



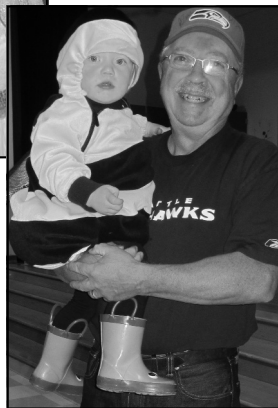
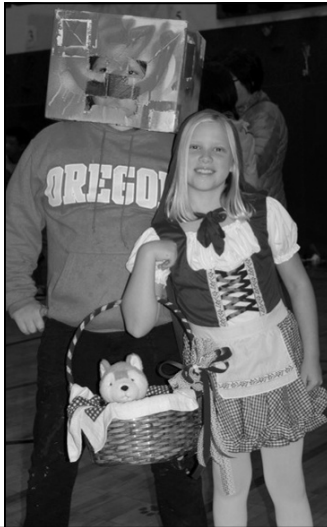
Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA



Fall Carnival Fun!

Thank you to everyone who made this year's fall carnival a success! This fun annual event is made possible by the generous donations and many volunteers (including students from the SERVE clubs at both Einstein and Shorewood) who ran games, served pie and pushed a broom at the end of the night.



Issue Three, 2011–2012
December 7, 2011

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Upcoming Events

Friday, December 16
The WORKS Food Drive Ends

Friday, December 16
K–6 Winter Sign-Along
Spirit Day: Favorite Team

December 21, 2011
– **January 3, 2012**
Winter Break

Sunday, January 8
Monthly PTSA Meeting

Tuesday, January 10
& **Thursday, January 10**
Talent Show Auditions

Monday, January 16
No School—MLK, Jr Day

Saturday, January 21
Shoreline School District
Kinderfest

January 30–February 2
Early Release—Parent/
Teacher Conferences

February 3
No School—Staff Work Day

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

Dear Meridian Park Families,

I can't believe the first trimester of school has come to a close. Time sure does fly! November was a busy month filled with lots of fun, educational activities. We had a fantastic Elementary Fun Run event hosted at Hamlin Park, a beautiful Veteran's Day Assembly and PTSA Reflections celebration, numerous field trips and a wonderful Kindergarten Harvest Festival.

In all of our classrooms, we are truly in the thick of instruction, student learning and assessment. Teachers have been very busy following the curriculum-pacing guides for each subject area while also offering time for enrichment and/or remediation for our student needs. It truly is a balancing act each day for our hard-working teachers and our diverse population of student needs. These past few months of school also mark our implementation of some new supplemental curriculum at MP. These include a toolkit of reading strategies, specifically around comprehension, as well as some all staff professional development on the dimensions of teaching and learning from the Center for Educational Leadership (CEL). It is exciting and important work for us.

Thank you again for a great first trimester. We are all so grateful for our students and families! With Thanksgiving just behind us, it is never too late to say **thank you** to all of the people who make Meridian Park School a great place for students. This includes our fabulous students and families as well as our community partners and volunteers who support us in so many ways. Additionally, I want to thank our hard-working teachers and para-educators who

work with students every day in classrooms as well as our wonderful support staff who help our school day run smoothly. These include our various specialists, office staff, nurses, custodians, student supervisors, crossing guards, cafeteria food preparers, bus drivers and so many more! We are a busy place and could not do it all if it weren't for our great team!

As we approach the winter break, I hope that you all have a restful and wonderful start to 2012. It is a great time to reflect with your child on his or her accomplishments and hard work this fall. If you are considering a new year's resolution, please think about volunteering your time in our classrooms or even in our office. We are still in need of help.

Lastly, come join us for a festive all-school sing-along assembly on Friday, Dec. 16th at 9:20am in the cafeteria. Over the break, don't forget to read with your child everyday and practice basic math skills. Give the gift of time to your child, slow down your busy calendar, play and learn with one another. School breaks are a great time to enjoy math games, practice site words with your child, take a trip to the public library, do a science experiment at home and/or read some great books together. Enjoy it to the fullest!

