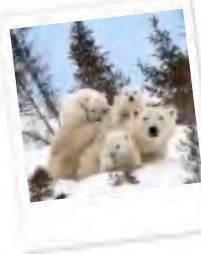


# Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA

## The Family Picture Project



Please join us in celebrating and honoring all of the families at Meridian Park. The PTSA and Meridian Park staff would like to invite all families to participate in our **Family Picture Project**. The goal is to fill our front foyer with pictures of our families. We are asking you to:

- Send a printed family photo with your child to school (one you might not get back) and write your name on the back
- Email a photo to [mpptsapresident@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsapresident@gmail.com)
- Bring your family to the school play on March 3rd or 4th and have a photo taken by us at our fun photo booth (Shorewood HS Theatre)

We hope to have all family photos ready for display **by Friday, March 24th**.



## Special Election: February 14th Bond Proposition

On Tuesday, February 14th, Shoreline and Lake Forest Park voters will consider a \$250 million school construction bond that will allow the school district to:

- Alleviate elementary overcrowding and prepare for state-funded class size reductions
- Provide learning environments to support student achievement
- Expand and enhance early learning opportunities
- Design new buildings to enhance school safety and security
- Capture an estimated 10 percent state match

Projects to be completed if the bond passes include:

- Constructing an Early Learning Center at the Shoreline Children's Center site to house tuition-based preschool, Head Start and Early Childhood Education
- Rebuilding Einstein Middle School
- Rebuilding Kellogg Middle School
- Rebuilding Parkwood Elementary School

For more information about the bond including presentations and brochures, please visit <http://www.shorelineschools.org/domain/1122>

**Please be sure to vote on February 14th!**

**Shoreline School Bond  
February 14, 2017**

## Inside This Issue

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## Upcoming Events

### February 2

West Side Choral Festival  
7:00 p.m.  
Shorewood High School

### February 7

PTSA Board of Directors  
Meeting (all are welcome!)  
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
MP Teacher's Lounge

### February 9

Meridian Park Skating Party  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Lynnwood Bowl and Skate

### February 14

**\*Shoreline Special Election\***  
**PLEASE VOTE!**

### February 20

President's Day  
**No School**

### February 21-24

Mid-Winter Break  
**No School**

### March 3

"Tale Tales" Performance  
7:00 p.m.  
Shorewood High School Theater

### March 4

"Tale Tales" Performance  
7:00 p.m.  
Shorewood High School Theater

### March 6

Non-Student Staff Workday  
**No School**

### March 7

PTSA Board of Directors  
Meeting (all are welcome!)  
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
MP Library

### March 7-10

Parent-Teacher Conferences  
Early Dismissal

# Announcements

## Meridian Park Drama Club - "Tall Tales"



You will have **two** chances to catch a performance of *"Tall Tales,"* performed by members of the Meridian Park Drama Club — first on Friday, March 3rd, and again on Saturday, March 4th. Both performances will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Shorewood High School Theater.

Flyers will be sent home the first week of February via MP Kid Mail with details on how to purchase tickets to this fabulous production. Ticket sale proceeds are used to cover our drama club expenses, so please support us and see a great show!

## Lost and Found

Please check the lost and found. There are a lot of lost sweatshirts and coats! As a reminder, all unclaimed items are regularly donated to *The Works* program.



## Meridian Park Skating Party Dates

The last two skating parties of the year are **February 9th** and **March 30th**. Join your MP classmates for an evening of skating at **Lynnwood Bowl & Skate** (6210 200th St SW, Lynnwood) from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Look for flyers to come home in your student's kid mail. *Hope to see you there!*

## Box Tops

**REMINDER:** Keep bringing those Box Tops to Meridian Park!! **Click on the logo to the right for a new collection sheet.** The next batch will be sent at the end of February.

Thank you so much!

Suzy Cowgill, Box Top Coordinator



## Afternoon Mandarin Chinese Classes

Afternoon Mandarin language classes are now forming at Meridian Park! Instructor Hua Zhang will be offering classes for grades K-6 on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays** from **3:35 p.m. - 4:35 p.m.** Classes will run from **February 13th - June 14th**. Look for her flyer in your student's kid mail and at the end of this newsletter. You may also contact Ms. Zhang directly at [huazhang98@yahoo.com](mailto:huazhang98@yahoo.com).



## Share your thoughts about the *Cheetah Chatter!*



We are conducting a review of this newsletter and would love to hear from you about your likes and dislikes regarding its current content, format, and layout. This will help us make improvements regarding how the newsletter is used, what is covered, and to make sure it is meeting the needs of our school community. **Let your voice be heard!** The survey is very brief (less than 5 minutes), and your responses are completely anonymous.

Click on the following link to get started: <https://mpptsnewsletter.typeform.com/to/a8rxxS>

Thank you for your time and insight!

# Principal's Letter

## Dear Families,

We are finishing up first semester and progress reports (report cards) will be sent home with students on February 10th. **Conferences are March 7th - 10th**; please watch for an invitation from your teacher to schedule. We value ongoing family communication and look forward to meeting with you for a conversation at conference time.

