September 9, 2015 Issue One, 2015—2016

Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA

BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ

A BIG THANKS to all who helped at the Back to School BBQ. What a great SUCCESS! The energy of the event was a fabulous way to start the new school year. We couldn't have done it without all the folks that set up, arilled, wrapped dogs, and cleaned up! Here's a shout out to the BBQ TEAM - Margret Stapleton and Mary, Christine and Troy Den Herder, Mikki Langelier, Miki Hobgood, Naomi and Sean Murphy, Jill Steinberg, Tom Stege, Holly DeGrazia, Troy Trimmer, Lee Lambert, Jeff and Callie Steward, Molly and Bruk Ballenger, Naomi and Jordon Hillyard, Kate Beck, Isabel Kaplan, and Lindsey Hiett. Thank you to those families who stepped in to help at the last minute. We apologize if we omitted any volunteer names.

SKATING PARTY

Thursday, October 8 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.--Join us for the first skating party of the year at Lynnwood Bowl & Skate, 6210 200th St. SW, Lynnwood. Admission is \$6.50 which includes guad skate rental. Pay an additional \$3.00 for inline skates. Parents are encouraged to participate.

No drop-offs allowed. Feel free to bring your own helmet! Hope to see you there!

CURRICULUM NIGHT

At Curriculum Night on September 17th you will have to the MP Lost & Found! the opportunity to make a connection with your child's build teacher. a better understanding of what your child will be learning this year, and

discover ways that you can support your student at home.

6:00 - 6:40 pm - K-3 grades

6:45 - 7:00 pm - Check out what the PTSA is all about

7:05 - 7:45 pm - 4-6 grades

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UPCOMING EVENTS

September 9

9:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Front of Main Entry PTSA Welcome Coffee

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. PTSA Bd. of Directors Meeting

September 17

9:20 - 10:00 a.m. 2:35 - 3:15 p.m. Meridian Park Main Entrance Foyer New Family Tours & Principal "Meet

and Greet

September 17

Curriculum Night Additional information in the news-

September 22

Picture Day

September 24

Taproot Assembly (afternoon)

September 25

Early Release

September 28

Non-Student Work Day

October 2

1:45 - 3:05 p.m. ASB Walk-a-Thon

October 6

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. PTSA Bd. of Directors Meeting

October 6

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. PTSA Gen. Membership Meeting

October 8

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Lynnwood Bowl & Skate MP Skate Night

Cheetah Chatter Page 1

Thank you to Edmonds

donating a clothing rack

Maytag

Principal's Letter

Dear Families,

I hope you had a wonderful warm summer in 2015, and welcome back to a fantastic new year. I am thrilled to return as your principal at our amazing school.

This year will be my 31st year in education. I am a dedicated career educator who taught language arts, including 10 years at Shorewood HS as both a teacher and administrator and 6 years as the Principal of Syre Elementary. My daughter is a college sophomore, my son a high school junior; and my wife is both a doctor and a high school biology teacher. As you can see, we are very involved in education.



TADLOCK TIP #1- ROUTINES

Fall is a great time for kids and families to establish consistent weekday routines. On the weekends, take time to be together exercising minds and bodies. Please play outside and read together every day! I encourage all young Cheetah students to be positive selfmanagers and help out around the house.

We welcome a fantastic group of new staff to MP, and I look forward to meeting you soon. Thank you to our fantastic PTA and especially to Marty and Team for the best Car Show ever. We hope you will be involved this year. Go Cheetahs!

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

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

School breakfasts \$1.75; lunches \$3.00 (\$.50 for milk or juice). You can pay at school, by phone (206-393-4207), or online: https://touchbase.shorelineschools.org/
Families are encouraged to pay in advance. Menus are posted on the district website. The School Messenger system will call families when accounts are low, and families are strongly encouraged to check their accounts using Skyward Family access.

FREE/REDUCED LUNCH

All families who may need assistance are strongly encouraged to return a form. New paperwork needs to be submitted each 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/

Meridian Park News

ATTENDANCE

Is your child late or absent? A call is required for an excused absence or late arrival. **Please contact the MP Office at 206-393-4252**.