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

Important Safety Reminders

<p>Parking Lot Safety</p> <p>Safety comes first in the parking lot. If you are driving and picking up your child, please make sure that you allow for the traffic to flow smoothly. Please move up in the waiting line so that we don't create a traffic jam around the north end corner.</p> <p><i>This is a message for Parents and Students!</i> Please be good role models for each other and do <i>not</i> cross in between and/or in front of cars. Instead, please use the crosswalk near the front entrance to the school. It is monitored for everyone's safety!</p>	<p>Lining Up in the Morning</p> <p>Please remind students to be safe and respectful while waiting in line by their classrooms at the beginning of each school-day!</p> <p>Parents, we truly appreciate having your extra supervision eyes to help us keep these few minutes a safe and fun experience for all students. If you see any concerns, please share these with a student patrol leader and/or a staff person immediately.</p> <p>We all need to work together to ensure that students are being responsible.</p>	<p>Crossing Streets Safely</p> <p>We cannot emphasize this message enough! When walking to school, safety is our top priority. Please do NOT cross over 175th with your children or at other places where there are not official school crosswalks or safety patrols.</p> <p>While we recognize that it can be appealing to take this short cut, you are putting yourself and your child in danger. Every day, you are your child's most important role model.</p>
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Attendance Reminder (or "what to do if you can't be there")

If your student will be absent for any reason, please call the MP office 206-393-4252 or email jill.gwazdauskas@shorelineschools.org to let the school know.

Please try to avoid planning events that will require your child to leave school during the day or plans that change in the middle of the day. This results in classroom interruptions that affect the learning process for all students. For example, if your child usually meets Mom at the end of the day but Grandma will be picking up, arrange to have Grandma meet the child at the usual location. We understand that emergencies occur but we ask for your cooperation in this matter.

Meridian Park News

It's Winter Now

As the weather changes, here are some late start and school closure guidelines to keep in mind. If school is delayed (late start), we will start two hours late, at 11:10am.

AM Kindergarten will be cancelled, as will AM early childhood classes and Head Start. If we have an emergency early dismissal, there will be not extended day after-care.

New Science Curriculum

This year, our district begins a science materials adoption cycle for grades K–6. A team of Shoreline teachers worked together this fall to develop a draft of science “power standards” and will be sharing these with each elementary school.

The adoption committee will have parents as well as Shoreline staff as part of it and the work will begin in November. If you would like to be a parent representative on these committee meetings, please email marcia.garret@shorelineschools.org.

Reading Comprehension Toolkit

Meridian park teachers are piloting an exciting new aspect to our reading program. It is called the Comprehension Toolkit and it deepens our approach with students in terms of helping them to understand and become active thinkers when reading texts. For more information about it, please go to: www.comprehensiontoolkit.com.

New Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers

The district has embraced the Center for Educational Leadership's instructional framework called the Five Dimensions of Teaching and Learning (5 D's). The 5-D is a research-based model that helps school district staff to focus on quality instruction in order to maximize the learning opportunities for all students.

The instructional framework creates common language and a clear vision for instruction. Thanks to this opportunity, all of our teachers, district-wide, will have an aligned vision of effective instruction looks like from preschool through high school!

If you want to learn more about it, see our Bulletin Board at Meridian Park in the main hallway or go to the Web site: www.k-12leadership.org.

Roots of Empathy

Two very young citizens have recently joined the Meridian Park community. Felix and Elyse are infants who—with their mothers—are volunteering in the Roots of Empathy (ROE) Program. ROE is an evidence-based classroom program that is effective in reducing aggression and violence among school children, while also increasing empathy along with social and emotional competence.

Erin Dragovich, who works at the Shoreline Children's Center, and MP Family Advocate Annie Gage, attended three days of training to become qualified as ROE instructors. They are working in the classrooms of Mary Loes and Diana Kushner.

