



Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA



Be a Part of the 2013 Shoreline Classic Car Show

The 4th Annual Seafair Shoreline Classic Car Show is coming up and WE NEED YOUR HELP! This year's show will be Sunday August 4 from 10:00am-3:00pm. Over the past three years, Meridian Park, with help from the Greenwood Knights, has put on this outstanding classic car show, which is huge PTSA fundraiser for our school. It is a Seafair-sanctioned event, and we are proud to say that it is the only one in Shoreline! Over the past three years, we have raised over \$16,000 for the school thanks to this show. The location of the school makes the site perfect for car lovers from all over Washington and for our Shoreline families.

To make this year's car show a success, we need help with some very specific tasks:

- Do you like talking to people about how great this school is? We need volunteers to hand out flyers at weekend car shows all around Seattle, and to help recruit a few new sponsors for this year's show.
- Do you have connections with local businesses we could target for new sponsorships this year (places like Spiros, Starbucks, Tully's, Dunn Lumber, Sky Nursery and more)? Our goal is to increase our new sponsors by ten.
- Do you like working on Web sites and the computer? Then we need your help designing a Web site and a coupon book for all of the local vendors.

Please contact Tracey Poole at tlp07@stevepoole.com or Janina Pacunski at jpacunski@yahoo.com.
Thank you!



Issue Six, 2012-2013
February 13, 2013

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February 13 & 14
Candy Grams for sale

February 18-22
No School—Mid-Winter Break

February 26
Middle School Transition Talk
5:30-6:15pm, MP Library

February 28
PTSA Readathon kick off
Alex Zerbe assembly

March 1
Deadline for Boxtop submissions

March 5
West Side Choral Festival
7:00pm, Einstein Middle School

March 5
Barry Deutsch assemblies

March 7
7th grade Information Night
7:00pm, Einstein Middle School

March 22
Dress-Like-A-Favorite-Book-
Character Spirit Day

March 28 & 30
Drama Club's production
of *Willy Wonka*
Shorecrest High School Theatre

JUMP at Family Fitness Night

February 5 was a fun night for MP families with a great performance by the JUMP team!



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

February is finally here and we are about halfway through the school year! It truly amazes me how quickly the school year goes by. Thank you for attending your child's conference week. It was a great opportunity for us to connect with families and to share academic updates. If you missed your child's conference, please know that we still want to meet with you. Please call or e-mail your child's teacher to set this up. It is so important to stay connected to school life and we learn so much from our parents every time we meet.

February is an exciting month filled with lots of events around Meridian Park. We kicked the month off with a fun Fitness Night and a fabulous Circus Arts / JUMP Team performance on last Tuesday. For our intermediate students, we also had an engaging two days of YADA workshops (Youth Awareness Disability Assemblies). Our students learned about various abilities and disabilities through experiential learning and real-life connections with adults living with differing abilities. For example, they moved through five different stations where they experienced hands-on what it would be like to live with vision issues, have a learning disability, and need to use a wheelchair and/or service dogs. The students loved this experience and we held lots of classroom discussions about care and empathy following this experience.

Our mathletes and our musicians have been busy this month. Students in our PTSA math club celebrated some great honors at their latest math competition and some of our MP students participated in the west side band concert at Shorewood High

School. Our PTSA Drama Club just began rehearsing for their *Willy Wonka* production and we are very excited to see the final performances during the last week of March. Lastly, our MP/PTSA Read-a-thon will kick off with a fun assembly on February 28 with Alex Zerbe and follow-up with an author's visit from Barry Deutsch.

On a more serious note, with the recent events of Sandy Hook, our own recent neighborhood lockdown, and other school tragedies around the nation, we are continually reminded of the importance of safety. We are also reminded about how grateful we are to you for trusting us with the care of your children. As many of you know, our school district has safety protocols and procedures in place and our district safety coordinator has reviewed them with each school staff in Shoreline. We have links on our Web site to some of the most common emergency drills such as lockdown, lockout, earthquake and fire drill. We also have a short summary of our staff responsibilities in this month's newsletter. Thanks for reviewing this information and for talking with your children about safety plans and emergency preparedness. It makes a difference. In any emergency situation, we know that we will rely on our parents and community members to help us keep our students safe.

