

# Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA



## Seafair Shoreline Classic Car Show

This year's Seafair Shoreline Classic Car Show will be held Sunday August 5, 2012 from 10:00am-3:00pm at Meridian Park Elementary. This wonderful community event benefits our school, will feature live music, and will be filmed for televising on *The Vintage Vehicle Show*. We may even get to see some vintage fire trucks from the Last Resort Fire Department.

We would love to have some adult volunteers the day of show at the registration booth. And if you're someone who attends auto shows

around the area, please contact Martin DeGrazia to get some flyers to take with you.

This is a great opportunities for local businesses as well—sign up today to be a sponsor. Contact Martin for more information at mpcarshow@live.com.



## End of Year Celebration for Parents

The PTSA would like to encourage all parents or family members who have helped at the school in any way this year to please come and join us for refreshments and an end of year celebration on Tuesday, June 5. A short program honoring the outgoing and the incoming PTSA Board members will be followed by a coffee hour starting at 7:00pm in the library. This is a great chance to get to know other parents at Meridian Park. We are nearing the end of another very busy, but very rewarding school year. PTSA has provided a HUGE amount of enrichment activities and opportunities for all our students thanks to the help of everyone.

# Lego Robotics Club

A BIG thanks to Mr. Reiman and Mrs. Peters for their teacher leadership on a new club this spring. Meridian Park First ever Robotics Club happened over spring break, and students are already excited to learn more and will do another club in the fall.

These materials came thanks to the Seahawks Symetra award.

Another HUGE thank you to Lewis and Lincoln's parents, Jill and David Going, for leading a fantastic Robotics club over spring break for 12 students—it was phenomenal! We are very excited to kick start our next school year with more of this and our very first school entry into the First Lego League competition! Stay tuned.



Issue Eight, 2011–2012 May 9, 2012

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## **Upcoming Events**

May 1–17 MSP testing at MP

May 17 Matthew Holm Assemblies

May 19 Embrace Shoreline 9:00am-1:00pm

May 22 MP Arts & Music Festival

6:00-8:00pm

May 28

No School—Memorial Day

June 1 MP Field Day

**June 4** School Day—Snow Make-Up

June 14 5 & 6 Grade Band/Orchestra Concert; 7:00pm

**June 21** 6th Grade Moving On Ceremony

Last Day of School Early Release

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

www.meridianparkptsa.org

schools.shorelineschools.org/ meridianpark/

Follow the MP PTSA on Facebook

facebook

# Principal's Letter

Dear Meridian Park Families,

Happy spring to all of you! May is always a busy month at Meridian Park as we plan for some exciting school events and experience state testing for our intermediate students.

May 14–18 marks the District's official "Teacher Appreciation Week." I can't begin to express my gratitude for all of our teachers at Meridian Park and thank them for the work they do each and every day on behalf of students. They put in endless hours of planning and preparation for each learning day at school. If you have not already, please take some time to thank your child's teacher(s) for their hard work. They are priceless!

This week also marks the second week of the MSP (Measure of Student Progress) testing in reading, math, science and writing for our 3rd—6th graders. Thank you for all of your support as parents during this time. Our wonderful PTSA supported us with snacks for the testing days as well as hours of volunteer time in the lunchroom as lunch helpers. This enabled us to keep student schedules consistent before and during the testing window. Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers. We are all hopeful that the MP assessment results will be a tribute to all of the hard work of our teachers and our students.

This month, we have some exciting events coming up that your children will be excited about! The popular author and illustrator,

Matthew Holm, co-creator of the *Babymouse* and *Squish* books will be here on May 17 for the entire school day. On May 19, we welcome you to join other families and community volunteers at MP for Embrace Shoreline Schools Day—a great way to get outside for a morning work party to help us spruce up our landscaping at MP! The following week, on May 22, we will hold our annual Arts Festival! This event is incredible each year and a great way to enjoy poetry readings, chamber music, student musical performances (2nd—5th grade students) and visual arts displayed all over the building. Please come enjoy—it is a night you won't want to miss!