Central to ROE are monthly visits by an infant and his or her parent to a K–8 classroom. During these visits—facilitated by an ROE instructor—students observe, predict and ask questions about human development, infant safety and temperament. Sessions with their ROE instructor precede and follow the family visits and reinforce the fostering of empathy and emotional literacy. Please stop by the Roots of Empathy bulletin board in the 200-wing of MP or go to www.rootsofempathy.org if you would like to learn more about this exciting addition to Meridian Park.

Volunteers Needed

a message from MP Volunteer Coordinator Annie Gage

Many parents already give generously of their time and talents as MP volunteers—and we are grateful! However, as the new Volunteer Coordinator, I want to make sure everyone who wants to give some time has the opportunity to do so.

Currently, there are classrooms that could use help: just 30–45 minutes a week of reviewing math facts, listening to a child read aloud, correcting papers, making copies, and more, could be a huge help to both teachers and students.

If you would like to volunteer and aren't yet signed up for anything (or if you'd like to do more!) please let me know by contacting me at annie.gage@shorelineschools.org or 206-393-1768.



Students in rooms 411 & 413 learned Calligraphy from Hua Zhang, MP's Mandarin Chinese teacher. Room 411 shows their work in this photo.

Meridian Park News

Student Council Winners!

Big thanks to all 29 student leaders who campaigned and ran for one of our 4 offices. You are all winners! The elected leaders for our school this year will be:

President: Ryan Peterson Vice President: Ben Heagler
Secretary: Meggan McCaslin Treasurer: Jonathan Villegas

Composting at Meridian Park

Our school continues to become even “greener.” Not only are we tackling being green in the lunchroom, we are also linking to our classrooms. In November, classrooms received a composting bin and a guide for what types of food and materials go in there.

The school also sent home information about the composting program. Remember, you can only compost things that have come from the Earth (food scraps) and wet or food laden paper/cardboard products. No plastic, glass or clean paper products. Ask your child what *vermicomposting* is along with what you can do at home. We are excited about the student interest around this!



Congratulations to MP teacher Tracy Andersen who received a Symetra Hero in the Classroom Award on November 23, 2011. She was nominated for this special recognition and truly deserves this honor!

Supplemental Levy Proposal Passes

Thank you to the voters of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park for your support of the Supplemental Levy in the November 8, 2011 general election. The passage of this levy helps the Shoreline School District keep as many teachers in the classrooms as possible, despite cuts in State and Federal funding.



Show off your loyalty to Washington teams, including Huskies, Cougars, PLU, Mariners, Sounders, Seahawks, Storm, and more!

Friendship, Families and Feelings

Fortunately, Meridian Park is a school in which bullying is not usually a serious problem. However, for the child who gets bullied, or for the parent of that child, it is a very seriously problem, which we take seriously. Our efforts at bullying prevention are multi-faceted; assemblies, classroom discussions with teachers, meetings with Mrs. Jessee, and I teach the Second Step bullying prevention curriculum in many classrooms.

Hallmarks of bullying are that it is one-sided, aggressive, intentional, can be physical or mental, and that it's intent is to gain power. Kids seem to understand that it doesn't have to involve physical contact, but it can be confusing to know, when their feelings get hurt, if that was bullying or just someone being mean, or even having a misunderstanding.

As a staff, we tell kids to try to solve a problem themselves the first time, and if it continues, to get help from an adult.

Lately, I've been sharing the following questions with 4th and 5th graders so they can think about their own behavior.

Although this list comes from *A Smart Girl's Guide to Friendship Troubles* published by American Girl, I believe it is equally applicable to boys!

- Do you need to be in charge all the time—and hate it when you're not?
- Does hardly a day go by when you don't criticize somebody?
- Do you get mad at others when they don't do as you say?
- Do you make social “rules” for others to follow and make threats when they don't?
- Are people afraid of how you are going to react?
- Have you made insulting remarks to people about things you know they can't do anything about?
- Do you feel people should work to win your approval?
- Do you think it's okay to say mean things to people?
- Do you decide who's in and who's out of your group?

