

Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA

Curriculum Night: September 15

At Curriculum Night you will have the opportunity to make a connection with your child's teacher, build a better understanding of what your child will be learning this year, and discover ways that you can support your child at home.

6:00 p.m. - 6:40 p.m. – **Grades 4-6**
 6:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – **PTSA Open House** in the Library
 7:05 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. – **Grades K-3**

Highly Capable Fall New and Moved In Testing

For those students who moved in to the district this summer and are registered to attend a Shoreline Public Schools school for the 2016-17 school year, the registration window is now open! Students who moved into the district from July 9, 2016 to September 16, 2016 are eligible to register for this.

The window will close on September 16, 2016. If you are interested in this program or want to register for testing, please visit our website at : <http://www.shorelineschools.org/highlycapable.com>.

Kindergarteners: WaKIDS Non-Student Days

This school year, all Shoreline kindergarten classrooms will have 3 additional non-student (no school) days to implement the family connections component of the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) (<http://www.k12.wa.us/WaKIDS/pubdocs/WhatIsWaKIDS.pdf>).

Individual meetings between teachers and families on those days will provide an opportunity for families and kindergarten teachers to meet and work together to help children be successful in school.

Shoreline School District Now Accepting Emergency Substitute Teachers

Shoreline Public Schools is experiencing a shortage of teacher substitutes. The district will be requesting the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to issue emergency substitute certificates to individuals who do not hold the appropriate teacher certification, but otherwise meet the district's employment qualifications.

You must have a four-year degree from an accredited university to apply. Experience working with youth in an instructional or supervisory setting is preferred, but not required.

Please note: The emergency certification process may take up to 8 weeks and has processing fees associated which are the applicant's responsibility.

For more information regarding the Emergency Teaching Certification process, please contact Jackie Sullivan, Substitute Coordinator, HR at jackie.sullivan@shorelineschools.org or (206) 393-4224.

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Upcoming Events

September 13

PTSA Meeting
 7:00 p.m.
 MP Library

September 14

Principal "Meet and Greet" and New Family Tour
 9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
 MP main entrance foyer

September 15

Curriculum Night
 6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

September 16

WaKIDS Non-Student Day
Kindergarteners - No School

September 23

Staff Appreciation Luncheon
 Noon

September 23

Early Dismissal

September 26

Non-Student Work Day
No School

September 27

Picture Day

September 30

WaKIDS Non-Student Day
Kindergarteners - No School

October 3

Shoreline Hi Cap Advocacy Group Fall Meeting
 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
 Shoreline Conference Center

October 4

PTSA Board of Directors Meeting
 7:00 p.m.
 MP Library

Cheetah Cheers

7th Annual Shoreline Classic Car Show

The **7th Annual Shoreline Classic Car Show** was a huge success! This event generated a net profit of approximately **\$7,500** for the Meridian Park PTSA. The MP PTSA, in conjunction with the Greenwood Knights Car Club, produced this Seafair-sanctioned event with support from many local sponsors. In addition to the autos, the show included an appearance by Lance Lambert, and entertainment was provided by Elvis impersonator Danny Vernon who put on a terrific show! Local vendors sold food and services. **Thank you** to all of the sponsors, exhibitors, and visitors to this year's show — your support means so much and every Meridian Park Elementary student will benefit from your generosity! ***A very loud Cheetah Cheer to Marty, Holly, Mariana, and Melissa DeGrazia who helmed this event for the seventh time!***



Photos courtesy of Molly Nordstrand

A **huge thank you** to all of the volunteers who made this event such a success:

Kim Ositis
 Krista Keller
 Jill Steinberg
 Dana and Jade Doerksen
 Kelly and Brandon Main
 Romha Bereket
 Rhonda, Jillian, and Kyle McRae
 Jose Luis Gandara
 Luann Majeed
 Dixie Taira
 Anna and Maria Babcock
 Alemnesh Teshome
 Liyat Shenkute

Lily Bradford
 Misrak and Hirna Mellsie
 Molly Nordstrand
 Anthony Mao
 Yuzhen Li
 Naode Mehari
 Saoirse and Margaret McNulty
 Marty, Holly, Mariana and Melissa DeGrazia
 Matt Haltiner
 Jay Reyes
 Lexi Yamane
 Joe and Anton LaBore

We apologize if we missed anyone!

Back to School BBQ

The Back to School BBQ was a **great success**! Thanks to all the attending families, **the potluck was amazing**! The PTSA served about **800 hotdogs**!

