**Equity Action Team update**

This week, I’m writing to share an update from our Equity Action Team. This group was formed by staff and parents four years ago to address areas of inequity in our school and in the district. Together, we have identified systems to be improved and made changes to our school. Some of this group’s accomplishments include finding ways to make the before and after school Enrichment program more accessible to all families, creating a field trip policy to ensure an equitable experience across programs, blending students across programs for Social Studies, creating a district-wide Equity in HCC task force that has helped to make changes for how students are identified and qualified for the Highly Capable Cohort. This group has also opened up conversations about race to our school by creating a book club that discusses books and articles about race and equity and by hosting groups such as Families of Color Seattle to provide anti-bias training to our school community.

The Equity Action Team group meets each trimester as a large group. During this time, we participate in a connection activity to help us learn more about the individuals that make up our group and to examine our own biases, we share updates from the various smaller groups to gain input and suggestions from the larger group, and discuss ways various groups might overlap their efforts to move us closer towards our common goal. In between these meetings each trimester, the sub groups get together to work on areas that they are interested in improving. The smaller groups focus on areas they have chosen to work to improve and are limited only by the passion and drive of their members. The groups change slightly from year to year, based on interest and need. This year’s groups include:

- The Black Family Advocacy Support Group
- Fostering Student Community and Supporting Our Scholars
- Conversations Around Race and Equity
- Gender Equity
- Racial Equity in HCC

Continued on Page 2

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**Join our Winter Giving Challenge!**

Your gift matched up to $20,000! Our ambitious PTA fundraising goal this year is $160,000 - that’s $300 per student the TM PTA invests in your child. Please give what you can to help ensure your child receives:

- Social-emotional growth and development from Ms. Melissa Matsui, school counselor (your PTA funds 100% of her salary)
- Mr. Michael Zetterberg, our full-time librarian (your PTA funds support 50% of this position)
- Dedicated recess aide and classroom tutors
- Special performances at school assemblies
- Dynamic classroom libraries and supplies for our teachers

Click the Donate link at [tmlink.org](http://tmlink.org) or send a check payable to Thurgood Marshall PTA via your student.

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**EVENT CALENDAR**

**Fri., Nov. 30, Last day of Book Fair – volunteers still needed all day!** [volunteering@tmlink.org](mailto:volunteering@tmlink.org)

**Sun. Dec. 2, Child philosophy and critical thinking presentation**, Whittier Elementary School, below

**Fri., Dec. 7, 9-10:30 a.m., Washington Middle School Daytime Tour, WMS, Page 2**

**Thu., Dec. 13, 8:40-9:30 a.m., Parent Coffee, TM Library, Page 2**

**Thu., Dec. 13, 6-8:30 p.m., Bullpup Dads Pizza Movie Night, TM Cafeteria, Page 2**

**Got news? Contact Pup Press Editor, Tracy Bonaccorso (tracybonaccorso31@gmail.com) or text 206.240.6318**

**TUTU’S PANTRY**

Tutu’s Pantry serves 20-30 TM families weekly with a supply of free weekend food. *If your family would like to benefit*, please fill out the form available in the office or [www.tmlink.org](http://www.tmlink.org) and return to your child’s teacher or the office.


**NEXT WEEK (w/o Dec. 3) ASK:**

**2ND GRADE:** PLEASE BRING CANNED TUNA OR CHICKEN.

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**Child philosophy and critical thinking presentation**

Join us for a presentation about ways to encourage children’s philosophical questioning and critical thinking. “Why be good? What is important? Are imaginary friends real?” is an interactive discussion on how adults can help children examine the big questions on their minds. Hosted by the University of Washington Center for Philosophy for Children, we will explore ways to inspire philosophical conversations with children. **Please RSVP:** [kgoldyn@uw.edu](mailto:kgoldyn@uw.edu)

**Sun., Dec. 2, 2 to 4:00 p.m.,** Whittier Elementary School, 1320 NW 75th St., Seattle, WA 98117

All are welcome, especially children attending with parents. Complimentary appetizers will be served.

For more information: [https://mailchi.mp/c972e99f708b/may1philosophywithchildrentevent-2202441?e=567ce02866](https://mailchi.mp/c972e99f708b/may1philosophywithchildrentevent-2202441?e=567ce02866)
There is more information about each of these groups in a flyer attached to this week’s Pup Press. If you are interested in joining any of these teams or learning more about the work they do, you can email equityactiontm@gmail.com. Someone from our Equity Action Leadership Team will be back in touch with you. Our Leadership Team is made up of parents from both our Scholars and AC Scholars programs as well as me. Andrea Fontana, Casey Sommers, Zakiya Tyson, Angie Jenkins, Venessa Goldberg help to plan the larger team. meetings and guide the work the smaller teams are doing to help keep the conversation on Race and Equity in the forefront of our school.

This year, to better unite the efforts of the various teams, we have all adopted the common goal “Creating Ongoing Opportunities for Conversation about Race, Equity and Inclusion Among Adults and Children.” Different groups may address this in different ways but all will work on finding ways to keep this conversation in the forefront of the work we are doing.

Our next Equity Action Team meeting will be held in the Thurgood Marshall Library from 6-8:00 p.m. on Jan. 31. All are welcome! The work of making our school a place that feels welcoming to all of our families can only happen when all voices are represented. If you have a bit of time to commit to helping this happen, then we need you!

