Tips to Halt the ‘Summer Slide’

Now that warmer weather is here, we know that summer is just around the corner. The first thing I think of with summer is … Summer Reading! We want you and your child to be just as excited about reading this summer. Why? Because reading at home – or wherever you go – will keep your child from “Summer Slide,” when children can slip back several reading levels because of lack of practice. Here’s how you can help:

- Make sure your child chooses books based on interest. This is especially important for early readers. Matching books to a student’s reading level is less important than interest.

- Give your child a goal of reading at least 10 books this summer.

- Make sure your child owns some books (versus borrowing them); research across more than two dozen countries found that a home library is critical.

- Encourage your child to read series books that often have highly predictable structures.

- Make sure your child reads books that are slightly challenging and definitely not below their reading level.

- Read with your child.

- Be an example – create your own summer reading list, and ensure your children have the opportunity to see you reading. (This is another reason to plan some time to read together.)

- Make sure summer reading is fun, not work!

TM Library Open Most Tuesdays in Summer

Popsicles and thousands of books await students this summer almost every week at TM! The Library will be open Tuesdays June 27-Aug. 22, except July 4. Grade 4 teacher Mike Zetterberg will be the host. You don’t even have to wait until you’re in the building: Go to http://bit.ly/1TMLibrary to check out Ms. Hudson’s website for general information and a link to our catalog. (Browse the catalog to find which books we have, and some e-books that can be downloaded to a Kindle!)

- All summer, check out our Thurgood Marshall Elementary Facebook page, where I will post recommendations of books your child might like.

If your home library needs to be supplemented, talk to our wonderful Librarian, Merilee Hudson (206-252-2775 or mhudson@seattleschools.org). She is planning the Summer Reading Kick-Off (Friday, June 2 – 5:30-7) and is committed to helping every one of our students read all summer long. After school ends, the TM Library will be open 4-7 p.m. most Tuesdays (see box at left). You can also talk to your classroom teacher about borrowing books. And the Seattle Public Library offers a summer reading and learning program. (See http://bit.ly/SPL2016summer.) Encouraging your child to read this summer is the best thing you can do to get your child prepared for the 2017-18 school year.

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EVENT CALENDAR

**TONIGHT** (Thurs.): 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.

Mon., May 29: No School (Memorial Day).

**Through May 31:** Bike to School Month. Record those minutes of riding – not just to/from school! See p. 2.

Fri., June 2: Summer Reading Kick-off, 5:30-7 p.m. Meet in Cafeteria. Free pizza, books! See flier.


Fri., June 9: Move-a-thon. Kids will run and walk to raise money for the special TM fund that provides scholarships for field trips and 5th-grade camp. Donation form & envelope arriving home this week!

June 12-16: Final week for most Enrichment classes.

➔ All events in the online calendar at www.tmlink.org

TUTU’S PANTRY

Week of May 30: Grade 1 is asked to donate non-perishable foods.

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**Presentation Now Online**

**Principal Looks to 2017-18**

Katie May’s May 23 “Coffee with the Principal” looked at curriculum, staffing, scheduling and other elements affecting the upcoming school year.


Below are a few of the topics discussed:

- **TM is increasing Advanced Learning opportunities** for students in the Scholars program (formerly General Education).

- The 2017-18 waiver request to blend classrooms during Social Studies has been submitted to the District, with a response expected in June. Ms. May also noted that some classrooms blend during PCP period (Art / Music / PE), but that scheduling difficulties preclude doing this for all grade levels.

- **Teachers will begin familiarizing themselves with the new English Language Arts curriculum** as soon as it arrives next month. The District is also planning to phase in an updated science curriculum over several years, in response to new standards.
**Contractor Sought for 5th-Grade Legacy Project**
Organizers of the 5th-Grade Legacy Project are searching for a licensed & insured contractor. The scope of work includes: Detach bulletin board from wall in the main lobby of school entry. Reattach board to wall elsewhere in school. Attach pre-assembled MDF board with 130 4” x 4” tiles and a 2” x 3’ dry-erase board (assembled by others) to wall in main lobby.

