Let’s Recognize – and Be – Volunteers

It’s National Volunteer Week, and I’d like to recognize the service of all our fabulous volunteers! At Thurgood Marshall we hold a Volunteer Tea at the end of the year to officially show our gratitude, yet we know we can’t say thank you enough! Parents volunteer in our school every day. Many commit to helping in a classroom every week, and others pop in when their schedule allows. Parents help in the office, and one – Ms. Gwen – is in our lunchroom helping to prepare and serve lunch every single day!

Parents and staff serve on our PTA Board and its committees, planning general meetings, developing a budget plan, fundraising, approving grants, advocating legislative action and getting the word out to constituents, organizing events, and writing and editing the school newsletter you are reading right now.

Did you know that the before- and after-school Enrichment Program is organized and run by PTA volunteers? And that volunteers on our Equity Action Teams have been instrumental in making important changes to increase equity at our school?

Parents create PTA events such as the Fall Dance, movie nights, and the Pancake Breakfast, and support school events and activities such as the annual Vision Screening, the Yearbook, Community Night, Math Night, Field Day and 5th-Grade Promotion.

Our first year of the Bullpup Dads program has produced a new set of volunteers from a demographic (Dads!) that is sometimes underrepresented in schools. Many men have volunteered, and it has been great to see new faces around.

We are in the home stretch of the school year and just as we are not yet done with learning, we are not done with volunteer needs! We so appreciate everything you do and we need you to keep on doing it! **Our PTA is looking to fill a number of important positions for next year.** Are you great at bookkeeping? The PTA needs a new Treasurer! Do you think you could be the next great leader? Consider Co-President! Are you curious about volunteering but not sure how much time you can commit? Come to our playground at recess!

Regardless of whether you can spare an hour or make a much larger commitment, it takes our whole village of parents to make Thurgood Marshall the great school it is. **Please be in touch with me or PTA Volunteer Coordinator Ann McNally (herself a volunteer!) to let us know how you would like to be involved!** You can email me at kjmay1@seattleschools.org or Ann at volunteering@tmlink.org.

Take Survey to Help Guide Changes at School, District

The District hopes you will complete the annual Family Survey! An email link was sent to each student household on Tuesday. (Paper copies will be sent if the District doesn’t have a valid e-address.) A version is also being administered to all school staff and students in grades 3 through 12. Your responses are confidential, and the survey results are used to guide improvements.

Learn more and see the results from previous years at http://bit.ly/FamilySurvey18.
Get Ready to Bike to School

May is Bike to School Month, and Bike to School day is Wednesday, May 9. So, dust off your helmet, pump up those tires and join other Thurgood Marshall students for great exercise on wheels. (Yes, it counts if you use a scooter, unicycle or skates!)

Students will be encouraged to tally their rolling minutes on a calendar to be distributed next week. We will need full participation from all TM bicycle riders to beat last year’s record!

May 7-11

Appreciate Staff with Food, Flowers, More

Staff/Teacher Appreciation Week is May 7-11. Thurgood Marshall families are invited to contribute items for a staff lunch on Wednesday, May 9 or a staff breakfast on Friday, May 11. Flowers and thank you notes for teachers are also being coordinated that week. Please sign up to participate at https://tinyurl.com/TMTeacherAppreciation.

Lend a Hand with Grade 5 Promotion

Hey, 4th-grade parents, help plan this year’s 5th Grade Promotion on Tuesday, June 19! A few years ago TM started the tradition of having a Promotion Committee of 4th-grade parents host the event. This allows the 5th-grade families to enjoy the event without having to worry about planning.

Join the committee! It is a great way to meet other parents, get to know the 5th-grade teaching team, and do something for the class leaving TM. A guide to putting on the event has been compiled over the years. If you would like to help out in any way, large or small, please email caseypilar@gmail.com.

