

Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA

FIELD DAY

Field Day is coming up on Friday June 12th, from 1:00-3:30 and we need your help! This is usually one of the highlights of the year for many kids, and we need lots of family support to make it successful. If you would be willing to volunteer to help run a station, please email Mr. Reiman at matt.reiman@shorelineschoos.org. If someone you know is also volunteering and you would like to work at the same station, please indicate that as well.

MERIDIAN PARK PARKING LOT

Meridian Park is a large school with many students all coming and going at the same time. We would appreciate your cooperation in making pick-up and drop-off times safe for all students.

Parking Lot Patience!

- Just like the airport—please keep things moving safely
- Drive slowly—use signals and lanes
- Use curb lane for drop-off/pick-up only
- In the curb lane, pull forward, stay with car
- Park when possible or needed and meet child on campus
- Smile!

KEY DATES FOR NEXT YEAR

- First Day of School: September 9
- Winter Break: Dec 21 – Jan 1
- Mid-Winter Break: Feb 15 – 19
- Spring Break: April 18 – 22

The teachers' association and district administration are working on the full calendar to be published as soon as the process is complete and approved. Watch for an announcement and check our district website.

STATE TESTING SCHEDULE

On time attendance is very important! Please review this information carefully. It's very helpful for students to attend on the dates listed; please limit appointments & early dismissals.

- Grade 3 May 14 & 19
- Grade 4 April 30; May 5, 6, 7, 12, 13
- Grade 5 May 4, 6, 7, 8, 13
- Grade 6 April 28 & 30; May 5, 6, 7, 12

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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 5

7:00 – 8:30pm

PTSA Board of Director's Meeting

May 8

7:10pm

Safeco Field

MP Mariners Game Night

May 8

Popcorn Friday

May 9

10:00-2:00 pm

Shoreline Community College

Shoreline Stem Festival

May 11

No school

May 11 – 15

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 11

7:00 – 8:00 pm

Car Show Meeting

May 18 – 21

Sixth Grade Camp

May 22

(previously a no-school day)

Regular school day

May 25

No School, Memorial Day

May 28

6:00 - 8:00 pm

MP Arts Festival

May 29

Popcorn Friday

June 2

7:30 pm

5th Grade Band and Orchestra Night

June 2

6:30 - 9:30pm

MP Menchie's Night

June 4

7-8:30 pm

**General PTSA Membership Meeting
& Volunteer Recognition Night**

Principal's Letter

Dear Families —

I hope you are enjoying a lovely Northwest spring. Your students are engaged in learning activities for third trimester, and our staff members are working hard to provide meaningful teaching and learning activities each day until summer break. We are also growing personally and having fun! Please contact your teacher if you have any questions regarding academics, social/emotional, or other questions.

Students in grades 3 – 6 are involved in state assessments. It's an important activity to check on progress. On time attendance is really helpful, and we appreciate you supporting your student with encouragement, a good breakfast, and consistent routines. Go Cheetahs!

There is some chatter in the local communities and media about the national standards and testing, and I encourage you to read, learn, and decide for yourself. Completing my 30th year, I suggest that essential learning standards are a step in the right direction for a public school system that should successfully prepare all students for a complex world; and for school or work after high school. Parent and staff involvement is critical to meaningful implementation. You can learn more at <http://www.k12.wa.us/CurriculumInstruct/default.aspx>.

Our classrooms will be busy during May and June with culminating learning activities, field trips, celebrations, and other activities. Sometimes fees are requested, but please let your teacher know if you need financial assistance, as we DO have resources for scholarships and we want to support all families. We appreciate your involvement and support in our activities.

Class assignments for next year will be finalized right before school starts on September 9. Class assignments are based on criteria for balancing gender, academics, social/emotional, and learning styles. We are thoughtful about creating balanced classes where students can be challenged, successful, and engaged in new social and academic experiences. In this process, we share the same goal: good balance and match for students, teachers, and families. Sometimes,

especially in the highly capable program, there are limitations that require flexibility and willingness to try something unexpected or different. We appreciate your support of our decision regarding your child's teacher.

