

Cheetah Chatter

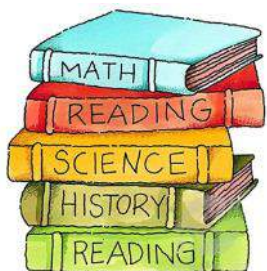
Published by Meridian Park School and Meridian Park PTSA

Curriculum Night

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

Kindergarten at 5:15 pm
Grades 1-2-3 at 6:00 pm

PTSA at 6:45 pm (Library)
Grades 4-5-6 at 7:05 pm



Teachers will discuss plans for the year, including academics, positive behavior, special activities, communication, and other important topics.

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to connect with your child's teacher, learn about the PTSA program, and learn how to support your student. You'll also have the opportunity to sign up for October Conferences and ask teachers about volunteer needs.

For this night, we ask that children **not** attend so that teachers can focus on communicating with you. We are unable to provide childcare. **Adults only** - thank you for understanding.

***Go directly to your student's classroom.
Please visit our PTSA in the Library before or after.
We look forward to seeing you!***

MP Administration Meet, Greet and New Family Tour

Thursday, September 21 - 9:15 am and 2:45 pm

All new and kindergarten families are invited for a tour of the school with Mr. Tadlock and Mrs. Drew. Please meet in the front foyer of the school's main entrance. No sign-up is required. Hope to see you!

Meridian Park Elementary Things to Know

DAILY SCHEDULE

A daily schedule is included at the end of this newsletter.

ATTENDANCE

Is your child late or absent? A call is required for it to be excused.

For Kindergarten, please contact
Suzy Cowgill at (206) 393-4127
or by email:
suzy.cowgill@shorelineschools.org

For Grades 1 - 6, please contact
Jill Gwazdauskas at (206) 393-4252 or
by email:
jill.gwazdauskas@shorelineschools.org

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

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 am, 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 pm, and you are welcome to wait for them outside the classroom.

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Upcoming Events

September 11
Kindergarten First Day of School

September 11
Tea and Tissues
9:15 am - 9:35 am and
12:45 pm - 1:05 pm
Outside MP Main Entrance

September 14
Curriculum Night
See information to the left

September 19
PTSA Board of Directors Meeting
(all are welcome!)
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
MP Library

September 21
**MP Administration Meet, Greet,
and New Family Tour**
9:15 am and 2:45 pm
MP Main Entrance Foyer

September 26
Picture Day

September 29
**PTSA Movie Night: "The Eagle
Huntress" (free event!)**
6:30 pm
MP Cafeteria

October 3
PTSA General Membership Meeting
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
MP Library

October 5
**Shoreline Hi Cap Advocacy Group
and Shoreline PTA Council Guest
Speaker: Austina De Bonte, NW
Gifted Child Association**
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Shoreline Auditorium

October 9-11
Parent/Teacher Conferences
Early Release

Announcements

COMMUNICATION

Communication is a priority. The PTSA newsletter, *Cheetah Chatter*, is published monthly. Kid Mail is sent home on Wednesdays. Teachers provide monthly classroom communication through newsletters or website updates. 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.*

Guest Speaker Event

Austina De Bonte, President of the Northwest Gifted Child Association
Thursday, October 5 (6:30 pm - 9:00 pm) - Shoreline Auditorium (18560 1st Avenue NE)

The **Shoreline Hi Cap Advocacy Group**, in partnership with the **Shoreline PTA Council**, is excited to welcome back **Austina De Bonte**, President of the Northwest Gifted Child Association (NWGCA), to Shoreline for her presentation, ***"What Parents and Educators Need to Know About Smart Kids."*** This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the social/emotional concerns that impact our advanced learners: what's normal, what to expect as they grow, and why genuine challenge is vitally important to their learning, as well as the development of their academic talents — from the preschool and elementary years all the way to high school and beyond.

A limited number of free childcare spots will be available via RSVP on a "first come, first served" basis provided by the Dale Turner YMCA. Please email shoreline.hicap.advocacy@gmail.com with your name, the number of children, and their names and ages to reserve this service. Children must be potty-trained.

