

Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA

WEST SIDE CHORAL FESTIVAL

6th 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 6th grade, middle school, and high school choirs, orchestras, and bands, and feature combined elementary, middle school, and high-school performance pieces as well. Bring the family to the new Shorewood High School Gym!

2014 MERIDIAN PARK ARTS FESTIVAL

Looking ahead: As spring calendars fill up fast, please enter this on your family calendar today. You won't want to miss the 2014 Meridian Park Arts Festival on Tuesday May 29 at 6:45 p.m. in the MP gym. This annual celebration features a vocal music concert in the gym by all 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders, as well as separate poetry readings, chamber music, and visual arts displayed around the building.

Please plan to attend this wonderful event with your family! All 2nd - 5th 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 all kids can be at the concert, so please make schedule arrangements early. We all know that parents can move mountains in order to attend. You won't want to miss it!

Report cards will be
sent home with
students March 31st

STUDENTS WALKING TO OR FROM SCHOOL

Please help us keep walkers safe. Students should cross streets only at intersections and only with adult supervision. While we allow grades 5/6 to walk alone, we prefer that adults walk with kids, and we require adults to walk with students grades K-4.

Thanks for helping us keep kids safe!



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UPCOMING EVENTS

February 12

6:30—8:30 pm
Shoreline Children's Center
Kindergarten, Here I Come!

February 13

Deadline to Register for the
Shoreline Math Olympiad

February 17—21

No School
Mid Winter Break

February 27

7:00 pm Einstein Cafeteria
6th Grade Parent Night

March 6

7:00—8:30 pm
Shorewood Gym
West Side Choral Concert

March 12

6:30—8:30 pm
Shoreline Children's Center
Getting Ready for School... Sing
with our Kids and Nancy Stewart

March 12

7:00 pm Meridian Park Gym
5th Grade Band and Orchestra
Debut Concert

May 29

6:45pm Meridian Park Gym
Meridian Park Arts Festival
2nd—5th Grade Concert

June 16

7:00 pm Meridian Park Gym
5th & 6th Grade Band and
Orchestra Concert

July 20

Shoreline Classic Car Show

Principal's Letter

Dear Families:

We are at mid-point for this year and second trimester, and we appreciate our partnership to help your student and each of our students, be safe, happy, and learning.

Thank you for attending recent conferences. As for ongoing classroom communication, you should be hearing from your teacher about classroom learning and curriculum at least once monthly through a class newsletter, website update, or both. While scheduled conferences for this year are complete, we are always available to visit by email, phone, or in person. Progress reports will be sent home March 31.

Communication is also important when there's a problem or concern. Our general guideline is to communicate concerns with staff closest to the situation and resolve at the lowest level possible. It's helpful to communicate quickly/privately, assume the best, and take a positive approach. While I am always happy to help, it's usually faster and easier to work things out directly with your teacher or staff directly involved. Thanks.



Art experiences and education are a valuable part of a child's total education, and we are thankful to our staff, PTA art docents, and other art docents who provide valuable art experiences. It's a challenge to find

time in the school day for everything we value in providing a well-rounded education, but we're

committed to a good balance of academics, the arts, fitness, and other areas. Thanks for our partnership with the arts and academics.

Lunch and recess are important parts of the school day and our students' total school experience. My staff and I talk regularly to refine our supervision procedures and reflect on ways to improve these experiences. We want lunch and recess to be safe, positive, and fun for our kids.

Shoreline Schools and MP are involved in our second year of the Roots of Empathy program. The purpose is to "raise levels of empathy, resulting in more respectful and caring relationships and reduced levels of bullying and aggression." This is part of our ongoing effort to be proactive in teaching positive behaviors and prevent bullying/harassment. Thank you to our Roots Facilitators and PTA for funding support for Roots of Empathy. You can learn more at www.rootsofempathy.org.

Congratulations to our Global Reading Challenge Teams! We encourage families to read together daily. March 2 is National Reading Day and Dr. Seuss's birthday, and we invite your participation in classroom activities to celebrate reading. Celebrate as a family with a "reading party" and reading at home. It's a great time to limit or cancel "screen time."

As parents of busy teenagers, my wife and I know that raising children is one of our greatest joys and challenges. THANK YOU for the great work you are doing at home raising great kids. We value our partnership and our work together to help your students grow socially and academically. Don't hesitate to check-in at any time. We love our wonderful PTSA, and we hope to see everyone at upcoming activities.