Cheetah Cheers to Office staff Diane and Jill; Custodians Lue, Gary, and Jim; Nurses Susan & Tama; PTA Awards for Janina, Krista, and Denise; CK8 and Special Needs/ECE PTAs; Jenny, Mike, & PTA for Book Fair; Matt A for Circus Arts; Sixth Grade for Camp; and our Amazing Art Docent program and project. Please join the Art Docent presentation at City Council on May 4!

Special congratulations to our PTA for an outstanding year. As we plan for next year, we welcome everyone's involvement. There are big and small ways to be involved, so please join us. My personal thanks to Kim & Jill; the entire PTA Board, and our newly elected officers for next year. Please watch for more info about PTA in this newsletter.

Best wishes for a warm and sunny spring. May and June can be busy and sometimes stressful months for families and staff. Thank you for sharing your children and family, and I encourage you to take time for yourself and the other adults in your family. Despite the ongoing challenges in our state regarding resources for education, we are committed to doing our best work to help all students be learning, happy, and successful young people. We welcome your questions at any time, and hope to see you again soon.



~David Tadlock, Principal

david.tadlock@shorelineschools.org

P.S. Please call the office if your family is moving out of the area or changing schools for next year!

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

FOOD SERVICE ONLINE PAYMENTS

There is no longer a \$3.00 fee for making food service payments online! Please visit touchbase.shoreilneschools.org to make an online food service payment. Online payments may be made with Visa, MasterCard, or Discover Cards.

THANKS FOR THE YARD WORK!

Have you seen the wood chips in the parking strip gardens? We have these folks to thank: Dina Phillips, Sean Murphy, Mary Webb, Naomi Hillyard, and Jeff Steward. They all came out on a beautiful Saturday and spread a lot of wood chips for weed suppression. We want your HELP too! Put it on your calendar – our next landscaping day is Saturday, May 16th from 8 a.m. until noon. No experience necessary, everyone welcome, kids love helping too! Tools like shovels, rakes, small hand tools, and gloves are always nice to bring but not necessary. We really just need YOU! Coffee and snacks provided.



A big thank you to Marty DeGrazia for trimming up the northwest campus and removing blackberries. Great work!

Meridian Park News

A NOTE FROM THE LIBRARY

Greetings MP Families,

SPRING BOOK FAIR--A GREAT SUCCESS!

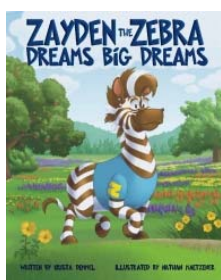
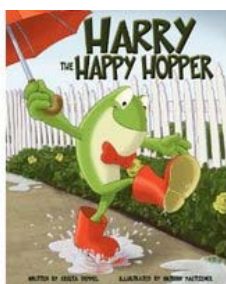
Our spring Scholastic Book Fair was a great success. Thank you so much for your support. Students enjoyed shopping for and spending money on books and "fun stuff." With book fair profits, I will be able to purchase many new books for the library and support literacy events, such as the upcoming author visit for kindergarten, first, and second grade students, and reading programs like Young Readers Choice and Sasquatch. A special thank you goes out to all of the volunteers who operated cash registers, helped students find books, restocked merchandise, set up the fair, and took it down. I couldn't have done it without them.

An enormous "Thank You!" to: Dina Phillips, Margaret Stapleton, Rhonda McRae, Cherry Mendoza, Rebecca Wagoner, Luann Majeed, Dana Doerksen, Jean Dawson, Jennifer Hlaudy, Meiting Wu, Christine Zittle, Tricia Norton, Susan Duthweiler, Jill Steinberg, Naomi Hillyard, Krista Keller, Laura Hungerford, Linda Burt, Tien Peng, Alma Mendez, Jessica Soung, Linda Tsai, Susy Hoss, Christine Pinto, Ann Yee, Janina Pacunski, Nick Ositis, Frank Kley, Jennifer Trice, and Geneva Norton.

Wow – that is quite a list. What an awesome group!