Our School Board recently decided to place a **construction bond proposition** on the February 14th ballot. If approved, the bond would alleviate elementary overcrowding, expand and enhance early learning, and provide updated middle school learning environments. Information is included in this newsletter and at the link below. **Please remember to mail your ballot by February 14th!**

<http://www.shorelineschools.org/domain/1122>



Shoreline Schools and Meridian Park are involved in the **Roots of Empathy** program. The purpose is to *"raise levels of empathy, resulting in more respectful and caring relationships and reduced levels of bullying and aggression."* This is part of our ongoing efforts to be proactive in teaching positive behaviors and prevent bullying/harassment. Thank you to **Annie Gage**, our Roots Facilitators, and the PTSA for this program. You can learn more at [www.rootsofempathy.org](http://www.rootsofempathy.org).

Also, at both the classroom and school level, we proactively promote and re-teach pro-social behaviors through our **Positive Behavior Intervention Systems**, or **PBIS**. Led by **Katie McCain** and **Julie Harris**, we have a very active staff team who meets monthly on activities, incentives, and discipline. *Cheetah Cheers* and *Very Important Lunch* are a big part of this program – ask your student(s) about being a Self Manager!

We have a fantastic breakfast and lunch program provided by the amazing team of **Elke Stickelmaier** (lead), **Li Chyan** (assistant), **Ronelle Tyau** (assistant), and **Babylin Lumbea** (breakfast).

As a reminder, breakfast is open to all students at 8:45 a.m. each day. You can check your student's account online or make payments using the deposit box in our foyer. We encourage all families to take advantage of our tasty breakfast and lunch program!



**Safety is our #1 priority**, and we continue to review and refine our safety practices. You can help by making sure that we have your most current phone numbers and emergency contact names and numbers on file at school. You can also help by having a family safety plan and reminding your child(ren) that the adults in their lives are always working together to keep them safe. Supportive, reassuring words always help reduce anxiety as we continue to plan for the unexpected. Please contact **Jill Gwazdauskas** ([jill.gwazdauskas@shorelineschools.org](mailto:jill.gwazdauskas@shorelineschools.org)) in our office to update your information.

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# Principal's Letter

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As the parent of busy young adults, I know that raising a family is one of our greatest joys and greatest challenges. **Thank YOU for the great work you're doing at home raising great kids.** Meridian Park is a wonderful school because of all of us working together. Great things are happening all around our school, and your support helps us focus on learning, playing, and partnership. We are proud to be part of such a caring, supportive community, and grateful to you for sharing your children and family with us.

David Tadlock  
Principal

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

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## Tadlock Tip #6 - Be a Positive Role Model

We model in almost everything we do and say, and our kids learn as much from adult actions and words as other learning experiences. I encourage all of us to reflect on our habits, words, and interactions. Let's all be positive adult role models for our students.

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## SAFETY REMINDER: STUDENTS WALKING TO/FROM SCHOOL

Please help keep walkers safe. Students should cross streets only at intersections and only with adult supervision. While we allow grades 5 and 6 to walk alone, we prefer adults walk with kids, and we require adults to walk with students grades K-4. Thank you for helping us keep kids safe.

## ATTENDANCE

On-time attendance is one of the key factors to school success. We realize how busy things are in the mornings or afternoons, but good routines help. Please call or email **Jill** (206-393-4251 or [jill.gwazdauskas@shorelineschools.org](mailto:jill.gwazdauskas@shorelineschools.org)) when students are ill; same day contact by 10:00 a.m. is very helpful.

## MP FEBRUARY THEME: COOPERATION

Each month, Meridian Park focuses on a "theme" and encourages students to reflect on and practice that month's topic. The MP theme for February is "Cooperation". We hope you will take a moment to discuss cooperation at home with your children - what it means, how it can be displayed, and why it is important. Below is a list of suggested books that reflect this month's theme.

*The Giant Jam Sandwich*, Burroway, Janet; Lord, John Vernon  
*The Great Fuzz Frenzy*, Stevens, Janet; Crummel, Susan Stevens  
*Officer Buckle & Gloria*, Rathmann, Peggy  
*The Gollywopper Games*, Feldman, Jody  
*Swindle*, Korman, Gordon  
*Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*, Grabenstein, Chris  
*No Talking*, Clements, Andrew  
*Doll Bones*, Black, Holly  
*Lunch Money*, Clements, Andrew  
*If You Plant a Seed*, Nelson, Kadir  
*Pumpkin Soup*, Cooper, Helen

*Seven Blind Mice*, Young, Ed  
*Ninja Bunny*, Olson, Jennifer Gray  
*Chloe and the Lion*, Barnett, Mac  
*Zinnia and Dot*, Ernst, Lisa Campbell  
*Abiyoyo*, Seeger, Pete  
*Swimmy*, Lionni, Leo  
*The Seven Chinese Brothers*, Mahy, Margaret  
*Building Our House*, Bean, Jonathan  
*My Friend Rabbit*, Rohmann, Eric  
*Rex Wrecks It*, Clanton, Ben

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# Cheetah Cheers

## Food Drive - Class Competition Results

A big **THANK YOU** to our Meridian Park Families! Our school donated over **1,900 food items** to the Shoreline District Food Drive in December.

