



Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA



Shoreline Classic Car Show

Drop by Meridian Park to check out amazing classic and special interest cars, delicious food, and entertainment for the whole family at Shoreline's only Seafair-sanctioned event. Net proceeds go to Meridian Park Elementary students! Hope to see you there!



Sunday, August 4
10:00am-3:00pm
Meridian Park School

Issue Ten, 2012-2013
June 17, 2013

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Dine Out at Jersey's!

Dine out at Jersey's any time and help raise money for the Meridian Park PTSA! Any time you eat at Jersey's in Shoreline, 20% of your bill (excluding tax) will be donated back to the PTSA. Just let your server know you are a Meridian Park Elementary family and 20% of your dining bill will automatically be donated back to our school. Jersey's offers great food and fun for the whole family. Kids are welcome!



Goodbye Message

from Principal Amy Jessee

After eight amazing and wonderful years as part of the leadership team here at MP (and six of them as Principal), it is time for me to say goodbye. I want you to know that I have accepted a position within the Seattle Public Schools as a part-time Assistant Principal at an elementary school. It means I still get to do what I love best in terms of educational leadership, but I also get to spend that essential quality time with my own family. It was a very difficult decision to leave this incredible school, but I know it is the right one for my family at this time in my life.

Most of what I want to share with all of you during this time of change is this: Thank you. I hope that you all realize that you help us do amazing things for your children at Meridian Park! It takes my departure to give me the true perspective of what we all have accomplished together at this great school. I think of our many school-wide and classroom-based achievements and I know it is because of your tremendous support of our school, our staff and our children. You do so much. You get your children to school each day, you volunteer, you come to night events, you attend field trips and conferences, you

support our music programs, you work in classrooms, you help with homework, you donate to our Read and Walk-a-thons, you join our PTSA and most of all, you care deeply about your child's success and the success of others. I celebrate all of this and am grateful for your part in it.

I am certain that our school success and accomplishments will continue to flourish under new and refreshed leadership here at Meridian Park. Your children will be in good hands with Mr. David Tadlock. He is very excited about coming to Meridian Park and continuing the great work we have going around this fantastic school!



Welcome, David Tadlock. Amy & David are working hard together to make the leadership transition seamless!

I wish you all the best. As much as I will miss the wonderful energy that I feel everyday here, I can't wait to hear about the new and exciting things that will happen for Meridian Park in the future. Please know that I will work with all of you and David to ensure a seamless transition to new leadership here at MP. I am here to help

bridge this transition as we move forward with this change of leadership.

Regards, Amy Jessee

Upcoming Events

June 17
Staff versus 6th-grade volleyball game

June 19
6th grade Moving on ceremony 9:30-11:30, in the cafeteria

June 21
Last day of school assembly & early release (11:50am)

August 4
Car show

August 29
Back to school BBQ

September 4 & 5
Welcome coffees

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

Meridian Park News

Principal's Letter

We are a few weeks away from summer and Meridian Park is still in full swing! Our learning environment continues to buzz all around as the students celebrate the amazing academic progress they made this year. Our "end of the year" events and field trips are fully planned and students are very excited about so many of them!

As June goes on, the staff and I are also in the midst of planning for our next school year. Together, we'll finesse our professional learning community work, work on our master schedule for the upcoming year and continue to improve our school-wide positive behavior intervention systems. It is exciting work! We are also beginning to place our staff into classroom teaching positions and support positions within the building for next year. This process is still tentative and teaching assignments can still change over the summer.

As of now, our classroom configurations are as follows for our general education program:

- Two Kindergarten classrooms (a half day and an all day)
- Two 1st grade classrooms
- One combination 1st and 2nd grade classroom
- One 2nd grade classroom
- One combination 2nd and 3rd grade classroom
- One 3rd grade classroom
- Two 4th grade classrooms
- One 5th grade classroom
- One combination 5th and 6th grade classroom
- one 6th grade classroom

For our Highly Capable Program, we will have six total classrooms that include one classroom at each grade level from 2nd grade to 6th grade and an additional combination classroom for 3rd and 4th graders. If enrollment numbers change, we will

make adjustments to these classroom configurations in September.