Special thanks to the team:

Matt Simerson
 Matt McNulty
 Tricia Norton
 Margaret Stapleton
 Susan Duthweiler
 Jeff Steward
 Lee Lambert

Kris McRea
 Jordan Hillyard
 Luann Majeed
 Julie Reinhardt
 Meghan Jernigan
 Naomi Hillyard

Christine DenHerder
 Janet Shin
 Nauko Grimlund
 Rhonda McRae
 Raif Majeed
 Laura Hungerford

Principal's Letter



Dear Families,

I hope you had a wonderful summer and welcome back to a fantastic new year. I am honored to be your principal at our amazing school. I am a dedicated career educator, and this is my fourth year at MP. My daughter is a junior at WWU, and my son a senior at Nathan Hale H.S. They and MP keep me busy!

Special welcome to our Kindergarten families to Kinder Land in the 300 Wing — we are so glad you're a Cheetah! We also welcome many new families in Grades 1-6. We look forward to meeting you.

Tadlock Tip #1

Now is a great time for families to establish consistent daily routines. Set up a fun and positive routine before and after school. On the weekends, take time to play and exercise together — both bodies and minds. Please play outside and read together each day! Limit screen time. I encourage all young Cheetahs to be positive self-managers and help out around the house.

We are a big school this year and we appreciate your patience with the parking lot, buses, and all your many questions. We are committed to getting your needs and questions answered quickly and positively. Things will settle down very soon.

Big thanks to Marty DeGrazia and team for the best Car Show ever in July. Thank you also to Callie Steward and our awesome PTSA for a great BBQ and all your work and support. We welcome a fantastic group of new staff to MP, and we hope you will be involved in our school this year. ***Go Cheetahs!***

David Tadlock, Principal

david.tadlock@shorelineschools.org

Staff Update

Ms. Ahron – Kindergarten
Ms. Gino – Kindergarten
Ms. Ildiri – Kindergarten
Ms. Bachicha-Wells – Grades 2/3
Ms. Rudberg – Fifth Grade
Ms. Clark – First Grade Hi-Cap
Ms. Raki – Grades 5/6 Hi-Cap
Ms. Chalcraft – Title Support

Ms. Sullivan – ELL Support
Ms. Thomas – ELL Support
Ms. Smith – P.E.
Mr. Wade – Orchestra
Ms. Shellman – Para-Educator
Ms. McCain – Counselor
Mr. Ventus – Custodian
Ms. Harris – Instructional Coach and Admin Intern

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 MP 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.

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.

Shoreline E-Flyers

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

Breakfast and Lunch

School breakfasts **\$1.75**; lunches **\$3.00** (\$0.50 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.

Publication of Student Names and 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

[Skyward Family Access](#) and other programs is great for parents to check student information, lunch accounts, email, math, and other programs. **Access will begin around 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.**

Meridian Park Elementary Daily Schedule

Breakfast Begins	8:45 a.m. (<i>Patrol 8:40 ok</i>)		
School Bus Arrival	8:55 a.m.		
Students Line Up at Rooms	9:00 a.m.	Early Dismissal	11:45 a.m.
Doors Open	9:05 a.m. (<i>Bell</i>)	Bus	11:50 a.m.
Instruction	9:10 a.m. (<i>Bell</i>)		
Attendance	9:30 a.m.	Dismissal	3:30 p.m.
Lunch Money	10:00 a.m.	Bus	3:35 p.m.
Recess/Lunch Block (50 minute blocks)			
Grade	Recess	Lunch	Classroom
Kindergarten	11:00-11:20 a.m.	11:20-11:45 a.m.	11:50 a.m.
Grades 1-2	11:30-11:50 a.m.	11:50-12:15 p.m.	12:20 p.m.
Grades 3-4 & 2-3 Combo	12:00-12:20 p.m.	12:20-12:45 p.m.	12:50 p.m.
Grades 5-6	12:30-12:50 p.m.	12:50-1:15 p.m.	1:20 p.m.
AM & PM Recess (15 minutes)			
Grades 5-6	10:45-11:00 a.m.		
Kindergarten	1:30-1:45 p.m.		
Grades 1-2	2:00-2:15 p.m.		
Grades 3-4	2:15-2:30 p.m.		

Meridian Park News

Skating Party - Thursday, October 20th from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Join your classmates for the first MP skating party of the year at **Lynnwood Bowl & Skate, 6210 200th Street SW, Lynnwood**. Admission is **\$6.50** which includes quad skate rental. Pay an additional \$3.00 for inline skates. Parents are encouraged to participate. No drop-offs allowed. Feel free to bring your helmet. Hope to see you there!



