

PUP PRESS



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Principal
Katie May

‘Black Lives Matter in School’ Week

Last year, educators throughout our District worked with colleagues, parents and families, community members, and students to make a statement that Black Lives Matter by wearing BLM t-shirts, and teaching lessons and holding events that recognized and honored black lives. Many other U.S. cities later joined in solidarity with Seattle.

Seattle Public Schools serves some 55,000 students, who are diverse in every way. One of the biggest issues of our time is the unacceptable set of educational disparities between white and African American students in the District. Educators, families, community members and students share a commitment to eliminate this inequity and to ensure that all students achieve greatness in every way. The first week of February, educators across the country are marking “Black Lives Matter in School” to take a stand for social justice. A partnership of the Seattle Public Schools Ethnic Studies Working Group, the Seattle Education Association, and the Seattle-King County NAACP is proudly offering lessons to help students understand the issues that matter to the lives of African American students. The lessons mark the first roll-out of teaching materials from the Working Group, which will be introducing a broad set of ethnic studies curricula and instructional tools.

The staff at Thurgood Marshall is deeply committed to the goals and ideals of this important week. That is why during Feb. 5-9 every class will be using materials provided by SEA or adapted by TM teachers and administration from Teaching Tolerance and SEA-provided materials. We have been particularly careful to develop lessons that are developmentally appropriate and tailored to our students. Our own Black Family Advocacy Support Group (BFASG) has provided guidance.

Each day of the week will have a theme, beginning with Monday’s “Black is Beautiful” and culminating in Friday’s “A Day of Action,” designed to help students better understand the Black Lives Matter Movement. To ensure that our classes have access to books such as “Daddy, There’s A Noise Outside,” by Kenneth Braswell, some teachers and students are creating voice recordings that can be shared with all classes.

We are excited to participate in this nationwide week of action, and for students to better understand this historical movement as Thurgood Marshall honors Black Lives Matter.



Directors Speak at TM

School Board Members Zachary DeWolf, left, and Eden Mack discuss issues with about 30 members of the community at Tuesday night’s PTA meeting. Ms. Mack, who had provided Mr. DeWolf with a ride, was a surprise bonus guest. Among the issues raised: overcrowding at TM. Ms. Mack is seeking further details. See Page 2.

EVENT CALENDAR

TODAY, TOMORROW: PTA Advocacy Week continues. Support education issues by contacting state Legislators. See www.tmlink.org.

TONIGHT, Feb. 1: Side-by-Side Concert, 7 p.m., Washington Middle School Gym. Free. TM and other elementary school musicians join WMS students.

Feb. 5-9: Black Lives Matter Week. See Principal May’s column, at left.

Feb. 5-16: Open Enrollment period. Families may request assignment of students to specific schools and programs other than their geographic “reference area” school. See www.seattleschools.org/admissions.

Wed., Feb. 7: Bullpup Dads & Doughnuts, 8:15-9 a.m., Library. Meet Dads, learn about how you can make a serious difference by volunteering in classrooms for a day. Bring kids. See Page 2.

Thurs., Feb. 8: Equity Action Teams meeting, 6-8 p.m., Library. See Page 2.

Mon., Feb. 12: National African-American Parent Involvement Day & Thurgood Marshall Day. Assembly at 9 a.m. honoring our school’s namesake, plus parents encouraged to visit classrooms and join students for lunch. Details to come.

Thurs., Feb. 15: Choir Concert, 7 p.m., Cafeteria.

→ Online calendar at www.tmlink.org!

TUTU’S PANTRY

Bring non-perishable items in cans and boxes.

Especially needed: canned fruit and vegetables; peanut butter and jelly; and pasta sauce

Feb. 5-9: PEACE & K asked to donate!

Board Sets Shift in High School Assignments, HCC Equity Efforts

The School Board last night approved a plan to alleviate overcrowding at high schools while increasing efforts to identify students of color who should benefit from advanced-learning services such as the Accelerated Curriculum Scholars classes at Thurgood Marshall (also known as Highly Capable Cohort).

As a result, starting in 2019-20, rising 8th-graders in the Highly Capable “pathway” in middle school may no longer be assigned to Garfield High as their default school. GHS will remain the pathway for students in central and south Seattle, while the reopened Lincoln HS will be the north end HC pathway and West Seattle HS the west HC pathway. The “International Baccalaureate” programs at Ingraham HS will remain an option (limited by capacity).

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PTA, Board Hear TM Capacity Issues

Director Eden Mack at last night's School Board meeting requested that the District provide details on capacity issues affecting Thurgood Marshall. In addition to growth in neighborhood enrollment, TM in 2018-19 may face an influx of students from West Seattle, where the HCC "option program" at Fairmount Park ES is at roughly its maximum enrollment.

Ms. Mack had earlier heard about the capacity concerns at the TM PTA meeting Tuesday, when Principal Katie May noted that 1-2 more portable classrooms are likely next year (in part to handle class-size reductions). The PTA meeting featured a wide-ranging discussion with Ms. Mack and fellow Director Zachary DeWolf, who represents TM on the Board. Topics also included:

- Equity issues, including the demographic differences between TM's classrooms of Scholars and of Accelerated Curriculum Scholars;
- Lack of advanced learning opportunities in schools;
- Concern over new Districtwide science curriculum.

