

Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA

PTSA'S FALL FESTIVAL

This year's PTSA 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. Look for more information in the PTSA News section on page 9.

MULTI-CULTURAL HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG

The holidays are a wonderful time to celebrate and learn about diverse family cultures and traditions. At MP, many multi-cultural holiday activities will occur in classrooms and culminate with our Multi-Cultural Holiday Sing-A-Long on December 18 at 9:30 am, in the Meridian Park cafeteria. Families are invited to join the fun! Also, families who prefer their child or children not participate in this multi-cultural event may request an alternative activity through your classroom teacher.



BROWN BEAR CAR WASH TICKETS ARE BACK!!!

The 6th graders are currently selling Brown Bear Car Wash tickets to raise money for camp.

The holidays are coming! Need to put together a gift for the office party? How about a handful of car wash tickets? Have a new driver in the family? Car wash tickets are perfect. What about coaches, babysitters, and even teachers?! The weather is also starting to turn, your car is probably in desperate need of a car wash!

We are trying to bring down the cost of camp for all 6th graders. Each ticket is \$6 and checks can be made out to Meridian Park Elementary. For tickets or info, please email Krista Keller at krista_keller@comcast.net.

On behalf of the Meridian Park 6th grade - THANK YOU!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2-12

Holiday Basket Drive

December 4

8:15 am

Ms. Quezada's Room

ASB Representative Meeting

December 4

7:00 pm

MP Library

Drama Club Parent Meeting

December 18

9:30 am

MP Cafeteria

Holiday Sing-a-Long

December 22

Winter Break Begins

January 5

Winter Break Ends

Return to School

January 6

6:00 – 7:00 pm

MP Library

PTSA

Board of Directors Meeting

January 6

7:00 – 8:00 pm

MP Library

PTSA

General Membership Meeting

January 19

Martin Luther King Day

No School

January 20 – 23

Early dismissal

Parent/Teacher Conferences

January 26

No School

Principal's Letter

Dear Families,

Winter and the Holiday Season are here! Second trimester began this week, and we are preparing first trimester progress reports. Thanks for your support as we partner to provide helpful information regarding academic and personal progress.

The updated district progress report will be sent home with students on December 15, and conferences are scheduled for the week of January 20. While we understand parents' eagerness to discuss progress now, it's helpful to hold your questions until January if possible. Staff will confirm conference days/times right after winter break, and our goal is 100% participation – so please double check your schedule for the week of January 20. We value ongoing family communication, and look forward to meeting with you for an extended conversation at conference time.



We have approximately 550 eager students; and to better serve our kids, we have added staff to our lunchroom and recess. Please see photos that provide pictures of our cashiers and recess supervisors. Big thanks to our many classified staff who support our classrooms and also our many campus activities such as lunch and recess.

Congratulations to Kindergarten teacher John Herold who was honored recently as a Seattle Seahawks Hero in the Classroom. John represents our many staff members who work very hard to make a positive difference in the lives and learning of our students. Congratulations also to teachers Matt Reiman and Mary Loes for the Tenth Anniversary of the Shoreline Solar Project (see photo); and

thank you to Mr. Mike Adams and Mrs. Denise Peters for their presentations recently at our Veteran's Day assembly.

Our staff teams are committed to collaborating about student learning and developing useful systems of intervention. Our specific team goals are focused on reading fluency and comprehension; math concepts and procedures; writing clearly and effectively; positive behavior, and the growth mindset. Teachers are involved in many collaborative team meetings and professional development activities; including our non-student days such as Monday, January 26. More information about Professional Learning Communities and Response to Intervention can be found on the district or principal websites.

We are also learning about growth mindset and helping students develop habits of mind, work, and heart. Your students' class takes regular 3-5 minute 'brain breaks' during the week to stimulate brain power and activity. As a school, we engage in all school lessons related to growth and persistence.

We appreciate our supportive PTA and community. Best wishes for rest, reading, and exercise during Winter Break. Because exercise increases brain power, we recommend family walks, hiking, snow fun, and other outdoor activities; as well as reading and board/card games. I hope that adults and kids alike will please limit screen time! My family will be busy with outings, cooking, walking, reading, and games. See you on Monday, January 5, 2015. Thank you for the wonderful gift of your children and family.