Listed below are a few reminders about some other important school events in June. We would love to see you at them:

June 1: Field Day at MP!

June 14: Band and orchestra concert for 5th and 6th graders

Springtime events seem to come up quickly so please mark your calendars. With only eight weeks until the last day of school, we have so much to accomplish and celebrate! We always want parents to come and join in these fun times so please swing by whenever you can. We appreciate it!

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

# Save the Date for the 6th Grade Moving On

Attention 6th grade parents:

Mark your calendar for the 6th grade "Moving On" ceremony. It will be held at MP on Thursday, June 21 in the morning. Families are really encouraged to come and invitations are coming out soon!

# Am I Ready to be a Middle School Parent?

Middle school can be a confusing and challenging time for students...and their parents! Come to the Einstein Cafeteria Tuesday, May 15, from 7:00–8:30 pm as counselors cover a variety of topics about middle school, your student, and you. Questions? Call Lauren Lochner at 206-393-4743

The presentation will include information about:

- Normal social and emotional development
- Transition to middle school
- Parent roles
   Einstein Middle School, 19343 3rd Avenue NW

# \$350, Raised One Penny at a Time!

Led by the student council, the students at Meridian Park decided to choose a local charity to benefit from this year's penny drive. Whisker City was excited (and honored!) to be the students' choice. To raise awareness, students created posters of each of Whisker City's cats and placed them all through the school.



Through their hard work and dedication, the students raised \$350 for Whisker City! They were so excited to present the check to Whisker City that they want to do another penny drive for Whisker City 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.

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# Friendship, Families and Feelings

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

In the last two newsletters, I've written about five of the nine temperament traits: the inborn qualities with which we enter the world. This month, I'll share the remaining four.

#### FIRST REACTION

First Reaction refers to a child's characteristic response to a new situation or to strangers. Does the child eagerly approach new situations or people? Or does the child seem hesitant and resistant when faced with new situations, people, or things? Slow-to-warm up children tend to think before they act. They are less likely to act impulsively during adolescence.

#### **ADAPTABILITY**

Adaptability is related to how easily a child adapts to transitions and changes, like switching to a new activity. Does the child have difficulty with changes in routines, or with transitions from one activity to another? Does the child take a long time to become comfortable in new situations? A slow-to-adapt child is less likely to rush into dangerous situations, and may be less influenced by peer pressure.

Persistence is the length of time a child continues in activities in the face of obstacles. Does the child continue to work on a puzzle when he has difficulty with it or does he move on to another activity? Is the child able to wait to have his needs met? Does the child react strongly when interrupted in an activity? When a child persists in an activity he is asked to stop, he is labeled as stubborn. When a child stays with a tough puzzle, he is seen as being patient. The highly persistent child is more likely to succeed in reaching goals. A child with low persistence may develop strong social skills because he realizes other people can help.

#### **MOOD**

Mood is the tendency to react to the world primarily in a positive or negative way. Does the child see the glass as half full? Does he focus on the positive aspects of life? Is the child generally in a happy mood? Or does the child see the glass as half empty and tend to focus on the negative aspects of life? Is the child generally serious? Serious children tend to be analytical and to evaluate situations carefully.

If you are interested in learning more about temperament, I recommend the following books:

Nurture by Nature, by Paul D. Tieger and Barbara Barron-Tieger Please Understand Me, by David Keirsey Temperament Tools, by Herman M. Frankel, MD

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

## Embrace Meridian Park School

There will be a work party at the school on Saturday, May 19, from 9:00am-12:00pm. Please bring your garden tools and some gloves. There will be some tools available. This is a fun event where you meet your neighbors and clean up the school grounds. From 12:00-1:00pm we hope to have music available! Treats and water will be provided.

