



# Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA



## Fall Fundraiser is Under Way!

Our biggest fundraiser of the year is going on right now, raising money to provide the MP PTSA with the funds it needs to support our school and teachers and all the events and programs that are planned for this school year.

Please shop through the packet and share it with family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. This is the perfect time of year to stock up for holidays and other special occasions!

Our goal is to raise \$14,500, and the PTSA will receive a generous portion of these sales. Don't see anything that strikes your fancy? You can still participate in this fundraiser with a direct donation to the MP PTSA. Just indicate on your order form that you have included a check instead of a merchandise order.

*Thank you for supporting your school and your PTSA!*

## To the Book Fair and Beyond

Our first Scholastic Book Fair of the year will be held, Wednesday, October 12 through Friday, October 14, 8:40am-4:20pm daily, during Parent / Teacher conferences. Please plan to stop by.



Issue Two, 2011-2012  
October 5, 2011

## Inside this issue:

Fall Fundraiser	1
Meridian Park News	2
MP PTSA News	3
Resources for Families	4

## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, October 5**  
Reflections Begins

**Friday, October 7**  
Non-Student Work Day

**Wednesday, October 12**  
Fall Fundraiser Orders Due

**Wed-Fri, October 12-14**  
Early Release (11:50am)  
Parent / Teacher Conferences

**Wed-Fri, October 12-14**  
Fall Book Fair

**Friday, October 14**  
Reading Assembly with Alex Zerbe (9:30am)

**Sunday, October 16**  
PTSA Landscaping Party (9:00am)

**Friday, October 21**  
Fall Carnival (6:00pm)

**Friday, October 28**  
Taproot Theatre Anti-bullying Assembly (9:20am)

**Friday, October 28**  
Reflections Submissions Due

**Tuesday, November 1**  
PTSA Monthly Meeting (7:00pm)

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

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

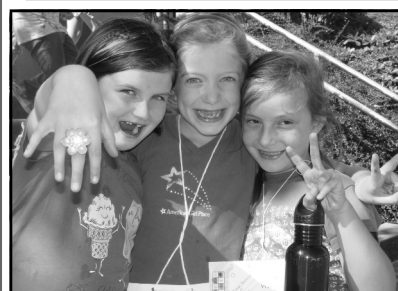
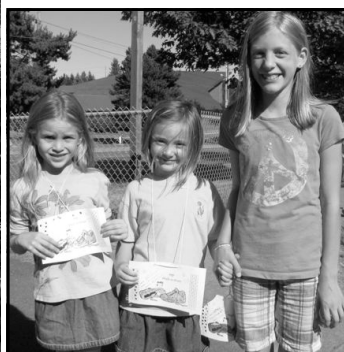
Follow the MP PTSA on Facebook

**facebook**

## Starting Off the Year with a Good Walk!



Thank you to everyone who participated and volunteered at the annual Walk-A-Thon!



## Fall Carnival Fun!

Mark your calendars for Meridian Park's annual Fall Carnival and Pie Social sponsored by the MP PTSA. Join us on Friday, October 21, 6:00-8:00pm in your costumes and dance to Mr. Mike's groovy band. Have a piece of pie and socialize with other Meridian Park families. You won't want to miss this fun Meridian Park tradition!

There will be carnival games with prizes, popcorn, cotton candy, a raffle and more. And for dinner, the sixth graders will be selling pizza and snacks to support this year's sixth grade Camp Orkila trip.

Volunteers are needed to make the Carnival a success. If you have been looking for a way to help out and get involved at the school this is a great way to get started. There are sign-up sheets in the school lobby—check those out while you're there for conferences.

For more information about volunteering—or other ways of helping out—please contact Annette Stickney at [annettestickney@gmail.com](mailto:annettestickney@gmail.com) or 206-877-2884. See you there!