AUTHOR VISIT ON MAY 7TH

Guest author Krista Demmel will present three assemblies to kindergarteners, first graders, and second graders on Thursday, May 7th, in the library. Her books are Harry the Happy Hopper and Zayden the Zebra Dreams Big.



You can visit Ms. Demmel's website at <http://www.harrythehappyhopper.com>

The assembly schedule is:

Second Grade: 9:20 – 10:00
First Grade: 10:10 – 10:55
Kindergarten: 11:00 – 11:30

Please join us!

Cheetah Notes

END-OF-THE-YEAR LIBRARY BOOK ROUND UP

The school year is winding down quickly. In order to complete an inventory of all library books, we will need them turned in before the last week of school. Below is a schedule to help students return their books.

By Tuesday, May 26th, a student can have no more than two library books checked out.

By Monday, June 1st, a student can have no more than one library book checked out.


By Tuesday, June 9th, students must have all library books returned to the library.

Students who still have books on their library records after June 9th will take home letters to share with parents, letting them know about the overdue books. If a book cannot be found, a student can either purchase a replacement copy with the same binding and cover, or pay for the book.

Students will not receive their report cards on the last day of school, June 19th, if they haven't taken care of their overdue and lost books. Report cards will be held in the front office until students find, replace, or pay for books.

Please help your children look for library books at home, as well as in vehicles.

Thanks for your support with this.



Return your
Library Books!

Sincerely,

~Jenny Hillger, Library Media Specialist

POETRY READINGS AT THE ANNUAL MERIDIAN PARK ARTS FESTIVAL

Thursday, May 28th - Spring Poetry... Silly Poetry... Sweet Poetry... Serious Poetry

Who doesn't love poetry?? And a chance to stand in the spotlight??

Students interested in reading poetry during the Arts Festival should *get permission slips from their teachers or Ms. Hillger*. Students can read poetry written by their favorite poets or share something that they've written themselves.

Permission slips are due to Ms. Hillger no later than Friday, May 15.

Cheetah Notes

ANNUAL MERIDIAN PARK ARTS FESTIVAL

You are cordially invited to the annual Meridian Park Arts Festival, Thursday, May 28, 2015, featuring student demonstrations in the fine and performing arts.

Highlights of the evening include:

Student artwork displayed throughout the building: All evening

Poetry readings in the Library Media Center: 6-6:25 p.m.

Chamber music in the main entrance lobby: 6:30-6:40 p.m.

Vocal concert, "Critters and Folks," in the gym: 6:45-7:30 p.m. All students in grades 2, 3, 4, and 5 will perform.* Visual art viewing: 7:30-8 p.m.

*Students should be in place in the bleachers at 6:35 p.m. Dress up as much as you would like! All 2nd-5th grade students are expected to perform at the concert, 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 exciting, fun, beautiful music with you, our honored guests! Most coaches are great about working with their players so the kids can be at the concert, and we all know that parents can move mountains in order to attend! You won't want to miss it!

Please plan to attend this wonderful event with your family!

Shari Anderson, Music Specialist

Jenny Hillger, Library Media Specialist

Vicki Ault, String Orchestra teacher

Kelsey Jobst, Band teacher

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Notes from the Music Room

Field Trip! 5th grade, including Ms. Parks' 4th grade students.

"The Orchestra Rocks!" Presented by the Seattle Symphony, Tuesday, May 12, 2015, at Benaroya Hall.

Assembly! The Philharmonic Wind Quintet will present Sergei Prokofiev's **"Peter and the Wolf"** to Meridian Park Students Wednesday May 20, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. Several student narrators will assist with the presentation!

5th grade band and orchestra concert, Tuesday June 2, 2015, 7:30 pm in the Meridian Park Gymnasium.

~Mrs. Anderson and the Meridian Park Singing Cheetahs

PTSA President's Letter

Hello from the Meridian Park PTSA!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Family Fun Night on Thursday, April 16th. We were thrilled to honor three very special ladies: Janina Pacunski, Krista Keller, and Denise Peters. Look in this issue for more information about the PTSA award recipients.

