



Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA



Family Fitness Night at Meridian Park



Issue Six, 2011–2012
March 14, 2012

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Upcoming Events

March 12–16
Book Fair

March 15
MP Open House

March 19
School Day—Snow Make-Up

March 22
Rainbow Color Day

March 22 & 23: MP Drama Club presents Peter Pan
Shoreline Auditorium

March 28
6th Grade Honor Band
Performance, 7:00pm
Einstein Middle School

March 29
5th Grade Band/Orchestra
Performance, 7:00pm, MP

April 3–6
6th Grade Camp

May 1–17
MSP Dates (see page 2 for info)



Get Your Tickets Today!

Don't hesitate—use the order form from your Boomerang or visit the MP office to pick one up.

Thursday, March 22 & Friday, March 23

7:00pm

Shoreline Auditorium

Tickets: \$7/adults; \$5/students

Are You a Talker...Or Are You a Writer?

Maybe you like to communicate through writing, maybe through photography. We need your help with the Cheetah Chatter! Our newsletter editor has a student moving to Einstein next year, and we're looking for a few people to take on bits of our communication. Information collection takes about 2 hours each month. Compilation and editing is 3–4 hours per month. And as a bonus, most everything can be done in the evening, sitting at your computer. If you're interested in helping with either of these jobs as part of a team, please contact Mary Crandell at mary.crandell@gmail.com.

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

www.meridianparkptsa.org

schools.shorelineschools.org/meridianpark/

Follow the MP PTSA on Facebook

facebook

Meridian Park News

Principal's Letter

Dear Meridian Park Families,

Wow—have your children really been in school for 100 days? It has flown by! With just over one trimester to go in the school year, we still have a lot to accomplish and even *more* to celebrate! Teachers are working extremely hard to plan focused academic lessons and educational experiences for your children. They have taught intentional reading strategies lessons through a new supplemental curriculum called *The Comprehension Toolkit*. In numerous grade levels, students are practicing their math skills through online programs like IXL Math and XtraMath and our K–5 teachers are really mastering all of the components to the new math curriculum, EnVision Math by Pearson. Science projects are happening all around the school from exploring snails in Kindergarten to growing brassica in first grade and practicing with balance and motion in second grade! PTSA art docents are busy helping students to explore new artists and we will begin to prepare for our fantastic MP Arts Festival in mid-May! Before that begins, we welcome you to join us on March 15 at our Open House. Come see what your child has been working on in his or her classroom and also get some great deals at the Book Fair in the library!

During March, teachers will work on your child's next report card and send it home on March 30. Our 3–6 grade teachers will also start gearing up for the state assessment test (the MSP) that will happen right after Spring break. It is only 8 weeks away. As many of you know, all of our MP teachers meet as professional learning communities (PLCs) to talk about students' progress and to figure out individual plans for students in need additional support. We also use this time to talk about our academic and behavioral interventions and ways to adjust them to meet our students' needs. During these PLCs, we regularly use classroom-based

assessments and district assessments to measure your child's progress and to discuss plans for any additional needs. The best part is that we also celebrate student strengths, improvement and growth on academic measures! Our teachers truly are fabulous.

Lastly, as you may have noticed in our packed Boomerangs last week, there are a lot of fun extra curricular activities and events happening for many Meridian Park students. This is an unusually busy month filled with events and we truly appreciate the extra support you give to enable your child to participate in these many after school events. The MP PTSA Drama performance of *Peter Pan* is on March 22 and 23 at the Shoreline Center Auditorium, the Elementary School's Honor Band performance is on March 28th at Einstein and the MP/RNCS band/orchestra concert is on March 29 at Meridian Park. From March–June, students will have the opportunity to join some exciting before and after school clubs such as board games, volleyball, soccer, tennis, Lego robotics, math games and so much more!

Life at Meridian Park is never boring and we are truly grateful to all of you for helping to bring such great experiences for our children at MP! This month, we also celebrate our fantastic classified staff and appreciate them for all of the hard work they do on behalf of our students. From para-educators to custodians to office staff, health care professionals, kitchen staff, childcare providers and more we are so lucky to have such dedicated people here at MP. We are very fortunate. Here's to a great last trimester of school for your child!

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

Don't Forget Your Coat!

