

# Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA

## School District Bond Election in February

*Did you know that a bond election is coming up on February 14th?*

### Shoreline School Bond February 14, 2017

All registered voters residing within the Shoreline School District are eligible to vote on this bond that proposes to:

- Construct an Early Learning Center at the Shoreline Children's Center site to co-locate the tuition-based preschool, Head Start and Early Childhood Education;
- Rebuild Parkwood Elementary School; and
- Rebuild both Einstein and Kellogg Middle Schools.

The Shoreline School Board unanimously approved the \$250 million bond proposal to address increasing challenges in student enrollment and decreasing facility conditions.

Listed below are dates and locations of bond information sessions that are open to all community members who would like to attend:

**December 8** at 6:30 p.m.

Briarcrest Elementary (2715 NE 158th Street)

**December 13** at 6:00 p.m.

Syre Elementary (19545 12th Avenue NW)

**December 13** at 7:45 p.m.

Brookside Elementary (17447 37th Avenue NE)

**January 10** at 6:00 p.m.

Kellogg Middle School (16045 25th Avenue NE)

**January 10** at 7:00 p.m.

Ridgecrest Elementary (16516 10th Avenue NE)

**January 11** at 6:30 p.m.

Highland Terrace Elementary (100 N 160th Street)

**January 12** at 7:00 p.m.

Lake Forest Park City Hall (17425 Ballinger Way NE)

For more information, please go to

[www.shorelineschools.org/bond](http://www.shorelineschools.org/bond)

You can also check out

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

and on Facebook at

[www.facebook.com/voteyesforshorelineschools](https://www.facebook.com/voteyesforshorelineschools)

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## Upcoming Events

**December 6 – 16**

Holiday Basket and Food Drive

**December 8**

Drama Club Parent Meeting

7:00 p.m.

Meridian Park Library

**December 13 and 15**

Variety Show Auditions

3:45 p.m.

Music and Band Rooms

**December 19**

Winter Sing-Along Concert

2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Meridian Park Cafeteria

**December 21 – January 3**

Winter Break

No School

**January 4**

School Resumes

**January 4 and 5**

Drama Club Auditions

3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Meridian Park (Location TBD)

**January 10**

PTSA General Membership Meeting

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Meridian Park Library

**January 12**

Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Meridian Park Cafeteria

**January 16**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

No School

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# Announcements

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## Holiday Basket Food Drive

The Holiday Basket Food, Toys, and Teen Gift Drive will run from December 6 – 16. **Meridian Park's food item is oatmeal/healthy cereal. Our school goal is 500 food items.** We are also collecting gift cards for the teen gift drive. There are drop boxes in every classroom and in the lobby of the school. Please see the [FLYER](#) at the end of this newsletter for additional information. Thank you for your support!



*Submitted by: Susan Duthweiler*

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## Hi-Cap Testing Enrollment Open

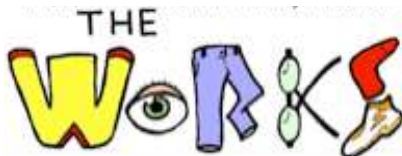
The nomination period for entry into the Highly Capable Program is open now through January 13, 2017. **The deadline for registration will be 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 13.** Any Shoreline resident whose student(s) is currently in grades 1-12 is eligible to have their student(s) nominated for entry into the program for the 2017-2018 school year. Testing of nominated students will take place on [February 4](#) and [February 11](#). Families will be notified during January 17-20 with detailed testing information. Please refer to the district Hi-Cap website for more information and for online registration: <http://www.shorelineschools.org/Domain/90>

*Submitted by: Linda Tsai*

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## Lost and Found

Please check the lost and found. There are a lot of lost sweatshirts and coats! All unclaimed items are donated to The Works program. **The Works** is a free clothing room for children in the Shoreline School District, where children and teens can pick out high quality, clean, and gently used clothing. This program is intended to support families experiencing circumstances that make it challenging to clothe their children for school. **The Works is open on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. for high school students to shop on their own).** It is located in the middle portable at North City Elementary, 810 NE 190th Street, Shoreline.



*Submitted by: Susan Duthweiler*

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## Teacher Credentials

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 (teaching certificates, endorsements, college degrees) of your child's classroom teacher, Title I teacher, or instructional assistants. *As part of ESEA, parents have the right to this information.* Please contact the principal if you would like to request these facts.

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## Holiday Assembly Message from Mr. Tadlock:

The holidays are a wonderful time to celebrate and learn about diverse family cultures and traditions. At Meridian Park, many multi-cultural holiday activities will occur in classrooms and culminate with our Winter Holiday Sing-Along on December 19 at the end of the day. Families are invited to join the fun! **Also, families who prefer their child(ren) to not participate in this multi-cultural event may request an alternative activity through your classroom teacher.**

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# Announcements

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## Coming Soon...



