

Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA

SKATING PARTY - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 FROM 6:00-8:00 PM

Join us for a MP skating party at Lynnwood Bowl & Skate, 6210 200th St. SW, Lynnwood. Admission is \$6.50 which includes quad skate rental. Pay an additional \$3.00 for in-line skates. Parents are encouraged to participate. No drop-offs allowed. Feel free to bring your helmet! Hope to see you there!

PRE-ORDER YOUR MP YEARBOOK!

Look for the yearbook order form coming home with your student this week! Pre-order a full-color, student-made yearbook for only \$17! Order by March 27th.

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to those of you who sent in food for the teacher's taco dinner during parent/teacher conferences. Over forty families contributed and it resulted in what the teachers claim was one of the best appreciation events to date! Thank you!

DROP OFF/PICKUP REMINDER

It's just like the airport! Please:

- * Park and use the crosswalk in front of the school; or pull as far forward as possible at the curb
- * Stay with your car at the curb until the kids are safely buckled
- * Pull out carefully and make space for other vehicles

SAFETY REMINDER: STUDENTS WALKING TO/ FROM SCHOOL

Please help keep walkers safe. Students should cross streets only at intersections and only with adult supervision. While we allow grades 5/6 to walk alone, we prefer adults walk with kids, and we require adults to walk with students grades K-4. Thanks for helping us keep kids safe.

PAY FOR LUNCH ONLINE!

Did you know that you can pay for your child's food service account online? Visit <https://touchbase.shorelineschools.org/> to make a payment. If you complete a payment by 5:50 am, the funds are ready for your child to use by 6:30 am – ready for that day's breakfast or lunch! There is no fee for this service.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Announcements	1
Principal's Letter	2
Meridian Park News	3
Appreciation Pages.....	4
Cheetah Notes	6
PTSA President's Letter	8
District News.....	9
Resources for Families	10

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 3
West Side Band Festival

February 9
Meridian Park Cafeteria
Author Assembly

February 9
7:00–8:00 pm
Meridian Park Library
2015 MP Car Show Planning Meeting

February 10
District Orchestra Festival

February 11
6:00–8:00pm
Lynnwood Bowl & Skate
MP Skating Party

February 16-20
Mid Winter Break
No School

February 27 and 28
7:00 pm
Shorewood H.S.
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

March 3
7:00 – 8:30 pm
MP Library
PTSA Meeting

March 5
West Side Choral Festival

March 23
Non-Student Workday
No School

Principal's Letter

Dear Families,

Thank you again for the many kind and supportive words you have shared recently. All we have heard reminds us of how strong we are together as a school community.

Safety is our #1 priority, and we continue to review and refine our safety practices. You can help by making sure that we have your most current phone numbers and emergency contact names/numbers on file at school. You can also help by having a family safety plan and reminding your child(ren) that the adults in their lives are always working together to keep them safe. Supportive, reassuring words always help reduce anxiety as we continue to plan for the unexpected.

Thank you for attending recent conferences. We are at mid-point for the year and second trimester, and we appreciate our partnership to help each student be safe, happy, and learning. As for ongoing classroom communication, you should be hearing from your teacher about classroom learning and curriculum at least once monthly through a class newsletter, website update, or both. While scheduled conferences for this year are complete, we are always available to visit email, phone, or in person. Progress reports will be sent home April 7.

Shoreline Schools and MP are involved in the Roots of Empathy program. The purpose is to 'raise levels of empathy, resulting in more respectful and caring relationships and reduced levels of bullying and aggression.' This is part of our ongoing efforts to be proactive in teaching positive behaviors and prevent bullying/harassment. Thank you to our Roots Facilitators and PTA for funding support for Roots of Empathy. You



can learn more at www.rootsofempathy.org.

We are also learning about recent research involving the brain, growth mindset, and helping students develop habits of mind, work, and heart. Your students' class takes regular 3-5 minute 'brain breaks' to stimulate brain power and activity. As a school, we engage in all school lessons related to growth and persistence. Please see the info provided at conferences and included with this newsletter.

Congratulations to our Global Reading Challenge Teams! We encourage families to read together daily. March 2 is Dr. Seuss's birthday, and we invite your participation in classroom activities to celebrate reading. Celebrate as a family with a "reading party" and reading at home. The week of March 2 is a great week to limit screen time and read more instead!

