

Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA



MERIDIAN PARK EARNS STATE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Congratulations to our students and staff for a 2015 State Achievement Award announced over spring break! Of course, there are many reasons that make MP a great school for students to learn and grow. Thanks to each member of our hardworking staff and everyone who makes a positive difference for our students in all the ways that matter.

www.shorelineschools.org/news/release.php?releasesid=1735

www.k12.wa.us/EducationAwards/WashingtonAchievement/

STATE TESTING SCHEDULE UPDATE

****Please note that the dates for 6th grade have changed****

On-time attendance is very important! Please review this information carefully. It's very helpful for students to attend on the dates listed; please limit appointments and early dismissals.

GRADE 3 May 3, 4, 5; June 1, 2
GRADE 4 May 10, 11, 12, 13
GRADE 5 May 17, 18, 19, 26; June 1, 2
GRADE 6 May 3, 5, 10, 12

Please contact your teacher if you have questions. Thank you for helping us with perfect attendance during state testing!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2-6

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 14

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 Shoreline STEM Festival
 Shoreline Community College

May 14

6:10 p.m.
 MP Mariners Night
 Safeco Field

May 16

No School
 Staff Work Day

May 18-20

Sixth Grade Camp

May 26

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 MP Arts Festival

May 30

No School
 Memorial Day Holiday

June 7

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
 PTSA Meeting and Volunteer
 Appreciation
 Library

June 13

No School
 Staff Work Day

June 24

Last Day of School

Announcements

PTSA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The PTSA is still trying to fill these volunteer opportunities. Would you be interested in signing up for one?

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR – This can be done from home! Input names of MP families as they join the MP PTSA. Work with President to come up with a fun membership drive (check out Pinterest for ideas)

FAMILY SERVICES COORDINATOR - Oversee MP food drive in December, Boxers and Bloomers drive in April, and donate Lost and Found donations to The Works throughout the year.

FALL HARVEST & CULTURE FEST COORDINATOR - Oversee the event planning and volunteer delegation for this important MP community event.

TALENT SHOW COORDINATOR - Organize tryouts and plan the show.

CAR SHOW COORDINATOR - Communicate with Seafair, local sponsors and show participants, delegate to volunteers.

YEARBOOK CLUB COORDINATOR - Oversee students who join club, take photographs and work on yearbook layout.

EMAIL BLAST COORDINATOR - Each week, send out reminder to a specific group of people to request blurbs for the blast. Send final information to MP office to be sent via Messenger on Friday afternoon.

We are also still hoping to find a **Co-President**, **Co-Treasurer**, and **VP of Events**. Check out <https://mpptsa.org/volunteer/> to see volunteer opportunity descriptions.

All of these positions have been around for a few years, so very little time will need to be spent creating new ideas (unless you want to). We do need volunteers to take charge so that these events and enhancements will not disappear. Can you imagine a Meridian Park without a talent show or yearbook?

Our existing volunteers are happy to spend time transitioning all of the details and information and many of them will be around next year to answer questions in person.

Please contact Jill Steinberg (mpptsapresident@gmail.com) if you would like to find out more about any of these opportunities.

Principal's Letter

Dear Families -

I hope you are enjoying a lovely Northwest spring. Your students are engaged in many learning activities, and staff are working hard to provide meaningful teaching and learning activities each day until summer break. We are also growing personally and having fun! Please contact your teacher if you have any questions regarding academics, social/emotional, or other questions.

Students in grades 3 – 6 are involved in **state assessments**, and it's an important activity to check on progress. On-time attendance is really helpful, and we appreciate you supporting your student with encouragement, a good breakfast, and consistent routines. Go Cheetahs! (Please see dates/times printed separately.)

There is some chatter in the local communities and media about the national standards and testing, and I encourage you to read, learn, and decide for yourself. After 30 years, I suggest that essential, common learning standards are a step in the right direction for a public school system that should successfully prepare all students for a complex world, and for school or work after high school. Parent and staff understanding and involvement is critical to meaningful implementation. You can learn more at <http://www.k12.wa.us/CurriculumInstruct/default.aspx>.