**Ms. Ahron's Kindergarten class** won the K-3rd grade competition by donating **161 food items!**

**Ms. Peterson's 5th grade class** won the 4th-6th grade competition by donating **125 food items!**

*Great job by both classes!*

## PTA Reflections

The reception and art show (district level) for the **PTA Reflections** art program took place on January 12th. **Fifteen finalists** from Meridian Park were featured at the show, and **eight pieces** came away with awards!

Students receiving honorable mentions: **Daisy Cui, Dash Jackson, and Emmaline Helgeson.**

Students selected as Finalists: **Ameena Majeed** and **Sophia Calandrillo** for *Music Composition*, **Eliana Megargee** for *Literature*, **Emily Wang** for *Visual Arts*, and **Sophia Calandrillo** for *Dance Choreography*. The Finalists' pieces will now move on to the state level competition.

*Congratulations to all!*

## Thank You, Volunteers!

**Special thanks** to **Principal Intern Julie Harris** for representing Meridian Park at Kinderfest last Saturday!

**Many thanks** to **April Ingle, Elizabeth Swan, Diana Gray, Kris McRea, Callie Steward, Matt Alford** and **the Wall family** for three hours of focused work on Saturday unloading, cleaning, inventorying, and reloading Meridian Park's emergency supplies storage. This was a vital effort to align our procedures and supplies with District goals. **We are looking for more representation from parents on the [School Safety Committee](#)**; please contact Kris McRea ([krismmcrea@gmail.com](mailto:krismmcrea@gmail.com)) if interested!

A **huge thank you** to all of the families who donated supplies and food for the staff appreciation "Fiesta Lunch" in January. The teachers and staff loved it, and the homemade salsa was a big hit! Special thanks to our coordinator, **Laura Hungerford**, and for our many cooks, bakers, and behind-the-scenes helpers: **Alma Rojas, Ann Yee, Bomin Shim, Carrie Getz, Correne Saunders, Courtney Olander, Emily Lamont, Emma Moreno, Grace Cui, Jaymi Duarte, Julia Viveros, Kristy Dickson, Lori Finch, Megan Allen, Megan Menis, Melina Thung, Michelle Blanchard, Miranda Jennings, Rosemary Trimmer, Suni Tolton, Susan Duthweiler, Susie LaClergue, and Vien Do.** Stay tuned for the next Staff Appreciation Event in May. Thank you to all our staff and teachers who work so hard and make our school so special!

## Photos

Celebrating Lunar New Year with Ms. Hua Zhang and her morning language students



# Cheetah Notes

## From the School Counseling Office

As a new position to the Shoreline School District this year, part of the school counselor's job is to provide **Social Emotional Learning (SEL)** to students. You may have heard of **SEL**, but wondered what it was or how it might affect your student at school.



Learning social-emotional regulation is a life skill, one that students will rely upon continually through childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. Just like learning to read or do math computations, students need to learn about their emotional skills to be successful dealing with stressors they might face, challenges with peers, or dealing with disappointment.

Students learn their social-emotional skills through a variety of settings, including, but not limited to: parents/guardians, siblings, friends, extracurricular activities, sports, and at school. At school, sometimes this is taught through school-wide activities, like teaching the meaning behind our monthly themes (responsibility, empathy, perseverance, courage, etc.) or in their classrooms with **Second Step** lessons. Other times, students might be invited to be part of a small group to focus on building stronger skills along with their peers, and sometimes I meet with students one-on-one to discuss something specific that they might be having trouble with. No matter where students learn these social-emotional skills, it is important to be aware of the need and impact it can have on all students' lives.



For more information, here is a [short video on SEL](#). And, of course, contact me with any questions!

Katie McCain, M.Ed.  
School Counselor  
206-393-1785

[katie.mccain@shorelineschools.org](mailto:katie.mccain@shorelineschools.org)

## From the Health Office

### Too Sick for School?

Your student wakes up looking **flushed**, feeling **congested** or **queasy**. Do you send your student to school? To make this decision a little easier, keep two C's in mind: **Contagious** and **Comfort**.

**Please keep your student home with following symptoms, which may mean that the illness is contagious:**



- Fever above 100 degrees (*must be fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication before returning to school*)
- Vomiting or diarrhea (*must be symptom free for at least 24 hours before returning to school*)
- Sore throat, especially if combined with fever or swollen neck glands
- Heavy nasal congestion or frequent, incessant cough
- Inability to contain secretions (unable to reliably cough or sneeze into elbow)
- Your student has been diagnosed with a contagious virus or infection
- Thick greenish-yellow drainage from the eyes
- Unusual fatigue, paleness, lack of appetite or irritability

Without any of these symptoms, the question becomes whether your student feels well enough to function **comfortably** at school. Please feel to call the Health Office at 206-393-4124 if you have questions.

