A New Way to Teach Reading, Writing

At our General PTA Meeting next Tuesday, you will have the chance to learn more about our new English Language Arts (reading and writing) curricula, “Making Meaning” and “Being a Writer,” from The Center for the Collaborative Classroom (CCC). Sandy Teakell, School Improvement Consulting Teacher for the District, will be a guest speaker, joined by our school’s Literacy Leads, teachers Cat Serpe and Cora Glass.

In addition to building students’ reading and writing skills, lessons help each class become a community of learners where everyone feels welcome and safe. To accomplish this, the curriculum’s “Collaborative Literary” approach integrates social development with academic content. CCC is a non-profit organization devoted to helping students grow as critical thinkers as they learn to care for and communicate with their fellow students. CCC believes “how we teach matters as much as what we teach.”

Why should you come to the meeting? Our presenters will:

- explain what’s new in our approach to teaching reading and writing,
- involve all of us in a lesson or two,
- help you learn a bit about what your child experiences, and
- show how CCC improves on our past approaches to reading and writing.

There are three components to Collaborative Literacy:

- **Being a Reader** (Grades K-2) helps children learn how to read. It includes shared reading and whole group discussion, handwriting instruction, and lessons on independent reading, writing and word work. Instruction is tailored to individual students by placing them into small reading groups part of the time.

- **Making Meaning** (K-5) helps students build reading comprehension. Students hear books read aloud by their teacher and discuss them with partners and the class. They learn comprehension strategies and practice reading independently. The class focuses on building a reading community. The important social skill of listening to others is practiced throughout.

- In **Being a Writer** (K-5), students hear and discuss examples of good writing in a variety of genres. Students practice social skills of working responsibly, listening respectfully to the thinking of others, and sharing their own thinking. These skills help students build a supportive writing community.

In this first month of school, I have seen the early lessons focus on setting up structures to help students learn the routines to work together in a collaborative way, and also to build stamina for independent work. The thoughtful way these lessons are constructed helps students interact with each other in respectful ways. Over the course of the year, lessons are designed to move students from being more dependent on teacher direction to being more independent learners. It will be exciting to see the impact this has for our students.
**Accelerated Curriculum Scholars**?

**HCC Name Change Suggested**

The TM Building Leadership Team’s 12 staff and parents are asking for your input! Last school year, with feedback from community, the group (known as the BLT) voted to change the general education curriculum name to “Scholars.” The BLT is now considering a new name for our building’s Highly Capable Cohort program, in an effort to continually be responsive to the needs of our school community.

Based on feedback from parents, staff and students, Accelerated Curriculum Scholars (ACS) has been proposed. The team heard comments that “Highly Capable” signifies a differentiation in student capability, which sent negative/wrong cues to students. BLT members are hoping that this shift in focus to the intensity and pace of the curriculum will be beneficial to school climate.

To best help Thurgood Marshall continue to strive to be a culturally responsive and inclusive school community, the BLT would appreciate your input on this proposed name change. Please contact BLT parent members Rasheena at rasheenafountain@gmail.com or Samantha at samanthahawelle@gmail.com.


**Go All In for Games Night Tonight (Thurs.)**

You’ll find all the right moves at Family Games Night, in the Cafeteria, 6-7:30 p.m. tonight (Oct. 12). Try out all sorts of board games, presented by the PTA and Blue Highway Games, a Queen Anne store. It’s FREE!

- Appetizer potluck! Share your non-messy dish.
- Door prizes!
- Event is FREE, but you will be able to buy games from Blue Highway. NEW this year: you won’t need to wait for a delivery – take your purchase home.
- Volunteers STILL needed: Fun tasks, such as learning a game and helping demo it.. Come at 5:30, or stay to help with cleanup.

**Can You Spare Some Time for our Kids...**

Most volunteer opportunities can be found online, and signup is easy! Go to [http://bit.ly/TMvolunteers](http://bit.ly/TMvolunteers).