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



Before School Behavior & Supervision

We have noticed that students are arriving too early for school and are left unsupervised by the classroom doors and even in the library area. Please know that the first school bell rings at 9:05am. Students should not be at school before 9:00am without an adult supervising them. Please help us to enforce this policy.

The MSP is Just Around the Corner!

Attention 3rd–6th Grade Parents: State testing is around the corner! Please mark your calendars for the MSP (Measure of Student Progress) testing period of May 1–17 and stay tuned for more details coming soon about exact dates for tests. In the meantime, please avoid planning any absences, doctor's appointments or family trips during that time. Thank you so much for your attention to this! This year we will take two tests using the new online system—5th grade science and 6th grade math. We will practice this many times with demo tests so that students will be comfortable with this.

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

Friendship, Families and Feelings

In Mrs. Loes' classroom, where we are using the Roots of Empathy curriculum, I am regularly reminded of how helpful it is to think about children's temperamental traits: the inborn qualities with which we all enter the world. (Reminder: Roots of Empathy is the program that includes monthly visits to a classroom from a baby and his or her parent.)

In Mrs. Loes' room, baby Elyse and her mother Julie are our "teachers." Now that Elyse is eight months old, some of her temperament traits are becoming apparent. During her March visit, students noticed that she wiggled around a lot while she nursed. Julie told us that she is often active, which indicates that she may be on the "high" end of the temperamental trait called "Activity Level."

In school-aged children, those who have high Activity Levels will want to play something active after school. It might be harder for them to stay seated as much as school requires. Children who are lower on the Activity Level continuum might want to work quietly on a puzzle or read a book after school. Sitting at their desk will not be particularly challenging.

We also learned that Elyse eats and sleeps at regular times. She shows signs of having a high level of the temperament trait of "Rhythmicity." This trait indicates how predictable or unpredictable a baby's biological functions are.

For school-age children, the trait of Rhythmicity shows up in how easily a child creates and follows routines, and how well organized and predictable they are. Children with a lower level of predictability have a harder time organizing toys and schoolwork, being on time, and following routines.

Temperament traits do not have any judgment attached to them. They all have aspects to them that can make life easier or more difficult.

There are nine temperament traits in all, and in the next months, I will summarize all of them and suggest some related books for people who would like to learn more about this valuable concept.

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

Math & Science

Textbook Adoptions

Invitation for Parent Review

Shoreline Instruction Department would like to invite interested parents and community members to review the middle school math programs (grades 6–8) and the elementary school science programs (P–6) that we are considering for adoption. Materials will be available during the month of March, and are located in the Instruction Department of the Shoreline Center.

Interested reviewers should check in with Cathy Allred in the Instruction Department during regular business hours 8:00am–4:00pm. Reviewers will be expected to complete a survey for each program in math or science. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Allred at 206-393-4211. We look forward to having community input on these very important decisions.

MP Arts Festival—Save the Date!

MP Arts Festival

May 22, 2012

6:00pm

We have a wonderful evening event planned that we want to make sure gets on your family calendar. This night is full of fun—art walks all around the building, poetry readings for K–6 students, a musical performance for 2nd graders and more!



Many Hands, Small Garden! This will become our K–1 Pumpkin Patch, thanks to a PTSA grant and lots of hard-working families.

Meridian Park News

Meridian Park Arts Festival

Meridian Park Arts Festival
Tuesday, May 22, 2012
6:00-8:00pm

6:00-6:30pm: Poetry reading and chamber music in the Library
6:45-7:30pm: grades 2-5 Vocal Concert in the Gym
All evening: Student Artwork displayed throughout the building

Please plan to attend this wonderful event with your family! All 2-5 grade students need to attend, and as spring calendars fill up fast, please enter this on your family calendar today. 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 players so the kids can be at the concert, so make necessary arrangements early; we all know that parents can move mountains in order to attend! You won't want to miss it!

MP Spring Student Activities

Sign up for these activities by filling out the enrollment form that came home in your Boomerang, or by visiting the MP office.