# Cheetah Notes

## From the Music Department

Great music is being made at Meridian Park!

6th grade students are busy with rehearsals for the 2017 Shoreline School District **West Side Choral Festival**. The free concert will be at Shorewood High School at **7:00 p.m.** on **Thursday, February 2nd**. Full Honor Choir rehearsal and concert schedule is posted on my teacher website in "Documents."

5th grade and 5th/6th classes will be taking a field trip to Seattle Symphony's *Concert: Link Up (The Orchestra Sings)* at Benaroya Hall on Wednesday, March 1st.

Please mark your calendars for the **Meridian Park Arts Festival** on **Thursday, May 25th**, from **6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.** 1st/2nd and 2nd grade classes will perform, in addition to our 3rd/4th and 4th grade classes.

Mrs. Anderson and the Meridian Park Singing Cheetahs



## From the Library Media Center

Greetings Meridian Park families! **Happy Valentine's Day!** Here is a list of some fun books to share on a day devoted to love:

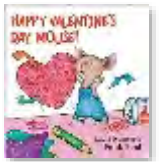
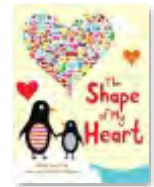


**In My Heart: A Book of Feelings (Growing Hearts)** by Jo Witek

I absolutely love this beautiful book. I have and will continue to share it with kindergarten and first grade students.

**The Shape of My Heart** by Mark Sperring

This is a book about shapes and much, much more.



**Happy Valentine's Day, Mouse** by Laura Numeroff

This book is from the *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* series. It is a fun cause-and-effect story.

**The Valentine Bears** by Eve Bunting

This is an oldie but a goodie about two devoted bears.



## CAPSTONE LIBRARY – EBOOKS – INFORMATION AND EVENTS

You can access Capstone eBooks (*they're audio, too*) from the Meridian Park website. Find the **Learning Tools** link under **Resources** or **Students** from the homepage. Click on the **MyCapstoneLibrary** link.

The username is **MPark** and the password is **School**. I have grouped many of the books into collections, such as graphic novels, Colonial America, and books about Ancient Civilizations. eBooks and audio books are a great way to increase comprehension and reading enjoyment.

I will provide an overview of these books, as well as an overview of some King County Library System resources during parent-teacher conferences. To learn more about the eBooks and public library resources, please plan to visit the library on **Tuesday, March 7th, between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.**, or on **Thursday, March 9th, between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.**

***If you choose to attend, please bring one or more of the following with you:*** a laptop, tablet such as an iPad, a handheld device such as an iPod or a smart phone.

## SPRING SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Our Spring Scholastic Book Fair will run **Wednesday, April 12th - Friday, April 14th**, with previews on Tuesday, April 11th. This spring's theme is **Camp Book Fair**.

I am in need of volunteers for the book fair. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at [jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org](mailto:jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org). Thank you!

Happy Reading!  
Jenny Hillger, Teacher/Librarian



# Cheetah Notes

## From the P.E. Department

### PERFORMANCE ARTS CLUB

**Performance/Circus Arts Club** begins on **February 28th** and runs every **Tuesday** and **Thursday** morning from **8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** in the Gym **through April 13th**. Performance Arts focuses on developing advanced skills in juggling, jump rope, diabolos (Chinese Yoyo), flower sticks, unicycles, dance and tumbling. I am really happy to welcome **Mrs. Bachicha-Wells** to the Performance Arts Team this year as a partner coach for the club. We have decided to open Performance Arts Club to 3rd grade students this year and currently have **14 openings** for any **3rd-6th grade students** interested in the club. Sign-up forms are available in the main office with Jill or Vicky.



### CLIMBING CLUB

**Climbing Club** began on **January 24th** and continues every **Tuesday** and **Thursday** morning from **8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** in the Gym **through February 16th**. If you turned in your permission slip, we look forward to seeing you at Climbing Club! We still have **5 spots open**. Sign-up forms are available in the main office with Jill or Vicky.

### CHEETAHS ARE FIT!

I have spent time lately looking at student physical fitness data, and I am really happy to report some results regarding levels of cardiorespiratory endurance in our school. Cardiorespiratory endurance (*the capacity of the heart and lungs to deliver oxygen to the cells of the body during sustained physical activity*) is measured via the **Pacer Run**, a multi-stage aerobic capacity test that progressively gets more difficult as it continues. Scores are compared to criterion-referenced standards that inform students if their aerobic capacity falls into the **Healthy Fitness Zone**.

