

Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA

WASHINGTON STATE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Arjun Thomas, Logan Gnanapragasam, and Julien Goldstick participated in the Washington State Elementary Chess Championships at Smith Cove Cruise Terminal Events Center in Seattle on April 12th. Arjun scored 4.5 points out of 5 and earned first place among 111 sixth graders to become a State Elementary Chess Champion. Logan scored 3.0 points (52nd place) in the sixth-grade section, and Julien scored 3.0 point (59th place) in the 197 player fifth-grade section, giving Meridian Park a score of 10.5 in the 4-6 section.

The team score is the sum of the scores of the top four players from the school in the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade events. Unfortunately, this was not enough to earn Meridian Park a team trophy--the absence of the fourth player was too much of a penalty for them to overcome. Final standings are available at <http://chess.ratingsnw.com/report13-14/StateElementary.html>.

These three qualified to participate in the Washington State Elementary Chess Championships by playing in scholastic chess tournaments and earning at least three points in one of those tournaments. The list of qualifiers is posted at <http://chess.ratingsnw.com/qualifiers.html>. Information about future scholastic chess tournaments is available under the Calendar tab on the website.

FIELD DAY

Field Day is scheduled for June 13th and we are in need of donations for our Minute to Win It Booth prizes. We will be accepting toys, small trinkets, coloring books, notebooks, pencils, and books (please no food or candy). If you are able and willing to donate please send items to school in a plastic bag labeled with your full name as well as your child's. Thank you in advance for your donations!



STATE ASSESSMENTS APRIL 30 - MAY 16

Students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 will complete the required state assessments through May 16.

On-time attendance during this period is very important. Please avoid or limit appointments and early dismissal. Teachers will provide specific dates for each grade level.

Please contact your teacher with questions or to support with snacks.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Announcements	1
Principal's Letter	2
Meridian Park News	3
Cheetah Notes	4
PTSA President's Letter	8
PTSA News	8
Resources for Families	9

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 19

6:00pm Meridian Park Library
Shoreline Classic Car Show
Volunteer Meeting

May 23 & 26

No school

May 29

6:45-7:30pm Meridian Park Gym
2nd—5th Grade Concert
6:00-8:00pm
Meridian Park Arts Festival

June 9

No school

June 10

All students must have all library
books returned to the library

June 13

Field Day

June 16

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

June 19

9:30am Meridian Park Cafeteria
Moving On Ceremony

June 20

Early Dismissal
Last day of school

July 20

5th Annual Shoreline Classic Car
Show (MP PTSA fundraiser)

Principal's Letter

Dear Families—

I hope this message finds you enjoying our lovely Northwest spring season. Your students are involved in learning activities focused on standards for third trimester. MP teachers and support staff are working hard to provide meaningful teaching and learning activities each day until summer break. We're also having fun! Please contact your teacher if you have any questions regarding academics, your child's progress, or other topics.

Congratulations to Meridian Park students and staff for recently being named a recipient of a 2013 State Achievement Award! Based on state MSP scores for 2012 and 2013, our award recognizes overall Reading Growth. This state award is a real credit to the hard work of Principal Amy Jesse and our teaching staff. Please see additional info included with this newsletter.

Students in grades 3 – 6 are involved in state MSP assessments this month. It's an important opportunity for students to demonstrate their progress in meeting state standards. On-time attendance is very important. Thank you for supporting your student with positive encouragement, a good breakfast, and consistent routines. Go Cheetahs! (This is the final year of the current state assessment before the national common core assessment begins in the spring of 2015.)

Classrooms and teams will be very busy during May and June with culminating learning activities, field trips, celebrations, and other activities. Sometimes fees are needed, 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.

Here are a few key dates for next year:

- September 3 - first day of school for 2014 – 15
- December 22 – January 2 - Winter Break
- February 16 - 20 - Mid-Winter Break
- April 20 – 24 - Spring Break

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 district website.

Class assignments for next year will be finalized right before school starts on September 3. Class assignments are based on our 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, 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.

Congratulations to our PTSA for an outstanding year! We are beginning the planning process for next year, and welcome everyone's involvement. My personal thanks to Kim, the entire PTSA Board, and our newly elected officers for next year. Please look for more info about PTSA 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 at our end of year activities.

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

PS 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

MERIDIAN PARK RECEIVED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD!

Meridian Park Elementary is a proud recipient of the 2013 Washington Achievement Award in Reading Growth. Based on state MSP scores for 2012 and 2013, our award recognizes overall reading growth.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



2013



Washington Achievement Award Winner

WASHINGTON ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

RECOGNIZING WASHINGTON STATE'S TOP-PERFORMING SCHOOLS

The Washington Achievement Awards celebrate the state's top-performing schools. Award-winning schools have at least one thing in common: the power to profoundly affect student learning.

