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Principal
Katie May

Civics Emphasis in Lessons & Events

In our Social Studies work this year, Civics has been a particular focus. Washington State sets "Essential Academic Learning Requirements" for various subject areas, and the top one for Social Studies is: "The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics and the nation's fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national and international issues, and to demonstrate thoughtful,

participatory citizenship."

Teachers are addressing this in different ways, depending on the developmental readiness of their students. All of our teachers are considering how social justice fits in this area. After early dismissal on a recent Wednesday, teachers used collaboration time to examine the Teaching Tolerance organization's Social Justice Standards (PDF at <http://bit.ly/TTSocialJustice>) and designed grade-level lessons on "identity." This aligns with identity safety work encouraged by our District. In a recent book, "Identity Safe Classrooms," authors Dorothy Steele and Becki Cohn-Vargas explain that "identity safe classrooms are those in which teachers strive to ensure students that their social identities are an asset rather than a barrier to success in the classroom. And, through strong positive relationships and opportunities to learn, they feel they are welcomed, supported, and valued as members of the learning community" (from www.identitysafeclassrooms.org).

Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly tomorrow: This week, students have been thinking about how their actions can make a difference in our community, as we plan our Martin Luther King Day Assembly (tomorrow, Jan. 12, at the start of the school day). Dr. King maintained a focus on service to others for his entire life. Our students are thinking this week about the example he left, considering this quote and others: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" I hope you will be able to join us!

African American Parents Involvement Day on Feb. 12: I want to be sure parents are aware of iNational African American Parents Involvement Day on Monday, Feb. 12. Parents and guardians, this is a day for you to come to school, see what your

Laura Strand: Teaching Students How the Real Artists Do It

By David Jacobson

There'll be no tempera paint or pipe cleaners in art class at Thurgood Marshall this year. That's because art teacher Laura Strand wants her students to try tools and techniques used by real artists, like pastels or charcoal. Or stop motion animation.

This is Ms. Strand's first year teaching at Thurgood Marshall. A native Seattleite and graduate of Seattle public schools, Ms. Strand

was trained in painting at Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles. She comes to TM with two decades of teaching experience in public elementary schools in L.A. and Seattle. She has taught a wide variety of subjects from English as a second language to music and even science, but has focused on art during the last five years. In her spare time, she has painted sets for several theatrical productions

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EVENT CALENDAR

TOMORROW, Fri., Jan. 12: Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly, 8:55 a.m., Cafeteria.

→ **TM Choir performs "For What It's Worth" by Buffalo Springfield. Parents welcome!**



Mon., Jan. 15: No school (Martin Luther King Jr. Day).

Tues., Jan. 16: "Love" Author & Illustrator

Appearance by Matt de la Peña and Loren Long, 10:30-11:15 a.m., Cafeteria. Gr. 1-3 parents welcome. See <http://mattdelapena.com>.

Thurs., Jan. 18: Info Session & Tour, 8:35-9:50 a.m. For prospective students & parents. No RSVP, but all visitors must check in at office.

Thurs., Jan. 25: Coffee w/ Principal May, 8:40-9:30 a.m., Library. Bring your questions!

Thurs., Jan. 25: Info Session & Tour, w/ HCC Program presentation, 5-6:30 p.m. For prospective students & parents. No RSVP, but all visitors must check in at office.



Thurs., Jan. 25: NEW DATE - Instrumental

Concert, 7 p.m., Cafeteria. Strings arrive at 6:30; other musicians at 6:45 latest.

Sat., Jan. 27: Pancake Breakfast & Art Walk, 9-11 a.m., Cafeteria. FREE; \$10

suggested donation per family. Bring Tutu's Pantry donations. Volunteers needed – easy shifts! Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/TMPancakeBreakfast2018>



Tues., Jan. 30: School Board Member Zachary DeWolf at PTA Meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Library. Free child care w/dinner & movie! All welcome. See p. 2.

→ **Online calendar at www.tmlink.org!**

TUTU'S PANTRY

Bring non-perishable items in cans and boxes.

Jan. 15-18: Grade 3 asked to donate!

student's day is like, and support their educational future. We also will have our annual Thurgood Marshall Day Assembly to honor the late Justice. Part of our tradition is to host judges and lawyers at the assembly and in 4th- and 5th-grade classrooms. We hope you can join us for a light breakfast prior to the assembly, and/or spend time in your child's class.

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Art can be scary, like skydiving: 'you have to let go'



Next part of RULER: 'Feeling Words'



Counselor's Corner
Meghan Kaloper

This week I helped train our teachers in Year 3 of the RULER Social-Emotional Support Curriculum, featuring "Feeling Words."

We are excited to have you as partners in this work! The Feeling Words curriculum is focused on expanding students' emotion vocabulary through academic links, personal associations, family stories, and creative

expression. You will hear about this from classroom teachers and have the chance to share stories and experiences from your own lives with your child. We hope this will be a fun and novel way to connect with your child.

