

Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA

SKATING PARTY - LAST OF THE YEAR

Thursday, April 2nd from 6:00-8:00 pm

Join us for a MP skating party at Lynnwood Bowl & Skate, 6210 200th St. SW, Lynnwood. Admission is \$6.50 which includes quad skate rental. Pay an additional \$3.00 for in line skates. Parents are encouraged to participate. No drop-offs allowed. Feel free to bring your helmet! Hope to see you there!

SUBMIT SELFIES FOR THE MP YEARBOOK

There's still time to submit your selfies for the MP Yearbook! Send selfies to mp.yearbook.selfies@gmail.com and include the student's name, grade, and teacher name for each student in the photo. The deadline to submit your selfies is March 27, 2015.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE MP MARINERS GAME NIGHT

Come with Meridian Park Elementary School families, friends, and school staff on an exciting evening to the Seattle Mariners game on Friday, May 8th at 7:10 pm. This is a Meridian Park PTSA fundraiser. Our ticket price is \$15 per person, of which \$3 will go to the MP PTSA.

MERIDIAN PARK MATH CLUB

Look for more information on the Meridian Park Math Club on page 11 of this edition of the Cheetah Chatter!



A subset of Math Is Cool competitors, from left to right: Matthew, Julien, Alex, Ivan, Ryan.

PAY FOR LUNCH ONLINE

Did you know that you can pay for your child's food service account online? Visit <https://touchbase.shorelineschools.org/> to make a payment. If you complete a payment by 5:50 am, the funds are ready for your child to use by 6:30 am – ready for that day's breakfast or lunch! There is no fee for this service.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 5
7:00-8:30pm
Shorewood H.S.
West Side Choral Festival

March 5
8:15 am
Ms. Q's Room
Student Council Meeting

March 8
Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 10
3:40-4:00pm
Student Store

March 13
Popcorn Friday

March 14
8:30 am - 3:00pm
Shoreline Community College
Shoreline Math Olympiad for Elementary and Middle School

March 16
7:00pm
Meridian Park Library
Car Show Planning Meeting

March 20
End of Second Trimester

March 23
Non-Student Workday
No School

March 24
8:40am - 9:00am
Student Store

March 25
6:30pm
Shoreline Special Needs PTA Meeting

April 2
6:00pm
Lynnwood Bowl & Skate
MP Skating Party

Principal's Letter

Dear Cheetahs—

March is a very busy month at MP. Second Trimester ends on March 20, and Progress Reports will be sent home on April 7 (district date). Our staff teams continue to work collaboratively on important topics of student learning. Teamwork includes our shared team growth goals, and we also have State/District Smarter Balanced Goals. My thanks to our hard working staff as they finish up academics for this trimester and prepare progress report information for parents.

As always, if you have questions about your student's progress, please contact your teacher. Communication is also important when there's a problem or concern. Our general guideline is to communicate 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 the staff member directly involved. Thanks as always for our partnership.

Required State/National SBA Testing will take place for the first time in April and May (grades 3, 4, 5, 6). We will announce specific dates soon, but if possible, **please limit appointments or other out of school time April 9 – May 21.** Thanks.

We are also beginning to plan for next year! Later in March, we need every family to return the District Form regarding your plans to return to MP or change schools next year. Enrollment is key to staffing and class configurations. 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. Please watch for more info.

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, library/information skills, and other areas. Thanks for our partnership with the academics and art; and let's all advocate for the Arts!

We are grateful for our wonderfully supportive PTSA. 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 PTSA. 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 soon at one of our many activities.



~David Tadlock, Principal

david.tadlock@shorelineschools.org

National SBA Testing for
Grades 3-6 is
April 9 – May 21
Please limit out of school
time during this period.

