



# Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA



## Reflections Finalists!

A special congratulations goes out to our Reflections finalists:

- |                    |                  |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| * Hayley Berkman   | * Karina Jhingan |                  |
| * Aiden Boyd       | * Fred Liu       |                  |
| * Cecily Bush      | * Elma Lu        |                  |
| * Melissa DeGrazia | * Ameena Majeed  | * L. Wren Norris |
| * Maryam Goudarzi  | * Imran Majeed   | * Oliver Reiman  |
| * Zahra Goudarzi   | * Danait Mehari  | * Emmie Wang     |



The above Meridian Park finalists along with other finalists in the district will have their work on display at the Shoreline PTA Council Reception on January 9, 2014 (6:30-8:00 p.m.) in the Shoreline Room, Shoreline Center. View the gallery and celebrate the creativity in these original works of literature, music, photography, video, dance and visual art.

Finalists from this show will be submitted to the Washington State Reflections Program.

## Printmaking Project in Classrooms

The Art Docent parent volunteers were busy in November bringing a printmaking project and lesson to classrooms in the building. Students learned about a variety of printmaking processes and the historical importance of printing. They also created one or two designs in Styrofoam meat tray material that were covered with paint and used to stamp a design onto paper. These are on display throughout the school and will arrive home sometime soon. This would be a fun and easy project to replicate at home during the long winter vacation.



## Holiday Basket Food Drive

In conjunction with the Shoreline PTA Council, each year schools across Shoreline hold a drive for food and gift items that are donated to over 500 Shoreline families in need. Boxes of food, paper goods, toiletries and gift items are assembled and given to families to assist during the holiday season.

The food drive goes until December 13. Meridian Park is collecting dried beans (for example, kidney beans, lentils, or dried bean blends) as our staple.

## Meridian Park Staff Goals for 2013-2014

- \* By **June 2014**, K – 2 students will grow with reading fluency as measured by the district assessment tool.
- \* By **June 2014**, 3 - 6 students will grow with reading comprehension as measured by the district assessment tool.
- \* By **June 2014**, K – 6 students will grow with math concepts as measured by the district assessment tool.
- \* By **June 2014**, students grades K-6 will meet standard in the area of "Writes Clearly and Effectively" as shown on the Shoreline School District report card.

You can drop off your contributions in your child's classroom or in the front lobby.

- \* Volunteers are needed to deliver food to Kellogg Middle School on December 13 after school.
- \* Volunteers are also needed the morning of December 14 at Kellogg Middle School to help pack food baskets.

If you can help, please contact Tracey Poole at [tlp07@stevepoole.com](mailto:tlp07@stevepoole.com).

Issue Five, 2013–2014  
December 11, 2013

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## Upcoming Events

### December 13

Holiday Food Drive Ends

### December 16

Progress Reports go home

### December 17 and 19

Talent Show tryouts after school

### December 18

6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher appreciation cookie exchange

### December 20

9:30-10:30 am Meridian Park Gym  
Winter Sing-A-Long

### December 23, 2013 –

January 3, 2014

Winter break

### January 7

7pm Meridian Park Cafeteria  
PTSA General Membership Mtg

### January 17

7pm Shorecrest High School  
MP Talent Show

### January 20

No School  
Martin Luther King Day

### January 21–24

Early Release  
Parent/Teacher Conferences

### January 27

No School  
Professional Development

# Meridian Park News

## Principal's Letter

Dear Families:

Winter and the Holiday Season are here! Second trimester is underway, and we are preparing progress reports to be sent home on December 16. Thanks for your support as we work together to provide helpful information regarding academic and personal progress.

Conferences to discuss the report card and academic progress are scheduled for the week of January 21. The purpose of conferences is for parents and teachers to collaborate on the progress reports and mid-year academic progress. While we understand parents' eagerness to discuss progress, it's helpful to hold your questions until January if possible. We value ongoing family communication, and look forward to meeting with you for an extended conversation at conference time.

Staff will be confirming conference days/times right after winter break, and our goal is 100% participation – so please double check your calendar and make arrangements to attend your conference in the afternoon the week of January 21 – 24 (student early dismissal). There will be a few evening conference time slots available on January 23.



The holidays are a wonderful time to celebrate and learn about diverse family cultures and traditions. At Meridian Park, many multi-cultural holiday activities will occur in classrooms and culminate with our Multi-Cultural Holiday Sing-A-Long on December 20. Families are invited to join the fun! Also, families who prefer that their child(ren) not participate in this multi-cultural event may pick their children up early or request an alternative activity through your classroom teacher.

