

Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA

JUNIOR ART SHOW

It's that time of year again! The Junior Art Show process has begun. Submissions to this contest are eligible to be selected as art for the 2014-2015 school wall calendar.

Visit the following websites for more information:

<http://www.shorelinearts.net/index.php/Shoreline-Arts-Festival/shoreline-arts-festival.html>

<http://www.shorelinearts.net/index.php/Shoreline-Arts-Festival/arts-festival-applications.html>



AMC 8 MATH CONTEST

Fourteen students from the Meridian Park Competition Math Club - **Logan Gnanapragasam, Brandon Mochizuki, Jonathan Zhou, Imran Majeed, Isaac Poole, Fred Liu, Ashley Mochizuki, Emmie Wang, Joshua Cui, Samuel Nguyen, Arjun Thomas, Soliana Hassen, Manoli Tramountanas** and **Aaron Gray** – took part in the AMC 8 math contest on November 19th 2013 at Einstein Middle School. The AMC 8 is a multinational mathematics competition conducted by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) (<http://www.maa.org/math-competitions/amc-8>). It is open to anyone in 8th and lower grades. Each year more than 15,000 students from the U.S., Canada, and many other parts of the world take the AMC 8.

A sampling of the 2012 questions is available at http://www.maa.org/sites/default/files/pdf/AMC/amc8/2013_AMC8_TM.pdf.

Logan placed in the top 1% of all contestants and is listed in the Distinguished Honor Roll published by the MAA. Brandon placed in the top 5% of all contestants and is listed in the Honor Roll. Students who are in 6th grade or below and who scored 15 points or more (out of 25) are listed in the Achievement Roll. Logan, Brandon, Jonathan, Imran, Isaac, and

Fred attained this score. Meridian Park's team score was 60, placing us in the School Merit Roll. The different rolls and statistics of this competition are available at <http://amc-reg.maa.org/reports/generalreports.aspx>.

Shoreline Car Show
Planning Meeting April
14th— see page 8 for
more information

Read about outstanding performances at two additional math competitions on Page 3 of this month's Cheetah Chatter!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

March 13

6:00—7:00 pm Room 402
Camp Orkila Parent Meeting

March 21 & 22

7:00 pm
Shorecrest High School Theater
MP Drama Club's Musical

April 1

6:30—8:00 pm Meridian Park Library
PTSA Meeting

April 3

6:30—7:30 pm
Shoreline Children's Center
Getting School Ready Family Concert with Nancy Stewart

July 20

7:00 pm Meridian Park Library
Shoreline Classic Car Show Planning Meeting

April 17

5:00—7:00 pm Meridian Park
Open House and Book Fair

May 6

6:30—8:00 pm Meridian Park
PTSA Meeting

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

Principal's Letter

Dear Cheetahs:

March is a busy month at MP. Second Trimester ends on March 20, and Progress Reports will be sent home on March 31. As always, we welcome questions about your student's progress, so please feel free to contact your teacher. My thanks to our hard-working staff as they finish up academics for this trimester and prepare progress report data for parents.

Our staff teams continue to work collaboratively on important topics of student learning. Teamwork includes our instructional improvement goals, called SMART Goals because they are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Timely. We also have State MSP Goals. More information is provided on our website.

State-mandated MSP testing will take place in May for grades 3, 4, 5, and 6. We are working on our MP testing schedule, but until the schedule is final, please avoid making appointments during the school day in the month of May. **Our general rule is to limit out of school time in the month of May.** Thanks. (This is the last year of state MSP

testing before we move to national common core assessments, beginning in 2015.)

We are beginning to plan for next year. We need every family to return the District Intent Form regarding your plans to return to MP or change schools next year. Enrollment is key to staffing and class configura-



tions. Our student assignment process begins in April and ends right before school starts. We are very careful about creating balanced classes and making the best classroom assignments for children and grade levels. A parent input form will be available soon, and more info will be provided.

The Arts are an important part of MP. Our students experience visual and performing arts in many ways: general music, movement, and percussion; instrumental music; Honor Choir; class celebrations & assemblies; Artist in Residence programs; teacher-led classroom art, and PTA Art Docents and Reflections. Thanks to Mrs. Anderson, Ms. Musgrave (intern), Mrs. Ault, and Ms. Jobst for providing an outstanding music experience. We also appreciate the leadership and work of parents, staff, PTA, and all of you for supporting the Arts at MP! Let's all advocate for the Arts!

At MP, we are committed to a safe and inclusive school culture for all students and families. We are continuously engaged in school-wide efforts to teach the positive behaviors of respect, responsibility, acceptance, kindness, compassion, and safety. Bullying prevention is an on-going focus for our school. Our PTA Family Nights are a great time to gather as school community and learn from each other.