Our classrooms will be busy during May and June with many culminating learning activities, field trips, celebrations, and other activities. Sometimes fees are requested, but please let your teacher know if you need financial assistance, as we DO have resources for scholarships and we want to support all families with all activities. We appreciate your involvement and support in our school.

Class assignments for next year will be finalized right before school starts on September 7. Class assignments are based on criteria for balancing gender, academics, social/emotional, and learning styles. We are thoughtful about creating balanced classes where students can be challenged, successful, and engaged in new social and academic experiences. In this process, we share the same goal: good balance and match for students, teachers, and families. Sometimes, especially in the highly capable program, there are limitations that require flexibility and willingness to try something unexpected or different. We appreciate your support of our decision regarding your child's teacher.

Cheetah Cheers to Office Staff Diane and Jill; Custodians Lue, Gary, and Jim; Nurse Tama; PTSA Awards for Jill, Dana, and Matt; Cascade K-8; Sixth Grade for Camp; and our amazing Art Docent program. Special congratulations to our PTSA for an outstanding year with activities and support. We welcome everyone's involvement as we plan for next year. There are big and small ways to be involved, so please join PTSA President-Elect **Callie Steward** and her team.

Principal's Letter



Thank you for sharing your children and family. Despite the ongoing challenges in our state regarding resources for education, we are committed to doing our best work to help all students be learning, happy, and successful young people. We welcome your questions at any time, and hope to see you again soon.

Best,

David Tadlock, Principal

david.tadlock@shorelineschools.org

P.S. Please call the office if your family is moving out of the area or changing schools next year!

TADLOCK TIP #9

Leading up to summer break, May and June can be busy and sometimes stressful months for families. I encourage the adults at home to take personal adult wellness time with exercise, reading, and simply playing outside with your kids. Sometimes, the adult 'homework' and the kids' homework can wait and will take care of itself later! 😊

CALENDAR NOTES FOR NEXT YEAR

- The district has decided to study Monday early release next year so we will NOT have Monday early release as discussed in March and April.
- **Wednesday, September 7 is our first day of school for 2016 – 2017**
(Labor Day holiday is Sept 5)
- **Winter Break is December 21 – January 3;**
Mid-Winter Break is February 20 – 24;
Spring Break is April 17 – 21
- The teachers' association and district administration are working on the full calendar to be published as soon as the process is complete and approved. Watch for an announcement or check the district website.

Cheetah Cheers

GOLDEN ACORN AWARD RECIPIENTS



OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD: **MATT ALFORD**

Matt Alford is the PE teacher that we all wish we had when we were in elementary school! It's easy to be inspired by someone who feels so passionate about being healthy and feeling your best. Mr. Alford takes the time to make sure MP students learn about their bodies, whether it's using diagrams to show how the heart pumps blood through the body or explaining what happens within your respiratory system when you breathe. Students then have a full understanding of what their bodies are doing as they play a game of "Capture the Pig and Chicken."

Mr. Alford utilizes all of the fun PE equipment that MP has to offer. Hockey sticks, rubber chickens, stilts... the list goes on and the students love it all!

Mr. Alford did an amazing thing for our MP community: by coordinating the all-school flash mob at the Fall Harvest and Cultural Fest in October, he singlehandedly brought MP families together. He spent numerous hours teaching the dance to the students during PE classes and it really paid off.

Our thanks to Mr. Matt Alford!



OUTSTANDING ADVOCATE: **JILL STEINBERG**

Jill is a tremendous inspiration to other volunteers in her leadership work for Meridian Park. She gives so much of her time to support the Shoreline Classic Car Show to ensure its success. She has coordinated Back-to-School BBQs, Drama Club, and Fall Festivals. Jill also spoke in Olympia on behalf of "Class Size Counts" in 2013-2014. She excels in creating a bridge between the community, the administration and parents in order to best serve this diverse Meridian Park community. Lastly, she has worked hard as our President of the PTSA for the last two years.

Our many, many thanks to Jill Steinberg!