Advanced Volleyball
Grade 6
Ms. Willoughby

Beginning Tennis
Grades 3-6
Mrs. Peterson
Limit of 20

Board Games, Friendship
& Lunch
Grade 2
Ms. Jenks
Limit of 20

Kids Cook Lunch
Grade 2
Ms Jenks and Ms Hazelton
Limit of 10
\$15 Fee for providing lunch

Sign Language
Grades 3-6
Ms. Maylor
Limit of 10

Math Games Club
Mrs. Steele
Grades 3-4
Limit of 16

Outdoor Soccer
Grades K-2
Mr. Herold and Mr. Lockwood
Limit of 40

Rainbow Day is March 23

Don't forget to wear your class colors on Friday, March 23!

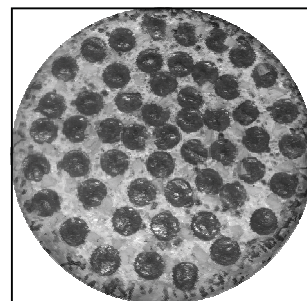
Kindergarten: red 2nd grade: green 5th grade: yellow
1st grade: orange 3rd grade: white 6th grade: purple
4th grade: blue

Pizza Night!

5th grade parents & students!

*Suffering from Thursday
night food blahs?*

Don't have time to fix dinner?
Why not support our 6th grade
camp fundraising efforts and *eat
pizza!*



The current 5th grade classes are hosting a fundraiser for next year's 6th grade camp. Come eat pizza, drink a beverage and learn what 6th grade camp is all about!

Thursday, March 29, 2012

5:30-6:30pm

In the front lobby at MP

Informational meeting about camp for next year will be in the library from 6:00-6:45pm, then enjoy the 5th Grade Band & Orchestra Concert at 7:00pm.

Enrollment Information for 2012-13 School Year

This week in the boomerang you will receive a blue form that must be filled out for each student, and returned to his or her teacher. This form will provide valuable information for class planning for the next school year. Most importantly we need to know of any student that will not be returning next year.

We also need to have new paperwork for all students that live out of district. We must have a release form signed by your home school district and returned to the office by April 6. The forms are available in the Meridian Park Office or at your home school district office.



City of Shoreline volunteers read to Meridian Park students on Dr. Seuss' birthday! This volunteer is sharing a book with Mrs. Loes' first grade class.

PTSA News

Notes from the Music Room

a message from Shari Anderson, Music Teacher

Great things are happening in general music!

Our Meridian Park fifth grade classes attended the Arts in Education concert March 8, a gift given annually by the Seattle Symphony to 12,000 fifth grade students through the Puget Sound area, and saw a fabulous 14-year-old cellist play with the symphony. This was a beautiful, inspiring concert of symphonic music, including Benjamin Britten's "The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra."

In other classes, sixth grade students are learning about compositional techniques, fourth grade has finished their second big recorder unit. Third grade is practicing new rhythms and learning about melody and harmony. Second grade is doing a unit with movement and singing inspired by Raymond Briggs award-winning picture book, "The Snowman." First grade is learning about rests and reading pitch. Kindergarten is experiencing changes in pitch and tempo in songs and music games.

Library Notes

a message from Jenny Hillger, Library Media Specialist

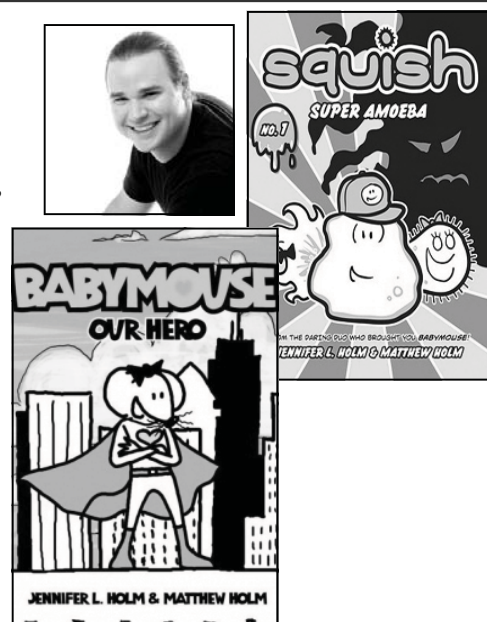
Scholastic Book Fair in Progress NOW!