We are grateful for our wonderfully supportive PTA. Thank you for sixth-grade camp support, classroom grants, family activities, parent education, and more. We could not be the great school we are without our PTA. And thank you moms and dads for our partnership in the education of your children; it's powerful when adults work together on behalf of kids. Life is busy, and I encourage families to be sure to take time to play, read, eat, and relax together. We hope to see everyone at a PTA meeting, the school play later this month, or another activity.

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

STATE MSP TESTING IN MAY

State-mandated MSP testing will take place in May for grades 3, 4, 5, and 6. Until the testing schedule is final, please avoid making appointments during the school day in the month of May.



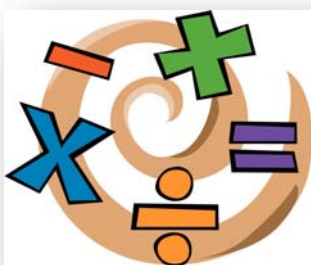
Shoreline School District #412 does not discriminate against any protected classes. For further information on notice of non-discrimination, including the address and phone number of the Title IX officer, visit: www.shorelineschools.org/info/title_ix.php.

Meridian Park News

MATHCOUNTS CHAPTER CONTEST

Imran Majeed, Logan Gnanapragasam, Emmie Wang, Isaac Poole, Brandon Mochizuki, Jonathan Zhou, Ashley Mochizuki, Genevieve Trimbell, Samuel Nguyen, Fred Liu, Joshua Cui, Aaron Gray and Arjun Thomas participated in the MATHCOUNTS Seattle chapter competition on February 7th 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 among the schools that are in the geographical regions of the chapters of the Washington Society of Professional Engineers.



Imran at 18th made the list of the top 25% individuals in the Seattle Chapter. Meridian Park earned fifth place behind Lakeside MS, Albert Einstein MS (consisting of four former Meridian Park students), Hamilton International MS, and Seattle Country Day School. Meridian Park was the only elementary school team among the 15 teams in the Seattle Section. Although a 5th place finish earned us a listing in the top 40% teams list, we were disappointed that we did not qualify for the State MATHCOUNTS this year.

MATH IS COOL ELITE DIVISION

Jonathan Zhou, Logan Gnanapragasam, Fred Liu, Genevieve Trimbell, Isaac Poole, Brandon Mochizuki, Ashley Mochizuki, Imran Majeed, Emmie Wang, Joshua Cui, Emmanuel Tramountanas, Samuel Nguyen, Aaron Gray and Arjun Thomas competed in the sixth grade Math is Cool Championship on February 7th at Mount Rainier High School in Des Moines. Meridian Park earned third place behind Odle MS and Evergreen MS, our best finish in three years. Jonathan won the 7th place trophy in the individual portion of the contest.

Meridian Park was in Division 1A, the most competitive division, because of our performance in past years. The divisions are determined by the size of the School District, whether the school uses an entrance exam, and on past performance. Schools from districts which have fewer than 200 students in 6th grade are placed in Division 2. Schools from districts with more than 200 students in 6th grade or those that have a selection test to admit students are placed in Division 1. Those who have done very well in the past are placed in Division 1A.

The championships were conducted at five locations; Seattle, Spokane, Vancouver, Wenatchee, and the Tri-Cities. The top eight teams overall from the combined list from all locations and divisions are invited to the Elite division. Meridian Park was third in the overall list as well and has accepted the invitation to the 6th grade Elite Masters in Moses Lake on May 19th 2012. **Logan, Brandon, Jonathan, and Ashley** will be representing Meridian Park at the Masters.

This group of mathletes was supported by a large number of volunteers. Raif Majeed proctored a classroom of four teams; Changhong Peng, Dan Gnanapragasam, Emmanuel Gnanapragasam, Linda Deng, Nimmy Gnanapragasam, Tracy Poole and Zhengjie Zhou scored the contest; Grace Cui, Jim Trimbell and Toshie Mochizuki chaperoned the teams while Arun Thomas took care of the pizza.

Cheetah Notes

UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS

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

Greetings from the music room! March is Music in our Schools month, and Meridian Park students are learning so much about music!

On March 6th, thirty Meridian Park 6th graders represented our school by participating in the beautiful westside Choral Music Festival Concert at Shorewood High School. Approximately 200 high school, middle school, and 6th grade students sang in this fabulous concert.

On February 25th, Meridian Park 5th graders attended Carnegie Hall's Link-Up Series concert "The Orchestra Sings" performed by the Seattle Symphony. It was a wonderful experience; the concert included beautiful music performed by the symphony, some entertaining drama, vocal performances, dance, visuals, with tending students participating through singing, movement, and recorder playing.

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



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 29th at 6:45 p.m. in the Meridian Park 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!



Cheetah Notes

NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

Greetings MP Families,

We have many exciting literacy events happening in March and April. Thanks to generous grants from the Shoreline Foundation and the Shoreline/LFP Arts Council, I have been able to schedule assemblies and workshops with two local authors for all MP students.