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

Getting School Ready Family Concert

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

Charlie Williams and Nancy Stewart

Thursday, March 19th

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Shoreline Conference Center

**Shoreline Room
18560 1st Ave. N.E.
Shoreline, WA 98155**



Playing With Words!
What happens when sweet sounds
meet nutty noises?
Get ready for a wild ride as two of
the Northwest's favorite children's
performers team up for
phonetic fun!

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

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

Meridian Park News

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT TESTING IN WASHINGTON STATE

(Includes some material prepared by ReadyWA.org)



How will Washington's state tests change with the new Common Core learning standards?

In Washington, we will replace some of our state tests with new exams aligned to the Common Core in math and English language arts. The new exams are a part of a comprehensive system called "Smarter Balanced." This system is made up of four components:

- ◆ a summative test given during the last 12 weeks of school;
- ◆ optional interim tests available throughout the year to see if students are on track to achieve their end-of-year goals;
- ◆ a research-based digital library of professional development materials and instructional tools for teachers; and
- ◆ a secure online reporting system that will show student achievement and progress toward understanding the standards.

What tests will students take in the 2014-15 school year?

- ◆ In spring 2015, students in grades 3-8 will take the new Smarter Balanced tests in math and English language arts. Those two exams replace the math, reading and writing MSP. The science MSP (taken in grades 5 and 8) will remain the same.
- ◆ Students in algebra, geometry, and biology courses will continue to take end-of-course exams. Students are required to pass one state math exam and the biology exam to be eligible to graduate.
- ◆ 11th graders will take the new Smarter Balanced tests that will measure college- and career-readiness in math and English language arts. Students will not have to pass those tests for high school graduation until the class of 2019.

Why do we need state tests such as the Smarter Balanced Assessment?

The Smarter Balanced Assessments are aligned to what students are learning in their classes. These tests serve as independent, objective measures of how students are doing. Clear, understandable test scores help teachers and parents work together to adjust their approach and better meet students' needs. Statewide tests also provide data that we use to determine, for example, what's working in special education, or whether race- or income-based achievement gaps continue to persist.

What makes the new Smarter Balanced tests better than our current state exams?

First, the Smarter Balanced tests assess the state's new Common Core learning standards. Both the standards and new tests require students to apply their knowledge to real-world problems and write persuasively. The new tests will be administered online, giving students a better testing experience and returning results faster so teachers and parents can use the results to help students. The knowledge and skills the tests measure are those our students need to succeed in college and careers, including problem-solving, writing, and critical thinking.

Meridian Park News

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT TESTING IN WASHINGTON STATE

(Includes some material prepared by ReadyWA.org)

The new Smarter Balanced tests are:

- ◆ Designed to measure skills like research, listening, and communicating reasoning.
- ◆ “Computer-adaptive,” so the computer automatically adjusts the difficulty of the questions as the student is taking the test.
- ◆ Being used by more than 20 states. That means student results will truly be comparable across states in all grades.
- ◆ Innovative, with accommodations for English Language Learners and students with disabilities that make the tests more accessible without compromising what they are designed to measure.
- ◆ Developed by states, for states. Washington state teachers are involved in every step of the design process. Smarter Balanced has also made a library of resources available to teachers, all aligned with best practices and the Common Core.

Take a practice test and see for yourself. Here’s the link:

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/pilot-test>

Will the new Smarter Balanced tests be harder than our current exams?

Yes, but that’s because they are aligned to the Common Core State Standards, which are more challenging than our state’s former learning standards in math, reading and writing. Our previous state exams measured basic skills. Smarter Balanced, reflecting the Common Core standards, tests students at a college-and-career readiness level.

Will test scores be lower on the new Smarter Balanced tests compared to our current state exams?

It’s not an apples-to-apples comparison. These are a new set of learning standards and tests with a new way of scoring, so it’s not possible to compare new scores with the old ones. Because Common Core State Standards are more challenging than our former state learning standards, student test scores may initially be lower than what students, parents, and teachers have seen in the past. Smarter Balanced tests set a new baseline for student test scores. After we get the scores from the spring 2015 tests, we will be able to set improvement goals for future years.

