

# PUP PRESS

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Principal  
Katie May

## The Power of a Name: ‘Scholars’

What’s in a name? Sometimes a name can be everything. Our words convey meaning, whether intended or unintended. For exactly this reason, at the request of our Black Family Advocacy Support Group, the Building Leadership Team unanimously voted to change the name of our General Education program to Scholars, a name that is more in line with the Highly Capable Cohort program we also house. Washington Middle School also

uses this name for General Education.

At our Friday Assembly last week, Ms. Kovacs-Storlie and I also spoke to our students about language, particularly words that perpetuate stereotypes. We began by acknowledging that we all have different perspectives on the world, and these



perspectives determine how we see a situation. We shared the viral Moonwalking Bear video with students as an example of this. (If you are not familiar with this clip, see it here: <http://bit.ly/MoonwalkBear>.) We also shared the optical illusion of the old woman/young woman.

We talked about the power our words can have, giving examples of words that can have a positive or negative context depending on the situation, the speaker and the person who is receiving the information. For example, the word “nerd” can have the negative context of someone who is smart but socially awkward. More recently, people have taken this word to mean something more positive, such as a “bird nerd,” who might simply be an avid bird watcher.

Then we discussed how we need to be thoughtful of the impact that our words have on others, and the meaning that can be conveyed intentionally or unintentionally. I shared that children played “Cowboys and Indians” when I was young, and that games such as this perpetuate negative stereotypes about Native Americans. This was clear to our student audience, who labeled this play as racist. I shared that Master and Slave, a game that had been played earlier in the year at our school, was similarly unacceptable. This is a game in which some kids have power and others do not. We recognize slavery as a terrible element in U.S. history. People may think we do not take slavery seriously when it is used in a

*Continued on Page 2*

## EVENT CALENDAR

**TONIGHT, Thurs., May 18, 6:30-8 p.m.,** The Black Family Advocacy Support Group presents a special community-building workshop, led by John Scott, Ph.D. (c). Free. See <http://bit.ly/BFASG-Scott>.

**Tues., May 23: Coffee with Principal Katie May** “Preview of Next Year.” 9:15-10 a.m., Library. Free coffee! See flier.



**Wed., May 24: Lost & Found deadline.** Check the dozens of items as soon as possible! Rear hallway.

**Wed., May 24: Equity Action Teams meeting,** 6-8 p.m., Library. Child care available w/RSVP. See flier.

**Thurs., May 25: Spring Instrumental Concert,** 7 p.m. Strings arrive by 6:30; other players by 6:45!

→ **Bake Sale to Support the 5th-Grade Legacy Project!** Please bring a few dollars and a sweet tooth to the concert.



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

## TUTU'S PANTRY.

**Week of May 22: Grade K and PEACE Academy** are asked to donate non-perishable foods.

## Annual Fund Reaches Goal!

Thank you to everyone who gave to the Annual Giving Fund this school year! Every gift, no matter the amount, helped us reach our goal of \$160,000.

A special thanks goes to employees who took advantage of their company’s matching funds. We know it takes extra work to get the match, and we appreciate that you took the time to do it.

PTA funds support every student at our school. Give yourself a round of applause for making this happen! If you might be interested in helping with fundraising next year, we are looking for two people to run the Annual Giving Fund. All the tools are in place to make this job easy and fun. Contact Jen Ellis at [jenniferellis.206@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferellis.206@gmail.com).

## PTA Members Elect 2017-18 Board Officers, OK \$191K Budget ... and See a Movie

PTA members elected 2017-18 Board Officers, thanked extraordinary volunteers, approved a \$191,700 budget and viewed the film “Screenagers” at the general meeting on Tuesday (May 16).

Chosen for 1-year terms beginning July 1, are:

- Co-President: **Jennifer Ellis**
- Co-President: **Karen Pinkard**
- Vice President: **Stacey Joanovic**
- Treasurer: **Kiyomi Morton**
- Secretary: **Katherine Barr**



Pinkard

Ellis

None of the positions were contested.

The budget, which won approval after a brief period of questions, again is primarily devoted to funding part of all of the salaries for TM’s Librarian, Counselor and Tutors. [See [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org) for more details.]

The Officers, who are the Executive Committee, have begun selecting additional members of the Board (listed below). Some 2017-18 positions remain available, and all roles can be shared.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Bullpup Briefs

### **Free Books, Pizza at Summer Reading Kickoff**

Join other families and teachers 5:30-7 p.m., Friday, June 2, for fun, food and books as we get ready for a summer of reading!

The Summer Reading Kickoff is an evening for parents and primary students to learn about all the summer reading opportunities out there. Primary teachers will be available to share ideas and tips for the best ways to keep students' reading ability growing and avoid "the summer slide."

**And, students will be able to choose free books** for some of their summer reading, as well as sign up for other citywide activities. Don't miss the activities or the FREE pizza!

(Older siblings are welcome to attend, although the focus will be on our younger readers.)

### **Move-a-thon Volunteers, Pledges Needed**

Does your child LOVE field trips? Do you want to make sure everyone at Thurgood Marshall benefits from these amazing extensions to their learning, including 5th-grade camp?

**Our annual Move-a-thon is the best way to help.** On June 9 every student will run laps around our field to help raise money to support our Field Trips Program.

**Pledge envelopes** for donations will be sent home Friday, May 26, and must be turned in to classroom teachers no later than June 9. Volunteers are needed next week, as well as during and after the Move-a-thon. Sign up at <http://bit.ly/Moveathon17>.