Happy Holidays!

~David Tadlock, Principal

david.tadlock@shorelineschools.org

Meridian Park News



Ms. Jones and Ms. Kirkpatrick



Recess Supervisors



John Herold - Seattle Seahawks
Hero in the Classroom



Mary Loes and Matt Reiman -
Tenth Anniversary of the
Shoreline Solar Project

Meridian Park News

GENERAL REMINDERS

- * Lost and Found is in the hall near the cafeteria and is always open for you to check.
- * Safe and Slow in our parking lot and Meridian/175th!
Please use crosswalks.
- * Please send kids to school with coats/hats; contact your teacher or Family Advocate Annie Gage for cold weather clothing. If you have donations, please contact us or The Works.
- * During bad weather, check the media about late start or closure. If we are late, school starts at **11:05 am**.
- * Student early dismissal Jan 20 – 23 for conferences.
- * No school Monday, January 26 for professional development.



DROP-OFF/PICK-UP REMINDERS

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 others who are waiting.

Thanks for your patience and flexibility!

MERIDIAN PARK POSITIVE BEHAVIOR COMMITTEE

MP's Positive Behavior Committee is looking for two or three parents to supervise our monthly Very Important Cheetah (VIC) lunches.



The lunches are from 11:15 - 1:30 on the following dates: December 18th, January 29th, February 26th, March 26th, April 30th, May 28th, and June 11th.

Volunteers' duties include setting up the tables on the stage in the cafeteria for the VICs, making sure VICs get to the tables, get their drinks, and take their photo. That's it!

If you are interested in helping with one or more of these lunches, please contact Jenny Hillger (jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org) or Megan Jones (megan.jones@shorelineschools.org).

Meridian Park News



HIGHLY CAPABLE TESTING REGISTRATION FOR 1ST-6TH GRADERS

The nomination window for testing for the Highly Capable Program is open until January 30, 2015. Any students in grades 1-12 may participate in the testing process.

Any resident, teacher, staff member, parent, or even student may nominate a Shoreline School District student or resident to participate in the Highly Capable testing sessions on February 28, 2015 & March 7, 2015.

If your child has already been found to be eligible for the program you do not have to retest. If you have already nominated a student, you do not have to do anything.

To nominate a Shoreline School District student, please visit:

<http://learn.shorelineschools.org/spec/hprogram/shoreline-highly-capable-nominations>

To nominate a Shoreline resident who attends another school outside of the Shoreline School District please visit:

<http://learn.shorelineschools.org/spec/hprogram/private-school-gr-1-12-highly-capable-nominations>

HIGHLY CAPABLE PROGRAM INFORMATION NIGHT



December 3, 2014 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm at the Shoreline Center, Rainier Room, 18560 1st Ave. NE, Shoreline.

Come and learn about our newly expanded program for our highly capable students, meet teachers and staff, and have your questions about the program, instruction and selection answered.

Cheetah Notes

A NOTE FROM THE LIBRARY

Greetings MP Families,

The first trimester flew by in the library – the fall book fair, lessons with students, and beginning the Sasquatch and Young Readers Choice reading programs with intermediate students. I would like to thank all of the fantastic volunteers who made the fall book fair a roaring success:

Scott Soper, Christine Pinto, Caral D., Linda Tsai, Jill Steinberg, Linda Burt, Cherry Mendoza, Dana Doerksen, Tien Peng, Krista Keller, John Williamson, Rebecca Wagoner, Ann Yee, Rhonda McRae, Jennifer Scott, Diane Baskin-Thompson, Suzy Cowgill, Tracey Poole, Tricia Norton, and Rosemary Trimmer. My apologies if I left anyone's name off of this list.

BIRTHDAY BOOKS

I would like to begin a Birthday Book Club at MP. What is a Birthday Book Club? The birthday book club allows you to select a brand new book for the MP library in honor of your child's birthday. The book will be placed in the permanent library collection for all to enjoy. Your child will be presented with the book and will be the first person to check it out of our library. A bookplate will be placed in the front of the book acknowledging your family's donation to the library. If you're not sure what title to donate, please visit the MP library website for suggestions. Currently, I would like to replace many of our well-loved and well-worn classics with new hard cover copies, including the following Roald Dahl books - James and the Giant Peach, Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator, The BFG, Witches, The Twits, and the following E.B. White books: Charlotte's Web, The Trumpet of the Swan, and Stuart Little. If you have any questions, you may contact me at jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org. Thank you for supporting our students' love of books.