The Meridian Park PTSA  
along with  
Dandylyon Drama  
present the



### 8th Annual Meridian Park School Musical (4th – 6th Grades)

#### **"Tall Tales of the Wild West"**

*A new musical by  
Rob Jones and Melani Lyons of Dandylyon Drama*

#### **IMPORTANT DATES TO KNOW**

**December 8, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Mandatory** Parent Information Meeting  
*MP Library*

Registration packets will be available at the Parent Meeting

**January 4 and 5, 2017 @ 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

**Mandatory** Drama Auditions  
*Meridian Park (Location TBD)*

**Monday-Thursday @ 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
starting January 9, 2017**

Drama Rehearsals

**March 3 and 4, 2017**

**Drama Performances**  
*Shorewood High School*



# Cheetah Cheers

## Congratulations to all 2016 Reflections Art Program participants!



### HONORABLE MENTIONS:

**For Photography**  
Eliana Megargee

**For Music Composition**  
Yukine Barber

**For Visual Arts**  
Elsa Husted  
Zahra Khan  
Eliana Megargee  
Henry Severn

### FINALISTS:

**For Photography**  
Emmaline Helgeson  
Eliana Megargee

**For Dance Choreography**  
Sophia Calandrillo

**For Visual Arts**  
Etta Beck  
Aliyah Burnside  
Daisy Cui  
Emmaline Helgeson  
Dash Jackson  
Olivia Lee Jung  
Eliana Megargee  
Emily Wang

**For Music Composition**  
Sophia Calandrillo  
Ameena Majeed  
Leah McRae

**For Literature**  
Eliana Megargee

The Meridian Park finalists will be in the district level show, and those participants and families are invited to a reception at the Shoreline Center on January 12th. The finalists from the district level will move on to the state level competition.

**Congratulations, artists!!**

*Submitted by: Tiffany Megargee*

## Thank you to our volunteers

**Many thanks to you all** for what you do throughout the year to support Meridian Park and your students! From signing your child up for Chess Club, reviewing their homework, bringing in extra clothes for the nurse for emergencies, chaperoning a field trip, cutting box tops out of your cereal boxes, being mindful in the pick-up line, helping at the book fair, becoming a PTSA member, attending the Harvest Festival, or making food for a teacher's thank-you breakfast...



***Your support is meaningful and important. Your involvement in your school means we all are in this together, and it builds a strong and supportive environment for ALL of our kids. The Meridian Park PTSA thanks you!***

*Submitted by: Kris McRea*



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# Cheetah Cheers

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## PHOTOS!



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# Principal's Letter

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Dear Families —

Winter and the holiday season have arrived! Students and staff are focused on academics, positive behavior, and fun. Thanks for our partnership in growth and learning.

**For the second year, all Shoreline schools are on a semester academic system.** This means that there will not be a report card until February. If you have older children, this system is the same as the middle and high schools. **We are planning for semester reports to go home with students on February 17. Conferences are scheduled for March 7 - 10.**

We value ongoing family communication, and look forward to meeting with you for a conversation about the progress report at conference time.



Our staff teams are committed to collaborating about student learning in the core areas of literacy and math. We are also very busy with science, social studies, information skills, the arts, and health/fitness. Other goals this year include Positive Behavior, Equity, and Vision. Another important school goal this year is focused on Fitness and Movement. We know from much research and experience that movement is a key to healthy minds and bodies, and we are working as a staff to include movement in the classroom as well as on the playground.

To support this goal and practice a growth mindset, we take regular 3-5 minute 'brain breaks' during the week to stimulate brain activity. As a school, we engage in short lessons related to growth. Our monthly themes include respect, responsibility, and gratitude. Our themes for December are 'empathy and compassion,' and we encourage you to take a minute to talk about these ideas at home.

**Promoting positive behavior is our approach to social growth.** Students are learning to manage themselves based on the expectations of respect, responsibility, and safety. Each classroom uses a self-manager system, and students are recognized for positive behavior with Cheetah Cheers. Our Very Important Cheetah lunch is a monthly activity for students selected by classmates for demonstrating the theme of the month. **Please see our [Expectations Matrix](#) included in this newsletter.**

Thank you and congratulations to our PTSA Officers, Board, and Volunteers for a wonderful Fall, supporting our school. Callie and her team are busy with many activities, and you're always invited to pitch in. Every little bit helps. You are always welcome at our monthly Tuesday night meetings as well – the next date is January 10, 2017. I hope to see you.

This holiday season, I am proud and grateful for parents and wonderful families. I am proud of our staff for caring about great teaching, learning, and other important classroom experiences. And I am proud of our students for their learning and growth. Public education is a fundamental part of our

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# Principal's Letter

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country and free society, and Meridian Park is a great example of a public school that makes a difference in the lives of all students and families. Thanks to everyone for this.

