



Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA



Golden Acorn and Outstanding Educator Awards

Big congratulations go to Shannon Brown and Rachel Ariss for their amazing volunteer service to our Meridian Park community, and to Jean Phelan and Matt Reiman for their outstanding gifts in our teaching community!



There are so many outstanding folks here at Meridian Park and there were lots of nominations for these awards. Thank you to all of you for your dedication and hard work on behalf of Meridian Park students.

Willy Wonka, Jr.

In March, the Meridian Park Drama Club students performed Willy Wonka Jr. Thank you to everyone who supported our show!



Issue Eight, 2012–2013
April 10, 2013

In This Issue

Principal's Message	2
School Store Open	3
MP PTSA News	6

Upcoming Events

April 8–11

Scholastic Book Fair
(8:40am–4:00pm)

April 11

Highly Capable tours
(9:20am & 1:40pm)

April 11

MP Open House & Art Docent
Fundraiser

April 12

Breakfast of CHAMPions
(7:30–8:30am)

April 12

Scholastic Book Fair
(8:40am–1:00pm)

April 16

Highly Capable "makeup" tour
(10:00am)

April 19

Emergency preparedness
assembly (9:30am)
sponsored by the American Red
Cross & Radio Disney!

April 21

Landscaping work party at
Meridian Park with the Meridian
Park Neighborhood Association
(1:00pm)

April 22–26

Spring Break

May 1

MSP testing begins
See the schedule on page 2

May 18

Embrace Shoreline Schools

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

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

Follow the MP PTSA
on Facebook

facebook

Meridian Park News

Principal's Letter

March and early April have been busy for students and staff at Meridian Park! We had some exciting school events that were well attended and fun for all involved:

- The fabulous Willy Wonka performance, involving over 30 of our intermediate students! What an incredible show!
- The fantastic fifth-grade band concert! It was a great first performance for our new band and orchestra students. We can't wait for the June concert with the sixth-graders!
- Camp Orkila for sixth-graders! The campers have finally returned back to campus from their four-day adventure on Orcas Island.

As we jump ahead to the end of the school year, April and May bring more field trips, our Meridian Park Arts Festival, a fifth- and sixth-grade band and orchestra concert, more in-depth projects at the classroom level and lots of other activities as we plan for next year (Kindergarten tours, Highly Capable Program tours and more). We will begin the process of staffing our school for next year soon, and we will also start looking at student classroom placements.

Be on the lookout for student placement "parent input" cards coming next month from our office.

Lastly, please remember that our students in grades 3–6 are gearing up for the state MSP testing in early May. Please ensure that your child does not miss school during those important testing dates. Please refer to the detailed calendar of testing dates.

We appreciate your support of your child's education. Have a wonderful April break and we will see you when you return. Happy spring to all of you!

~Amy Jessee, Principal
amy.jessee@shorelineschools.org

Volunteer Opportunity

Thank you to the parents who have already offered to help in the lunch room during MSP testing. However, we still need help!

Can you serve lunch from 11:20–11:50am, or 11:50am–12:20pm, or both? We need help during the school days from April 15–May 17.

If you can help, please contact Annie Gage (393-1768 or annie.gage@shorelineschools.org).

Important MSP Information

For 3rd–6th Grade Meridian Park Parents & Guardians

As you know, all of our students are working hard to master core skills in the area of reading, writing, and mathematical thinking. Soon, students in grades 3rd–6th will take the Measure of Student Progress (MSP) to check their progress. All 3rd–6th grade students will take reading and mathematics tests. Fourth-graders will also take two writing tests, and 5th graders will take an additional science test. The testing window for elementary schools in our school district begins right after spring break and ends on May 16 (with online testing ending on May 31). All elementary schools in Shoreline are doing online testing in math at grades 5th and 6th, in reading at 6th grade and in science at 5th grade. We are working hard to train our teachers on the online system and will also give our students lots of preparation time to practice this before the actual test dates.

At Meridian Park, we plan to test students on the following schedule:

May 1: Grade 5, Reading
May 2: Grade 4, Reading
May 7: Grade 4, Writing I
May 8: Grade 3, Math; Grade 5, Math online;
Grade 6, Reading online
May 9: Grade 4, Writing II
May 10: Grade 3, Reading
May 14: Grade 4, Math online
May 15: Grade 5, Science online; Grade 6, Math online

Please help us out by planning necessary appointments outside the testing days and times so students do not have to make up sections of the test. Making up tests is stressful for everybody and we typically have over 100 students testing on one day. Scheduling make-up test times is challenging and hard work for everyone involved. We thank you in advance for helping us to avoid as many make-ups as we can. We appreciate all you do to help your child and our school. Thank you!