You can also e-mail: jill.gwazdauskas@shorelineschools.org

If your child is leaving school early, please send a note into the teacher so they can plan for their early release.

GETTING NEWS FROM SCHOOL

Because we use School Messenger for regular email communication or telephone calls, especially during bad weather, it is very important to us to have your updated contact information. If you have not been receiving emails, please update your email, phone, or mailing address at the Meridian Park Office any time. We will be sending out student update forms in October for review and updating.

BEHAVIOR AT SCHOOL

In the area of Behavior, we are committed to helping all children grow socially and emotionally through the reinforcement of Positive Behaviors. Expectations:

- * Be Respectful.
- * Be a Responsible Learner.
- * Be Safe.

Sometimes we need to work with students and parents on behaviors. Our general rule is for problems to be handled at the lowest level possible. Most behavior or other types of problems are resolved successfully between the child and teacher, or family and teacher; occasionally, issues are resolved at the office level. Thanks for your support and watch for more information during the year.

BEHAVIOR ON THE BUS

All school expectations and rules apply on the bus. The general rule is that students are accountable for positive behavior door-to-door.

SHORELINE E-FLIERS

The Shoreline School District works with community organizations to provide information to families about not-for-profit services for students and their families. You can find more information here: http://schools.shorelineschools.org/e-fliers/

Meridian Park News

PUBLICATION OF STUDENT NAMES & PHOTOS

We often recognize or highlight our students in newsletters or websites. We ask that families who do NOT want their student's names or photos publicized to please "opt out" in September with the district form provided in your Back-to-School Packet.

PLEASE RETURN FORMS

There are important forms we need returned each year to have accurate information for the success and safety of all students. Most of these forms will be provided in your Back-to-School packets, during "Meet the Teacher," or on the first day. Thanks for your patience and understanding regarding paperwork!

FAMILY ACCESS TO STUDENT INFORMATION

Family Access for Skyward and other programs is great for parents to check student information, lunch accounts, email, math, and other programs. Access will begin approximately in early October. Please watch for account access information to be sent home after school starts. If you were in the district last year, your login and password remain the same.

DROP OFF - PICK UP

We want children to be safe in the mornings and afternoon! Please be careful in our parking lot during drop-off and pick-up. Please use our drop-off/pick-up lane, or if you park, please walk your child to the grass. Dropping off after the first week or two allows your child to develop independence.

BEFORE SCHOOL-AFTER SCHOOL

Students line up outside their door beginning at 9:00 a.m., and parents are welcome to wait with their child. We do not have a before-school recess. At the end of the day, children will be released outside at 3:30 p.m., and you are welcome to wait for them outside the room.

TOUR FOR NEW FAMILIES

A tour for new families is available, giving them an opportunity to meet the Principal.

Date: September 17th

Times: 9:20 a.m. or 2:35 p.m.

Where: Meet in the main entrance fover

All kindergarten and other new families are invited! No sign-up required; just show up!

Meridian Park News

PARENT PREVIEW NIGHT



Introducing **FLASH** – Family Life & Sexual Health Curriculum

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Shoreline School District will be offering sexual health instruction in grades 4-12 as part of our comprehensive health education program. Included in this is the HIV/AIDS prevention in grades 5-12 that is mandated by state law.

Parents and guardians are invited to learn about the goals of this program and preview the instructional materials during the following public review:

Date: October 13, 2015 Time: 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Location: Ballinger Room, Shoreline Learning Center, 18560 1st Ave. NE

You will be able to learn the program objectives, review the materials, identify resources, and ask questions. If you are unable to attend the public preview session, but want more information, please contact your child's school or teacher.

According to state law and district policy, a parent or legal guardian may excuse their child from participating in any, or all, classes related to sex education after they have previewed the materials. If you do not want your child to participate, you must notify the school in writing. You may complete and return the form, Student Participation in Health Education, or write a letter requesting that your child be excluded.