Our Meridian Park Staff Goals are focused on reading fluency and comprehension, math concepts, writing clearly & effectively, and positive behavior systems. Our teams are committed to collaborating about student learning and developing meaningful systems of intervention (PLC & RTI). This includes non-student days such as Sept 30, Oct 25, and Jan 27. Teachers are involved in professional development activities and collaboration in reading, writing, and math, as well as intervention systems to help students meet standard or enrichment opportunities for students above standard. More information about Professional Learning Communities and Response to Intervention can be found on the district or principal websites.

We appreciate our supportive community. Best wishes for rest, reading, and exercise during Winter Break.

Research indicates that exercise boosts brain power, so I am suggesting family walks, reading, and board or card games regularly during break (*Brain Rules*, John Medina). My family will be busy with theatre outings, cooking, walking, reading, and family games. See you on Thursday, January 6, 2014! Thank you for the wonderful gift of your children and family.



~David Tadlock, Principal

[david.tadlock@shorelineschools.org](mailto:david.tadlock@shorelineschools.org)

## Important Reminders

- \* Safe and slow in our parking lot and on Meridian/175<sup>th</sup>.
- \* Please use designated crosswalks.
- \* It's chilly at recess, so please send kids to school prepared. Contact your teacher or Family Advocate Annie Gage for cold weather clothing support. If you have donations, please contact us.
- \* During bad weather, check the media about late start or closure. If we are late, school starts at 11:05 a.m.
- \* Student early dismissal Jan 21 – 24 for conferences.
- \* No school Monday, January 27 for professional development.

## Employment Opportunities

The Shoreline School District now has openings for Food & Nutritional Services substitutes and Substitute Bus Driver positions. For more information, visit the "Employment" section of the district website at: [www.shorelineschools.org](http://www.shorelineschools.org).

If you would like to be considered for the openings, please complete a Classified online application and follow the steps online to link your application to the positions.



Shoreline School District #412 does not discriminate against any protected classes. For further information on notice of non-discrimination, including the address and phone number of the Title IX officer, visit: [www.shorelineschools.org/info/title\\_ix.php](http://www.shorelineschools.org/info/title_ix.php).



# Meridian Park News

## Drama Club Auditions Coming Soon!

Drama Club Auditions coming soon! Our 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade musical this year is "Bad Apples" based on Grimm's Snow White. Here are some dates to keep in mind:

**January 7:** Mandatory Parent Meeting in the MP Cafeteria @ 7:30 p.m. Be sure to attend to learn more about Drama Club and the process for this year's show.

**January 21-23:** Audition week begins. These are half days due to conferences. Students will attend auditions/practice from 11:50 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

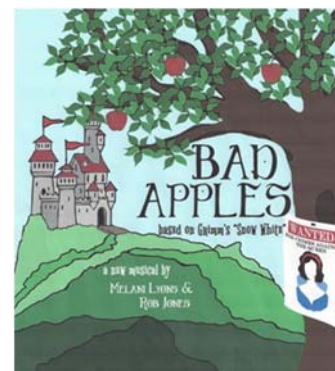
**March 10-March 20:** Actors must be available for Mandatory Rehearsals.

**March 20:** All-school preview assembly. Mandatory dress rehearsal at Shorecrest Theater held after school.

**March 21:** This is a non-student/ staff work day at school. Drama Club has special permission to use the cafeteria & stage for an all-day practice and work party.

**March 21-22:** Show time!

Boomerang notices to be distributed **December 18**. Please contact Susan Duthweiler – [sduthweiler@gmail.com](mailto:sduthweiler@gmail.com) if you have questions.



## DiscoverGiving Goes to Stanford!

Meridian Park mom (and part-time Roots of Empathy instructor) Karli Larson facilitated the pilot lesson for DiscoverGiving, a hands-on classroom philanthropy project, in Mr. Reiman's 4<sup>th</sup>-grade classroom last spring. DiscoverGiving is a new education program from a Shoreline-based nonprofit called TisBest Philanthropy.

Karli was invited to speak about DiscoverGiving at the Compassion and Technology Conference at Stanford University on December 6. Mr. Reiman's classroom was featured in her speech. Take a peek at the video of Mr. Reiman's class (filmed right here at Meridian Park!) at [www.TisBest.org/DiscoverGiving](http://www.TisBest.org/DiscoverGiving), and be sure to join us at the PTSA meeting in January to hear more about this exciting program.