Have a wonderful February break with your family. Please read with your child everyday and play fun math games together! Enjoy every moment.

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

Protocol for Lockouts & Lockdowns

Information about the Shoreline School District Staff Protocol for Lockouts and Lockdown Situations:

Lockout Response Actions

For EXTERNAL threat or Hazard outside school building

When the following announcement is repeated:

"Lockout, secure the Perimeter." "Lockout, secure the Perimeter."

Teachers:

- Quickly get students and staff into the building and lock all exterior doors.
- Recover students and staff from outside of building.
- Lock your classroom doors.
- Close classroom exterior blinds (*if you have them*).
- Take roll, account for students, staff and adults.
- Email attendance to Front Office.
- Increased situational awareness. Do business as usual.

Lockout Response Actions

For INTERNAL threat or Hazard inside school building

- When threat exists, can be initiated by ANY Teacher or Staff Member; Call 9-9-1-1 ... have last known location & description of intruder(s).
- Call School Office; have last know location, description of intruder(s).

When you hear the following announcement repeated:

"Lockdown...Locks, Lights, Out of Sight." "Lockdown...Locks, Lights, Out of Sight."

Teachers:

- Quickly get students and staff into the NEAREST ROOM WITH LOCKING DOORS.
- Lock classroom door.
- Lights out.
- Move away from sight.
- Maintain silence.
- Take roll, account for students, staff and adults.
- Email attendance to Front Office.
- Place GREEN CARD (if room is safe) under door and in exterior window (*if you have one*).
- Place RED CARD (something is wrong) under door and in exterior window (*if you have one*).
- Wait for First Responders to open door.

Sixth-Grade Math Team Qualifies for the MATHCOUNTS State Contest

Jamie Forschmiedt, Chris Lawson, Maria Babcock, Evelyn Li, and Kevin Lee competed in the MATHCOUNTS Seattle chapter competition on February 2 at the University of Washington.

MATHCOUNTS, a national competition for middle schools, takes place in four stages. The first stage was the school-level contest. Ten mathletes move on to the chapter-level contest, four representing the school as team and the others competing as individuals. The chapter-level contest takes place between the schools that are in the geographical regions of the chapters of the Washington Society of Professional Engineers. Jamie (19th) and Chris (24th) made the list of top 25% individuals in the Seattle chapter.

Meridian Park earned seventh place behind Lakeside MS (one of last year's MP students was on this team), Hamilton International MS, Albert Einstein MS (consisting of four of last year's MP students), The Evergreen School, University Prep, and Seattle Country Day School. Meridian Park was one of two elementary school teams competing in a field of 16 teams. The team of Jamie Forschmiedt, Chris Lawson, Evelyn Li, and Kevin Lee advanced to the state-level competition at Microsoft on March 16, joining the qualifying teams from the eight chapters. As a sixth-grade team going against the top middle school teams from around the state, we will use this opportunity to practice for the next two years and will be working towards realistic goals at the State Competition this year.

Kindergarten Art Classes

Teaching artists Cheri Micheletti and Esta Modian worked with the kindergarten classes to create illustrations of a snail in a garden, inspired by the book *The Snail's Spell*. Students learned about the art element of line, and used curved, straight, and zigzag lines to draw their scenes.



Shoreline Math Olympiad Registration

Registration deadline for the Shoreline Math Olympiad (Grades 4–8) is February 15. If the registration form did not make it home last week, please e-mail MPcompetitionmath@clearwire.net to receive a PDF file of the registration form. Preregistration is required: You cannot compete if you show up on the day of the contest without preregistering.

Middle School Transition Talk

Are you ready to be a middle school parent? What do you want to know about the transition to Einstein Middle School? Come join a casual conversation with Principal Stephanie Clark in the Meridian Park Library on February 26 from 5:30–6:15pm.

