



Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA



Seafair Meridian Park Shoreline Classic Car Show



The Seafair Meridian Park Shoreline Classic Car Show this year was a huge success, raising over \$5000 for our school. The weather was as hot as the cars, reaching temperatures in the 90s. 28 local businesses sponsored the car show this year, which brought well over 200 cars to our parking lot. The show was filmed



for television (the Vintage Vehicle Show) and was rocked by local band School of Rock, which has Meridian Park Alumni Max Henderson on guitar. If you want to see this fabulous event continue to prosper, sign up to volunteer today by contacting mpcarshow@live.com. Not only will you be helping out our school, you will help put on a great event for the people in our Shoreline community.

See page 7 and visit the MP PTSA Web site for more photos:
www.meridianparkptsa.org

Issue One, 2012–2013
September 12, 2012

In This Issue

Car Show & BBQ	1
Principal's Message	2
MP PTSA News	6
Resources for Families	8

Upcoming Events

September 12

K–2 and 3–6 Welcome Assemblies

September 14

K–6 Assembly: Taproot Theater

September 21

Walk-A-Thon

September 25

Curriculum Night
K–2 & 2/3: 6:00–6:45
PTSA meeting: 6:50–7:10
3–6: 7:15–8:00

October 5

No School—Teacher Training Day

October 10–12

Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 10

Fall PTSA Fundraiser Kick-Off

Back-to-School BBQ Fun!

Sun, hot dogs, friends and teachers. The perfect mix for a fun back-to-school event. Thank you to Todd Crandell and Lee Lambert for organizing, and to all the volunteers who made the event possible!



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

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Meridian Park News

Principal's Letter

Dear Meridian Park Families,

Welcome to the 2012–2013 school year! Whether you are a new family joining the Meridian Park community or a 6th grade family experiencing your last year with us, we are so happy to have you here! Meridian Park is a great place—a school filled with teachers who care about student achievement and staff members who nurture students' social, emotional, and academic growth. It is also a place where we strive to ensure that all families feel welcome. We need your support in our school and are so grateful for any time that you give to our school in terms of volunteering and attending events.

Please join me in welcoming a new teacher to the Meridian Park community—Megan Woodward! She will be a combination 2/3 teacher and comes to us with glowing references from Briarcrest (where she taught for ten years). We feel so lucky to have hired her on our team! Sadly, we are also saying goodbye to our night custodian, Bernabe DeGuzman, who retired over the summer. We will be hiring for that position in early September.

These first few weeks of school will be busy ones for our staff and for your children. We plan to do a great deal of community building within our classrooms and also between grade levels. In numerous ways within grades 2–6, teachers plan to increase our formal and informal integration opportunities between students in the Highly Capable and general education program. From Kindergarten to 6th grade, we will formally assess our students in reading and math on numerous district assessments—DIBELS NEXT (reading), easyCBM (math) and other grade-level specific assessments for comprehension, phonics, sight word recognition, and more. In late September, teachers will come together as grade level teams, analyze student data, place students into needed intervention groups, and/or identify enrichment needs for our children. It is important and exciting work as we focus on helping every child reach his or her learning potential.

Please note that Curriculum Night and October goal-setting conferences are right around the corner! Our teachers will provide you with a ton of important information at these events as well as time together to talk about your child and his or her individual needs. Both events are a great resource, so please plan to come to both. If you stop by our main lobby, you will see our fun Olympics theme at Meridian Park! I know that many of us enjoyed watching the Olympics over the summer and so we decided to continue this theme at Meridian Park through the fall! When I reflect on our school, I feel proud that we have built our own Olympic team of educators here at MP. We are champions—we work hard, we set goals for student achievement, we strive to reach them, and we look eagerly at our student results and aim for our own Olympic-like heights and medals when it comes to teaching and learning. Our team is made up of smart, gifted, individuals who are dedicated to our Meridian Park students and to the achievement of all. We truly

work and play like champions at Meridian Park, we care about kids and families, and we live up to our calling to give 100% to our team. I am honored to be part of this team and to help lead us to even more successes this school year.

