



Cheetah Chatter

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Fall Festival Thank You

This year's Fall Festival was a huge success! We would like to thank all of the Meridian Park families, community members, and organizations who helped make this event so special. In Meridian Park Around the World, thank you to these MP parents and their families: Almnesh Shenkute, Mike Nouwens, Alicia Toomey, Janet Pajimula, Payal Palta, Kim Ositis, Khalid Khan, and Xiaoping Wu.



Danke to the Dale Turner YMCA and the NW Junior Pipe Band for hosting tables and helping to promote

community. Gracias to the fabulous musical and dance performers: Shoreline Parks and Recreation Irish dancers, Azahar Flamenco dancers, Northwest Junior Pipe Band and Highland Dancers, Sonja Pourras Academy dancers and El Cajon Project. All of these

groups took us on a journey to another culture and we won't forget it!

Merci to the MP families and local businesses who donated various items to this event: Doerksen family, Chalcraft family, Kaplan family, Spin Alley, Safeway, Moonpapertent, and Starbucks.



Xie xie to the volunteers. Without you, we could not have had this event: Krista Keller, Susan Duthweiler, Jenny Hillger, Janina Pacunski, Tracey Poole, Jon Boetes, Callie Steward, Mel Williamson, John Williamson, Anisa Thompson, Jean Phelan, Mary Crandell, Tamara Plandel, Mike Adams, Diane Randall, Jill Gwazdauskas, Erin Adams, Gina Evanson-Boetes, Aimee Mainwaring, Jim Lakey, Gary Hobart, Tae-Min Hong, Lily Torres, Holly Cheung, and Hannah Cheung. We apologize if we missed anyone.

More photographs on Page 3

Food Drive

The food drive this year will take place from Dec 3-13. Meridian Park is collecting dried beans (kidney beans, lentils, blends) as our staple. You can drop off your contributions starting December 3rd in your child's classroom or in the front lobby.

Volunteers are needed to deliver food to Kellogg on December 13 after school and on December 14 to pass out food to families. If you can help, please contact Tracey Poole @ Tlp07@stevepoole.com

Drama Club Announcement

Our 4th-6th grade musical is (drum roll, please) "Bad Apples," based on Grimm's Snow White. This is a new musical by Melani Lyons and Rob Jones, both of Dandydlyon Drama. Registration will begin in late December. More detailed dates and information will be posted in next month's Cheetah Chatter.

Sixth Graders

Teacher Appreciation Cookie Exchange!

If you have a sixth grader, please reserve the morning of December 18th for our annual cookie exchange! This will be the first of four events to show our appreciation for our teachers. Each event is hosted by a different grade. In December, we'll be asking the sixth graders to bring in one or two dozen cookies to share with the teachers. Our hope is to send all teachers home with a plate of goodies! If you'd like to help with this event or ones like it, please email Laura Hungerford at hungerfordfamily@gmail.com.

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November 13, 2013

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Upcoming Events

November 22

Fall Fundraiser Delivery

November 27

Last day of the Trimester
Early release, all grades

November 28-29

No school (Thanksgiving break)

December 2

No school (Non-student work day)

December 3

Food Drive Begins

December 7

10:00 - 2:00pm
Landscaping Party

December 16

Progress Reports go home

December 17 and 19

Talent Show tryouts after school

December 18

6th grade teacher appreciation
cookie exchange

December 20

Winter Sing Along

December 23, 2013 -

January 3, 2014

Winter break

January 7

7pm Meridian Park Cafeteria
PTSA General Membership Mtg

Meridian Park News

Principal's Letter

Dear Families:

The colors and weather of fall are here! Your students are doing great work, and I appreciate the thoughtful work of our staff to help each student learn and grow. Students will finish up this trimester ending November 27, and progress reports will be sent home on December 16.

Thank you for attending the October parent/teacher conferences. Regular communication is a priority, not just at conferences. Feel free to contact your child's teacher at any time with questions or information. When there's a question, please contact the staff member closest to the situation, and our general guideline is to return your calls or emails within 48 hours. We value regular and proactive communication.

Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled again for January 21-24. Our calendar also includes non-student days for the purpose of professional development. Our topics this year include ELL collaborative teaching model, data dialogue, reading comprehension, Lexile, school improvement plans, and more. We are committed to the best use of non-student time to grow as educators and improve our program.

The next non-student day is December 2.

We expect all students to be respectful, responsible, and safe. We appreciate your support and reinforcement of our consistent approach to positive behavior and discipline. We have a progressive discipline policy regarding negative behaviors, and our approach is to emphasize positive interactions.

We also have a zero-tolerance policy regarding bullying behaviors. As a school, we are focused on preventing bullying and teaching students how to handle hurtful situations by recognizing, refusing, and reporting. Each staff member is committed to personal and emotional safety for our entire community.

Annie Gage, our Family Advocate, provides a wide range of family and student support services, including teaming with teachers to provide lessons about respectful, responsible, and safe behavior.

Our Safety Committee meets regularly to review our safety procedures, and we recently completed an earthquake drill. We hold drills to practice for the possibilities of fire, earthquake, lockdown, and other situations. While we hope never to need our procedures, we want to be prepared. Please review your family's plans for earthquake or weather related late start, closure, or unexpected early dismissal.



Enjoy the season. Thanks to our wonderful PTSA for Reflections and the recent Fall Festival, providing a very fun and safe community activity. I invite you to have lunch with your child(ren) at any time – it's a lot of fun. *Thank you for sharing your children and family.* We are a great school community because of all of us working together.

~David Tadlock, Principal
david.tadlock@shorelineschools.org

Reloading Food Service Accounts

Now Meridian Park families can reload their students' food service accounts via credit card! Visit this link for more information: <http://www.shorelineschools.org/schools/menus>.

Fall Campaign for Kids Draws to a Close

Missed the phone call during the Seahawks game last Sunday from the Shoreline Public School Foundation's Phone-A-Thon? Go to www.shoreline.foundation to read more about how the Foundation benefits every school within the district

Health Office Donations Needed

The Health Office is in need of clothing donations--especially girl's size 7-12 long-sleeved shirts and pants as well as boy's size 7-12 long sleeve shirts.

Art Docent Program

The Art Docent Program is in need of volunteers to help lead the lessons. No prior art experience is necessary. Please contact Renee Smith at renees1710@gmail.com.

Walk-a-Thon

Meridian Park raised over \$6,000 from Walk-a-thon donations! A HUGE thank you to all our families!

Meridian Park News

Fall Festival Photographs



Free Positive Discipline Classes

Positive Discipline is based on Adlerian Theory, which believes parenting should be democratic and children should be treated respectfully. Classes are meant to teach mutual respect and encouragement while teaching important social and life skills. Practical solutions and focused techniques will be taught.

Where: Shoreline Library, 345 NE 175th St, Shoreline, WA 98155 (206) 362-7550

When: Monday, December, 2013 (and on the following Mondays: 1/6, 2/3, 3/3, 4/14, 5/5, 6/2)

Time: 10:00-11:30 a.m.

If you have questions, please email Julie Kang at Julie.Kang@shorelineschools.org or call 206-393-4217. Julie is in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Friday mornings. *Please register by December 3, 2013*

Outline for Classes:

- Beliefs behind the behaviors
- Differences between consequences and punishment
- How to get kids to respect you and themselves
- How to handle family fights/ peer conflicts
- Learning solutions to conflicts
- How to help you children be more cooperative and responsible
- Family meetings/ parenting tools
- Getting support/ Making mistakes and what to do about it

Musical Instruments Needed

Here's your chance to clean house, help your child's school AND get a tax deduction!

Every year we have families in Shoreline who need help obtaining an instrument for their child to play in the band

or orchestra at school. Your donated instrument will help many deserving Shoreline music students in the years to come.

Instruments can be left at the school office. Please enclose or attach your name and address with a brief note. Indicate whether you want a tax donation receipt.

Meridian Park News

Notes from the Health Office

Extra clothing

A huge thank you for the recently donated clothing items to be used when children need a change of clothes at school and for returning borrowed items.