Sincerely,

Teri Poff, Director of Teaching and Learning Shoreline Public Schools 18560 1st Ave. SE Shoreline, WA 98155 206-393-4211 teri.poff@shorelineschools.org

Meridian Park News

TRANSPORTATION OF RESTRICTED ITEMS ON SCHOOL BUSES

To ensure that our students are riding safely on our school buses, families should note the following:

- Large musical instruments (such as tubas and bass clarinets) may not be transported within the passenger areas of the buses, as emergency exits must be kept clear. Other small and medium sized instruments may be allowed, provided they meet certain conditions. Please refer to the District's website for detailed information: http://schools.shorelineschools.org/transportation/musical-instrumentguidelines/
- 2. Prohibited items, such as firearms and flammables, shall not be transported within the passenger areas.
- 3. Those staff members, such as teachers and coaches, who are accompanying students on the buses, are responsible for ensuring that state rules, district policies and procedures are observed at all times, with our bus drivers having final authority. (RCW 46.61.380. WSR 07-05-058, § 392-145-021, filed 2/20/07, effective 11/1/07.)



STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

We welcome a fantastic group of new staff who bring many experiences and strengths to our team.

- * Linda Smith, third grade room 412, returning to full time teaching after 4 years as district math specialist.
- * Thea DeYoung, school psychologist, new to Shoreline from the Mukilteo School District; working Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.
- Theresa Hanson, SLP, district re-assignment; working all day Thursdays.
- * Kayla Reed, grade 1/2, previously kindergarten at Highland Terrace and Hi-Cap kindergarten.
- * Michelle Hageland, SPED Resource Room, new to Shoreline from the Mukilteo School District.
- * Kim Huntamer subbing for Matt Alford while new dad is on leave.
- * Congrats Nicole Mauge is now Mrs. Nicole Borovina!
- * Instrumental Ms. Ault, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Ames, Mr. Ashbrook.

Cheetah Notes

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Fall is busy and exciting, and we are already learning new skills in music class.

We are working on:

- * Proper use of our voice, and singing in tune
- * Playing singing games
- Learning new songs and rounds
- * Reading notes and rhythms
- * Playing instruments with songs



Please read the music information letter coming home with your student. There is important information for you regarding music classes, materials/equipment, and performances. Please put Thursday May 26, 2016 on your family calendar. This is our annual celebration of the arts at Meridian Park, where 2nd through 5th grades will perform a wonderful concert of children's songs and choral music. Thanks, and have a fantastic, musical school-year!

~Mrs. Anderson and the MP Singing Cheetahs

NOTES FROM THE MERIDIAN PARK LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

Mr. Mike, library technician, and I are gearing up for a wonderful year in the MP library. Students will visit the library with their classes once per week, and may visit on their own as their class schedules allow during the week. Parents can also check out books from the MP library. Please stop by at any time to set up an account for yourself.

During class library visits, students will learn how to use the library, how to access and use information effectively, as well as learn about authors and genres of literature.

As I do every year, 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. Stay tuned for more information about these programs in upcoming newsletters, as well as on the library website.

We will have a one day Scholastic Fall Book Fair Blitz on Friday, November 20th. The Book Fair will run during the school day as well as the evening along with PTSA's Movie Night. Students will have a chance to preview the Book Fair on Thursday, November 19th. It will be a fun event for everyone. If you would like to help out at the book fair by volunteering a few hours of your time, please let me know. My contact information is 206.393.4125 and jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org. Book fair profits benefit all MP students through the purchase of new books and the support of author visits and other literacy events.

For more information about the MP library, policies, and activities, please visit the library website at this address: http://schools.shorelineschools.org/mplibrary/

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 the library before or after school.

Happy Reading,

Jenny Hillger, MP Teacher~Librarian

Cheetah Notes

A NOTE FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Welcome Back Meridian Park Families!

As we start the new year, please note the **immunization requirements** below.

If you have any questions, please contact Nurse Susan.

Immunization Requirements 2015-16

Washington state law requires that all children up to the age of 21 be fully immunized on or before the first day of school. Shoreline requires that students must have proof of immunization or an approved Certificate of Exemption by the 20th school day of attendance. If no proof/waiver by the 20th day of attendance at school, the student may not continue to attend school until documents are received. For students who start on Sept 9th, this means **Oct 6th** is the last day they can attend without being in compliance.