## Peer Modes for Early Childhood Special Education

The Early Childhood Special Education Program at Meridian Park in the 100 wing is now enrolling peer models ages 3 1/2-5 years old. This rich learning environment is a great way for children to learn about individual differences and build leadership skills. Small staff to student ratio taught by Shoreline certificated teachers. Students can enroll in AM (9:10-11:40) or PM (1:00-3:30) classes for 2-4 days a week Tuesdays-Fridays. Please call 393-4250 for a tour or to learn more about the program.

## FACTS ABOUT THE FEBRUARY 2014 LEVY PROPOSITIONS



Ballots will be mailed Jan. 22  
Please remember to vote by Feb. 11  
To register to vote, visit [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections)

### PROPOSITION 1: Replacement of an Expiring Levy for Educational Programs, Maintenance and Operations

Replaces the current four-year levy which will expire in 2014, and provides the District with approximately 26 percent of its General Fund operating revenue. The levy funds basic education programs not fully supported by state and federal funding, including:

- Special education programs, highly capable programs, remedial programs and vocational education programs
- Nurses, family advocates, librarians and instructional materials
- Maintenance of current class sizes

The levy also supports extra-curricular student activities, including music, drama and athletics.

### PROPOSITION 2: Replacement of an Expiring Capital Levy for Technology Improvements and Support

Replaces the current four-year levy that expires in 2014. These funds would be used to meet the District's ongoing technology needs, including:

- Student Computers and Technology Access: Upgrade equipment used for online learning in K-8 and expand use of digital curriculum and online assessments K-12
- Software/Online Resources: Online curriculum products (all subjects), streaming video, research databases, teacher website platform, help desk service
- Staffing and Training: Instructional technology specialists to support effective classroom integration, classes and training sessions for all staff, online support resources.

The proposed levy amounts are unchanged from the expiring 2010 Capital Levy for Technology Improvements and Support.

## Property Tax Information

The District projects that average tax bills will remain stable at current levels over the four years of these measures. The District may collect only up to the amount approved by voters regardless of assessed valuation changes. Senior citizens or disabled persons may qualify for tax exemptions. Contact the King County Assessor's Office for information, 206.296.3920.

### Proposition 1: Replacement of Expiring Educational Programs, Maintenance and Operations Levy

Year	Levy amount	Estimated Rate*
2015	\$24.4 million	\$2.90
2016	\$24.5 million	\$2.85
2017	\$25.6 million	\$2.92
2018	\$26 million	\$2.91

### Proposition 2: Replacement of Expiring Capital Levy for Technology Improvements and Support

Year	Levy Amount	Estimated Rate*
2015	\$3 million	\$0.36
2016	\$3 million	\$0.35
2017	\$3 million	\$0.34
2018	\$3 million	\$0.34

\*Rates are estimated per \$1,000 of assessed property value

## Information Forums

Jan. 14: Shorecrest HS theater, 7:30 p.m.  
Jan. 15: Shorewood HS theater, 7:30 p.m.  
Visit [shorelineschools.org](http://shorelineschools.org) or call the Public Information Office, 206-393-4412

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# Cheetah Notes

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## Notes from the Music Room

Musicians at Meridian Park sang patriotic songs and songs of peace for the Veteran's Day Program in November. Several classes were involved in presenting the program through readings and playing instruments, and everyone sang.

Friday December 20 at 9:30 a.m. is the winter sing-along. What a gift our school will receive: a performance from our 6<sup>th</sup> (and Ms. Peterson's 5<sup>th</sup>) grade students! We will wrap up the assembly with everyone singing fun songs together!

Have you noticed the beautiful lights decorating our community? As you take in the sights, consider taking in the sounds as well. Attend a choir or orchestra concert, ballet, performance of the Christmas Ship, or listen to music together at home. There are also many children's choirs in the area that do fantastic and kid-friendly concerts of excellent music. Enjoy doing some musical "decorating" by singing as a family. Consider participating in a sing-along of winter songs or Handel's Messiah, or sing at a nearby care facility or hospital to brighten up the lives of others! Come back ready to share your musical stories in January 2014!

Check out this wonderful opportunity: Seattle Family Dance teaches folk dancing to children and families! There is live music, and no experience is necessary. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, 3 - 5 p.m. at the Phinney Neighborhood Center Community Room, 6532 Phinney Avenue North (red brick building, lower parking lot). \$6 per person, \$18 per family. Dates: January 19, February 16, March 16, April 20, and NW Folk-Life Festival. More info: <http://www.seattledance.org/family>

Important Dates:

**Winter Sing Along Friday Dec. 20**

6<sup>th</sup> grade performs and everyone sings!