~Writer and poet Eric Ode will be at Meridian Park on Thursday, March 13th, to work with kindergarteners, first graders, and second graders. They will work with rhyme and rhyme, poetry and stories. His website is www.ericode.com.

~Writer Brett Gadbois, author of **The Cellar Door**, will hold writers' workshops for third through sixth graders on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 25th and 26th. Students will work on developing ideas and finding their voices as writers. His website is www.brettgadbois.com.

~Writer Clete Smith, author of the **Aliens on Vacation** series, will make two presentations to third through sixth graders on Thursday, April 17th. His website is www.cletebarrettsmith.com.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR FIESTA, APRIL 14 – 18

Our big Scholastic Book Fair will run the week of April 14 – 18 in the library.

Hours will be 8:40 – 4:00 Monday through Thursday, and 8:00 – 1:00 on Friday. The book fair will also be open during Open House on Thursday, April 17th, from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. More detailed information will be sent home the week before the fair.

We depend upon volunteers to help our book fairs run smoothly. If you are able to volunteer for a 1 ½ to 2-hour shift, please let me know. Contact: jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org or 206-393-4125.

Thanks!

~Jenny Hillger

SASQUATCH & YOUNG READERS CHOICE VOTING PARTY

Intermediate students who have read at least three Sasquatch and YRC books, taken the Reading Counts quizzes for them, and posted comments and ratings, will be invited to the voting party on March 27th.

Once a student has met the requirements, s/he must sign up in the library in order to come to the party. Please encourage your intermediate student to participate. It's not too late! Students have been reading the 2014 nominees since last fall.

2014 READ-A-THON

It's time for students to read, read, read! Our annual PTSA fundraiser began on Monday, March 10th, and will run through Monday, March 31st. Students can turn in their pledge money beginning on Tuesday, April 1st. To be eligible for prizes, students must turn in the pledge money by Friday, April 4th.

Funds raised help to support field trips, before- and after-school clubs, the Fall Carnival and much more.

Student prizes include gift certificates to spend at the book fair in April, a keychain or bracelet, t-shirts, a pizza party, and a gift card for a local movie theater.

Cheetah Notes

FAMILIES, FRIENDSHIP, AND FEELINGS

Sometimes when I'm teaching social skills in classrooms, it occurs to me how great it would be if all us adults used the tools to communicate that I'm teaching to children!

This happened most recently when I was talking to a group of 3rd graders about the difference between being assertive, aggressive, passive, and passive-aggressive in order to get something that you want or need.

In case you can use it, here's a review.

- **Aggressive:** This means using some form of domination to get what you want. When people are aggressive they might yell, threaten, namecall, criticize, grit their teeth, use a harsh tone, or otherwise act intimidating or demanding. A person might get what they want this way, but it will likely be at the cost of other people's trust of them and feelings of safety around them.

Example: Shut the door, NOW, you dimwit!

- **Passive:** Sometimes when people are being passive, they just don't say anything. Other times, they hint around or mumble or speak so softly it is hard to hear them. When people are passive, it is often because they don't feel comfortable asking for what they want or because they've never learned how to ask. It can be hard to get what they want or need when because other people may not ever know!

Example: (Standing by an open door) "It sure is cold in here." (Does nothing to close door or get it closed.)

- **Passive- Aggressive:** This is when people don't ask for something and then they get angry when they don't get it. The anger may take the form of blaming, sighing, eye-rolling, sarcasm, and other styles of communication that no one likes to receive.

Example: "What did you leave the door open for? You want us all to freeze to death?"

- **Assertive:** Being assertive means stating your needs clearly and politely, with a calm tone of voice.

Example: "I'm getting cold. Will you please close the door?"



~Annie Gage, MSW
Family Advocate
Meridian Park/Cascade K-8
[206-393-17638](tel:206-393-17638)

Cheetah Notes

Getting School Ready Family Concert

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

Nancy Stewart

Thursday, April 3rd

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Shoreline Conference Center

Shoreline Room

1900 N 170th St.

Shoreline, WA 98133

**This event is for Families and their children,
Childcare Providers, Preschool Staff, Teachers,
Parents and Caregivers....anyone who engages with children!**

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

PTSA President's Letter

PTSA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Perhaps you've heard snippets of show tunes wafting down the school halls and rumors of miss-behaving fruit? Rob Jones and Melani Lyons of Dandylyon Drama have teamed up to write *Bad Apples*, a musical re-telling based on Grimm's *Snow White*. Our talented 4th, 5th and 6th graders in the Drama Club have the honor of staging the worldwide debut of this original production! We hope to see everyone on Friday, March 21st and Saturday, March 22nd at 7 p.m. at Shorecrest High School. The PTSA will also be recognizing the Golden Acorn and Outstanding Educator Award recipients on opening night (March 21st).