Unlike the Olympics, in the field of education, we are not always fortunate enough to receive the honor of gold, silver, or even bronze medals for our work as educators. We have to figure out ways to celebrate our successes within our own school and community. We do that well at Meridian Park. Many of our successes are measured daily in our Meridian Park classrooms—they are in how the classroom climate has been formed to create a community of learners who strive each day to do their best. It shows when students perform well on our in-class assessments, quizzes, discussions, and more. We celebrate other successes in our staff meetings when we look at our students' results on district assessments and analyze these results together. In the intermediate grades, we also measure our success on the state MSP (Measure of Student Progress) as we compare ourselves to other students in Washington State. I am pleased to report that overall, in every grade band, we went up in math and reading on the MSP. We also went up significantly in writing and science. Go team! We definitely earned some medals for that but we still have more to train for as we prepare for this coming school year. Take a look at our MSP data on the OSPI website:

<http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/summary.aspx?groupLevel=District&schoolId=1489&reportLevel=School&orgLinkId=1489&yrs=&year=2011-12>

As always, we look forward to a great year together. Thank you for your dedication to your child's education. As parents, we recognize that you are their greatest teachers!

Here's to a great year!

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

Curriculum Night

Curriculum Night is Tuesday, September 25

This information-filled evening is a great way to learn more about what will happen in your child's classroom throughout the year. You'll have the opportunity to meet the teacher as well as other parents. There will be a short Meridian Park PTSA meeting in the cafeteria between sessions. Stop in to see what's in store for the year!

6:00–6:45 p.m.: Grades K–2 and 2/3 split
6:50–7:10 p.m.: PTSA meeting (cafeteria)
7:15–8:00 p.m.: Grades 3–6

Meridian Park News

Elementary Reading Program

We are very excited to continue our work this school year to help our elementary students become amazing readers! We will continue to use the Comprehension Toolkit curriculum in all K–6 classrooms. Throughout the year, you'll receive more information about the reading strategies that we plan to teach your children. We are also starting an organized reading block program in the primary grades so that we can reach students at their individualized reading levels and help them to learn specific skills based on their needs. Our primary teachers have worked hard to plan for this reading block. It will begin right after conferences in October. Stay tuned for more information!

MP's Backyard is Complete!

If you didn't notice, our backyard is absolutely beautiful! The new elementary field is the most gorgeous one in Shoreline! We held a ribbon cutting ceremony on the first day of school with Cascade K–8 School and our district leaders to celebrate our new field. We are so excited for our children to play in such a beautiful space. The majority of the field is natural grass with some small portions of synthetic turf insets to help prolong the useful life of typically well worn areas—come see the green grass!

Parent Preview Night for Curriculum in Family Life and Sexual Health (F.L.A.S.H.)

The Shoreline School District is offering a parent preview night for our adopted curriculum in Family Life and Sexual Health (F.L.A.S.H.). Parents and guardians of students in grades 4 through 12 are invited to attend on October 2, 2012 from 6:30–8:00 p.m. at the Shoreline Learning Center, Room D-105, located at 18560 1st Avenue NE.

Teri Poff, Shoreline Director of Teaching and Learning, will be present to give an overview of the curriculum, the guidelines for teachers to use when teaching the curriculum, and how parents and families can be involved. Copies of the curriculum will be available for review. The curriculum materials can also be viewed online at www.kingcounty.gov/health/FLASH. Additional information can be seen on the Shoreline website at <http://learn.shorelineschools.org/spec/health/index.php?section=documents>.

The Shoreline School Board has approved the use of F.L.A.S.H. curriculum in grades 4–12. In the spring of 2010, the Board acted on the recommendation of the District Instructional Materials Committee and the Committee to Select Sexual Health Curriculum. A committee of parents, teachers, nurses, and students worked with facilitators from King County Health and the Center for Health Training to evaluate the state-approved programs and to ensure that the District is in compliance with current state laws regarding sexual health education.