Please note that the next skating party dates will be on December 1, February 9, and March 30. Flyers will be sent home through kid mail.

Submitted by Susan Duthweiler

Volunteers Needed!

Hurray to an exciting school year ahead! Meridian Park is a vibrant place for our students to learn. Your help and involvement will make that experience more impactful for all. From visiting your classroom once a week, possibly reading out loud or facilitating small groups in science experiments, or perhaps welcoming other parents at festivals, getting excited with kids at the Book Fair, etc.... there are so many ways parents and community members can be involved at our school. Keep an eye out for the **Volunteer Survey** in your back-to-school packets to indicate how you can get involved! Email Volunteer Coordinator **Kris McRea** at mpptsavolunteers@gmail.com for more information. Thank you!

Submitted by Kris McRea

Staff Appreciation Luncheon – September 23

Welcome back, everyone! I bet you've noticed the fresh bulletin boards, pristine classrooms, and the feeling of excitement in the air this week, right? Thanks to our fabulous teachers who've been putting in extra time to make the first weeks of school a success... and we don't want that to go unnoticed!

Each year, the MPTSA organizes a few appreciation events to thank our teachers and staff for their outstanding service. Our first event is a **"Sandwich and Salad Lunch"** on **Friday, September 23**. If you can bring something to contribute, please sign up here <http://www.perfectpotluck.com/meals.php?t=VMXB0027>. We'd also love to recruit some new (or old :O) parents to help us plan future events. It's easy, fun, and doesn't take much time. If you're interested, please send **Laura Hungerford** an email at hungerfordfamily@gmail.com.

Submitted by Laura Hungerford

Box Tops for Education™

Welcome back to school! My name is **Suzy Cowgill**, and I am 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 **\$819** from those box tops you collected and turned in! This money is used to support PTSA programs like the Back to School BBQ. Please collect and send in those box tops, and let's reach the \$1,000 goal! You can either submit them in an envelope, plastic bag, or attach Box Tops to a **Box Top flyer**.

For more information on Box Tops, including a list of participating products, go to **BTFE.com**. Be sure to sign up as a member (it's free!) so you can check out our school's earnings details and get access to coupons and bonus offers.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at suzykagaycowgill@gmail.com or **(206) 353-8934**. Thanks for your support!

Submitted by Suzy Cowgill

Cheetah Notes

Notes from the Music Department

Dear Meridian Park Cheetah Parents and Students,

WELCOME TO MUSIC 2016-2017!

I am excited to welcome your children to general music class! In a balanced, varied music curriculum, students participate and grow musically through experiences in singing, games, movement, listening, rhythms, and playing instruments. At a developmentally appropriate pace, students learn about theory, harmony, form, style, music history, and world music. Students are encouraged to create music and express their feelings musically through exploring sound, improvising, and composing.

Music Class Rules

The school's philosophy and expectations for student behavior will be followed in the music classroom. Students will be working for excellent behavior with the following specific goals:

- Be Respectful** of the teacher, others, instruments and equipment.
- Be a Responsible** music student, always join in, and always learn.
- Be Safe.** Keep yourself, others, and equipment safe.

Performances

On **Thursday, May 25**, 2nd and 4th grade classes will perform at the **Meridian Park Arts Festival**.

Please put this date on your family calendar now, as spring calendars fill up fast. You won't want to miss it! All 6th grade will sing at the **Winter Sing-Along** at 9:30 a.m. on **Tuesday, December 20**, and at the **6th Grade "Moving On"** program at 9:30 a.m. on **Thursday, June 22**. Meridian Park students will also sing in several other assemblies and performances, such as Veteran's Day in November, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January. 6th grade students have additional performances with Honor Choir, Band, and Orchestra festivals.



Recorders

All 4th and 5th grade students will study soprano recorder. Please see separate letter for ordering information. 6th grade students continue to use the recorder as part the classroom instrument ensemble. All 4th, 5th, and 6th grade classes will keep their recorders in the music room, but may bring them home over longer vacations.

Instrumental Music

5th and 6th grade students study instrumental music in the band and strings programs. You will receive information about those programs from the instrumental teachers, **Mr. Dennis Ashbrook**, band teacher, and **Mr. Nick Wade**, string orchestra teacher.

Throughout the year, look for music highlights, events, and performance updates in the PTSA/school newsletters, and on the website (<http://learn.shorelineschools.org/meridianpark/sanderson>).

We look forward to the wonderful year ahead, and to sharing the joy of music with your children!