The **Healthy Fitness Zones** for age and gender are included in the following table:

|                  | 10 years old | 11 years old | 12 years old |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Boys HFZ</b>  | 23-61 laps   | 23-72 laps   | 32-72 laps   |
| <b>Girls HFZ</b> | 15-41 laps   | 15-41 laps   | 23-41 laps   |

The compiled average scores for each grade band indicate that on average, our students are meeting standard for cardiorespiratory endurance at Meridian Park:

|              | 4th Grade | 5th Grade | 6th Grade |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Boys</b>  | 23.2 laps | 33.5 laps | 37.6 laps |
| <b>Girls</b> | 18.7 laps | 18.5 laps | 29.8 laps |

While the class averages indicate the overall cardiovascular capacity of our students is meeting standard, I certainly realize the limitations of analysis by average and that many of my students are struggling to reach the **Healthy Fitness Zone**. In two weeks, your child will receive his/her semester one progress report. Included with this progress report will be fitness reports for 4th-6th grade students with a detailed individual summary of your child's progress. I highly encourage you to take a close look at the report and discuss the results with your child. If your child is failing to meet standard, it is a good indication that he/she may need to engage in a greater amount of daily physical exercise. **The Center for Disease Control recommends that school-age children engage in *at least* 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous**



**physical activity each day.** Specifically, activities that elevate the heart rate for a sustained period of time will have the greatest impact on your child's physical fitness. Walking, running, biking, swimming, soccer and basketball are all excellent examples of heart-healthy pursuits suitable for children and young adults.

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



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# PTSA President's Letter

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## A BIG HELLO FROM THE MERIDIAN PARK PTSA!

Our **Variety/Talent Show** on January 21st was a huge success! Our students had a great time performing their acts, and we all enjoyed a night out together. This opportunity is a great chance for your children to show off their talents and to be on stage. A HUGE thank you to **Margaret Stapleton** and **Payal Palta** for all their efforts making the show a great success from audition through performance.

Our next PTSA sponsored event at the theater is March 3rd and 4th. **Come and support our 4th-6th grade students' Drama Club production of "Tall Tales."** This will be a fun opportunity to take your younger children to a theater experience where they will surely recognize Meridian Park students and learn about theater manners in a relaxed school environment. Performances will be at the Shorewood High School Theater.

It is time for our **Nominating Committee** (*Sheilah Copon, Rhonda McRae* and *Meghan Jernigan*) to begin talking with fellow parents about open PTSA positions and plans for the 2017-2018 school year. Our list of open positions include but are not limited to: **Secretary, Co-President, Co-Treasurer, VP-Volunteers, Social Media Guru, VP-Events**, plus **many more leader spots to serve our community through the PTSA**. Please contact me at [mpptsapresident@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsapresident@gmail.com) if you have interest and want to find out more. Or, ask me if you see me at school! I would love to talk to you about the chance to serve our school and kids.

Our PTSA **Board of Directors (BOD) and General Membership (GM) meetings** are held on the first Tuesday of the month. The General Membership meetings typically highlight a special speaker or topic of interest. In January, at our GM meeting, **Marla Miller, Deputy Superintendent**, spoke to us about the upcoming bond proposition on February 14th. A key point I learned – *Bonds are for Buildings and Levies are for Learning*. This is a BOND to build two new middle schools for OUR KIDS! If you have had an opportunity to see the two new high schools, you can see the care and time that went into making an amazing learning environment for our students. Your Meridian Park PTSA has endorsed this bond, and we hope that you VOTE. A super majority of 60% is required to pass bond measures and is a very high bar to meet. Are you feeling active? Check out this sign up: <http://signup.com/go/7nPJd3>

The next PTSA Board of Directors meeting is **Tuesday, February 7th** and will be in the teacher's lounge as a change of pace. The next GM meeting is in April, and another will be held in May. Everyone is welcome at both BOD and GM meetings. Childcare is provided by the YMCA.

Our **compost and recycling program** in the cafeteria is going very well. We also started a food recovery program and have donated 100 pounds of students' unopened food to HopeLink that would have otherwise been thrown out. We need a few more adults to help monitor both of these programs. The time commitment is roughly one day a week, once a month. If you can join us for lunch periods 11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. on an occasional basis, please contact me. This is a fun, loud and worthwhile effort. I really enjoy getting a chance to talk with so many students in the lunchroom. They love that they are helping their community and the environment. Come and share in this great success!

Have a great day!

Callie Steward  
Meridian Park PTSA President  
[mpptsapresident@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsapresident@gmail.com)

# PTSA News

## SHORELINE MATH OLYMPIAD

Try something new: Enter a math contest! Shoreline Math Olympiad is open to all Meridian Park students in grades 4-6, whether they are in Math Club or not. **The deadline to sign up is February 3rd.** The contest is **Saturday, March 11th**, at Shoreline Community College. Find the permission slip link and more information about the Olympiad at <http://www.mpmathclub.com/smo>.



There is **no cost** to enter. Any 4th-6th grade student can compete at this FUN, engaging event where hundreds of Shoreline students will participate in individual and team rounds. Snacks, pizza and entertainment will also be provided. If your student enjoys this contest, they can join MP's Math Club next year and enjoy even more math contests!