# Meridian Park News

## Principal's Letter

We are in full swing at Meridian Park! Due to the late start date of school, it has been a busy and productive start to the school year. Classrooms are buzzing with lessons and activities, our Walk-a-thon was a huge success and our PTSA fundraiser is gearing up—we are truly off to a great start!

Over the past three weeks, our teachers have worked hard to assess all of our students at each grade level in math and reading. At conferences, you may hear the acronyms DIBELS, EASY CBM, SRI, DRA or CORE. These are some of the many words for screening tools / assessment measures we use to help us know where students are academically in relation to their peers. These results guide our daily instruction and intervention planning for our students along the way. It has been a lot of work but very worthwhile!

Our K–6 teachers are also busy using the rich curriculum materials that our district adopted last year. These include the *Envision Math* program and the *Being a Writer* curriculum. We have also dipped into one other new curriculum for our reading program called *The Comprehension Toolkit* (Harvey & Goodvis). This is a fantastic resource for our K–6 teachers and almost every teacher at Meridian Park has now been officially trained in this program.

As we move into the school year, we reflect on student progress from last year as well as the results from our spring 2011 state assessment, the MSP (Measure of Student Progress). These results are posted on our district Web

site as well as the OSPI (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction) Web site. Every year at Meridian Park, we write our school goals based off of these results and where we want to go for this school year. For 2011–2012, our goals center on the improvement of our students' academic achievement in math, reading and writing. All across the Shoreline School district, we look closely at our state testing results and the achievement gap that has grown in Shoreline. At Meridian Park, we have discovered the need for more targeted work to better serve our students who qualify as English Language Learners. Our hope is that we will narrow this achievement gap child by child as we work together to give students the support they need. We will work collaboratively as professional learning communities at each grade level to respond to student needs with intentional interventions, after school programs and more professional development for staff. Again, our goal is that we will see positive changes in student progress from this work!

As always, I look forward to seeing many of you the next few weeks at goal setting conferences as well as at the Fall Carnival on October 21. Thank you again for all of your help with this new school year. We appreciate the time and energy you give to your child at school and at home.

Here's to a fabulous fall!

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

## Conferences Are Around the Corner

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled from October 12–14 during the school day. The conferences range from approximately 15–20 minutes depending on grade levels and needs. The main goal for the conferences is to be a “goal setting conference”—a chance for both teachers and parents to talk about the child and to share goals together. It is intended to be a two-way conversation with the sharing of information by both parties. At the January conferences in 2012, parents and teachers will have the opportunity to review these goals and to talk about the progress that your child has made.

While we recognize that these conferences are brief, we feel strongly that we can accomplish a lot together. We hope that you will come prepared with questions and comments as our time together is so valuable. We aim to make it productive for everyone involved. Please ensure that you have signed up for a time slot—thanks!

If you have any questions about the conference schedule, feel free to contact your child's teacher or the Principal, Amy Jessee. Thank you!

## Crosswalk Safety is our First Priority!

*Please note that the corner of 175th & Wallingford is **not** an approved school crossing area.*

For your child's safety, we have provided adult supervision at the corner of 175th and Meridian between the hours of 8:55–9:10am & 3:30–3:45pm.

If your child is arriving for the 8:35am breakfast program, please instruct them to cross at the corner of 175th & Meridian following directions from crosswalk lights.

With the winter and rainy season approaching this is very important to take message seriously. There have been some very close calls in terms of accidents on that hill and we want to prevent an unsafe situation happening. Please be a role model for your child and walk them to the approved crosswalk down the hill. Thank you.

## News from MP Student Council

Please don't forget to send in your Walk-a-Thon donations! Each dollar helps support important classroom and school enrichments like field trips and more.

Student Council will be starting in October! 2–6 graders can run for class representative and 5–6 graders can run for student body—President, Vice-President, Treasurer or Secretary. Start preparing your posters and slogans now!



Ready for the first day of school!