More information can be found at these sites.

- ◆ Common Core: <http://www.corestandards.org>
- ◆ Smarter Balanced Assessment: www.smarterbalanced.org
- ◆ Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction: www.k12.wa.us/assessment/StateTesting



Meridian Park News

PREGUNTAS Y RESPUESTAS ACERCA DE EVALUACIONES ESTATALES EN WASHINGTON

(incluye información preparada por ReadyWA.org)

¿Cómo van las pruebas del estado de Washington a cambiar con los nuevos Estándares de Núcleo Común?

En Washington, vamos a sustituir algunos de nuestros exámenes estatales con nuevos exámenes alineados con el Núcleo Común en matemáticas y lenguaje Inglés. Los nuevos exámenes son parte de un sistema llamado "Smarter Balanced." Este sistema está compuesto de cuatro componentes:

- ◆ Una prueba acumulativa dada durante las últimas 12 semanas de la escuela;
- ◆ Pruebas provisionales opcionales disponibles durante todo el año para ver si los estudiantes están en camino de lograr las metas de fin de año;
- ◆ Una biblioteca digital basada en la investigación de materiales de desarrollo profesional y herramientas de instrucción para profesores; y
- ◆ Un sistema de información en línea seguro que mostrará el rendimiento estudiantil y el progreso hacia la comprensión de los estándares.

¿Qué pruebas tomarán los estudiantes en el año escolar 2014-15?

- ◆ En la primavera de 2015, los estudiantes en los grados 3-8 tomarán las nuevas pruebas Smarter Balanced en matemáticas y artes del lenguaje inglés. Esos exámenes reemplazan los exámenes MSP en matemáticas, lectura y escritura. El examen MSP en ciencia (tomada en los grados 5 y 8) seguirá siendo el mismo.
- ◆ Los estudiantes de álgebra, geometría, y los cursos de biología continuarán tomando exámenes de fin de curso. Los estudiantes deben aprobar un examen estatal de matemáticas y el examen de biología para poder graduarse.
- ◆ Los estudiantes del grado 11 tomarán las nuevas pruebas Smarter Balanced que medirán la preparación universitaria y profesional en matemáticas y artes de lengua inglés. Los estudiantes no tendrán que aprobar esas pruebas para poder graduarse hasta la clase del 2019. Los estudiantes del grado 10 tomarán las pruebas Smarter Balanced solamente en artes de lengua inglés.

¿Por qué necesitamos pruebas estatales como la Evaluación de Smarter Balanced?

Las evaluaciones Smarter Balanced están alineadas con lo que los estudiantes están aprendiendo en sus clases. Estas pruebas sirven como medidas independientes y objetivas de cómo los estudiantes están progresando. Puntajes claros y comprensibles ayudan a los maestros y padres a trabajar juntos para ajustar su enfoque y satisfacer mejor las necesidades de los estudiantes. Las evaluaciones estatales también proporcionan datos que utilizamos para determinar, por ejemplo, lo que está funcionando en la educación especial, o si aun persisten brechas de logros basados en raza o bajos recursos.

¿Qué hacen que las nuevas pruebas Smarter Balanced sean mejores que nuestros exámenes estatales actuales?

En primer lugar, las pruebas Smarter Balanced evalúan los nuevos estándares de aprendizaje de núcleo común. Tanto los estándares como las nuevas pruebas requieren que los estudiantes apliquen sus conocimientos a problemas del mundo real y usen escritura persuasiva. Los nuevos exámenes serán administrados en línea, dando a los estudiantes una mejor experiencia y la habilidad de recibir sus puntajes de una manera más rápida para que los maestros y los padres pueden utilizar los resultados para ayudar a los estudiantes. El conocimiento y las habilidades que miden estas pruebas son aquellas que nuestros estudiantes necesitan para tener éxito en la universidad y la carrera profesional, incluyendo resolución de problemas, escritura y pensamiento crítico.