Our fabulous book fair is in full swing this week. If you haven't already been to the book fair, then plan on joining us on Thursday evening during Open House. We will have a drawing for books in the library at 7:00pm for students who are present. Teachers have put up wish lists. There is an incredible selection of books for everyone. The book fair benefits Meridian Park students. We bring in guest authors and add to our library book collection. An enormous *THANK YOU!* to all of the volunteers who've made this book fair such a success.

Author Visit

Matthew Holm, co-creator of the enormously popular *Babymouse* and *Squish* graphic novel series, will be visiting MP students on Thursday, May 17. Plan to attend one of his assemblies and meet him. His visit is paid for in part with book fair profit, in part by a generous PTSA donation, and in part by a grant funded by the Shoreline Foundation.

Happy Reading!



The Cheetah Gym

a message from Pamela Willoughby, P.E. Teacher

Circus Arts And Dance Performance

Our JUMP Team performed on March 6 (Family Fitness Night) and March 9 (MP assembly) along with students from grades 1 through 6 who performed dances learned with choreographers Tim and Alex Lynch of Seattle Dance Project and the Pacific Northwest Ballet. Bravo to all performers.

Events like Family Fitness night are not possible without volunteers helping out. Thank you to Kelly Main, Awatash Kassa, Dixie Yamane, Renee Arellano, Rachel Ariss, Shannon Brown and our great high school volunteers as well as Mary Crandell, Mary Loes, Spencer Lockwood and Molly Merkely who jumped in and helped in the cafeteria.

P.E. Activities this Month

Students will be working on volleyball skills & games, bob sled races, fitness activities, tag games, and glow in the dark games.

Looking Ahead

Field Day is coming up in June! Sign up now to volunteer by contacting Ms. Willoughby at pamela.willoughby@shorelineschools.org.



Thank you to our great Circus Arts volunteers!

MP PTSA President's Message

Happy March Madness Meridian Park!

As the NCAA basketball teams heat up to see who will make it into the Final Four, the PTSA is going strong hosting many events and activities. March is a crazy one!

The Read-A-Thon has launched and the challenges have been laid out for our kids to read, read, read! Encourage them to keep at it and look forward to lots of fun prizes as well as the Book Fair and Open House on March 15.

Speaking of Book Fair, don't forget to sign up to volunteer during the week of March 12. Watch for the display board in the lobby and pick a spot or contact Aileen Lu, our Volunteer Coordinator! This is a great opportunity to help with an event that will benefit our school library.

The Drama Club has been diligently rehearsing for the upcoming production of Peter Pan! It will be a fabulous show filled with pirates, mermaids and lost boys. Shows will take place at the Shoreline Auditorium on March 22nd & 23rd. Keep an eye out for the beautiful posters around the school and in the community. Spread the word!

We kicked off March with our annual Family Fitness Night. What a fun night being entertained by Ms. Willoughby's Circus Arts performers and the Dance Grant performances by our 1–6 graders. Many thanks to Tim & Alex Lynch with Seattle Dance Project who directed this fun show, and to Ms. Willoughby for organizing this huge event.

The nominating committee has been busy talking to volunteers and recruiting new officers for next year. They have successfully presented the nominations and after a unanimous vote we have our officers for 2012–13. Brian Heagler, President; Rachel Ariss, VP Program; Adrienne Thompson, VP Events; Janina Pacunski, Secretary; and Tracey Poole & Krista Keller as Co-Treasurers.

Thank you so much for your contribution to the PTSA and for helping provide more opportunities for our students at Meridian Park!

Keep supporting our school by volunteering and helping us keep our programs and events a success. See you around the school.

~Kathy Henderson

MP PTSA President, 2010–2012

kathyhenderson@me.com

Art Docents

We finished our wonderful Georgia O'Keeffe project and auction, thank you to all of you that bid and purchased this beautiful collages. This auction along with the PTSA made this program possible. Our next art lesson will be on sculpting with Kat Taylor, a local sculpture. The kids will be able to make their own piece with clay.

Volunteers Needed: We are looking for any and all parents that want to keep this great program going, we need people to volunteer in all capacities—you do not need to know anything about art to help. Volunteers work 20 hours throughout the school year. Four two-hour training classes and four one-hour teaching times. If you do not want to teach you can even help hang the artwork—there's something for everyone.