This is a free speaker event for parents and for anyone who supports our students. Don't miss this!

Shoreline Hi Cap Advocacy Group: www.shorelinehicap.org
Shoreline PTA Council: www.shorelinepta.org

Tea and Tissues: A Gathering for Kindergarten Families

After students enter classrooms, the **Meridian Park PTSA** and **Lara Drew, Kindergarten Administrator**, would like to invite all parents, grandparents, and/or guardians to meet outside the main entrance of the school for a community gathering to celebrate your child(ren)'s first day of school. We will have tea to drink, tissues to wipe away any tears of joy, time to get to know each other, and a short message to join our community together and celebrate the start of the school year.

Monday, September 11

Morning: Bus arrival at 8:55 am; Tea and Tissues from **9:15 am - 9:35 am**

Afternoon: Bus arrival at 12:40 pm; Tea and Tissues from **12:45 pm - 1:05 pm**



Announcements

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 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. 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.

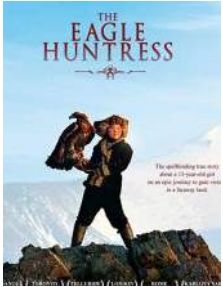
For more information on Box Tops, including a list of participating products, go to www.BTFE.com. Be sure to sign up as a member (it's free!) so you can check out our school's earning details and get access to coupons and bonus offers.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at suzy.cowgill@shorelineschools.org.

Thanks for your support!
Suzy Cowgill

PTSA FREE Family Movie Night

Friday, September 29 at 6:30 pm



Bring your pillows, camp chairs, blankets or other cozy movie-watching gear to the MP Cafeteria for PTSA Family Movie Night. We will be watching **"The Eagle Huntress."** One adult required for every six children. Concessions may be sold, but this is an otherwise-**FREE** event! Donations for PTSA are always accepted.

First Skating Party of the Year

**Thursday, October 19
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**



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!

Meet the Teacher

TRICIA NORTON

I am a **new 5th grade teacher**. All three of my kids also attend Meridian Park.

I love teaching, reading, cleaning, and exercising! I grew up in Utah and met my husband when I came to the University of Washington for graduate school. We are a wrestling family. I am on the board for the Wrestling Rhinos, and my husband is head coach for

Einstein and Shorewood.

I am so excited to be at Meridian Park this year!



The Nortons at the Delicate Arch in Arches National Park

BLYN REDDEN

I am the **new Kindergarten Music Specialist**. I have been a part of the Shoreline School District since 2014. In the past, I have worked as a general music teacher in the Renton School District and have taught at Syre and Highland Terrace with Kindergarten through 4th grade students. Last year, I was the Preschool Music and Movement Specialist at the Children's Center.

I am so pleased and excited to work with all the staff and students at Meridian Park!



Cheetah Cheers

Back to School BBQ

PTSA had a **GREAT** kick off to the year at the back to school BBQ. We served just under **1,000 hot dogs!** The potluck tables were amazing! Your participation and service to this school makes all the difference.

We had so many people volunteering their time to make this event a success. **A big "THANK YOU" to: Mark and Christine DenHerder, Susan Duthweiler, Diana Gray, Jeff and Callie Steward, Jordan and Naomi Hillyard, Matt Clark, Vien Do, Ann and Tim Yee, Troy Trimmer, Kristy Dickson, Megan Parker, Julie Fisher, Doug Manelski, Jennifer Ernst, Briana Bell, Mary Kate Horwood, Kate Beck, Nauko Grimlund, Janet Shin, Sim Kang and Molly Norstrand.** Hope we didn't forget to mention your efforts. Thanks to everyone who pitched in moving tables and chairs before and after, too! Many hands makes for light work.



Now Featured at Meridian Park... Water-Filling Stations!

A special "THANK YOU" to those who donated to the PTSA and in turn paid for the **two water filling stations** installed this summer. They are located across from the main office and next to the cafeteria. We can all send water bottles with our students and know they have a convenient place to fill them quickly.

