

PUP PRESS

Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

SEPT. 21, 2017

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 3



Principal
Katie May

On SBA & other Assessments

I wanted to update you about the work we have been doing to start our year. Much of the start of the year is helping students feel connected to school and to each other, and also to assess their academic levels so we are able to provide appropriate instruction.

Parents of 4th- and 5th-grade students can expect to see **Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) scores** in English

Language Arts and Math sent home soon. The SBA is the Washington State standardized test taken annually in the spring by students in Grades 3-8 and 10-11. We receive full student results in the fall. This test gives us information about how our students are performing individually, and also how well our curriculum is meeting the needs of our students overall.

Your child's performance on the SBA is a combination of many factors – their academic content knowledge, their ability to sustain concentration over a long period of time, how they felt on the day of the test, and emotional factors such as test-taking anxiety. Because of this, we treat the SBA as one measure of your child's progress, along with what we know about your child's learning through teacher observation and assessment and other standardized assessments.

Teachers at every grade have been giving their students **on-demand writing assessments**. These are opportunities for students to write for a set time period – generally 30-45 minutes. These assessments give teachers information about areas of strength and weakness in their writing and help us plan instruction. We also use these early assessments to show growth over the course of the year, as we repeat them again in late spring.

Your child's teacher has also been giving **math assessments** to determine areas of strength and weakness. Math is an important area of focus for us this year. Teachers will be analyzing the math data they gather in their grade-level teams, and working together to determine intervention and enrichment for students.

A number of parents of students who qualify for **Advanced Learner/Spectrum services** have asked about what services will look like. This can vary between grade levels, based on individual student needs. You can expect that your child's teacher will be in touch soon, once teams have had a chance to review start-of-year assessments.

We began **Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing** in Reading and Math this week, as well. This year, the Seattle School District requires us to screen students in Grades K-2. We will do this once (wintertime) for kindergartners and twice (fall and spring) for 1st- and 2nd-graders. Students in 3rd grade and above will be screened only if they are new to the District and do not have MAP scores from the previous spring. MAP results are used to measure growth, to help us place students in interventions, and help qualify students for access to Advanced Learning programs (Highly Capable Services and Spectrum).

You can find your child's standardized test scores on "The Source," the District's online resource that provides many types of information. You must set up an account first. Please go to <https://ps.seattleschools.org/public/>.

EVENT CALENDAR

TOMORROW, Fri., Sept. 22: Deadline for referrals to Advanced Learning qualification process. See www.seattleschools.org/advlearning.

Sat., Sept. 23: Open Meeting with School Board Member Stephan Blanford, 10-noon, Douglass-Truth Library, 2300 E. Yesler Way.

Sept. 25-29: Start of most Enrichment classes. Do not assume your child is in a class if you didn't receive a confirmation after you submitted registration! Questions: enrichment@tmlink.org.

Tues., Sept 26: K& 1st-grade Potluck, 6-7:30 p.m., Cafeteria. Siblings welcome! See Page 2.

Thurs., Sept. 28: Coffee with Principal Katie May, 8:40-9:30 a.m., Library.

Tues., Oct. 3: 'Dads' & Kids Pizza Night to introduce Bullpup Dads group, 5:30-7 p.m., Cafeteria. FREE dinner and activities. You don't have to be a dad! See attached flier.

→ Online calendar at www.tmlink.org!

TUTU'S PANTRY

Tutu's Pantry depends on donations of non-perishable items, and this space will list grade levels asked to make a special effort during the current or upcoming week. Donation bins are in the front hall.

Week of Sept. 25: Grade 2 asked to donate!

What, You Still Have Those Forms?

Provide Directory Info, More

The fall rains have started, so it must be time to finish all of the signups and forms you received from the school and the PTA. Try this handy checklist, with direct online links:

- Submit e-address for 2017-18 Family Directory:** www.tmlink.org/dir. You MUST do this *every year* to be listed!
- Become a member of the PTA!** Go to www.pt-avenue.com/join.
- Be part of Tutu's Pantry.** To receive food, form is at office or at <http://bit.ly/TMpantry>.
- Sign up your Grades 2-5 student for Choir:** <http://bit.ly/TMchoir>.
- Submit screening forms so you can volunteer.** Available at the main office or download at <http://bit.ly/SPSVolunteer>.
- RSVP for 'Dads & Kids' Pizza Night on Oct. 3.** The flier is attached to today's Pup Press – just return it to school!

Free Meal Included

Help Needed in the Lunchroom

Lunchroom helpers are urgently needed to help students maneuver through the lunch line and elsewhere, 11:45-12:45. An easy way to ensure our 580 students eat and play! As a bonus, you'll enjoy the meal yourself, courtesy of the school! Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Ann McNally at volunteering@tmlink.org if you can do a shift or two.

Bullpup Briefs

Apply for Year of Free School Lunches

Applications for free breakfast and lunch at school are available in Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, Oromo, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese: <http://bit.ly/SPSfreelunch>.