Also in this issue, we are excited to announce the recipients of the spring grants. Each year, Meridian Park gives out more than \$3,800 in grant funds to worthy projects around the school.

Do you love frozen yogurt AND supporting Meridian Park PTSA?? Come to the Menchie's Gateway location (18336 Aurora Ave N.) on Tuesday, June 2nd from 6:30-9:30pm, mention Meridian Park when you pay and 20% of your purchase goes directly to the MP PTSA!

Due to a schedule conflict, the June PTSA meeting will take place on Thursday, June 4th from 7-8:30pm. This will be a General Membership Meeting, as well as a special Volunteer Recognition Night. We invite all of our amazing volunteers to come for treats and a special thank you! YMCA provides free childcare and all of our meetings are open to the public.

The Calendar Planning Committee is hard at work already looking at dates for 2015-2016 events. You can subscribe to the Meridian Park PTSA Calendar here: <http://mpptsa.org/calendar>.

We still have several key positions on the Executive Committee open including Co-President, Co-Treasurer and Vice President of Events. Detailed job descriptions are available here: <http://mpptsa.org/descriptions-of-ptsa-board-positions/> If you are interested in joining the leadership team or have questions, please contact 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! The next planning meeting will be Monday, May 11th at 7pm in the Library. Your help is needed to continue this wonderful tradition.



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

CALLING ALL OF OUR AMAZING PTSA VOLUNTEERS!

Please join the Meridian Park PTSA for a special Volunteer Recognition Night and General Membership Meeting Thursday, June 4th from 7-8:30 pm. Treats and FREE childcare provided!

PTSA News

MP PTSA AWARDS

Congratulations to these MP PTSA award recipients for their outstanding service to Meridian Park Elementary and the community: Denise Peters, Outstanding Educator; Krista Keller, Golden Acorn; and Janina Pacunski, Outstanding Advocate.

Golden Acorn: Krista Keller! Krista's dedicated effort has spanned a number of years but this year she has been in charge of the Fall Fundraiser for the fourth time, which is one of our principle fundraisers. She was also in charge of the 6th grade camp fundraiser and helped and supported a number of clubs, classes, and activities including teacher appreciation, the car show, concessions at the drama show, book fair, and box tops for education. She has also held leadership and PTSA board positions. As one person who nominated her said, "Krista's commitment to making MP a better place has been tireless and unwavering."

Outstanding Educator: Denise Peters! Several people commented on Denise's unique way of teaching that really helps her students take a sincere interest in what they are learning which, in turns, helps their achievement. A few of the things people said about Denise include:

Caring, thoughtful, organized

Gives "200%" to her students and families

Puts students and families first

Knowledgeable and wise

She teaches each student in an individual and holistic way



Outstanding Advocate (Janina Pacunski), Outstanding Educator (Denise Peters), and Golden Acorn (Krista Keller) award winners!

Outstanding Advocate: Janina Pacunski! The Outstanding Advocate award is a lifetime achievement award. It recognizes an individual who has truly gone above and beyond for many years and in many ways. It recognizes an individual for leadership, dedication, commitment, and outstanding service to our school.

Over the last 12 years, Janina has volunteered for the majority of PTSA events, positions, and roles. She is consistently a "go to" person when extra help or leadership is needed. Janina has run our before- and after-school PTSA-sponsored clubs and classes. We truly have one of the most active, diverse before- and after-school programs for our children, and Janina was instrumental in putting policies and procedures in place to ensure consistency and safety to go along with fun and learning.

YOUTH NATURALISTS – SIGN UP NOW!

Registration forms are available in the office. This is a new club for 2nd - 5th grades. The cost is \$10 for materials, plus a white t-shirt. The club meets Thursdays from 3:30 until 4:30 from 4/30/15- 6/4/15.

April 30: Seeds - April showers bring May flowers

May 7: Dandelions- What are they good for?

Need a white t-shirt for plant dying

May 14: Where are all the butterflies?

May 21: What have the bees done for me lately?

May 28: Healthy soil -What goes in comes out.