## Highly Capable Program Parent Information Night

If you are interested in learning more about Shoreline School District's Highly Capable Program and the testing procedures for entrance into the program, please join us for an information night on Monday, October 10, 2011, 7:00–8:30 p.m. in the Shoreline Room at the Shoreline Center. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Crandell in the Highly Capable Program office at [mary.crandell@shorelineschools.org](mailto:mary.crandell@shorelineschools.org) or 206-393-4771.

Registration for 2–5 grade testing (on January 14 & 28, 2012) for the Highly Capable program will start on October 17, 2011. Visit the program's Web site at [www.shorelineschools.org](http://www.shorelineschools.org) for more information.

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](http://www.shorelineschools.org/info/title_ix.php).

## PTSA President's Message

### Greetings Meridian Park Families!

Can you believe it's October? The school year is off to a great start and we are already launching into the before- and after-school clubs such as Chinese, Math and Spanish.

We are kicking off the Fall Fundraiser this month too. This is our biggest fundraiser of the school year—take a look at all the goodies and return your order form to the school by October 12. If you don't need anything from the catalog or online, feel free to write a check directly to the MP PTSA. The money we raise goes to support all of our activities, clubs and our teachers in the classroom. Our goal is to add as much enrichment to our students' lives as possible.

The Meridian Park PTSA is quite active and we do many things to support the school. To continue bringing fun events and activities that help enrich the experience of our kids at MP, we need more people to step up and volunteer; to get involved. Volunteering is as simple as helping with one small task—whatever time you can allocate, whether it is one hour or one day, it is always greatly appreciated and will be helpful.

Speaking of volunteering: have you marked the calendar for October 21—one of the biggest events of the year? The MP PTSA Fall Carnival promises to be loads of fun with games in the gym, pizza, pie and music in the cafeteria and lots of colorful costumes. Watch your Boomerang for information and sign up to volunteer.

Enjoy this beautiful fall weather and we look forward to seeing you around the school!

~ Kathy Henderson, 2011–2012 Meridian Park PTSA President

## Reflections Reminder

### This year's theme is "Diversity means....."

Time is passing quickly. There are just four weeks left to complete and submit your pieces. Our goal is to have an even greater turnout than last year. While there is the competition piece to Reflections, it is just so wonderful to have the hallways of Meridian Park filled with outstanding student art.

Students can submit pieces in any or all of the following six categories: Dance/Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Musical Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts. All submissions are due to the MP office no later than end of day on Friday, October 28. The art will be displayed in the MP hallway for several weeks, and an Art Walk and Reception will be held in the children's honor on Monday, November 14. Artists with submissions in the Dance, Film Production, Literature, and Musical Composition categories may be asked to perform/present their pieces at this reception. All participants will receive a ribbon.

Detailed information about Reflections including category specific instructions, entry forms, and consent forms can be found both in the MP lobby, on the MP PTSA Web site, and at [www.wastatepta.org](http://www.wastatepta.org). For additional questions please contact the Program Chair, Jennifer Combs, at [combs47@comcast.net](mailto:combs47@comcast.net) or 206-718-0057.

## Chess Club

Tournament & Chess Clubs will be starting soon on Thursday afternoons. More information will come home in Boomerangs. For questions, contact Rachel Ariss at [arissfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:arissfamily@yahoo.com).

## Math Club

Meridian Park Math Club began on September 28. Our club practices for several math contests, so we learn math concepts and have fun at the same time. For questions, contact Emmanuel Gnanapragasam at [ldnkgana@clearwire.net](mailto:ldnkgana@clearwire.net).

## Come to a PTSA Meeting!

Please join us the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm in the library. Next one? November 1. And before you say to yourself, "No more meetings!", you should know all the fun things you can do at *this* Monthly Meeting:

- Meet interesting new people (you'll probably even like them)
- Help figure out where your PTSA money should go
- Receive information on MP happenings from Principal Amy Jessee
- Get updates on what's going on with teachers from a teacher representative
- Hear about legislative updates on issues affecting our students and schools
- Ask questions
- Laugh (but definitely not at the question-askers)
- Get details about MP's backyard construction
- See presentations by Spanish and Drama Clubs

With that kind of line-up, how could you possibly say no? This is *your* PTSA—come learn more about it. The more voices at the table, the better.

