



Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA



Walk-a-Thon

Thank you to Aissa Quezada and Tamara Plandel for organizing the Walk-a-Thon on September 27th. Proceeds raised will support field trips, playground toys, and much more for our MP students.



more photos on page 3



Fall Festival

Friday, October 18 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm, at Meridian Park.

Please join us for this free PTSA-sponsored event that will add a little taste of culture to the arrival of fall at Meridian Park. Come in costume or traditional cultural dress while you visit "Meridian Park Around the World" in the gym. MP volunteer families will host tables showcasing their culture, heritage, or place of origin. Stop by each table and complete a craft or just get your passport stamped. Take a travel break and play some carnival games and guess how many candy corns are in the jar! Entertainment in the cafeteria will include dancers and music from around the world (The Cajon Project, NW Junior Pipe Band, and Na Wahine O'Manaolana Hawaiian dancers, to name a few). The 6th grade will be selling pizza (\$2.00/slice) and drinks (\$1.00 each) to raise money for their trip to camp. Bring a pie for the Potluck Pie Social. The PTSA will provide free coffee for everyone. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$1.00. Exciting prizes include passes to Woodland Park Zoo and Menchie's, Red Robin, and Blockbuster gift certificates. Proceeds from the raffle will help cover costs for this event. If you would like to host a table for MP Around the World, please contact Jill Steinberg at jrsteinberg@comcast.net (206) 356-5977. Hope to see you there!

Menchie's Fundraiser

Purchase some delicious frozen yogurt at Menchie's (located at 18336 Aurora Ave N in Shoreline) from 6:00-8:00pm on October 22 to support sixth-grade camp!

Skating Party

Join us for the first skating party of the year on **Thursday, October 10 from 6:00–8:00pm** at Lynnwood Bowl & Skate, 6210 200th St. SW, Lynnwood. Admission is \$3.00 for inline skate rental and \$6.50 for quad skate rental. Parents are encouraged to participate. No drop-offs allowed. Come join the fun!

Halloween Carnival

Richmond Beach Community Association's 27th annual Halloween Carnival will be Saturday, Oct. 26, 3:00-7:00 pm, at Syre Elementary School, 19545 12th Avenue. Children of all ages and their parents are invited to scare up some fun at this old-fashioned carnival where they will find games and prizes, inflatables, a cake walk, a haunted house, a raffle full of great prizes, food, and much, much, more.

Kids love to show off their costumes for this event. Parents are encouraged to dress up, too! Tickets are three for \$1 and may be purchased with cash or credit card. For more information, contact Sheri Ashleman at ExecDirector@RichmondBeachWA.org



Sixth-Grade Camp

Information about camp will be available for sixth-graders during their conference times on October 9-11. For more information, email Tracey Poole (TLP07@Stevepoole.com).

Issue Three, 2013–2014
October 9, 2013

In This Issue

Upcoming Events	1
Principal's Letter	2
Friends, Families & Fun!	3
Music Notes	4
PTSA President's Letter	5
Resources for Families	6

Upcoming Events

October 9–11
Parent / Teacher Conferences
Early Dismissal, 11:50am

October 9–11
Book Fair, 8:40am–4:00pm
Meridian Park Library

October 10
Skate Party, 6:00–8:00pm
Lynnwood Bowl & Skate

October 12
Dedication, 1:00–4:00 pm
Shorewood High School

October 13
Sketchcrawl, 12:00-2:00pm
Third Place Commons

October 16–30
Fall Fundraiser

October 18
Fall Festival, 6:00–8:00pm
Meridian Park Gymnasium

October 21
PTA Reflection Arts Competition
Entries Due

October 22
Camp Fundraiser, 6:00-8:00pm
Menchie's

October 24
Materials Preview, 6:30–8:00pm
Shoreline Learning Center

November 5
PTSA Meeting, 6:30 -8:30pm
MP Library

November 3
Phone-a-Thon

December 20
Winter Sing Along

Meridian Park News

Principal's Letter

Dear Families:

Autumn is here! We had a great month in September with learning, positive behavior, and activities. **Thanks** everyone for working together to help our students be successful.

Recess is an important time for students to play and exercise. As a reminder, we go outside for recess in all kinds of weather, including rain, so please make sure kids come to school prepared. We rarely have indoor recess, and we appreciate your support.

State **MSP results** have been mailed to all families in grades 4, 5, and 6. Meridian Park scores reflect the hard work of our students, our families, and our committed staff. If you have questions about your child's scores, feel free to contact me, your child's teacher, or visit www.k12.wa.us/assessment/. If you need a copy of your child's MSP report, call Jill in the office she will gladly mail you a copy.



