat on the soft earth, we all began to listen and learn from our confident camp counselor. She identified the structures in our eyes that help us see in the dark and asked the girls to describe how different the forest looked at night.

As I listened to the girls and settled into the participant-observer role, I was struck by the importance of leaving the classroom – and home – for educational purposes. There we were, learning about the physiology of our eyes while paying close attention to the sharpness of the bark and leaf silhouettes, and gradually becoming more comfortable in the dark. On our way out of the darkness back to the cabins, I overheard some of the girls saying they weren’t as afraid as they had been just a few minutes before. They trusted their eyes; their self-confidence had grown.

The relevant and immediate integration of knowledge with experience is the stuff of dreamy pedagogical goals. I began to think about other field trips where that has happened: I have helped 3rd-graders realize that Chinatown is just as much a part of their city as their own neighborhood; 4th-graders at the SAM learn to make origami that integrated the color purple branches. As we sat on the soft earth, we all began to listen and learn from our confident camp counselor. She identified the structures in our eyes that help us see in the dark and asked the girls to describe how different the forest looked at night.

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**Celebrating Community Night**

Families packed TM April 6 for the event (formerly known as Multicultural Night). Art reflected cultural heritage and other themes.

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**Bullpup Briefs**

**Your Help Needed for Staff Appreciation Week**

Help create thank-you notes, gifts and events such as a breakfast. Appreciation Week is May 1-5, but some tasks are scheduled for next week. Go to [http://tinyurl.com/TMappreciation17](http://tinyurl.com/TMappreciation17).

**TM’s March Madness Basketball Isn’t Over Yet**

PE Teacher Dan Shin reports that the March Madness basketball tournament has been exciting. All teams worked together and had a great time. California and Washington will meet in the student championship game at 2:30 p.m. today (Thursday). Both teams will get to play against the teachers at 2:30 tomorrow (Friday). Thanks to all teams for participating!

**Think about Summer Learning Opportunities**

Families of children who are not yet working at grade level will be receiving a “Summer Staircase” application. This program fills quickly, so please return it ASAP! Learn more at [http://bit.ly/2017SPSsummer](http://bit.ly/2017SPSsummer). Other District summer programs offer low-cost music instruction. Read about one option, the Junior All-City Band, at [http://www.allcityband.org/junior_allcity/](http://www.allcityband.org/junior_allcity/).

**Classes in Swimming, Water Safety this Spring**

Spring is a great time for kids to learn swimming skills and practice being safe around water. Options near TM include the Meredith Mathews YMCA and Seattle Parks & Recreation’s Medgar Evers and Rainier Beach Pools. Classes start soon at all locations. See [http://bit.ly/Yswimming](http://bit.ly/Yswimming) for YMCA programs ($10 discount if you use the code SPRINGSWIM) and [www.seattle.gov/parks/find/pools/pools-a-z](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/find/pools/pools-a-z) for info on all 10 city pools.

**Have You Responded to SPS Family Survey?**

The District’s annual “Family Survey” is being distributed through email and postal mail. Your responses are confidential, and are used to improve our schools!

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**Welcome PTA’s New Legislative Chair**

The PTA is thrilled to announce that Venessa Goldberg has joined its Board as Legislative Chair, helping alert the TM community to issues such as K-12 public education funding. Venessa, a Seattle native, has a daughter, Lilia, in Mrs. Gorter’s kindergarten. “I started volunteering about once a week to help the kids with their sight words,” Venessa says, “and quickly saw that I had a lot more I could give to the school. The PTA Board was something I could give time to that would have an impact schoolwide.”

By stepping into the unfilled Legislative Chair role, Venessa will be helping TM parents learn how they can advocate for our schools and push for full funding of education.

**You, too, can have an impact, now or in 2017-18!**

PTA Board members are critical to recruiting volunteers for many TM activities; raising some $160,000 to help fill gaps in staffing, curriculum and supplies; and coordinating events that build community. The time commitment can be just a few hours a month. PTA Board positions that are being filled for next year include Treasurer, Communications Chair, Fundraising Chair and Volunteer Chair. Most roles can be shared.

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

**Help our Little Free Library Gain Some Courage**

Why would the Little Free Library (just south of the fl) need courage? Because without your book donations, it’s “spineless.” Now, that you’ve groaned … please help restock the library, which was the 2016 Grade 5 Legacy Gift. If you and your student can part with one or more gently used children’s books, simply add them to the shelves.

If you have a large amount 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).

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**Your Number is Up**

Get Carded at Bingo Night!

The PTA’s Family Bingo Night is almost here: 6-8 p.m. on April 28! Come to the Cafeteria for PRIZES and Bingo calling by Eldridge Gravy of local funk band Eldridge Gravy and the Court Supreme.

This event is FREE, and open to all TM families, including younger or older siblings. (No drop-offs.)

- **Potluck:** Please bring sides/desserts; limited amount of pizza available if you can’t.
- **Have a prize to donate?** Contact Venessa: venessab@gmail.com.

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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.
B-I-N-G-O! What does that spell?

WINNER!!!

Come to Thurgood Marshall’s Annual Bingo night!

Friday, April 28th 6-8pm in the cafeteria

Fun for the whole family--no drop offs.

Bingo calling by none other than

Eldridge Gravy

of Eldridge Gravy and the Court Supreme

FREE

prizes!

WIN PRIZES, SEE YOUR FRIENDS, HAVE FUN!

Potluck! Please bring a side dish or
dessert to share. Limited pizza provided
by the PTA.

Volunteers needed! Sign up at https://tinyurl.com/TMbingo2017

Have a prize to donate? Contact Venessa at venessab@gmail.com