Award-winning schools are identified through the revised Achievement Index, criteria set in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Waiver, and criteria approved by the State Board of Education (SBE).



Award

CATEGORIES

Overall Excellence

Awarded to the top five percent of all Washington elementary, middle, high, and comprehensive schools (based on three years of data) and participating schools that meet the highest performing designation according to the ESEA Flexibility Waiver.

Special Recognition Awards

High-performing schools in the following areas receive recognition (based on data from up to three years):

- High Progress
- Reading Growth
- Math Growth
- Extended Graduation Rate
- English Language Acquisition



THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Governance | Accountability | Performance | Oversight | Career and College Readiness

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Kathy L. Egan | Superintendent | 400 Washington Street | Olympia, Washington 98501

Cheetah Notes

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

We are busy learning, making music, and preparing for "Viva La Musica!" 2014 Arts Festival Concert!

Thursday evening, May 29

6:45 - 7:30 p.m. Vocal Concert in the Gym* All 2nd - 5th grade students will perform.

***Students need to arrive at 6:35 p.m. and may dress up!**

Plan to enjoy this wonderful event with your family! All 2nd - 5th grade students need to attend. You will love it! We are so eager to share our beautiful music with parents, grandparents and families! **Don't miss it!**

The evening also includes poetry readings, chamber music, and visual arts displayed around the building. From 6:00 - 6:30 pm there will be poetry reading and chamber music in the library.

~Mrs. Anderson and
the Meridian Park Singing Cheetahs

NOTES FROM THE NURSE

The Health Office is in need of plastic bags and extra clothing for boys and girls size 8 and larger. Sweatpants, t-shirts, and socks are especially needed.

Also needed are individually wrapped snacks such as Goldfish, energy bars, Z-Bars, fruit leather, applesauce (no sugar added), string cheese, small boxes of dried fruit (raisins, dates, etc.), pretzels, or packaged trail mix. Thanks for your support!

~Susan Goldman
School Nurse

RETIREMENT CONGRATULATIONS!

Retirement congratulations to our own Marty Behnke and Dennis Simpson!

We will miss you, but we're excited for your new adventures--fishing, hiking, resting, and traveling. Thank you for your commitment to students and families. Please keep in touch!



Marty Bethke



Dennis Simpson

Cheetah Notes

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT BFFS

Before the 1980s (Wikipedia dates the term to no later than 1987), children had friends. Maybe they had best friends. But no one had a BFF because the phrase hadn't been invented yet!

BFF- Best Friends Forever. Such a lovely notion. So rare in real life.

I don't know how the phrase started, but sometimes I wish I could stop it! It seems like a marketing tool that does not nurture the children it pretends to celebrate.

Certainly, some children make friendships in elementary school that last a lifetime. (I just reconnected with someone after finding a photograph of myself all dressed up for her 5th birthday party. We'll probably stay in touch now, but there were 35 years during which we had no contact.)

Having a BFF shouldn't be the goal of childhood friendships. Childhood is a time for children to learn as much as they can about how to have fun with peers while learning how to negotiate, take turns, assert themselves, be kind, generous, trusting and trustworthy, and discover what they like and don't like in friendships.

Due to temperament traits, some children will naturally gravitate to having a small number of friends or to having just one very close friend. Others will tend to have a number of friends and may rarely or never have a "best" friend. Neither of these styles is better than the other.

What concerns me about the BFF concept is that sometimes children get caught up in that label yet without attending to what's required for care and feeding of healthy friendship, such as respect and kindness.

Another behavior I've sometimes seen in the name of "BFF" is that it's used as a means to of control: "If you're my BFF, you'll do such and such..." or "Because we're BFFs, you should..." This completely overlooks the fact that healthy friendships are about equal weight being give to the wishes and needs of both parties.

Let's all keep coaching children to have healthy, well-rounded friendships in whatever quantity suits them best. We can encourage them to enjoy friendship in all its many forms, not only the kind that rises to the top and lasts for years.



~Annie Gage, MSW
Family Advocate

annie.gage@shorelineschools.org

206-393-1768

Cheetah Notes

NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

Greetings MP Families,

SPRING BOOK FAIR ~ A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS

Thank you so much for supporting our spring Scholastic Book Fair. Students enjoyed shopping for and spending money books and “fun stuff.” I will be able to purchase many new books and support literacy events, such as author visits and reading programs like Young Readers Choice and Sasquatch, with book fair profits. 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.