GOLDEN ACORN AWARD RECIPIENT: **DANA DOERKSEN**

Dana has always had a strong, supportive presence at MP. She has helped in the classroom and has run many art docent lessons. In addition to always being an active PTSA member, Dana has held the VP of Events position, managed the Read-a-thon process for the last 2 years and provided much organization and support to the car show! These are just a few of the well-known PTSA services that Dana has supported. She is always there to lend a hand or pick up the slack when volunteers are desperately needed. Dana has always been a big help to the clubs and classes held by the PTSA. ***We are so very grateful to Dana for all she does for Meridian Park!***

NOODLEPALOOZA

An incredibly loud "Cheetah Cheer" to the volunteers who worked tirelessly, making our first Noodlepalooza a delicious event! They worked so hard prepping, cutting, washing, cooking, and serving a hungry crowd:

Anne Chalcraft, Jessica Soejima, Kristy Dickson, Diana Mar, Leah Drennan, Shao Wei Wang, Callie Steward, Diane Baskin-Thompson, Rhonda McRae, Mary Webb, Jasper Webb, Holly DeGrazia, Naomi Hillyard, Rosemary Trimmer, Troy Trimmer, Annie Gage, Riannah L, Keyshawn L., and Jayvaun L. Many thanks to those who brought desserts! An extra special thank you to kitchen mavens **Elke Stickelmeyer** and **Barbara Grieg** and custodians **Jim Lakey, Gary Hobart, and Lue Moua**. We apologize if we missed a volunteer's name.

Thank you,
Jill Steinberg and Dana Doerksen

Cheetah Cheers

MATH CLUB NEWS

Over the last few weeks, and fresh off the successes at Shoreline Math Olympiad, the Meridian Park Math Club took on more top schools in the area at two exciting contests!

MATH IS COOL

Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders attended the **Math Is Cool** contest in Des Moines, WA. This contest features the top schools in the Seattle metro area; we competed in the top division, Division 1A. There are math relays, multiple choice contests (with penalties for guessing wrong), individual contests, mental math, and the kids' favorite -- the buzzer round ("college bowl").

School results: **Meridian Park** placed 14th in the 5th grade competition and 15th in the 4th grade competition (our 3rd graders competed as 4th graders.) Not high enough for trophies, but a strong effort and decent showing.

Individual results: At the 4th grade level, **Andrew Yao and Katherine Haycox** tied for best in school (i.e. top scores from Meridian Park). Honorable mention: **Malaina Mirabueno** was the high scorer among the 3rd graders. In the 5th grade contest, **Beta Chen** finished in 9th place among all students, and he also won the award for best in school.

Our other participants: (3rd/4th grades) **Rhys Alderton, Frank Clark, Milo Clark, Sarah Feng, Charlie Frye, Jill Frye, Luke Gillingham, Maren Goracke, Njomza Hertica, August Murphy, Nate Serwold, Alex Stege, Sarah Wiebe, Andrew Zeleke.**

BLAINE

The Blaine contest (officially known as the **Washington State Math Championships**) gathers the top schools in the state for one of the toughest competitions of the year. Students took an individual round, a team mental math round, and 4 topical team contests (Probability & Statistics, Algebra, Geometry, Potpourri). *Note: Our 4th graders competed at the 5th grade level in this contest.*

Team results: We came away with one team award this year. The team consisting of **Beta Chen, Kai Green, Ameena Majeed, and Emily Wang** placed 12th among all teams at the 5th grade level. Check out the trophy in the school display case!

Note that due to last-minute cancellations and kids out sick, all our other teams had 3 students instead of 4. Great job persevering under difficult circumstances!

Individual results: **Beta Chen** won 3rd place among all students at the 5th grade level. Honorable mention: **Evan Austin** missed out on a trophy due to a tiebreaker.

Our other participants: **Frank Clark, Maren Goracke, Njomza Hertica, Carter Lambert, Sephina Pajimula, Andrew Zeleke, Aida Chan, Sesen Kiflom, Brandon Lu, Cosette Lumsden, Kevin Peng.** Many thanks to the students for your hard work preparing for these contests and for showing your best effort and good sportsmanship; to our parents for their volunteer work at the contests and in the classroom, and for their support of our students and the club throughout the year; and to the PTSA, teachers, and Mr. Tadlock for your hard work and support which makes our club possible.