Ms. Shari Anderson and Mr. John Hendrix
General Music Teachers

Cheetah Notes

Notes from the Library Media Center

Greetings from the Meridian Park Library Media Center!

Welcome to the 2016–2017 school year in the Meridian Park Library! With over 600 students this year, we are going to be busy reading, checking out many fabulous books, and learning how to access and use information in the 21st century! 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. There is no student supervision in the library before school begins in the morning. After school, students may stop by the library to return, renew, and check out new books. Parents can also check out books from the MP library. Please stop by at any time to set up an account for yourself.

As I do every year, I will run the **Sasquatch and Young Readers Choice (YRC)** chapter book award programs for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders, and the **Washington Children's Choice Picture Book (WCCPB)** award program for kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd 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-wonder* **Scholastic Fall Book Fair** on **Friday, November 18**. This year's theme is "**Bookaneer Book Fair**". 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 17. It will be an enjoyable event for everyone. Last year's one-day book fair was a huge success and a lot of fun. Book fair profits benefit all MP students through the purchase of new books and the support of author visits and other literacy events.



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.

The Library Staff

Jenny Hillger, Teacher/Librarian

This is my 13th year in the Meridian Park library, the best place in the whole school! I am so lucky to know and work with every single MP student. My greatest joys come from introducing students to new books, authors, and genres of literature, as well as helping students learn how to use information and research their favorite topics. I am a huge fan of Greek mythology, as well as legends, fairy tales, mysteries, adventures, fantasies, historical fiction, and poetry. I also love books that make me laugh. Mo Willems, Patricia Wrede, Carl Hiaasen, Jennifer Holm, Avi, Rick Riordan, and Patricia Polacco are just a few of my favorite authors.

Mike Adams, Library Technician

I could not run the library without Mr. Mike, library technician. Mr. Mike has worked in the library since 1998 and he knows everything! If you have a question, he has the answer. He is also a professional musician.

For more information about the MP library, policies, and activities, please visit the library website at: <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

P.E. News You Can Use

Greetings from Mr. Alford and welcome back from summer break! I am happy to be back at as your child's Physical Education Specialist for my 3rd year at Meridian Park Elementary, my 13th year in Shoreline Schools, and my 15th year in education. I had wonderful break spent playing outside and sharing time with my wife, Jenny, and one year-old daughter, Ruby. I am very excited about the upcoming year and continuing to build on a strong tradition of health and fitness at Meridian Park. I look forward to working with your children and building relationships in our community.

MP Parent Survey Results

Near the end of the 2015-2016 school year, I conducted a survey of Meridian Park parents to gauge attitudes and opinions about the P.E. Program at Meridian Park. I advertised the survey in the *Cheetah Chatter*, the Friday Email Blast, and the MP Facebook Page.

I received **61 responses** to my survey. While I would have certainly liked to have a larger data pool, I really appreciate all that took the time to complete the survey and feel good about the sample size.

My child talks about the activities that he/she participates in during P.E.

Strongly agree:	64.4 %
Moderately agree:	27.1 %
Moderately disagree:	1.7 %
Strongly disagree:	6.8 %

My child enjoys P.E. at Meridian Park.

Strongly agree:	69.5 %
Moderately agree:	22.0 %
Moderately disagree:	5.0 %
Strongly disagree:	3.5 %

The P.E. program at Meridian Park offers a wide and developmentally appropriate range of activities for my child.

Strongly agree:	60.3 %
Moderately agree:	32.8 %
Moderately disagree:	3.7 %
Strongly disagree:	3.2 %

Mr. Alford communicates effectively with me about concerns with my child.

Strongly agree:	36.4 %
Moderately agree:	38.2 %
Moderately disagree:	16.4 %
Strongly disagree:	9.1 %

I understand how my child is graded in P.E.

Strongly agree:	33.9 %
Moderately agree:	39.0 %
Moderately disagree:	16.9 %
Strongly disagree:	10.2 %

I receive adequate information about what is being taught to my child in P.E.

Strongly agree:	27.6 %
Moderately agree:	34.5 %
Moderately disagree:	27.6 %
Strongly disagree:	10.3 %

I read the monthly P.E. column in the Cheetah Chatter.

Always:	47.5 %
Sometimes:	40.7 %
Never:	11.9 %

Are there additional comments/concerns you would share? What changes would you like to see in the P.E. program at Meridian Park?

(Selected comments and responses here; Full results can be viewed outside the gym doors in the hallway)

Comment: Sometimes my daughter comes home very depressed on performance and the amount of discouragement she receives from you and other students. She works very hard in everything she does and it is sad that she is not having more fun and positive encouragement on what she can do vs. what she cannot do effectively.