Also, please consider packing a set of extra clothes in your child's backpack. There are many reasons why clothing could need changing at school (bloody nose, spilled food/drink, wet from rain, etc). We don't always have clothes that will fit.

Head Lice

I would like to address any concerns and questions you may have regarding head lice. Shoreline Schools follows a set of guidelines in dealing with cases of head lice. Copies of these guidelines are available in the health office. Please familiarize yourself with this information, as there are some changes from guidelines used before 2012. I plan to hold an information session for parents in the near future as well.

Too sick for school?

Sometimes it can be difficult making the decision about when to keep your child home for illness. You may find the following guidelines useful: If any ONE of the following symptoms are present, please keep your child home until your child is symptom free for 24 hours:

- Fever of 100 degrees or greater
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Thick mucus draining from eye or nose
- Unable to contain secretions
- Sore throat
- Rashes
- Unusual tiredness, paleness, lack of appetite or irritability

Any questions or concerns?

Notes from the Library

Greetings MP families,

Thank you for supporting the Fall Scholastic Book Fair. It was a big success! We will use our profits to purchase many new books for the MP library.

Families can now download Type to Learn IV, the online keyboarding program used by Shoreline students, onto home computers. If you would like to use Type to Learn IV at home, please use this URL: <http://ttl4.sunburst.com/downloads/>. Our account code is 150234.

You can also find information and directions on the Meridian Park website homepage under "Family Resources."

If you would like to set up a library account for yourself at MP, please stop by the library media center at your convenience. Once you've set up an account for yourself, you may check out books from our collection on a regular basis.

Jenny Hillger

Notes from the Cheetah Gym

On Tuesday October 29th, the Running Club met at Hamlin Park for the district-wide fun run. With an astounding turn out of about 300 students total, our 49 participants from Meridian Park shone in the ½ mile and 1 mile runs. Every runner ended the race with their personal best mile time showing off their improvement in their cardiorespiratory and muscular endurance. Great job Cheetahs!



In PE, students learned a dance inspired by "Thriller."



PTA Reflections Arts Competition

Congratulations to all the students who entered art pieces in the PTA Reflections art competition! We are so proud of all of them.

Entrants:

Hayley Berkman	Thea Jacobsen	L. Wren Norris
Aiden Boyd	Karina Jhingan	Oliver Reiman
Cecily Bush	Fred Liu	Kali Stroshane
May Choi	Elma Lu	Emmie Wang
Melissa DeGrazia	Ameena Majeed	Andrew Yao
Maryam Goudarzi	Imran Majeed	
Zahra Goudarzi	Danait Mehari	

PTSA Fall Fundraiser

A big thank you to all our fall fundraiser participants and donors! Our planned delivery date is Friday, November 22nd. There are some BIG ORDERS! If you feel your child needs help carrying boxes home or is a bus rider, please plan on picking them up the afternoon of the 22nd. We will have everything in the front lobby and will issue boxes from there.

The cookie dough arrives frozen, and will survive the ride home to your freezer. But again, more than one tub may be a challenge to carry home or on the bus. The cookie dough MUST go home on the 22nd. If you are unable to pick up your child and their orders, other arrangements can be made, but we need to know ahead of time. Please contact Krista Keller at krista_keller@comcast.net.

If you turned in your order form after the October 30th cut-off date, your order may not be here on the 22nd. You are more than welcome to check, but if not, you will be contacted when the delivery arrives.

Questions? Please feel free to contact Krista Keller at krista_keller@comcast.net.

2014 School Levies

The Shoreline School Board has unanimously approved placing two replacement levies for voter approval on the Feb. 11, 2014 special election ballot. The District projects that these replacement levies will allow for continued stability of school tax collections for the next four years. For the details on the 2014 proposed levies, visit <http://www.shorelineschools.org/news/release.php?releasesid=1531>

PTSA President's Letter

Hello from the PTSA!