Chess Club

We're currently in our second session and going strong with 28 kids. We are going to have an in house tournament from 3:45–5:30pm on April 19. All past chess club members from this year are welcome back—please RSVP for this event no later than April 12. If you were not in chess this year and would like to be in tournament please contact Rachel Ariss arissfamily@yahoo.com, you may be able to participate if space is available, there would be a small fee to enter. There will be food and awards for all the participants.

Want to get involved? Chess Club is also looking for a parent to head up the club for next year—no experience necessary! With out a parent this club will not exist next year. If you are at all interested please contact Rachel Ariss at arissfamily@yahoo.com.

Yearbook Club

Yearbook pre-sales will begin soon—watch your Boomerang for an order form.

And get ready to vote in your classrooms for the 2012 Cheetah Choice Awards in categories such as Meridian Park, Around Town, Leisure, Entertainment and the ever-popular *Completely Random* category.

Monthly Meetings

The first Tuesday of each month, YOUR Meridian Park PTSA assembles to discuss ways to assist teachers in their classrooms with volunteers or programs to help supplement the student learning experience. We welcome any and all Meridian Park parents to become active PTSA members and to join us and share your ideas.

PTSA Liaisons

1st & 5th grades will be hosting a teach appreciation coffee break in April, look for information from your PTSA room liaisons. Kinder, Preschools and 4th grade will be hosting the last appreciation of the year. Please remember every little bit helps and we do really value every contribution.

Class Art Project Auction Thursday

When you enter the main doors of the school to attend Open House tomorrow night, March 15, be sure to stop and look at the Classroom Art Projects on display in the front hall.

A Silent Auction will be held during the evening, with a minimum of \$25 bid for each project. The auction will close at the end of Open House and Art Docents will be available to take your payment. You will be able to take your piece home right away. Be sure to bring your checkbook, these projects are one of a kind. The funds raised during the auction will provide supplies for future Art Docent lessons and projects provided by parent volunteers and the PTSA.



MP Baseball Outing

MP PTSA Mariners Game on Friday, May 4, 2012! Look for the ticket order forms in Boomerang Folders on April 4. Cost of the tickets are \$14.00 per person.

Are You Reading?

Are You Keeping Track?

MP PTSA Read-A-Thon is Underway!

Read-A-Thon packets went out to all students at the beginning of this month and the Read A Thon started March 2, but it's *not too late* to join in and raise funds for the school and win prizes! Tracking and Pledge Sheets are available on our Web site at www.meridianparkptsa.org.

All funds go to benefit the Meridian Park PTSA. Readers can read aloud to others or be read to as well as reading on their own for credit. *All reading counts!*

Please help your kids to reach out to family members, neighbors, friends, your co-workers and others to seek pledges either in a flat amount or money per minute read!

Prizes address individual and group accomplishments for reading and fundraising achievement. Prizes include:

- Tie Dye Silicon Read-A-Thon Wrist Band
- 2012 Read-A-Thon T-Shirts
- Participation in Final Design Team for 2012 T-Shirts
- Movie Tickets to local cinemas
- Attendance at an on-site Tie Dye Party for Read-A-Thon T-Shirts (date to be announced)
- Funds for Classroom Library Purchases

New this year: Recruit a new reader (someone who hasn't participated in the Read-A-Thon before). If you each raise \$60 or read 4,500+ minutes, you each get an extra 500 reading minutes credit towards prizes!

If you have questions about the Read-A-Thon, please feel free to contact Melanie anytime at melaniegillespie@mac.com.

Have an Interest? Start A Club!

Some of the clubs that the PTSA offer are Sewing, Loom Knitting, Chess, Drama, Chinese, Spanish, and Art. All clubs must have a parent that works with the PTSA VP of Programs. If you would like a program to continue here at MP, please consider being a parent leader for a club. It is not as hard as you think. You would not have to attend every club event, just help with coordination and registration. You could even find a friend and work together on a club that you are interested in.

If you have an idea for a club that you would like to see here at MP and you are willing to head it up. Please bring your proposal to the VP of Programs: Rachel Ariss arissfamily@yahoo.com.

Where Do Your Donations Go?

The MP PTSA offers cash grants to Meridian Park teachers for projects and supplies that help our kids succeed. Each month in the Cheetah Chatter, we will highlight projects funded directly with the money you and your family raise. Thank you for supporting your school!