Please note that Math Club cannot take new members mid-year, but we still want Meridian Park students to participate and can provide practice materials for them. Students are encouraged to form their own teams of four participants with a chaperone, though being on a team is not a requirement for participating in individual rounds.

Questions? Visit <http://www.mpmathclub.com/smo> for more information, or contact [mpmathclub@gmail.com](mailto:mpmathclub@gmail.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS-AT-A-GLANCE

### February 2017

February 2: Westside District Choir Festival at SWHS  
 February 7: PTSA BOD Meeting  
                   *in the Teacher's Lounge*  
 February 9: MP Skate Party at Lynnwood Bowl & Skate  
 February 10: Report Cards Sent Home  
 February 14: Westside Orchestra Festival at SWHS  
 February 17: Signed Report Card Envelopes Due  
 February 20-24: *Mid-Winter Break*

### March 2017

March 2: Drama Club Dress Rehearsal at SWHS  
 March 3-4: Drama Club Performances at SWHS  
 March 6: *Non-Student Work Day*  
 March 7: PTSA BOD Meeting  
 March 7-10: *Conferences – Early Dismissal*  
 March 30: MP Skate Party at Lynnwood Bowl & Skate

### April 2017

April 3: *Non-Student Work Day*  
 April 4: PTSA BOD and GM Meeting  
 April 13: Spring Family Fun Night and Science Fair  
 April 17-21: *Spring Break*

### May 2017

May 9: PTSA BOD and GM Meeting  
 May 15: ~~*Non-Student Work Day*~~  
                   *Snow Day Make-Up – School in Session*  
 May 15: PTSA Teacher Appreciation Breakfast  
 May 17-19: 6th Grade Camp (dates to be verified)  
 May 25: Meridian Park Arts Festival  
 May 29: *Memorial Day – No School*

### June 2017

June 6: PTSA BOD and General Member Meeting  
 June 6: PTSA Volunteer Appreciation  
 June 12: *Non-Student Work Day*  
 June 16: Field Day  
 June 22: 6th Grade Moving On Ceremony  
 June 23: *Last Day of School*

# Community Events

## 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*  
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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



*Cheetah Chatter* is published monthly by

**Meridian Park Elementary and the Meridian Park PTSA**

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

## Supporting LGBTQ Youth & Family Panel Discussion

Wednesday, February 15th from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in the Shoreline Room at Shoreline Center, 18560 1st Ave NE. Contact **Constance Perenyi** at [cperenyi@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:cperenyi@shorelinewa.gov) or **206-801-2253** for more info.

## North Corner Chamber Orchestra

### RESONANCE: A Celebration of Black American Composers

Saturday, February 18th at 2:00 p.m. (*New Holly Gathering Hall*)

Sunday, February 19th at 7:30 p.m. (*Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute*)

Visit [www.nocco.org](http://www.nocco.org) for tickets and more information

## Third Annual Equity and Inclusion Conference

**Friday, February 24th, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
*University of Washington Bothell Campus*

For more information, contact **Dr. Terry Ross** at [tjross@uw.edu](mailto:tjross@uw.edu) or **425-352-3670**, or visit:

<https://www.uwb.edu/diversity/equity-and-inclusion-conference>

## Shoreline STEM Festival

### DO YOU LOVE SCIENCE AND ART?

It's time to start getting ready for the Shoreline STEM Festival, which will take place on **May 20th** at Shoreline Community College, with a K-12 student science fair, hands-on STEM fun, robotics demonstrations, and a STEM career expo! Now is the time to start a project for the **science fair** with **three categories** to choose from: *Science Investigation*, *Engineering Design and Invention*, and *Computer Science Design and Invention*. Need help deciding on a project? You'll find guidelines and links to resources on our website. All entries will require a project proposal, and you can turn yours in now until April 14th. Registration and entrance to the festival are all **FREE!**

**Young artists** - design our festival t-shirt! The deadline for design submissions is April 2nd.

**Parents** - we need volunteers to make the festival happen! Sign up on our website or email us to find out how you can help.

**Details** for everything can be found at [www.shorelineSTEM.org](http://www.shorelineSTEM.org), or email us at [shorelinestemfestival@gmail.com](mailto:shorelinestemfestival@gmail.com)

## Resilience: The Biology of Stress & the Science of Hope

Please see the flyer on the following page for information about an upcoming community screening of this **award-winning documentary** directed by James Redford, son of Robert Redford.