As parents of busy teenagers, my wife and I know that raising a family is one of our greatest joys and greatest challenges. Thank YOU for the great work you're doing at home raising great kids. Meridian Park is a wonderful school because of all of us working together. Great things are happening all around our school, and your support helps us focus on learning, playing, and growing. On behalf of the entire staff of Meridian Park Elementary, thank you for our partnership. We are proud to be part of such a caring, supportive community, and grateful to you for sharing your children and family with us.

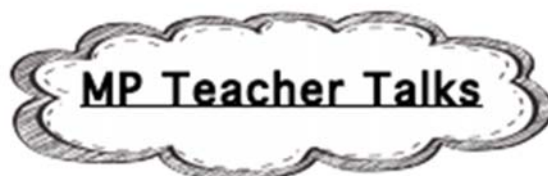
~David Tadlock, Principal

david.tadlock@shorelineschools.org

*No School February
16th through 20th
for Mid-Winter
Break*

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.


Meridian Park News



A parent resource guide for connecting to current professional learning at Meridian Park Elementary.

Growth Mindset

Growing strong habits of mind, work, and heart.

 **What is a growth mindset?** It's the belief that we can develop and grow our abilities and talents through effort, hard work, dedication, and persistence. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment.

 **How can parents and teachers help?**

- Recognize talent and growth by:
 - Acknowledge existence of a specific ability and credit its development to hard work
 - Example" "You did well on your math test because you learned how to add large numbers."
 - Be a role model:
 - Share about your own experience and satisfaction with hard work and persistence (include setbacks and obstacles)
 - Share accomplishments at your job now, especially linked to effort
 - Avoid "est" words (best, greatest, fastest, etc.)
 - Reinforce idea that when we excel, there's still room for growth
- (Info from: *Tips for Parents: Promoting Achievement through a Growth Mindset* by Siegle, D.)

Resources

- Books:
 - Mindset, Carol Dweck, Stanford
 - Brain Rules, John Medina, UW
- Online:
 - TED Talk - mindset and success:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pN34FNbOKXc>
 - <http://www.mindsetworks.com>
 - <http://mindsetonline.com>

MP/2015

Appreciation Pages



Congrats to Megan Jones on Baby Jones scheduled to arrive soon, and welcome Hailey Allais who will replace Mrs. Jones in Room 413!

Welcome Amy Pierce, grade 3 support teacher on Wednesdays .



We appreciate family flexibility for staff collaboration on non-student days, such as January 26th.



Appreciation Pages



Cheetah Cheers Positive Behavior Program – thank you, parent volunteers !



Thanks to our Power of One Senior volunteers !

Cheetah Notes

A NOTE FROM THE LIBRARY

Greetings MP Families,

We have local author Kim Baker visiting Meridian Park on Monday, February 9th. Ms. Baker, author of the middle grades book, [Pickle](#), will give presentations to second through sixth grade classes in the library throughout the day. The schedule is below. If you have time and would like to participate in one of the presentations, feel free to join us.

Author Assemblies on February 9th	
9:30 – 10:15	Fifth Grade, including 4/5
10:30 – 11:15	Sixth Grade
12:20 – 1:05	Second Grade, including 1/2
1:15 – 2:00	Third Grade, including 2/3
2:05 – 2:50	Fourth Grade

Pickle: What new kid at school hasn't dreamed about making friends, being part of a club, and even perhaps playing a prank and not getting caught? Sixth-grader Ben Diaz wants to expand his circle of friends, and he thinks starting the year with a prank is a good way to do it. However, he is not going to include Hector in the prank. Why not? It just so happens that Hector's grandmother is the principal of their middle school (and she has no sense of humor). After succeeding with his initial prank, Ben decides to form a school club, the League of Pickle Makers, to use as a guise for their pranks. As the pranks escalate, readers will know that the culprits will eventually get caught. Even though this is a fast-paced, humorous story, it tackles the true meanings of friendship. (Review from [Booklist](#).)

I'm also excited to let you know that my Shoreline elementary librarian colleagues and I received an extremely generous \$13,500 grant from the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation to purchase nonfiction books to help students reach Common Core State Standards. Each elementary school will receive approximately \$1500 to spend on a variety of high quality and high interest nonfiction books for kindergarten through sixth grade students. I cannot wait to purchase new books with these funds.