June 4: Who is living in our gardens?

PTSA News

SPRING GRANT WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Meridian Park PTSA is pleased to announce the recipients of the spring grants. During the 2014-2015 school year, the PTSA awarded more than \$3,500 in grant funds in two cycles (fall and spring). The grant program provides members of the Meridian Park Elementary community with an opportunity to receive one-time funding to support enrichment and academic program enhancements. The grant program supports innovative approaches and creative ideas by funding supplies, equipment, and projects that provide unique learning experiences that are not currently supported by other funding sources. The funds used for these grants have been raised through generous donations from the families and friends of Meridian Park Elementary.

Sandi James, Mary Loes, Diana Kushner, Christina Leggett, and Jenny Hillger have been awarded \$576.00 for A Kid's World: Extending 1st grade science & social studies unit. With this grant, first grade students will be provided with more resources to supplement the GLAD unit on Families to include additional activities. The grant funds the purchase of reference books, physical maps, globes, and tri-fold presentation boards. With this grant, Grade One will extend the Families Unit with additional age-appropriate integrated social studies, language arts and arts/crafts activities for the 3rd trimester.

The goal of the project is that each student will complete a "World Traveler" Portfolio. The portfolio will include outcomes in map skills, world geography and cultural studies for each continent, informational reports on a group continent (a family, an animal, a cultural event), group presentations as well as art projects.

Sixth-grade teachers Nicole Mauge and Lisa Sezate received \$186.00 for a Chicken Mummification project. Students in the 6th grade general education classes will work in small groups to mummify chickens. The objectives of the project are to gain a detailed knowledge of the mummification process through non-fiction reading and simulation and to gain an awareness and knowledge of the cultural beliefs on which mummification was based and an appreciation of an ancient culture's dedication to those beliefs.

Librarian Jenny Hillger will use her grant of \$490.00 to replace the MP3 players that teachers and students use to listen to audiobooks. The current collection of six iPod Nanos was purchased 10 years ago with a PTSA grant. Over the past decade, teachers have used the iPods to differentiate the ways in which students can access texts in the classrooms. They have used them successfully for small group and individual reading assignments. The iPods have served the school well, but they are now older and no longer reliably work.

The project will increase the library MP3 player collection by adding six new devices. Teachers will be able to access the new MP3 players, and the older ones will be repurposed for student check out. This plan will maintain the current program, as well as allow students independence in using library equipment to download audiobooks that can be accessed through the public library system and a subscription service available through the district.



**Like the MP PTSA
on facebook!**

PTSA News

THE 2015 SHORELINE CLASSIC CAR SHOW!

The 6th Annual Shoreline Classic Car Show is a Seafair Sanctioned Community Event (<http://www.seafair.com/>) produced by Meridian Park PTSA and the Greenwood Knights Car Club. It will be held on Sunday, July 19, 2015 at Meridian Park Elementary School from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The show will take place on the highly visible corner of 175th Street and Meridian Ave North. The show will be hosted by Lance Lambert and feature Blackjack Kerouac (<https://www.facebook.com/blackjackkerouac>), opening for legendary Seattle rock band Jr. Cadillac (<http://www.jrcadillac.com/>)!

Spectator admission is free! 100% of the net proceeds of the support from sponsors and car registration fees directly benefit the students of Meridian Park Elementary School. Last year, approximately \$8,000 was raised.

We have so many opportunities for you to help out! Do you own a business or know of a business that might consider being a sponsor? This event is a great opportunity to promote your local business while supporting Meridian Park and the Shoreline community! The Seafair website itself receives over 2.5 million page views each year. The Shoreline Classic Car Show is also listed in 75,000 free publications distributed in stores, hotels and other Seafair events! Do you have a car you would like to enter? Join this fabulous event and let the judges check out your ride! Do you have time to volunteer? We would love to have volunteers to visit other local car shows and hand out flyers for our show. Also, we are in great need of volunteers for the day of the event to setup the space, take money for vehicle registrations, help park cars, work at the Meridian Park PTSA tent and sell concessions, and of course clean up at the end of the day.

