

# PUP PRESS

Brought to you by the Thurgood Marshall Elementary PTA

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Principal  
Katie May

## How We Teach about Gender Diversity

At Thurgood Marshall, and at many other District elementary schools, we have students who identify as transgender. This is when a person may be assigned one gender at birth, but later identifies as another gender. For example, a child may be born biologically male, but knows in her heart and mind that she is actually female. When a person decides to publicly make the transition to live as the gender with which they identify, other

people may be confused. When a student challenges the stereotypes for a gender, other children may have questions.

We are working hard at our school to create a climate in which everyone can feel they belong. Teachers regularly talk with students about how we can support and celebrate the differences in our school. School is a place where children are taught to respect one another, be kind, and work together regardless of their differences. By creating a more tolerant, inclusive, accepting school environment, we show our students how to recognize and resist stereotypes. We teach children to be upstanders – not bystanders – when they see bullying occur. Learning about gender diversity is part of this work.

Ms. Meghan Kaloper, our school Counselor, has been talking with our students about how people can express themselves in the way that feels best for them. We want all children to feel safe, able to learn, and comfortable being themselves. We prepare all students to think about their response when a child dresses or acts in ways that might be unexpected based on gender.

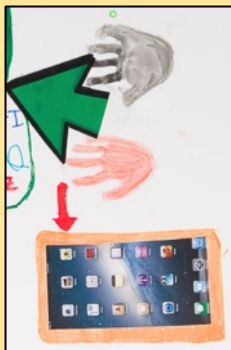
Our teachers are receiving training and support from Seattle Public Schools in talking about gender diversity in a way that supports all kids and families. District Health Coordinator Lisa Love and Aidan Key of Gender Diversity, a nonprofit, were with us this week. The District is introducing optional classroom materials on age-appropriate concepts of gender and gender identity. **The K-5 Gender Book kit** contains at least one book and corresponding lesson per grade level, developed by community members, parents and educators in response to the state’s adoption of new Health Education standards. Concepts such as gender, gender roles, gender expression and gender identity are included in the standards for elementary schools. Once we receive our kit, it will be in the Library, where parents are

*Continued on Page 2*



### TM Artists Honored

From left, details from a film by Lena Walton and artwork by Menelik Victor Asrade that each earned an Award of Excellence in the statewide PTA’s arts contest. See Page 3.



## Donate Now!

The PTA’s March Match-ness Campaign needs your assist! Each contribution will be matched 1:1 by donors challenging us to meet our goal of \$170,000. Take your shot at [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org).



## EVENT CALENDAR

**Sun., March 18:** Enrichment registration deadline. Don’t let your student miss out. See Page 2.

**Mon.-Fri., March 19-23:** Final week for most Winter Enrichment classes.

**Tues., March 20:** “Our Schools’ Future,” an open discussion featuring State Sen. Jamie Pedersen and activists Emijah Smith and Casey Trupin. Part of the PTA General Meeting. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Library. FREE child care (ages 5-12) includes pizza & movie, but you must RSVP to [cpapka@seattlemca.org](mailto:cpapka@seattlemca.org).

**Thurs., March 22:** Coffee with the Principal. 8:40-9:30 a.m., Library. Bring questions; enjoy free coffee!

**March 26-30:** Most Spring Enrichment classes start.

**Thurs., March 29:** Community Night, 6-8 p.m., Cafeteria. View student projects reflecting family heritage (classrooms will be open) & other activities including ribbon-making for TM’s “Wishtree.” Potluck! Volunteers needed: <http://bit.ly/CommNightVol18>

**Thurs., March 29:** Superintendent Finalists Forum, 5-8:15 p.m., John Stanford Center. See Page 2.

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

## TUTU’S PANTRY

Bring non-perishable items in cans and boxes.

**Especially needed:** canned fruit and vegetables; peanut butter and jelly; and pasta sauce

**March 19-22:** Grade 5 asked to donate!

## PTA Meeting to Focus on Future of Schools & What We Can Do

Three influential activists will help us understand issues and frame actions at the next PTA General Meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday (March 20).