# Thank You to our Snack Helpers!

A BIG thank you to all the parents who helped with the MSP snacks. This is a huge job, and we really appreciate the parents who coordinated snack for grade 3-6 students while they took the MSP. If you would like to help with MSP snacks next year, please speak to a PTSA member.



Meridian Park 4th graders at the Washington State Capital.

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## Attention 5th Grade Parents

6th grade is right around the corner, and with it comes 6th grade camp! This great annual trip is the result of lots of planning and fundraising, and it's time to start thinking about that now. If we all work together, we can be successful. Please contact Shannon Brown at sdawnb@hotmail.com for more information, or to help with planning.

# Teacher appreciation week is May 14–18

Thanks to our fabulous PTSA, we honor our MP teachers all year long with treats and special recognitions by grade level parent groups. The teachers love it! If you would still like to take this official week to honor your child's teachers in an additional way, please do so! They work so hard and deserve it! Remember, many of our students have more than one teacher including PE, music, band/orchestra, library and classroom specialists! Thank you!

## Donate Your Prom Outfits

The WORKS is collecting items for "Prom Shop." They are looking for dresses, pants, shirts and accessories for the teens. Donate on Wednesdays from 6:00–8:00pm at The WORKS portable or contact Lisa at 206-369-5548 to figure out a different time. Thank you!



# Community Drives Continue May = Deodorant

Keeping kids in our community healthy, warm and safe is a priority for The WORKS, a Shoreline PTA Council program. It is a priority for the MP PTSA as well. Please help us support children and families needing a little boost by donating toiletries and new or gently used clothing. Collection boxes are the school lobby—let's fill those up!

Men's deodorant, women's deodorant, teen's deodorant—all are needed. Please pick up a couple extra while you're at the store and send them into school with your student.



Activities of MP's Mandarin Chinese Club.

## Meridian Park Arts Festival

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

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

Please plan to attend this wonderful event with your family! All 2–5 grade students need to attend, and as spring calendars fill up fast, please enter this on your family calendar today. This is our grand championship arts "game" so to speak—the only one! We need every student to be there as we are so eager to share our beautiful music with you, our honored guests! Most coaches are great about working with their players so the kids can be at the concert, so make necessary arrangements early; we all know that parents can move mountains in order to attend! You won't want to miss it!

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### Notes from the Music Room

a message from Shari Anderson, Music Teacher

Great things are happening in general music! See you all at the

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

#### 6:45-7:30pm: Grades 2-5 Vocal Concert in the Gym

All 2–5 grade students will perform. Students need to arrive at 6:35pm and may dress up! Please be sure this is entered on your family calendar today. Don't miss this! We will be singing fun songs and excellent choral literature all about farming and gardening and offer a special thank you to parents!

#### The evening also includes:

6:00–6:30pm: Poetry reading and chamber music in the Library. All evening: Student Artwork displayed throughout the building.

# Library Notes

a message from Jenny Hillger, Library Media Specialist

Matthew Holm, co-creator of the Babymouse and Squish graphic novel series, will be here on Thursday, May 17. He will lead two assemblies, a writing workshop for one lucky class, Ms. Sezate's sixth graders, and have lunch with 24 lucky third through sixth graders.

Parents and community members are invited to join us at one of the assemblies. The assembly schedule is:

9:30–10:15am: Kindergarten, first, second, and third grades in the cafeteria 1:55–2:40pm: Fourth, fifth, and sixth grades in the cafeteria

I would like to thank the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation for their generous support of this event, as well as our own PTSA for their support. Book fair profits are also used to fund this event. Please join us!

Happy Reading!



# The Cheetah Gym

a message from Pamela Willoughby, P.E. Teacher

#### Field Day

Every Spring in June, Meridian Park students have a great time participating in Field Day. This year's event is on June 1, and Kindergarten-3rd grade will have their events from 9:30-11:30am, and 4th-6th grade will be from 1:00-3:00pm.

