

# PUP PRESS



Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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Principal  
Katie May

## Helping Students Respect Each Other

As we move into the second half of the year, we are revisiting our goals for academic learning, race and equity, and school climate. In setting goals, we use a variety of data, as well as collaboration by staff and our Building Leadership Team so that parents have a voice. The final version is contained in a document called a "Continuous School Improvement Plan," posted at <http://bit.ly/CSIPs>.

Our school climate goal for this year is to increase the percentage of students who answer positively to "Students at my school treat each other with respect." This is measured by a District survey taken by all 3rd- to 5th-graders each spring. Additionally, our school uses an interim survey given at other points throughout the year to track student opinion.

We have worked to engage students in looking at our climate data and in brainstorming ways to reach our goal. This fall, every classroom discussed what respectful behavior meant to them, and ways that they could commit to showing respect for others. Discussions with students reveal that disrespectful behavior tends to occur in particular areas, including school buses, the Playground and the Lunchroom. Not surprisingly, these locations are more difficult to supervise, often because there is a lower ratio of adults to students.

In order to "refresh" student behavior, we will be revisiting our climate goals in class meetings and by holding a version of our "R.E.A.L. Rodeo" next week. (In this "Rodeo," students go to various locations to review expected behaviors.) Our Student Council has been involved, and unanimously agreed that the Lunchroom is a place for improvement. They brainstormed ideas, including assigned seating.



Because students in our Scholars and Accelerated Curriculum Scholars programs are in separate classrooms for much of the day, we try to mix students wherever possible. Our attempt this fall to assign seating in the Lunchroom was met with dismay from

some parents because of concern that students wouldn't be able to mix between programs. Assigned seating is helpful in the Cafeteria, as it allows for more accountability for groups of 200+ students to keep their areas clean and well-managed while being supervised by only two adults. (This is important because we have only a short time to prepare the Lunchroom for the next group of students.) Behavior in the Lunchroom slipped over the first trimester, with increasing volume and mess leading to a more-chaotic, less-pleasant environment for students.

We have settled on a modified seating plan for the two lunch periods serving Grades 2-5. (Our K-1 lunch is much smaller and can be managed without assigned seating.) Classes will be blended across programs and 2-3 classes will be assigned to 3-4 tables. Students in each class can decide which of these tables they would like to sit at. While each student is expected to clean up personal items, one class is assigned to help each week (with composting, quickly wiping tables and sweeping).

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## EVENT CALENDAR

Tues., Jan. 9: PTA Board Meeting, 6:30-8 p.m., Library. Questions? [pta@tmlink.org](mailto:pta@tmlink.org).

Wed., Jan. 10: Black Family Advocacy Support Group Meeting, 6-8 p.m., Library.

Mon., Jan. 15: No school (Martin Luther King Jr. Day).

Tues., Jan. 16: "Love" Author & Illustrator Appearance by Matt de la Peña and Loren Long, 10:30-11:15 a.m., Cafeteria. Gr.1-3 parents welcome. See <http://mattdelapena.com>. Book order form attached.

Thurs., Jan. 18: Info Session & Tour, 8:35-9:50 a.m. For prospective students & parents. No RSVP, but check in at office.

Thurs., Jan. 18: Instrumental Concert, 7 p.m., Cafeteria. Strings arrive at 6:30; other musicians at 6:45 latest.

→ Online calendar at [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org)!

## TUTU'S PANTRY

Bring non-perishable items in cans and boxes.

Jan. 8-11: Grade 2 asked to donate!

## Author & Illustrator to Visit

Librarian Merilee Hudson is excited to announce that Matt de la Peña and Loren Long will visit TM Jan. 16, and speak to Grades 1-3. Their new picture book is "Love."

You might know his writing from "Last Stop on Market Street" and her illustrations from "Letter to my Daughters" by Barack Obama. They are both award-winners and considered among the best creative writers and illustrators for children. Parents are welcome to attend! The event will be held in the lunchroom, 10:30-11:15 a.m.