**Meridian Park Arts Festival May 29, 2014**

2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade concert, 6:45 p.m.

**For 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Only:**

(See separate flier sent in Boomerangs on Nov. 27 for details.)

Mrs. Anderson and the Meridian Park Singing Cheetahs

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## Shoreline Music Festival Dates

**West Side Band Festival Monday, February 3**

Shorewood High School Gym, 7:30 - 9:00 pm

**District Orchestra Festival Tuesday, February 4**

Spartan Gym, 7:30 - 9:00 pm



**West Side Choral and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir Festival**

Thursday March 6

Shorewood High School Gym, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Rehearsals

Einstein Cafeteria, 7:00-8:00 pm

Thursday, Feb. 13

Tuesday, Feb. 25

Thursday, Feb. 27

Monday, March 3

Dress Rehearsal

Shorewood Gym, 7:00-8:30 pm

Tuesday, March 4

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## Notes from the Library

Greetings MP families,

I have some exciting news! Beginning in January 2014, students will be able to place electronic holds on Meridian Park Library books. Students have been asking for this feature for a long time, so we're going to dive in and give it a try. More details will be available on the library website when we return from winter vacation. Stay tuned! And in case you didn't know... students and families can access the Meridian Park Library online catalog from home. From the Meridian Park home page (<http://schools.shorelineschools.org/meridianpark/>), click **Family Resources** and scroll to find the link.

I would like to thank the MP PTSA for funding my grant for a subscription to BrainPop and BrainPop Jr. BrainPop is fantastic website with engaging lessons, activities, and videos related to all school subjects. I will use BrainPop to enhance my instruction in the library, especially in the areas of research and Internet safety. Students will be able to access my subscription on two iMacs in the library so that they can get more information and practice in the areas of reading, math, social studies, and science.

I hope that everyone has a peaceful and joyous Holiday Season.

Sincerely,  
Jenny Hillger

## PTSA Fall Fundraiser

Not enough thank-you's can be given for the support of the PTSA's fall fundraiser. Whether it be by an order or straight donation, it's valuable financial support that help your PTSA provide fun activities for the entire school, such as the back to school BBQ and the fall festival. It also enables the PTSA to provide more specialized support such as staff grants, specific field trip aid, Reflections, and the talent show.

Even though the orders have been taken and distributed, online sales can happen throughout the year. Need a birthday or holiday gift? Magazines, wrap, and gifts can be ordered online all year and the PTSA will continue to receive a percentage of the sales.

Visit [www.gaschoolstore.com](http://www.gaschoolstore.com) and enter the Meridian Park PTSA ID# 968404. Need some help placing an order or have a question with the order you have received? Great American has wonderful customer service [1-800-251-1542](tel:1-800-251-1542).

Thanks again!

## New MP PTSA Website!

At the Meridian Park PTSA website you will find:

- \* Membership information
- \* Meeting minutes
- \* Standing rules and budget documents
- \* Helpful forms
- \* Contact information
- \* Cheetah Chatter newsletters and steps to take when you have news to share
- \* PTSA sponsored classes
- \* Upcoming events
- \* Photos from past events
- \* Fundraiser updates
- \* and more...

Update your bookmarks! The Meridian Park PTSA website is now found at <http://mpptsa.org>.

## Box Tops for School

Please send in those Box Tops you've been saving! Box Tops are an easy way to bring in money and help support many of the PTSA's events for our kids throughout the year.

Did you know eBox Tops are becoming more popular? By linking Meridian Park Elementary to your Safeway Card, Albertson's Card, or Target Red Card, money gets sent to our school automatically. Check it out at [www.BTFE.com](http://www.BTFE.com).

Remember, Box Tops have expiration dates, so continue to send them in all year! Thanks for your support.



## PTSA President's Letter

Happy Holidays from the Meridian Park PTSA!

Last night, my son Nick and I had the opportunity to volunteer at The Works weekly clothing distribution night. While the heat was not working in the portable (Brrr!), the camaraderie and laughter more than made up for the lack of warm air. I hope that each Meridian Park family will take a few hours this holiday season to perform an act of community service together.

The Holiday Baskets, Toys and Teen Gifts distribution day is Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. We hope that you and your family will be able to join us for a Meridian Park Morning of Service from 9-11 a.m. at Kellogg Middle School to help load up the boxes with donated food. See elsewhere in this issue for additional details.

You have the Meridian Park Talent Show on your calendar, right?! Please join us on Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Shorecrest Theater for an evening of amazing talent!