READING IDEAS FOR EVERYONE

If you are looking for book suggestions for your children, I recommend looking at the following websites:

GuysRead.com

GuysRead - (from the website) "...This is the place to come if you're looking for something to get a guy reading. We've collected recommendations from teachers, librarians, booksellers, publishers, parents, and guys themselves. These are the books that guys have said they like. We've gathered and grouped them to make them easier to find."

KidsReads.com

KidsReads – This site offers lists of series, information about the latest book releases for children of all ages, and contests that children can enter.

Have a great holiday season!

Happy Reading!
~Jenny Hillger, Teacher~Librarian

Cheetah Notes

A NOTE FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers for your help with vision and hearing screenings. We couldn't do it without you!!



Reminder: please do not send prescription or over-the-counter medications to school with your child. These should be brought to the health office by a parent/guardian/adult. The appropriate paperwork to administer medication must be completed and signed by parent and health care provider. You can pick up the forms in the health office, or you can find them on the Meridian Park website under School Information > Forms and Lists > Medical Forms.

Take care,
~Susan Goldman R.N., School Nurse



COLD WEATHER CLOTHING

Please contact your child's teacher or Family Advocate Annie Gage if there is a need for cold weather clothing.

If you have donations, please contact the Meridian Park front office or The Works.

**Dismissal
on early
release is
always at
11:45 am**

PTSA President's Letter

Hello Meridian Park families!

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 8th to see all the finalists' projects from the Shoreline district on display and see how "*The world would be a better place if...*" The theme for next year will be announced in February, so that students can start planning for next year.

A reception will be held for the finalists on January 8th at the Shoreline Room of the Shoreline Center.

Finalists

Aaron L.
Emmaline H.
Emily W.
Dash J.
Thea J.
Eliana M.
Nova A. B.
Yukine B.
Hayley Josephine B.
Melissa D.
Ameena M.



Please note: Not pictured are Emmaline H. and Yukine B.

Entrants

Jillian M.
Grace W.
Daisy C.
Danait M.
Jessica S.

There are lots of exciting PTSA events coming up at the beginning of the new year! Be sure that you have these awesome events on your family calendar! Both will take place at Shorewood High School – also marking the first time that Meridian Park has staged an event in the new theater.

Meridian Park Variety Show - Friday, January 9 @ 6:30pm

Drama Club Play "Alice in Wonderland" - Friday, February 27th & Saturday, February 28th @ 7pm

We invite everyone to attend the next PTSA General Membership meeting on Tuesday, January 6th from 7:00 - 8:00 pm in the Library, preceded by a Board of Directors meeting from 6:00 - 7:00 pm.

A reminder that our regular monthly Board of Directors meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month from 7-8:30 pm in the Library. YMCA provides free childcare and all of our meetings are open to the public.

Happy Holidays!

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

PTSA News

FALL FESTIVAL THANK YOU

In Meridian Park Around the World, thank you to these MP parents and their families: Almnes Shenkute, Kim Ositis, Khalid Khan, Asami Kirino, Margaret Stapleton, and Xiaoping Wu. Danko to the Dale Turner YMCA for hosting a table and helping to promote community. Arigato to Shiho Kurauchi, Chigusa Kitai, and the Folk Voice Band for entertainment. Merci to the MP families and local businesses who donated various items to this event: Doerksen family, Kaplan Family, Spin Alley, and James Alan Salon. Xie xie to the volunteers who without you, we could not have had this event: Annie Gage, Krista Keller, Jenny Hillger, Callie Steward, Megan Jones, Mel Williamson, Mike Adams, Sandi James, Mollie Merkley, Diane Randall, Jill Gwazdauskas, Jim Lakey, Gary Hobart, Christine Pinto, Hillery Clark, Holly DeGrazia, Rosemary Trimmer, Katy Hiett, Scott Soper, Mikaela Kennedy, Blerta Hertica, Sophia Gamble, Sarah Mainwaring, Mariana DeGrazia, Susana Velasquez, Nick Ositis, Natalie Ositis, Jade Doerksen, Isabel Kaplan, Lindsey Hiett, Will Hiett, Katherine Pinto, Eyasu Meresa, Elise Soper, Hayley Trimmer, Jed Keller and Cole Duthweiler. Thank you to the wonderful Meridian Park staff who attended the event: Kim Anderson, Mary Loes, Spencer Lockwood, Matt Alford, Jennifer Parks, Julie Harris, Pam Uran, Matt Reiman, Jean Phelan, and Mr. Tadlock. We apologize if we missed anyone. If you would like to share feedback, please feel free to contact Jill Steinberg at jrsteinberg@comcast.net or Dana Doerksen at gasbarri@comcast.net.