You can sign up for PTSA memberships or make a donation online at:
<https://www.pt-avenue.com/shopGP.asp?sc=MerParkPTA>.

All memberships at the \$45 level will receive a stainless steel water bottle. You can purchase additional water bottles for \$10 each.



Principal's Letter

Dear Cheetahs -

After a beautiful summer to read, bike, swim, boat, camp, or golf, we welcome you back to a fantastic new school year. After a long career in public education, this will be my fifth year at MP, and I am honored to be your principal at our amazing school. My daughter is a senior at Western, and my son a freshman at Montana State. They and MP keep me busy!

MP is bigger and better than ever. **Welcome - Kindergarten Administrator Lara Drew**, who is leading our kindergarten program, affectionately known as "**KinderLand**." With 206 kindergartners and 544 students in grades 1 - 6, we are **750 Cheetahs strong**. We hope that you agree with our new theme: **One Community • Stronger Together**.

Each and every one of us is committed to a safe and positive school experience for each and every child. Our core values and mission are listed below, and an explanation of our District's vision is at the end of this newsletter. These words provide a lens to guide our work together. **RESPECT** is one of our core values and also our school-wide word of the month. **In all of our interactions, let's all commit to expecting, teaching, and modeling respect to each of our students**. Please take a few minutes to talk about at home.

Thank you to Callie, Naomi, and the PTSA team for the best BBQ ever. We encourage you to be involved in PTSA, your classroom, or both!

Curriculum Night is September 14 and we hope for 100% participation. We can't wait to see you soon. **Go Cheetahs!**

David Tadlock, Principal
david.tadlock@shorelineschools.org



Tadlock Tip #1:

Now is a great time for families to establish consistent daily routines. Set up a fun and positive routine for 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. We encourage all young Cheetahs to be positive self-managers and help out around the house.

ONE COMMUNITY • STRONGER TOGETHER

MP CORE VALUES

Belonging • Engagement • Equity • Flexibility
 Growth Mindset • Joy • Respect • Wellness

MP MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide the best possible learning environment for children, one that is emotionally and physically safe. This environment is also one in which students, staff, and families collaborate to promote an appreciation of diversity, positive interdependence, and intellectual curiosity, as well as high individual, social, and academic expectations and a passion for life.

ALL FAMILIES WELCOME

At Meridian Park Elementary, we welcome, embrace, and care for ALL families. Because at times families can experience feelings of uncertainty or anxiety, we cannot say strongly enough that our public schools, including Meridian Park, are a safe place for ALL students and families to learn, grow, and be part of a community. If you or another family have any questions, concerns, or need support, please contact us directly or any member of our staff. Each and every day, please join us in making all families feel welcome and part of our wonderful school.

- David Tadlock, Principal
 - Lara Drew, Kindergarten Administrator

WELCOME NEW STAFF!

Lara Drew – Kindergarten Administrator
Suzy Cowgill – Kindergarten Office Mgr
Matt Law – Kindergarten
Carrie Wolf – Kindergarten
Alexandra Uhrich – Kindergarten
Jessica Park – Kindergarten
Blyn Redden – Kindergarten Music
Maggie Cramer – Kindergarten Library
Sammy McMonnies – Kindergarten Resource Room

Kim Kauffman – Kindergarten Counselor
Micaela Katz – Kindergarten Family Advocate
April Brown – Sub for Kim Anderson, Grade 2
Sierra McCauley – Grade 2 Intern
Aubrey Ashenbrenner – Grades 3/4 Hi-Cap
Tricia Norton – Grade 5
Barbara Keeley – Grades 5/6 Hi-Cap

Jeff Pozarski – Grade 6 Hi-Cap
Jennifer Mackler – ELL Support
Julianne Colwell – ELL/Reading Support
Carrie Strawn – Classroom Support Math
Jocelyn Anderson – Classroom Support Math
Marybeth Scherf – Instructional Coach
Darla Humphreys – Instructional Coach