If you have more questions about the MSP, there is a great deal of helpful information at The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI):
www.k12.wa.us/assessment/StateTesting/MSP/

Meridian Park News

Support MP!

We will be selling MP T-shirts, erasers, pencils, stickers, notebooks, pencil sharpeners and other amazing school supplies!

When: Monday, April 29 & Tuesday, April 30

After school from 3:40-4:10pm

Where: School library (Reference section)

Be the first to buy an Official Meridian Park T-shirt for only \$7!
Small to extra large. Children and adult sizes available.



CandyGrams Sales in March & April

5th grade parents will be selling Candy Grams on the April 18 and May 10 during lunch time. Be sure to get yours!

Mark your calendars for 2013-2014!

First day of the 2013-14 school year: September 4, 2013

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

Mid-Winter break: February 17-21, 2014

Spring break: April 21-25, 2014

Breakfast of CHAMPions!

Meridian Park's new volunteer program is up and running and lots of fun.

On April 12, from 7:30-8:30am, bring your student and enjoy breakfast treats. (Children must be accompanied by an adult.) Sign up on the CHAMPS calendar or just learn more about being a CHAMP.

Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and adult family friends are all welcome to be CHAMPS. A CHAMP volunteers for a whole day, one time during the school year, helping in classrooms, at lunch, and on the playground.

It's a perfect opportunity for working parents! Our CHAMPS have had a great time and have learned so much about how Meridian Park operates.

Congratulations to Our Wonderful Megan Woodward!

Congratulations to Megan, a 2nd and 3rd grade teacher at Meridian Park. She just got married and will be Mrs. Jones next year!



