

PUP PRESS

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Principal
Katie May

Displaced staff

As I mentioned at Curriculum Night, our school has significantly lower student enrollment than anticipated. This means we will lose one teacher. In many cases these staff will be moved to support schools with higher student enrollment. This is a normal adjustment that happens every fall.

I realize staffing adjustments are disruptive and frustrating for staff, families and students. While the district works hard to reduce disruption, some change is unavoidable.

This year is especially challenging. Every year the district sets aside funding to address enrollment changes at the school level. Unfortunately, the district's actual enrollment for the 2018-19 school year is significantly lower than anticipated. In fact, it is the first year in 10 years that enrollment is lower than the year before.

District-wide there are 724 fewer students enrolled than were projected. The district's set-aside funds are not enough to cover the actual projected revenue loss from the district's lower enrollment. The total revenue loss is \$7.5M. The district doesn't have the flexibility of paying for staff in schools that don't have enough students to support the position.

The outcome is that the district needs to move educators from schools with lower enrollment to schools that need additional teachers.

Seattle Public Schools is not alone in having fewer students than anticipated. Districts near Seattle are also experiencing lower enrollment, while districts further south have seen an increase. Reasons vary, but the cost of housing in our area compared to wages earned is a likely factor.

District staff are committed to analyzing and better understanding the shifts in enrollment. Enrollment planning staff will be working closely with other districts, the city and partners to produce more accurate student enrollment projections that consider new trends and variables in Seattle.

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New mobile app: Seattle Public Schools at your fingertips

The new Seattle Public Schools smart phone app offers essential tools for families and staff. Download it for free from the Apple App Store or Google Play.

In addition to a user-friendly design built on feedback from our families and staff, the app has features that make it easy for you to stay in touch with Seattle Public Schools and your school community.

On the mobile app you can:

- Customize your Seattle Public Schools app to display one or more school calendars, staff directories, and news.
- Easily access popular digital tools for families such as the Source, lunch menus, and more.
- Change the default language to display the app in Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog or Vietnamese.
- Connect your School Messenger notifications app to easily read or hear messages from your school and the district.

Download on your mobile device today and select Yes to receive push notifications with the latest news from the district and your school: <https://launch.customschoolapp.net/seattle-public-schools/>

The mobile app will provide the greatest benefit to your families and community when your school website calendar and news are kept fresh and up to date.

EVENT CALENDAR

THU., OCT 4: Facilitating Conversations About Race Discussion, 6:30-8:00 p.m., TM Library

Thu., Oct. 4: Camp Orkila chaperone meeting, 5:30 p.m., Room 210

Mon. - Wed., Oct 8-10: 5th Grade trip to Camp Orkila, packing list sent home this week

Tue., Oct 9, PTA Board meeting, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Library

Mon, Tue., Oct 15-16, CLASS PICTURES, more info to come

→ Full year of events online calendar at www.tmlink.org/

Got news? Contact Pup Press Editor, [Tracy Bonaccorso](mailto:Tracy.Bonaccorso@tmpt.org) or text 206.240.6318

TUTU'S PANTRY



www.tmlink.org/

Tutu's Pantry serves 20-30 TM families weekly with a free weekend supply of food. **If your family would like to benefit**, please fill out the form (sent home in the PTA Packet and also available at

Tutu's Pantry depends on donations of non-perishable items. Donation bins are in the front hall. *See list on Page 2.*

Send back your PTA Membership form for 2018-19

PTA Membership Forms came home this week – send yours back and join the PTA! Or go to www.pta-avenue.com/join.

Paid for classroom supplies, yet?

Your \$40 suggested payment per child covers all standard in-school supplies. Go to www.tmlink.org/school-supplies.

Lost and found donations

Due to the high volume of Lost and Found items, we will be donating items at the end of each month, rather than just twice a year. Please encourage your child to check often for lost items.

Reminder: Campus opens at 8:40 a.m.

Our campus is open to receive students in the morning at 8:40 a.m. Please do not send students before this time unless they are signed up for a morning Enrichment program or for the YMCA before care program. If you have questions about when your child's enrichment class starts, please call our office at 206.252.2800.