The PTSA relies on the work of our many volunteers so I have a round of thank-you messages to send along. Many thanks to Frank Kleyn for stepping up as the new webmaster. Frank will be taking over from Mary Crandall, who has been doing a great job of taking care of the PTSA website. A huge thanks, too, to Jill Steinberg and Dana Doerksen, and to all the volunteers for all the hard work on the Fall Festival on Friday, October 18th. Lastly, my thanks go out to everyone who donated treats for the staff breakfast during the recent in-service. It was much appreciated by everyone in attendance and a great way to start a day of collaboration and learning.

Now for some news about upcoming events: Be on the lookout for information about the Talent Show. Try-outs will be December 17th and 19th after school and the Talent Show performance will be Friday, January 17th at Shorecrest.

We would like to form a committee to help coordinate next year's Car Show. If you are interested, please contact Dana Doerksen, VP of Events, at gasbarri@comcast.net.

The next General Membership Meeting will be Tuesday, January 7th at 7 p.m. in the Meridian Park cafeteria. One of the PTSA's goals for this year is to have three formal general membership meetings with educational programming. I'm excited to announce that Karli Larson will be giving a presentation at the January 7th 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. Free childcare is available at all of our monthly meetings, courtesy of the YMCA.

~Kim Ositis

2013–2014 MP PTSA President

kaositis@gmail.com

Box Tops for School

Thank you to everyone for sending in your box tops. We will be receiving over \$300 in our first round of submissions. Keep sending them in!

Because many box tops will be expiring by the end of 2013, our next mail-in date will be December 30th.

Remember, box tops help the PTSA support staff grants, classroom grants, teacher appreciation, and much more. So thanks for your contribution!



Thanks for your support.

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

North King County Health Insurance

Are you one of the more than 12,000 adults ages 18-64 in North King County without health insurance? Do you need help enrolling in Washington Healthplanfinder for health insurance coverage beginning on January 1, 2014? If so, attend one of the events listed below. Enrollment continues through March 31, 2014. More information: www.kingcounty.gov/coverage

Certified customer-service experts will be available at each event to provide individual help. In order to enroll, you will need to know your birth date, social security number, and income. Legal immigrants will need to supply a passport, alien, or other immigration numbers.

Kenmore Library

6531 NE 181st St., Kenmore, WA 98028

December 7 and January 4 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm

Richmond Beach Library

19601 21st Ave NW, Shoreline WA 98177

November 21 and 30 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm

December 12 and 21 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm

Shoreline Library

342 NE 175th St, Shoreline, WA 98155

December 8 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm

Homework Factory

Do you want your child to get help in understanding and completing their homework in a fun and safe environment? Register them for Turning Point's free afterschool program: Homework Factory! Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15-5 p.m. Snacks and creative learning activities are provided in addition to homework support. A shuttle is available upon dismissal to the after-school site, located at Vineyard Community Church/Trinity Presbyterian. Pick up at 5 p.m.: 1315 N 160th St, Shoreline, WA 98133. Registration forms are available at www.turningpointseattle.org or stop by our office!

Highly Capable Program Testing

Registration for Highly Capable (HiCap) program testing is now available at the [HiCap Web site](http://www.hicap.org) through December 18, 2013. Currently, registration is open for grades 2-5, and families of first graders will receive information about registration near the end of November.

Students in grades 1-5 who are enrolled in Shoreline but are not currently being served by the program and Shoreline private school students have the opportunity to be tested on February 1 & 8, 2014.

You can register online at www.shorelineschools.org (click **Programs** and then **Highly Capable**). Only those students who have registered will be tested. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Crandell in the Highly Capable Program office at mary.crandell@shorelineschools.org or **206-393-4771**.

Early Childhood Program

The Special Education Early Childhood Program at Meridian Park in the 100 wing is now enrolling peer models ages 3 1/2-5 years old. The program is for students who qualify for special education placement. 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 a.m. (9:10-11:40) or p.m. (1:00-3:30) classes for 2-4 days a week Tuesdays-Fridays. Please call 393-4250 for more information and a tour.

Mark your calendars for 2014!

Winter break: December 23, 2013–January 3, 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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Annie Gage, Family Advocate

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

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

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on Facebook



2013-14 MP PTSA
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