Next year’s budget
As many of you are aware, we received our budget allocation for the 2019-20 school year this past week. Our process for budget development began several months ago as our Building Leadership Team (made up of Staff, Parents and Administration) and staff reviewed our values around funding priorities. This week, I brought budget proposals to our BLT based on the allocation we received, and our BLT created a budget that staff will vote on next week. Once we have this final budget approved, I will again write about it in the Pup Press, so you are aware of what we are able to fund for next year. Our PTA, who has in past years supported us by funding additional positions that are not covered by our allocation from the district (.5 of our librarian, all three days a week of our counselor, and two of four literacy tutors) will also be determining their budget for next year.

In the meantime, I did want to share a bit about our budget allocation. Each year, our school receives an allocation that includes both staff and non-staff funds. The non-staff funds are the dollars that we have some control in deciding how to spend. The money we receive is based on factors such as how many students we are projected to have and special needs of our students such as poverty, English language learners and Special Education.

We are projected to have a total enrollment of 464 students (we are currently at 524 students), with about half of the students in the Scholars program and half in the AC Scholars program. We expect to have about 56 students qualify as English Language Learners. We have been allocated 20 classroom teachers (down from our current 22). To serve our students who qualify for special education, we have been given 1.4 Resource Room Teachers, 2 Distinct Teachers, 2 Focus Teachers and 1 Preschool Teacher. We are very excited about the addition of a second Focus classroom, as this will allow us to serve students in a K-2 room and a 3-5 room, allowing us to meet the needs of our Focus learners in a more developmentally appropriate way. Continued on page 2.

TM PTA and Equity Action meeting, Tue., Mar. 19, 6-8:00 p.m., TM Library
What is structural racism? What is white dominant culture? What is intersectionality? How can our school community grow in our commitment to racial equity? The TM PTA and Equity Action team present racial equity and organizational change specialist, Kyana Wheeler, as she helps our school gain awareness of the knowledge necessary to becoming a more equitable institution capable of responding to injustices facing our communities. Beginning with a foundational learning about why a racial analysis is imperative to achieve social justice, Kyana will explore concepts of structural racism, intersectionality and the construction of white dominant culture to help define our individual and institutional roles in the work of equity and justice. See flyer for more information.

All are welcome! (No requirement to be a PTA member.) FREE Childcare with PIZZA for children ages 5-12 whose parents are at the meeting.
You MUST reserve your child’s place in advance – contact Cody at cpap-ka@seattleYMCA.org.

Dear Thurgood Marshall Families,
Thank you so much for your generosity and spirit! The 100th Day Drive for Tutu’s was a huge success! First graders were the big winners, with 202 cans of tuna, but everyone did their part!

Warmly, Maggie
Katie May continued from page 1.

The Seattle district as a whole, has a 2019-20 budget shortfall, reflecting impacts of the state’s new K-12 funding formula and lower projected student enrollment. While the state’s new funding model improved K-12 investments in some districts, it left Seattle with less. In 2019-20, the district has a $40M shortfall, in part because the state lowered our local levy authority by too much. Today there is $145M of voter approved funds we cannot access because the Legislature has lowered Seattle’s ability to collect from local levies. We hope the Legislature will act and increase our local levy authority or provide new state revenue to make us whole; as a district we will continue to advocate for our students, staff, and families for a timely resolution, which will require formal action by the Legislature. Currently there is a Senate Bill (SB5313) that narrowly passed through the Senate Education Committee. If approved, Seattle would see an additional estimated $1,000 per student for 2019-20.

Our school, like every school around the district, has been impacted by the budget shortfall. While we hope to see some of our budget restored, as it stands we have lost .5 of our Assistant Principal position, .5 of a teaching position, .2 of our ELL teaching position, and .5 of a PE position, in addition to the 2 classroom teaching positions. (.2 = 1 day per week). While it is tempting to advocate just for our school, what we really need is for families and staff to focus your frustration and concerns on a statewide fix to school funding, a basic constitutional requirement of our state. The only way to get our budget problems resolved is to do it together, as one district.

My role during this budget crisis is to keep our focus on our students, using an equity lens as we work through the difficult choices we face as a staff and school community. Due to natural attrition in our staff (leaves, moves to closer districts, etc.), we do not anticipate that any of our current teachers will lose their school community. Due to natural attrition in our staff (leaves, moves to closer districts, etc.), we do not anticipate that any of our current teachers will lose their teaching positions. (.2 = 1 day per week). While it is tempting to advocate just for our school, what we really need is for families and staff to focus your frustration and concerns on a statewide fix to school funding, a basic constitutional requirement of our state. The only way to get our budget problems resolved is to do it together, as one district.

My role during this budget crisis is to keep our focus on our students, using an equity lens as we work through the difficult choices we face as a staff and school community. Due to natural attrition in our staff (leaves, moves to closer districts, etc.), we do not anticipate that any of our current teachers will lose their jobs, although it is possible that we could face staff being displaced from our building to other Seattle schools. We will keep you posted on staffing closer to the end of the school year.

Katie

Black Family Advocacy Support Group, Wed., Mar. 20, 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 us for our next meeting on Wed., March 20 from 6-8 p.m. in the TM Library. As always, we welcome families to join this support network. We will continue discussion and planning around making positive changes at TM for the remainder of the academic year. We hope you can join us and bring a friend! Children are welcome to attend. Please feel free to bring a dish or dessert to share.

Please contact Angie Jenkins or Trinia Washington at tmbfsasgroup@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Also, if anyone needs a ride or can give a ride, please let us know.

Some signs from our Black Lives Matter March on March 1!
Tuesday, March 19
6 – 8 p.m. in the Library

**Feature topic:**

Racial Equity in our Community

with Kyana Wheeler, M.Ed., MPA

Please join racial equity and organizational change specialist, Kyana Wheeler, as she helps us gain the knowledge to become a more equitable institution capable of responding to injustices facing our communities.

Beginning with a foundational learning about why a racial analysis is imperative to achieve social justice, Kyana will explore concepts of *structural racism, intersectionality* and the construction of *white dominant culture* in an effort to help define our individual and institutional roles in the work of equity and justice. To learn more about Kyana, visit www.kyanawheeler.com.

**All are welcome** to this event! (No requirement to be a PTA member.)

*Hosted by Thurgood Marshall PTA and Equity Action Teams and funded with your contributions to the Thurgood Marshall PTA*

**FREE Childcare** with PIZZA for children ages 5-12 whose parents are at the meeting.

You **MUST** reserve your child’s place in advance – contact Cody at cpapka@seattleYMCA.org