More contests and announcements to come next month! For more information about our club, please visit <http://www.mpmathclub.com>.

Submitted by: Raif Majeed

Meridian Park News

HI CAP PARENT GROUP NOW FORMING AT MP

If your student(s) is participating in the Hi Cap program at MP, we invite you to join us in our efforts as we form a new parent advocacy group this spring! Our mission will include, but not be limited to, fostering connection and communication within our Hi Cap community, and supporting highly capable learning in the classroom. This is a great opportunity to work with other Hi Cap parents so that we can make a difference together in the journey of our advanced learners. If you would like to help, learn more about our efforts, or provide input, please contact us at shoreline.hicap.parents@gmail.com. More info to come!

Submitted by: Jane Wiebe, Sheilah Copon, Linda Tsai

ADVANCED VOLLEYBALL CLUB

Advanced Volleyball Club for 6th grade students **only** begins on May 17th and continues every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. in the gym. Advanced Volleyball is practice focused on preparation for the annual Staff vs. 6th Grade volleyball game on June 10th. There are still currently two open positions for Advanced Volleyball Club. No prerequisite skills required. Permission slips are available in the main office.

For students wishing to participate in the Staff vs. 6th Grade volleyball game, but unable to attend morning practices, lunchtime volleyball opportunities will be made available for practice in May. Dates and times to be announced.

Submitted by: Matt Alford

WAY TO GO WITH BOX TOP COLLECTIONS!

Meridian Park School just received a check for **\$484.30** from YOUR box tops! Thank you! We're just a few hundred shy of our \$1,000 goal for this year, so [use the enclosed Box Top Collection sheet](#) and see how many box tops you can collect before the end of the school year!

WE CAN DO IT!!!

Submitted by: Amy Poffenbarger

LOST AND FOUND

Please continue to check the lost and found! There are a lot of lost sweatshirts and coats. We will be donating lost and found clothing to The Works, so claim your items now.

Submitted by: Susan Duthweiler

MP MARINERS NIGHT

The MP PTSA Mariners Game is **Saturday, May 14, at 6:10 p.m.** at Safeco Field! Tickets will be delivered home through student mail on Wednesday, May 4th. If you have any questions regarding ticket delivery, please contact Susan Duthweiler at sduthweiler@gmail.com.

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

Cheetah Notes

FROM THE MERIDIAN PARK HEALTH OFFICE

HEAD LICE

Just mention the word “head lice” and any parent who has dealt with this situation will tell you that it takes a lot of time and work to treat! Head lice are present year round, but often are more prevalent in the spring. There are some things that you can do to help prevent your child from getting head lice and identify it at an early stage:

- Head Lice are most commonly spread by head-to-head contact with someone who has lice. Keeping long hair tied back or braided can be helpful.
- It is not common for head lice to be spread from inanimate objects. Discouraging the sharing of combs, brushes, hair accessories, caps, helmets and towels is an extra preventative measure.
- When “sleepovers” are planned, talk with the parent in advance to discuss if there has been any occurrence of head lice, and have your child bring their own pillow and sleeping bag.
- Get in the habit of routinely checking your child’s hair for nits (tiny oval or round eggs that are white, grey or brown) that adhere to the hair shaft, especially at the nape of the neck and behind the ears. Checking for nits in bright, natural light can be helpful. The adult louse is tiny, about the size of a sesame seed. It does not fly or jump and requires the warmth and blood source of the scalp to survive.
- Most children, although not all, will scratch their head or report that their scalp feels itchy when they have head lice. Children may also describe a tickling feeling of something moving on the head or in the hair. Take a look at your child’s hair if see this or your child reports these symptoms.
- If your child does have head lice, their hair will need to be treated. You can contact the Health Office at 206-393-4124 for specific guidance on this.
- Check siblings and family members, if your child has head lice. The parents of close friends, contacts, and the Meridian Park Health Office should also be notified so we can be on the lookout too.