Meridian Park News

PREGUNTAS Y RESPUESTAS ACERCA DE EVALUACIONES ESTATALES EN WASHINGTON

(incluye información preparada por ReadyWA.org)

Las nuevas pruebas Smarter Balanced son:

- ◆ Diseñado para medir las habilidades como: la investigación, la audición activa y el comunicación de razonamiento.
- ◆ "adaptados por computadora", por lo que el equipo ajusta automáticamente la dificultad de las preguntas mientras el estudiante está tomando la prueba.
- ◆ Son utilizado por más de 20 estados. Eso significa que los resultados estudiantiles será verdaderamente comparables entre los estados en todos los grados.
- ◆ Innovador, con modificaciones para estudiantes del idioma inglés y estudiantes con discapacidades que hacen que las pruebas sean más accesibles, sin comprometer los resultados.
- ◆ Desarrollado por estados, para estados. Los maestros del estado de Washington están involucrados en cada paso del proceso de diseño. El Smarter Balanced también ha creado una biblioteca de recursos alineada con las mejores prácticas y el Núcleo Común, disponibles a todos los profesores.

Tome un examen de práctica y vea por si mismo. Aquí está el enlace:

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/pilot-test>.

¿Las nuevas pruebas Smarter Balanced serán más difíciles que nuestros exámenes actuales?

Sí, pero eso es porque están alineados con los Estándares de Núcleo Común, que son más altos que los antiguos estándares de aprendizaje de nuestro estado en matemáticas, lectura y escritura. Los exámenes anteriores medían habilidades básicas. El Smarter Balanced, alineado con los Estándares de Núcleo Común, prueba a los estudiantes a un nivel de preparación para universidad y carrera.

¿Serán los puntajes más bajos con las nuevas pruebas Smarter Balanced en comparación con nuestros exámenes estatales actuales?

No es una comparación de manzanas con manzanas. Estos son un nuevo conjunto de normas y pruebas de aprendizaje con un nuevo sistema de puntajes, así que no es posible comparar las nuevas pruebas con las viejas. Debido a que los Estándares Estatales de Núcleo Común serán más desafiantes que los antiguos, los puntajes estudiantiles podrán ser inicialmente más bajos que los números que los estudiantes, padres y profesores han visto anteriormente. Las pruebas Smarter Balanced establecen una nueva base para calificaciones de los estudiantes. Después de obtener los resultados de las pruebas de primavera 2015, seremos capaces de establecer objetivos de mejora para los próximos años.

Más información se puede encontrar en estos sitios.

- ◆ Núcleo Común: <http://www.corestandards.org>
- ◆ Evaluación Smarter Balanced: www.smarterbalanced.org
- ◆ Washington Oficina del Superintendente de Instrucción Pública: www.k12.wa.us/assessment/StateTesting

Cheetah Notes

A NOTE FROM THE LIBRARY

Greetings MP Families,

In February, we hosted local author Kim Baker. Ms. Baker's first children's novel is Pickle ~ The (Formerly) Anonymous Prank Club of Fountain Point Middle School. Her presentations to second through sixth graders included information about her writing process and different ways we communicate through writing, including codes and cyphers. Students enjoyed the assemblies. A big "Thank You" to our PTSA for co-sponsoring author visits at Meridian Park!



March and April are a time of several reading, literacy, and book-related events in the library, as well as the school as a whole.

2015 READ-A-THON

It's time for students to read, read, read! Our annual PTSA fundraiser will begin on Monday, March 9th, and will run through Sunday, March 29th. Students can turn in their pledge money beginning on Monday, March 30th. To be eligible for prizes, students must turn in the pledge money by Friday, April 3rd.

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.

Read-a-Thon packets should go home on Wednesday, March 4th.