# SAVE THE DATE

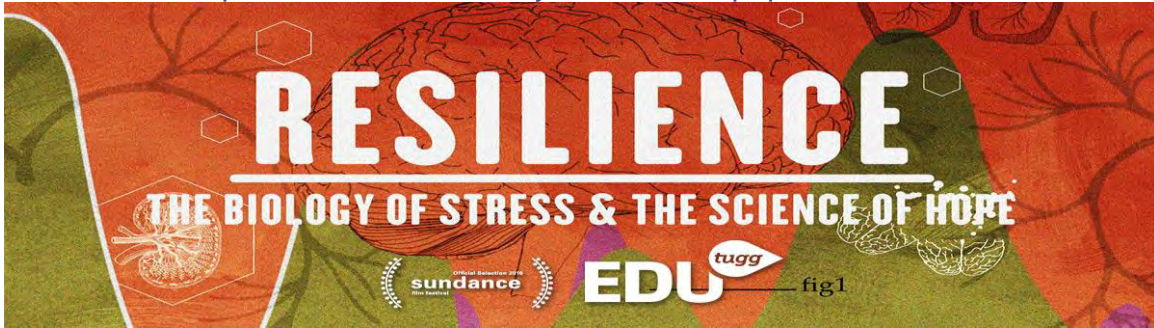
## SHORELINE COMMUNITY MOVIE

Sunday March 12, 4 pm,

Shoreline Center Auditorium, 18560 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE, Shoreline, Wa. 98133

Tickets \$5 for adults, Students free

<http://shorelinecommunitymovie.brownpapertickets.com/>



Resilience is not an innate characteristic, but rather a skill that can be taught, learned and practiced. Everyone has the ability to become resilient when surrounded by the right environments and people.

**Join the Community for this special screening as we increase awareness about what are Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's), the impact on individuals, communities and society at large and hear from experts how WE can inspire a CALL TO ACTION empowering adults and teens with tools for building Resilience.**





# WORKSHOP: TALKING TO KIDS ABOUT RACE



**DR. TANISHA BRANDON-FELDER**  
**DIRECTOR OF EQUITY AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**  
**SHORELINE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Kids have a way of asking questions that are not always easy to answer. When you throw the topic of race in, it can get a bit dicey. Having conversations about race is not designed to be comfortable, but the need to engage with our youth is essential to having healthy conversations as they grow, and as adults, we grow with them. This workshop will offer awareness, skills and practice. **Please join us!**

**FEB 6, 2017 6:30-8:30PM**  
**EINSTEIN CAFETERIA**

# EINSTEIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

## 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE STUDENT and FAMILY INFORMATION

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### IMPORTANT DATES

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|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Week of February 27 – March 3rd | Einstein counselors <b>visit elementary schools</b> to review registration process with 6 <sup>th</sup> grade students              |
| Friday, March 3rd               | 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Assembly during the day at Einstein; students bused from elementary schools                                   |
| Week of March 6 - 10            | Elementary conferences  |
| Tuesday, March 7th              | 6th grade parent night at Einstein! Join us in the gym to learn all about Einstein! 6:30 pm   |
| Week of March 13-17             | Einstein counselors pick up registration materials at elementary schools. <b><i>All forms should be turned in at this time.</i></b> |

Middle school is a time of great transition for students and families. Students move from one teacher to six. They experience short and extended period days and take on more responsibility for balancing work and play. Below is a list of frequently asked questions we hope you find helpful when preparing to register for classes at Einstein. For more detailed information please refer to our course manual (posted by February 13th) on the Einstein website.

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### FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions)

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#### ***Which classes are required at Einstein?***

All students are required to take a year-long course in Math, English, Social Studies and Science. Students can choose to take standard or honor classes in Science, English and Social Studies. Students are also required to take a semester of Health and Fitness. *Students who need additional support in reading or math, or need additional course work to fulfill their IEP or ELL eligibility may be placed in a support class during the school day or during PRIDE.*

#### ***Do I get to choose my electives?***

There are year-long music (choir, orchestra, band) and language courses (Japanese, Spanish, French, and Mandarin) available at Einstein as well as a variety of semester elective options (Art classes, Chef School, PE courses, Drama, Engineering and Robotics, and more). Elective classes are offered based on student enrollment and our year-long language classes may be used for high school credit. Students who are enrolled in two year-long electives (one music and one language) will also take zero period PE to fulfill the state requirement. Please look carefully through the course guide to make your elective selections.

#### ***What is the difference between an honors and standard course?***

Both honors and standard courses focus on the same standards. Both honors and standard courses use the same curriculum adopted and approved by the Shoreline School District. Honors courses tend to move at a faster pace, may require more homework, may read selections from more advanced texts, expect higher-level thinking and may give less or no credit for late work and require a higher standard of completed work. Students who register for honors courses are expected to be performing above standard in their current classes, are at or above standard on state and district assessments and read at or above grade level (SRI of 1000 or higher). Students who choose not to take honors in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Einstein may still register for honors in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and at the high school. Students who register for Advanced English are expected to complete a summer reading and writing assignment. Please read the course guide for detailed information about honors courses. It is important to talk together as a family and with your student's 6th grade teacher to make an informed decision about which and how many honors classes to register for.