A loud cheetah cheer to all the 6th grade families who helped with pizza sales at the Fall Festival. Thank you to: Catalina Velasquez, Ann Yee, Alicia Bottger, Jennifer Hlaudy, Kim Stege, Janina Pacunski, Karin Gates, Katie Jovich, and our wonderful 6th grade teachers, Ms. Sezate, Ms. Mauge, and Ms. DuCharme! Together we raised over \$300 to put toward camp!



MERIDIAN PARK PTSA VARIETY SHOW – COMING SOON!

Auditions will be held Tuesday, December 9 and Thursday, December 11.

Variety Show Audition Request forms distributed this week in Kid Mail; additional forms are available in the MP Office.

Acts must be limited to 3 minutes in length.

Please return completed forms to the office by **Monday, December 3, 2014** to receive an audition confirmation notice by **Friday, December 5, 2014**.

Possible Emcee ideas: Survivor Meridian Park, CSA Meridian Park, Circus/Greatest Show on Earth, Confused Emcees (who think the Variety show is something different, like "Dancing with the Stars"), Mad Scientists, E Entertainment or Access Hollywood Hosts. Bring your creativity!

PTSA News

PTSA MEETINGS

The next PTSA Board of Director's Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 6th from 6:00-7:00 pm in the library. General business will be discussed. Immediately following will be the General Membership meeting will meet from 7:00-8:00 pm. All are welcome. Childcare will be provided by the Dale Turner YMCA.

DRAMA CLUB PARENT MEETING

Drama Club (4th-6th grades) Parent Information Night is Thursday, December 4 at 7:00 pm in the MP Library. If your child is interested in Drama Club, please come to this meeting to learn about the club and the great show at the end! We will also have sign-up sheets for parent jobs.

WRITER DOODLE AFTERSCHOOL CLUB

The second session of the Writer Doodle afterschool club (Wednesdays from 3:30 - 5:00 pm in the library) starts January 7 and runs through March 18. Cost is \$100 for the ten week session. You can join us now, even if you weren't with us in the fall. You'll work on whatever you choose: what you wrote in the fall, another piece, even school homework if you want. We'll choose the juiciest words to make the most memorable characters, settings, and dialog. We'll tackle grammar dragons and subdue clarity befuddlers. We'll correctly punctuate and learn basic editing techniques to make our work clearer, cleaner, and just all around better. Join us as we pursue brilliant writing! To sign up or for more information, contact Christine Pinto, at christinepinto@runbox.com or 206-546-5150.

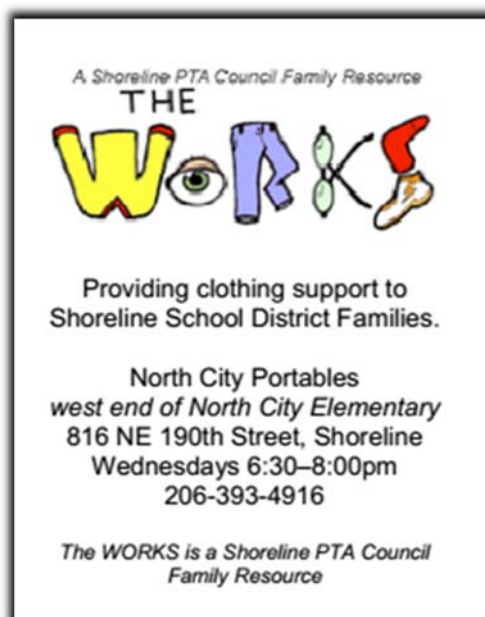
THE WORKS HOLIDAY BASKET FOOD DRIVE

The Works food drive starts December 1st - 12th. Meridian Park's main food staple for the holiday basket food drive is cooking oil. We will be collecting bottles of cooking oil starting December 1st. Stay tuned for more details!