Katie

Washington Middle School Info Nights and Daytime Tours

Do you have a student headed for, or considering, Washington Middle School? Learn more, in person!

**Evening Information Sessions**

Featured speakers are Principal Emily Butler Ginolfi and a Student Panel

Thu., Nov. 29, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Tue., Feb. 12, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

**Daytime School Tours**

Tours are led by parents and students

Fri., Dec. 7, 9-10:30 a.m.

Fri., Jan. 18, 9-10:30 a.m.

Fri., Feb. 15, 9-10:30 a.m.

No RSVP. For tours, check in at Main Office when you arrive. Students are welcome to attend accompanied by a parent/guardian.

The school is at 2101 S. Jackson St., Seattle, 98144. Off-street parking is south of the school, accessed from S. Weller St. See [https://washingtonms.seattleschools.org/about/map_and_directions](https://washingtonms.seattleschools.org/about/map_and_directions)

Parent Coffee, 8:40-9:30 a.m. in the TM Library, Thu., Dec. 13

Please join Reading Specialist Alison Miller to learn more about Reading Comprehension. Students often read smoothly and accurately. Then, when they are asked to think critically about what they read, they struggle to put together their ideas to prove that they understand what they read. While accuracy is an important component to reading, comprehension is another element that determines a child’s reading level. Learn more about how we assess reading, comprehension, and what you can do at home to help support your child become a successful reader.

**Bullpup Dads Pizza-Movie Night Kick-off!**

6-8:30 p.m., Thu., Dec. 13

This event is for TM students along with their dad or “Father figure.” Come have pizza in the TM Cafeteria, sign up to volunteer as a Bullpup Dad and watch the movie “Wonder.” Bullpup Dads volunteer at least one day during the school year, helping on the playground, in the lunchroom and in their child’s class. See RSVP form attached to Pup Press.

Please reserve your spot so we are sure to have enough pizza! Hope to see you there!

Send us your best photos for the yearbook!

Did you take some great pics at the Fall Family Dance? Sent them our way! We’re starting to collect pics for the 2019 Thurgood Marshall Yearbook. Looking for classroom candid's, events, field trips, recess, PCP, assemblies, 5th grade Camp Orkila pics of staff – anything yearbook appropriate!

Post your pics on our Facebook page, [https://www.facebook.com/groups/TMBullpupParents/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/TMBullpupParents/) or email Jen Hobbs at jen@jenfu.org. Jen will be collecting them throughout the year so feel free to send anytime.

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Seattle Public Schools, SPS, provides Equal Educational Opportunities and Equal Employment Opportunities and does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex; race; creed; color; religion; ancestry; national origin; age; economic status; sexual orientation, including gender expression or identity; pregnancy; marital status; physical appearance; the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability; honorably discharged veteran or military status; or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal. SPS also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.
CALLING ALL
THURGOOD MARSHALL
BULLPUP DADS AND THEIR BULLPUPS

Bullpup DADS include fathers, grandfathers, uncles and other father-figures in our great students lives.

Come join us for our 2018-2019 Pizza Movie Night Kickoff!

WONDER

Thursday
December 13th

From 6:00pm
Until 8:30 pm

AT THURGOOD MARSHALL

Connect with other father figures in our school community and learn how you can get involved with the amazing efforts of Bullpup DADS!

RSVP
Please RSVP by returning this form to the front office. It would help to gauge the amount of pizzas needed. Thank you!

Your Name: _________________________________________

Your Bullpups Name(s): ______________________________
PLEASE TEAM WITH US

This year’s common goal
for all Equity Action Teams -
Create Ongoing Opportunities for Conversation
About Race, Equity, and Inclusion
Among Adults and Children

Below are the different Equity Action Teams and the work they are interested in focusing on. There are three large Equity Action Team meetings a year, and individual teams meet to plan and work in between. If you are interested in joining any of the teams to learn or lend a voice, please email equityactiontm@gmail.com. All newcomers and questions welcome!

Black Families
Advocacy and Support Group
- Bring together voices of African and African American families and children
- Work together to create a more welcoming environment for children and families
- Contribute to the efforts to recruit and retain more staff of color
- Build community and relationships within the African and African American community

Conversations Around Race and Equity
- Meet once a month to read and discuss books and articles on race and equity
- Host a school-wide workshop on race and equity (possibly kids and adults)

Gender Equity
- Focus on Groundbreaking Women Day
- Be a resource for teachers to include info about women in history
- Work with counselor on consent education, ensuring inclusion of LGBTQ

Fostering Student Community & Supporting our Scholars
(will start by meeting together)
- Help make all our students feel welcome
- Build community between programs
- Look closely at student community on Social Studies and field trips
- Create a dictionary of equity-related words to be used at school meetings

Racial Equity in HCC
(district-wide group)
- Listen to community members, learn about other districts, and follow the work of the district’s Advanced Learning Task Force
- Use learning for possible advocacy.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
for the next Equity Action Team Meeting -
Thursday, January 31, 2019 | 6-8pm | Thurgood Marshall Library
WINTER GIVING CHALLENGE

Your gift matched up to $20,000

DONATE NOW: TMLINK.ORG