Applications can be turned into the school lunchroom; mailed to Nutrition Services at MS 32-373, PO Box 34165, Seattle, WA 98123; faxed to Nutrition Services at 206-252-0664; emailed to nutritionservices@seattleschools.org; or completed online in English or Spanish at www.paypams.com/onlineapp.

Advanced Learning Referral Still Possible

If you think more challenging schoolwork might be a good idea for your child, you can start the process of testing for entry into Advanced Learning Programs for 2018-19. However, the referral deadline is **Friday, (Sept. 22)**, so don't delay! More at <http://bit.ly/2018-19AdvLearning>.

Finally! Potluck for Grades K & 1 is Tues.

Make new friends at Grade-Level Potlucks! It is finally the turn for Grades K&1, on Tuesday (Sept. 26), 6-7:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria. Bring a dish that reflects your cultural heritage ... or just grab something convenient! The PTA will provide water, plates and cutlery. Suggested assignments:

A-M: Main Dish • N-R: Side or Salad • S-Z: Dessert

Ask your Questions of School Board Member

Stephan Blanford, the School Board Member representing TMI's neighborhood, will hold an open meeting 10 a.m.-noon **Saturday, Sept. 23**, at the Douglass-Truth Library, 2300 E. Yesler Way. Dr. Blanford is not running for re-election. This is his second-to-last open meeting as a member.

UW Center Offers Enrichment Classes

Registration for the University of Washington's Robinson Center Saturday Enrichment Program is open! These classes provide a special challenge in topics from math to philosophy for engaged students. Fall quarter is Oct. 7-Dec. 2.

Scholarships available. Descriptions with corresponding grade level eligibility are posted under the "Curriculum" tab at <https://robinsoncenter.uw.edu/programs/enrichment/saturday/>



What's Up with this Bullpup Thing?

In case you haven't been introduced: The Bullpup is the Thurgood Marshall mascot, the puppy to Garfield High School's Bulldogs. They are dogs with discipline, perseverance, and the ability to work together!

So, groups and activities at our school get identified with this distinguished and smiling canine.

Bullpup Parents Group ...

is for *every* parent and guardian at Thurgood Marshall, and mostly exists on Facebook.

WHAT is the Bullpup Parents Group?

An informal, online and in-person social group with the purpose of sharing ideas, thoughts, and issues pertaining to our children's school experience.

WHY a Bullpup Parents Group?

In a school as large and diverse as Thurgood Marshall, the Bullpup Parents Group offers a way to get to know TM families not connected with your child's classroom. You might want more opportunities to socialize or you might not be able to attend PTA meetings. Bullpup Parents lets you stay connected to the school and other families in a more informal way.

→ **Join Bullpup Parents on Facebook today** (a moderator OK will be required): www.facebook.com/groups/TMBullpupParents

Bullpup Dads Group ...

is a newly forming group that will help dads and other men build connections to TM students and to the great education they deserve. A flier attached to today's Pup Press explains more, and a FREE Pizza Night with activities is planned for 5:30-7 p.m. Oct. 3.



Pizza Night Invite



ATTENTION ALL 'DADS' OF THURGOOD MARSHALL STUDENTS!

**'DADS AND KIDS' PIZZA NIGHT EVENT!
FREE PIZZA, DRINKS AND FUN!**

Attention all Fathers and Father-figures,

On **October 3rd** from **5:30pm-7:00 pm** our school will have its 1st annual 'Dads and Kids' Pizza Night. Dads, granddads, uncles, stepdads and adult brothers: Please join us with your student(s) in the cafeteria at **5:30 pm** for FREE pizza and drinks. At **6:00 pm** we will have a presentation about **Bullpup Dads**, which is based on the nationally recognized **WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) Program**.

We think Bullpup Dads will make it easier for you to help your student be happy and successful at school. You will hear about new ideas and fun activities that will build your connection to your student and to the great education he or she deserves. We won't take much of your time. Our goal is to have each father-figure spend at least half a day this year volunteering at school, helping to be a positive male role model to all of our students and the community as a whole.

Any significant adult in a child's life is welcome! Pizza Night is your chance to have a night out with your student in a fun atmosphere at school, including a game/activity.

To participate, please:

- 1. Fill out the bottom of this flyer** and return it with your student (ASAP), letting us know that you will attend. We need an accurate head count so we'll have enough food!
- 2. Mark your calendars**, and we'll see you **October 3rd** from **5:30-7pm**.

Sincerely,

Thurgood Marshall Elementary Staff and Bullpup Dads Volunteers

Please Complete and Return Bottom Portion to School by **September 28th**. Return one form per family!

___ **Yes!!! We'll be there!**

(#) ___ of 'Dads' and students attending

Father/Father-figure Name _____ Email _____

Phone(s): Home _____ Mobile _____ Work _____

Student Name _____ Teacher's Name _____

Student Name _____ Teacher's Name _____