This month, our teachers have also been working on the placement process for assigning students to classrooms for next year. Our teachers work very hard to build classrooms that are well-balanced in a variety of ways. Rest assured that you will receive the most up-to-date information about your child's classroom placement towards the end of August.

On a final note, I have the bittersweet position of informing you that there are some staff changes coming to our Meridian Park community. Soon, we will say goodbye to some beloved members of our school and we will welcome new staff members into new positions. It is a challenging time for all of us, including staff, students and families as we face these changes. After 41 years of teaching PE, Pamela Willoughby will be retiring in June. We will also say goodbye to our classroom support teachers until we know more about staffing needs in the fall. It is with heartfelt gratitude that I say thank you (and sadly, goodbye) to these wonderful colleagues who have dedicated so much to our school. This fall, you may learn of other changes to our staff as well as hearing about the new staff members who will fill some open positions at Meridian Park.

Lastly, THANK YOU. Thank you for an incredible school year filled with so much great learning for all of us. I will miss this community and already feel a great loss thinking about how I will not start another school year with the wonderful students, staff and families of Meridian Park. I will cherish my eight years of memories here. Please do keep in touch. I wish you and your family a safe and restful summer.

Don't forget to attend the MP Car Show on August 4th here at MP!

~ Amy Jessee, MP Principal

Notes From the Nurse

Attention families with medication in the Health Office! Before school is out, please pick up medication in the health office and sign forms for next year. This is very helpful as we close down this school year and plan for next year. Thank you!

~Janet Boyett, RN, MP Nurse

Thank you Haggens!

Shoreline Haggens has been kind enough to provide cupcakes for the moving-on ceremony for Meridian Park Elementary 6th grade students and families. They have always been so generous towards the Meridian Park community, and so many Meridian Park families benefit from their kind and giving spirit. All of us from Meridian

Park and the Meridian Park PTSA appreciate all they do for us and the community.



Returning Library Books

All library books were due on Tuesday, June 11. Students must either pay for or replace with like copies all missing books. Look for missing books in cars, bedrooms, lockers, desks, classroom libraries, backpacks, etc.

Please contact library staff with any questions about missing books (jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org or 206-963-6645.) Don't hesitate to let me know if book fees pose a financial hardship for you. We want all students to receive their report cards on the last day of school. However, students who still have library books checked out on the last day of school will not receive their report cards.

Meridian Park News



Library News

For the past few months in the library, kindergarten and first-grade classes have been reading and learning about nursery rhymes and folk tales, respectively. With a generous grant from the Shoreline Public School Foundation, I was able to incorporate a variety of games, puppets, and flannel-board stories into our studies. With fourth-grade buddies (see photos to the left), kindergarteners had fun using bingo, board games, and card games at small group stations to reinforce their learning. First graders reenacted scenes from *The Little Red Hen*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, and *The Three Little Pigs* using masks, puppets, and flannel board pieces. A big thank you to Shoreline Public Schools Foundation!

Meridian Park families, thank you for being such strong supporters of the library throughout the 2012–2013 school year. Through our book fairs, we were able to raise funds that we used to purchase library books for K–6 students, as well as sponsor phenomenal guest author and artist Barry Deutsch this year.

Please take advantage of great literacy programs sponsored by the King County Library System this summer. Students listened to presentations on Monday, June 13, about what's available at the Shoreline and Richmond Beach branches. You can also go online at kcls.org. Look on the Meridian Park homepage (<http://schools.shorelineschools.org/meridianpark/>) for links to lists of great books that students can read.

Also, I would like to thank all of the amazing volunteers who have generously donated their time to help us keep the library and book fairs running smoothly. On a weekly basis, Anne Zheng, Liz Poitras, Jennifer Gaffney-Kleyn, and Jean Risser have shelved books and kept everything in tip-top shape. I couldn't manage or imagine the library without them! Thank you!

Have a great summer filled with great literature!

~Jenny Hillger, Teacher-Librarian

The Cheetah Gym

After a long and wonderful teaching career, I am retiring to spend more time with family and friends. I have loved teaching at Meridian Park for the last five years, and will miss you all—lots of great and fun memories! I hope you all have healthy and fit summers. I promise to come back and visit, and you may see me subbing throughout the district in the future I have loved coaching many of you in so many exciting sports.