VOLUNTEER AT THE WORKS

Meridian Park's evening to volunteer at The Works is Wednesday, December 3rd from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. This is a great way to meet other Shoreline adults who help make The Works such a success!

Contact Tracey Poole at tracey@stevepoole.com if interested.



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.

NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:
November 29, 2014**

**For More Information Contact:
Rex Kinney, rexkinney@gmail.com**

**AWARD-WINNING SHORECREST HIP HOP
DANCE TEAM ONCE AGAIN HOSTS
"PHYSICAL POETRY"**



Professional Hip Hop, Modern, Salsa, Jazz and Tap Dance Companies Will Hit the Shorecrest High School Stage in January

SEATTLE, WA Shorecrest High School Hip Hop Dance Team brings "Physical Poetry" to Shorecrest Performing Arts Center January 9 & 10, 2015.

"Physical Poetry" combines exciting dance varieties on one stage. Sharing culture and art with the rest of the community, Physical Poetry continually delivers exciting routines and dancers to a sold-out crowd. Exciting, heart-stopping, foot-stomping dance forms including hip hop, jazz, lyrical, tap, tango, zouk, Tahitian, Irish, Afro-Brazilian, modern, guarantee to keep attendees on the edge of their seats anticipating more. Experience two spectacular evenings, packed with amazing talent from the Greater Seattle Area, on one stage. This family friendly event will have the audience craving more!

Advanced tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at physicalpoetry2015.brownpapertickets.com. Tickets are \$18 at the door.

The show was SOLD OUT last year and we expect the same this year. Purchase your tickets now to reserve your seat at this popular Seattle event.

Coached and choreographed by Rex Kinney and assistant coach Angelo Buelva, SC Hip Hop Dance Team's purpose is to promote diversity within the community by utilizing hip hop dance as the medium. While learning teamwork, responsibility and dance, the team develops camaraderie and a sense of belonging with their teammates. Along with the awards and accomplishments received, SC Hip Hop continues to promote spirit and good will to their audiences. Awards include an Academic Excellence Award in 2006 and 2007, District Title wins from 2004-2014, State Championship Titles in 2006, 2009, 2010, 2013 and National Titles in 2010 and 2012. The Varsity Team is also fundraising to compete at the National Dance/Drill Championships in Orlando, Florida this year. For more information about Shorecrest Hip Hop please visit their website: www.shorecresthiphop.com

For Calendar Listing

Who: Shorecrest Hip Hop

What: "Physical Poetry"

When: Jan 9 & 10, 2015, 7:30pm

Where: Shorecrest Performing Arts Center, 15343 25th AVE NE Shoreline, WA

Why: Dance showcase benefiting the dance team program at Shorecrest HS

Tickets: \$15 Presale / \$18 at the Door.

physicalpoetry2015.brownpapertickets.com

Resources for Families

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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

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cheetahchatter@icloud.com

Frank Kleyn *Webmaster*

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Follow the MP PTSA on Facebook

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HOMEWORK FACTORY

FREE After-School Homework Support 2nd-6th Grade

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays 3-5pm

Get help in understanding and completing your homework in a fun and safe environment. Snacks and creative learning activities provided in addition to homework support.

Shuttle provided from Meridian Park upon dismissal to afterschool site - located at Vineyard Community Church/Trinity Presbyterian.

Pick up @ 5:00 pm: 1315 N 160th St, Shoreline WA 98133

Registration forms available online
at www.turningpointseattle.org or stop by our office!

Contact us at office@turningpointseattle.org or 206.402.6960.

2014 RICHMOND LITTLE LEAGUE WINTER SOFTBALL CLINICS



Richmond Little League is offering three softball clinics for girls 7-14 who want to work on their skills.

The clinics will be held at Spartan Gym (202 NE 185th St, Shoreline) from 2:30 – 4:00 pm on November 15th, December 6th and December 13th.

Come join us for a fun opportunity to develop the girls' softball skills. All are welcome. This is a free clinic you will want to take advantage of.

Contact Coach Todd Bean at toddabean@frontier.com for more information.

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