### **No Bell-Times Decision Yet; June 16 Deadline**

All of Seattle's schools are still waiting to learn start times for next year. The Seattle City Council is to consider providing the District with the funds that would make a two-tier bus system possible. The District has set June 16 as the last possible date for a decision on start times for next year.

Superintendent Larry Nyland on Monday sent parents an email discussing schedule issues. It is on [www.seattleschools.org](http://www.seattleschools.org).

### **1 Week Left to Find What Your Student Lost**

The Lost & Found remains overwhelmed with coats and more. Walk to the hallway south of the gym VERY SOON: most unclaimed items will be sent to charity next Thursday, May 25.

### **Final Day to Take District's 'Family Survey'**

Take the SPS Family Survey by tomorrow (May 19)! See [www.seattleschools.org/familysurvey](http://www.seattleschools.org/familysurvey) or contact [research@seattleschools.org](mailto:research@seattleschools.org) if you didn't receive the survey. Your voice counts!

### **Seek Advanced Learning Entry Now-Sept. 22**

The window for parents/guardians to refer a student for the Advanced Learning eligibility process will remain open through Sept. 22 (for placement in 2018-19). A flier was sent home this week to all families of our Scholars. More information in many languages: [www.seattleschools.org/advlearning](http://www.seattleschools.org/advlearning).

### **Flier Has More Info on Next Week's Events**

Read the flier for more about Coffee with the Principal 9:15 a.m. Tuesday and the Equity Teams meeting, 6-8 p.m. Wednesday!

## **Staff Attend Equity-Related Trainings**

*Continued from Page 1*

game. Or, it could appear that we think that having power over other people is acceptable. A "game" can make us think that people are better or worse because of the color of their skin – which was a big part of slavery.

This seems like a deep discussion for a Friday Assembly format, yet our students responded well to the conversation. We hope to continue to incorporate social justice conversation into the Friday Assemblies next year, too.

On a similar note, our staff will be continuing our equity work with examining our own biases and learning more about the systematic oppression of particular groups in our own society. Fran Partridge of the District's Race and Equity Department will lead a two-part session at upcoming staff meetings. Individual staff are attending other equity trainings, too. Last weekend, several of us attended a session at Seattle University hosted by Teaching Tolerance. We were lucky to have access to this sold-out event through SU staff member and TM parent Angie Jenkins. On Monday evening, another group attended a training on Culturally Responsive Teaching hosted by Sound Discipline.

## **2017-18 PTA Board Has a Few Open Positions**

*Continued from Page 1*

Contact [pta@tmlink.org](mailto:pta@tmlink.org) if you may be interested.

- Communications Chair: **Cliff Meyer**
- Legislative Relations Chair: **Venessa Goldberg**
- Volunteer Coordination Chair: **Ann McNally**
- PEACE/Special Education Liaison: **Noelle Mathias**
- PTA Teacher Liaison: **Merilee Hudson/Donna Dugan**
- Equity Liaison: **Venessa Goldberg**
- Fundraising Chair or Co-Chairs: **open**
- Events Chair or Co-Chairs: **open**
- Arts Liaison: **open**

The PTA expressed gratitude to several parent volunteers who held special roles in recent years, but will "graduate" in June from TM with their 5th-grader:

- **Lauri Nakamoto** (served 2 years as PTA Board Secretary and 1 year as Vice President)
- **Jeremy Mazner** (arranged for free Microsoft SharePoint cloud, email and other services, and provided tech support for the past 5 years)
- **Erinn McIntyre** (led Pup Press distribution, and helped in main office and with vision and hearing screenings)
- **Kathryn Saxer** (edited Yearbook for 2 years)
- **Sudeshna Sen** (led Enrichment Program for 2 years and donated her time to create a movie about arts at TM)
- **Natalie Zheng** (donated many hours as library helper and chess club lead parent over 6-year span)

After viewing the "Screenagers" documentary, many of the 80 parents and children at the meeting joined a discussion of screen-use issues led by Principal Katie May.

**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](mailto:pup-press@tmlink.org). If your submission is not acknowledged within 24 hours, please call or text 206-366-5413

## Upcoming TM Events You Won't Want to Miss



# COFFEE WITH PRINCIPAL KATIE MAY

*9:15-10 a.m. Tuesday, May 23, in the Library*

## Topic: Preview of 2017-18

What will next year be like? Join Principal May for coffee and hear some of the changes/additions planned for next year in curriculum, daily schedules, staffing and more. Ms. May will save time for parent questions and open discussion.

If you are unable to join us, email Ms. May your questions at [kjmay1@seattleschools.org](mailto:kjmay1@seattleschools.org).

The coffee is free, thanks to the PTA!



# EQUITY ACTION TEAMS MEETING

*6-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 24, in the Library*

## Come to the last meeting of the year to reflect back on 2016-17 and share ideas for 2017-18

This is also a great opportunity to meet other families, and learn more about Equity work at our school.

The meeting will include:

- ❖ a connection activity to build understanding and help us all to walk in each other's shoes
- ❖ reflection on the Equity work done this year
- ❖ brainstorming needs and ideas for next year

Child care (ages 5-12) available by contacting Sterling at the YMCA **in advance**: 206-718-5705 or [sterlingnelson@seattleYMCA.org](mailto:sterlingnelson@seattleYMCA.org).  
Students are also welcome to attend the meeting if they would like to become involved.

More info on all of the Equity Action Teams: <http://tmlink.org/info/equity-in-education-initiative>.