ID of Advanced Learning Pupils to Change

Continued from Page 1

In addition, the Board approved a resolution to develop a detailed plan for more equitable access to advanced coursework in all high schools following a collaborative planning process. This plan would be presented in Fall 2019, with any boundary or pathway change recommendations presented in Spring 2020, for implementation in Fall 2021 (when current 5th-graders would enter high school).

The resolution also calls for implementation of more equitable Highly Capable identification practices. This resolution was approved 6-1 (with District V Director Zachary DeWolf dissenting). An amendment to this resolution that would have set a goal to assign all Highly Capable students entering high school to their neighborhood school starting in 2021 was voted down by a vote of 2-5 (with Director Jill Geary and DeWolf in the minority).

Despite differences on some aspects of the best path forward, directors appear committed and more focused than in recent years to improving access to advanced learning and improving the identification process for Highly Capable students.

More information about the Board: <http://bit.ly/SeattleSchoolBoard>

Advocate for Education Issues in Legislature

It's still Washington State PTA Advocacy Week. You can follow education bills at [facebook.com/WashingtonStatePTA](https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonStatePTA) and use advocacy tools to support our children:

- Sign up for PTA Action Alerts at <https://www.votervoice.net/wapta/register>.
- Leave a message on the Legislative Hotline: 1-800-562-6000.
- Email your legislators what you think. Look up addresses at <http://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/>.

Bullpup Briefs

Union Says Bus Driver Strike Could be Long

Union officials are telling The Seattle Times that the bus driver strike that began today (Thursday) could be a long one. (See <http://bit.ly/2GDnANu>.) The District will update parents via SchoolMessenger email and "robocalls." TM will open at 8 a.m. during strike days and may also be able to help with after-school care. Please contact the office (206-252-2800) to help with planning. Parents are welcome to share needs for carpools/rides on the Bullpup Parents Facebook page.

Girls on the Run Registration is Open

Girls on the Run offers games, activities and running to help girls in Grades 3-5 explore the challenges they face. Register to be part of it! Sessions at TM are March 6-May 22, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:40-5 p.m. The culminating 5k is May 20. Cost is \$200, but scholarships are available. Forms were sent to classroom teachers, and, along with more information, are at <http://tmlink.org/girls-on-the-run/>. Sign up by Feb. 16.

Join Effort to Create a 'Wish Tree' at TM



Grade 2 parent Sarah King is starting a drive to create a "Wish Tree," an old Irish tradition. People use ribbons or strips of fabric to write their hopes, dreams, wishes, blessings and positive thoughts.

The ribbons are then tied around branches of a tree. We will need to acquire 1) colorful ribbons or fabric strips at least 3 inches wide and 2 feet long and 2) permanent markers. We are hoping to get classrooms involved, and offer the chance to write wishes at the Community Night event next month.

Contact Sarah to help: (917) 887-8653 or s.kingbesse@gmail.com

Friday Deadline for Ultimate Teams Signup

Signup for co-ed Ultimate (Frisbee) teams is continuing only through Friday, Feb. 2, so don't delay. Forms went home last month, but are also on the Ultimate page at www.tmlink.org. TM teams will participate in a citywide league for Grades 3-5, with practices Tuesdays and Thursdays after school starting Feb. 28. Games will be on Saturdays, March 10 through mid-May.

Questions? Ask parent volunteer Baird, baird.m.johnson@gmail.com.

Eat Doughnuts, Learn about Bullpup Dads Wed.

Are you a dad? Want to help your child succeed in school? Come to "Bullpup Dads and Doughnuts," 8:15-9 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 7! Current Bullpup Dads will answer questions about what it's like to volunteer for a day at school.. Come with your child to have a treat, mingle and sign up for a volunteer day. We look forward to having you on the team!

Learn about Equity Action Teams Next Thurs.

Learn how the Equity Action Teams are making a difference, and consider joining one! Next meeting is 6-8 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 8. ALL families are welcome! Kids can join conversations or read/work on computers. Info is at <http://bit.ly/TMequity>.

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.

Have an article for Pup Press? Send it to Cliff Meyer at pup-press@tmlink.org. If your submission is not acknowledged within 24 hours, please call or text 206-366-5413



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AN EVENING AWAY WHILE YOUR KIDS PLAY

Parents Night Out YMCA AT THURGOOD MARSHALL ELEMENTARY

Enjoy a night to yourself while your children are safe and having fun with their friends at the Y! We're going to be eating popcorn, watching a movie and having an amazing time!!

A yummy, yet nutritious snack will be provided. The best part is that all proceeds go directly to West Seattle & Fauntleroy YMCA Annual Fund Drive!

Non-YMCA families are also welcome, just need to fill out some brief paperwork!

WHEN

Two dates available, 6:30-9:30pm: Friday, March 2nd *AND* Friday, March 30th

WHERE

Thurgood Marshall Elementary Cafeteria

2401 S Irving St, Seattle WA, 98144

FEES (per night)

\$30 for the first child, \$20 for each additional child.

AGE RANGE

4-12 years old

Cash or check please, no credit cards.

QUESTIONS

Cody Papka, Thurgood Marshall Program Supervisor e: cpapka@seattleyymca.org p: 206-718-5705

Ashley McCarver, Bailey Gatzert Program Supervisor amccarver@seattleyymca.org p: 206325-1652



The Y. For a Better Us.™

WEST SEATTLE & FAUNTLEROY YMCA
4515 36th Ave SW Seattle, WA 98126
P 206 935 6000 westseattleyymca.org

Everyone is welcome. The YMCA of Greater Seattle strengthens communities in King and south Snohomish counties through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Financial assistance is available.