This means the school MUST have on file:

- * A Certificate of Immunization form, OR
- * A Certificate of Exemption Form** exempting the student from these requirements for medical, philosophical or religious reasons.

**Requirement for Certificate of Exemption **:

The Certificate of Exemption form for <u>newly enrolled students and current students who have new immunization requirements</u> must include a physician's signature for those wishing to exempt for medical or philosophical reasons. A proof of membership in a religious group that does not allow a health care practitioner to provide medical treatment to a child is required for those claiming a religious exemption.

MEDICATION: If your child will require medication at school, the district permission form must be completed and signed by both a parent/guardian and the child's physician. (available on the MP school website under "forms")

SCREENINGS: Vision and hearing for grades K-3 and 5th grade will occur during the school year unless families opt out.

Please let me know if there is any way I can support your child and family!

Susan Goldman, RN School nurse MP Elementary 206-393-4124 susan.goldman@shorelineschools.org hours M-F 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Cheetah Notes

A NOTE FROM THE FAMILY ADVOCATE

Families, Friendship, Feelings, and Fun

Greetings! My name is Annie Gage and I am the Family Advocate at Meridian Park.

Students call me "Ms. Annie."

As a Family Advocate, I am part of the team at Meridian Park. My specific focus is the social and emotional well-being of our students and families.

My job is a blend of two disciplines. Like a school social worker, I help parents with information about how to access resources such as counselors, low-cost dental care, and food. In other ways, I function more as a school counselor, helping children with friendship issues, emotion management, and social skills. I also work with parents who have questions or concerns about their child's social/emotional life.

In both capacities, I maintain confidentiality regarding personal information.

If your child tells you they had "Lunch Bunch," it means they joined me and some other students in my office to play a game or have a read-aloud, and eat lunch! The purpose is to have fun, meet new people, and be in a smaller, quieter environment for lunch now and then.

My hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. every day.

My office is at the top of the hall in the "200" wing.

I can be reached by email, phone, or via a note left in the envelope on my door.

I look forward to meeting you!

Annie Gage, MSW 206-393-1768 annie.gage@shorelineschools.org



PTSA President's Letter

Welcome Meridian Park families to the 2015-2016 school year! The Meridian Park PTSA is anticipating a jam-packed school year filled with exciting events all year long. Our monthly Board of Directors meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the MP Library (except the September meeting which will be held on September 15th). Our first General Membership meeting will be Tuesday, October 6th from 7:00-8:30 p.m. The Dale Turner YMCA will provide free childcare during these meetings. All of our meetings are open to the public, so we hope you will join us.

September is a busy month for both school and PTSA events, so please consult the PTSA calendar for up to date information (mpptsa.org/calendar). We invite everyone to come to the library during Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 17 from 6:45-7:00 p.m. to learn more about the exciting PTSA committees activities happening qu and You can turn in your PTSA membership form and sign up to volunteer on as many committees as you like.

The Board of Directors slate is almost full for this year. We are still in need of:

- Vice-President of Events
- * Co-Treasurer
- * Co-President

All three positions are elected members of the Executive Committee. Job duties for the VP of Events include organizing and coordinating PTSA events held at MP (i.e. Fall Festival, Spring Family Fun Night...). Someone who enjoys event planning and managing volunteers would be a great fit. The Co-Treasurer would work with seasoned Co-Treasurer and MP dad Matt Clark to oversee all of the financial matters of the MP PTSA. If you are a detailed person who enjoys accounting and spreadsheets, this job is for you! The Co-President would work alongside me, Jill Steinberg, second year MP PTSA President. Together we would work closely with Mr. Tadlock, run meetings, empower others to create excitement as well as communicate regularly, and cultivate a positive rapport with the entire school community.

If you are interested in any of these positions or have questions about the PTSA, please contact me at mpptsapresident@gmail.com.

Here's to the beginning of a terrific school year!

~ Jill Steinberg Co-President, 2015-2016 www.mpptsa.org mpptsapresident@gmail.com 206-356-5977

FOLLOW THE MP PTSA

Visit http://mpptsa.org and click on the "Follow" button that appears in the bottom right hand corner of your browser window. By following the site, you will receive an email notifying you of new posts. Recent posts include information future events and Approved Board Meeting Minutes. Please also "Like" us on Facebook: Meridian Park Elementary PTSA.