Mr. Alford: I am really sorry to hear that your daughter is having a negative experience in P.E. It is my goal that all of my students feel safe in my class to try without fear of being discouraged by others or me in the class. It would be very helpful if you got in contact with me personally and gave specific examples of when and where this is occurring. It is my goal to improve as a teacher and if one student doesn't feel that I am supportive of his/her growth and development, then I need to address the issue. Please get in touch so we can work on fixing this.

Comment: More Frisbee!

Mr. Alford: Frisbee will be on the curriculum this year. ;-)

Cheetah Notes

P.E. News You Can Use (cont.)

Comment: More dance!

Mr. Alford: *We spent quite a bit of time on dance in 2015-2016, and you can expect that trend to continue in 2016-2017. We'll pick up with the "PE Whip" and "Nae & Nae" first and onto "Thriller" again in the month of October!*

Comment: It would be good to start the kids off with correct forms in the exercises; in this way, they'll carry this with them for life.

Mr. Alford: *Boy, I feel like the "form police" when it comes to exercises that I teach the kids! That said, I need to balance my desire for perfection with the fact that I work with children. Too much feedback to kids about strict form can be a bit discouraging. Please get in touch with me with your concerns.*

Comment: Would like better communication about the curriculum.

Mr. Alford: *Survey results indicate that this is a concern of many parents and it is my goal to do a better job with this in 2016-2017.*

Comment: It is really disturbing that not once did you reach out to us and communicate any issues our child might have had during his second semester in your class. The last day of school you send a note with five complaints/issues for his report card? Unreal...

Mr. Alford: *I appreciate the honest feedback. Without knowing the circumstances of this specific situation it is difficult for me to address, but I can provide an explanation of how I assess students with regards to "Behavior to Support Learning". There are three marks a student can receive on a report card: **M**(meets standard), **W**(working toward standard), and **N**(needs improvement). By, far most students receive an M in this category, many students receive a W, and a small minority receive an N. When a student receives a W, it shouldn't be an indication for alarm. It simply means that your son/daughter has a couple things they need to improve with regards to behavior. I send home the supplemental sheet with specific comments so you have an indication of what your child needs to work on. As I have close to 600 students, the progress report may be the first time you have heard from me about behaviors that your child is Working (W) on improving. That said, if your child receives an N (needs improvement) on the progress report, it should not come as a surprise. An N is the result of ongoing behavioral concerns that your child is failing to demonstrate progress in, and you definitely should have had communication from the school about these concerns. If I failed in this circumstance, I apologize and encourage you to get in touch with me so you feel that your concerns are addressed, and we can move forward in a productive way.*

Overall, it seems the main concerns with my teaching is communication with my community about curriculum standards, student expectations, and behavioral concerns. This is an area of growth for me as an educator, and I make the commitment to improving in this area. That said, I will have over 600 students this year and my time is finite. ***Please take the time to read my column in the Cheetah Chatter, as many of your questions about the Meridian Park Physical Education program will be answered here.*** I also appreciate your patience with regards to the time frame in which I respond to email. Please allow 24 hours for me to acknowledge your communication, and follow-up if you have not received a response in that time frame.

Meridian Park Running Club

I am very excited to announce that Meridian Park Elementary School will be facilitating a running club for **4th-6th grade students** again this year. This is our 9th consecutive year of elementary running clubs in Shoreline, and we are thrilled about the strong tradition of health and fitness we are building in our schools. Meridian Park Running Club aims to be a fun and social experience centered on the sport of middle distance running. While we are preparing for a the **Fall Fun Run at Hamlin Park on November 2nd**, the more important focus of club is teaching your child how to take personal responsibility for his or her health in a supportive and safe atmosphere. Each practice will consist of paced running, general conditioning and some games involving running. **Mrs. Uran** and **Ms. Clark** will be coaching along with me this year.

Practices will be held on **Tuesday and Thursday mornings** from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. starting Tuesday, September 20th. Running Club will culminate with the Fall Fun Run on November 2nd at Hamlin Park. Further information concerning the Fun Run and field trip permission forms will be distributed the week of September 12th.



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

Cheetah Notes

Notes from the Counseling Office



Hi! My name is **Katie McCain** and I am the new school counselor at Meridian Park. I am so excited to join the great team here and continue the important work of supporting students in their social, emotional, and academic growth! I come to Meridian Park after working with middle school students in the Issaquah and Lake Washington school districts for the past five years. I think this experience will give me a unique perspective into my work with elementary students and will help me prepare students and families to be ready for middle and high school.