Cheetah Notes

Notes from the MP Library Media Center

Greetings and welcome to the 2017 – 2018 school year at the Meridian Park Library! With over 750 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! As a matter of fact, 31 classes will visit the library every week! With so many classes, we have two librarians this year. I am so excited to welcome **Maggie Cramer** as the **kindergarten librarian** this year. Mrs. Cramer comes to Shoreline from the Edmonds School District, and has a great deal of experience designing and implementing curriculum for all elementary-age students, as well as a love of reading and children's literature. **Mr. Mike (Mike Adams)** returns as our library technician extraordinaire. I am entering my fourteenth year in the library, and my thirty-second year in education overall.

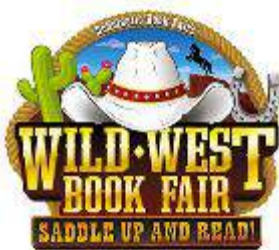
NITTY GRITTY INFORMATION:

In addition to visiting the library with their classes, students 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. Therefore, students may come to the library at 9:00 in the morning to return books or check out new ones before heading off to the classes.

After school, students may stop by the library to return or renew library books or check out new books. However, there is ***no student supervision in the library after school***, so children are not allowed to stay in the library while they wait for parents to pick them up.

Parents are welcome to ***stay with their children in the library*** before and after school. Parents can also check out books from the MP library. Please stop by at any time to set up accounts for yourselves.

As I do every year, I will run the **Sasquatch and Young Readers Choice (YRC) chapter book award programs for fourth, fifth, and sixth graders**, and the **Washington Children's Choice Picture Book (WCCPB) award program for kindergarten, first, second, and third graders**. Stay tuned for more information about these programs in upcoming newsletters, as well as on the library website.



We will have a One-Day-Wonder Scholastic Fall Book Fair on Tuesday, December 5th. This year's theme is "Wild West Book Fair." The Book Fair will run during the school day as well as the evening along with PTSA's monthly meeting. **Students will have a chance to preview the Book Fair on Friday, December 1st.** It will be a fun event

for everyone. The previous two years' one-day book fairs were huge successes as well as 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 by calling (206) 393-4125 or emailing jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org.

THE LIBRARY STAFF:

JENNY HILLGER, Teacher-Librarian for 1st – 6th Grades

This is my 14th 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, Ben Clanton, Bob Shea, Richard Peck, and Patricia Polacco are just a few of my favorite authors.

MAGGIE CRAMER, Teacher-Librarian for Kindergarten

Maggie joins us this year to support the kindergarten program at Meridian Park. Maggie loves to read and teach, and has great knowledge and experience developing and implementing curriculum programs. We are so happy to welcome her to our team.

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.

RESOURCES:

Library Website

I am in the process of creating new library webpages. You can find the library pages on the MP website home page. The pages include information about the MP library, policies, digital citizenship, best websites for students, book recommendations, and more.

MakerSpaces

What are **MakerSpaces**? A **MakerSpace** is a place where students (or adults) can gather to brainstorm, design, experiment, and create things. Sometimes a **MakerSpace** emphasizes computer programming, engineering, science, and mathematics. The big idea is people coming together to collaborate and support one another as they use their imagination and skills to make things. Last year, I dabbled in **MakerSpaces** with a couple of classes and held an after-school electrical circuits club. **I want to expand upon this even more this year.** Currently, I am looking for **LEGO** and other kinds of connectable-building blocks. **If you have extra LEGOs that you no longer use, please consider donating them to the library.**

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

Cheetah Notes

Notes from the Health Office



MERIDIAN PARK MEDICATION INFORMATION

All medications to be administered at school (including over-the-counter medications) require a completed **Permission to Administer Medication** form. Please note that the **Permission to Administer Medication** form needs to be signed by a Licensed Healthcare Provider and a parent/guardian. Medication brought to school must be in the original container labeled with the child's name. Prescription medications must include the pharmacy label/directions. Please note that

students are not allowed to transport medications to or from school. If you have questions, please contact Tama Leahy, RN, at (206) 393-4124 or tama.leahy@shorelineschools.org

Thank you!!
Tama Leahy, RN
School Nurse

Notes from the Music Department

WELCOME to MUSIC 2017-2018!