Verify 2018-19 School Assignment Online

Updated student assignments for the 2018-19 school year, including the results of the “School Choice” application process, became available online Tuesday (April 17), at http://bit.ly/EnrollLookup. You’ll need your student’s ID number. Assignment letters will be mailed at the end of the month to students successful in receiving their choice school. It is still possible (through May 31) to submit a School Choice application for 2018-19. Info: http://bit.ly/SPSEnroll17.

Bullpup Briefs

Volunteering: Don’t Ask Why. Ask ‘Why Not?’

Studies have proven it! Can you help with the following:

URGENT – Enrichment Wednesday Afternoon Assistant: Help kids go to the right places, and other duties. Get a FREE enrollment for your child. Contact enrichment@tmlink.org.


Rewards for Serving on TM PTA Board

Money? No, but the good feeling of serving the community is truly enriching. So, consider a small or large role: PTA Treasurer? Co-Events Chair? Arts Liaison? See www.tmlink.org or contact PTA Nominating Committee members Tasha Irvine (tashasirvine@gmail.com) or Casey Sommers (caseypilar@gmail.com).

Event on Autism Includes Resources, Talks

Seattle Pacific University is hosting the 4th annual Voices of Autism event 1-5 p.m. Saturday (April 21). It’s FREE and features a community resource fair, a keynote lecture on advocacy from an adult on the spectrum, and a panel discussion to share the experiences and perspectives of those living with ASD. Voices of Autism is appropriate for students. Full info: http://bit.ly/SPUautism18.

Apply Now for City’s Preschool Program

The Seattle Preschool Program is now accepting applications for the 2018-19 school year. SPP is open to all Seattle 4-year-olds and income-eligible 3-year-olds, and has sites throughout Seattle. Costs and more info: www.seattle.gov/applyspp or (206) 386-1050. Please note that this is a City of Seattle program.

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 for teachers.

Email Principal Katie May if you would be interested in sponsoring a teacher to attend for $119. Full information is at http://sengifted.org/seng-mini-conferences/.

Girl Scouts Seek Supplies for Homeless

The 4th-grade Junior Girl Scout Troop 48636 is launching a supply drive to support people experiencing homelessness at Mary’s Place Family Shelter. Based on current needs, we are collecting: twin-size bed sheets, bath towels, and underwear and socks of all sizes. There is a box in the front office until mid-May to place your donations. Thank you so much for helping us help others!
AFRICAN AMERICAN MALES WEEKEND
May 18-20, 2018
YMCA CAMP ORKILA
206 382 5009
campinfo@seattlemca.org

Join us for a weekend full of fun activities - archery, boating, arts & crafts and the zipline!

Be a part of discussion groups unique to the African American Male Experience.

Register today at camporkila.org

Financial assistance available!
Conversations about Race

A Reading/Discussion Group

The Facilitating Conversations About Race equity team is starting a reading/discussion group for Thurgood Marshall parents and school staff. Last year the team put on an Undoing Racism & Teaching Equity to Our Children workshop for the community, and people requested that we continue the conversation.

First Meeting: 6:30-8 p.m., April 25, 2018

In the Thurgood Marshall Elementary Library

Please join us to help establish the norms of the group and to discuss these two articles:

http://blackgirlinmaine.com/racial-and-cultural/we-cant-commiserate/

We will also be discussing article/book selection for the next meet-up and are looking for people who want to facilitate future discussions. Questions? Dionne, at dmalATESTA@hotmail.com.

Equity Action Teams End-of-Year Meeting

6-8 p.m., May 31, 2018

In the Thurgood Marshall Elementary Library

Meet to Connect, Share & Plan

- Connection Activity
- Updates from Teams
- Voting in new Leadership Team members
- Discussion about plans/direction for summer and next school year

Black Families Advocacy and Support Group • Facilitating Conversations Around Race and Equity

Gender Equity • Social Studies • Supporting our Scholars

✓ For info, please go to http://bit.ly/TMequity
✓ New families and kids are welcome! Bring a snack to share if you’d like!