Parent/Teacher **Conferences** are this week. October Conferences are a great opportunity to establish a positive working relationship and communication plan with your teacher. Please double check your day and time; contact your teacher if needed. We look forward to having 100% participation. Reminder: early dismissal at 11:50 am on October 9, 10, and 11.

Families have access to online tools for student information and programs:

- **Skyward Family Access** is a great tool for families, allowing access to the district student information system and your student's attendance, lunch account, academic history, and more.
- **Data Dashboard** allows you to see your student's assessment & academic data.
- Pearson/Envisions **Math** Program, where you'll find many math program resources.

Our district and school websites are great sources of information, and I hope you will refer to them often. You can also access the PTA, District, Classroom, and Principal websites. www.shorelineschools.org/meridianpark/

Our parking lot is very busy at 9:00 am and 3:30 pm. We appreciate everyone driving slowly, safely, and patiently.

Happy October. Please stop by the **BOOK FAIR** this week, and hope to see you at our **FALL FESTIVAL** on October 18. Our staff continues to work very hard to provide the best experience for your children—be sure to say thanks when you get a chance. Please join our wonderful PTA, and we look forward to seeing you around school. Your kids are simply the best.

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

Bus Drivers Needed

The Shoreline School District is currently accepting applications for substitute school-bus drivers. Free training.

Apply at: <https://hrweb.shorelineschools.org/rainshadow/jobs.aspx?id=3124&type=2&int=External>

Free and Reduced Lunch

Did you know that free and reduced lunch forms need to be completed each year? This year, forms were provided in your first day packet. At Meridian Park, we want every family to be supported! Please contact Family Advocate Annie Gage for more information at annie.gage@shorelineschools.org or 206-393-1768.

Attendance

Please call 206-393-4252 or email

jill.gwazdauskas@shorelineschools.org if your child will be late or absent, and provide the reason. It is very important that we have this information before 9:30 so we can complete attendance reporting.

Shoreline Children's Center punch cards

Punch cards are available at the Shoreline Children's Center for emergency before- and after-care. The cards cost \$15 for up to three hours of care. Please plan to purchase these in advance so you can present them when needed.

For more information, contact Jenny Parks, Director, Shoreline Children's Center, at 206-393-4253.

Calling School

Dial 206-393-4252 to reach the front office. For all other calls, dial 206-393-4251.

Meridian Park Staff Information

We are very proud of our highly qualified staff at Meridian Park Elementary School and would be pleased to share any information regarding the professional qualifications (such as teaching certificates, endorsements, college degrees) of your child's classroom teacher, Title I teacher, or instructional assistants. As part of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, parents have the right to this 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.

Meridian Park News

Families, Friendship, Feelings & Fun

MP students and staff recently watched Taproot Theater's annual skit about bullying. It was fun and well done, and once again reminded children of the three steps they can take to prevent bullying:

- Recognize- Bullying is one sided. It threatens or excludes people. It causes the recipient to feel scared or sad.
- Refuse: Tell the person doing the bullying know that you want them to stop, or walk away.
- Report: If you've "refused," and the bullying continues, report it to a trusted adult.

The skit also addressed how bystanders can be powerful allies to a child being bullied.

Often, when children hurt someone's feelings, it is not a matter of bullying. Children (and adults!) have lapses of empathy. Sometimes they are socially clumsy. Sometimes they are being intentionally mean, but not in the one-sided, threatening manner that would elevate the behavior to bullying.

Even these common insensitivities, however, can chip away at their peers' feelings of emotional safety at school. Children often do or say hurtful things because they don't know an

alternative. It's our job as adults to help them learn alternatives.

One way to do that is to play "what-if" games with them, in which they imagine empathic ways to handle challenging situations. For instance:

- What if someone was telling a story that wasn't interesting to you?
- What if someone gave the wrong answer to a question that seemed easy to you?
- What if you were invited to a birthday party by a classmate, but another of your friends wasn't?
- What if you want to play with someone different than who you usually play with?

I'm sure there are plenty of examples you can think of. If you try it, I'd love to hear how it goes!

Annie Gage, MSW
Family Advocate

Monday-Friday 9:00-2:30

206-393-1768

annie.gage@shorelineschools.org

Walk-a-Thon



Meridian Park News

Music Notes

Primary students are learning many songs, games, and movement activities filled with new experiences in the elements of music.