When are registration forms due? Can I make changes to my schedule after I have turned in the form? Which classes are required at Einstein? What electives can my student take? What is the difference between an honors and standard course? How do I pick which math class to take? What is the extra-curricular life like in middle school? How is bullying handled? What are events my child should not miss at Einstein?

Middle school is a time of great transition for students and families. Students move from one teacher to six. They experience short and long period days and take on more responsibility for balancing work and play. We are sure that you have lots of questions to ask about this big transition. Come to this informal gathering to learn more about this leap to middle school.

Remember, there will also be a parent information night at Einstein on March 7, as well as a visit to middle school for the students! We hope that you find these resources helpful when preparing your child for this change. Come get all your questions answered!

Candy Grams

Don't forget to buy your candy grams on February 13 and 14. Candy Grams will be sold during recesses, at lunch, and after school for \$2. Proceeds go towards the 2013 6th grade camp. Thank you for your support!

Meridian Park News

Families, Friends, and Feelings

notes from Annie Gage,
Meridian Park Family Advocate

Stressors that families face can often leave children feeling lonely and different from their peers. Going to a camp with others who have had similar experiences can be fun, educational, and decrease isolation. The following two camps offer such opportunities.

Camp Mariposa

This is an overnight camp for children who have been affected by the drug or alcohol abuse or addiction of a family member. It is presented by Youth Eastside Services and The Moyer Foundation. It lasts two days, is free of cost, and is offered throughout the school year.

The camp offers traditional fun camp activities enhanced with therapeutic elements to increase campers' understanding of the impact of substance abuse on the family and reduce their sense of isolation. Camp is staffed by professional counselors. For more information, contact Youth Eastside Services at 425-747-4937.

Camp Erin: A Grief Support Camp for Kids & Teens

This three-day overnight camp for is for kids and teens, ages 6–17, who have experienced the death of a loved one. Facilitated by professional staff and trained volunteers, it is offered free of charge to kids and teens throughout King County.

Participants at Camp Erin get to be around other kids who have experienced similar losses. They have opportunities to enjoy typical camp activities as well as those designed to help them understand and process their grief. This year's Camp Erin will be held August 23–25 in Carnation. For more information, please contact Chris Olson, Camp Erin coordinator, at 206-749-7689 or at christopher.olson@providence.org

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration has begun! If you know of any families interested in kindergarten at Meridian Park, please send them our way soon!

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.

Cheetah CHAMPS Recruitment Night

Cheetah CHAMPS, the new parent volunteer program, started off with fun and flair. A daring bunch of parents were our very first CHAMPS during the early weeks of January. At our January 17 kick-off event, they marveled at Louis Foxx's magic before describing their experiences as CHAMPS. Afterward, twenty more parents, and even a couple of grandparents, signed up as CHAMPS for this school year.



On January 24, MP Parent Jill Steinberg was our CHAMP. She describes her day:

A Cheetah CHAMP's Perspective, by Jill Steinberg

"Whose mom are you?" was the most frequently asked question of me today, a first-time Cheetah CHAMP.

My day started out with "first day of school" butterflies, not knowing what to expect. The jam-packed schedule had me assigned to volunteer in three classrooms in the morning, three lunch/recess periods, two classrooms in the afternoon plus more afternoon recess. The day began with a visit to my daughter's classroom where I was able to assist a few students with the math problem of the day. The time passed very quickly and I was off to the next classroom to help the teacher grade papers. The third classroom's students were working on a unique project and the teacher had me walk around and ask the students questions about what they were working on. Next up, recess!

I played tag with some K–2 students and watched several impressive stunts on the monkey bars. During 3–4 recess I learned that what I called the "vomit wheel" during my childhood is pleasantly called the "Tormato" at Meridian Park (the big red wheel that the kids spin around on). I joined my daughter and her class for lunch, swapping stories about the day and exchanging a dessert or two. After eating, I roamed around the lunchroom and chatted with a few students I hadn't met before. At one table sat a group of boys who were collectively from Albania, Mexico, Eritrea, and the United States. It reminded me how lucky we are to have such a wonderfully rich and diverse student body at Meridian Park!

