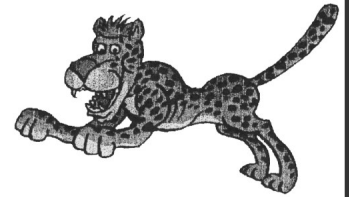


Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA



Tree Socks!

Sixth-grade students joined community volunteers Cynthia Knox and Susan Armstrong to help place colorful knitted "tree socks" onto trees on our campus. The socks were part of the Celebrate Ronald Bog festival that took place on September 15. Meridian Park students wanted to borrow them for the holiday season! Students really enjoyed helping with this project and learned how to sew the socks onto trees.



Issue Four, 2012–2013
December 12, 2012

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Upcoming Events

December 13
Talent Show Dress Rehearsal

December 14
Meridian Park Talent Show

December 18
PTSA Staff Appreciation Day

December 19
Winter Sing-Along Assembly
(9:30-10:30)

December 20–January 2
No School—Winter Break

January 8, 2013
PTSA Monthly Meeting

January 17
MP Skating Party, 6:00–8:00pm

January 18
MLK, Jr. Day Assembly, 9:30am

January 21
MLK, Jr. Holiday – No School

January 26
Kinderfest at Shoreline Center
(see page 2)

January 28–31
Early release/Parent-teacher
Conferences

January 30
Kindergarten Tours

February 1
Non-Student Workday

Holiday Basket and Food Drive

The Holiday Basket and Food Drive is coming up in December. This year, Meridian Park's items are salt, pepper, and spices. Please donate whatever you'd like! We cannot accept glass jars (including baby food and home-canned foods). For more information, or to donate via PayPal, visit www.shorelinepta.com and click Holiday Baskets. Our goal is 250 items.

Sign up in the MP lobby for sorting food during the drive or driving the food to Kellogg on December 14 at 3:30pm. For information or to sign up, contact Tracey Poole, Chair of The WORKS and the Food Drive for Meridian Park at 206-361-4251.

Drama Kids

Thank you to the Drama Kids for their fun performance of *The Jungle Book* for family and friends at the December 4 PTSA monthly meeting!



Come to the Talent Show!

Friday, December 14
6:30pm
Shoreline Auditorium
18560 1st Avenue NE
Shoreline, 98155

January WORKS Drive

The WORKS Drive will start in January with socks and undergarments (boxers and bloomers) as well as socks. Watch your Boomerang for more information.

MP Student Council Coin Drive

Meridian Park students will be having a coin drive to benefit PAWS. Please send in your loose change from December 4–February 1.

Drama Club Parent Information Night

Save the date! Drama Club (grades 4–6) Parent Information Night is Tuesday, January 22, 2013. The Drama Club will perform *Willy Wonka* in March 2013! Look for Boomerang notices after winter break.

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

www.meridianparkpta.org
schools.shorelineschools.org/meridianpark/

Follow the MP PTSA
on Facebook

facebook

Meridian Park News

Principal's Letter

Dear Meridian Park Families,

As we approach the winter break, many of us will celebrate with our friends and families in a variety of ways. However your family chooses to spend this time, I hope that you all have a restful holiday season and a wonderful start to 2013. It is a great time to reflect with your child on his or her accomplishments and hard work this fall!

Holidays are also a special time to say thanks. THANK YOU to all of you for your support of Meridian Park School and your child. We appreciate it.

We would like to remind you of some important events coming up and some helpful school guidelines and reminders:

- Our all-school holiday sing-along assembly celebrates the diversity of our various student cultures. The assembly will take place on Friday, December 19 at 9:30am in the cafeteria. Please come to hear the beautiful music!
- Winter really is here! With the cold weather upon us, please remind your

Ideal teachers are those who use themselves as bridges over which they invite their students to cross, then having facilitated their crossing, joyfully collapse, encouraging them to create bridges of their own.

Nikos Kazantzakis

child to bring the appropriate clothing to school including coats, hats, and gloves. It is chilly outside at recess.

- Safety is a top priority at Meridian Park! Please do not cross 175th or Meridian with your children at places where there are not official crosswalks or safety patrols. If you are in the parking lot, please drive slowly!
- Don't forget teacher conference week in January! This is an important time to check in with your child's teacher, so please confirm a time between January 28–31.

Have a wonderful winter break and see you in the New Year!

Enjoy some "down time" with your child and give the gift of time

to your child to play and learn together. It is a great opportunity to play math games, practice sight words and math facts with them, take a trip to the public library, do a science experiment at home, or get some extra exercise each day. Enjoy it to the fullest!

