Update on recent events at TM

There has been a lot going on around school in the past week or so. I wanted to update you on recent events.

One of the biggest changes has been losing Ms. Tan, as I mentioned in last week’s Pup Press. Ms. Tan’s last day was Friday and this week, 4th and 5th grade AC Scholars started their week in their new class configurations. Losing a teacher means increased class size – 29 students in the 4th and 5th grade classes, and 27 students in our 4th/5th split grade class. While these classes have grown, they are not the largest AC Scholars classes we have had over the last few years.

Our teachers are caring and accomplished professionals and they will help our students make it through this transition smoothly.

I have received some questions about why the change in classes happened in AC Scholars classes and not in the smaller Scholars 4th and 5th grades. There were a number of reasons for this. Our AC Scholars classes have stable numbers. We do not receive additional students to our school after the start of the year in this program. This is not true in our Scholars classrooms. We may start the year with 23 students in a class and finish the year with 28 students. Because this is so unpredictable, it is riskier to increase the size of these classes. In addition, many students in our Scholars program have challenges that make an additional transition more impactful to their learning. For example, there are more students who receive special education support, reading intervention, or support as an English Language Learner. This is not to say that students in our AC Scholars classes do not also have challenges to their learning; however, I tried to keep equity in mind when making this decision.

We have also gained two new staff members this week. Through the district displacement process, a 1.0 PE position at Genesee Hill was reduced to .5. This was our good fortune, as Mr. Shawn Cudney will now teach PE half-time at Thurgood Marshall, as well as at Genesee Hill. Mr. Cudney began teaching half of our afternoon classes this Monday, filling a position that has been open since the start of the school year. Thank you to Ms. Margaret Campbell for filling in as a substitute for us for the first month of the year.

Our second new staff member is Chanthida Kol, our new head custodian. Ms. Kol also started at Thurgood Marshall on Monday. Brian Gagner, our night custodian, has been working double shifts since our previous head custodian left. I appreciate all of his hard work during this time!

You may have noticed some changes to our office lately. Ms. Patu returned on Monday after having been out since the start of the school year, and I am sad to tell you that her husband has passed away. The thoughts of our community are with her. Our staff has started a Meal Train website for her, which anyone is welcome to contribute: https://mealtrain.com/wym8e1. Last week, Ms. Dickey also needed to take a leave to be with her family. Our office coverage has been intermittent, and we know this has caused some disruptions to service. I apologize for this and ask for your patience until we are back to our normal amount of staffing again.

Stay tuned next week for a summary of the PlayWorks training we participated in this week!

Katie

Order TM Spiritwear gear now!
Order your Thurgood Marshall T-shirt or sweatshirt now! Order form attached to this week’s PupPress.

We’re taking orders through Fri., Oct. 19. Order online!
Black Family Advocacy Support Group, Wed., Oct. 10, 6-8:00 p.m.
The Black Family Advocacy Support Group invites families with children of Black, African, African-American descent and allies to join their first meeting of the year on Wed., Oct 10, 6-8:00 p.m. in the TM Library. In addition to welcoming new families to the support network, they will determine and discuss their areas of focus for the 2018-19 academic year. The group hopes you can join them and bring a friend! Children are welcome to attend. Feel free to bring a dish or dessert to share. Please contact Angie Jenkins or Trinia Washington at tmbfasgroup@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like additional information.

2E meeting Mon., Oct. 8, TM Library
2E Seattle Support Group will meet Mon. in the TM Library to share resources, experience, and give each other support. The group is for parents (and teachers) of kids who are cognitively advanced but also have learning or other disabilities. Examples of 2e (twice exceptional) disabilities include ADD/ADHD, ASD/Asperger’s, SPD, OCD, ODD, dyslexia/dysgraphia, anxiety, depression, Tourette’s, visual/auditory processing disorders, chronic illnesses (such as diabetes, migraines, cancer), blindness, deafness, use of a wheelchair and/or any unspecified disorders that would benefit from a 504 Plan or IEP. Open also to parents who think their child may be 2e but has not been officially identified. Also connect via https://www.2eseattle.com/.

Ada Lovelace Day is Oct. 9!
Ada Lovelace, the “Enchantress of Numbers,” is known as the first computer programmer. Ada’s code work was groundbreaking, and she and all women devoted to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) are celebrated internationally on Oct. 9.

Let’s talk about the TM Library! A message from Mr. Zetterberg
You may have heard your children talking about some changes in the library. If so, then I’ve met my first goal – to get students talking about the library! Let me tell you a little more about some new services our library offers.
A significant change is the schedule. While Kindergarten, 1st grade, PEACE, and Focused classes remain on a fixed 30-minute checkout + lesson schedule, our 2nd-5th Graders are coming to check out books for only 15 minutes each week. This frees up flexible time for longer lessons as needed, focused on digital citizenship, information literacy, and inquiry-focused digital learning experiences connected to classroom content and student interest.
Another new service offered for students is our Makerspace. Thanks to donations from Donors Choose and our school community, the library now offers a space for students to explore the design process and develop problem-solving skills through making. We have materials for building and crafting that 2nd-5th grade students can access during their lunch recesses twice per week.
Other services are in the works as well. Keep on the lookout for our digital reading community and student YouTube channel!