We want your child to be safe and supervised! Thank you.

Loss of staff means Thurgood Marshall will experience some adjustments to our class lists/master schedule. In our case, Ms. Chea-Lene Tan, 5th Grade AC Scholars* Teacher, will be displaced to another school. This will change our configurations from three AC Scholars 4th grades and three AC Scholars 5th grades to two classes at 4th and 5th, and one 4th/5th split grade class. If your child will be impacted, you will hear from me directly about the change. Impacted teachers will be talking to their students on Friday morning this week.

Our teachers are working closely together to make this a smooth transition for our students. The re-configuration was created with the goal of the least amount of disruption to the smallest number of students and staff.

I want to thank you in advance for helping me manage this situation. I also want to thank Ms. Tan for the smooth start she gave her students this year. In her short time at Thurgood Marshall, she was organized, caring and capable.

Please let me know if you have any questions and thank you for your support.

**AC Scholars is the name for the HCC program at Thurgood Marshall.*

Katie

Participate in Superintendent's ThoughtExchange conversation

This is a reminder to participate in the district's our ThoughtExchange conversation, which closes TOMORROW, Fri., Sep. 28 at 8:00 p.m.

Use this link to enter the conversation: <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/#155260393>. We invite students to share their perspectives at my.thoughtexchange.com/#680932783.

If you have already participated, consider returning to read new perspectives and provide additional thoughts. Input shared in this ThoughtExchange conversation, as well as in town hall meetings as part of **Superintendent Denise Juneau's Listening and Learning Tour**, will help inform areas of focus for the district's next Strategic Plan.

⌘ Class Connectors!

We still need Class Connectors for the following teachers: Ms. Bodden, Ms. Howard-Powell and Ms. Sorenson! If you'd enjoy supporting your child's teacher by coordinating classroom volunteers, helping families to get to know each other on a more personal level by organizing social gatherings, and giving back to the school by letting people know about TM events and volunteer needs, contact **Andrea Fontana**, Class Connector Coordinator, at awongfontana@gmail.com or 206.498.0666.

Thurgood Marshall Elementary is looking for



Class Connectors

Bullpup Briefs

Sign up for the PTA e-list!

The Thurgood Marshall PTA sends our e-list subscribers occasional messages with news and event info throughout the year! We promise not to clog your in-box. <http://tmlink.org/2018/06/07/sign-up-for-pta-e-list/>.

⌘ = Volunteer/ PTA opportunity!

⌘ ASAP! Wed. afternoon volunteer for Enrichment!

Help make sure kids are in the right places, and other duties for approximately 1.5 hours every Wednesday. FREE enrollment for your child in a class if you commit for a full season. Contact enrichment@tmlink.org.

⌘ PTA Events Coordinator Co-Chair

Meet and get to know the TM community by teaming up with our experienced events coordinator. Support Event Leads by relaying their needs to the PTA Board and showing them where supplies are. Contact volunteering@tmlink.org. 1-2 hours per event.

⌘ Thu. Pup Press Distribution Help

Copy and distribute the newsletter on Thu. mornings. Contact volunteering@tmlink.org if you can help one hour every other Thu.

⌘ PTA Communications Chair

Oversee our team of communications volunteers and act as the liaison between the team and the Board. The Communications Team comprises the Pup Press Editor, Bulletin Board Manager, Calendar Manager, Webmaster, Graphic Designer, and Class Connectors Coordinator. In addition to leading the team, the Communications Chair will manage the all-school email distribution list and consult on outreach for various teams such as Enrichment and Events. This is a Board position with meetings every other month. Contact volunteering@tmlink.org.

⌘ Gardening Enrichment assistant needed!



Our gardening enrichment instructor, Ms. Nicole, needs a regular assistant on

Wed. After school until 3:25 p.m., to help wrangle kids in the TM garden. No experience needed! Just pass the volunteer background check and be ready to get a little grubby.

Your child will get free tuition to join the class. In return, and it will allow us to pull a couple more kids from the waitlist. Email volunteering@tmlink.org.