I tell students that if they answer “yes” to any of these questions, they need to stop. It can also help to talk to a trusted adult and get support to change their behavior.

~Annie Gage, MP Family Advocate
annie.gage@shorelineschools.org, 206-393-1768

Cheetah Chatter

Meridian Park News

Notes from the Music Room

a message from Shari Anderson, Music Teacher

Shoreline Elementary Honor Choir

Thirty-one of our Meridian Park sixth grade students represented our school in the Shoreline Elementary Honor Choir at the Cascade Youth Symphony Orchestra Fall Concert at Benaroya Hall on Saturday November 19. In all, 260 5th and 6th grade voices from Shoreline's 9 elementary schools sang several pieces with the youth orchestra, including some written or conducted by Shoreline School District music teachers Frank Halferty, Tam Osborne, and Dan Wing. Thank you to parents Lisa McCaslin and Beth Paul who came as chaperones, and to our Principal, Mrs. Jessee for helping and supporting singers and families through the rehearsal and concert process. We are very proud of our Meridian Park musicians!

Winter Sing-Along

Friday December 16 at 9:20am we will have our winter sing-along, featuring a performance by our 6th grade students! We will all be a great audience for them, we will sing together, and more!

Check out this wonderful opportunity

Seattle Family Dance teaches folk dancing for children and families! Live music, no experience necessary. Classes take place on the third Sunday of the month, 3:00–5:00pm at the Phinney Neighborhood Center Community Room, 6532 Phinney Avenue North (red brick building, lower parking lot). \$6 per person, \$18 per family. January 15, February 19, March 18 April 22, May 20. For more information, visit www.seattledance.org/family.

Library Notes

a message from Jenny Hillger, Librarian

Thank You for Supporting the Book Fair!

Our first book fair of the year, with books from Scholastic, was a huge success. We surpassed the goal of grossing \$3000 by making approximately \$4500. Meridian Park will receive between 25% and 50% of the net profit. I will purchase new fiction and nonfiction for K-6 students with the funds.

Libraries are Cool, and a Bit Zany

We had an amazing assembly on Friday, October 14, with guest “zaniac” Alex Zerbe. What a phenomenal talent. He entertained students with his humor and physical comedy, as well as presented a strong message about the importance of reading, books, and libraries. Thank you Alex!

Upcoming Assembly

Mark your calendars! I've booked Matt Holm, one half of the brother-sister team that writes and illustrates the Babymouse books, for Thursday, March 17, 2012. I cannot wait for his visit.

The Cheetah Gym

a message from Pamela Willoughby, P.E. Teacher

P.E. Activities

In November, we finished cupstacking activities and competitions and began our bowling unit. Thank you to Robin Hood Lanes for lending us six portable lanes and pins. They will also be giving each MP student a free game pass in the near future!. Hockey Fun and Basketball Skills are coming soon to the P.E. curriculum, and fitness practice and testing will continue throughout the year.

Fun at the Fun Run

Congrats to our wonderful 58 runners on the Meridian Park Team. I'm so proud of their hard work leading up to the Fun Run Event in early November. They simply were amazing and successfully dominated most of the races (grades 3–6) in a 5-school competition at Hamlin Park. All runners are congratulated on a great team effort. I am extremely proud of our team members who went out to help run with the last mile contestant from Brookside. Great sportsmanship and kindness. This big event is not possible without the help of parents—thank you to our wonderful volunteers: John Beres, Awatash Kassa, Shannon Brown, Denise Peters, Kelly Main, and so many more who supported and helped the team effort.

Circus Arts

J.U.M.P. Circus Arts Team meets each Tuesday and Thursday mornings. We are working on developing a fun show for the parents in March, which will include a cool glow in the dark performance. We are also developing a new team t-shirt design.