I am sending an enormous "Thank You" to the Foundation for their generosity.

Fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students have until the third week in March to read at least three Sasquatch- and Young Readers Choice-nominated books and complete the related activities (Reading Counts quizzes, ratings and recommendations) in order to participate in the voting party.

Because time flies and it's never too early to volunteer...

The spring Scholastic Book Fair will run the week prior to Spring Break, April 13th – 17th, in the library. If you would like to volunteer before, during, or after school to help with cash register sales, please let me know at jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org.

Happy Reading,

~Jenny Hillger, Library Media Specialist

Cheetah Notes

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Meridian Park School honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, and Dr. Maya Angelou at our assembly on January 16. Mr. Tadlock and the Student Council Officers helped lead the assembly. Aidan Boyd drew a portrait of Dr. King, and Ellie Larson spoke to students about Dr. King and his work for equal rights. We all sang songs of freedom and justice. 4th grade students performed Mr. Reiman's original song, "Believe (We Are the Future)" and Ms. Peterson's class did a choral reading about Dr. King. Ms. Steele and Ms. Smolen's class did interpretive music and movement to a poem by Dr. Angelou, read by Megan Peery and Larson Buchholz. Student Council coordinated a display of our students' connected hands, symbolizing diversity through size and color, and the hands mentioned positive personal qualities of fairness and kindness that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. envisioned for his own, and for all children. Thank you to all students and staff who gave leadership at our program honoring Dr. King and Dr. Angelou.

Most of our 6th grade students will be participating in the Shoreline School District's Music Festivals, listed in the adjacent side bar. Specific dates and times for Honor Choir Rehearsals and the Honor Choir Concert are on Ms. Anderson's teacher website in documents, or students can pick up a paper copy of the schedule.

Happy February and Happy Valentine's Day,

~Mrs. Anderson and The Meridian Park Singing Cheetahs!



6th Grade Events

West Side Band Festival
Tuesday February 3.

District Orchestra Festival
Tuesday February 10.

West Side Choral Festival
Thursday March 5.

Meridian Park Arts Festival

May 28, 2015. 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th grade concert, 6:45 p.m. All 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will perform at this concert. Please put this on your family calendar today!

5th Grade Field Trip

The Seattle Symphony,
Tuesday, May 12 (includes
Ms. Parks' 4th grade).

Assembly

Peter and the Wolf
Wednesday May 20, 2015.



PTSA President's Letter

Hello from the Meridian Park PTSA!

The Variety Show on January 9th provided a much-needed community gathering after a difficult week. Thank you to all the talented students, amazing volunteers and appreciative audience members! A huge thank you to coordinators Holly DeGrazia and Vicky Hoag and all the adult and student volunteers!

The Variety Show marked an important milestone as the first Meridian Park event to be held in the new Shorewood Theater. We look forward to using this great performance space for many years to come.

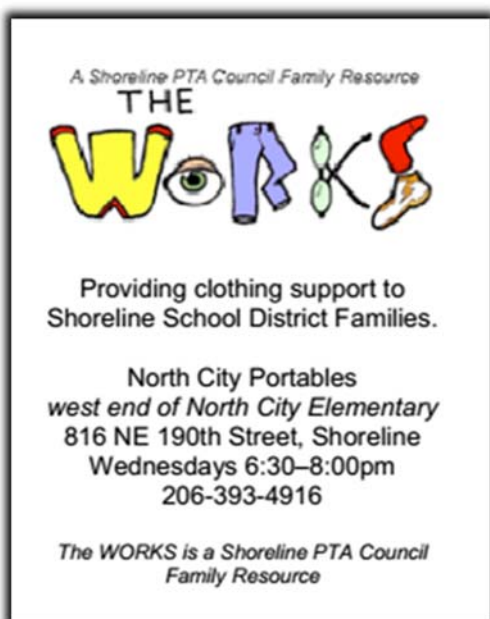
Speaking of Shorewood, the next MP event being held there is coming up soon! The 4th – 6th grade Drama Club presents "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" on Friday, February 27th and Saturday, February 28th at 7:00 pm. Tickets are on sale now!