My afternoon was filled with 30 minutes in the ELL classroom helping students with their poster projects and heading outside for more recess.

I am so glad that I volunteered as a Cheetah CHAMP! I ended the day meeting at least four new teachers, getting to spend time with our amazing recess and lunch room mavens, and engaging (and assisting) countless students. We are so lucky to have this program at Meridian Park and I highly recommend it if you are looking to take part in your student's day along with experiencing many of the people who make Meridian Park the special place that it is.

Cheetah Chatter

Meridian Park News

Class of 2020 T-Shirts

Class of 2020 t-shirts will be on sale soon. Current fifth graders, get your t-shirts while you can! They are pre-order only, \$10 each. Look for the order form in your boomerangs after midwinter break.

Clothing Reminders

The cold weather is still here! Please send your child with warm clothing for recess and outdoor play.

Notes from the Music Room

Happy Valentine's Day to you all!

Sixth-grade students are preparing for the Shoreline School District music festivals. Participating in these festivals is one of the milestones of elementary school, and marks a wonderful achievement for a young musician. Festivals include performances by sixth-grade, middle school, and high school choirs, orchestras, and bands and feature combined elementary, middle school, and high school performance pieces as well.

The fabulous and free West Side Choral Festival takes place at 7:00pm on March 5 at Einstein Middle School! Students representing Meridian Park are: Tabitha Bondurant, John (Freddy) Byington, Faith Cook, Cesar Corletto, Julia Gaynor, Menen Ghizaw, Michelle Gonzalez-Rodriguez, Yosef Hagos, Katherine Hegerberg, Jessica Hwee, Isabelle Jones, Sumra Khan, Evangelia Koceski, Evelyn Li, Malia Motoyama, Kaito Nasu, Erin Perkowski, Alok Sakya, Katie Stellwagen, Annie Suh, and Mia Van Inwegen.

West Side Choral Festival
7:00pm, March 5, 2013
Einstein Middle School

5th Grade Debut Concert
7:00pm, March 11, 2013
Meridian Park Elementary

Meridian Park Arts Festival
May 21, 2013
Meridian Park Elementary

a message from Shari Anderson, Music Teacher

On March 7, Meridian Park fifth-grade students will attend the Seattle Symphony Arts in Education Concert at Benaroya Hall, featuring Sergei Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*.

Spring calendars fill up fast, so please enter this on your family calendar today: You won't want to miss the 2013 Meridian Park Arts Festival on May 21. This annual celebration features a vocal music concert in the gym by all second-, third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders, poetry readings, chamber music, and visual arts displayed around the building. All second- through fifth-grade students are expected to attend. This is our grand championship arts "game" so to speak—the only one! We need every student to be there as we are so eager to share our beautiful music with you, our honored guests! Most coaches are great about working with their team and schedule so the kids can be at the concert, and we all know that parents can move mountains in order to attend. You won't want to miss it!

Library Notes

Coming Soon—Meridian Park's Celebration of Literacy!

a message from Jenny Hillger, Library Media Specialist

2013 RA



M.P. Read-A-Thon



Alex Zerbe

During the month of March, students and staff will participate in a variety of fun and educational literacy activities. It all begins with our kick-off assembly at 9:30am on Thursday, February 28, with professional zaniac Alex Zerbe (www.alexzerbe.com). Join us in the cafeteria as Alex helps us gear up for our PTSA-sponsored Read-A-Thon, as well as our first MP Cheetah Readers Weekly Raffle. Each week in March, students will record their reading and enter a raffle for book fair gift certificates and other prizes.

Information about the Read-A-Thon and Weekly Raffle will be sent home on Thursday, February 28. Look for the flyers in your children's backpacks.