Activities include: Minute you win it, tug of war, parachute & circus arts, Volleyball, Water Balloon Toss, 440 relay run, Belly Bumpers, Blind Fold Spray Bottle, Kick your shoe off contest, Izzy Dizzy races, Soccer kick, Obstacle Course race, Standing Long Jump, Fox Tail Throw, Water Bottle Relay, Sponge Water Relay, and more. There will also be a face-painting station this year.

#### Volunteers Needed

We are now looking for volunteers to help out on Friday June 1 for Field Day. This fun day is an amazing experience for both students and parents. To find out more about getting involved, contact Ms. W at pamela.willoughby@shorelineschools.org. No experience necessary!

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# PTSA News

# MP PTSA President's Message

So Long, Farewell, auf Wiedersehn—Goodnight! As the year winds down and I look forward to moving on with the 6th grade class, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the last nine years at Meridian Park. It has been a fun, sometimes challenging, exciting ride!

Way back when...as a parent of a kindergarten student...I didn't know what in the world to expect with life in school. Getting past the first month of a 5-year-old clinging to my leg crying, begging me to not leave him seemed like an impossible feat. Doing it again 2 years later with my daughter was a little easier—I'd developed an iron will with the help of the amazing Mr. Herold! He taught me that my child would be a survivor *and* learn to read and play well with others. He was right—they both are doing well!

After getting my feet on the ground, I began meeting an incredible group of Kindergarten parents—all with the same fears, dreams and ideas for helping our children make it through school enjoying life and learning new things. We were drawn into this frightening organization called the PTSA. I know, I know—the word stops you in your tracks, possibly makes you turn and run with thoughts of *impossible* volunteering commitments and a life chained to meetings and events you can't possibly cram into one month. Truth be told, it's not like that at all and it only has to be what you want it to be.

I began attending events here and there and realized it was really not that bad and I actually enjoyed getting to know the other families. One day a fellow parent asked me if I'd be interested in taking on a leadership position in the PTSA. My first reaction was heck no—how could I possibly have time for all that? Long story short I accepted the offer and have been strongly involved ever since. I accepted that position knowing I had some skills that could be used but more importantly I learned this organization was about coming together as a team to help orchestrate *amazing* learning opportunities, fun events for kids and families *and* it was a chance to help our children build relationships. These opportunities to participate in clubs such as drama, chess, math, Legos, languages and more are things that some children would

normally never experience if not for the efforts of this group.

Over the course of time at Meridian Park, I experienced many different PTSA jobs from working at the Back-to-School BBQ, organizing the Talent Show, running the bowling game at the Fall Carnival and working with an incredible Drama Club. At some point, I chose to be involved at school while attempting to work, getting my kids to soccer games, guitar lessons and to bed at a reasonable hour. Okay, dinners did suffer quite frequently but the family hasn't starved yet. Have I been crazy? Yes (my family will attest to it). Am I capable of wearing down? Yes (my family will attest to this as well). Would I take it back? No.

It may take time and organization and stamina. All good things in life demand that, right? However, it is not a hard decision to make when you know the outcome is a child that had a chance to experience one more exciting event in his or her life. I've seen the delight in a child's eyes when they take a bow on the stage after an amazing performance of Peter Pan and a proud look when they accepted a ribbon for creating a masterpiece in the Reflections contest and I know in my heart making that commitment to the PTSA was worth every minute of my time. Remember, it doesn't have to be a full time job—it can be a 10 minute stand at the copy machine, a 30 minute shift at the book fair or some time at home in the evening sorting membership envelopes. There are so many ways to contribute to our PTSA—take a moment next year and be one of those people that helped contribute to the success of one and most likely many children. You will not regret it.

Thank you all for the generous, amazing, incredible support at Meridian Park. Our school is better because of you! Please take time to enjoy these last few weeks of school and look at your child with pride knowing they will be successful and these memories will be a part of who they are for the rest of their lives.