PTSA News

MATH CHALLENGE

Try this....

- 1. Add all the counting numbers from 1 to 20. What do you get?
- 2. A says B lies. B says C lies. C says A and B both lie. Who is telling the truth?
- 3. How many different squares can be formed by connecting 4 of these 9 dots? (Hints: it's not 4 or 5; tilt the page.)

• • •

If your student enjoys challenges like this, please continue reading about the Math Club!

JOIN THE AWARD-WINNING MP MATH CLUB!

At Math Club, you'll learn how to take problems like the Math Challenge on Page 11 and solve them quickly. You'll practice in club meetings and at home. Then you'll compete in math contests, on the Meridian Park team, against other schools from around the district or around the world.

If you love math like we do, come join us!

Who is eligible? Any 4th, 5th, or 6th-grader. Also, any 3rd-grader doing 4th-grade math. Fees and contests vary by grade.

When do we meet? Wednesday mornings, 8:00-9:00 a.m. in the school.

For more information, including registration forms, detailed schedule, and answers to the three problems above: visit www.mpmathclub.com. To contact the coordinator, Raif Majeed: email mpmathclub@gmail.com.

Parents: We need two coaches (for 3rd and 6th grade)! If you love math, the kids need you! If you passed high school algebra, you're well-qualified to coach.

We will provide materials and curriculum; you provide your time and passion. Contact mpmathclub@gmail.com to become a coach, to nominate someone who would make a great coach, or to find out more.

PTSA News

TIME TO COLLECT AND SEND IN THOSE BOX TOPS!

Welcome back to school! My name is AMY POFFENBARGER and I'm the Box Tops for Education™ Coordinator for Meridian Park Elementary this year.

Our school's earnings goal is \$1,000 this year! Clipping box tops is an easy way for you to help our school earn cash. Last school year, we earned \$783 from those little 10 cent box tops you collected and turned in! This money is used to support PTSA programs like the Back to School picnic. Let's reach the \$1,000 goal. Please collect and send in those box tops!

It's easy! Use the attached Early Bird form. Trim your box tops and paste them to the form. Ask your child to give the form to his or her teacher, or, put the form in the BOX TOP HOUSE located in the Meridian Park lobby by September 18th. I'll pick them up and send them in so we can qualify for the Early Bird Bonus and earn even more money for our school!

Become a Box Tops member. Sign up at www.BTFE.com to stay updated on our school's earnings and find a full list of hundreds of participating products. Members also receive exclusive coupon offers and recipes and can learn about extra ways for our school to earn more cash.

Questions? Contact me at amypoff@comcast.net or 206-660-6646. I'm here to make our school's Box Tops for Education program a huge success this year.

Thanks for your support!