SASQUATCH & YOUNG READERS CHOICE

MARCH 27TH VOTING PARTY FOR 4TH, 5TH AND 6TH GRADERS

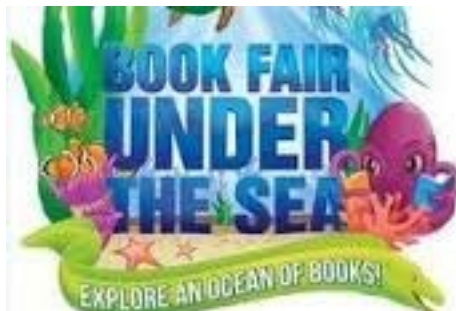
Intermediate students who have read at least three Sasquatch and YRC books, taken the Reading Counts quizzes for them, and posted comments and ratings, will be invited to the voting party on Friday, March 27th. Once a student has met the requirements, s/he must sign up in the library in order to come 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.

Happy Reading,

~Jenny Hillger, Library Media Specialist

Cheetah Notes

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR "UNDER THE SEA"



April 13 – 17

Our big Scholastic Book Fair will run the week of April 13 – 17 in the library.

Hours will be 8:40 am – 4:00 pm Monday through Thursday, and 8:00 am – 1:00 pm on Friday. The book fair will also be open during Open House on Thursday, April 16th, from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm. 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.

Email: jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org.

Phone: **206-393-4125**

Thanks!

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Meridian Park 6th grade students have done a fantastic job representing our school in the Shoreline School District's Music Festivals. Still to come is the West Side Vocal and Honor Choir Festival. This will be a fantastic evening, all are welcome to come hear these amazing 6th grade through high school choirs! The West Side Choral Festival is Thursday March 5, 7:00 pm at the Shorewood High School Gym.

Important Music Events for Meridian Park:

Meridian Park Arts Festival May 28, 2015 - *please put this on your family calendar today!*

2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th grade concert, 6:45 pm - All 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will perform.

5th Grade Field trip to The Seattle Symphony, Tuesday, May 12 **includes Ms. Parks' 4th grade*

Peter and the Wolf Assembly Wednesday May 20, 2015

Marching onward,
~Mrs. Anderson and The Meridian Park Singing Cheetahs!

PTSA President's Letter

Hello from the Meridian Park PTSA!

Thank you for all of the awesome volunteers that came together to help put on another amazing Meridian Park Drama Club production last week! We hope that everyone got a chance to enjoy *The Amazing Ever-Changing Alice in Wonderland*. It's not too late to order your very own DVD or Blue-Ray copy of the show! Visit mpptsa.org to download a copy of the order form.

The Nominating Committee is currently recruiting candidates to run for office in 2015-2016. Open positions include Co-President, Co-Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President of Events and Vice President of Programs. If you are interested in joining the leadership team or have questions, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Dana Doerksen at gasbarri@comcast.net.

Be sure that you have the 6th Annual Shoreline Classic Car Show marked on your calendar for Sunday, July 19th! This year, we were pleasantly surprised to be awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Seafair Foundation that will go towards Car Show expenses, such as entertainment. We are excited this year to have **Jr. Cadillac** booked as the headliner band for this year's show.

The Car Show is our major fundraiser for the year and it's also a great community event that attracts hundreds of classic cars and spectators. The next planning meeting will be Monday, March 16th at 7pm in the Library. Your help is needed to continue this wonderful tradition.

The next PTSA General Membership meeting will be Tuesday, April 7th from 7:00 - 8:30pm in the Library. The business agenda will include election of officers. The Board of Directors will meet beforehand at 6pm. The regular monthly Board of Directors meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month. YMCA provides free childcare and all of our meetings are open to the public.



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

GOLDEN ACORN/OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARDS

Please vote online for this year's MP Golden Acorn award winner (a volunteer recognized for his/her dedication and service to children and youth) and Outstanding Educator award winner (an individual who has provided outstanding educational opportunities for children and youth that are beyond the normal scope of their job).