Do you need a refresher on RULER? (It means *Recognizing* emotions in self and others, *Understanding* the causes and consequences of those emotions, *Labeling* emotions accurately, *Expressing* emotions appropriately, and *Regulating* emotions effectively.) More info on RULER and how to incorporate these ideas into your home can be found at <http://bit.ly/RULERTutorial>, and videos and activities for families are at <http://bit.ly/RULERtools>.

We would love to hear about creative ways in which you are already using RULER at home! Please email me at mrkaloper@seattleschools.org to share your practices. Thanks!

Civics: Events, Seattle Times, More

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Black Lives Matter Week, Feb. 5-9: Thurgood Marshall will be joining Seattle Education Association in recognizing issues raised by the Black Lives Matter movement. Details to come.

TM's 5th-graders in The Seattle Times: An opinion piece in Dec. 23's paper by members of Ms. Damitio's class explained why they chose to take a knee during the pledge of allegiance (<http://bit.ly/TMTakeKnee>). We have received several letters in support of our students, with comments such as:

- "Congratulations on being published in the Seattle Times. I really appreciate what you had to say. You gave me hope in a world that's often sad and scary. You are doing great work! Keep it up!"
- "What you are teaching and what your students are learning are invaluable if we wish to perpetuate the goals of our founding nation and its progress toward true equality for all people."

New PE Teacher: We are happy to have filled our open .5 PE position with Jana Robbins, a newly certificated PE teacher who has been a preschool instructor and outdoor educator since her own children were small. Jana most recently worked for PlayWorks, an organization dedicated to helping children learn safe, cooperative ways to play. A big thank you to Margaret Campbell for subbing in the .5 PE position for the past few months! She will remain with us until PE's Tom Townsend returns at the end of January from a leave.

Bullpup Briefs

Free Dinner, Movie for Kids at PTA Meeting



Have you reserved 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Jan. 30 to attend the next PTA Meeting, featuring new School Board Director Zachary DeWolf? (The date was changed from Jan. 23.) All are welcome!

The child care (ages 5-12) will feature FREE dinner and a movie. RSVP required to Cody, cpapka@seattleymca.org.

Jan. 27 Pancake Breakfast Seeks Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the PTA's Annual Pancake Breakfast & Art Walk (Saturday, Jan. 27, 9-11 a.m.). You can sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/TMPancakeBreakfast2018>. This great event is free; \$10 donation suggested per family.

Grades 3-5: Get Psyched to Play Ultimate

Signup for co-ed Ultimate (Frisbee) teams begins soon! (Forms will go home next week.) Ultimate is one of the fastest growing sports in the U.S., and is played in more than 42 countries. TM teams will participate in a citywide league for Grades 3-5, with practices Tuesdays and Thursdays after school starting Feb. 28. Games against other schools' teams will be on Saturdays, March 10 through mid-May.

Provide Input as District Seeks Superintendent

Help guide the search for a new Superintendent! Info and a survey (Jan. 19 deadline) are at <http://bit.ly/SPSsearch18>. Also, attend a community "Town Hall" (6:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 18, at NOVA High School, 2410 E. Cherry St.). Current Superintendent Larry Nyland's contract will end in June 2018.

Strand: Overcome Fear of Art

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on Vashon Island, where she used to live before moving to West Seattle, and more recently, Capitol Hill.

Ms. Strand's first assignment this year was for her students to make CD case "story boxes." The students were to decorate the story boxes with images that told a story about themselves. But her students were in for a surprise when they saw Ms. Strand's own story box, which included a picture of her 15-year-old son and... a parachute. It turns out that Ms. Strand's father was a skydiver, and when she turned 18, she got to go skydiving herself.

"You have to climb out on to the wing, and then, holding onto the strut, have to hang from the plane. Your feet are dangling thousands of feet above the ground," she recalls. "And then you have to let go."

Doing art, Ms. Strand says, requires the same leap of faith as skydiving. Many kids come to her scared of making art, or scared of showing their creative work to others. Often, that just reflects how much experience they have had making art in the past. What she wants is for all her students to have the courage to try.

She quotes Ray Bradbury: "You've got to jump off cliffs all the time and build your wings on the way down."

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Washington Middle School Tours & Information Night

Are you curious about what is in store for you and your family in middle school? Do you have a student headed for Washington Middle School?

Grab your student and join us!

School Day Tours:

Friday, January 19th, 8:30-10am

OR

Friday, February 16th, 8:30-10am

*Location: Please check in at the Washington Middle School Office
2101 S Jackson St (between 20th and 22nd, next door to Franz Bakery)*

Information Night:

Tuesday, February 13th 6:30-8pm

Location: Washington Middle School's Cafeteria

Speakers:

Susan Follmer Principal, Washington Middle School

Student Panel 6th, 7th & 8th graders currently attending WMS

Tours & Information Night
Open to all 4th and 5th grade parents & students

Questions or Need Translator? Please contact Casey Sommers caseypilar@gmail.com