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

Magic Show to Kickoff C.H.A.M.P.S. Program

The funny and versatile magician Louie Foxx is coming to Meridian Park on January 17, 2013! Seen on *America's Got Talent*, and known for his family-friendly shows, Louie will help us kick-off our C.H.A.M.P.S (Children Have Awesome Mentor/Parent Support) program. All families are welcome to attend this fun, free event. The show starts at 6:30pm.

At 7:00pm, hear a little about C.H.A.M.P.S from parents who have already participated, as well as from Annie Gage. At 7:15pm, you'll have the opportunity to sign up for ONE DAY of volunteering with C.H.A.M.P.S. (sometime between January 18 and the end of the school year).

Questions? Contact Annie (206-393-1768, or annie.gage@shorelineschools.org). Read more about Louie Foxx at www.louiefoxx.com.

Candy Grams

Thank you to everyone who supported our initial Candy Gram sale! We made about \$190--a great start. Our next Candy Gram sale will be Feb. 13-14. Candy Grams will be sold during lunch recesses and afternoon recess, and after school both days. If you're a 6th-grade parent who can help sell candy, please contact Shannon Brown (sdawnb@hotmail.com).

Kinderfest 2013

Kinderfest 2013 is January 26, 2013 from 10:00am–12:00pm in the Shoreline Room at the Shoreline Center, 18560 1st Ave NE. Kinderfest is an opportunity for parents who will be enrolling their children in Kindergarten to hear about the Kindergarten program offered by the Shoreline School District.

Kindergarten registration for Shoreline residents with students starting kindergarten in the fall of 2013 will begin Monday, February 4 at all elementary schools. To attend Kindergarten in the fall, a child must be five years old by August 31, 2013.

For students who live outside the Shoreline School District, kindergarten registration also begins on Monday, February 4, 2013. Registration and transfer request paperwork must be submitted to the Instruction Department of the Shoreline School District at the Shoreline Center, 18560 1st Ave NE. The Instruction Department office is open from 7:30am–4:30pm. Families will be notified of their status by the middle of April.

For more information about kindergarten registration and Kinderfest, please contact Cathy Allred (206.393.4211 or cathy.allred@shorelineschools.org).

Meridian Park News

Shoreline Math Olympiad

The 15th annual Shoreline Math Olympiad will take place in March. Any Meridian Park student can participate as part of the Meridian Park School team—they do not have to be a member of the competition math club. Registration information will be available in January 2013. Don't wait till then, now is the time to start practicing!

Past contests and solutions to many of the contests are available at <http://fac-staff.seattleu.edu/nirmalag/web/mpmathclub/SMO4.html> (be sure to click on the appropriate grade level button). Solutions to more of the contests will be posted during the break and in January. Regular practice of the individual components (20

minutes for each individual contest) and mental math components will help your child do well at the contest. Get

**Shoreline Math
Olympiad**
March 9, 2013
Shoreline Community College
competition:
8:00am–12:15pm
awards ceremony:
1:00–3:00pm

together a group of four students from your child's grade level and have them practice the team component (20 minutes for each team test). They need to learn to work as a team to decide who will work which questions, to check each other's work, and to reach consensus quickly. Questions? E-mail mpcompetitionmath@clearwire.net.

If you're interested in joining the team that plans and runs the Shoreline Math

Olympiad, visit the Shoreline Math Olympiad Web site (<https://sites.google.com/site/shorelinemath/home>).

Library Notes

from Jenny Hillger, Library Media Specialist

Winter vacation is almost here. During vacation, please encourage children to keep reading! Below is a list of Internet resources that you can use to help your children learn to read, improve their reading, and find great books.

Reading Rockets

Readingrockets.org has information about reading for parents, book lists by subject, information about authors, and videos and podcasts.

Kidsreads

Kidsreads.com has detailed information about the newest books, organized by month. The book lists include fiction, nonfiction, and picture books. There is also information about books that have been turned into movies.

Public Broadcasting System (PBS)

Pbs.org has both kids and parents pages, where you can find literacy games and book lists, as well as other educational activities. It is a fun and helpful site!

Book Adventure

Bookadventure.com is a free online source for reading motivation for both parents and students. Students can look through book lists, read a book, and then return to the site to take a quiz. Students can earn points and receive prizes, as well as play educational games and download activities.

Happy Holidays and have a great vacation!

The Cheetah Gym

from Pamela Willoughby, P.E. Teacher

Ms. Willoughby is coaching the 2nd–6th grade Circus Arts Team on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Our big show is scheduled for early February on Fitness Night. The team is looking for glow in the dark equipment—donations are very welcome!