#### ***How do I select the appropriate math course in Middle School?***

Math classes should be looked at carefully. Students must be prepared to commit to their year-long math class

selection. Each class covers different material that prepares students for the next year of math. Einstein does offer advanced math classes for high school credit. Students should consult with their 6th grade teacher regarding their math registration. The majority of students in seventh grade take a 7th grade (Math 7) math class. Advanced math students will often choose to take Compression Math. Compression math is an accelerated class that combines both 7th and 8th grade standards into one year. Compression math moves at a fast pace and prepares students for Algebra in the 8th grade. Students enrolled in Compression Math should demonstrate advanced math skills and high test scores on state and district assessments. Students in the Highly Capable program who have completed Compression Math should take Algebra in the 7th grade and Geometry in the 8th grade at Einstein. Your student's 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher can offer guidance on where your child will find the most success!

***When are registration forms due?***

Registration forms are due to your child's 6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom teacher the week after parent conferences, which is two weeks after the initial classroom visit by an Einstein counselor. For example, if the counselor visits your student's elementary school on a Tuesday, she will pick up forms Tuesday the week following conferences. If a student has forgotten their registration form, the counselor will fill one out with them on the pick-up day. For students who are absent on the pick-up day, elementary schools may choose to send forms to Einstein through district mail, or families may drop off forms directly to Einstein. The final day to turn in registration forms to Einstein is Monday, March 20th.

***Can I make changes to my schedule after I have turned in the form?***

If we have made a mistake we will make any necessary changes. However, students should be prepared in the fall to take the classes they registered for in March. Think of registration as signing up for a reserved seat. We build our master schedule around student requests, so it's important to really consider your choices! This is why careful consideration and consultation with your 6th grade teacher is very important.

***My student has an IEP. How does the transition to middle school work for him/her?***

Einstein's directed studies department works with elementary schools to carefully craft a schedule that meets the needs of your child. Your child will be assigned a specific case manager at the start of the school year.

***Contact Info:***

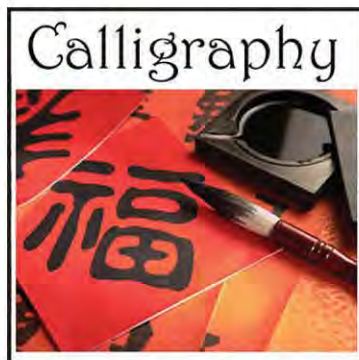
**Counselor** – Kelley Flatters – 206-393-4744 – [kelly.flatters@shorelineschools.org](mailto:kelly.flatters@shorelineschools.org)

**Directed Studies** – Tristie McJilton – [tristie.mcjilton@shorelineschools.org](mailto:tristie.mcjilton@shorelineschools.org)

**Registrar** – Leslie Buchanan – 206-393-4731 – [leslie.buchanan@shorelineschools.org](mailto:leslie.buchanan@shorelineschools.org)

***Check the Einstein website for the most up to date information:***

<http://www.shorelineschools.org/einstein>




WELCOME TO 2017  
NEW

# AFTERNOON MANDARIN CLASS

中文班欢迎您!  
SPONSORED BY MP-PTSA

February 13th, 2017---June 14th, 2017  
Instructor: Mrs. Hua Zhang

| Day                  | Time  | Tuition  | Grade | Location   | When  |
|----------------------|---|--|-------|--|---|
| Mondays & Wednesdays | 3:35PM<br>-4:35PM<br><br>60<br>minutes<br>per class | The tuition includes learning materials, cooking class, art class supplies and lightly snacks expenses.<br><br>\$365 for 5 months<br><br>February 13th, 2017---June 14th, 2017 | k-6th | Room 237<br> | February 13th, 2017<br>to<br>June 14th, 2017<br><br>(Holidays, non-students days follow Shoreline school district calendar) |

|                        |        |                |
|------------------------|--------|----------------|
| Name:                  | Age:   | Grade/Teacher: |
| Parent name:           | E-mail |                |
| Phone#(home/cell/work) |        |                |
| Address :              |        |                |
| Health concerns:       |        |                |
| Parent signature:      |        |                |

\* All PTSA enrichment programs require a parent to be present as a volunteer. If the parent is able to be the volunteer for all sessions, then the family will get discounted tuition. Please contact instructor for more information.

\* Please mail this form with a check payable to Hua Zhang for Chinese class.

Address: 17052 8th Ave. NE Shoreline, WA 98155

\* All tuition is non-refundable. Please make sure your child is on time and attends regularly.

\* For a planned absence, contact Ms. Hua Zhang at [huazhang98@yahoo.com](mailto:huazhang98@yahoo.com), Phone # 206-669-0819

For an unplanned absence on the day of the class, you MUST e-mail or call or text Ms. Hua Zhang



Question? Contact instructor Ms. Hua Zhang  
Lead parent Ms. Linda Tsai

Email: [huazhang98@yahoo.com](mailto:huazhang98@yahoo.com)  
Email: [neonfish@comcast.net](mailto:neonfish@comcast.net)

Phone: 206-669-0819  
Phone: 206-542-2578





# SHOW LOVE FOR YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL WITH BOX TOPS!

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Thank you for helping! Clipped Box Tops are each worth 10¢ for your child's school.  
Bonus certificates should not be attached to this sheet – please submit them separately.  
To see more ways to earn cash for your child's school, go to [BTFE.com](http://BTFE.com).