A few years ago, the Shoreline School District updated their procedure on head lice to reflect best practices as guided by Center for Disease Control, King County Public Health, and the American Pediatric Association. School nurses no longer check entire classrooms and send letters home to every family when nits or live lice have been found. We are here to support parents and teachers with this situation by answering questions, providing guidance and follow-up checks.

Tama Leahy RN
Meridian Park Health Office
206-393-4124

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/index.html>

Cheetah Notes

NOTES FROM THE P.E. DEPARTMENT

THANK YOU!

I was extremely humbled and surprised on April 14th to be honored with the PTSA Golden Acorn Outstanding Educator Award. I work in a building full of excellent, dedicated and caring teachers. I have honestly done my best to raise my teaching to level to that of my colleagues in my time at Meridian Park. I will continue to work my hardest to influence the culture of Meridian Park to one that prioritizes health and fitness as well as respect, responsibility, safety, and kindness.

STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN

Two weeks ago, Meridian Park, Cascade K-8 and the Early Childhood Learning staff had a joint meeting to review changes in emergency lockout and lockdown procedures at the Meridian Park campus. We unfortunately live in a time when the need to have coherent plans for the unlikely scenario of ill-intended intruders in our schools is a sobering reality.

Chuck Goodwin, School Safety and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, did an excellent presentation on the evolving philosophy of dealing with violent intruders in our schools. Mr. Goodwin presented the **"Run, Hide, Fight"** theory currently being championed by the FBI in how we can best deal with the threat of active shooters in our schools. If you have not had the opportunity to do research of your own on "Run, Hide, Fight", there is a plethora of information available on the web. I encourage you to take a little time to educate yourself and have an age-appropriate discussion with your children about the material.

Following the meeting, I took a few minutes to digest the seriousness of the material presented and to reflect on what I would do in an emergency situation that involved individuals wishing to do harm to my students. This is obviously a mentally stressful exercise, and I was troubled more than anything by one simple factor:

It can be extremely difficult to get the attention of all students at times.

While I realize the gymnasium is a loud and somewhat chaotic environment, the management issue I struggle with the most with all my students is gaining and retaining their attention to give a short set of directions. I have the expectation that when I stop the class and give the signal **"Stop, Look and Listen"** in my strong voice, students will freeze their bodies, turn their eyes towards me and stop their personal conversations. Every day, a significant amount of class time is spent waiting for students to comply to this directive and in giving reminders to individuals. Students from Kindergarten through 6th grade struggle to stop on cue, cease their personal conversations and focus on the instructor.

While 99.99% of the time this is a simple annoyance of being a teacher, I am a firm believer that practice makes permanence, and creating the routine of giving trusted adults focused attention when requested is a habit worth developing in children. Believe me when I say that student safety is my top priority, and I will do anything within my human ability to protect each and every child at Meridian Park from harm. In the unlikely event of a serious emergency, stopping on cue, listening intently and quickly following directions transcends our respect and responsibility code and quickly becomes a matter of student safety.

I appreciate you taking a minute to discuss with your children the importance of complying quickly with their teachers' request to **Stop, Look and Listen**.

Matt Alford
MP Physical Education Specialist
matt.alford@shorelineschools.org

Cheetah Notes

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

MUSIC EVENTS IN MAY

2016 MERIDIAN PARK ARTS FESTIVAL

Thursday, May 26 (6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

Our annual arts celebration includes a vocal music concert, which this year will feature all 2nd and 4th graders (including Ms. Reed's 1st graders and Ms. Peters' 3rd graders), as well as poetry readings and visual arts displayed around the building. Please see the concert schedule below.

Please plan to attend this wonderful event with your family! All 2nd and 4th grade students (and Ms. Reed's 1st graders and Ms. Peters' 3rd graders) are expected to attend. This is our grand championship arts "game" so to speak - the only one! We are so eager to share our beautiful music with you! Most coaches are great about working with their team and schedule so all kids can be at the concert, so please make schedule arrangements early. We all know that parents can move mountains in order to attend! You won't want to miss it!

