Budget Supports Added Staff in 2018-19

Each year, our school receives a budget allocation that includes staff and “non-staff” funds. We have some control in deciding how to spend the non-staff dollars. The process for budget development begins a couple months before we receive our allocation, as our Building Leadership Team (made up of Staff, Parents and Administration) and staff review our values around funding priorities. Next, the Principal brings a couple proposals to our Building Leadership Team and this team puts forward a proposal for a staff vote. In addition, our generous PTA supports staffing not covered by the District, such as half the cost of our librarian (so that the position is full-time), all three days a week of our counselor, and two of our part-time literacy tutors.

We are projected in 2018-19 to have K-5 enrollment of 567 students, roughly split between the Scholars program and the AC Scholars program (also known as HCC). About 63 students are expected to qualify as English Language Learners. We have been allocated staff funds for 24 classroom teachers, one more than now, because of state funding for K-3 class-size reductions.

Our “non-staff” funds actually can be used to add positions. A large part of these dollars will help students who need additional academic support, covering a reading intervention teacher, two literacy tutors, the Team Read program, and our library’s open hours on Tuesday evenings throughout the summer. Also, TM will subscribe to MobyMax, an online math intervention program that all students will be able to access this summer and next year. MobyMax assesses students’ math skills with the goal of finding and fixing learning gaps. It’s an ideal program for students who are struggling in math as well as those making a jump of several levels because they entered the AC Scholars program. [See www.mobymax.com.]

Our school also decided to allocate dollars for:

- A recess supervisor and PlayWorks training for our staff and students. PlayWorks [www.playworks.org] will teach all of us fun, collaborative games and help us to organize our playground into different zones for different games during recess. The majority of our discipline referrals come from the playground, so we think this will benefit all students.

- One day per week of a family support worker, a position that can help students and families in transition by providing counseling, crisis support, housing resources, etc. This support is increasingly important as

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Bus Driver Shortage Worsens

The District’s Transportation Department reports that its bus contractor, First Student, has recently lost some 20 drivers, adding to its difficulties meeting service standards. The District is urging the company to improve.

Some of the factors in play:

- Seattle unemployment is low, therefore the pool to recruit from is reduced.
- There is a nationwide shortage of drivers.
- First Student is offering recruiting bonuses and bringing in drivers from out of state.

Some buses repeatedly have been up to an hour late. The District normally notifies families through SchoolMessenger, but some messages have been delayed. The District is attempting to fix this communications issue.

Join the ‘Big Dance’ to Support our School & Your Donation Will Be Matched

We need your help to raise much needed PTA funding to support key programs at our school. Thanks to a generous group of donors, we’ve created a 2-for-1 play. Every dollar donated in March (up to $25,000) will be doubled!

Everyone at Thurgood Marshall can help us earn the match. Benchwarmers … get in the game and make your gift!

Already gave? Go for the rebound – give again!

The PTA spends more than $300 per student annually. Give today online at www.tmlink.org, or send a gift through kid mail or the USPS to Thurgood Marshall Annual Fund, 2401 S. Irving St., Seattle, WA 98144. Questions about the Annual Giving Fund? Contact us at giving@tmlink.org.
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, 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. If your submission is not acknowledged within 24 hours, please call or text 206-366-5413.
Meet Katherine Applegate!
Thursday, April 5th

______ Sometimes You Fly HC $19.79 w/tx
______ Ivan HC $19.79 w/tx
______ The Buffalo Storm PB $8.79 w/tx

Total number of books: __________  Total cost of books: ________________

Personalize books to (please print):
______________________________________________________________

Student's Name: ________________________________________________

Student's
Teacher/School: ________________________________________________

Make Checks Payable To: Third Place Books
ORDER FORMS DUE TO TEACHER BY: Monday, April 2nd
Thurgood Marshall

Community Night
and Open House

Thursday
March 29, 2018 • 6-8pm

Our whole community is reading “Wishtree” by Katherine Applegate. Please join us to add your wish to the Wishtree that will be at Thurgood Marshall, and to view student projects that highlight their families and our community!

The covered outdoor area will be open for a potluck dinner from 6:00-7:45. If you would like, please bring a dish that is special to your family.

- Primary classrooms will be open from 6:00-6:45
- Performances will be in the Cafetería from 6:45-7:15
- Intermediate classrooms will be open from 7:15-8:00

Students will also have a chance to share their performances on Friday, March 30, during our assembly at 9:05-9:30. All families are welcome to join us!

Volunteers needed! Please consider signing up for a short shift at https://tinyurl.com/TMCommunityNight