To vote for the Golden Acorn award:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FQHP85B>

To vote for the Outstanding Educator award:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/F3WLXJN>



PTSA News

MERIDIAN PARK MATH CLUB

MP Math Club sixth graders recently participated in two competitions.

- ◆ Alex Eng, Julien Goldstick, Ryan Stege, Ivan Yao, Matthew Zeleke competed at MathCounts on Feb 7 at University of Washington.
- ◆ The same group, plus Karina Jhingan, competed at Math Is Cool on Jan 30 at Mt. Rainier High School.

The Math Club meets mornings before school once a week to practice for these events. Upcoming Math Club competitions include Grades 3, 4, 5 and more for Grade 6.

For any questions about Math Club for this year or next year, email mpmathclub@gmail.com.

STUDENT ART SALE AT OPEN HOUSE

It's time for the annual Meridian Park PTSA Art Docent Program fundraiser. We are asking each family to consider making a suggested donation of \$5 per student or more. Each student has created an original art piece that will be available at Open House on April 16th. An envelope will be coming home to send back with a donation enclosed or bring it to Open House when you pick up your piece in the main lobby.

This year's special project was a James Rizzi style painting that depicted a scene in Shoreline. We will be making a photo book from some of the pieces to present to the City of Shoreline. The art docent program provides an art lesson and project to K-6th grades throughout the year led by parent volunteers. This year our students created pieces related to Chihuly glass art, James Rizzi paintings and Matisse style collage. Thank you for helping the PTSA continue this enrichment program

ARTISTS IN SCHOOLS GRANTS

Artists in Schools Grants are awarded to PreK-12th grade teachers in the Shoreline School District and feature professional teaching artists working with students in the classroom. The projects take place during the 2014-2015 academic year with most taking place in late winter and spring.

This year, Meridian Park has the following Arts Council-supported grant projects:

Graphic Novel of the Pioneers – Denise Peters, teacher, and Elsa Bouman, artist (\$600)

Reduce, Reuse, ReCreate – Kim Anderson, teacher, and Lisa Palmatier, artist (\$404)

Sixth Grade Culture & Arts – Kathleen DuCharme, teacher; Renée Smith, parent, and Carla Peery and Midori Kono Thiel, artists (\$475)

Talking Stories – Sandi James, teacher, and Karen Harp-Reed, artist (\$525)

Tea Overboard – Jodi Steele, teacher, and Ruth McRee, artist (\$370)

Artists in Schools has been providing arts education throughout the district since 1993 with the majority of funding made possible through the Arts Council's annual *GALA of the Arts* event with additional support from our partner, the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation, as well as government and foundation grants, and the community.

This year the Arts Council has funded \$18,134 in Artists in Schools grants with 31 projects reaching thousands of students in 14 schools and programs.

For the complete list of grant projects, go to www.shorelinearts.net

PTSA News

THE MERIDIAN PARK ELEMENTARY PTSA NEEDS YOU!

The Meridian Park PTSA is on the lookout for nominees for the Executive Board for the 2015-2016 school year. Did you know the number one reason cited for not volunteering is, "Nobody, asked?" The second reason is most likely, "I don't have time." Well, we are asking *you* and we understand your time constraints. We will work with you to find a volunteer job that fits your desired time commitment. We have really small jobs, big jobs and many in between. We will provide training and make sure you have the resources to be very successful.

Research indicates that parent involvement in education is also linked to higher rates of school attendance, graduation, and pursuit of higher education; what's more, involved parents have better access to information about opportunities for students, allowing them to be stronger advocates for their children. Research also shows that parent involvement makes a difference across all socioeconomic levels and cultural backgrounds.

www.sedl.org/connections/resources/evidence.pdf

Here are the vacant positions:

Co-President: As a co-president, you would work alongside our current co-president, Jill Steinberg. This position is typically held for two years. During the first year, you would work alongside an experienced partner, and in the second year, you become the experienced partner. The co-presidents are the leaders of the PTSA in our school and work closely with the school principal. They run monthly PTSA meetings, coordinate and administrate the Executive Board and the volunteers who oversee all PTSA committees, and set the agenda for the PTSA moving forward and advocating for the school in a number of environments. This nominee should be skilled at delegating responsibility by empowering others and creating excitement, as well as, communicating regularly and cultivating a positive rapport with the entire school community. If you have questions or would like more information about this position, please email Jill and Kim at mpptsapresident@gmail.com.