6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Poetry readings in the Cafeteria, Directed by Jenny Hillger

6:35 p.m. – 6:55 p.m.

Vocal Concert Grade 2* in the Cafeteria, Directed by Shari Anderson
(All students in grade 2 and Ms. Reed's 1st graders will perform)

7:00 p.m. – 7:20 p.m.

Vocal Concert Grade 4* in the Cafeteria, Directed by Shari Anderson
(All students in grade 4 and Ms. Peters' 3rd graders will perform)

7:20 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Visual Art Viewing around the building

*Students, dress up as much as you would like!

6TH GRADE "MOVING ON" PROGRAM

Thursday, June 23, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

END OF THE YEAR ASSEMBLY

Friday, June 24, 9:30 a.m.

Kindergarten and 1st Grade will sing a song

From Mrs. Anderson and the Meridian Park Singing Cheetahs

Cheetah Notes

NOTES FROM THE MERIDIAN PARK LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

SPRING BOOK FAIR - THANK YOU!

Our spring Scholastic Book Fair was a lot of fun, as well as very successful. Thank you so much for your support. Students enjoyed shopping for books, and "spending" their Read-a-Thon gift certificates. As always, book fair profits support the purchase of many new books for the library and literacy events, such as the upcoming author visit for kindergarten through sixth grade students, and reading programs like Young Readers Choice and Sasquatch. A special thank you goes out to all of the volunteers who operated cash registers, helped students find books, restocked merchandise, set up the fair, and took it down. I couldn't have done it without them.

An enormous "Thank You!" to: **Rhonda McRae, Cherry Mendoza, Luann Majeed, Dana Doerksen, Jean Dawson, Tricia Norton, Susan Duthweiler, Jill Steinberg, Laura Hungerford, Linda Burt, Anita Burt, Alma Mendez, Linda Tsai, Susie Hoss, Christine Pinto, Ann Yee, Frank Kleyn, Vicky Hoag, Shannon Brown, Julianne Rogers, Susie La Clergue, Leslie Boyd, Christine Pinto, Rebecca Andresen, Diane Baskin-Thompson, Tauryn Beeman, Janet Shin, and Geneva Norton.**

What an amazing group!

AUTHOR VISIT ON MAY 12TH

Guest author and illustrator **Dana Sullivan** will present five assemblies to kindergarteners through 6th graders on Thursday, May 12th, in the library and band room. He will present a graphic novel workshop to 3rd through 6th graders and a picture book workshop to kindergarten through 2nd graders.

You can visit Mr. Sullivan's website at <http://www.danajsullivan.com>.

The assembly schedule, subject to change, is:

9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	3rd and 4th Grades	Band Room
10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	5th Grade	Band Room
11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	6th Grade	Band Room
1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Kindergarten and 1st Grade	Library
2:20 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.	2nd Grade	Library

Please join us!

END-OF-THE-YEAR LIBRARY BOOK ROUND UP

The end of the school year will be here before we know it. In order to complete an inventory of all library books, we will need them turned in before the last week of school. Below is a schedule to help students return their books.

By **Tuesday, May 31st**, a student can have no more than two library books checked out

By **Monday, June 6th**, a student can have no more than one library book checked out

By **Tuesday, June 14th**, students must have all library books returned to the library

Students who still have books on their library records after June 13th will take home letters to share with parents, letting them know about the overdue books. If a book cannot be found, a student can either purchase a replacement copy with the same binding (hardcover or paperback), or pay for the book.

Students will not receive their report cards on the last day of school, June 24th, if they haven't taken care of their overdue and lost books. Report cards will be held in the front office until students find, replace, or pay for books.

Please help your children look for library books at home and in vehicles. Thanks for your support with this.

Jenny Hillger
Librarian/Teacher
jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org
(206) 393-4125

PTSA President's Letter

HELLO FROM THE MERIDIAN PARK PTSA!