~David Tadlock, Principal
david.tadlock@shorelineschools.org

Shoreline School District #412 does not discriminate against any protected classes. For further information on notice of non-discrimination, including the address and phone number of the Title IX officer, visit: www.shorelineschools.org/info/title_ix.php.

Meridian Park News

6TH GRADE PARENT NIGHT

Get ready for middle school! 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. Please come to 6th grade parent night to learn more: February 27th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Einstein Cafeteria.

Getting School Ready Sing With Our Kids!

A workshop led by Nancy Stewart who shares the knowledge she has gained over decades as a composer and performer of children's music. She has developed ways for parents, family members, and teachers to harness the power for themselves.

As a result of attending this workshop, you will.....

- Develop early literacy skills in children through singing.
- Learn great strategies to effectively build and strengthen literacy skills.
- Discover how singing with a child connects neural pathways, builds memory and a strong sense of rhythm.
- Learn songs that are rich in vocabulary and by nature, build phonological awareness. Learn about, and how to use "Books that Sing".

Join the Shoreline School District Getting School Ready Team
for an amazing evening with....

Nancy Stewart

Wednesday, March 12th

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Shoreline Children's Center
1900 N 170th St.
Shoreline, WA 98133**

**This event is for Childcare Providers, Preschool Staff, Teachers,
Parents and Caregivers....anyone who engages with children!**
"Books that Sing" will be available for purchase from Island Books.

What it's All About...



Okay, raise your hand if you learned the ABC Song when you were little. Now keep your hand up if you learned it before you even knew your letters (trust me, you most likely did, so keep your hand up). Now put your hand down if you've ever forgotten the ABC Song. Your hand's still up, isn't it? That, in a nutshell, is the magic of music and literacy. It makes sounds and words into patterns so our brains can remember them.

Sponsored by a grant through SOAR and the King County Getting School Ready Project
Questions: Marilyn Enloe at 206-393-1823 or email: marilyn.enloe@shorelineschools.org

Cheetah Notes

UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS

West Side Choral and 6th Grade Honor Choir Festival

Thursday, March 6

Shorewood High School Gym,
7:00 – 8:30 pm

5th Grade Band & Orchestra Debut Concert

Wednesday, March 12

Meridian Park Gym
7:00 — 7:40 pm

Meridian Park Arts Festival 2nd—5th Grade Concert

Thursday, May 29

Meridian Park Gym
6:45 pm

5th & 6th Grade Band & Orchestra Concert

Monday, June 16

Meridian Park Gym
7:00 pm

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Happy Valentine's Day from the Meridian Park Singing Cheetahs!

On Tuesday Feb. 25, Meridian Park 5th grade students will attend the Seattle Symphony Arts in Education Concert at Benaroya Hall. Visit the website below to find out more about this concert, and other musical opportunities offered to your family through the Seattle Symphony!

<http://www.seattlesymphony.org/linkup/linkup.aspx>

Please note important dates for the following exciting events in the "Upcoming Music Events" box on this page:

- West Side Choral Festival
- 5th Grade Band and Orchestra Concert
- Meridian Park Arts Festival Concert
- 5th and 6th Grade Band and Orchestra Concert

~Mrs. Anderson, Ms. Musgrave and
the Meridian Park Singing Cheetahs



5TH GRADE BAND AND ORCHESTRA DEBUT CONCERT

Dear MP/CK8 Friends and Family,

You are invited to join our 5th grade band and orchestra for their first-ever public performance. This will be an evening to feature our newest 5th grade musicians in their own concert at school. Ms. Jobst (band director) and Miss Ault (orchestra director) will explain to the audience just how we teach and learn the beginning playing skills in our classes. The concert will last about 40 minutes. This special evening will be both a demonstration and a performance for you, by the students. You will be impressed with the talents in both the band and the orchestra groups, and it's always an exciting night to see the students perform for their first time in public!

Please do join us on the evening of **Wednesday, March 12th** at **7:00 pm** for the 5th grade band and orchestra concert. We'll see you at the concert!

Thanks for your support,

~ Ms. Jobst (band) and Miss Ault (orchestra)

Cheetah Notes



NOTES FROM THE CHEETAH GYM

The Family Winter Olympics was held on Friday January 31st. The event was full of physical activity and fun! Students grades K-6 joined their families in multiple Olympic-themed events, working together to achieve winning a gold medal. Thanks to all the families who came and participated in this wonderful event!