Intermediate students are already playing their recorders, reading rhythms and notes, sight singing, and playing melodies and rounds. We have a few new recorders left, so you can still purchase one for your student - have them bring \$8.00 to music class.

As always, I am thrilled to guide your children on their journey of musical discovery. They are so filled with talent, creativity,

a message from Shari Anderson, Music Teacher and the love of music! They need and benefit from your encouragement and interest, and would probably be eager to teach you a song they're learning. Thank you for sending these wonderful young musicians to Meridian Park!

Important dates:

- Winter Sing Along Friday Dec. 20, 6th grade performs and everyone sings!
- Meridian Park Arts Festival May 29, 2014
2nd - 5th grade concert, 6:45pm

Mrs. Anderson and the Meridian Park Singing Cheetahs

October is the kick off for the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation Fall Campaign for Kids!

The Shoreline Public Schools Foundation is the nonprofit, volunteer run organization dedicated to providing additional financial support to every school within the Shoreline School District for the past 22 years. Each fall the SPSF reaches out to the community asking for donations to help support and enhance the education of each K-12 student in the Shoreline School District. Donations from the past year allowed SPSF to fund a large variety of needs district wide: from IXL Math grants in the elementary grades to music enrichment, tutoring and author programs in middle and high schools, to Bike Rodeos for our special needs students and funding for Elementary and Secondary Summer School. SPSF's commitment to expand the education of every child in the district means funding large and small needs on a regular basis and can only be accomplished with your help.

Your tax deductible donation right now at www.shorelinefoundation.org will help the Foundation with

their Fall Campaign for Kids goal of \$40,000 and provide resources to help all students achieve their full academic potential. Thank you for sharing in the deep commitment to improving the Shoreline Public Schools through the Shoreline Public School Foundation and strengthening our community. Every dollar raised helps a child in our schools.

Sincerely,
David Tadlock, Principal



*Meridian Park Elementary Fall Campaign for kids – donate at www.shorelinefoundation.org
SPSF is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization.
Tax ID#: 91-1556631*

Fall Festival Volunteers Needed

The Fall Festival (formerly Fall Carnival) will be on Friday, October 18 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Meridian Park is filled with families that represent many different cultures. We would like to add a little taste of culture to the Fall Festival. We are looking for Meridian Park families who would like to man a table at the festival and showcase their culture, country, heritage, or even a state or region (Pacific NW). Meridian Park will provide the tables and backdrops, we just need families to host the tables, bring their maps, pictures, artifacts and/or anything else they would like to share. As attendees visit each table, they will have the opportunity to learn about that place, ask questions, and perhaps do a craft or sample a small snack or candy. Each child attending the festival will receive a pretend passport and can take it to each table where it will be stamped. Look for a flyer in kid mail next week for more info on the festival.

We also need volunteers to help with face painting, carnival games, set up, and clean up. If you would be interested in hosting a table or volunteering, please contact Jill Steinberg at jsteinberg@comcast.net or (206) 356-5977.

Book Fair Volunteers Needed

The Meridian Park Fall Scholastic Book Fair will run Wednesday through Friday, October 9 - 11, in the library from 8:40 am until 4:00 pm, including during parent-teacher conferences.

We need volunteers to help make this book fair a success. If you are able to work a 1 1/2 - 2 hour shift, please contact Jenny Hillger at jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org, 206-393-4125.

Roots of Empathy

Both first-grade classes will be using the Roots of Empathy curriculum again this year. We'll be meeting "our" babies and Moms in mid-October and are very excited!



Roots of Empathy

PTA Reflections Arts Competition

"Believe, Dream, Inspire" is the 2013–14 Reflections National PTA Competition theme. Students may submit an original entry in these categories: Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts, Film/Video, and Choreography/Dance. The deadline for entries is Monday, October 21.

Finalists will be selected from Meridian Park to go on to the Shoreline competition in November 2013. The State Reflections Arts competition is adjudicated in April 2014.



For details and rules, visit <http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/reflections>. Watch for more information posted at school. If you have questions, contact Susan Duthweiler at sduthweiler@gmail.com.

PTSA Fall Fundraiser

This year's PTSA Fall fundraiser will kick off on Wednesday, October 16. Fundraiser packets will go home with the October 16 Boomerang. Included this year is a wider variety of child/teenage magazines as well as cookie dough to help out with all your fall and winter celebrations.

The fundraiser will be a two-week sale, ending on October 30. Delivery will arrive before the Thanksgiving weekend. Don't find something you're looking for? You can still help out and send in a donation. 100% of your donation will go directly to the Meridian Park PTSA.