In Cheetah Gym news, all our classes are participating in the \$3,000 dance grant program. Tim and Alex Lynch come in to teach dance to all of our students. The students performed their fun dances for the school on Friday, June 7 in the gym. I love writing dance grants and this is my fifth grant in the last five years.

Thanks for all your support these past five years. I have been honored to teach your children!

~Pamela Willoughby, P.E. Teacher



Calling All Artists

This summer would be a great time to create a special project to enter in next year's PTSA Reflections Art Contest! The theme for 2013–2014 is "Believe, Dream, Inspire." Pieces are due in early October.

The Reflections Program is a National PTA and Washington State PTA cultural arts competition. The purpose of this program is to provide an opportunity for students to use their creative talents by expressing themselves through their own original works.

Young artists get involved in Reflections through their local PTA or PTSA. A student may submit an entry in any of six arts areas. Only original works of art are accepted. The six art areas are: Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts, Film/Video, and Choreography/Dance. More information can be found on the Washington State PTA Web site (www.wastatepta.org).

PTSA Volunteer Coordinator Needed

The PTSA is looking to fill the Volunteer Coordinator position, no experience necessary! Contact Jill Steinberg at jrsteinberg@comcast.net or 206-356-5977 if you are interested in finding out more.

MP Math Club News

Report from the Washington State Mathematics Councils Middle School Mathematics Olympiad 2013

Aaron Gray, Aditya Nair, Ashley Mochizuki, Brandon Mochizuki, Eileen Beres, Emily Nguyen, Emmie Wang, Evelyn Li, Fred Liu, Genevieve Trimbell, Imran Majeed, Jamie Forschmiedt, Jonathan Zhou, Julien Goldstick, Kevin Lee, Lewis Going, Lincoln Going, Logan Gnanapragasam, Samuel Nguyen, and Soliana Hassen competed in the Washington State Mathematics Council's Mathematics Olympiad on May 4. The contest is structured in two sessions. The first session required the team to work together on an open-ended multiple-task problem and produce a response detailing their solution and how they solved the problem. The second session consisted of five contests in the following topics: Number Sense, Measurement, Geometric Sense, Probability and Statistics, and Algebraic Sense. There were five questions in each topical contest.

The team of Fred, Imran, Jonathan, and Logan won a "superior" medal while three teams, Ashley, Brandon, Emmie, and Genevieve; Aaron, Aditya, Lewis and Samuel; and Eileen and Kevin earned "excellent" ribbons for their performance in the first session. Two teams, Fred, Imran, Jonathan, and Logan; Ashley, Brandon, Emmie, and Genevieve won a "superior" medal while three teams, Aaron, Aditya, Lewis, and Samuel; Emily, Evelyn, and Jamie; and Eileen and Kevin earned "excellent" ribbons for their performance in the second session.

Almost six hundred teams took part in this contest at seventeen locations across the state. Nimmy and Emmanuel Gnanapragasam organized the contest at Seattle University. They were glad to have the help of former Meridian Park students Spencer Lu and Dan Gnanapragasam who volunteered as scorers; parents Kent Forschmiedt and Seif Hassan who volunteered as proctors, and Bindu Nair, Jill Going, Raif Majeed, Zhengjie Zhou, Phillip Liu, and Yang Wang who volunteered as scorers. Parents John Gray, Toshie Mochizuki, Changhong Peng, Ed Goldstick, and Minzi Cheng chaperoned the teams.



MP PTSA President Brian Heagler
with Principal Amy Jessee

Competition Math Club 2013-2014

The competition math club is looking for coaches for the next year. Each coach works with a group of 6 to 16 students to help them prepare to participate in a number of contests.

The coach defines the focus of his/her group. Information about the competition math club and the groups that we were able to offer the past two years is available at <http://fac-staff.seattleu.edu/nirmalag/web/mpmathclub/mathGroups.html>.

If any parent is willing and able to volunteer as a coach please contact the competition math club coordinator at Ldnkgnana@gmail.com.