Lycra Maze

Description: Partial funding will be provided to create a "Lycra Maze" to be used for all preschool children during therapy to provide an inherently motivating, multilevel indoor climbing structure. Students who will benefit from this equipment include ECE students as well as any Shoreline students who come to MP for Occupational or Physical Therapy. Students will be closely supervised while in the Lycra Maze. This Lycra Maze has been used in many local therapy settings, including both in schools and therapy centers, and has been very successful. Once created, this Lycra Maze will be used for years to come by future Early Childhood classes. The district's OT/PT department will provide the other half of the funds for this project.

Low-Level/High-Interest Chapter Books

Description: As part of our current fifth grade reading curriculum, we are teaching students how to find books at an appropriate reading level in a variety of genres. These books must include opportunities for growth in comprehension, vocabulary-building, exposure to many cultures, and introductions to new authors and series. The books will remain in fifth grade classroom libraries for the coming years and will also be available to families of our students, as students may borrow our books and take them home to read.

You Can Help, Too

Volunteers are needed to join the committee that reviews the grant applications and distributes the funds. This is a small time commitment (reading the applications and attending one meeting) that makes a tangible difference for our school. Contact Jodi Forschmiedt at jodi@jodiwrites.com to learn more.

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

Understanding Bullying

What's the difference between conflict and bullying? Come to an interactive presentation to discuss how is bullying different for boys and girls, with a special focus on girl conflicts and bullying. Childcare will be provided; registration required in advance. Contact 206-393-4130.
Thursday, March 22, 7:00–8:30pm at Lake Forest Park Elementary School

Shoreline Youth Jam 2012

Shoreline Youth Jam 2012 is on Friday, April 6, 6:00–10:00pm, at the Shoreline Community College PUB. This “no-holds-barred” musical competition is open to all youth living in Shoreline. Check it out on Facebook: www.facebook.com/youthjam.

Spring Kids Dance Camp

The Shorecrest Hip Hop team will be hosting a dance camp where kids will enjoy, dancing hip hop, jazz funk, arts and crafts, and some breakdancing.
Wednesday 4/25 and Friday 4/27, 9:00am–1:00pm, ages 5–12 years, \$70/student. To register, email rexkinney@gmail.com.

Sip Into Spring Event

Hosted by the Lake Forest Park Rotary Club. Sunday, March 23, 2012 2:00–5:00pm, Shoreline City Hall. For more information, see www.lfprotary.org.

Help Get Our Neighborhood Ready for Spring!

Meridian Park Neighborhood Association will be hosting two work parties this month:
Sunday, March 18: 9:00am–12:00pm at Meridian Park Elementary.
Saturday, March 31: 9:00am–12:00pm at Darnell Park; meet at the Benches by the trail.
For more info: www.MeridianPark.info or gtatravel@comcast.net

Spring Break Drama Camp

Dandylyon Drama presents: ORPHANS: A Musical Revue
During camp each student will have the opportunity to choose a monologue and song from *Annie*, *Oliver*, or *Newsies* and receive personal drama directing and voice lessons. We will weave them together into a delightful final presentation on Friday, April 27 at 7:00pm. Registration is limited. Instructors: Director Melani Lyons & Musical Director Rob Jones. Registration information: melanilyons@comcast.net.
Grades 6–9; Monday 4/23–Friday 4/27; 10:00am–3:00pm;
Tuition \$200

Aikido Classes

The City of Mountlake Terrace is now offering martial arts classes at the Rec Pavilion (53rd Ave and 228th St SW). For more information: www.mltkiaikido.com or 425-640-3107 or email mltkiaikido@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*

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

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
Hillary Clark, Early Childhood
Program Manager
Roxanne Brendible, Office Manager
Jill Gwazdauskas, Registrar
Janet Boyett, School Nurse
Annie Gage, Family Advocate

2011–12 MP PTSA
Executive Committee

www.MeridianParkPTSA.org

Kathy Henderson, President
email: kathyhenderson@me.com
Rachel Ariss, VP Program
Reneé Smith, VP Events
Open, VP Fundraising
Janina Pacunski, Secretary
Brian Heagler & Tracey Poole, Co-Treasurers
Adrienne Thompson, Legislative Chair
Mary Crandell, *Cheetah Chatter* Editor