‘Springing’ into Next Year’s Plans

The calendar (if not the weather) says that Spring is here, and we are definitely entering a busy season at school. On that note, I’m devoting this week’s column to MANY updates!

- I am waiting to hear from the District about our start time for next year. As of last week, we were slotted for the Tier 1 start time of 8 a.m. I have heard that the many emails our community sent to the School Board have made an impact, and the District is now considering the logistics involved in a Tier 2 start time (9 a.m.). I will let you know as soon as I hear more.

- We are working on renewing for next year the waiver that allows us to blend HCC and General Education students for Social Studies. Our Social Studies Steering Committee wants to hear parent thoughts about this, and you should have received an email link to a survey earlier this week.

- Staffing updates: We have heard from several staff members that they will not be returning next year. We are always sad when we lose a staff member, but this is a natural part of a school’s life cycle. Please join me in saying goodbye to Nurse Molly, PE Teacher Dan Shin, and Art Teacher Beth Zirngible. Beatrice Leonard, one of our Resource Room Instructional Assistants, has been displaced and will be assigned to another school next year. I will keep you posted on staffing changes throughout the spring. Please let me know if you have been trained in the District’s site-based hiring process and are interested in serving on an interview committee.

- Classroom configurations for next year: We still are looking at three split-grade General Education classrooms and one in HCC. I am hopeful that we will be budgeted for another teacher, which could result in just one General Education split. Because we still expect some staff movement, I predict it will be close to the end of the school year before I can announce teacher assignments. Changes may yet occur over the summer.

- The School Board has voted to adopt a new K-5 English Language Arts curriculum for 2017-18. I hope we will receive the new materials, Center for the Collaborative Classroom [https://www.collaborativeclassroom.org/], in June. All staff will receive training in the curriculum before the new school year. Our staff is pleased that there is a strong focus on phonics in K-2 and that we still will be using the workshop teaching model.

Kids’ Use of Internet Highlighted in Library Lessons and PTA Showing of ‘Screenagers’

Our school is putting extra emphasis on cyber safety during May. In the Library, Grades 1-5 are learning about good online choices. Ms. Kaloper is incorporating Internet-related issues into her “FLASH” meetings with fifth-graders. And, the PTA is presenting the documentary “Screenagers” May 16. (Free! See flier.) In the Library, students are starting a unit on cyber safety and cyber citizenship using Cyber[Smart], an Australian curriculum. Librarian Merilee Hudson says, “They have a 15-minute lesson with me, then watch the videos or play a few of the games.” Students might work on the lessons at home. Ms. Hudson notes that the online curriculum includes teen-oriented information not used at Thurgood Marshall. “Take the time and talk with your student about being safe whenever they are online,” she says. (See http://bit.ly/eSafetyLessons.)
Bullpup Briefs

Zetterberg to be ‘Legislative Scholar’

Congratulations to Grade 4 teacher Michael Zetterberg, who was accepted as a 2017 “Legislative Scholar”! Michael will spend a week of his summer in Olympia with elementary, middle school, and high school social studies, government, history, and civics teachers from around the state. The program, run by the Legislature, will include meetings with legislators, staff, agency representatives, civic education organizations, and Supreme Court Justice Mary Fairhurst. Michael will come back to school with new resources to support our work in Social Studies.

School Honored for 95% Vaccination Rate

The state Department of Health has honored our school for meeting a goal of having 95 percent of kindergarten students vaccinated. This is up from 62 percent in 2014-15 and 80 percent in 2015-16. Nurse Molly Chin is a big part of helping make this happen. The Department of Health tracks the kindergarten vaccination rate as part of work with schools and districts to be sure that students are well immunized and protected against disease.

If You Only Take 2 Surveys this Month...

District Family Survey: These must be completed by May 19. Last year, only 25 percent of TM families participated in the survey, and few of them were families of color. We would love to hear from YOU!

If you have questions or didn’t receive the survey (either via email or postal mail), see www.seattleschools.org/familysurvey or contact mailto:research@seattleschools.org. Parents, you are welcome to complete the survey on a computer at Thurgood Marshall, but you must have access to the email with your personal survey link OR the “personal login code” if the District sent you the survey on paper. Check in at the office!

TM Social Studies Survey: As mentioned in Ms. May’s column, you should have received an email with a link to this survey, which is following up on a survey earlier this year. Didn’t get that email, or need a paper version? Contact Ms. Patu in the office or at hjpatu@seattleschools.org.