The next General Membership Meeting will be April 1 at 7 p.m. in the library. Agenda topics include election of officers for the 2014-2015 school year. The speaker for the evening will be Charles Hasse of the Class Size Counts initiative (www.classsizecountswa.com). Joining Charles on the panel will be Meridian Park's own Matt Reiman and Jill Steinberg!

FREE childcare is provided at all PTSA monthly meetings, courtesy of the YMCA.

Even though it's cold and rainy outside now, planning for the Shoreline Classic Car Show (Sunday, July 20th) is in full swing! The next Car Show committee meeting will be Monday, April 14th at 7 p.m. in the Meridian Park Library. The Car Show is the PTSA's biggest fundraiser of the year - bringing in more than \$8,000 in profit last year! Come learn how you can be a part of this great event. There will also be a Car Show information table at the Open House and Book Fair on April 17th.

~Kim Ositis
2013-2014 MP PTSA President
mpptsapresident@gmail.com

FOLLOW THE MP PTSA 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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO REFLECTION COUNCIL FINALISTS!

One last ***congratulations*** to our Meridian Park students who were Reflections Council finalists. While they did not move on to the National level, we are all very proud of their accomplishments along with all the other Reflection participants.

Emmie Wang, Visual Arts *"The World of Dreams"*
Ameena Majeed, Music Composition *"The Dancing Notes"*
Imran Majeed, Music Composition *"Believe, Dream, Inspire"*
Oliver Reiman, Music Composition *"Sky, Land, Sea"*

Next year's theme has been announced:

"The world would be a better place if... "



PTSA News

THE MERIDIAN PARK PTSA NEEDS YOU!

Do you have terrific ideas you would like to see implemented at Meridian Park? Please think about becoming a volunteer PTSA officer for the 2014-2015 school year.

Open positions include:

Co-Treasurer (we already have one Co-Treasurer) - Responsible for managing the funds of our PTSA, assisting in creating future budgets, co-signing checks, submitting monthly budget reports for review, depositing monies, and overseeing reimbursements. A great job for someone who is good with numbers!

Vice President of Programs - Responsible for researching and implementing enrichment classes before and/or after school (for example, Spanish, Chess, French....)

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.



Have questions? Feel free to contact Jill Steinberg at jrsteinberg@comcast.net or (206) 356-5977.

DON'T FORGET TO PRE-ORDER A YEARBOOK!

Look for an order form in the March 19th Boomerang.



Yearbooks are \$17 when ordered in advance. A limited number of yearbooks will be available for \$20 during the last week of school.

Don't miss out!

MERIDIAN PARK BASEBALL OUTING

Save the date! MP Mariners Game Night is scheduled for Friday, May 9, 2014. Plan to watch the Seattle Mariners vs. the Kansas City Royals at Safeco Field. Tickets cost \$14, of which \$3 goes to the MP PTSA as a fundraiser. More details will be available in April.



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 Kleyn

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

SHORELINE SPECIAL NEEDS PTSA MEETING

You're Invited! Our next meeting is April 17th, 2014.

The Shoreline Special Needs PTSA fosters communication and collaboration among parents, students, teachers, schools, and the community to support students with special needs.

To stay informed of future events and notifications, please LIKE our Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/ShorelineSpecialNeedsPTA>.

Visit our new website at www.shorelinespecialneedspta.com. Online membership sign-ups are now available!

Questions? email info@shorelinespecialneedspta.com

HELPING KIDS COPE WITH STRESS

Please join us for an evening with Sue Eastgard, Director of the Youth Suicide Prevention Program for Washington State, to discuss stressors facing our adolescents and how to best support our young people. The evening is primarily for parents, and the focus will be on secondary students (7th – 12th grades). We will review various resources and coping strategies. It is open to all Shoreline School District families. There is no registration required or cost to attend. Please join us for this important conversation.

Wednesday, March 12th, 7 to 8 p.m., in the Shoreline Room at the Shoreline School District offices, 18560 1st Ave NE, Shoreline, WA 98155

The most accessible parking is between tennis courts/fields and the Shoreline Center

CALLING ALL 3RD—6TH GRADERS INTERESTED IN THE ARTS

Register now for August Arts Camp 2014! The camp runs from August 4-8, 2014, Monday-Friday, 9 am-3:30 pm, at the Shoreline Center, 18560 1st Ave. NE, Shoreline, WA 98155. The registration deadline is July 11, 2014.

A limited number of scholarships up to \$100 are available. Each class is limited to 12 and enrollment is on a space available basis. For more camp or scholarship information, class descriptions and the registration flier, visit our website: www.shorelinearts.net.

Contact artsed@shorelinearts.net with questions or call [206-417-4645](tel:206-417-4645).

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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