This is a new position in all of the elementary schools, and it will take time to learn how counselors can be a great resource. At Meridian Park, I will be working closely with our Family Advocate, **Annie Gage**, as well as with teachers and administrators to help determine the best way to support students and families. I also truly hope to integrate

parents/guardians into my conversations with and about students, as you are the experts about your students and often have many valuable ideas and information.

My role as a school counselor includes individual counseling with students (which is brief and school based in nature), small counseling groups based on a common need, and classroom guidance to teach larger social skills lessons (which might include Second Step, acceptance/empathy, respect, responsibility, and safety). I will also be on the leadership team of our school wide **Positive Behavior Intervention and Support** program, which is designed to integrate preventative and positive practices throughout the school and with all students. I so much look forward to starting this school year and am eager to meet as many families as possible.

I look forward to meeting you soon.

Katie McCain
School Counselor
katie.mccain@shorelineschools.org



PTSA President's Letter

Hello Parents!

Welcome back to school! My name is **Callie Steward**, and I have two children attending Meridian Park. I am excited to serve as the PTSA President this year.

The **PTSA** (Parent Teacher Student Association) does a lot of really amazing stuff at Meridian Park with help from busy parents just like you. In addition to our Back-to-School BBQ, we will also host several other events in September, such as our welcome coffees, Box Tops drive, a variety of before-and-after school programs, and a staff appreciation lunch on the 23rd. **WOW!** That is just September. Our organization is here to help and serve the students of Meridian Park in as many ways as we have volunteers to fill jobs.

Anyone and **Everyone** is welcome to come to our meetings which are the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., with a few exceptions. **September 13th is our first meeting.** We will meet in the **school library**. We will also have childcare lined up with the YMCA so you can bring your children. We have 5 general meetings each year (September, January, April, May, June) where we really need you and your vote! At the September 13th meeting, we will approve our budget for the year. Come and check us out, become a familiar face, find an opportunity to serve that fits you and your family, or better yet, create a new opportunity for the students of Meridian Park. **We couldn't do this without you!**

Stuff to Watch for...

Follow us on our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/MeridianParkPTSA/>

Would you like to have the **"PTSA Calendar of Events"** added to your smart phone? If you already use Google, go to **Google Calendar » add a friend's calendar »** search for **mpptsapresident@gmail.com**. This is the calendar that I use. I will do my best to keep this calendar updated with the Meridian Park schedule. A list of events during the coming months is below.

Walk with the PTSA! A weekly morning 20-minute walk after the bell rings (9:05 a.m.). Walk and talk school, PTSA, parenting, building teams, etc. Day of the week to be announced soon. **Starting in October.**

I look forward to meeting you. A personal goal that I have is to remember the names of new people that I meet, so let's talk! I invite you to join us and to be part of the PTSA, so that we can assist the school and students in being the very best that we can be.

Have a great year!

Callie Steward
MPPTSA President
mpptsapresident@gmail.com

Events Schedule - September and October 2016

September 2016

September 1: Back to School BBQ
September 7: Welcome Coffee
September 8: Welcome Coffee
September 13: PTSA Meeting
September 13: 2:30pm Back to School Assembly
September 15: Curriculum Night
September 22: 2:30pm Anti-Bullying Assembly
September 23: Early release
September 23: 12:00pm Teacher Luncheon
September 26: Non-Student Work Day
September 27: Picture Day

October 2016

October 4: PTSA BOD Meeting
October 12: Conferences - Early Dismissal
October 13: Teacher Appreciation Lunch
October 13: Conferences - Early Dismissal
October 14: ASB Walk-a-Thon, tentative
October 14: Conferences - Early Dismissal
October 20: School Skate Night @ Lynnwood Skate
October 27: Cultural Night & Fall Festival
October 31: Non-Student Work Day

PTSA News

Fall Harvest and Culture Fest

Parents and kids, we need your talents for **The Fall Harvest and Culture Fest** on **Thursday, October 27th** from **6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** in the MP cafeteria and gym!

Entertainment – We need **YOU** (or someone you know) for fun, low-pressure performances throughout the evening. Some suggestions:

- *Traditional Dance*
- *Jazz Band*
- *Cultural Music*
- *Martial Arts Demonstration*
- *Folk Song Performance*
- *Traditional Dress Fashion Show*
- *Read a Poem with Cultural Significance, or Translated from Another Language*

Culture Tables – Do you or your family have **origins from another country, state, or city**? Share it with your school! We provide the table and art display board, you provide the knowledge, trinkets, and activity or anything else you may have to share your heritage with attendees. Tables are hosted by families who want to showcase their culture, country, or heritage. At past events, families have brought traditional clothing, maps, photos, musical instruments, food packaging, and have taught a few words in their native language. The kids love visiting these tables and it's a great way for them to learn about other countries and cultures.