~Ms. Plandel



NOTES FROM THE DRAMA CLUB

Our 4th-6th grade musical this year is "Bad Apples," based on Grimm's Snow White. Here are some dates to keep in mind:

February 12: Pre-Sales Begin - look for order forms in the student Boomerangs!

March 20: All-school preview assembly.

Mark your calendars to see our fabulous show!

- * **Friday, March 21** @ 7:00 pm
- * **Saturday, March 22** @ 7:00 pm

Please contact Susan Duthweiler at sduthweiler@gmail.com if you have questions.

FAMILIES, FRIENDSHIP, AND FEELINGS

Lunch Bunch has made its debut at Meridian Park!

Many MP students enjoy having lunch in the Family Advocate office. There are many reasons for this. It is quiet and calm with a small group of children. Some kids like getting a bit of extra adult attention, and they just like the novelty of it. Because it is so popular, and is a good way for me to get to know the student body better, I have instituted Lunch Bunch.

Here's how it works: Every Friday, teachers can give two students from their classroom a Lunch Bunch pass. They can choose the same students repeatedly, use it to reinforce positive behavior, or choose randomly. It is up to the teacher.

I meet the students at the double doors of the cafeteria and we walk to my office and have lunch together. We might pick a topic to talk about, I might read to them while they eat, we might just talk. It is flexible, fun, and friendly, and I hope it will be a positive addition to the dynamic world of Meridian Park.

~Annie Gage, Family Advocate
[206-361-4251](tel:206-361-4251)

PTSA President's Letter

PTSA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Thank you to everyone who attended the Meridian Park Talent Show on January 17th. It was a great show and would not have been possible without the hard work for many volunteers, especially our awesome coordinators Holly DeGrazia and Vicky Hoag.

If you haven't already, be sure to mark your calendars for March 21st and 22nd at 7 p.m. when the 4th-6th grade Drama Club will be debuting an original show, "Bad Apples – a Musical", at Shorecrest High School.

Do you have terrific ideas you would like to see implemented at Meridian Park? The Meridian Park PTSA needs you! Please think about becoming a volunteer PTSA officer for the 2014-2015 school year. Open positions include Vice President of Membership and Vice President of Clubs. These positions require a small time commitment, and the benefits of helping the Meridian Park community are huge! PTSA Board of Directors Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month and are always open to the public. This is a great opportunity to expand your social circle at

Meridian Park and become more involved in school activities.

More information and job descriptions will be available in the next Friday email blast. Have questions? Feel free to contact Jill Steinberg at jrsteinberg@comcast.net or (206) 356-5977.

Please take a moment to submit nominations for the Golden Acorn and Outstanding Educator Awards. Nominations are due February 26, 2014 and can be submitted online. Please visit the Meridian Park PTSA website to vote:

<http://mpptsa.org/2014/01/30/ptsa-awards-2014/>

Thank you to everyone who participated in the recent PTSA survey. We will be sharing the results of the survey at the April 1st General Membership meeting.

~Kim Ositis

2013–2014 MP PTSA President
mpptsapresident@gmail.com

FOLLOW THE MPPTSA WEBSITE

Visit <http://mpptsa.org> and click the "Follow" button that appears in the bottom right corner of your browser window.

By following the site, you will receive email notifying you of new posts. Recent posts include information about getting involved with this year's Shoreline Classic Car Show and Approved Board Meeting Minutes.

GOLDEN ACORN AWARD & OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD

<http://mpptsa.org/2014/01/30/ptsa-awards-2014/>



Golden Acorn Award: Each year, the Meridian Park PTSA gives Golden Acorn Award(s) to honorees who give exemplary volunteer service to children and youth in our school community. Please take a few minutes and visit the link below to nominate a volunteer or an outstanding educator today! Nominations are due by February 26.

Outstanding Educator Award: Each year, the Meridian Park PTSA gives the Outstanding Educator Award(s) to honorees who develop and inspire students academically and personally, support student activities, work with parents and children, involve parents and community members, and employ innovative instructional techniques and/or classroom management strategies. Please take a few minutes and visit the link below to nominate an outstanding educator today! Nominations are due by February 26.

PTSA News

BROWN BEAR CAR WASH TICKETS

Brown Bear Car wash tickets are now available for purchase for \$5.00 each. Contact Tracey Poole at Tlp07@stevepoole.com to buy yours now! Proceeds benefit the 6th grade moving on ceremony.