The PTSA puts on a number of family events during the school year. They also support the music and physical education departments at Meridian Park. Teachers can also apply for grants twice during the school year, fully funded by the PTSA. These would not be possible without your participation and donations—so THANK YOU!

Do you have an hour or so at the start of school during the two-week sale? Are you able to help out on delivery day? Please contact Krista Keller (krista_keller@comcast.net) or Tracey Poole (tlp07@stevepoole.com).

Thanks for your support!

Fall
Fundraiser



PTSA President's Letter

Hello from the PTSA! We are excited to welcome Jennifer Kleyn as Secretary. Thank you Jennifer for filling this important role!

The PTSA relies on the work of our many volunteers and we have a few key openings still left to be filled for this year:

- Chair of the Volunteer ad hoc committee
- Parent lead for the K-3 Drama Club
- Parent lead for the Chess Club

The first General Membership Meeting of the school year was held on October 2. In addition to having the membership approve the 2013–2014 Budget and Standing Rules, the Board of Directors presented our 2013–2014 Strategic Goals:

- Goal #1:** Establish a robust parent volunteer database with at least 50 names of volunteers for events and projects.
- Goal #2:** Host three formal General Membership meetings during the school year (October, January and April) with educational programming opportunities.
- Goal #3:** Expand outreach by sending out a parent survey in October and in the spring asking for feedback from the Meridian Park community.
- Goal #4:** Increase opportunities for families to provide service to the community through two or three coordinated volunteer events, such as holiday basket stuffing, Back-to-School Consortium, etc.

We look forward to working with all the members of our school community to help make these goals a reality this year.

Our monthly board meetings are always open to all and we welcome visitors! The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 5 from 6:30 to 8:30pm in the Library with free childcare provided by the YMCA.

~Kim Ositis
2013–2014 MP PTSA President
kaositis@gmail.com

Box Tops for School

It's time to send in those Box Tops you've been saving all summer! The first submission date of the school year is in October.

Box Tops are an easy way to bring in money and help support many of the PTSA's events for our kids throughout the year.

Did you know eBox Tops are becoming more popular? By linking Meridian Park Elementary to your Safeway Card, Albertson's Card, or Target Red Card, money gets sent to our school automatically. Check it out at www.BTFE.com.



Remember, Box Tops have expiration dates, so continue to send them in all year! Thanks for your support.

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

2014 Community Project Awards


Application Deadline: Thursday, November 7, 2013

Project dates: January–November 2014

Do you need help presenting an arts event that serves your community? The Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Arts Council wants to help. We promote experiences in the arts to enhance the quality of life in our community. Nonprofit organizations or Community groups that provide arts / cultural programming for the general public are welcome to apply. We fund special projects, artists' residencies, and performances that extend the group's usual scope. Awards range from about \$250–\$1000.

Find out more on their Web site <http://www.shorelinearts.net/index.php/Community-Project-Awards/community-project-awards.html>

A Shoreline PTA Council Family Resource



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*

T-BIRD Feeder Team Clinics and Tryouts

Available for 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, this boy's basketball feeder program is for serious Shoreline area boy basketball players who want the opportunity to improve their skills.

For information visit: <http://www.thunderbirdselecthoops.org>

Sketchcrawl

The Shoreline/Lake Forest Park Arts Council is presenting Sketchcrawl on October 13 from 12:00 - 2:00 pm at Third Place Commons, located at 17171 Bothell Way NE in Lake Forest Park. For more information, visit www.shorelinearts.net.

Family Life & Sexual Health Unit

The Shoreline School District will have a preview of FLASH, the Family Life & Sexual Health Unit on October 24 from 6:30–8:00pm at the Shoreline Learning Center in the Cromwell Room.

The Shoreline School District offers sexual health instruction in grades 4–12 as part of the health education program. Included in this is the HIV/AIDs prevention in grades 5–12 that is mandated by state law.

The Shoreline Learning Center is located at 18560 1st Ave.

Mark your calendars for 2014!

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

Mid-Winter break: February 17–21, 2014

Spring break: April 21–25, 2014

The Cheetah Chatter is Published Monthly by
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/)

David Tadlock, Principal

email: 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

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

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

Follow the MP PTSA
on Facebook



2013–14 MP PTSA
Executive Committee

www.MeridianParkPTSA.org

Kim Ositis, President

email: kaositis@gmail.com

Janina Pacunski & Tracey Poole, VPs Clubs & Program

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