FOUR AUTHOR VISITS IN MARCH AND APRIL



Thanks to a generous grant from the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation, I was able to bring writer-poet-songwriter Eric Ode to MP for two assemblies for kindergartners, first graders, and second graders.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Shoreline/LFP Arts Council, as well as our own generous PTSA, I was able to have local author Brett Gadbois work with all third- through sixth-grade students in writers workshops over the course of a two-day residency. Mr. Gadbois shared passages from his book, *The Cellar Door*, with students, talked about the writing process, and led them through drawing and writing activities.



Thanks to the Secret Garden Bookshop in Ballard, Australian author Andy Griffiths visited MP for an assembly with second- through fifth- graders. During his hilarious presentation, Mr. Griffiths led students through some storytelling activities. He is the author of the *13 Story Treehouse* series, as well as *The Cat on the Mat went Splat*. His humor was perfect for our students!

Thanks again to our PTSA for sponsoring Clete Barrett Smith, author of the *Aliens on Vacation* series for two assemblies with third- through sixth- graders. I also used book fair profits to fund his visit. With great humor, Mr. Smith talked about his own writing inspirations and processes, as well as gave students suggestions for finding their own inspirations.



All of these assemblies were enjoyable, inspiring, and educational!

Thanks!
~Jenny Hillger, Teacher/Librarian

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, they will need to be turned in before the last week of school. Below is a schedule to help students return their books:

By Tuesday, May 27th, all students must have no more than two library books checked out.

By Monday, June 2nd, all students must have no more than one library book checked out.

By Tuesday, June 10th, all students must have all library books returned to the library.

Students who still have books on their library records after June 10th 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 20th, 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.

Sincerely,
Jenny Hillger, Teacher/Librarian

A loud Cheetah Cheer to
Susana Villamarin,
Rebecca wagoner, Angie
Nouwens, Rosemary
Trimmer and Krista Keller
for volunteering their
time to help with lunch
during the MSP testing!

LANDSCAPING

Help beautify our school grounds. Landscape and weeding help needed. Tools provided, very flexible and friendly environment. Work your child's entrance.

Please email calliel@hotmail.com if interested.

BREAKFAST

THE BEST WAY TO START YOUR DAY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**JOIN US FOR A NUTRITIOUS
BREAKFAST IN MAY AND YOU WILL
BE ENTERED TO WIN ONE OF THESE:**

**A winner at every school!! Drawing will be June 2nd.
Winners names will be posted shortly after, in the cafeteria. Good Luck!**

EATING HEALTHY + BEING ACTIVE = 😊

PTSA President's Letter

A few weekends ago, I attended the Washington State PTA Convention in Bellevue along with Jill Steinberg, my co-president for next year. We sat in on several general business sessions and attended classes throughout the day. It was a great opportunity to learn about important skills such as being an effective leader, how to write a budget, and how to run a successful fundraising campaign.

The Board of Directors slate is almost full for next year. We are still in need of a Vice President of Programs. The VP of Programs is an elected member of the Executive Committee. Job duties include being the primary point of contact for parent organizers interested in offering enrichment activities, such as Math Club. He or she is not expected to organize or lead the classes themselves.

The always-amazing Tracey Poole has agreed to continue coordinating our Works and Food Drive

projects for one more year. We are looking for a volunteer willing to be mentored by Tracey next year with the ultimate goal of chairing these projects for the 2015-2016 school year. Please contact me for more information about these important positions.

Our biggest event of the year is the Shoreline Classic Car Show on Sunday, July 20th. There are volunteer sign-up sheets and sponsor information forms on the Car Show table in the lobby. Your volunteer help is needed to make this event a success, so sign-up today! Our next planning meeting is Monday, May 19th at 6pm in the Library.

~Kim Ositis
2013–2014 MP PTSA President
mpptsapresident@gmail.com
206-229-7948

2014 MERIDIAN PARK SHORELINE CLASSIC CAR SHOW

The 2014 Meridian Park Shoreline Classic Car Show is set for Sunday July 20th at our school. It is one of our biggest fundraisers. We will have over 200 classic vehicles on hand. Live music will be supplied by Blackjack Kerouac, and Danny Vernon will be doing his "Illusion of Elvis" show. This is incredible if you are an Elvis fan. This again will be a Seafair Sanctioned Community Event and be hosted by Lance Lambert of television's "Vintage Vehicle Show."

It is still not too late to add sponsors! Please tell your friends. If you know someone who has a really "cool" car, tell them this show is not to be missed. We can always use a couple more volunteers if you feel so inclined. It truly is a fun day.

Be true to your school. Get involved!

For more information contact :
Kim Ositis mpptsapresident@gmail.com or
Martin DeGrazia mpcarshow@live.com.