From the Shoreline School District: Back-to-School Event a Great Success

Thank you from the Shoreline School District to the Back to School Consortium for helping more than 1,000 of our students to receive needed school supplies, haircuts and clothing assistance at the annual Shoreline Back to School event on Saturday, August 25 at the North City building.

The event represented the collaborative effort of the Back to School Consortium members to support Shoreline and Lake Forest Park families in need with backpacks filled with school supplies, clothing assistance, haircuts, and a resource fair. Again this year the Shoreline and Lake Forest Park community was generous with donations of backpacks, school supplies, clothing and hygiene items, as well as cash donations.

Stylists from the James Allan Salon and students and teachers from the Toni&Guy Academy generously donated their time to provide more than 100 haircuts.

The Lake Forest Park Rotary members kept everyone fed with hot dogs and delicious sweet corn on the cob.

The Works of Shoreline PTA Council did an amazing job providing clothing, socks, underwear and hygiene items to families.

Volunteers from many different Shoreline community groups helped last week with the sorting, packing and distribution of donated supplies in the backpacks. The Shoreline Breakfast Rotary held its weekly meeting at North City, filling hundreds of backpacks.

Back to School Consortium members include the Center for Human Services; City of Lake Forest Park; City of Shoreline; Hopelink; The Works of Shoreline PTA Council; Shoreline School District and the Readiness to Learn Program; Shoreline Community Care; Shoreline Breakfast Rotary; Lake Forest Park Rotary; Dale Turner Family YMCA, Ronald United Methodist Church, Turning Point; and The Vineyard.



Meridian Park News

BBQ Thank You

A big thank you to our wonderful PTSA who hosted our back-to-school BBQ. It was a great turnout. Please consider joining the PTSA as a member and a volunteer. Your support and ideas are welcome!

Sign Up to Be One of Our Cheetah C.H.A.M.P.S.!

CHAMPS stands for Children Have Amazing Mentor/Parent Support!

We are starting a new volunteer program where we ask our students' parents and/or special mentors, family members, or adult friends to sign up and spend one day (6 hours) with us during the school year. Through this program, we hope to get extra help out on the playground, in the lunchroom, and in classrooms (including your own child's room) to recognize positive student behavior and give out Cheetah Cheers to students. The more extra eyes and positive adult role models for students we have the better!

Please let Annie Gage know if you are interested. E-mail her at annie.gage@shorelineschools.org or call her at 206-393-1768. Thanks for helping us to kick start this new program!

Highly Capable Program Testing for 2012-2013

Screening for the Shoreline School District's Highly Capable Program for elementary grades will begin in September 2012. All first grade students who are currently enrolled in Shoreline and interested private school students who reside in Shoreline will be administered the CogAT screening test in October. Parents of current district first graders will receive information from your school about the testing, and first graders who qualify to go on for further testing will be tested in January 2013.

Students in grades 2-5 who are enrolled in Shoreline but are not currently being served by the program and Shoreline private school students have the opportunity to be tested in January 2013. Registration for January testing will be online at www.shorelineschools.org (click onto Programs/Highly Capable/Announcements), starting mid-October—only those students who have registered will be tested. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Crandell in the Highly Capable Program office at mary.crandell@shorelineschools.org or 206-393-4771.

The Highly Capable Program staff will host a Parent Information Night for families considering the program. This will be on Monday, October 15, 2012, 7:00-8:00 pm in the Shoreline Room at the Shoreline Center.

Student Patrols

A big hats off to our amazing 5th & 6th grade student patrols who help our new and younger students in K-2 classes get safely to and from the bus each day! They also help our staff crossing guards keep our crosswalks and sidewalks safe. We could not do it without these wonderful and responsible student leaders. A big thanks to Chris Keller who also organizes these student patrols. Way to go!



The 2011-2012 Cyber Cats

Cyber Cats FLL Team

Does your 5th or 6th grader like robotics? Do Legos keep them busy? The Cyber Cats want them!

