Evaluating the Work of Teachers

This is the time of year when principals and teachers meet for end-of-year evaluation conferences. It is a lot of work to prepare for these meetings. Teachers have to organize their end-of-year data and analyze how well students did on meeting goals set for them back in the fall. The teachers also are required to provide multiple types of work assigned to each student, such as daily exit tickets, unit tests, interim tests and self-evaluations, as well as progress reports. Then, Principal May or I discuss in detail with each teacher how his or her practice has positively impacted student growth.

Teachers also receive feedback on the components of teaching outlined in the framework we use to evaluate teaching. If this sounds complicated, it is! In addition to the technical aspects of teacher evaluation, a meaningful approach to teacher evaluation has to reflect some fundamental beliefs. All educators need to believe that every child and adult is capable of changing and growing. We all have to believe that extraordinarily hard work will yield the outcomes we have envisioned. Perhaps most importantly, all of us have to join forces on behalf of students. Teaching used to be a lonely profession; now we are looking for every opportunity to collaborate.

The best part of these conferences is listening to teachers tell their stories. So far, I’ve heard teachers talk about kids who floundered at the beginning of the year and are now performing above grade level. I’ve also heard teachers with tears in their eyes speak about students who have struggled all year. Listening to the efforts that teachers have made on behalf of their students is inspiring: after-school tutoring sessions, home visits, assignments tailored to reflect student interests, and more. There is no shortage of hard work being done on behalf of your children! I know I’ve said it before but I will say it again – it is an honor and a pleasure to be a part of this wonderful, hard-working learning community.

Student Council News

Recess Cleanups Set

The Recess Committee for Student Council has been thinking hard about how to make the playground a safer and more fun environment.

We figure that the best way to do that is to have one 4th- or 5th-grade class, twice a week (on Monday and Friday), clean up the playground for any amount of time they need. We hope that this will help the playground and help you or your kid be safe.

Thank you from the Recess Committee and Student Council!
New Drivers Expected to Reduce Problems with Bus Service

The District Transportation Office is expecting bus service to become more reliable for the rest of this school year. The Office reports that its bus contractor, First Student, has this week brought on some 30 experienced drivers from other districts (in Alaska) where school has ended for the year.

First Student had experienced difficulty hiring enough drivers, leading to frequent delays of 60 minutes on some routes. The Transportation Office said, “We understand the inconvenience to your family. It is our goal to have students arrive to their school safely and on time every day. We are actively working to find a permanent solution for the 2018-19 school year.”

June 5 PTA Meeting
Will You be Ready for the ‘Big One’?

You could become far readier for the Big One if you attend the PTA General Meeting in Library, 6:30-8:30 p.m. on June 5.

The guest, Melanie Cole from the City of Seattle Office of Emergency Management, will offer a wide range of information and tips regarding “Emergency Preparedness.” In other business at the meeting, the PTA membership will be asked to vote on next year’s Board officers and budget, and Principal May will offer an update on school matters.

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@seattleymca.org. PTA membership not needed to enjoy the speaker; all are welcome.

Hear New Superintendent June 4 at WMS

The next General Meeting of the Seattle Council PTSA will feature incoming Superintendent Denise Juneau as a guest speaker. The gathering at Washington Middle School (2101 S. Jackson St.) runs from 6-9 p.m. June 4, and is open to PTA members only. Free dinner will be available. RSVP at http://bit.ly/June4SCPTSA.

The meeting is oriented toward sharing of information by PTA Board members from throughout the city’s schools, and Ms. Juneau is scheduled to speak from 7-7:20 p.m. She will be joined by District Chief Engagement Officer Carri Campbell and Director School and Community Partnerships James Bush.

Did you know that your shopping at Amazon & elsewhere can benefit TM? Details: tmlink.org.

Run of Success
Congratulations to the 16 Girls on the Run participants in Grades 3-5, who trained for 10 weeks on empathy, body positivity, positive self-talk, how to be a friend … and running. Sunday was their big day! They ran a 5K at Renton Memorial Stadium with almost 2,000 other Puget Sound area girls, plus their running buddies. Thanks to their practice partners and volunteer coaches.