Cheers, Kathy Henderson MP PTSA President. 2010–2012 kathyhenderson@me.com

## Chess Club

Chess Club is looking for a parent to lead the club next year. If you love this club, please step up, since without a parent, this club will not be offered next year. If you are at all interested, please contact Rachel Ariss at arissfamily@yahoo.com.

## Art Docents

The Art Docent Program is looking for any and all parents who want to keep this great program going. We need people to volunteer in all capacities. You don't need to know anything about art to help. The time commitment is 20 hours during the year (three two-hour training classes and three one-hour teaching times). If you don't want to teach, you can even help by hanging the art work. If you are at all interested, please contact Rachel Ariss at arissfamily@yahoo.com.

# Teacher Appreciation

Pre-K, Kindergarten and fourth grades will be hosting a teach appreciation coffee break on June 7, look for information from your PTSA room liaison. This is the last teacher appreciation of the year—let's make it a great one! Please remember every little bit helps and we do really value every contribution. We need help to set up and clean up, as well as food.

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# PTSA News

### Math Club News

Fifth Grade Math Team Qualifies for Division I Masters in Math is Cool

Jamie Forschmiedt, Sandy Cheng, Christopher Lawson, Evelynn Li, Lucas Kleyn, Evan Zverev and Kevin Lee competed as members of the Meridian Park team in the fifth grade Math is Cool Championship on March 23rd at Mount Rainier High School in Des Moines. Logan Gnanapragasam competed as an individual in the contest. Meridian Park was in Division 1A, the most competitive division, because of their 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 less than 200 students in 5th grade are placed in Division 2. Schools from districts with more than 200 students in 5th 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.

# Clubs & Classes Looking for Parents

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

Meridian Park placed seventh in a field of thirteen division 1A teams. Jamie won the award for the top scorer from Meridian Park. Meridian Park has accepted the invitation to the 5th grade Division I Masters in Moses Lake on May 19th 2012. Jamie, Sandy, Christopher and Evelynn will be representing Meridian Park at the Masters.

Fourth Grade Math Team Qualifies for the Elite Division of Masters in Math is Cool

Logan Gnanapragasam, Jonathan Zhou, Genevieve Trimbell, Ashley Mochizuki, Fred Liu, Imran Majeed, Ray Li, Isaac Poole, Aditya Nair, Emmie Wang, Brandon Mochizuki, Julien Goldstick, Franklin Zheng, Samuel Nguyen, Lewis Going, Karina Jhingan, Soliana Hassen and Serina Towns-von Stauber competed in the fourth grade Math is Cool Championship on April 20th at Mount Rainier High School in Des Moines. Meridian Park scored 190 points and earned fourth place. Logan won the 2nd place trophy in the individual portion of the contest. Jonathan had the same score as the 10th place trophy winner, but missed the award on tiebreakers.

The championships were conducted at five location; Seattle, Spokane, Vancouver, Wenatchee, and the Tri-Cities. The top 8 teams overall from the combined list from all locations and divisions are invited to the Elite division. Meridian Park was fourth in the overall list as well and has accepted the invitation to the 6th grade Elite Masters in Moses Lake on May 19. Logan, Jonathan, Genevieve and Fred will be representing Meridian Park at the Masters.

#### Washington State Math Championship at Blaine

Grant Hugh, James Qiu, Michelle Wang, Julie Zhou, Nathaniel Poole, Anna Tinoco, Ardelle Ning, Ellie Shoop, Bella Goodell, Aenea Towns-von Stauber, and Sarah Jhingan took part in the Washington State Math Championship at the 6th grade level. The team of Grant, James, Julie, and Nathaniel won the third place trophy, scoring 161.5 point, four points behind the winners Samantha Smith. Grant won first place and James won seventh place in the individual portion of the 6th grade contest. The team of Michelle, Anna, Ardelle and Ellie were eighteenth, while the team of Bella, Aenea and Sarah were forty sixth in the field of 89 teams. Grant, James, Michelle, Julie, Nathaniel and Anna finished in the top quarter of the field of 349 contestants.