Best wishes for rest, reading, and exercise during Winter Break. I recommend family walks and other family outdoor activities; as well as reading and board or card games. I hope that adults and kids alike will please limit screen time! We look forward to seeing all Cheetahs for a great year in 2017 on Wednesday, January 4, 2017. Thank you for the wonderful gift of your children and family.

Happy Holidays!

David Tadlock

Principal

[david.tadlock@shorelineschools.org](mailto:david.tadlock@shorelineschools.org)



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## Tadlock Tip #4 - The Gift of Books

Electronics are popular gifts this time of year, and valuable tools for reading, etc., but this holiday season I hope you will give the gift of books. Take your kids to local bookstores or the library to find books for the family to enjoy together or share with others. During winter break, try turning everything off for at least 30 minutes a day for family quiet or out-loud reading time.

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## Reminders

- During bad weather, check the media about late start or closure. If we are late, school starts at **11:05 am**.
- Lost and Found is in the hall near the cafeteria and always open for you to check.
- Safe and Slow in our Parking Lot and Meridian/175th! **Please use crosswalks.**
- Please send kids to school with coats/hats; contact your teacher or Family Advocate Annie Gage for cold weather clothing. If you have donations, please contact us or The Works.
- No school Monday, January 30 for Staff Work Day.



## Drop-Off / Pick-Up

It's just like the airport! Please:

- Park and use the crosswalk in front of the school; **or** pull as far forward as possible at the curb to drop-off/pick-up
- Stay with your car at the curb until the kids are safely buckled
- Pull out carefully and make space for others who are waiting

*Thanks for your patience and flexibility!*



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# Cheetah Notes

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## Music Notes

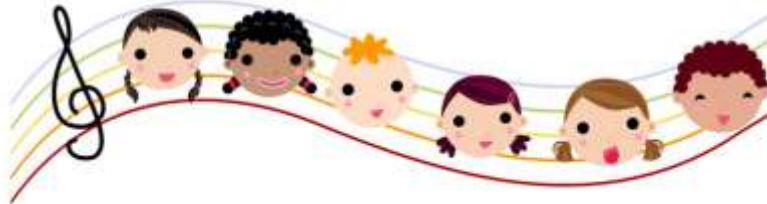
Musicians at Meridian Park are busy! Students sang together to honor and thank our country's veterans at the Veterans Day Program in November.

Fifth grade students in Ms. Peterson's and Ms. Rudberg's classes will perform four songs the evening of the Book Fair, December 6, 2016! We will perform in the Meridian Park main entrance lobby from 6:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The annual **Winter Sing-Along** will be on **Monday, December 19, from 2:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.** Sixth grade will perform choral selections, then all students will sing winter songs together! Sixth grade parents are invited!

Our school-wide **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day assembly** will be on **Thursday, January 12, 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

The **West Side Choral Festival** will be at Shorewood High School **Thursday, February 2, 2017**. Sixth grade students who qualified for the 2017 Sixth Grade Honor Choir need to return their signed forms ASAP. See the [Documents section](#) on Mrs. Anderson's teacher website for a copy if you can't find yours. Thank you!



Fifth grade and fifth/sixth grade classes will be taking a field trip to **Seattle Symphony's Concert: Link Up (The Orchestra Sings)** at **Benaroya Hall** on **Wednesday, March 1, 2017**.

Please mark your calendars for the **Meridian Park Arts Festival** on **Thursday, May 25, 2017** from **6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.** Several first/second, second, third/fourth, and fourth grade classes will perform!

And have you noticed the beautiful lights decorating our community? As you take in the sights, consider taking in the sounds as well. Listen to a choir or orchestra concert, watch a ballet performance (*The Nutcracker Suite* perhaps), attend Seattle Symphony's holiday concerts, take in a performance from the Christmas Ship, or listen to music together at home. There are also many children's choirs in the area that do fantastic and kid-friendly concerts of excellent music. Enjoy doing some musical "decorating" by singing together as a family. Consider participating in a sing-along of winter songs or Handel's *Messiah*, or sing at a nearby care facility or hospital to brighten up the lives of others! Come back ready to share your musical stories in January 2017!

Happy Holidays!

Mrs. Anderson and the Meridian Park Singing Cheetahs



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# Cheetah Notes

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## December News from the Library Media Center

### Greetings Meridian Park Families!

It is a busy time in the Meridian Park library. Please read below to find out more about what has been happening, as well as about upcoming events and programs.

### Fall Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you for supporting our **One-Day-Only Scholastic Book Fair** on December 6th. Students had a great time purchasing books and other fun things at the fair. We raised funds that I will use to purchase new books for the library.



