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When Endings Are Also Beginnings

One thing I love about my job is that there is never a dull moment, and that makes time just fly by. The work that students are doing now is so far beyond what they were doing at the beginning of the year. The way students have ownership of their classroom routines is something that can only be achieved through patience and practice. Even students that are coming to the office for disciplinary referrals are confronting the consequences of their choices with the maturity and skill to reflect on and resolve conflicts in a way that makes me proud.

While I'm sure students and adults are looking forward to summer, many of us are trying to get the most out of these last few weeks. Student Council is devising ideas and routines that will improve recess and hallway behavior. Some 5th-graders I observed said they are working hard to improve their graphing skills "before middle school." One teacher shared with me that she hopes to help students achieve at least one more reading level of growth. It is impressive to see the stamina and focus maintained this late in the game.

An important end-of-year task for many staff is capturing what we have learned this year so that we can apply it to our planning for next year. Social Studies was a huge area of learning for us, and we have agreed to keep a strong focus on it next year as well. Now that we've built some solid practices and curriculum, our teachers want to adjust Social Studies content so students have a cohesive and comprehensive learning experience as they move from one grade to the next. We are also considering new emphasis on Mathematics next year. Many teachers wish to explore how to develop conceptual understanding in addition to procedural knowledge. In addition, we will be using a new reading curriculum, adopting new interim assessments for Math and reading, and re-designing our instruction to meet the Next Generation Science Standards.

If this sounds like a lot to take on, that's because it is! I am so impressed by our teachers' positive approach to change. They are looking forward to new initiatives and resources that are designed to yield positive outcomes for all students. And, by the way, isn't fall is just around the corner? ☺

Students to Run/Walk for Field Trip Scholarships

Please Send in Move-a-thon Donations on Friday

Unless rain hits hard, Move-a-thon tomorrow (Friday) will get every class outside and walking laps on the playfield. We hope your student has collected donations (cash or check!) from supportive friends and family members, and will bring the purple form and envelope back to school.

Why does TM need Move-a-thon?

Every dollar goes toward **field trips**

and **5th-grade camp for students** who would not otherwise be able to afford these activities. We want every child at TM to benefit from all the educational resources in our community, but we cannot provide this without your help.

Volunteers needed: <http://bit.ly/Moveathon17>.

→ Ensure your child wears appropriate footwear and clothing. Need a form?

Go to <http://bit.ly/MoveathonForm17>.

EVENT CALENDAR

TOMORROW, June 9: Move-a-thon. Kids run and walk to raise money for the TM fund that provides scholarships for field trips and 5th-grade camp.

→ *Bring Donation Form & envelope with funds..*

June 12-16: Final week for most Enrichment classes. Questions? enrichment@tmlink.org.

June 12-15: Class Picnics, 5:30-7:30 p.m., TM Playground. **Mon.:** Grades K-1; **Tues.:** Grade 2; **Wed.:** Grade 3; **Thurs.:** Grade 4. See Page 2.

Wed., June 14: Box Tops deadline. Bring them in, help your classroom win a prize! See Page 2.

Fri., June 16: Field Day. All sorts of activities. BBQ lunch for \$3 (adults, \$4.75). Send your child with cash or check if funds aren't in their meals account. MANY volunteers needed! Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/jfzdo37>.

Tues., June 20: Volunteer Appreciation Tea, 4-4:45 p.m., Playground picnic area. Enjoy light snacks, beverages! Child care provided on playground.

Tues., June 20: PTA Board Meeting. 6:30-8 pm., location to be announced. Info: pta@tmlink.org.

Wed., June 21: 5th-Grade Promotion Event. 5:30-7:30, Cafeteria.

Fri., June 23: Regular dismissal time. (Was early dismissal day on original District calendar.)

Mon., June 26: Final day of school. Early dismissal at 2:45 p.m. Have a great summer!

→ **Full year of events online at www.tmlink.org!**

TUTU'S PANTRY

Week of June 12: Grade 3 families, please donate!

\$2,000 Grant to TM Library

The Washington State Library has awarded TM a \$2,000 grant to buy nonfiction books through the "Refreshing School Libraries" program. TM was one of just 100 schools to win the grant. Librarian Merilee Hudson says we qualified in part because nonfiction books in our collection average 22 years old; 44 percent are considered "aged"!