→ Advance book order form is attached to this Pup Press. (Orders must be returned to Mrs. Hudson or Ms. Gilpin at the library by Friday, Jan. 12.) See <http://mattdelapena.com>.



## Have some Fine Art with your Breakfast

Bring your appetite to the PTA's Annual Pancake Breakfast & Art Walk, on Saturday, Jan. 27, 9-11 a.m. in the Cafeteria. Free; \$10 donation suggested per family. Volunteers needed (no cooking experience required):

<https://tinyurl.com/TMPancakeBreakfast2018>

## PTA Hosts New School Board Director on Jan. 30

The next PTA General Meeting, 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 30, will feature a conversation with new School Board Director Zachary DeWolf. Save the date, which is a change from the previously announced Jan. 23.

All are welcome at PTA meetings. Child care is expected to be available.



Zachary DeWolf replaced Stephan Blanford as the Board member representing TM.

### Citywide Level of PTA 'Reflections'

#### TM Has 6 Finalists in Arts Contest

Six TM entrants in the PTA Reflections Contest (theme: "Within Reach") will be moving on to the statewide level of judging, where winners advance to a national final. Two TM students received Honorable Mention. Learn more, and see the TM entries and that of others at <http://reflections.scptsa.org>.

##### Finalists in Visual Arts (Primary)

- Lucia Fontana "Tree to the Sky" (Gr. 1)
- Evie Hobbs "Transformation" (Gr. 2)

##### Finalist in Dance Choreography

- Angela Chen "Young and Beautiful" (Gr. 4)

##### Finalist in Film Production

- Lena Walton "Beyond" (Gr. 5)

##### Finalist in Photography

- Vinayak Venugopal "The Happy Encounter!!" (Gr. 3)

##### Finalist in Visual Arts (Special Artist)

- Menelik Victor Asrade "Technologies Within Reach" (Gr. Pre-K)

##### Honorable mentions in Visual Arts (Intermediate):

- Anya Redman "Juneau" (Gr. 5)
- Amelia Hart "Helping Hands" (Gr. 4)

## Lunchroom Changes

*Continued from Page 1*

Our success criteria for the lunchroom are:

- All tables are wiped and floor is clean at the end of each lunch.
- Students from the assigned class are involved in helping.
- Student bodies and voices are safe and calm.
- Students can quiet within 5 seconds to hear staff announcements.
- Music played in the Lunchroom at a moderate volume can be heard.

Since this fall, we have had parent volunteers in the Kitchen and Lunchroom nearly every day. This has greatly increased adult presence at lunch and helps with the tone of the Lunchroom. Parents are always welcome! We would love you to help out in this area, and move us further toward meeting our goal of students treating each other with respect.

## Tell Friends about Thurgood Marshall Tours

Principal Katie May and the PTA are offering four dates for school information sessions and tours (some including observation of classroom activities). Tell any interested families you know!

The Jan. 25 session includes a focus on the Highly Capable Cohort program (for "Accelerated Curriculum Scholars").

**No RSVP is needed**, but attendees must check in at the Main Office upon arrival. If a family member needs a tour in a language other than English, such as Spanish or Vietnamese, send an email to [pta@tmlink.org](mailto:pta@tmlink.org). We will try to accommodate you.

Three dates feature an info session with Principal May, then a tour led by a parent volunteer. Optional Q&A session at end.

- **Thurs., Jan. 18, 8:35-9:50 a.m.**
- **Thurs., Feb. 15, 8:35-9:50 a.m.**
- **Thurs., April 26, 8:35-9:50 a.m.**

Our evening session has a different format.

- **Thurs., Jan. 25, 5-6:30 p.m.**  
5-5:45 – Presentation on Highly Capable Cohort ("Accelerated Curriculum Scholars") and Q&A  
5:45-6:15 – Tour for all programs (no students or teachers will be present in classrooms)  
6:15-6:30 – Optional Q&A covering all programs

### Bullpup Briefs

#### **Black Family Advocacy Group to Meet Wed.**

The Black Family Advocacy Support Group has set its next meeting: Wednesday, Jan. 10, 6-8 p.m. in the Library.