If you have not been able to volunteer at your child's school this year, please consider volunteering at this fun event! The MP PTSA uses funds raised by the car show for library programs and books, classroom art and science projects, drama productions, assemblies, field trips, teacher grants, enrichment programs scholarships and much more!

Check out our website: <http://mpptsa.org/category/shoreline-classic-car-show/>

Please contact Dana Doerksen mpptsaevents@gmail.com or Marty DeGrazia at mpcarshow@live.com if you can help out in any way and we will make sure you have the information you need!

BOX TOPS/CAMPBELL'S LABELS

Thank you to all who sent in your bags of box tops. Whether attached to the pink paper, or in Ziplock baggies, we were grateful for the number of box tops that flowed in! The Meridian Park PTSA will be receiving a check for \$353! Box top money goes to help support PTSA activities that are not self-funded, such as teacher grants, student field trips, and staff appreciations, to name a few. Big thanks!!

We still cut out those Campbell's labels too. The points we earn through the Campbell's label program allows us to "purchase" items in need for MP programs or receive gift cards, to again help supplement PTSA school events. For example, we make purchases for the Back to School BBQ and for the Welcome Coffee for parents on the first two days of school.

The next big expiration date on many box tops is June 30. Please continue to send in your box tops. MARK YOUR CALENDARS - we will be having another box top/label cutting session on Friday, June 5th at 2:00 pm. Prior to picking up your kiddos, head to the staff lounge for some box top prep!!

Questions? krista_keller@comcast.net

Your support and help is much appreciated!!

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.



AUDITION NOTICE



Roles Available: Ages 7-Adult

Auditions: Monday, May 4th and Tuesday, May 5th @ St. Luke's School
(Sign Up for 1 Time Slot between 6-9pm on one of these two days)

Potential Call Back Dates: Thursday, May 7th and Saturday, May 9th 6pm

Rehearsals Begin: June 15th and will be held in Shoreline Area
(Actors called 2-3 Evenings a week, we can work around your conflicts)

Mandatory Tech Week: Aug 3rd -7th @ Shorewood Performing Arts Center

Performances: Thursday, August 6th through Saturday, August 8th
@ Shorewood Performing Arts Center

Production Fee: Ages 7-17 \$350, Ages 18-Adult \$100

Financial Assistance Available:

- Work Study
- \$100 production discount for families who volunteer 15 hours

To Audition:

- 1) Sign Up for Audition Timeslot: <https://www.volunteersignup.org/8CQKK>
- 2) Bring Resume, Headshot, and your calendar
- 3) Questions? Auditions@dandylyondrama.org

Come prepared to your assigned 10 minute audition slot with two memorized and rehearsed contrasting monologues (each under 2 minutes) and 12 bars of a song from a musical. A pianist will be on hand to play accompaniment for you. See our website for monologue ideas and info on our upcoming audition workshop.

Everyone who auditions will be cast in the show!

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/)

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Diane Randall *Office Manager*

Jill Gwazdauskas *Registrar*

Susan Goldman *School Nurse*

Annie Gage *Family Advocate*

2014–15 MP PTSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Follow the MP PTSA on Facebook

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SHORELINE HEAD START

The Shoreline Head Start program is a free part-day preschool program for income-eligible families. Our program at Meridian Park serves those living within the Shoreline School District. We offer a quality learning environment, supportive staff and family engagement, nutritious meals, and have interpreter services.

This program is available for children 3-5 years (3 years by August 31st), children in Foster Care/Kinship Care, TANF and SSI recipients, families experiencing homelessness, children with a disability or IEP, and families on limited income.

For an application or questions, contact the Head Start Family Advocate, Susan Strachila, at **206-393-1781** or susan.strachila@shorelineschools.org.



PHOTOGRAPHS OF MERIDIAN PARK

If you have a photograph of a Meridian Park event that we can publish in the Cheetah Chatter, please submit the photo with information on the event to cheetahchatter@icloud.com.



Principal Tadlock, with Mrs. Uran's class, pose for a class photo.

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