I'd like to thank all of the volunteers who helped to make the book fair a success: Luann Majeed, Rebecca Andresen, Vicky Hoag, Shannon Brown, Susan Duthweiler, Molly Walton, Wei-Ping Chung, Linda Burt, Laura Graven, Laura Hungerford, Anita Burt, Virginia Ly, Thao Tran, Kris McRea, Quian Qiu, Megan Parker, Christine Herder, and Kayla Candaux. I'd also like to thank the high school volunteers: Imran Majeed, Arjun Thomas, Michael Hoag, and Madison Brown. You guys are the BEST!

### GRANTS

I am so grateful to all of the local agencies, as well as the Meridian Park PTSA, that offer grants. This fall I received five grants. I am so excited about the events and resources that I will be able to fund with these grants! Below is information about each grant.

### Author Ben Clanton to Visit Meridian Park on March 15th, 16th, and 17th

Ben Clanton is the author of several picture books. His latest book, titled Narwhal, Unicorn of the Sea, is amazing. It's the first book in a new series: Narwhal and Jelly, about two best friends and their adventures. It has received rave reviews from children's book reviewers.

The theme of Mr. Clanton's presentations to Meridian Park students is **Every Picture Tells a Story**. In small assemblies of just two classes each, students will learn to develop their narrative writing with illustrations.

A huge thank you to the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation, the Shoreline-LFP Arts Council, and a yearly contribution from the Meridian Park PTSA for making this three-day project possible.

### Social Studies Trade Books and eBooks

With grants from the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation and the Meridian Park PTSA, I will be able to purchase supplemental social studies books to support third through sixth grade curriculum. I will also be able to purchase high interest fiction for a range of reading abilities.

The publishing company Capstone Press will match the grant funds that I have received, so that I will be able to purchase twice as many books. Thank you, Capstone Press.

### Maker Spaces - Electricity Experiments

With a grant from the Sno-King School Retirees Association, I will be purchasing materials for electricity experiments, which I will use with students during library lessons and/or with an after school club. Students will be making circuits, doorbells, buzzers, and so on with these hands-on materials.

I am sending a big **THANK YOU** to all of these organizations for generously funding my grants.

Best Wishes for a beautiful holiday season,  
Jenny Hillger, Teacher-Librarian  
(206) 393-4125  
[jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org](mailto:jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org)

# Cheetah Notes

## December P.E. News You Can Use

### Student Voice

#### 4,3,2 or 1?

It is a daily question that I ask intermediate students after a session of P.E. It literally translates into: *“Did you like P.E. today?”*

Students are encouraged to vote by a show of fingers on their hand: **4,3,2,1.**

- 4: “I loved it, awesome game! I can’t wait to play it again!”
- 3: “Pretty good, overall I like the game”
- 2: “Not horrible, but not great. I’ll take it or leave it”
- 1: “I hated the game and I never want to play it again”

I ask the question because if the information I gather from the students indicates that the majority of the kids are not having fun in class, then activities need to be modified. Similarly, if the majority of students vote that the game was a 4 or a 3, it will be repeated.

After we vote, I ask the students to take a look around and see how their classmates felt about the activity. I like to do this because it helps students understand that their opinion may lie outside the majority, and because the vote informs my practice. **I believe the transparency of this process helps build trust, community and a learning environment where students feel like their opinion matters.** The voting process also allows me a platform to have the discussion with my students about the fact that every day is not going to be a favorite, and a high level of effort is expected regardless. **This lesson about games in physical education is certainly an allegory for adult life! Every day is not a 4!**

I often follow-up with students who rate an activity with a 1 or a 2 and gather specific feedback about why they disliked the game and solicit suggestions for improvement. Frequently, a low rating comes from the perception that others were not playing fair or due to other interpersonal conflicts, and not the game or activity itself. I do, however, often get useful suggestions from students about how a game or activity might be improved and regularly implement recommendations into practice.

Teachers are encouraged to include **student voice** in their practice, and while I certainly don’t run a completely democratic process in my classroom, **this formative assessment of satisfaction empowers my students and creates a more harmonious classroom, engaged learners and a happy teacher.**

### Are Cheetahs getting stronger?

Those of you who have been reading the *Chatter* regularly for a while know that in 2015-2016, we made a big commitment to getting physically stronger and improving our push-up test scores. Last year, we had a daily practice in P.E. of performing some kind of exercise related to upper body muscular strength. I spoke regularly to students about things they could be doing outside of class to improve muscular strength and communicated home with parents about our goal. Not surprisingly, Cheetahs got significantly stronger last year, with the average push-up score moving from 4.8 push-ups per student to 8.9 for fourth-sixth grade students; a huge improvement.