Our special guest for the January 6th General Membership meeting was Jessica Finger, the Director of Food and Nutrition Services for Shoreline Schools. Jessica brought along some yummy homemade muffins and gave an informative presentation on the behind-the-scenes work that goes into providing breakfast and lunch for thousands of students every day.

Also at the January meeting, we elected a three-member Nominating Committee to recruit candidates to run for office in 2015-2016. Open positions include Co-President, Co-Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President of Events and Vice President of Programs. If you are interested in joining the leadership team or have questions, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Dana Doerksen at gasbarri@comcast.net.

Be sure that you have the 6th Annual Shoreline Classic Car Show marked on your calendar for Sunday, July 19th! The Car Show is our major fundraiser for the year and it's also a great community event that attracts hundreds of classic cars and spectators. The kick-off Car Show planning meeting will be Monday, February 9th at 7pm in the Library. Your help is needed to continue this wonderful tradition.

The next PTSA Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, March 3rd at 7:00 pm. The regular monthly Board of Directors meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the Library. YMCA provides free childcare and all of our meetings are open to the public.



~Kim Ostitis
~ Jill Steinberg
Co-Presidents, 2014-2015
mpptsapresident@gmail.com
206-229-7948



PTSA News

MERIDIAN PARK PTSA RECEIVES AN AWARD!

MP PTSA received a Gold Medal membership award from the Washington State PTSA for having a 10% increase of the previous year's membership enrolled by January 25th.

REFLECTIONS WINNERS ADVANCE TO STATE

The PTSA is proud to announce that five of our 15 Meridian Park Reflections entries have been advanced to the state level of the Reflections program!

Aaron Lee - Intermediate/Photography - "Food Sac"

Eliana Megargee - Intermediate/Literature - "Better World"

Hayley Josephine Berkman - Intermediate/Music Composition - "Sounds Around Us: Peaceful Sunny Day, The Blue Jay's Song and Merry-Go-Round"

Melissa DeGrazia - Intermediate/Literature - "Bad to Good"

Nova A. Bray-Saunders - Primary/Dance Choreography - "The world would be a better place if we were free and we could dance."

Congratulations also to **Emmaline Helgeson** who received an Honorable Mention for her Visual Arts entry "To Make People Happy" in the Primary division.

The Reflections program is a project of the National PTA that welcomes all grades and abilities to explore and be involved in the arts. Annually, thousands of students will reflect on a common theme and create original works of art in the categories of dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts.

The world would be a better place if... was the theme for the 2014-2015 school year. Check out the Reflections display in the entry lobby!

CALLING ALL THEATER GOERS!

Dandylyon Drama and MP PTSA present a musical based on
"Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll
Book and Lyrics by Melani Lyons
Music by Rob Jones

Performances on Friday, February 27th & Saturday, February 28th
7:00 p.m.
Shorewood High School Theater

Tickets to go on sale soon!
\$7/Adults and \$5/Students

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.

MERIDIAN PARK ELEMENTARY

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

David Tadlock *Principal*

David.Tadlock@shorelineschools.org

Hillery Clark

Early Childhood Program Manager

Diane Randall *Office Manager*

Jill Gwazdauskas *Registrar*

Susan Goldman *School Nurse*

Annie Gage *Family Advocate*

2014–15 MP PTSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

www.mpptsa.org

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Follow the MP PTSA on Facebook

facebook



Meridian Park Spirit Gear

Student Council is now selling clothing and gear ONLINE!

T-shirts, sweatshirts, fleece, sweats, shorts, knit caps and more for children and adults. Check out the full selection and see the wide array of colors and styles online.


 Youth Pullover Hooded Sweatshirt
\$20.90


 Knit Beanie
\$1.90


 Youth Cotton T-shirt
\$9.90


 Youth Fleece Sweatpants
\$18.90


 Ladies Cotton V-Neck T-shirt
\$1.90


 Men's Full-Zip Fleece Jacket
\$31.90

How to order

Log on to <https://meridian.itemorder.com>
Enter the sale code **MERIDIAN**

Orders must be placed by February 8th at midnight

Questions? Contact Aissa Quezada
aissa.quezada@shorelineschools.org

Items will be delivered to school around February 23rd.





The Cheetah Chatter is Published Monthly by
Meridian Park Elementary School and the Meridian Park PTSA