State Sen. Jamie Pedersen, Emijah Smith of The Children’s Alliance and Casey Trupin of the Raikes Foundation will offer perspectives on the broad range of challenges and opportunities facing Seattle Public Schools as the District searches for its next leader. (Superintendent Larry Nyland’s contract will expire after this school year.)

Free child care (ages 5-12), with pizza and a movie included, is available to parents attending the meeting who RSVP to Cody Papka, [cpapka@seattlemca.org](mailto:cpapka@seattlemca.org).

PTA membership not needed; all are welcome!



From top, State Sen. Pedersen, Ms. Smith & Mr. Trupin

## Standardized Test Season

### Help Reduce Kids' Anxiety

How can you support your child as we head into our standardized testing season?

Many students experience anxiety over high-stakes tests, and find it difficult to show their best work.



Counselor's Corner  
Meghan Kaloper

Here are some tips for you and your child:

- Aim for a good night's sleep, a healthy breakfast and comfortable clothes.
- Help reframe anxiety. Research shows that a little bit of stress before a test is better than none (it helps people perform better!) Stress gets us ready for the task ahead.
- Slow, deep breaths can keep reduce stress.
- Be positive and encouraging, and plan something fun for after the test!

More ideas and a fun test prep activity:

<http://anxietyfreechild.com/test-anxiety/>

<http://www.thenedshow.com/assets/tentestingtips.pdf>

## Enjoy 2nd Annual Community Night

TM's popular annual "Community Night" Open House is back, on Thursday, March 29, 6-8 p.m.!

- **View student projects** reflecting family heritage and our community (primary classrooms open 6-6:45 p.m., intermediate classrooms open 7:15-8 p.m.).
- **Add your wish** to the school Wishtree, a tree at the school that will have ribbons on which students and family members have written their hopes and other ideas.
- **Watch student performances** in the Cafeteria at 6:45 p.m.
- **Community Potluck:** Bring a dish that is meaningful to your family. Please label your dish or bring a small card to list ingredients – especially if it contains common food allergens such as milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, soy, wheat, fish or shellfish. If you or your child has food allergies, consider only eating from the dish you bring.

## See 'Wishtree' & 'Ivan' Author at TM April 5

All students and families are invited to hear author Katherine Applegate ("Wishtree") at TM

April 5 (9:30 a.m., Cafeteria). Librarian Merilee Hudson says she is especially excited by the visit.

Ms. Applegate has won several Newbery Awards, and her writing has inspired TM students and parents to create a "Wishtree." Also the author of "The One and Only Ivan," "Crenshaw" and "Home of the Brave," Ms. Applegate will be sharing her new "Sometimes You Fly."

Look for an order form next week.



## Bullpup Briefs

### Sun. Deadline for Enrichment Signup

Offer your student new experiences, and gain child-free time! Don't delay: Enrichment registration ends Sunday (March 18).

Here are some of the great classes that still have space:

- **"Mixed Media"** – Sculpture, watercolor and gelatin prints are among the art forms in this class, which changes each quarter.
- **"Basketball," "Flag Football" & "Lacrosse"** – Great sports classes to help kids burn off energy and learn a new game or polish skills.
- **"STEM Challenge with LEGO"** – Kids design/build catapults, cranes, battle-tracks & more in this 2-hour Wed. afternoon class.
- **"Fashion Extravaganza"** – Kids create wacky hairstyles as well as new items for their wardrobe.
- **"Kids' Yoga"** – Stretch. Relax. Breathe. Repeat!

So, don't delay. Start by going to the PTA website for info/updates.

→ **If your family qualifies for free lunch**, pay just 10% of the normal price (one class per child).

→ **Questions?** Contact [enrichment@tmlink.org](mailto:enrichment@tmlink.org).

### Volunteer on Wed., Earn Free Class for Child

The Enrichment Program is seeking a Wednesday afternoon volunteer to help with coordination. If you are selected, your child will receive a free class! Contact Eldon for more information, at [enrichment@tmlink.org](mailto:enrichment@tmlink.org).