Thank you to everyone who participated in Noodlepalooza on Thursday, April 14th. A small group of amazing volunteers worked really hard to feed our community a delicious spaghetti dinner. The MP PTSA also honored **Golden Acorn recipients:** Dana Doerksen, Matt Alford, and myself. Look in this issue for more information about the PTSA award recipients.

Also in this issue, we are excited to announce the recipients of the spring grants. Each year, Meridian Park gives out more than **\$3,500** in grant funds to worthy projects around the school.

The next PTSA meeting will be held on June 7th from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. This will be a Board of Directors Meeting, as well as a special **Volunteer Recognition Night**. We invite all of our amazing volunteers to come for treats and a special thank-you! YMCA provides free childcare, and all of our meetings are open to the public.

The Calendar Planning Committee will soon begin looking at dates for 2016-2017 events. You can subscribe to the Meridian Park PTSA Calendar here <https://mpptsa.org/calendar>.

We still have several key positions on the Executive Committee open including **Co-President**, **Co-Treasurer** and **Vice President of Events**. Detailed job descriptions are available here: <http://mpptsa.org/descriptions-of-ptsa-board-positions/>. If you are interested in joining the leadership team or have questions, please contact me at mpptsapresident@gmail.com.

Be sure that you have the **7th Annual Shoreline Classic Car Show** marked on your calendar for **Sunday, July 17th**! The next planning meeting will be Monday, May 1st at 7:00 p.m. at Jersey's (up the hill from MP). Your help is needed to continue this wonderful tradition.

Jill Steinberg
President, 2015-2016
mpptsapresident@gmail.com
206-356-5977

PTSA News

PTSA SPRING GRANTS

Thank you to all MP staff who took the time to fill out spring grant applications. We are happy to announce the recipients of those grants:

\$250 for Ms. Sabo's [STEAM Passion Project](#)

\$319 for Ms. James' [Tinkering Studio](#)

\$350 for Hillery Clark, Thea DeYoung, and Michelle Hageland's [Classroom Supports Library](#)

\$660 for Ms. Kushner, Mr. Lockwood, and Ms. Smith's ["The Best Part of Me" 3rd Grade Project](#)

Congratulations!

Resources for Families

MERIDIAN PARK ELEMENTARY

[schools.shorelineschools.org/
meridianpark/](http://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 Nurse*

Annie Gage *Family Advocate*

2015–2016 MP PTSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

www.mpptsa.org

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Heather Sterling *Webmaster*
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Follow the MP PTSA on Facebook

facebook

SHORELINE HEAD START NEWS

Free Preschool! Now accepting applications for the 2016-2017 school year!

Shoreline Head Start helps prepare children for a lifetime of learning by guiding them both socially and academically.

Head Start is free of charge; however, applicants must meet household income guidelines. For more information or to apply, call Shoreline Head Start at 206-393-1797.

PACIFIC SCIENCE CENTER LOW-INCOME MEMBERSHIPS

For just \$19.00, families can get a full one-year membership to Pacific Science Center that covers 2 adults and up to 6 youths, ages 3-18.



Any family receiving some form of public assistance is eligible.

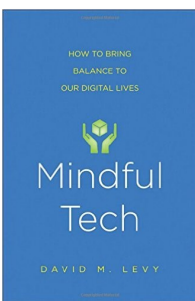
Call 206-443-2924, or visit the Science Center for more information and/or enrollment.

Office Hours: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday;
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., weekends & holidays

KCLS PRESENTS "MINDFUL TECH: HOW TO BRING BALANCE TO OUR DIGITAL LIVES"

Shoreline Library
Sunday, May 29 at 6:00 p.m. (FREE)