If you can help us, please e-mail **Julie Reinhardt** at julie@shesmoke.com

Join the Award-Winning MP Math Club!

Kids! Try this....

Add all the odd numbers from 1 to 25, including 1 and 25. What do you get?

Angela is 3 years older than Betty, who is 7 years younger than Charlie, who is 8 years older than Deron, who is 4 years younger than Evelyn, who is 11. How old is Angela?

Trina is driving her car at 30 miles per hour. How many minutes will she take to go 4 miles?

(extra challenge)

Harry lives in Gryffindor, Cedric lives in Hufflepuff, Cho lives in Ravenclaw, and Draco lives in Slytherin. One day, the Un-Sorter Hat assigns them to new houses. Every student goes to one of the four houses, no student stays in their original house, and no two students go to the same house. How many ways are there to assign the four students to the four houses, using these rules?

In Math Club, you'll learn how to take problems like these and solve them quickly. You'll practice math skills in club meetings and at home. Then you'll compete in math contests with your Meridian Park teammates! You'll go up against other students from around the district or around the world. Last year, we won many awards as individuals and as a team.

If you love math like we do, come join our club!

Who is eligible? Anyone in grades 3, 4, 5, or 6. Fees vary by grade.

When do we meet? Wednesday mornings, 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., in the school. Usually, each grade level meets in a different classroom.

Where can I learn more? Visit our website for more information, including registration forms, a detailed schedule, parent volunteer commitments, and answers to the problems above, visit www.mpmathclub.com. If you have more questions, you can email the Math Club Coordinator at mpmathclub@gmail.com.

Parents:

We need a coach for 5th grade! If you love math, the kids need you!

We will provide materials, curriculum, and mentorship; you provide your time and passion.

Visit www.mpmathclub.com/coach or contact mpmathclub@gmail.com to learn more, to volunteer, or to nominate someone who would be a great coach!

Community News

Meridian Park Elementary

www.shorelineschools.org/meridianpark/

David Tadlock *Principal*
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

Callie Steward *President*
mpptsapresident@gmail.com

Rhonda McRae *Secretary*
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Joy Rieke *Treasurer*
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Mary Webb *VP Clubs/Programs*
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OPEN *VP Events*
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Lee Lambert *Grants*

Adrienne Thompson *Legislative*
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Janet Shin & Nauko Grimlund *Membership*
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Linda Tsai & Diana Gray *'Cheetah Chatter' Editors*
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Heather Sterling *Webmaster*
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Follow the MP PTSA on Facebook

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

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Shorewood and Shorecrest High School PTSA Host Community Screening of Sundance-Selected Documentary "MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED"

Shorewood and Shorecrest PTSA invite parents, educators, community members, and students over 12 years old to a community screening of the acclaimed documentary *Most Likely to Succeed* about reimagining education.

The screening will take place at **3:00 p.m.** on **Sunday, September 25th** at the **Shoreline Center Auditorium**, 18560 1st Avenue NE, Shoreline, WA 98155. Admission will be \$5.00 either in advance via Brown Paper Tickets <http://mostlikelytosucceed.bpt.me>, or at the door. **All middle and high school students will be FREE at the door, no ticket purchase required.**

Childcare is available by reservation on Brown Paper Tickets <http://mostlikelytosucceed.bpt.me>.

The 90-minute film will be followed by a 45-minute panel discussion. We are honored to have a representative from the Shoreline School District and an innovative Shoreline teacher participate on the panel.