Especially needed now: Bullpup Dads, Games Night, Fall Book Fair. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Ann McNally, volunteering@tmlink.org, about additional opportunities.


**Equity in HCC Group Sets 2017-18 Plans**


Thurgood Marshall’s Equity Teams will be holding their first meeting of the year Oct. 25, 6-8 p.m. in the TM Library.

---

**Help Us with Mediator Trainings**

I am seeking 4-5 parent volunteers per morning to help with role-play practice at the student Conflict Mediator and Recess Mentor trainings 7:45-8:50 a.m. on Oct. 17-19 and 24-26. Choose one or more days; the commitment will only be about 30 minutes! No experience necessary. I also could use help copying and making booklets. Contact me at [mrkaloper@seattleschools.org](mailto:mrkaloper@seattleschools.org).

→ **Bullpup Dad Volunteers: Check your Dates**

If you signed up to be a Bullpup Dad volunteer, please remember your date! On that day, please come to the main office at about 8:30 a.m. to pick up your personalized daily schedule and t-shirt. If you have questions or concerns on the day of volunteering, please check in with the main office. We are excited to have you as part of our team!

---

**School Board Member**

Stephan Blanford, the School Board Member representing TMI’s neighborhood, will hold an open meeting 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Douglass-Truth Library, 2300 E. Yesler Way. Dr. Blanford is not running for re-election. This will be his last open meeting as a member.

**Take Survey on Redesigned SPS Websites**


**Urgently Needed: Site Leader for Girls on the Run**

A TM site leader and coaches are being recruited for Girls on the Run, the nonprofit that combines running with curriculum to inspire self-respect and healthy lifestyles in pre-teen girls. Site Liaisons act as a connector between Girls on the Run staff and the school, helping with marketing and recruitment, and supporting coaches during the season (March to May).

Coaches do not need to have running experience, just the right attitude! See more info at [http://girlsrun.org/get-involved/coach/](http://girlsrun.org/get-involved/coach/), or contact [Katie@girlsrun.org](mailto:Katie@girlsrun.org).
All Welcome at the Fall Quarterly Meeting

Meet to Connect, Share, & Plan

All are welcome to the fall quarterly meeting. We will:

- review the history and purpose of the Equity Action Teams for new families,
- take part in a connection activity,
- together answer the question: What are the equity issues at TM?,
- and plan for this year’s work teams.

Wednesday, Oct. 25 • 6-8 p.m.
Thurgood Marshall Library

Hear Author Robert Hoge at Thurgood Marshall ES!  
9:10 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 19  
For Grades 3-5 & parents only

The TM Library will host Robert Hoge, author of "Ugly," a memoir about living with a disfiguring birth defect as well as a disability. For students who loved the book “Wonder,” this is a perfect follow-up read.

Mr. Hoge writes about overcoming bullying and thriving with disabilities, showing that what makes us 'ugly' also makes us who we are.


Orders for signed copies are due to Mrs. Hudson by Tuesday, Oct. 17

Order the book “Ugly” (in paperback) for $9.89 including tax

Total number of books: __________  
Total cost of books: $ __________

Personalize books to (print): ____________________________________________

Student's Name: _______________________________________________________

Student's Teacher: ____________________________________________________________

Make Checks Payable to Third Place Books
The Bullpup Dads is a newly formed group that will help dads and other men build connections to Thurgood Marshall students and to the great education they deserve. The program is based on Watch D.O.G.S., a national school-based family and community engagement organization.

If you are interested in participating in the Bullpup Dads and would like to purchase a shirt, please fill out this form and return with payment to the office by October 19, 2017. The order will be placed on the 22nd.

The cost of each shirt will be $12.00

Please make checks payable to:
Thurgood Marshall PTA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Small</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Medium</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Large</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult X-Large</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult XX-Large</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Child's Name  

Room Number or Teacher