#### **It's Not Hard to be Yearbook's Photographer**

Be the Yearbook's lead photographer! We already receive candid photos, but often lack shots of classrooms, groups and staff in action. No special skills required! Email Yearbook volunteer coordinator Jen Hobbs at [jen@jenfu.org](mailto:jen@jenfu.org).

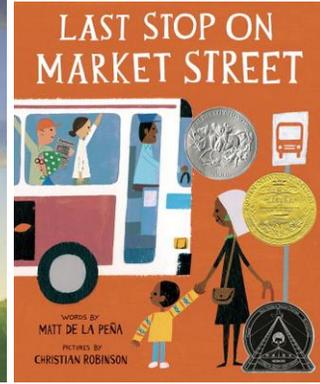
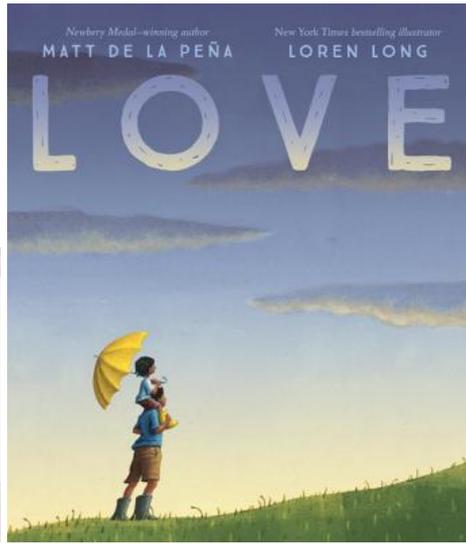
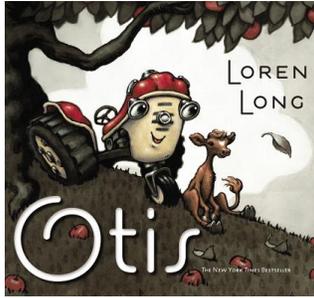
#### **What Do You Want in Next Superintendent?**

The District is seeking parent and staff input to help guide the search for a new Superintendent. Take a survey between now and Jan. 19, as well as learn more at <http://bit.ly/SPSsearch18>. The input will help shape the position description and candidate selection criteria. A community "Town Hall" (6:30-8:30 p.m., Jan. 18, location TBA) will offer more information. Current Superintendent Larry Nyland's contract will end in June 2018.

#### **Win Prizes in Africa Quiz Competition at UW**

Students in 4th-12th grade are invited to participate in the Washington State championship for the "Let's Explore Africa Quiz Competition" Saturday, Jan. 20, at the University of Washington. LEA is a fun trivia game in which participants grouped by grade levels will answer multiple choice questions on geography, entertainment, people, literature, symbols and more. Prizes! It's free, but registration is required. Full info at <http://bit.ly/AfricaQuiz18>.

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**Meet Matt de la Peña & Loren Long!**  
**10:30-11:15 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 16**  
**Thurgood Marshall Cafeteria**  
**For Grades 1, 2 & 3 and their parents!**

You might know author Matt de la Peña from “Last Stop on Market Street” and illustrator Loren Long from Barack Obama’s “Letter to my Daughters.” Both de la Peña and Long have won major awards for their work, and we are very honored to present them. More info at <http://mattdelapena.com>.



## Advance Order Form

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| ___ <b>Love</b> (hardcover)                       | <b>\$19.79</b> including tax |
| ___ <b>Last Stop on Market Street</b> (hardcover) | <b>\$16.99</b> inc. tax      |
| ___ <b>Otis</b> (hardcover)                       | <b>\$19.79</b> inc. tax      |

Total number of books: \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost of books: \_\_\_\_\_

Personalize books to (please print):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable To: Third Place Books

**→ ORDER FORMS DUE TO TEACHER or LIBRARY BY Friday, Jan. 12**