Proposed dates and times are September 18, 2013 through April 30, 2014, from 8:00 to 9:00am. If your child would like to get a head start on preparing for next year's Shoreline Math Olympiad, past contests and solutions are available by clicking the Shoreline Math Olympiad link at <http://fac-staff.seattleu.edu/nirmalag/web/mpmathclub/mathGroups.html>.



Embrace Shoreline Schools

Thank you to so many of you who attended this Saturday event in May! You helped us to spruce up our landscaping and more! Thanks!

Golden Hanger Award

Congratulations to Meridian Park Schools for winning the Shoreline Schools PTA Golden Hanger award! Thank you so much to Tracey Poole for her wonderful leadership in promoting the need and rallying the school to bring in donations.

The Golden Acorn recognition is given to local units that donate over 500 products and provide a financial donation of over \$500 to The WORKS. The recognition was given at the annual Shoreline PTA Council Spring Dessert.



Meridian Park Back-to-School BBQ

The Meridian Park Back-to-School BBQ is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 29 from 5:30–7:00pm (5:00–5:30pm for K–2 “meet the teacher”). If you are interested in helping out, please contact Lee Lambert at 206-417-8410 or leelambert75@gmail.com.

Talent Show Coordinator

The MP talent show is a student favorite activity but we don't have anyone to coordinate it for next year. If interested, please contact Susan Duthweiler at sduthweiler@gmail.com.

5th & 6th Grade Band & Orchestra Concert



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

Adventure, Discovery & Fun Await!

Make this a Summer you will never forget! The Dale Turner Family Y offers a wide array of interactive camps that will create lasting memories for your child. We have camps that will spark the enthusiasm of every child and teen, whether it's horseback riding, shooting a bow & arrow, playing sports or just having fun with friends. Give us a call or check out ykids.org/dal. For more information please call Dale Turner Family YMCA at 206-363-0446.

Community Events

Every Thursday 1:00–3:30pm

Haggens, Shoreline Knitters Come join to help make hats for the homeless, or knit something for family. If you don't know how to knit or crotchet, the Shoreline Knitters are more than happy to get you started. Let your schedule dictate—drop in for part or all of the time.

July 24, 5:30–8:30 p.m.

Council of Neighborhoods **Book Sale & Concert in the Park**

Construction at Meridian Park

In June and July there will be construction in Meridian Park to make it a more friendly park and also to help contain runoff water from flooding nearby homes. Plans are to plant native

Parenting Kids Ages 13 to 18

Saturday, September 14, 21, 28 and

October 5, 12, and 19, 10:30am

Class instructor Kathy Slattengren, M. Ed., has helped thousands of parents, teachers, and childcare providers through her online classes, presentations, coaching, and book. Parents excitedly report their success in replacing yelling and threatening with calm, confident parenting. Register in August for this six-week series online or call the Richmond Beach Library at 206-546-3522. Plan on attending every session.

plants and trees in October and November and rid the park of contaminated runoff water.

August 6, Night Out Against Crime Neighborhoods are encouraged to have block parties. You can obtain a permit to close your street for a block party. Packets for planning your party can be picked up at the Planning Department or downloaded from the City's website. The Meridian Park Coordinator can sign your permit to save you the permit fee. Contact Gretchen Atkinson at 206-364-2821, or gtravel@comcast.net.

August 24 starting at dark, but come early. The Meridian Park neighborhood along with the Ballinger neighborhood will be sponsoring a **Free Outdoor Movie Night** at the old Kellogg Middle School track area. Bring blankets or chairs, and something to keep your children occupied. There will be face painting and other entertainment.

September 7, 1:00–8:00pm, Ronald Bog Art Festival

This free event will have lots of exciting things for children and adults. Food vendors, and, of course, good weather.

Mark your calendars for 2013–2014!

First day of the 2013–14 school year: September 4, 2013

Winter break: December 23, 2013–January 3, 2014

Mid-Winter break: February 17–21, 2014

Spring break: April 21–25, 2014



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*

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Meridian Park Elementary

[schools.shorelineschools.org/
meridianpark/](http://schools.shorelineschools.org/meridianpark/)

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