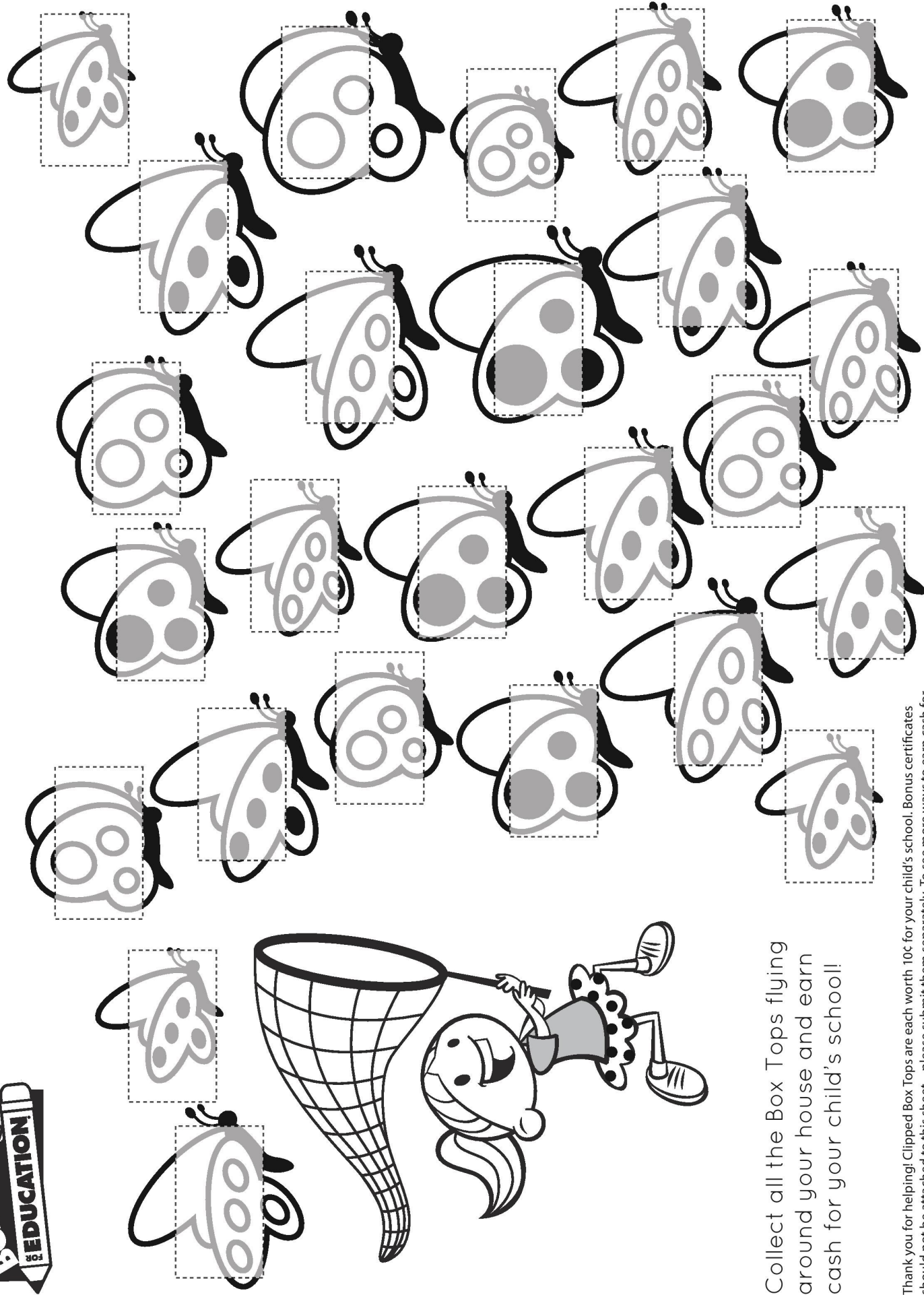
From email to smart phones, from social media to Google searches, digital technologies have transformed the way we learn, entertain ourselves, socialize and work. Despite their usefulness, the technologies have often led to information overload, stress and distraction. In recent years, many of us have begun to look at the pluses and minuses of our online lives and ask how we might more skillfully use the tools we've developed. In this talk, based on his new book, *Mindful Tech: How to Bring Balance to Our Digital Lives*, UW Professor David M. Levy will describe the methods he's developed over many years of research and teaching to help people develop a healthier and more effective relationship with their digital devices and apps.



The Cheetah Chatter is published monthly by
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