While the organizers hope all or most of the work will be donated, bids for the full job will be accepted. Bidders must pay Prevailing Wages Rates. In either case, the contractor must provide license information and an Insurance Certificate naming Seattle Schools as an additional insured. Questions?: Anne Porter (206-568-5170 or annesiemion@yahoo.com).

**‘Bikes & Bubbles’ at Grades K-1 Event June 4**
Bring your kindergarteners and 1st-graders 2-4 p.m. June 4 to Jefferson Playground to have fun together AND chat with other parents about the school year, summer plans, and the year ahead. Bring your bikes, balls, jump ropes, etc. Or just bring your family and enjoy the awesome playground (north end of Jefferson Park; 3701 Beacon Ave S.).

The PTA is providing bubbles and Popsicles, as part of its support of grade-level community-building events.

Questions? Ann McNally: mcnally.ann@gmail.com or 206-861-5730.

**Choir Canceled; Ms. French to Return in Fall**
Principal Katie May this week announced that morning Choir will be canceled for the rest of the year because Music Teacher Kelsey French will need more time to recuperate from an injury.

“Ms. French is very sad that she is not able to be at school with your children and is looking forward to returning in the Fall,” Ms. May said.

**Student Council: Turn in Box Tops & Win Party**
Student Council’s “Box Tops for Education Drive” is continuing into June. Each classroom has been challenged to collect 10 “Box Tops” per student. Popsicle parties are being awarded to the first class to meet goal and the one with the most Box Tops! You’ll find Box Tops on a variety of products. Schools can redeem Box Tops for cash provided the expiration date is Nov. 1, 2017, or later.

**Are You Tracking your Exercise on Wheels?**
Bike riders, help Thurgood Marshall record at least 8205 minutes during Bike to School Month. Your pedaling can be from school … or just around the block. You can also track scooters, skates, or almost any exercise involving wheels.

In early June, you will need to turn in the tracking calendar, which was sent home with the April 27 Pup Press and is also available at http://bit.ly/TMbike17.

**Move-a-thon Donation Envelopes in ‘Kidmail’**
The annual Move-a-thon’s donation form and envelope will be coming home with your student this week, and must be turned in to classroom teachers no later than June 9.

Why support Move-a-thon? It is the only fundraiser at Thurgood Marshall that ensures that all students, regardless of family finances, will be able to go on class field trips and to 5th-grade camp?

On June 9 every student will run laps around our field. Extra laps are appreciated, but we ask that your donations not be based on a number of laps. (The donation form has full instructions. If yours doesn’t arrive home ask your child! Additional forms are at the main office, or downloadable at http://bit.ly/MoveathonForm17.)

**Volunteers are needed** during and after the Move-a-thon. Sign up at http://bit.ly/Moveathon17.

**TM Ultimate Teams Wrap up Spring Season in Style**
The four Thurgood Marshall Ultimate teams, composed of 60 players from Grades 3-5, finished up with playoff games in early May. Forty-two of the players also competed in the all-day Spring Jam! elementary Ultimate tournament on Sunday (May 21) at Magnuson Park in Seattle.

Facing teams from as far away as Whidbey Island, the “Mooses,” the “Warthogs” and the “Jelly Donut Bullpups” each played several exciting games, throwing beautiful passes, making spectacular catches, and displaying stout defense.

The quality of play was matched by the “spirit of the game” celebrations – in which Thurgood Marshall players gave and received “Spirit Discs” (small Frisbees) recognizing individuals for the quality of their play, and especially for their good sportsmanship. Ultimate is now done for the season, but ask players about their enthusiasm for the “Spirit of the Game!”

The evening will focus on summer reading opportunities, a teacher panel to answer questions about summer reading and conversation about summer reading. There will be a pizza dinner and free books to read throughout the summer.

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

June 2nd
5:30-7:00

Meet in the TM cafeteria!