Graphic novelist Barry Deutsch (www.hereville.com) will be at Meridian Park for two assemblies on Tuesday afternoon, March 5. Mr. Deutsch is the author of the Hereville series: *How Mirka Got Her Sword*, and *How Mirka Met a Meteorite*. There are several copies of these books available for check out in our library.

In classrooms, students can participate in the Favorite Character Illustration Contest and the Design-a-New-Book-Cover Contest. On Friday, March 22, students can participate in our Dress-Like-A-Favorite-Book-Character Spirit Day. Check the MP Web site for more specific details on these events, as well as for exact times for the Barry Deutsch assemblies.



Barry Deutsch

Drama Club

Drama Club is officially going strong! 32 students from fourth, fifth and sixth grades are working hard on the production of *Willy Wonka*. Stay tuned for ticket information for our two wonderful shows scheduled for Thursday March 28 and Saturday March 30 at the newly remodeled Shorecrest High School Theatre.



PTSA Meeting

Please join us on the first Tuesday of the month for the Meridian Park PTSA meeting. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 5 in the Meridian Park library. Please join us, especially if you have any questions about what your PTSA does for our school and students. We welcome all ideas and suggestions. If you have any questions, please contact Janina Pacunski, PTSA secretary, at jpacunski@yahoo.com or 206-715-3828.

February Works Drive

The WORKS Drive continues in February with soap. 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.

Hola

Interested in learning Spanish? We'd like to bring Spanish Club back to Meridian Park. If you are interested in helping with this, or know of a Spanish teacher, contact Rachel Ariss, VP of Programs, at arissfamily@yahoo.com.

Reflections Finalists

The Shoreline PTA Council celebrated all the artists whose work made it to the Council level and announced those chosen to move on to statewide PTA-level judging at a reception on January 15.

Meridian Park is proud to have eight artists' work selected as finalists to move on to State. Congratulations to Ashley Berkman, Ashley Mochizuki, Christopher Combs, Elma Lu, Imran Majeed, Karina Jhingan, Evelyn Li, and Isabella Jones. Angel Hern was awarded an honorable mention. Evelyn Li and Elma Lu received people's choice awards for their artwork at the Council Reflections celebrations.

It's not too early to begin thinking about ideas for artwork for next year. The theme for next year's Reflections program is "Believe, Dream, Inspire." The deadline to turn in completed projects will be sometime next October. Thanks to everyone who participated this year!

Boxtop Submissions

Don't forget that March 1 is the next deadline for boxtop submissions. Please send them all in—we are on a roll to top last year's box top income! A few notes: Boxtops have expiration dates. Please send what you have into school every 2–3 months. This allows us to use as many as possible! Log on to www.btfe.com to learn about opportunities to earn e-boxtops, which turn into extra money for Meridian Park. Check it out! Thanks for your support!

Teacher Appreciation Committee

The 1st & 5th grade families and students put on a wonderful teacher appreciation coffee break on January 31. The teachers and staff enjoyed this special treat during a busy week at MP. The 2nd & 3rd grade classes will be hosting the next coffee break on March 14. If you would like to join this fun committee, e-mail Shannon Brown at sdawnb@hotmail.com.

Art Docents

Have you seen Keith Haring around the school? While you may not find Keith Haring around the school, you will find the art docents and the children of Meridian Park busy re-creating his style of art. Please stay tuned for more details about the Art Docent auction coming up at Open House. If you'd like to help with this great program (no art background needed), contact Rachel Ariss at arissfamily@yahoo.com



Outstanding Educator Nominations

*Do you know a terrific teacher?
Do they do more than just what is required?*

Meridian Park PTSA Outstanding Educator nomination forms will be sent home soon. The Outstanding Educator Award was created to recognize individuals who have provided outstanding educational opportunities for children and youth that are beyond the normal scope of their jobs. If you'd like to join the selection committee, e-mail Rachel Ariss at arissfamily@yahoo.com

Golden Acorn Award Nominations

*Do you know an amazing volunteer?
Do you see a parent going above and beyond?*

Meridian Park PTSA Golden Acorn Awards go to honorees who have given exemplary volunteer service to children and youth in our school community. The Golden Acorn is given for continued and dedicated service. The individual who receives the Golden Acorn Award should have volunteer experience at the local unit level, as well as in the community and/or with the school district. If you'd like to join the selection committee, contact Rachel Ariss at arissfamily@yahoo.com.