ART DOCENT FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS

Parent's generous donations to the PTSA's Art Docent program at Open House last month raised over \$1,000 to purchase supplies to provide three art lessons during next year. This popular program has been delivered to every classroom by parent volunteers this year, including projects related to print making and the artists Monet and Rothko. Students are learning about art history, as well as different styles of making art. We hope families are enjoying the finished products! Next year will be the fifth year for the art docent program at Meridian Park. A huge thank-you to the 16 art docents and to our terrific families that made this year and next year possible.



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.

THE WORKS

We are looking for three volunteers to help at The Works on May 28 from 6:00-8:00 pm. The Works is located in the portables at the old North City Elementary school. Please contact Tracey Poole at tlp07@stevepoole.com if you are interested or have questions.

We are collecting these items for The Works during the month of May:

- Soap
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Kid Size New Underwear
- Kid Size new Socks

Please drop off your donations in the box in the Meridian Park main lobby by May 30th. Thanks for your support!

FREE OIL CHANGE OUT-REACH

WHY: Free community outreach for folks in Shoreline and North Seattle who are homeless, low income, or simply fallen upon hard times who otherwise cannot afford to get their oil changed.

Pre-registration is required!!

WHEN: Saturday, June 14th 2014

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Shoreline, WA

WHAT: This will be a full service oil change, free of charge. Our skilled volunteers will provide fresh oil, a new oil filter specific to your car, we'll top off the other fluids your car uses, and check your tire pressure.

HOW: Please call 206-371-2141. Have this information ready when you call: Year, Make, Model and Engine Size of your car. **Registration deadline is Sunday June 1st 2014**



Turning Point

Summer Explorers

Educational Day Camp
for Kids Grades 1st-6th



July 15 – August 7
TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, & THURSDAYS
FREE SUMMER LUNCH 12-1 PM
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
PROGRAM & FIELD TRIP 1-4:30 PM

Explore & Learn
Each day we will go on a fun adventure, learn something new, and have a blast doing it!
Come Early For Lunch!
Turning Point is a site for the Summer Lunch Program. Free lunch served from 12-1 pm for all kids 0-18.
Cost: \$5 a day per child/\$10 a day per family. Scholarships available!!!
Location: Vineyard Church 1315 N 160th Street, Shoreline 98133
Registration: 206.402.6960 or office@turningpointseattle.org
www.turningpointseattle.org



YMCA PARENTING CLASS

Supporting your child's emotional development.

Learn how to understand and respond to the emotional needs and emerging social skills of your toddler or preschooler. Free childcare will be provided. Cost for the class is \$16.00.

For more information contact Barbara Yasui at 206.546.4593 or byasui@shoreline.edu.

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 Ostitis

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

HILLWOOD SOCCER CLUB

Hillwood Soccer Club is gearing up for the fall soccer season!

Hillwood Soccer Club is a non-profit, volunteer recreational soccer club. We encourage children 5 to 18 to come and join the fun! The website will be available for open registration May 7th through mid July. Please visit our website at www.hillwoodsoccer.com, or you can call for more information, 206-542-3353.

We rely strongly on our volunteers to make this a really positive experience for the kids! Our volunteers are the parents, grandparents, siblings, and family friends, who give their time. With that said, we are always looking for volunteers to be coaches, assistant coaches, and team managers. This is a great opportunity for high school students looking to fulfill community service! If you are interested in making some extra money, you can also become a referee through Hillwood Soccer. Visit Hillwood Soccer's website for more information on the referee clinics. Hillwood Soccer Club, come join the fun!!!

NORTHWEST BOYCHOIR

The Northwest Boychoir will hold open auditions for new members on Saturday, May 31, 2014, for fall enrollment at its offices at the University Heights Community Center in Seattle's University District. Boys currently in Kindergarten-Third grades are eligible to audition. No previous music or vocal training is necessary. Auditions are by appointment. Audition appointments are scheduled through the Northwest Choirs office by calling (206) 524-3234. Auditions are private and low-key, designed to make those auditioning feel comfortable and relaxed. Auditions are about 15 minutes long, and parents are strongly encouraged to be present.

Founded in 1974, the Northwest Boychoir enrolls about 150 young singers annually in five levels of training choirs. Members represent 115 public and private schools in the greater Seattle area. Northwest Boychoir music staff members are trained musicians and music educators. Members enjoy the benefit of small classes and focused instruction. Recognized as one of the nation's premier children's choral programs, the Northwest Boychoir serves as the official singing ambassadors of Washington State as recognized by five consecutive governors. The Northwest Boychoir also maintains a long-standing professional relationship with the Seattle Symphony, affording members the opportunity to perform regularly with the region's world-class symphony orchestra.

MANDARIN CHINESE

Did you know that Meridian Park students have the opportunity to learn to read, write and speak Mandarin Chinese? Look for more information about classes for the 2014 - 2015 school year. Questions? Contact Hua Zhang at huazhang98@yahoo.com.

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