Meridian Park is starting a First Lego League (FLL) team this year--the Cyber Cats. FLL combines Legos and robotics around an annual theme-based challenge. Kids build solutions and then compete in regional competitions in December and January. FLL promotes science and engineering for kids while engaging them as a team in real-world problems.

In our inaugural year, we are looking for 10-20 5th and 6th graders to participate in our FLL club. FLL requires a 3+ hours per week commitment, and will need parent support to make it work. If you think your child is interested, please plan on

attending an informational meeting for students and parents on Monday, September 17 from 3:10-4:15 p.m. in Room 105. Questions? Contact mpcybercats@rocketmail.com.

Picture Days

Picture days are
September 25 & 27.
Watch your Boomerang
for more information!

Meridian Park News

Library Notes

a message from Jenny Hillger, Library Media Specialist

Greetings from the Meridian Park Library Media Center!

Welcome to another fantastic year in the Meridian Park Library! I look forward to seeing all Meridian Park students in the library during classes and on their own throughout the year. Please visit the Meridian Park Library Web site for detailed information about book borrowing policies, reading programs, and helpful websites and databases.

Parents can also check out books from the Meridian Park library. Please stop by at any time to set up an account for yourself.

I will run the Sasquatch and Young Readers Choice (YRC) chapter book award programs for fourth, fifth, and sixth graders, and the Washington Children's Choice Picture Book (WCCPB) award program for kindergarten, first, second, and third graders. The Sasquatch and YRC programs will begin in late September or early October. Students who read three or more books from one or both award groups are invited to vote for their favorites in late March. The WCCPB program will run for several months in the library and classrooms. In late March, the primary students will vote to select the Meridian Park winner and the Washington State winner.

We will have our fall Scholastic Book Fair during parent-teacher conferences, October 10-12. This fall's theme is **All Star Book Fair**. The book fair will be open from 8:40am–4:00pm on all three days. Volunteers are needed to help cashier at the book fair. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know, either by phone (206-393-4125) or e-mail (jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org). All profits from the fall book fair help us to purchase books for the library collection and for curriculum support.

If you have questions about the library, would like to set up your own library account, or would like to learn about our online library catalog, please stop by during Curriculum Night on Tuesday, September 25.

Happy Reading!



The Cheetah Gym

a message from Pamela Willoughby, P.E. Teacher

Hoping everyone had a healthy, fun-filled summer. Welcome back!!!

Running Club

Ms. Willoughby will again coach our fabulous Meridian Park Nationals Running team for Grades 4–6, starting in September. Be ready to sign up by the second week of September. Practices will be held in the mornings and on one afternoon until the November Fun Run. Once the team fills up, we'll assess how much room is left for 3rd grade signups (the team is limited to 60 members). Cost for the team t-shirt will be between \$5–\$10. The bus for travel to Hamlin Park for the big meet against five other schools is already paid for.

PE Activities

All students must wear tennis shoes for physical education. This fall we will be doing fun running fitness activities. Fitness Gram Training and Testing begins in October. Be ready to have fun on the new soccer field to which we finally have access. PE is going to ROCK this year. Let's all get fit and fabulous.

MP PTSA President's Message

Welcome back, Meridian Park families! On behalf of our energetic and enthusiastic PTSA Board, I would like to welcome you to what promises to be a fun and fulfilling year. We have a great lineup of programs and after-school activities that will keep our kids busy with arts, drama, music, writing, sports, math, chess, foreign languages, and many other activities, including some exciting new additions.

September and October are particularly busy months for both school and PTSA events, so please keep a close eye on each Boomerang and read the information you receive carefully. The PTSA will kick off our fall fundraiser in late September. In October, we will host the always-popular fall carnival.

I would like to thank Marty and Holly DeGrazia, who led a very successful car show for the third year in a row. The event has really gained momentum—we had over 250 cars on display! There

was also good food and the School of Rock truly rocked the house. And in addition to all the fun, we raised over \$5,000 for the school—wow! This event has really grown and Marty will be looking for some help for next year, so if you like antique cars—or just having fun on a summer day—please let me know.

