Remarkable Impact of Literacy Tutors

Did you know we have four Literacy Tutors, who work with about 50 percent of our Grades K-2 Scholars? Two tutors are covered by our school’s regular budget and two are funded entirely by the PTA. They work one-on-one with students who need extra support to learn essential early reading skills. Progress is assessed regularly to help teachers target instruction to “just right” levels. This additional support builds confidence in struggling readers. The tutors have a huge impact. Reading Specialist Alison Miller, who coordinates the tutoring programs, recently shared these data:

- At the beginning of the school year 8 percent of our kindergartners knew their consonant sounds.
- By January 66 percent knew all their consonant sounds.
- By March 99 percent knew all their consonant sounds.
- In September, none of the 1st-graders who work with the tutors knew their sight words (which are recognized immediately, without sounding out letters).
  - By March 75 percent knew all their sight words.
  - This is an average increase of 130 sight words!
- None of the 2nd-graders who work with the tutors knew all their sight words.
  - By March 80 percent knew all their sight words.
- Last year, 55 percent of the students who worked with the tutoring curriculum (Sound Partners) exited because they no longer needed this help.

- We estimate that by this school year’s end about 75 percent will exit.

Our teachers report that Literacy Tutors help students be more prepared for grade-level learning because they have mastered the basic reading skills needed. Thank you to tutors Katie Egolf, Trinia Washington, Leena Hindocha-Daniels and Di-Linh Hoang for the difference you make in the lives and learning of our students! And thank YOU, Thurgood Marshall Community, for your generous support of our PTA, which makes this possible!

Good Attendance Leads to Greater Achievement

Across the District, schools are focusing on how to use data to track student learning and achievement. At Thurgood Marshall, we focus on particular indicators of success in addition to standardized test scores. One such measure is student attendance. Not only is good attendance critical to academic achievement, it can also be an indicator of students and parents feeling happy and welcomed in the school environment: “I love my school and I do not want to miss a single day!” When students are chronically absent or tardy, they miss instruction, fall behind, feel less comfortable in school, and are less likely to want to come back. This creates a negative feedback loop that can be

Continued on Page 2
Many families have been brainstorming fun and engaging ways for their kiddos to stay active, engaged, and curious about learning this summer. I wanted to reach out to you with ways to find activities and camps that fit your child’s needs. Here are some of my favorite resource hubs:

**Seattle Parks and Rec:** www.seattle.gov/parks/find/camps

**Youth Program Directory** (customizable searches): www.youthprogramdirectory.org

**Seattle Summer Camps:** www.seattlesummercamps.com/

**ParentMap Summer Camps Article:** http://bit.ly/ParentMapcamps18

### Learning about Digital Citizenship, Cyberbullying

During May, Thurgood Marshall’s Library and Librarian Merilee Hudson focus lessons on Digital Citizenship and Cyberbullying. It’s a great time to reinforce those safety lessons at home as you discuss being online with your students. This year our District-endorsed curriculum was developed by a nonprofit, Common Sense Media. The main lessons:

- **K-2 Kids** are exploring their digital neighborhood in “Going Places Safely” and “Staying Safe Online,” as well as “Private vs. Public Information.”
- **Gr. 3-5 Topics** are “Digital Citizenship,” “What is Cyberbullying?,” and the power of words and images online (“Picture Perfect,” “Selling Stereotypes”).

Info: http://bit.ly/CyberCurriculum18 or Mrs. Hudson, mhudson@seattleschools.org

### Bullpup Briefs

#### Items for Homeless Due at Office by Tomorrow

Tomorrow (May 18) is the last day to bring **bath towels** and **twin-size bedsheets** (lightly used or new) or **underwear and socks** of all sizes (new) for currently homeless people. Collection box is in the office.

#### Please Complete Survey about TM & District by Fri.

The deadline to complete the annual Family Survey is tomorrow (May 18)! You should have received an email link or paper copy last month. Your responses are confidential, and the survey results are used to guide improvements. Questions? See http://bit.ly/FamilySurvey18.

#### Black Family Group Sets Celebration for June 9

The Black Family Advocacy Support Group’s end-of-year celebration BBQ will be 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 9, at Judkins Park! Please RSVP: https://tm_bfasg_picnic.eventbrite.com.

#### Grade 5 Promotion: Take New Photos, Bring Old Ones

A photographer (any skill level!) is needed for the 5th Grade Promotion on Tuesday, June 19 (5-7:30 p.m.) in the Cafeteria. You’ll continue a lovely TM tradition of taking a picture of every student with their teacher at the event. Contact Tasha, tashasirvine@gmail.com.

→ **And, do save that date!** Formal invitations to the “Rise Up!” event should arrive in Grade 5 kid mail in a couple of weeks.

→ **Contribute photos** to the slideshow that will be shared at the conclusion of the event. Email them to Casey, caseypilar@gmail.com.

Thank you, new and repeat contributors to the PTA Annual Fund. Budget choices are on hold; donate at www.tmlink.org.

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**Work with School to Keep Attendance Up Continued from Page 1**

This year, our teachers and staff have tried new ways to support families in positive attendance. This starts in the office, with Ms. Dickey making phone calls home when students are out. After more than a few unexcused absences, our school sends a letter home to remind families of the importance of good attendance. The District has also begun to send letters. You may also hear from a teacher. We want you and your child to know that we notice when a student is gone: Your class is not the same without you!

We still have more than a month of school left – more than 15 percent of the year – and vital learning is still happening! If you are having difficulty getting your child to school on a daily basis, please let us know how we can help. Sometimes a little creative brainstorming between home and school can result in a new plan to support student achievement!

– Principal Katie May
Missing any forms sent home recently?

Go to TMlink.org to download:

✓ Bike to School Calendar

✓ Move-a-Thon Donations Form
The Seattle Mariners are extending a discount ticket offer to the students, parents, faculty and staff at our school! Enjoy a special outing with your friends and family members!

To order tickets, fill out the form below and return it to the school office. Deadline to order is May 25th, 2018

Questions? Contact Andrea at 206-399-9793 or andrea_radosevich@yahoo.com

STUDENT ___________________________ ___________________________
TEACHER ___________________________ ___________________________
ADDRESS ___________________________ ___________________________
DAY PHONE ___________________________
WE WOULD LIKE TO SIT WITH ___________________________

# of View Reserved Seats______@$15.00 = ________
Total Amount Enclosed $________

Make Checks Payable to: Thurgood Marshall PTA

We request a scholarship for ___________ people (up to 3 including the student)

*We will do our best to honor requests to sit with another family