Vice President of Programs: As the VP of Programs you will be able to look for new and exciting enrichment opportunities for our students as well as, preserve and enhance the great programs that MP already offers. The VP of Programs acts as the lead on coordinating with paid companies and volunteer staff to get new programs up and running within our school. Programs that are currently sponsored by the PTSA include: Math Club, Chess Club, Drama Club, Robotics, Spanish, French, Yearbook Club, Writing Club, the Art Docent Program, Landscaping, and coordination of the Email Blast. This nominee will coordinate volunteers to lead programs and provide direction and oversight as needed. If you have questions or would like more information about this position, please email Jill at mpptsapresident@gmail.com and/or Dana at mpptsaevents@gmail.com.

Vice President of Events: The VP of Events is the coordinator for the fun and welcoming PTSA sponsored school community events. Do you love event planning? If you do, this job is for you. This VP would assist the specific event leaders to coordinate several school events during the year. The events that we are currently organizing include: the Back to School BBQ, Staff Luncheon, Welcome Coffees, Fall Festival, PTA Reflections, Variety Show, Spring Family Fun Night, Spring Arts Festival, Skating Parties, Mariner's Night and the Shoreline Classic Car Show. This nominee will direct members, volunteers, and staff to take on the various tasks and provide direction and oversight. If you have questions or would like more information about this position, please contact Dana at mpptsaevents@gmail.com.

Treasurer: Are you the one that handles the books at home? Do you do your own taxes in a flash? Are you a whiz at QuickBooks? We are looking for a co- treasurer to work alongside Matt Clark in the MP PTSA finances department! The treasurers are responsible for overseeing the management of the Meridian Park PSTA funds and for providing financial information to support the decision making of the Board. The Meridian Park PTSA has historically split this job between two people, with one taking on the daily deposits and payments and one keeping records in the finance software, delivering reports and creating and maintaining the budget. At least one treasurer should attend the monthly PTSA meeting. If you have questions or would like more information about this position, please contact: Email Matt or Adrienne at mpptsatreasurer@gmail.com.

PTSA News

Secretary: The MP PTSA Secretary is responsible for keeping the minutes of the PTSA board and general meetings and preparing them for approval at the following meeting. After each monthly meeting, the secretary sends out the draft of the minutes by email to the Board and ensures that the approved minutes are included in the minutes' book. The secretary should attend most, if not all, meetings or designate someone to take their place. If you have questions or would like more information about this position, please contact Jennifer at mpptsasecretary@gmail.com.

The Nomination Process

Are you a good fit for one of these positions? We would be thrilled to have you join the Executive Board! If someone you know has expressed interest or you know they would be perfect for one of these opportunities, please ask them if they would like to be nominated and fill out the form below. We will vote on nominees at the April MP PTSA meeting on April 7, 2015. Please join us! If you have questions about nominations, please email Dana at mpptsaevents@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Dana Doerksen, Linda Tsai, Nicola Beck,
MP PTSA Nominating Committee

RECOMMENDATION FOR NOMINATION FOR THE MERIDIAN PARK PTSA OFFICERS

At the April 7, 2015 general membership meeting, Meridian Park will be electing officers for the following positions: Co-President, VP Events, VP Programs, Secretary, and Co-Treasurer for the 2015-2016 PTSA year. To be eligible for election to any of the above positions, candidates must have been a member of any PTA in the State of Washington at least 30 days prior to being elected.