# Cheetah Notes

We recently completed our first round of push-up tests and have slipped a little on our muscular strength as a school. **Our fall 2016 average for sixth grade students is 7.3 (down from 9.4), fifth grade students averaged 7.2 (down from 8.3), and fourth grade students' average was 4.9.**

I feel like the decline in scores can be explained in a couple ways:

**First, a long summer break away from Mr. Alford and from a regular practice of burpies and push-ups.** The human body (especially when young) is extremely adaptive to exercise and responds quickly to stimulus. I promised students last year that I could help to make them stronger in just a couple minutes of focused work each day and delivered on my words. It is my guess that kids didn't practice their push-ups at a great frequency over the summer.

**Secondly, we have been doing less push-ups and muscular strength exercise in P.E. this year.** My sixth grade survey results from September indicated that push-ups and burpies were one of the least liked activities in my class last year. In response, I backed off quite a bit on the fitness focus during the first semester and have been spending much more time on large group games with students (indicated as a student preference in my survey).

It is difficult for me to watch my students lose ground on physical fitness and slip below the healthy fitness zones for muscular strength. While student preferences are, and should be, a driving force in the gymnasium, at times teachers need to make choices about curriculum that help students grow in the right direction. I have pride in saying that Cheetahs are the strongest kids in Shoreline, and muscular strength is important to overall health and fitness. ***As we move into the second semester of school, we need to start spending some class time working on proving that Cheetahs are strong!***

Thank you,  
Matt Alford, Physical Education Specialist  
[matt.alford@shorelineschools.org](mailto:matt.alford@shorelineschools.org)

## From the Health Office

### Too Sick for School?

You may be facing the question, "Is my child too sick for school?" Please keep your child home if they exhibit any of the following symptoms (which may indicate that your child is contagious):



- **Fever** (above 100.0 degrees F)
- **Diarrhea**
- **Vomiting**
- **Thick mucus draining from the eye or nose**
- **Inability to contain secretions**, unable to reliably cough or sneeze in elbow
- **Sore throat** if combined with fever or swollen neck glands
- **Rashes** unrelated to heat or other known non-communicable causes
- **Unusual tiredness, paleness, lack of appetite, or irritability**

Students should remain home until they are **symptom free for 24 hours** before returning to school. Without any of these warning signs, the question becomes whether or not your child feels well enough to function comfortably at school.

Any questions? Please contact:  
Tama Leahy, RN  
Meridian Park Nurse  
(206) 393-4124  
[tama.leahy@shorelineschools.org](mailto:tama.leahy@shorelineschools.org)

***The Health Office needs plastic bags! Many wet clothes are sent home with students this time of year. If you have grocery-sized bags that you are willing to donate, please bring them in to the Health Office. Thank you!***

✦ **Please remember to notify the school any time your child will be late or absent.** Call the office at (206) 393-4252 or email [jill.gwazdauskas@shorelineschools.org](mailto:jill.gwazdauskas@shorelineschools.org) to provide a reason for the absence.

# Cheetah Notes

## Families, Feelings, Friends, and Fun

What with lessons, sports, homework, playdates, and extended family, it can be easy for families to overlook the importance of simply enjoying each other's company, get off the screens, or play a simple game together.

If your child seems extra cranky, sad, or uncooperative lately, you might want to do a parenting check-in with yourself. The following are some questions to consider:



***Are there areas of your child's life where they have some control?***

If not, what are age-appropriate areas in which they can make some decisions?

(Examples: Dinner once a week? How to spend family time on the weekend? Whether to continue with a certain after-school activity this year?)

***Does your child get to spend time with you during which he or she is not being evaluated in some way?***

That is, when you are not saying "good job, bad job" or their equivalents, but just listening, watching, and enjoying? Maybe saying "I love watching you play," during a soccer game rather than remarking on the quality or quantity of the play. Maybe playing a game they choose without commenting about them other than how nice it is to spend time together.

***Does your child overhear the adults in the household fighting with and yelling at each other?***

I hear repeatedly from children about how hard and sometimes frightening that is for them. You don't have to stop fighting, but a few words of acknowledgement or reassurance can go a long way to help a child feel safer. For example "Sorry you are overhearing this. We still love each other, we're just working some things out." Or "This fight doesn't mean we are getting a divorce." (Children worry about that!) Or "That was a big fight your folks had last night, wasn't it? How are you doing?"

***Do you pay more attention to your phone than to your child?***

Maybe not, but it may seem that way to the child. Several students have told me "My parent doesn't really want to talk to me/play with me. They are mostly on their phone with their friends or playing a game." Check in with your child about their perceptions about this. I don't think anyone wants their child to grow up feeling like they were a lower priority than a screen!

Is Ms. Annie trying to make everyone feel guilty?

Absolutely NOT! I have no idea what actually happens in people's homes, but since I have the privilege of hearing how children perceive things, I wanted to share it with you.