Speaking of volunteering, the PTSA can't happen without you. So please get involved! You truly can make a difference. We'll be posting our needs on a regular basis, or you can contact me or Aileen Lu, our volunteer coordinator.

I am looking forward to this year and hope you are too. Let's have fun supporting our children, teachers, staff, and community!

*Brian Heagler
MP PTSA President, 2012–2013
bheagler@gmail.com*

It's Time to Start Your Reflections Art Projects

It's time to get back out those paintbrushes, dance shoes, cameras, and journals. This year's Reflections theme is "The Magic of a Moment..."

Reflections is a National PTA and WSPTA cultural arts competition. This program provides an opportunity for students to use their creative talents by expressing themselves through their own original works. Students can submit pieces in any or all of the following six categories: Dance/Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Musical Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts.

Unfortunately, with the late start of school and compressed District/State due dates, we have a limited time for students to create their masterpieces. All submissions are due to the Meridian Park office no later than end of day on Monday, October 22. The art will be displayed in the Meridian Park hallway for several weeks. An art walk and reception will be held in the children's honor in November. Artists with submissions in the Dance/Choreography, Film Production, Literature, and Musical Composition categories may be asked to perform or present their pieces at this reception. All participants will receive a ribbon.

More detailed information about Reflections, including category-specific instructions and entry forms, will be available both in the Meridian Park foyer and at www.wastatepta.org/programs/reflections/index.html. For additional questions, please contact Jennifer Combs at combs47@comcast.net or at 206-718-0057.

Happy creating, Meridian Park students!

PTSA Room Representatives

PTSA Liaisons is getting a new name: PTSA Room Representative! If you are interested in helping out the PTSA and your child's class, please look for the sign-up sheet at Curriculum Night, or contact Shannon Brown at sdawnb@hotmail.com.

PTSA Clubs: Parent Leaders Needed!

Clubs that the PTSA offers include Sewing, Chess, Drama, Yearbook, Chinese, Spanish, and Art. All clubs **must** have a parent who works with the PTSA VP of Programs. If you would like a program to continue here at Meridian Park, please consider being a parent leader for a club.

It's not as hard as you think! You do 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. For more information on how to get involved, please contact Rachel Ariss at arissfamily@yahoo.com.

Art Docent Program

Our first artist of the year is Jacob Lawrence. This should be an exciting lesson and will be given in late October. 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 hang the artwork! If you are at all interested, please contact Rachel Ariss at arissfamily@yahoo.com.

PTSA News

Seafair Meridian Park Shoreline Classic Car Show



Back-to-School BBQ Fun!



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

Shoreline Science Fair

The Shoreline Science and Technology Fair and STEM Career Exposition will be held on March 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Union Building at Shoreline Community College. The event is for students in grades 5-12, though all students and community are welcome. For more information, visit www.shorelinesciencefair.org.

SummerSet Arts Festival: Celebrating Ronald Bog

Come for a summer of art-making culminating in an afternoon event in the Meridian Park neighborhood at Ronald Bog Park. Festival activities include: Live acoustic music, Art-making stations for all ages, Park and arboretum tours, Dance and drumming performances, Outdoor sculpture exhibition.

September 15, 1:00–5:00pm
Ronald Bog Park at 175th and Meridian.

Sponsored by the Meridian Park Neighborhood Association and the Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Arts Council. Endorsed by Shoreline Parks Department.

Shoreline's Comprehensive Plan Speaker Series

Matthew Kwatinetz, Managing Partner at QBL Real Estate, will speak on sustainability, culture, and integrated economic development strategies regarding Shoreline's Comprehensive Plan that will guide future decisions made by City officials and staff.

Wednesday, September 12, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
Shoreline City Hall, Council Chambers

For more information, visit the [2012 Comprehensive Plan Major Update](#) project page, or contact Associate Planner, Miranda Redinger, at (206) 801-2513 or mredinger@shorelinewa.gov.



Ms. Parks and Ms. Jessee at the BBQ!



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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