What's Happening in PE

We started our PE bowling unit in November and will subsequently begin a basketball unit. Lots of fun tag games and fitness activities are included! We are also focusing on nutrition and healthy choices. 6th grade volleyball practices begin in May and the big staff-vs-6th-graders match will take place near the end of the school year. Please have your children work on stretches and exercises at home!

PTSA Reflections Art Competition

Congratulations to all the students who entered art pieces in the PTSA Reflections art competition! We are so proud of all of them. Visit the Shoreline Center before January 15, 2013 to see all the finalist's projects from the Shoreline district on display and experience the Magic of the Moment. The theme for next year will be announced in February, so that students can start planning for 2013–14. A reception will be held for the finalists on January 16, 2013 at the Shoreline Room of the Shoreline Center.

Finalists are: Evelyn Li, Emma Lu, Brynn Smith, Imran Majeed, Ashley Berkman, Angel Hern, Catherine Dana, Emily Nguyen, Isabelle Jones, Karina Jhingan, Imran Majeed, Ashley Mochizuki, Matthew Pacunski, Chris Combs, and Kevin Lee. An honorable mention went to Aiden Boyd.

Entrants included: Oliver Reiman, Yukine Barber, Lucy Heagler, Faith Cook, Serina Towns-von Stauber, James Li, Jessica Hwee, Lucas Kleyn, Ameena Majeed, Anna Kleyn, Natalie Ostis, Nanda Tomas, Brynn Smith, Lily Williamson, Beth Ma, Hayley Trimmer, Brandon Mochizuki, Leah Ellsworth, Ellie Larson, Daisy Cui, Aaron Lee, Madison Brown, Annie Suh, and Jill Craig.

Legislative Updates

The WSPTA Legislative Assembly took place October 19–20. The purpose of the Legislative Assembly is to convene local WSPTA units across the state to set priorities for advocacy efforts over the next two years. These priorities will be utilized for the upcoming legislative session. Our Meridian Park Legislative Chair, Adrienne Thompson, attended the assembly.

A several-month process was involved in developing the priorities to be discussed and voted on at the assembly, including an online WSPTA member survey. After two days of discussion and debate with units across the state, the top five priorities were set. You can find a detailed list of the priorities at www.wastatepta.org. The top five priorities are:

- Advance basic education reforms
- Fund education first
- Closing opportunity gaps
- Revenue for kids
- Access to highly effective teachers

A critical decision was reached this year in the Washington State Supreme Court. The decision was based on a lawsuit (McClearly vs. State of Washington) that determined that the state does not meet the constitutional mandate that requires it to fund basic K-12 education. This ruling mandates the state to fully fund basic K-12 education by 2017. With a \$500 million shortfall in the current State Operating Budget and an estimated additional \$6 billion needed to fully fund, much of the discussion during the conference was how to best advocate for WSPTA to support the implementation of the lawsuit and the required funding.

The Legislative Session begins January 14 and runs 105 days. With newly elected leaders in the legislature and governor's office, the WSPTA will be actively promoting our priorities as the legislature sets the 2013–2015 Biennium Budget.

To become more involved, sign up for the Grassroots Connection, including Action Updates at <http://wsptagrassroots.blogspot.com> and <http://capwiz.com/wastatepta/home>. You can also attend the WSPTA Legislative Focus Day in Olympia on January 25.

AMC 8 Math Contest

22 students from the Meridian Park Competition Math Club participated in the AMC 8 math contest at Meridian Park on November 14. The AMC 8 is a multinational mathematics competition conducted by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA).

More information about the MAA is available at <http://amc.maa.org/e-exams/e4-amc08/amc8.shtml>. The AMC 8 is open to anyone in 8th grade and younger grades. Each year more than 150,000 students from the U.S., Canada, and many other parts of the world compete.

Jamie Forschmiedt placed in the top 5% of all contestants, worldwide, and will be listed in the Honor Roll published by the MAA. Students in 6th grade or below who scored 15 points or more—Fred Liu, Logan Gnanapragasam, Chris Lawson, Aditya Nair, Imran Majeed and Jonathan Zhou—are listed in the Achievement Roll. Among the eight sixth-graders in the Competition Math Club, Jamie won first place, Chris second, and Emily Nguyen third.

Among the fourteen fifth-graders, Fred and Logan tied for first place, Aditya won second place, and Imran and Jonathan tied for third place. Our team score of 55, the sum of the scores of the top three students, earned Meridian Park a listing in the School Merit Roll. The recognition rolls and the 2012 AMC 8 statistics are available at <http://amc-reg.maa.org/Reports/GeneralReports.aspx>



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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