Also, over nearly 30 years of working with families, I have ONLY heard of positive results when parents start spending fun, non-evaluative time with their children, when they become more intentional about making sure their children have some decision-making power, and when they acknowledge difficult interactions.

Best wishes for fun family time over our December break.

Annie Gage, MSW  
Family Advocate  
(206) 393-1768

[annie.gage@shorelineschools.org](mailto:annie.gage@shorelineschools.org)



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# PTSA President's Letter

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Hello Everyone!

Our PTSA has been hard at work! If you would like more information regarding these action items, please email the contacts listed. We can always use more volunteers!

Our **Family Movie Night** on November 18th was such a success! We are planning another event early next year. [mpptsapresident@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsapresident@gmail.com)

**Reflections** winners at Meridian Park have been announced and art work is hanging in the school. [tiffgm@comcast.net](mailto:tiffgm@comcast.net)

Our **Art Docents** have finished the Frida Kahlo project; can't wait to see what's next! [cyandell@gmail.com](mailto:cyandell@gmail.com)

**Food Drive** is starting up! **Oatmeal and healthy cereal is the Meridian Park donation.** [sduthweiler@gmail.com](mailto:sduthweiler@gmail.com)

**PTSA funded Teacher Grants** are being awarded to the applications that were recently received and reviewed. [lee@washingtonstem.org](mailto:lee@washingtonstem.org)

**PTSA "Drive the Cheetah" Fundraiser** is still bringing in donations. We have raised **\$4,100 toward our goal of \$10,000 – Please donate if you can.** [mcrae.rhonda@gmail.com](mailto:mcrae.rhonda@gmail.com)

We are organizing an inventory and cleaning-out of the earthquake preparedness locker on January 28th from 9:00 a.m. - Noon. [mpptsavolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsavolunteers@gmail.com)

**PTSA Variety Show** auditions are coming up on December 13th and 15th. **Save the Date: Saturday, January 21, 2017 for the Variety Show at Shorewood High School at 6:30 p.m.** [margaretstapleton@hotmail.com](mailto:margaretstapleton@hotmail.com)

**PTSA Drama Club's** parent information meeting is on December 8th. [sduthweiler@gmail.com](mailto:sduthweiler@gmail.com)

**PTSA Yearbook Club** is starting for fifth and sixth graders. [marlalswans@gmail.com](mailto:marlalswans@gmail.com) and [moogie1221@gmail.com](mailto:moogie1221@gmail.com)

**PTSA Math Club** registration is closed for 2016-17. Our classes are pretty full and we have begun our preparations for contests. Thanks to everyone for your overwhelming interest and support. [mpmathclub@gmail.com](mailto:mpmathclub@gmail.com)

These are labors of love and generosity from the parents who run the programs for our school. If you see them in the hallways or on the sidewalk, give them all a big THANKS for their time and care. We all benefit from the atmosphere created by these clubs bringing us together. This is the goal of the PTSA, bringing our families together inside the school.

A special "Thank You" to [Julie Reinhardt](#) for putting together the most attended Fall Cultural/ Harvest Fest Meridian Park PTSA has ever held! The detailed organization of this event made it possible, and that was all Julie! The volunteers and all the community that attended made the event a wild success. Thank you to everyone for giving us your time and talent.

(cont...)

# PTSA News

## IMPORTANT NOTE:



Our Fall Fundraiser – Drive the Cheetah – has not gained traction with our community. We are behind our goal and have a couple of tough choices to make.

As a PTSA, we have two choices in this situation:

- 1) Try to do another fundraiser early in the spring, or
- 2) Cut our budget and programs offered at Meridian Park.

We will be discussing these choices at the **January 10th** Board of Directors and General Membership Meeting. **SAVE THE DATE.** Come and give your input. Let us know what you would like us to do. Tell us why you think our fundraiser wasn't effective. Give us your ideas for fundraising. We don't want to reduce our spending – ***we want to do more, not less!*** Email me anytime: [mpptsapresident@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsapresident@gmail.com).

On behalf of our whole team, ***thank you so much*** for all you do!

Callie Steward

MP PTSA President 2016-2017

[mpptsapresident@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsapresident@gmail.com)

(206) 380-9640

<https://www.facebook.com/MeridianParkPTSA/>



## Meridian Park PTSA Variety Show – Coming Soon!



Did you know... **Meridian Park's Got Talent??!!**

Do you have an act that no one can top? Can you keep an audience entertained? Have you ever wanted a chance to be an Emcee at an awesome venue? Then be ready to audition for the **2017 Variety Show!**

**Auditions** – Tuesday, December 13 and Thursday, December 15, 2016  
(Meridian Park Band and Music Rooms)

**Mandatory Dress Rehearsal** – Friday, January 20, 2017 (Shorewood H.S. Auditorium)

**Talent Show** – Saturday, January 21, 2017 (Shorewood H.S. Auditorium)

**Parents** – We could use a hand with supervising at the auditions, rehearsal, and the performance. If you are interested in learning more or if you have any questions, please contact Margaret Stapleton at [margaretstapleton@hotmail.com](mailto:margaretstapleton@hotmail.com).