PLEASE PRINT

Recommendation for the office of _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Qualifications and experience for this office (ex. PTA or community service experience/other activities):

Submitted by: Name: _____ Email/Phone: _____

Individuals are welcome to recommend themselves.

Return this form to your child's teacher by Monday, March 16, 2015.

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 *School Nurse*

Annie Gage *Family Advocate*

2014–15 MP PTSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

www.mpptsa.org

Kim Ositis & Jill Steinberg

Co-Presidents

mpptsapresident@gmail.com

Open *VP Clubs & Program*

mpptsavpprograms@gmail.com

Dana Doerksen *VP Events*

mpptsavpevents@gmail.com

Jennifer Kleyn *Secretary*

mpptsasecretary@gmail.com

Adrienne Thompson & Matt Clark

Co-Treasurers

mpptsatreasurer@gmail.com

STANDING COMMITTEES

Lee Lambert *Grants*

Adrienne Thompson *Legislative Chair*

mpptsalegislativechair@gmail.com

Susan Duthweiler *Membership*

mpptsamemberships@gmail.com

Mel Williamson & Denise Dana

Cheetah Chatter Editors

cheetahchatter@icloud.com

Frank Kleyn *Webmaster*

mpptsawebsite@gmail.com

Follow the MP PTSA on Facebook

facebook

FREE DENTAL OPPORTUNITY

The Greater Seattle Dental Hygienists' Society is hosting its annual Dental Sealant Day on Saturday, March 14 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Shoreline Community College Dental Hygiene Clinic 2500 Bldg (16101 Greenwood Avenue North). We are trying to spread the word far and wide. It is a free event for children ages 4-18.

Services provided include, dental exams by dentists, dental sealants, and fluoride treatments

To schedule an appointment or if you have questions, call [206-745-3968](tel:206-745-3968) or email greaterseattledentalhygienists@gmail.com

JOIN THE SHORELINE-LAKE FOREST PARK ARTS COUNCIL FOR A SUMMER SEASON OF FUN!

Register for one or more of our 2015 Arts Camps at [www.shorelinearts.net/
events-programs/category/camps/](http://www.shorelinearts.net/events-programs/category/camps/)

NEW! Art4Teens Camp: July 27-31

9:00 am - 3:30 pm at the Shoreline Center

Similar to our August Arts Camp, this camp is a multi-disciplinary art experience. Designed for campers 6th grade & above.

Shoreline Jazz Camp: August 3-7 & 10-11

9:00 am - 1:00 pm at the Shorecrest High School Performing Arts Center

Young musicians learn and play with some of the region's most accomplished teachers and performers. The camp includes instruction in large and small ensembles, and a series of master classes to refine their individual skills and understanding of Jazz. Designed for campers 7th grade & above.

August Arts Camp: August 3-7

9:00 am - 3:30 pm at the Shoreline Center

A week-long camp where students explore several areas of the arts with accomplished teaching artists. Designed for campers 3rd through 6th grade.

Scholarships: A limited number of scholarships are available for students who reside within the Shoreline School District boundaries and who qualify for the free or reduced lunch program.

Questions: contact Kelly Lie, the Arts Education Manager, at artsed@shorelinearts.net or **206-417-4645**.

TAKE A TEST DRIVE AT CAMPBELL NELSON NISSAN VOLKSWAGEN, AND EARN \$100 FOR OUR KIDS

Now through March 31st Campbell Nelson is pledging \$100 per test drive to Shoreline Public School Foundation, for anyone who brings a Golden Ticket to the dealership, up to a total of \$10,000 (there are only 100 golden tickets!)

First, contact us at shoreline.foundation@shorelineschools.org and we will mail you a golden ticket. Then bring your Golden Ticket to Campbell Nelson when you take your test drive, and give it to your salesperson. Be sure to take your test drive before March 31, 2015.

Please note: Limit one Golden Ticket per household

The Cheetah Chatter is Published Monthly by
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