Spotlight on Empathy

Happy New Year, TM Families!

Before the break, for the month of Dec., we had a school-wide focus on Kindness. I put out a calendar with suggestions of kind acts that students could perform each day and each classroom read a book about kindness. We saw students really engage in thinking about ways they could be kind to others. A number of students shared with me acts of kindness that they did or that others did for them.

We are continuing in the month of Jan. with a focus on Empathy. Again, we will have a calendar with suggestions for ways to show empathy each day. Each of our classes will hear the story “Tough Guys (Have Feelings Too)” by Keith Negley, which is a great jumping off point for talking about empathy and for challenging gender stereotypes about showing emotion. Our plan is to continue to build on a similar theme each month this year. If you are a fan of Facebook, please like our Thurgood Marshall Elementary page, where I add additional posts with suggestions for books for children and articles for parents. If you have a great resource, please let me know and I can share it with the community.

The first step to empathy, an understanding and awareness of the feelings of others, is to have the ability to recognize and label your own emotions. Focusing on Empathy is a great time for us to revisit the Mood Meter, a RULER Tool that helps students label their feelings and understand degrees of emotion. You can learn more about the Mood Meter here: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EuLLQegF7RBOVDEKs_kyzZH5U6bhtYmN. Continue on Page 2.

Congratulations to Ms. Lacey Greisen, our newest National Board-Certified teacher

Lacey went through hours of work as she closely examined her teaching practice and prepared for a challenging exam in order to become a National Board-Certified Teacher.

We are so proud of her hard work!

PTA General Meeting, Jan. 15, 6:30-8:00 p.m.—Next Tue.! Birds, Bees and #MeToo — Helping Our Kids Build Gender Equality, with author Bonnie J. Rough

Mark your calendar for PTA’s next General Membership Meeting (open to everyone, no membership required) Tue., Jan. 15, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Our guest speaker Bonnie J. Rough, author of “Beyond Birds and Bees: Bringing Home a New Message to Our Kids About Sex, Love, and Equality,” will share the practical lessons she learned as a parent and journalist when she took a close look at the world-famous Dutch approach to sex education, instrumental in producing one of the most sexually healthy and gender-equal societies on the globe.

There will be immediate takeaways for PreK-5th families and time for sharing and questions. This event will show how we can make the most of — and enjoy — life’s many opportunities to change the conversation with our kids as we equip them to build a more equitable and inclusive future.

FREE childcare and pizza available for school-age children. Space is limited so you must RSVP at papka@seattleymca.org.

EVENT CALENDAR

Tue., Jan. 15, 6:30-8:00 p.m., PTA General Meeting, Birds, Bees, and #MeToo – Helping Our Kids Build Gender Equality, with author Bonnie J. Rough, TM Library, see below.

Fri., Jan. 18, 9-10:30 a.m., Washington Middle School Daytime Tour, see page 2.

Mon., Jan. 21, NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. MLK assembly, Fri., 18, 9:05 a.m., TM Cafeteria

Thu., Jan. 24, 5:30-7:00 p.m., HCC Tour & info session for prospective students, TM office, email pta@tmlink.org if a family needs the tour in another language, e.g., Spanish or Vietnamese.

Wed., Jan. 30, NO SCHOOL, day off between semesters.

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 and return to your child’s teacher or the office.

Donation bins are in the front hall. More info: http://tmlink.org/info/tutus-pantry-food-bank/

WEEK OF JAN. 14 ASK: KINDER-GARTEN Please bring healthy cold cereal.

BULLPUP BRIEFS

SEND US YOUR BEST PHOTOS FOR THE YEARBOOK!

We’re starting to collect pics for the 2019 Thurgood Marshall Yearbook. Looking for classroom candids, events, field trips, recess, PCP, assemblies, Fall Family Dance, 5th grade Camp Orkila pics of staff – anything yearbook appropriate! pta@tmlink.org.

Join our Winter Giving Challenge!

Our ambitious PTA fundraising goal this year is $160,000 – that’s $300 per student the TM PTA invests in your child.

Your donation will be matched up to $20,000!

Click “Donate” on tmlink.org.
Katie May column – continued from Page 1

Another RULER Tool, the Blueprint, helps students understand a conflict by walking them through questions that help them understand how they were feeling and also how the person they were involved in a conflict with was feeling. It can be powerful for a student to be coached to see a situation from another person’s perspective. This is a skill that can be taught to elementary students with a bit of coaching. You can read more about the Blueprint here: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Q8mljM2o3WCJO-ScFrSkIQuj0mWG-HV5.

This resource from Scholastic may help you in talking about MLK Day: https://www.scholastic.com/parents/family-life/parent-child/teaching-kids-about-martin-luther-king-jr.html. (Reminder: There will be no school on Mon., Jan. 21 in recognition of Dr. King).

Katie

Ethnic Studies Program community event – Sat., Jan. 12

You’re invited!

The Seattle Public Schools Ethnic Studies Program is hosting a community event to celebrate the diversity of our city and share the work being done on Ethnic Studies in Seattle Public Schools. The event will be held this Sat., Jan. 12 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Centilia Cultural Center at El Centro De La Raza.

The NAACP Youth Coalition will be the Master of Ceremonies in this event featuring local artists and performers that highlight the beauty of the many cultures in Seattle. This event is sponsored by the Seattle Education Association, Social Equity Educators, Southeast Seattle Education Coalition and Families of Color Seattle.

For invitations in 8 languages, please see the Ethnic Studies website: https://www.seattleschools.org/academics/curriculum/ethnic_studies/community_events.

Please share with students and families! Hope to see you there. Contact: Tracy L Castro-Gill, tlgill@seattleschools.org.

BULLPUP BRIEFS

Sign up for the PTA e-list!

News and event info throughout the year! http://tmlink.org/2018/06/07/sign-up-for-pta-e-list/ Full year of events online calendar at www.tmlink.org!

PTA EVENTS COORDINATOR CO-CHAIR

URGENT! We need you! Please volunteer

We still need a volunteer for the beginning of enrichment classes on Weds. This person would double check that all students who were at school that day made it to their enrichment classes (and notify parents if they don’t.) It takes about 10-15 minutes once classes begin. Anyone who volunteers gets 50% off any enrichment class (we can offer a refund for a winter class, or apply it to spring session.)

MORE NEWS

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

- Tue., Feb. 12, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Fri., Feb. 15, 9:10-10:30 a.m.
- Fri., Feb. 15, 9:10-10:30 a.m.

No RSVP needed. 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://washingonms.seattleschools.org/about/map_and_directions

Happy New Year