## Support the PTSA When You Shop at Amazon.com

Use the following link whenever you connect to Amazon.com, and a portion of every dollar you spend on eligible items will be donated to the Meridian Park PTSA. There is no cost to you, and you'll feel good about supporting our school while you shop! Search for Meridian Park PTSA on AmazonSmile, or copy this link into your browser: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-1609258>

Happy shopping, and thanks for your support! For more information about AmazonSmile, go to: <http://smile.amazon.com/about>



# Resources for Families

## Meridian Park Elementary

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

**David Tadlock** *Principal*  
[david.tadlock@shorelineschools.org](mailto:david.tadlock@shorelineschools.org)

**Julie Harris** *Instr Coach/Admin Intern*

**Hillery Clark** *Dir of Early Learning*

**Diane Randall** *Office Manager*

**Jill Gwazdauskas** *Registrar*

**Tama Leahy** *School Nurse*

**Katie McCain** *Counselor*

**Annie Gage** *Family Advocate*

## 2016–2017 MP PTSA Executive Committee

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

**Callie Steward** *President*  
[mpptsapresident@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsapresident@gmail.com)

**Rhonda McRae** *Secretary*  
[mpptsasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsasecretary@gmail.com)

**Joy Rieke** *Treasurer*  
[mpptsatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsatreasurer@gmail.com)

**Mary Webb** *VP Clubs/Programs*  
[mpptsavpprograms@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsavpprograms@gmail.com)

**OPEN** *VP Events*  
[mpptsavpevents@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsavpevents@gmail.com)

## Standing Committees

**Lee Lambert** *Grants*

**Adrienne Thompson** *Legislative*  
[mpptsalegislativechair@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsalegislativechair@gmail.com)

**Janet Shin & Nauko Grimlund** *Membership*  
[mpptsamemberships@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsamemberships@gmail.com)

**Linda Tsai & Diana Gray** *'Cheetah Chatter' Editors*  
[mpptsanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsanewsletter@gmail.com)

**Heather Sterling** *Webmaster*  
[mpptsawebsite@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsawebsite@gmail.com)

Follow the MP PTSA on Facebook



*Cheetah Chatter* is published monthly by  
**Meridian Park Elementary and  
the Meridian Park PTSA**

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

## Friday Food Bags

Aurora Nazarene Church, our neighbor across 175th Street, generously provides Meridian Park with Friday Food Bags. These are bags of child-friendly, easy-to-prepare foods that provide some assurance that all our students have enough to eat over the weekend. Please contact Annie Gage directly if you know of a Meridian Park student who might benefit from this service, if you would like your child to discreetly receive these bags, or if you have questions about the program.

Annie Gage, Family Advocate  
(206) 393-1768

[annie.gage@shorelineschools.org](mailto:annie.gage@shorelineschools.org)



## Community Resources List

The following is a list of community resources available to families throughout Shoreline Public Schools. To learn more, click on the program links below.

### [211 Resource Connections](#)

[Food4Kids Weekend Food Backpack Program](#)

[Hunger Intervention Program \(HIP\)](#)

[Back to School Consortium School Supplies](#)

[Holiday Baskets Gifts and Food Supplies](#)

[The WORKS \(clothing\)](#)

[Shoreline Community Care](#)

[International Community Health Services](#)

[Center for Human Services](#)

[ParentHelp 123](#)

[King County Homeless Housing Program](#)

# Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS)

School Counselor Fall 2016 Update

**PBIS** is a school-wide behavior system created through thoughtful planning and problem solving, incorporating proactive and direct teaching to ALL students. PBIS is modeled after a tiered support approach; with this you might hear language around Tier 1, 2, and 3, each providing progressively more support as needed by students.

At Meridian Park, we continue our PBIS work this year by focusing on the continuation of our Tier 1 supports and developing more Tier 2 supports. One example of a Tier 1 system is to clearly identify and teach positive behavior expectations throughout various school settings to ensure student success. Below is an example of direct teaching that happens with these expectations. If you hear your kids chanting "Go, Flush, Wash, Leave" when using the restroom (as I do with my office in the Kindergarten wing!), now you know where that language is coming from.

Other Tier 1 system supports include our Very Important Cheetah (VIC) lunch, which celebrates students modeling our monthly behavior themes, Cheetah Cheers and Classroom Paws, and self-manager badges.

## Meridian Park Behavior Expectations

I can be an MP learner.

Inside and outside,

I can be **respectful**, **responsible** and **safe**.