Is child care an issue? Let us know, and we can arrange for a pre-teen babysitter to visit with your kids while you participate at the meeting.

If you have any questions, or would like to take us up on the child care option, please contact Janina Pacunski at [twokidz2@juno.com](mailto:twokidz2@juno.com). We look forward to seeing you soon!

## Yearbook Club Starting Soon!

Yearbook Club begins November 4, 2011! Meridian Park students will produce the school's yearbook again this year. Students will have fun while learning all aspects of producing a yearbook including page layouts and publishing software, digital photography, writing headlines, and marketing, selling and distributing the yearbook.

The club will meet Fridays after school beginning November 4. Club size is limited to 28 students, grades 3–6 and the fee is \$40 per student (partial scholarships are available). Look for the sign-up sheet in next week's Boomerang.

### 2010–2011 Yearbooks still available!

If you didn't get your yearbook last school year, or if you want another one, please contact Kathy Tinoco at [jktinoco@yahoo.com](mailto:jktinoco@yahoo.com). We have less than 30 books left so get yours now! Cost is \$18.

## Dust Off Those Roller Skates!

It's that time again—Meridian Park roller skating parties at Lynnwood Bowl & Skate! Bring the whole family, and head out on the rink with your friends. The first Skate Party is Tuesday, November 8, 2011. See you there!

### MP Skate Parties

6:00–8:00 pm  
\$6.00 per session  
\$2.00 for inline skates  
Lynnwood Bowl & Skate  
6210 200th St. SW  
Lynnwood, WA

## Mandarin Chinese

These classes focus on the basics of Mandarin, as well as discuss the culture and art of China. Our teacher, Hua Zhang, has many years of experience teaching Mandarin to children, and each class has an atmosphere of fun and learning. For questions, contact Hua Zhang at [huazhang98@yahoo.com](mailto:huazhang98@yahoo.com).

## Spanish

*¡Buenos dias!* Join our wonderful teacher/singer/songwriter, Marco Cortes from Chile for Beginning classes at Meridian Park. For questions, contact Rachel Ariss at [arissfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:arissfamily@yahoo.com).

## Dig in the Dirt at Meridian Park School

All hands are needed to help improve the school grounds Sunday October 16, 2011, 9:00am–12:00pm. We will work on the front garden, getting them ready for winter. Water and cookies will be provided, and please bring your own tools (we will have a limited number of extra tools). Come for the full time or just for an hour—we will turn out rain or shine!

## Resources for Families

### Parents' Night Out!

Enjoy a night out. Use the time to catch a movie, go to dinner or go shopping. Proceeds of the evening benefit Meridian Park's Before & After Care programs. To sign up, contact Ron Oakden at 206-393-1783 or pick up a sign-up sheet in the MP office or at Before or After Care.

**Thursday, November 10, 2011**  
**6:30–9:30pm**  
**\$15 per Child (\$10 for siblings)**

### Beginning Guitar with Mr. Mike

MP's very own Mr. Mike teaches guitar lessons, either in your home or after school at MP. The lessons cover nomenclature, introduction to scales, chords and song structure. Mr. Mike has been a professional musician for over 40 years, and has worked with the children of the Shoreline School District since 1987. Visit him in the library for an information packet and application.

## Join the PTSA

Joining the PTSA shows your support for your school, education and community in Meridian Park, in Shoreline and beyond. The PTSA is not only a local organization but also represents our children on a state and national level on public policies in the government. Our monthly meetings on the first Tuesday at 7:00pm and a great way to learn about what's happening at our school.

A membership envelope has come home in Boomerangs and at the school. Annual Member: \$10/yr per person, Cheetah Cheerleader: \$25/yr per person, Cheetah Champion: \$35/yr per person.