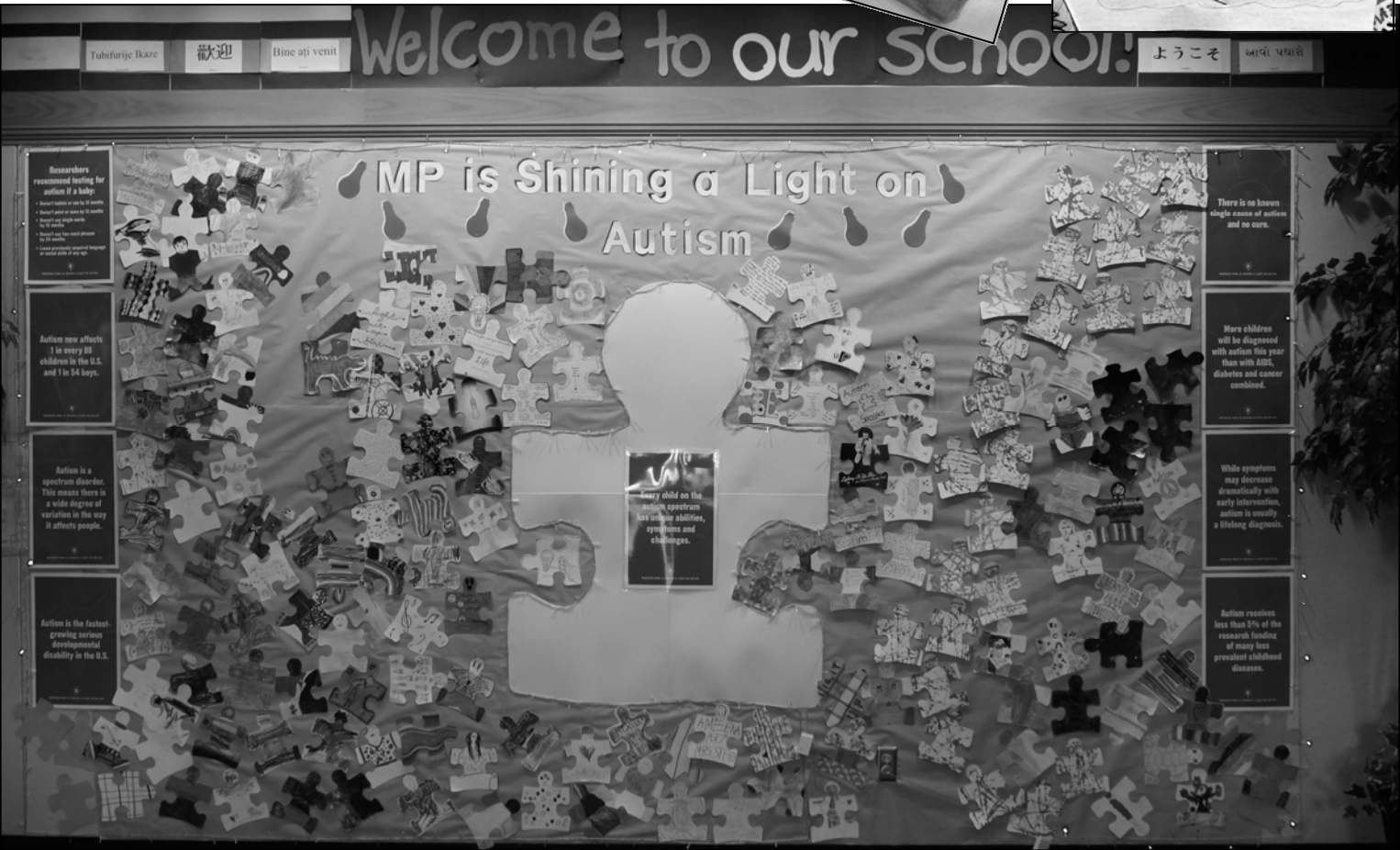


Baby Hikima smiles as she listens to her daddy sing a lullaby in Mr. Lockwood’s classroom on a Roots of Empathy day.

April is Autism Awareness Month

Help raise awareness and honor Meridian Park families affected by autism by creating a unique puzzle piece for an Autism Awareness display in the lobby. The puzzle piece is the international symbol for autism, representing the mystery and complexity of understanding the disorder and its causes. Blank puzzle pieces are available in classrooms and in the lobby.

Students can decorate the puzzle pieces any way they choose, making them as different as the many faces of autism. Decorated puzzle pieces may be returned to teachers or to the designated location in the lobby. They will be added to the display throughout the month of April.



Meridian Park & PTSA News

Celebration of Literacy

In March, Meridian Park kicked off a month-long series of events to celebrate literacy, including a school-wide Read-a-Thon, a kick-off assembly with the amazing Alex Zerbe, an author's visit with Barry Deutsch, and family reading night. These events coincided with *Read Across America Day* on March 2nd as we celebrated with this national endeavor for reading achievement!

All of the fun will lead up to our annual Open House and Scholastic Book Fair April 8–12. Remember, it's not too late to turn in your Read-a-Thon pledges. Thanks for your support.

**"The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." ~Dr. Seuss**



Matching Employee Volunteer Hours

Does your employer match dollars for volunteer hours? If so, ask your employer about donations for your time volunteering at our school! Meridian Park may be eligible for matching gifts from your employer for your volunteer time.

Thank you, 2nd & 3rd Grade Families!

The PTSA would like to thank all the 2nd and 3rd grade families who brought fruit or pastries for March's Teacher Appreciation Coffee Break.

Because of your donations, we were able to put together a beautiful assortment of coffee and refreshments for the teachers to enjoy on their breaks from teaching our children...so thank you!

Our next Teacher Appreciation Coffee Break will be held May 16 and will be sponsored by kindergarten and 4th grade families. If you'd like to help plan one of these events, please contact Laura Hungerford at 206-701-7187 or hungerfordfamily@gmail.com. New ideas are always welcome!

PTSA News

Boxtops = Money



Thank you for all your Boxtop submissions. As a result, the Meridian Park PTSA will receive another check for almost \$300. Please continue to send them in. The last submission date for this school year is June 1. Thanks for all your

support!

Yearbook Sales

Order forms for the yearbook will be in your April 10 Boomerang. Get yours for only \$17. If you miss the form in your Boomerang, pick one up in the office. Only a very limited number of extras will be available in June for purchase (\$20 then), so be sure to reserve your copy today!

April Works Drive

The WORKS Drive continues in April with shampoo and conditioner. Keeping kids in our community healthy, warm and safe is a priority for The WORKS, a Shoreline PTA Council program. It is a priority for the MP PTSA as well. Please help us support children and families needing a little boost by donating toiletries and new or gently used clothing. Collection boxes are the school lobby—let's fill those up!

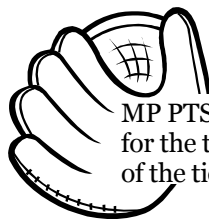
MP PTSA will be coordinating the collection of specific items over the next six months, and direct donations are always welcome at The WORKS (see page 8 for drop-off info). You can find out more about this great program by picking up a flyer in the MP lobby or visiting:
www.shorelinepta.com/PTA/The_WORKS.html.