Equity in HCC Group to Meet at TM on May 10

The Districtwide Racial Equity in HCC group will next meet 6-8 p.m., May 10, in the TM Library. Topics include updates on recent meetings with SPS staff such as Wyeth Jesse, Kari Hanson and Stephen Martin; next steps for the group’s advocacy; and ways to be involved and support the work.

Move-a-thon has Moved! New Date is June 9

Move-a-thon, the event that gets TM students running and raising funds for field trips, has been rescheduled to June 9.

TM Staff: Please Don’t Read this Article

Parents & Kids: Send in Thank-You Notes

Staff Appreciation Week is almost over, but you can still write thank-you’s to teachers and staff! At Thursday (May 4) pick-up, come to the Flagpole area and fill out “Keepin’ it Real!” cards, to be presented to staff at the Friday appreciation breakfast.

For families that bus, just send your notes with your student and they can “mail” them at the table. Volunteers will make sure they get to the right teacher.

Making the Most of their Moves

This small but mighty team of four TM kids came in 12th out of nearly 100 teams in the Grades 1-3 section at the Washington State Scholastic Chess Championship in Tacoma on Saturday. From left are Walter Barr (Gr. 3), Reese Cole (Gr. 3), Vinayak Vengopal (Gr. 2) and Frederick Barr (Gr. 1). All walked away with trophies: Frederick, Vinayak and Reece won three out of their five games, while Walter was 23rd (out of 201) among third-graders, losing only once.

Chihuly, Horiuchi Pieces in Art Room Exhibit

For the past three weeks, Room 208 has been transformed into a special gallery, thanks to a Junior League of Seattle program allowing us to host a collection of prominent Northwest art.

- Kindergartners studied Dale Chihuly, and made a sculpture based on his glass piece “Midnight Blue Venetian with Red Feather.”
- First-graders made a collage based on the work of Paul Horiuchi, “Fantasy at Night.”
- Second- and third-graders examined the emotion in “Wounded Gull,” by Morris Graves.
- Fourth-graders are designing model fountains, inspired by the “Fountain of Wisdom,” by George Tsutakawa.
- Fifth-graders are using “Channel Meadows” by Guy Anderson for inspiration as they create a work of art based on their favorite place.

In addition, Amy Perez, a Junior League volunteer docent, led the classes of Ms. Garzon, Ms. Carney and Mr. Long in a lesson that linked music and art. Students created drawings after viewing “Summer Picking,” by Pierce Milholland, and listening to the “Summer” portion of Vivaldi’s “Four Seasons.”

Art Teacher Beth Zirngible thanks Brian Robbins, father of Elspeth, and Kimberlee Barber, mother of Zixi, for helping unload and site this fragile, valuable art!
Through poignant stories and expert interviews, Screenagers reveals how tech time impacts kids’ development and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world and find balance. Learn more at screenagersmovie.com

**Documentary is 67 mins. Suitable for caring parents & kids 10+**

**All TM community members are welcome.**

*Other PTA business will precede the film, including a vote on the ’17-18 budget*
It always seems impossible, until it’s done.
– Nelson Mandela

Only $6,000 to go to meet our Annual Giving Fund goal. Help us reach it by May 10, Seattle’s “GiveBIG” Day!

At the beginning of each year, PTA volunteers look at our Annual Giving Fund goal and cross our fingers we will reach it. Your generosity has been overwhelming this year, and we only need to raise $6,000 more to reach our goal of $160,000.

As a reminder, PTA funds support the salary for our school Counselor, half the salary for our school Librarian, reading tutors and recess aides, grants for teachers and staff for classroom-specific and schoolwide needs, the Seattle Children’s Theatre Artist-in-Residence program and special performances at assemblies.

If you haven’t had a chance to donate this year, now is the time. On Wednesday, May 10, with inspiration from the Seattle Foundation, many, many people in Seattle will “GiveBIG” to organizations they believe in.

If you have already given, thank you so much! Would you consider another gift to help us meet our goal?

Although part of the Seattle Schools District’s funding crisis has been averted, a shortfall is still looming. Give today and make sure our students continue to have the PTA-funded support and programs they need.

Go to tmlink.org to make a gift or mail in a check to Annual Giving Fund, 2401 S. Irving St., Seattle, WA 98144. Questions? Email giving@tmlink.org.