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 opportunities!
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.

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.

Wed. Afternoon Enrichment assistant
Help make sure kids are in the right places, and other duties for approximately 1.5 hours every Wednesday. Even if you can't help for the full term, we need help tomorrow! FREE enrollment for your child in a class if you commit for a full season. Contact enrichment@tmlink.org.

Class Connectors
We still need Class Connectors for Ms. Anderson, Ms. Bodden, Ms. Howard-Powell, and Ms. Sorenson! If you’d enjoy supporting your child’s teacher, contact Andrea Fontana at awongfontana@gmail.com or 206.498.0666.
Volunteer at TM! We need you!

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

Gardening Enrichment assistant
Our gardening enrichment instructor, Ms. Nicole, needs a regular assistant on Weds. afterschool 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.
Online registration begins Monday, September 17th

SATURDAY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM
Fall 2018 Session
October 6 – December 1

The UW Robinson Center offers Saturday Enrichment classes for students in grades K-8 to explore topics outside the regular school curriculum. There are no prerequisites for admission other than interest, no grades or tests. All classes are taught by subject experts on the UW Seattle campus.

For the Fall 2018 session, we have several new and exciting courses, and a number of our most popular courses are back! New courses include: Family Mancala Club (Grades K-1), Ecological Philosophy (2-3), and Robotics (4-5, 6-8). Returning favorites include: Fundamentals of Public Speaking (4-5), Hands-on Economics (6-8), Mock Trial (6-8), and Outbreak Investigation (4-5).

For the complete list of courses and course descriptions, visit our web page at: https://robinsoncenter.uw.edu/programs/enrichment/

No eligibility qualifications required
Free tuition for families receiving free/reduced lunch
Construction started May 2018 and should be done sometime next spring. Crews continue making progress along 23rd Ave S between S Jackson St and Rainier Ave S with water main work and paving.

What have we done so far?

- Most of the concrete work is done on the west side of 23rd Ave S between S Jackson St and S Norman St. This includes pouring new road panels, driveways, and curbs. We still need to tie-in to the side streets, do some electrical, and complete the remaining curb ramps and driveways.
- Today, we completed the asphalt paving between S Massachusetts St and Rainier Ave S. This is a milestone because there is now smooth new road to drive on. Plus, almost all the concrete work is complete in this area. We still need to landscape and complete some minor concrete work.

What’s happening now?

- We are installing the water main between S Jackson St and S Norman St. This Wednesday night, we plan to make our first service tie-ins. When we tie-in to the new water main, some residences and businesses will experience water shut-offs. SPU will provide notification for the shut-offs.
- In the Rainier Ave S intersection, we are drilling and pouring pole foundations. During this work, the Rainier intersection will be down to 1 lane in both directions during the non-peak hours. Once the foundations are in, there will be a heavy construction presence in the intersection for the duration of the project as we do curb ramps, trench electrical, and work on S Hill St.

What’s coming up?

- Starting next week, we will be trenching across the Judkins St intersection. Please expect there to be lane closures and at some point, a full closure of Judkins St on both the east and west side.
- After we finish the water main work, we will start rebuilding the road, sidewalks, driveways, and curb ramps on the east side of 23rd Ave S.

How to contact us
Phone: 206-727-8857
Email: 23rdAveCorridor@seattle.gov
Website: www.seattle.gov/transportation/23rd_ave.htm
T-shirt & Sweatshirt ORDER FORM

Child's name: ________________________  Teacher: _____________________  Rm #__________

Circle the size(s) and enter the quantity below -
Please fill out ONE form for EACH child at Thurgood Marshall

*Note: Sizes run small

Child Sized T-shirt*
XS (2-4)  S (6-8)  M (10-12)  L (14-16)  XL (18-20)  $10  X ___  =  $ ______

Adult Sized T-Shirt*
MENS  Small  Medium  Large  X-Large  2XL  $10  X ___  =  $ ______
LADIES  Small  Medium  Large  X-Large  2XL  $10  X ___  =  $ ______

Grey Hooded Sweatshirt*
CHILD  XS (2-4)  S (6-8)  M (10-12)  L (14-16)  XL (18-20)  $20  X ___  =  $ ______
ADULT  Small  Medium  Large  X-Large  2XL  $20  X ___  =  $ ______

If you wish to donate funds for T-shirts for students unable to afford their own, please add it to your payment here:  $________

☐ Check this box if you would like a T shirt for your child, but are unable to pay full price.  Some T shirts will be available at cost ($7).  Fill out the form above with your desired size and include your contact information here.

Total  $________

Please list contact information below for any questions regarding your order:

Your Name: ____________________________

Phone #: ____________________________ and/or Email: ____________________________

Return completed order form with payment to your classroom teacher by:  FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19TH

Item(s) will be delivered to your student’s classroom between: NOVEMBER 26TH-30TH

Make checks payable to "Thurgood Marshall PTA"