The PTSA needs Your Help!

Several of the members of the MP PTSA executive committee have been leading the PTSA for many years. Not only do they need a break, their kids will be graduating from Meridian Park soon. This is a great time to get involved in your school.

There are many PTSA leadership opportunities that will fit all types of schedules, including big- or small-time commitments. Unfortunately, if the positions aren't filled, there is a chance that some PTSA activities and events will be cut due to a lack of leaders.

To find out more information about getting involved, please contact Jill Steinberg at jrsteinberg@comcast.net.



MP Baseball Outing

MP PTSA Mariners Game on Friday, May 10, 2013! Look for the ticket order forms in Boomerangs on April 10. Cost of the tickets are \$14 per person.

MP at the Shoreline Math Olympiad



Fifth-Grade Math Team Qualifies for the Elite Division of Math is Cool Masters

Logan Gnanapragasam, Brandon Mochizuki, Fred Liu, Imran Majeed, Emmie Wang, Ashley Mochizuki, Jonathan Zhou, Genevieve Trimbell, Aditya Nair, Samuel Nguyen, Joshua Cui, Soliana Hassen, Lewis Going and Aaron Gray were among the 407 mathletes who competed in the fifth-grade Seattle Math is Cool Championship on March 15 at Mount Rainier High School in Des Moines.

They were accompanied by nine parent volunteers: Jim Trimbell, Toshie Mochizuki, and Raif Majeed chaperoned the teams. Raif also did double duty as a runner. Nimmy Gnanapragasam proctored, Ajith Nair, Bindu Nair, Linda Deng, Zhengjie Zhou, and Emmanuel Gnanapragasam volunteered as scorers.

The competing schools were placed in one of three divisions based on the size of the school district, whether the school uses an entrance exam, and on the school's performance at the championships in past years. Schools from districts with more than 200 students in fifth grade or those that have a selection test to admit students are placed in Division 1B. Schools from districts which have fewer than 200 students in fifth grade are placed in Division 2. Those who have done very well in the past are placed in Division 1A.

Logan won sixth place in the Division 1A individual event. The fifth-grade Meridian Park team placed fifth in a field of fifteen Division 1A teams in the Seattle Championships. A total of around 1800 fifth graders competed in the five locations. Meridian Park was also in fifth place among all the fifth-grade teams that competed in all five locations and has accepted the invitation to the fifth-grade Elite Masters in Moses Lake on May 18.

All eight teams that were invited to the Elite are from the Seattle Championships. Logan, Fred, Imran, and Jonathan will be representing Meridian Park at the Masters.



Meridian Park at the Shoreline Math Olympiad

Meridian Park was represented at the Shoreline Math Olympiad by Franklin Zheng, Karina Jhingan, Iris Pang, Lily Williamson, Vincent Toomey-Bottger, Julien Goldstick, Hanad Adam, Serina Towns-von Stauber, Andre Zverev, Thea Jacobsen, Leah Acevedo, Matthew Zeseke, Kayla Robinson, and Carmen Tran competing at the fourth-grade level; by Logan Gnanapragasam, Brandon Mochizuki, Jonathan Zhou, Ashley Mochizuki, Emmie Wang, Imran Majeed, Fred Liu, Genevieve Trimbell, Aditya Nair, Joshua Cui, Samuel Nguyen, Lewis Going, Aaron Gray, Kayla Calhoun, Soliana Hassen and James Li at the fifth -grade level and by Christopher Lawson, Jamie Forschmiedt, Mark Polyakov, Maria Babcock, Eileen Beres, Emily Nguyen, Evelynnn Li, Kevin Lee, Evan Zverev and Athena Pentcholov at the sixth-grade level.

The team of Franklin, Karina, Lily, and Serina won first place at the fourth-grade level. Two teams, one consisting of Iris and Thea and the other of Julien, Andre, Matthew, and Kayla, won second place. The team of Vincent, Hanad, Leah, and Carmen placed third. In the individual contest, Franklin and Karina placed first; Iris placed second; Lily, Vincent, and Julien placed third; Hanad and Serina placed fourth; Andre placed fifth; and Thea placed sixth.