### March 29 Forum with Superintendent Candidates

The School Board is expected later this month to announce two or three finalists in its search to replace Superintendent Larry Nyland, whose contract has not been renewed. The finalists are to be introduced at a public forum on Thursday, March 29, 5-8:15 p.m., at the John Stanford Center Auditorium (2445 3rd Ave. S.). The Board recently was asked to slow down the process in an opinion piece by the leaders of the unions representing the teachers union and principals union. See <http://bit.ly/SeattleSupeSearchOpED> and for District info on the process: <http://bit.ly/SeattleSupeSearchInfo>

## Encourage Dialogue on Gender Questions

*Continued from Page 1*

welcome to review it.

You can support your student at home by answering questions and by encouraging open dialogue about your family values and beliefs. We hope you will reinforce messages they will receive at school about showing respect and kindness, being inclusive, and resisting and reporting bullying.

Below are resources you may find helpful. Please feel free to let me, Ms. Kaloper, or your child's teacher know if you have questions. Thank you for being engaged families who care deeply about the safety and well-being of all of our students.

<http://bit.ly/TheGenderSpectrum> (by Teaching Tolerance, a nonprofit)

<http://bit.ly/TalkingGenderDiversity> (article in an Australian newspaper)

<http://bit.ly/TalkingBias> (by the Anti-Defamation League, a nonprofit).

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.

Have an article for Pup Press? Send it to Cliff Meyer at [pup-press@tmlink.org](mailto:pup-press@tmlink.org). If your submission is not acknowledged within 24 hours, please call or text 206-366-5413

## TM Students Win Statewide PTA Awards

Lena Walton (Grade 5) and Menelik Victor Asrade (Pre-K) have both won an Award of Excellence (2nd place) for their entries in the statewide round of the National PTA's "Reflections" arts contest. Congratulations!

Lena's "Beyond" was selected in the Grades 3-5 Film category, and Menelik's "Technologies Within Reach" took its honors in the Special Artists division.

Lena's animated film (viewable at [https://youtu.be/\\_JwsHHSgvps](https://youtu.be/_JwsHHSgvps)) involved tiny adjustment to pieces of clay for each frame. "I liked the idea of abstract claymation because all people interpret your film differently," she says. "I enjoy stop-motion animation because you take hundreds of photos and then are rewarded by seeing inanimate objects move and your imagination coming to life." She expects to keep working in the technique.

Menelik's artwork clearly spoke to the Reflections theme of "Within Reach." (See it at [www.tmlink.org/technologies-within-reach/](http://www.tmlink.org/technologies-within-reach/)). He was inspired to create his piece because technology makes his life a lot easier. "I use technology to play, learn, create art and communicate with adults." He explains, "I have speech delay. I have few words so I use my talker to communicate."



**Menelik Victor Asrade, left, and Lena Walton**

"Recently, I used an app to practice my subtraction. I also learned to take pictures with an iPad.

"Because technology is such a big part of my life, I was able to create this art with the help of my mom," he adds.

The awards ceremony will be April 28 at the Green River Community College in Auburn.

**See all 12 of the Thurgood Marshall entries in the citywide phase of 2017-18 Reflections at [reflections.scptsa.org](http://reflections.scptsa.org).**

## Rally for Safety on March 24

The Seattle School District is encouraging participation in the student-led March for Our Lives Seattle rally and walk at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 24.

A District news release notes that "We can show our unified support for safe schools and the Seattle students who are organizing this non-school day march."

In addition, the School Board on Feb. 28 approved a resolution calling for lawmakers to take several measures to increase student safety, including raising the age to purchase assault weapons to 21 and implementing enhanced background checks.

District info is at <http://bit.ly/SPSGunsafety> and march info at <https://www.facebook.com/seattlemarchforourlives/>.

## You Can Help

### Open Spots on 2018-19 PTA Board

Co-President? Communications Chair? Learn about these and other roles at [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org) or by contacting PTA Nominating Committee members: Tasha Irvine ([tashasirvine@gmail.com](mailto:tashasirvine@gmail.com)) or Casey Sommers ([caseypilar@gmail.com](mailto:caseypilar@gmail.com)).