Bullpup Briefs

Last Chance to Turn in Move-a-Thon Donations

Have you supported the school’s only fundraiser for field trip scholarships? Move-a-Thon donation forms can still be sent in. Lost it? Get a form at the Main Office, or at http://bit.ly/MoveathonForm18.

Black Family Group to View NAAM Photo Exhibit

Join the Black Family Advocacy Support Group 4:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 7, to view “Just Around the Corner: Everyday Black” at the Northwest African American Museum (2300 S. Massachusetts St., a short walk from TM). The exhibit of intimate photos celebrates prominent members of Seattle’s black creative community. Admission is free on the first Thursday of each month. Info: http://www.naamm.org.

→ Have you signed up for the end-of-year BBQ? It’ll be 11 a.m.-1 p.m. June 9, at Judkins Park! RSVP: https://tm_bfags_picnic.eventbrite.com.

Process for Entry into Advanced Learning Programs

Families may request testing of students to determine Advanced Learning and Highly Capable program eligibility. Initial info must be submitted by Sept. 24 to seek enrollment in the 2019-20 school year. See the flier attached to this Pup Press or http://seattleschools.org/advlearning.

Plan for Sun & Fun at Grade-Level Picnics June 11-12

Have some fun in the sun (we hope) after school at the annual spring picnics: 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 11 (for Grades K, 1 & 2), and Tuesday, June 12 (Grades 3-5). Bring your own dinner, blanket and outdoor toys to the playground. If you know families joining us at TM next year, please invite them!
IMPORTANT INFORMATION for Speakers of Different Languages:

- ¡Oportunidad de pruebas de Aprendizaje Avanzado! Busque el paquete de información traducido en línea después del 15 de mayo, 2018.
- Có hơi để thử Học Nâng Cấp! Hãy để ý tìm thông tin bằng tiếng Việt ở trên mạng sau ngày 15 tháng 5 năm 2018.
- 有機會參加 Advanced Learning (資優課程) 考試！請在2018年5月15日後，從西雅圖校區網站上找到中文資訊。
- Oportunidad para sa Advanced Learning na pagsusulit! Hanapin ang isinalin na pakete ng impormasyon sa online pagkaraan ng May 15, 2018.
- Carraa Qormaata Barnoota Ol’aanaa/Jabaa ta’ef qopha’a! Odeeffannoo afaan kessanitti hiikame Argachuuf Caamsaa 15, 2018 booda onlaynii ilaalu ni dandeesu.

www.seattleschools.org/advlearning

ADVANCED LEARNING - Testing Opportunity

You may want to refer your child if you have noticed these characteristics:

Verbal skills:
- Has an advanced vocabulary for his/her age
- Seems to continuously talk and ask questions

Thinking skills:
- Is imaginative; has lots of ideas
- Can come up with many interesting solutions to problems

Learning behaviors:
- Understands information quickly; remembers what has been learned
- Wants to work on more difficult things; may not finish regular assignments because wants to spend time doing projects he/she thinks are more interesting

Motivation:
- Is very interested in certain topics/projects and wants to work on them all the time
- Does not want or need a lot of direction for completing a task; likes to figure it out on his/her own

Social-emotional Development:
- Is sensitive to the feelings of others and is concerned with fairness
- May be a perfectionist and/or become frustrated with mistakes
- May prefer to interact with students who are older and/or adults

Reading:
- Is a very strong reader, reading above grade level and/or reading at an early age

Math skills:
- Is very interested in math, works above grade level in math and/or shows an interest in numbers at an early age

If most of these characteristics apply, you may want to consider referring your child for Advanced Learning opportunities.

Eligibility criteria and instructions are available beginning May 15, 2018 at www.seattleschools.org/advlearning

All Referrals for testing are due by September 24, 2018 to determine eligibility for school year 2019-2020.
What do we need to do next year at Thurgood Marshall to help CREATE EQUITY and BUILD COMMUNITY?

All Welcome to Join the Conversation
End of Year Equity Action Teams Meeting

May 31 • 6-8pm
Thurgood Marshall Library

Meet to Connect, Share, & Plan
- Connection Activity
- Updates from Teams
- Discussion and planning for summer and next school year

Black Families Advocacy and Support Group – Facilitating Conversations Around Race and Equity – Gender Equity – Racial Equity in HCC – Supporting our Scholars

New families and kids are welcome! Bring a snack to share if you’d like!