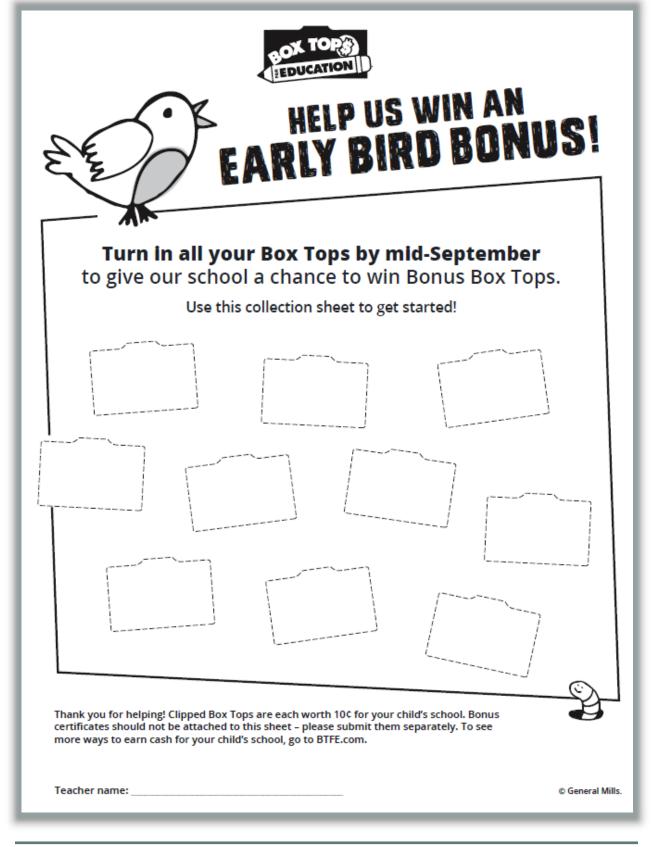
SHORELINE CLASSIC CAR SHOW

The 6th annual Shoreline Classic Car Show to benefit Meridian Park Elementary PTSA was held on Sunday, July 19 on the school grounds.

Shoreline's only Seafair-sanctioned community event featured over 180 cars on a sweltering hot day. In addition to the autos, the show included appearances by Lance Lambert, host of the Vintage Vehicle Show, and Seattle icons, Jr. Cadillac. Local popular band Blackjack Kerouac performed for free and provided the sound system. Vendors sold food and other items. The event was produced by the Meridian Park PTSA and the Greenwood Knights with support from many local sponsors. Thank you to all sponsors, exhibitors, and visitors to this year's Shoreline Classic Car Show. A loud Cheetah Cheer "thank you" to all of the volunteers who made the show possible: the amazing DeGrazia family: Marty, Holly, Mariana, and Melissa; Kim, Natalie and Nick Ositis; Naomi, Otto, and August Murphy; Krista and Taryn Keller; Joe and Anton Labore; Rhonda and Jillian McRae; Kerri and Lily Bradford; Janina and Emily Pacunski; Misrak and Hirna Mellsie; Alemnesh Teshome and Liyat Shenkute; Yuzhen Li and Anthony Mao; Aileen and Spencer Lu; Sydney Shea, Dixie Taira, Isabel Kaplan, Natalie Keene, Abby Bickford, Marie Sullivan, Jill Steinberg, and Mr. Tadlock. Special thanks to Gary Hobart and Jim Lakey!

Results of the fundraiser will soon be shared on the Meridian Park PTSA website.

PTSA News



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.

MERIDIAN PARK ELEMENTARY

schools.shorelineschools.org/ meridianpark/

David Tadlock *Principal* David.Tadlock@shorelineschools.org

Hillery Clark Early Childhood

Program Manager

Diane Randall Office Manager

Jill Gwazdauskas Registrar

Susan Goldman School Nurses

Annie Gage Family Advocate

2015–2016 MP PTSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

www.mpptsa.org

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Follow the MP PTSA on Facebook

facebook

SUMMERSET ARTS FESTIVAL

On September 12th, from 12pm-5pm, the City of Shoreline will celebrate the fourth annual SummerSet Arts Festival at Ronald Bog Park. This free event is designed to connect people with Ronald Bog's history and ecology, through creativity. People of all ages are invited to participate in activities including: live music – including sing-alongs, dance and drumming performances, hands-on art making stations and more.

More information can be found at www.facebook.com/SummerSetArts www.shorelinehistoricalmuseum.org

MANDARIN CHINESE

Mandarin Chinese classes are forming now! Taught by Hua Zhang, the classes meet at the Aurora Church of the Nazarene across the street from Meridian Park Elementary from 8:00 - 8:55 a.m. Students will cross the supervised crosswalk together to Meridian Park after class as a group.

Beginning Mandarin - Weds from Sept 23 - June 25 **Continuing Mandarin** - Tues & Thurs Sept 22 - June 16

Holidays & non-student days follow the Shoreline School District calendar. Look for registration information about classes for the 2015 - 2016 school year in your child's Kid Mail or contact Hua Zhang directly at huazhang98@yahoo.com.

FACEBOOK MP COMMUNITY GROUP!

A couple of Meridian Park parents are facilitating a Facebook group for parents of current Meridian Park students. The purpose of the group is to build community and to share information.

Search for "2015-16 Meridian Park Elementary Parents (Community Group)".

The Cheetah Chatter is Published Monthly by
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