Although TM buys nonfiction books each year, it is hard to keep up to date. The average cost of a children's hardback is \$20; a paperback is around \$7. (Electronic books cannot be purchased with this grant.)

"With the implementation of the Common Core, the need for nonfiction has increased," says Ms. Hudson. "This will help build our collection to meet the needs of Thurgood Marshall students as they are challenged with new standards and curriculum."





Using Tools to Manage 'Tough Stuff' & More

It has been another great year full of learning at Thurgood Marshall! We have continued to use RULER, our schoolwide social-emotional program.

Regular classroom guidance lessons focused students on problem-solving, identifying and managing emotions, making friends, using positive self-talk, exploring careers, practicing perspective taking, building communication skills, accepting differences, having a growth mindset, learning from mistakes, preventing and responding to bullying ... and more!

Small-group counseling addressed topics such as friendship, emotion management, family changes, grief and loss, and other "tough stuff." Students also received 1:1 support and/or were referred to outside counselors, some of whom met with students at school for families' convenience.

I want to thank our 54 Conflict Mediators and Recess Mentors, who have helped keep the peace on our playgrounds and watched for students with conflicts or who seemed left out. You have done an amazing job and should feel proud of your leadership!

Have a safe and happy summer! I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Volunteer to Help Kids Enjoy Field Day & BBQ

Sign up now to help with the annual Field Day's 15+ stations of fun devised by the PE Department and other staff. Activities include gaga ball, face-painting, volleyball, giant tangrams and much more!

The event is fully within the school day on June 16. Grades K-2 and PEACE Academy enjoy the activities in the morning, and Grades 3-5 take over in afternoon. Most volunteer shifts start at either 9:15 or 12:45. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/jfzdo37>.

The BBQ lunch will offer: hamburger (all beef), veggieburger and chicken hot dog, coleslaw, baby carrots, broccoli, baked beans, watermelon, cookie & milk. Kids, \$3 (unless eligible for free lunch); adults, \$4.75 (exact change needed).



Promotion Means Change

Fifth-graders created this banner for display during their Promotion Ceremony at TM 5:30-7:30 on June 21. It includes illustrations, student names and thoughts, such as "Don't try to be anyone else, because everybody else is already taken."

Bullpup Briefs

Bring Dinner, Toys to Grade-level Picnics Next Week

Get ready to play, chat and dine on the playground next week (June 12-15) with other families from your student's grade level. Water available, but bring your dinner, toys, ground cloth, etc. Each picnic is 5:30-7:30 p.m. and will be canceled in the event of rain. The schedule:

Mon.: Grades K-1; **Tues.:** Grade 2; **Wed.:** Grade 3; **Thurs.:** Grade 4.

Clip, Send in 'Box Tops' by Wed.; Popsicle Parties at Stake

Don't miss Student Council's June 14 deadline for turning in "Box Tops for Education." The classroom competition is within three grade-level divisions (K-1, 2-3, 4-5); collect the most "Box Tops" and receive a Popsicle party! Box Tops are found on cereal boxes and other products. TM can redeem them for cash, provided the expiration date is no earlier than Nov. 1, 2017.

Volunteers, Get Ready to Party on the Playground June 20

Volunteers, please join us at the playground's picnic area at 4 p.m. June 20 for the annual Volunteer Tea to celebrate your hard work! Light snacks and drinks provided. Child care offered 4-4:45 p.m. on the playground.

Free Passes for 4th-Graders & Family at National Parks, More

The "Every Kid in a Park" pass grants 4th-graders free access to more than 2,000 federally managed lands and waters nationwide for an entire year. Some of the agencies involved are the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This pass admits 4th-graders and any accompanying passengers in a private, non-commercial vehicle at vehicle fee areas, or the pass-owner and up to three accompanying adults at sites that charge per person. See www.everykidinapark.gov.

District Unveils 'Dashboards' with Demographics, Other Data

Interactive dashboards on the Seattle Public Schools website can be used by both the public and staff to view District-level demographics, enrollment, and student outcomes. The Data Profiles offer a chance to analyze equity across demographics and programs, including identification of opportunity gaps.

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.