### Lost Clothing Awaits You in Hallway

The Lost & Found will be cleared out over Spring Break. You know what to do! (The stuff is in the hallway south of the gym.)

### More Bullpup Briefs

## Drop Kids at TM for Parents' Night Out on March 30

The YMCA care program at TM is offering one more Parents' Night Out this month, Friday, March 30, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Parents Night Out includes movie and snacks for the kids! Proceeds go to the West Seattle & Fawcett YWCA Annual Fund Drive. All are welcome.

Cost: \$30 for the first child, \$20 for each additional (4-12 years old only). Cash or check please, no credit cards. **Reserve for the Night Out** by contacting Cody Papka, [cpapka@seattleyymca.org](mailto:cpapka@seattleyymca.org) or 206-718-5705.

## Conference on Emotional Needs of Gifted Kids

SENG, a nonprofit whose acronym means "Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted," is hosting a "mini-conference" on May 5 in Seattle. This might be useful for parents of gifted children and would certainly be useful for teachers. Email Principal Katie May if you would be interested in sponsoring a teacher to attend for \$119. Info: <http://sengifted.org/seng-mini-conferences/>.

## Entering 6th Grade? Lakeside Has Free Summer Program

The Lakeside Educational Enrichment Program is a 4-week blend of summer camp and summer school. Through fun activities and classes, LEEP helps students build excitement around school and learning. The program is free and for Seattle Public Schools students entering 6th or 9th grade. Admission is limited; application info at [www.lakesideschool.org/summer/leep](http://www.lakesideschool.org/summer/leep).

## UW Robinson Center Offers Kids' Classes in July

Course listings and registration are available for the UW Robinson Center's July Summer Challenge program for students in Grades 5-6. Learn more at <https://robinsoncenter.uw.edu/programs/summer/challenge>.

**SHOPPING AT AMAZON.COM OR OTHER RETAILERS, SUCH AS BARTELLS AND OFFICE DEPOT?**

You can support PTA programs at TM, at no cost to yourself! Details at [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org).



# COME TO THE NEXT PTA MEETING!

**6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, in the Library**

## "Our Schools' Future"

***a conversation about issues & the impact we can have, with guests:***



### State Sen. Jamie Pedersen

Jamie Pedersen, a TM parent, was elected to the State House of Representatives in 2006 and was appointed to the State Senate in December 2013 and elected in 2014. He serves as the chair of the Law & Justice Committee and also serves on the Ways & Means Committee and the Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee. He is Vice President and General Counsel for McKinstry, a Seattle-based construction and engineering firm.



### Emijah Smith

Emijah Smith, who holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Evans School at the University of Washington, works as the Community Engagement Manager at Children's Alliance. She supports parents and advocates to become leaders in creating equitable public policies for Washington's kids and families. In addition, Emijah invests her time working towards racial justice and eliminating many forms of oppression.



### Casey Trupin

Casey Trupin, a TM parent, is a Program Officer for the Raikes Foundation's youth homelessness strategy. As a lawyer, he has represented thousands of foster youth and homeless adults and worked on legislation designed to improve services to low-income children, youth and adults. Previously, he was coordinating attorney for the Children and Youth Project at Columbia Legal Services in Seattle, advocating for at-risk, homeless and foster children and youth.

- Superintendent search • Budget uncertainty • Special education funding • Safe schools •
- Crowded schools • Class size reductions? • Opportunity gap • Advanced learning for all? •
- New curriculum • Homeless students • Teacher shortages • Equity • Bias •

***Many issues! Bring your questions & help guide the conversation.***

**All are welcome to this event! (No requirement to be a PTA member.)**

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**FREE CARE, with PIZZA and MOVIE, for children (ages 5-12) whose parents are at the meeting.**

You MUST reserve your child's place in advance - contact Cody at [cpapka@seattleYMCA.org](mailto:cpapka@seattleYMCA.org).