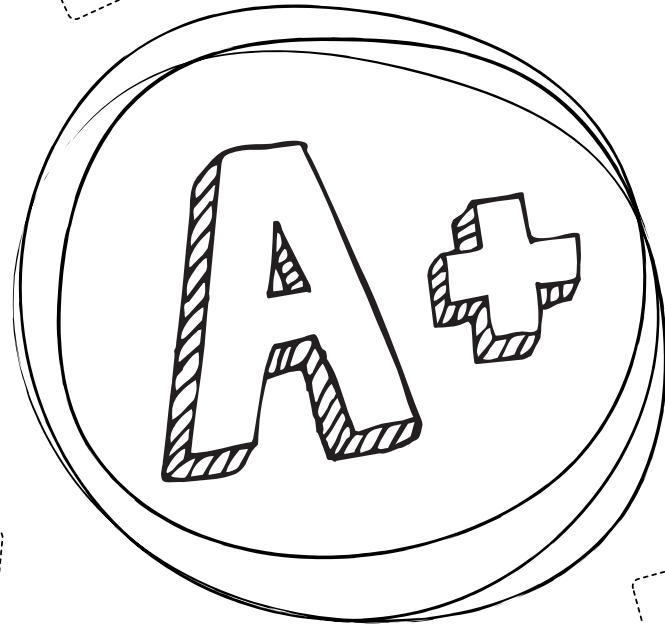
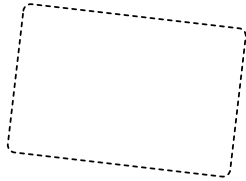
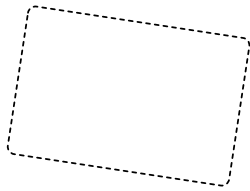
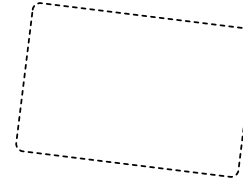
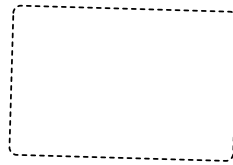
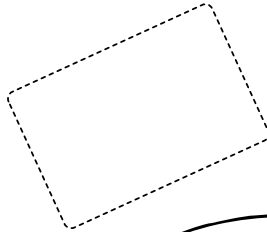
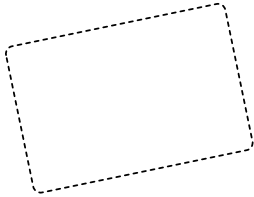
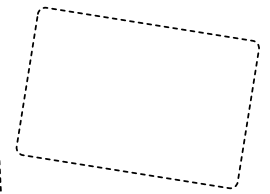
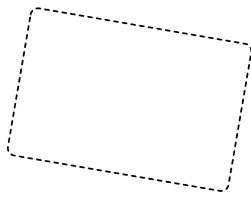
The acclaimed film *Most Likely to Succeed* offers an inspiring look at what students and teachers are capable of — if we have the vision and courage to transform our schools. Directed by acclaimed documentarian **Greg Whiteley**, the film has been an official selection of two dozen of the world's top film festivals, including Sundance and Tribeca. Audience members call it the most compelling film ever done on the topic of school. In the past year, more than 1,500 communities have booked a screening of *Most Likely to Succeed*.

The purpose of this event is to foster meaningful discussion among educators, administrators, parents, and students about how current obstacles can be overcome and steps towards change can be taken on a local level.

Please visit mltsfilm.org for a trailer and more information about the film.

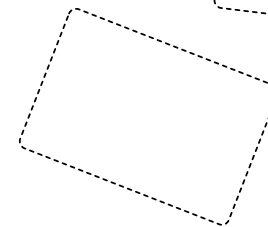
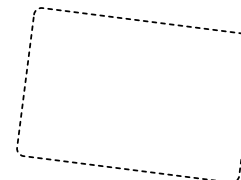
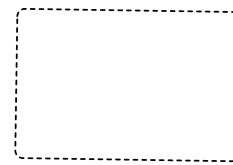
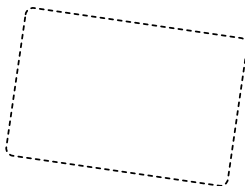
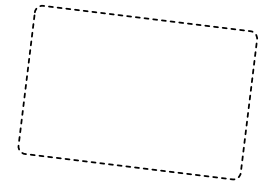
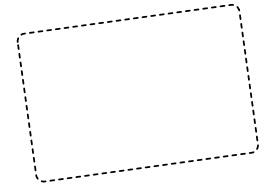
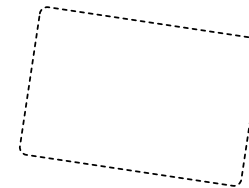
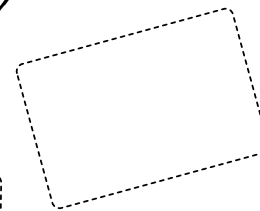
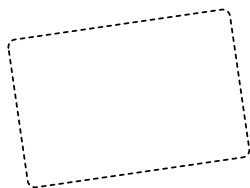
See event information on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1912339655659710/>

For additional information, please contact **Leslie Ray** at (206) 293-6825 or Leslie.Ray17@gmail.com.



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