MP PTSA President's Message

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." John Fitzgerald Kennedy

As I read the above quote, I realized how many of you live by this standard. The volunteers that give their time to make our programs successful are what make Meridian Park the wonderful place it is for our students. I am grateful for the support that many of you give on a daily, weekly or whenever you can basis.

We really appreciate all you who made it possible for the PTSA to accomplish so much in the first couple of months of the school year. The Fall Carnival was loads of fun, school photos went off without a hitch, and all of our clubs and classes are in full swing.

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of 2011. It has been rewarding to see how our community has come together over the last year to support our school both financially and with volunteer efforts. None of our activities would be possible without your support. We truly appreciate you all!

We start 2011 with the Read-A-Thon fundraiser. This fundraiser combines some competitive fun along with emphasis on reading. Additionally, Talent Show auditions are right around the corner. Keep an eye on our calendar at www.meridianpark.org and for more information coming in your Boomerangs over the next few weeks!

In this time of need please support our food drive. Your generous contribution will help make sure families in our community can get the help they need.

We will soon be forming a nominating committee to help identify officers for next year's PTSA board. Please consider participating and don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions! Enjoy the winter break and we look forward to the New Year!

*~Kathy Henderson
MP PTSA President. 2010-2012
kathyhenderson@me.com*



Math Club

Twenty nine Meridian Park Competition Math Club students participated in the AMC 8 math contest on November 16, 2011. The AMC 8 is a multinational mathematics competition conducted by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) (amc.maa.org). It is open to anyone in grades 8 and younger. Each year more than 150,000 students from USA, Canada and many other parts of the world take the AMC 8.

Grant Hugh placed in the top 1% of all contestants and will be listed in the Distinguished Honor Roll published by the MAA. Spencer Lu, James Qiu and Julie Zhou placed in the top 5% of all contestants and will be listed in the Honor Roll. Grant won first place, Spencer second, James and Julie tied for third in our *Section A*, which consisted of the 6th graders in the Competition Math Club.

Sandy Cheng won first place; Logan Gnanapragasam second; Fred Liu, Chris Lawson, Evan Zverev and Jamie Forschmiedt tied for third place in our 17-member *Section B* (4th and 5th graders). Students who are in 6th grade or below and who scored in the top 15% overall are listed in the Achievement Roll: Nathaniel Poole, Sandy Cheng, and Aenea Towns-von Stauber.

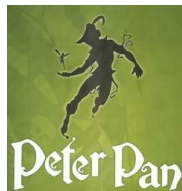
Volunteers at the Annual Fall Carnival
This event is only possible with the help of the
MP Community—thank you!

Drama Club Auditions

Coming Soon—Auditions for Peter Pan

Our 4th-6th grade musical this year has it all! Pirates, Mermaids, Lost Boys, Fairies, an Indian tribe, lost boys, and even a crocodile!

Auditions Start on January 30, 2012.
Performances at the Shoreline Auditorium at Shoreline Center on Thursday, March 22, 2012 and Friday March, 23, 2012 at 7:00pm



Actors must be available for Mandatory Rehearsals and Performances March 12–March 23, 2012.

The Talent Show is Coming!



Talent Show audition applications are now available! Deadline to turn these in is Monday, December 12, 2011.

Audition dates are Tuesday January 10, 2012 *or* Thursday, January 12, 2012. Participants will be notified of the schedule after Winter Break.



Talent Show rehearsal (mandatory) Thursday, January 26, 2012. The big show is on Friday, January 27, 2012!

Annual Food Drive—Donations Needed

The Shoreline PTA Council, along with community partners the Shoreline Fire Department and Hopelink, are joining together to support families with children in the Shoreline School District who need assistance during the holiday season.

The 2011 Shoreline PTA Council's "Holiday Baskets Food, Toys, Teen Gifts" drive will run December 5–16, 2011. Donations of non-perishable food and new unwrapped toys or teen gifts may be dropped off at any

Shoreline School District school including the district office during regular school hours.