Shoreline Public Schools Foundation Announces 2012-13 Classroom Grants

Last month, the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation awarded 39 Classroom Grants totaling more than \$28,000 to elementary, middle, and high school classrooms throughout the Shoreline District.

Meridian Park teacher Pamela Willoughby applied for and was awarded a \$1,750 Creative Ballet "Phase 2" grant that will allow her to continue her partnership with artists Tim and Alex Lynch of the Seattle Dance Project, teaching creative ballet to all K-6 students. The project will culminate in an evening performance for the community in the spring.

Classroom Grants fund innovative teaching such as specialized science instruction and field trips, arts programs, new books for all grade levels and interests, and other programs that enhance student learning. Classroom Grants are one of the many ways SPSF supports Shoreline students, and every school in the district is invited to submit proposals.

Since 1992, the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation has provided more than \$2.9 million in funding for enrichment and teaching beyond the basic curriculum in all K-12 Shoreline schools, as well as helping to fund basic educational needs when called upon.

The generous response of Shoreline and LFP residents to the foundation's November 4 "Calling for Kids" Phonathon demonstrates the support the community gives to help make the Shoreline Public Schools District one of the top-rated districts in the state.

Meridian Park parents, community members, and business owners are invited to learn more about the foundation's accomplishments and goals on March 28, during the "Spring Event" fundraising breakfast and luncheon at the Shoreline Center.

Please visit shorelinefoundation.org to register for the Spring Event or to learn more about the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation.

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

Einstein PTSA Accepting Nominations for 2013–2014 School

Hello, families of upcoming 7th graders. We'd like to welcome you on your journey to middle school. We realize it may seem like a long way off until September, but it will go fast. We are already gearing up for elections for the 2013–2014 school year and invite you to send in your nominations for anyone you feel would make a great advocate for our children, parents, community, and school.

You may nominate a candidate or even yourself by March 1, 2013. For more information or available positions, contact any one of the three committee members below. We look forward to meeting you soon.

Einstein PTSA Nominating Committee

Dixie Yamane: dixyamane@yahoo.com, 206-795-2481

Allison Taylor: ms.allisontaylor@gmail.com

Lori Ramsay: lori@iramsay.com, 206-790-9022



Two students learn the challenges of moving in a wheelchair at a YADA (Youth Awareness Disability Assembly) workshop

Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Edible Books Festival

The first-ever Edible Books Festival will be held on Saturday, March 30, at 11:00am at Third Place Commons in Lake Forest Park 17171 Bothell Way NE. This is a free event for all ages.

An edible book is a creative representation made of edible ingredients that may be inspired by a book title, a scene, character that may look like a book, scroll, or tablet, or not! The idea is to be artistic, create something good to eat, and have fun.

Edible book festivals have been held all around the world since 2000.

During the festival the books are displayed, admired by the public, photographed and judged, and then eaten with milk or coffee. Prizes are awarded in each of three age groups: grades K–6, grades 7–12, and adult. The categories are Most “Good Enough to Eat,” “Most Ponderful,” “Most Three-Dimensional/Architectural,” and “Most Literal Depiction of the Book Title.” Everyone present will vote for “Best in Show.” Minors must be accompanied by an adult. To enter, e-mail your name, age group, and edible book entry title to slfp.ediblebooks@gmail.com.



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/)

Amy Jessee, Principal

email: amy.jessee@shorelineschools.org

Hillery Clark, Early Childhood

Program Manager

Diane Randall, Office Manager

Jill Gwazdauskas, Registrar

Janet Boyett, School Nurse

Annie Gage, Family Advocate

2011-12 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