*Three easy ways to join:*

1. **VISIT** the MP office and ask for a membership envelope.
2. **E-MAIL** Ann Yee at theyeefamily@hotmail.com
3. **SIGN UP** at any PTSA event. Join us for some fun, then join the organization!



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.*

## Library News from Ms. Hillger

The students are really excited about the upcoming Scholastic Book Fair! This is the first time that we will have two Scholastic book fairs in one year. The fall theme is *To the Book Fair and Beyond*. Students and teachers have had a chance to preview the fair and see what is available. Students have a chance to win free books and poster, while teachers have completed wish lists. We will raise money for One-for-Books, too.

The fair runs Wednesday through Friday, October 12–14, 2011, 8:40am–4:15pm daily. Be sure to stop by during parent-teacher conferences.

On Friday, October 14, at 9:30am, there will be a literacy assembly for all K–6 grade students with special guest Alex Zerbe, a two-time Guinness World Record holder who was voted Seattle's Funniest Prop Comic. Alex uses his special gifts to motivate students to read and learn. From his Web site, ([www.alexzerbe.com](http://www.alexzerbe.com)): "He has appeared on prime-time television in three countries including the hit NBC TV shows, "America's Got Talent!" and "Last Comic Standing." Alex is a Hacky Sack World Champion, half of the award-winning comedy act, Brothers from Different Mothers, and, as if that wasn't amazing enough, he was ranked Seattle's 3rd Best Air Guitarist!" Parents are invited to attend this great event.

*Happy Reading!*

## Notes from the Music Room

Great singing and music making from all K–6 classes in the music room!

Intermediate students will begin playing their recorders, reading rhythms, notes, sight singing, and playing melodies and rounds. We have a few new recorders left, so 4–6 graders can still purchase one—bring \$5.50 to music class.

Grades 5 & 6 are doing vocal assessments by singing in groups of three students, demonstrating full range vocal exercises, rounds, and a well-known song. Way to go kids!

## The Cheetah Gym with Ms. Willoughby

### Running Club

This fun club *runs* through the Fun Run on November 3 at Hamlin Park. Runners will take a bus to the park after school, and the Fun Run will begin at 4:00pm. Five schools will participate in the Fun Run, and the entry fee for each participant is \$11.

Thanks to a generous \$300 donation, Running Club t-shirts will be \$5 for participants. Practices are at 8:20am Monday, Tuesday, Friday and 3:30–4:15pm Thursday.

### Circus Arts

The Circus Arts Team will begin in November, with a big show in early March. This team is open to 2–6 graders, and will meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings when the season starts. Watch your Boomerang for more information.

### In the Gym

There are a lot of fun and active games in the gym this year! The bowling unit will start in early November, and students will have fun with the Pumpkin Patch game at the end of October. Fitness Gram testing will happen in October, and more!

## Meridian Park School and the Meridian Park PTSA

17077 Meridian Avenue N :: Shoreline, WA 98133 :: 206-361-4251

### Meridian Park Elementary

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

Amy Jessee, Principal  
email: [amy.jessee@shorelineschools.org](mailto:amy.jessee@shorelineschools.org)  
Hillary Clark, Early Childhood  
Program Manager  
Roxanne Brendible, Office Manager  
Jill Gwazdauskas, Registrar  
Janet Boyett, School Nurse  
Annie Gage, Family Advocate

### 2011–12 MP PTSA Executive Committee

[www.MeridianParkPTSA.org](http://www.MeridianParkPTSA.org)

Kathy Henderson, President  
email: [kathyhenderson@me.com](mailto:kathyhenderson@me.com)  
Rachel Ariss, VP Program  
Renée Smith, VP Events  
Open, VP Fundraising  
Janina Pacunski, Secretary  
Brian Heagler & Tracey Poole, Co-Treasurers  
Open, Legislative Chair  
Mary Crandell, *Cheetah Chatter* Editor