A date has been set for the Shoreline Classic Car Show! The 2014 event will be Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup> in the school parking lot. Be sure to save the date and look for more information this spring on opportunities to volunteer at this important fundraiser for the PTSA.

The next General Membership Meeting will be Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Library. Agenda topics include naming the members of the nominating committee and discussion of the Shoreline Bond Levy. This is a time change from earlier announcements as we will be starting 30 minutes earlier to accommodate the Drama Club (another great PTSA event!) parent meeting that will be happening at 7:30 p.m. that same evening.

I'm excited to announce that Karli Larson of TisBest Philanthropy (and a Meridian Park parent) will be giving a presentation called DiscoverGiving at the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting on generosity and happiness and how we can help our children be generous in their day-to-day lives. We invite everyone to join us. As a reminder, free childcare is available at all of our monthly meetings, courtesy of the YMCA.

Lastly, some exciting PTSA technology news! Check out our newly redesigned website at [www.mpptsa.org](http://www.mpptsa.org)! Many thanks go out to Frank Kleyn and the Communications Committee for their hard work on putting together the new site. We have also created new dedicated email addresses for the PTSA officers and committee chairs.

*~Kim Ositis*  
2013–2014 MP PTSA President  
[mpptsapresident@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsapresident@gmail.com)



# Resources for Families

information on these resources is offered as a service to families—these are not always MP or MP PTSA events or workshops

## Special Needs PTSA

*Fostering communication and collaboration among parents, students, teachers, schools and the community to support students with special needs.*

To learn more and to stay informed of future events and notifications please **LIKE** our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/ShorelineSpecialNeedsPTA>. Online membership sign-ups are now available! Visit our new website [www.shorelinespecialneedspta.com](http://www.shorelinespecialneedspta.com).

Memberships are \$12 for an individual and \$10 for each additional household member. Forms are available at general membership meetings. Donations are always welcome.

Future general meeting dates: February 6th, 2014; April 17th, 2014; June 3rd, 2014

Questions? email [info@shorelinespecialneedspta.com](mailto:info@shorelinespecialneedspta.com)

## Kid's University

Looking for a before- and after-school enrichment club for your K-6th grade student? The YMCA offers great programs such as mythology, Zumba for kids, swimming, and archery.

We serve Echo Lake, Brookside, Syre, Ridgecrest, Briarcrest, Parkwood, Meridian Park, and Cascade K-8. Transportation to/from school provided. Contact Kari Schmauch for more information [kschmauch@seattleyymca.org](mailto:kschmauch@seattleyymca.org) or [206-569-7023](tel:206-569-7023)



## Holiday Golf and Tennis Camp at TSP

Registration begins December 1 for the 8-week Winter Session (January 8 - March 2) at Tennis Center Sand Point. There are classes for all ages - from Junior to Adult. Check out the schedule at [www.tenniscentersandpoint.com](http://www.tenniscentersandpoint.com).

Eager for the kids to play tennis and golf indoors during the winter break? Tennis Center Sand Point and TGA are joining forces over the holidays to give your child a unique opportunity to learn and improve their golf and tennis skills. TGA will provide golf instruction while the TCSP staff will run the tennis side. The camps, for kids 5 - 10, run December 26 & 27 and January 2 & 3. Each day will include a morning session (9 a.m. – noon) and an afternoon session (1- 4 p.m.). Campers can sign up for individual sessions or for all four. Golfers who would like to move up a level in TGA's five-level program can sign up for four sessions and will have an opportunity to take their level exam at the end of the class. Registration is available online at [www.tenniscentersandpoint.com](http://www.tenniscentersandpoint.com).

Questions? Contact Lisa Moholt at [206-522-5008](tel:206-522-5008) or [li-sa@tenniscentersandpoint.com](mailto:li-sa@tenniscentersandpoint.com).

## Mark your calendars for 2014!

Winter break: December 23, 2013–January 3, 2014

No School: January 20, 2014

Early Release: January 21–24, 2014

No School: January 20, 2014

Mid-Winter break: February 17–21, 2014

Spring break: April 21–25, 2014

*The Cheetah Chatter is Published Monthly by*

Meridian Park School and the Meridian Park PTSA

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Meridian Park Elementary

[schools.shorelineschools.org/  
meridianpark/](http://schools.shorelineschools.org/meridianpark/)

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Visit our Web sites for  
complete and up-to-date  
calendar information:

[www.mpptsa.org](http://www.mpptsa.org)

[schools.shorelineschools.org/  
meridianpark/](http://schools.shorelineschools.org/meridianpark/)

Follow the MP PTSA  
on Facebook



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