Logan Gnanapragasam, Isaac Poole, Sandy Cheng, Imran Majeed, Jonathan Zhou, Brandon Mochizuki, Jamie Forschmiedt, Ashley Mochizuki, Aditya Nair, Fred Liu, Emmie Wang, Eileen Beres, Lucas Kleyn and Athena Pentcholov took part in the Washington State Math Championship at the 5th grade level. The team of Logan, Jonathan and Fred were eighteenth, the team of Sandy, Jamie, Eileen and Lucas were twenty sixth, the team of Imran, Aditya, Emmie and Athena were twenty seventh and the team of Isaac, Brandon, Ashley placed thirty ninth in the field of 112 teams. Logan, Isaac, Sandy, Imran, Jonathan, Brandon, Jamie and Ashley finished in the top quarter of the field of 448.



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# 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

# Dandylyon Drama Summer Stage

Fun in the sun coupled with the pride of performing in a professional musical theater production! Sessions are in nearby Lake Forest Park on an outdoor stage:

- July 9–13: Peter Pan; Grades 1–4; M-F, 9am-12pm; \$150
- July 23-August 3: Princess and the Frog. Grades 4–6 M-F, 9am-3pm; \$300
- August 13–24: Alice in Wonderland; Grades 6–9; M–F,
   9am–3pm; \$300

To register: melanilyons@comcast.net or 206-618-1719.

# Parents' Night Out

Extended Daycare will host its next Parents' Night Out on Friday, June 8. The event is open to all MP families and runs from 6:00–9:00pm. The cost is only \$15 for the first child with siblings costing only \$10 each. Parents can drop their children off at 6:00 pm and have an enjoyable evening together while our experienced staff watches your kids. Our staff will provide excellent care and your kids will enjoy pizza, dessert, games, crafts, and a fun movie.

## Darnell Park Work Party

There will be a work party at Darnell Park on Saturday, May 26, 9:00am–12:00pm. Meet on the Interurban Trail just south of N. 165<sup>th</sup> near the bench. Bring gloves and tools and dress for the weather. Some tools will be available for your use. We will remove invasive weeds and plant some native plants. Refreshments will be provided.

# MP Neighborhood Association

Save the Dates:

**Saturday, May 19:** 9:00am–12:00pm Annual Embrace Meridian Park Work Party Water and treats will be served.

Sunday, June 2: 9:00am-4:00pm 2nd Annual All Neighborhood Garage Sale Wednesday, July 18: 5:00-7:00pm

Annual Neighborhood Book Sale and Concert at Cromwell Park

# Meridian Park Garage Sale

The second annual All Meridian Park Garage Sale is on Saturday, June 2, from 9:00am-3:00pm. To participate, send your information in by May 23. MPNA will place ads on Cragislist and the newspaper with your street address and a short list of some of your items. Plan with your neighbors and put up lots of signs! For more information, contact Naomi at seanandnaomi@mac.com. You can also visit the Meridian Park Neighborhood Association Facebook page or visit their Web site at http://meridianpark.web.officelive.com.

## Shoreline Farmers Market

Shoreline's own farmers market opens June 16! The market is open from 10:00am-3:00pm. Meridian Park, along with other neighborhoods, will be there to welcome you on various Saturdays during the summer.



Providing clothing support to Shoreline School District Families.

North City Portables west end of North City Elementary 816 NE 190th Street, Shoreline Wednesdays 6:30–8:00pm 206-393-4916

The WORKS is a Shoreline PTA Council Family Resource

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

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schools.shorelineschools.org/ meridianpark/

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### 2011–12 MP PTSA Executive Committee

www.MeridianParkPTSA.org

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