Three teams, one consisting of Logan, Brandon, Jonathan, and Ashley, another of Emmie, Genevieve, Joshua, and Lewis, and yet another consisting of Imran, Fred, Aditya, and Samuel won first place at the fifth-grade level. The team of Aaron, Kayla, Soliana, and James won second place. In the individual contest, Logan, Brandon, Jonathan, Ashley, Emmie, and Imran placed first; Fred, Genevieve, and Aditya placed second; Joshua placed third, Samuel fourth; Lewis fifth and Aaron sixth.

The team of Christopher, Jamie, Evelynnn, and Kevin won first place at the sixth-grade level. The team consisting of Maria, Eileen, Emily, and Evan placed second while Mark placed fourth. In the individual contest, Jamie, Christopher, and Mark placed first; Maria and Eileen placed third; Emily placed fourth; Evelynnn placed fifth; and Kevin placed seventh.

The Meridian Park contingent was well supported by a large group of parent and sibling volunteers. Kate Lawson volunteered as a runner. Rebecca Lawson, Yang Wang, and Ania Babcock assisted at the team check in tables in the morning. Kris Towns-von Stauber helped with the concessions. John Gray, Seif Hassen, and Kent Forschmiedt proctored the contest. Changhong Peng, Zhengjie Zhou, Phillip Liu, Nimmy Gnanapragasam, and Emmanuel Gnanapragasam scored the answer sheets. Minzi Cheng volunteered as a test/hallway monitor. Daniel Acevedo, Anne Hou, Jeff Jacobsen, Ed Goldstick, Toshie Mochizuki, Yanpin Li, Raif Majeed, Dave Going, Lanchi Pham, Tao Zhang and Yakov Polyakov chaperoned the teams. Tao and Jeff stepped in at the last moment to fill in as chaperons to replace those who could not make it. Mel and John Williamson took care of the ordering and distribution of pizzas and were helped in the morning by Gabrielle Trimbell.

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

Child Find

If you have concerns about your child's development, the Shoreline School District offers developmental screenings at no charge for children birth-5 who live within the district boundaries and are suspected of having a disability.

For children birth-2 years old, call Wonderland Development Center at 206-364-3777. For children 3-5 years old, call the Early Childhood Education Program at 206-393-4250.

UW Engineering Discovery Days

This year the UW Discover Days come during our Spring Break, so you won't have to choose between school and this free event. At Engineering Discovery Days, students and faculty from all UW engineering departments share their work with students, teachers, families and the community. We hope you will join us for hands-on fun and learning. See the Web site for information and registration: www.engr.washington.edu/alumcomm/openhouse.html

YMCA Spring Break Adventures

The Y has five outings planned for the five days of spring break, April 22-26. Each day starts at the local Dale Turner YMCA at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 3:30pm in the same location. Register online at www.seattleyymca.org. Contact Teen Coordinator Michelle Perry, mperry@seattleyymca.org or 206-363-0446 ext7048.

Shorecrest Annual Family Astronomy Night

Come to the Shorecrest Annual Family Astronomy Night, in the Shorecrest Cafeteria and SAC, from 7:00-9:00pm on Tuesday, April 16!

Astronomy night is produced by the Shorecrest Astronomy Class and Science Club, with the help of generous funding from our own PTSA. There is something for all ages. We have crafts, making your own star finder, games, activity challenges, student exhibits, and prizes. There will also be a guest astronomer giving mini talks and members of the Seattle Astronomical Society demonstrating telescopes (and looking at stars, weather permitting). This year the University of Washington is planning to bring their brand new portable planetarium, which promises to be a real treat. We have a scavenger hunt that students can complete to earn a certificate participation certificate.



Providing clothing support to
Shoreline School District Families.

North City Portables
west end of North City Elementary
816 NE 190th Street, Shoreline
Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm
206-393-4916

*The WORKS is a Shoreline PTA Council
Family Resource*

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

17077 Meridian Avenue N :: Shoreline, WA 98133 :: 206-361-4251

Meridian Park Elementary

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

Amy Jessee, Principal
email: amy.jessee@shorelineschools.org
Hillary Clark, Early Childhood
Program Manager
Diane Randall, Office Manager
Jill Gwazdauskas, Registrar
Janet Boyett, School Nurse
Annie Gage, Family Advocate

2012-13 MP PTSA
Executive Committee

www.MeridianParkPTSA.org

Brian Heagler, President
email: bheagler@gmail.com
Rachel Ariss, VP Program
Adrienne Thompson, VP Events
Janina Pacunski, Secretary
Krista Keller & Tracey Poole, Co-Treasurers
Adrienne Thompson, Legislative Chair

Mel Williamson & Mary Crandell,
Cheetah Chatter Editors