Monetary donations may be made payable to Shoreline PTA Council, note Holiday Baskets-Food or Holiday Baskets-Teen Gifts, and mailed to
Shoreline PTA Council
P.O. Box 55784
Shoreline, WA 98155-5784.

Toy donations may also be made at any Shoreline Fire Station. For information on how you can help a family or volunteer for the drive and to donate online go to www.shorelinepta.com and click on "Holiday Baskets."



From the Shoreline Library

News from the Shoreline Library
345 NE 175th, Shoreline, 98155
206-362-7550

A Season for Singing
Tuesday, December 27, 11am
Join Northwest favorite Nancy Stewart for a joyful song and dance-along celebration of the many wonderful winter holidays! All ages welcome.

Library System-wide Events
Seasons of Stories and Songs
Come to the library for free programs as we celebrate the change of seasons and special family gatherings with music, stories, and fun. Presentations include concerts, puppet shows, magic shows, sound effects shows, author visits, and a class on the art of making books. Check out the Web site for a schedule of activities: www.kcls.org/programs/index.cfm.

Join the PTSA

Joining the PTSA shows your support for your school, education and community in Meridian Park, in Shoreline and beyond.

The PTSA is not only a local organization but also represents our children on a state and national level on public policies in the government.

Our monthly meetings on the first Tuesday at 7:00pm and a great way to learn about what's happening at our school.

Three membership levels:

Annual Member: \$10/year per person
Cheetah Cheerleader: \$25/year per person
Cheetah Champion: \$35/year per person

Three easy ways to join:

1. **VISIT** the MP office and ask for a membership envelope.
2. **E-MAIL** Ann Yee at theyeefamily@hotmail.com
3. **SIGN UP** at any PTSA event. Join us for some fun, then join the organization!

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

FACES

Family & Children Early Support Training Series

Date: Thursday, December 8, 2011

Time: 10:00-11:30 am

Location: Shoreline Library, 345 NE 175th Street;
Shoreline 98155

Topic: "Conflict Resolution"

This workshop shows parents and caregivers a way to teach children how to resolve conflict other than hitting, kicking or biting. Explore how effective communication and modeling can help children develop strategies to productively resolve conflicts. Participants also discuss the difference between discipline and conflict resolution and get practice in helping children seek solutions together. Presented by: Tony Gomez, KCTS 9 Education.

Tween Night with the Shoreline Teen Program

Tween Night: Winter Wonderland (5th & 6th grades only)

Date: Saturday, December 10, 2011

Location: Richmond Highlands Recreation Center,
16544 Fremont Avenue N

More info: 206-801-2600 or

www.facebook.com/ShorelineTeenProgram

Free Parenting Workshop

Date: Thursday, January 12, 2012

Time: 7:00–8:30pm

Location: Trinity Presbyterian Church; 1315 N 160th Street;
Shoreline 98133

In an affluent society, it's easy for children to acquire an attitude of entitlement. How do parents teach responsibility and accountability instead? It's tough, but worthwhile, because children who learn to delay gratification have better long-term outcomes.

All Hoops for Winter Break

Dates: Monday–Friday, December 26–30, 2011

Time: 9:00am–4:00pm

Location: Sound Mind and Body

Cost: 3 Days: \$165.00 / 4 Days: \$195.00 / 5 Days: \$225.00
(t-shirt included)

For: Boys and Girls, Grades 2–8

More information: www.wattsbasketball.com

December 26–30, 2011 there is no school which means it's time for All Hoops! Join Husky legend Donald Watts, Sonic's great Slick Watts and the world-class Watts Basketball trainers for a camp full of skills, drills, games and prizes. Whether you are just starting out or trying to take your game to the next level, our coaches will help you reach your full potential all while having fun.



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*

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

Meridian Park Elementary

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

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Hillery Clark, Early Childhood

Program Manager

Roxanne Brendible, Office Manager

Jill Gwazdauskas, Registrar

Janet Boyett, School Nurse

Annie Gage, Family Advocate

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