Hallway	Cafeteria	Playground	Bathrooms	Classroom	Bus	Arrival ~ Dismissal
<u>Looks Like:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single file</li> <li>• Right side</li> <li>• Hands to self</li> <li>• Hallway is clean</li> <li>• Self Manager badge or band</li> <li>• Hall pass</li> </ul>	<u>Looks Like:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walk</li> <li>• Raise hand to leave the table</li> <li>• Clean your area</li> <li>• Listen to the supervisors</li> <li>• Follow directions</li> </ul> <p>"Walk in, sit, eat, clean!"</p>	<u>Looks Like:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay inside playground areas</li> <li>• Be safe and respectful</li> <li>• Listen to supervisors and follow directions</li> <li>• Keep personal toys or items at home</li> </ul>	<u>Looks Like:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep the area clean and dry</li> <li>• Flush toilet</li> <li>• Wash hands</li> <li>• Put paper towels in the garbage</li> </ul> <p>"Go, flush, wash, leave!"</p>	<u>Looks Like:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be Safe</li> <li>• Be Respectful</li> <li>• Be Responsible</li> <li>• Track the speaker</li> <li>• Thinking on topic</li> <li>• Organized work space</li> <li>• Sitting up with feet down</li> <li>• Persistence</li> <li>• Participation</li> </ul>	<u>Looks Like:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meridian Park expectations apply</li> <li>• Stay in your seat with a safe body</li> <li>• Follow bus driver's directions at all times</li> <li>• School items remain in your backpack</li> <li>• Safe and prompt walking to and from the bus</li> </ul>	<u>Looks Like:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrive at 9:00 am (unless on patrol, in a club, or eating breakfast)</li> <li>• Make safe choices</li> <li>• Walk</li> <li>• Stand in line</li> <li>• Hands and feet to self</li> </ul>
<u>Sounds Like:</u> Level 0-1 voice	<u>Sounds Like:</u> Level 1-2 voice	<u>Sounds Like:</u> Level 2-3 voice	<u>Sounds Like:</u> Level 1 voice	<u>Sounds Like:</u> Level 0-1-2 voice	<u>Sounds Like:</u> Level 1-2 voice	<u>Sounds Like:</u> Level 2 voice in all

### Voice Levels

Level 0: No talking

Level 1: Quiet talking, close to your neighbor

Level 2: Regular talking voice (across the table from neighbor)

Level 3: Loud voice (for playground)



### Food Drive

The Shoreline PTA Council is partnering with the Shoreline Fire Department, Hopelink, Rotary Club of Lake Forest Park, the City of Shoreline, and Dale Turner Family YMCA to put on the Holiday Baskets drive. The purpose is to provide quality food & gift support to Shoreline School District families needing assistance this holiday season.

The 2016 Shoreline PTA Council Holiday Baskets drive will run from **December 6 – December 16, 2016**. All donations will be distributed to families on **December 17<sup>th</sup>**. We rely on your contributions of non-perishable food items and teen gift cards to make this special event a success! Our schools collect a wide variety of quality food to support families over winter break, and, in addition, a specific item is assigned to each local unit to ensure that healthy meal basics are in each of the Holiday Baskets boxes given to the families.

**Our school's assigned item: OATMEAL/HEALTHY CEREAL**

**Goal: 500 items**

### Teen Gifts

As part of the Holiday Baskets drive, the Shoreline PTA Council coordinates the collection of teen gifts for Teens & Tweens ages 10-18yrs through the Shoreline School District, Hopelink, the Rotary Club of Lake Forest Park, the City of Shoreline, and Dale Turner Family YMCA. This is complemented by the Shoreline Fire Department's collection of toys for children ages 0-9 yrs.

Our goal is to provide a gift card (\$15-\$25) for each of our Tweens and Teens needing support. We rely on your donations to make this happen. You may drop donations off at "The WORKS" on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., send your items to school along with your food drive donations, or deliver them to Kellogg Middle School on Friday, Dec. 16th after 3:30PM.

Families needing help with holiday food and gifts should contact their Family Advocate or register online at Eventbrite. In the "search for event" field, enter "Holiday Baskets."

Any monetary donations should be made payable to: Shoreline PTA Council (note "Holiday Baskets - Food") and mailed to: Shoreline PTA Council 6.12, PO Box 55832, Shoreline, WA 98155. All monetary donations are tax deductible with receipts provided upon request.

For more information, or to **donate using PayPal**, go to: [www.shorelinepta.com](http://www.shorelinepta.com) and click on Holiday Baskets.

To volunteer to help at the event, go to SignUp.com @ <http://signup.com/go/EZw13j> or email [shorelineptahbf@gmail.com](mailto:shorelineptahbf@gmail.com)

**Thank you so much for your support!**