BOX TOPS

Our little school house in the Meridian Park lobby continues to collect bundles of box tops! The Meridian Park PTSA just received almost \$400, and we are on track to receive another before the end of the school year!! Our next mail-in date is March 1, so please continue to keep sending those box tops in!

Kindergarten, Here I Come!

Join forces with the Shoreline School District
Getting School Ready Team
and make a difference for kids.

How: Collaborate, connect, learn and share with other individuals who work with children Birth to 5

By: Becoming a participant of the "Early Learning Now" Network

When: Wednesday, February 12th
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Shoreline Children's Center
1900 N 170th St.
Shoreline, WA 98133



Topic for the evening:
Early Literacy Techniques
Activities to Develop Early Handwriting.



Bring an idea to share or come learn some new techniques. This Professional Learning Community is designed to encourage rich conversation and offer learning opportunities from the group as a whole.

RSVP to Marilyn Enloe marilyn.enloe@shorelineschools.org
Sponsored by a grant through SOAR and the King County Getting School Ready Project

USED LINENS NEEDED

Have any flat sheets or pillow cases you were planning on donating? The District Occupational and Physical Therapy Department could use these linens for adaptive equipment needs. Please send the linens to school with your child in a bag marked "OT/PT Donation." Thanks for your help!

MERIDIAN PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

You are invited to join the monthly Leadership Meetings to express ideas, share concerns, volunteer to help, or get to know your neighbors.

February 19th
the 3rd Wednesday of every month
6:30—7:30 pm

Wallcotts Gift Shop
18330 Aurora Ave N
Suite 105
(Gateway Plaza)

Facebook:
Meridian Park
Neighborhood Association

MeridianParkNA@gmail.com
www.MeridianPark.info

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.

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 & Tama Leahy

School Nurses

Annie Gage

Family Advocate

2013–14 MP PTSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

www.mpptsa.org

Kim Ositis

President

mpptsapresident@gmail.com

Janina Pacunski & Tracey Poole,

VPs Clubs & Program

mpptsavpprograms@gmail.com

Dana Doerksen

VP Events

Jennifer Kley

Secretary

Krista Keller & Adrienne Thompson

Co-Treasurers

Adrienne Thompson

Legislative Chair

Mel Williamson, Denise Dana & Mary Crandell

Cheetah Chatter Editors

Follow the MP PTSA on

facebook

REGISTRATION FOR RICHMOND LITTLE LEAGUE

Registration for Richmond Little League is now available online at Richmondlittleleague.com. Richmond Little League fields teams in baseball and softball for boys and girls ages 5-18. We offer multiple divisions with games beginning in the spring and ending before the school year is over.

Please visit Richmondlittleleague.com for more information.

TEST DRIVE 4 KIDS

Campbell Nelson is giving a \$50.00 donation for every new car test drive to one of four non-profits to help at-risk youth in our community: Shoreline Public Schools Foundation, Edmonds Public Schools Foundation, Boys & Girls Clubs of Snohomish County, Vision House. This donation will help provide the opportunity for children to attend camps, enjoy healthy food options and attend after school programs. Program runs Jan 1st or April 30, 2014. Limit of one donation per household. Customer agrees to have their mailing address given to one of the participatory non-profits.

LOW COST DENTAL CARE

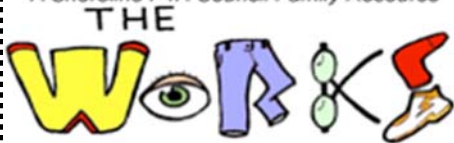
The Shoreline Community College Dental Clinic provides excellent, supervised student care at a reduced fee. You can get your teeth cleaned, have exams and x-rays, get fillings, and receive fluoride treatments. For more information call [\(206\) 546-4711](tel:2065464711).

HOOPAHOLICS

Presidents' Day shooting clinic with Michael Johnson! Former University of Washington captain Michael Johnson is running a shooting clinic for boys and girls who would like to continue to work on their game. February 17th. 12:30 to 3:30pm At Edmonds Community College For more information and registration contact:

Michael at mike23johnson@hotmail.com.

A Shoreline PTA Council Family Resource



Providing clothing support to Shoreline School District Families.

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

The WORKS is a Shoreline PTA Council Family Resource

The Cheetah Chatter is Published Monthly by

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