I am the 1st-6th grade general music teacher at Meridian Park. **Ms. Blyn Redden** will be teaching kindergarten music classes at our big school! We look forward to the wonderful year ahead, and to sharing the joy of music with your children!

I am excited to welcome your children to 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

Please put these dates on your family calendar now, as spring calendars fill up fast! You won't want to miss them!

Tuesday, December 5 - 5th Grade sings at the **Book Fair Night PTSA Meeting**

Tuesday, December 19, 9:30 am - 6th grade will sing at the **Winter sing-along**

Thursday, May 24, 2018 - 1st/2nd grade combo classes and 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade classes will perform at the **Meridian Park Arts Festival**

Tuesday, June 5, 2018 - 1st grade classes will sing at the **PTSA Meeting**

Thursday, June 21, 2018 - 6th grade will sing during their wonderful **"Moving On" program**

Meridian Park students also sing in several other assemblies and performances, such as **Veterans Day** in November, and **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** in January.

Both 5th and 6th grade students have **instrumental performances** here at Meridian Park, and 6th grade students have additional performances with **Honor Choir, Band, and Orchestra festivals.**

RECORDERS

All 4th and 5th and 6th grade students will play soprano recorder. Students will bring home a letter with ordering information. 5th and 6th graders who already have their own recorder should bring it back to music class the second week of school. 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 my school website.

Shari Anderson, Music Specialist
shari.anderson@shorelineschools.org

PTSA News

Volunteer at Meridian Park!

Some of the most fun and rewarding experiences come from volunteering! There's nothing like how excited your child gets when you do something special for their school, be it helping out in the classroom, during special events, or even at home. **The most direct way to volunteer is in the classroom**, and your child's teacher will coordinate those opportunities with you. This is a fantastic way to really get a feel for your child's day.



Another way to volunteer is **through the PTSA**, with our **Volunteer Survey**. **You define your involvement** – one-time only, weekly, monthly, etc. The opportunities are endless! Just fill out the survey to get started. *Even add your own ideas* – perhaps you've noticed something and you want to do something about it. And hey, don't worry, **filling out the survey isn't a commitment**. It just lets us know your areas of interest so that we can more easily find volunteers when the time comes. If you can't, you can't, and that's ok. But of course, we hope you do!

The Volunteer Survey will be sent home during the first week of school, but a copy is included at the end of this newsletter as well. Just fill it out and return it. Simple as that! We look forward to working with you!

Psst...Grandparent? Aunt? Uncle? Caregiver? Come on down! No matter who you are in your child's life, you are always welcome to volunteer!

Questions and comments should be sent to **Nancy Buehler-Jenkins, PTSA Volunteer Coordinator**, MPPTSAvolunteers@gmail.com. **Thank You!**

Parent Service/Volunteer Opportunities at Meridian Park

ROOM PARENT



Room Parent

PTSA is rolling out this new program for the 2017-18 school year. The ideal candidate is someone who is already planning to volunteer in the classroom weekly. **Your job as room parent is to act as a conduit of information back and forth between the PTSA and the students, parents, and teacher.** Our goal is to make sure parents are better informed about what is going on at the school and in their classrooms. PTSA will provide you a template for making a class directory. YOU can help the flow of communication and you can bring any parent questions or concerns to the PTSA. We look forward to providing lots of support to parents in this role. This is also a great way to get to know the other parents, set up playdates, and organize special events in your class. **You can sign up with your teacher at Curriculum Night.**

KINDERGARTEN LUNCH HELPER (Daily, 11:20 am - 11:45 am)

Kindergarteners need lots of help at lunch. It is not uncommon to see kindergarteners struggle with opening milk cartons, string cheese, yogurt tubes, and even reusable containers brought from home. Finding their ID, getting through the hot lunch line, and carrying their food tray can also be very difficult. **Your job duties will include: circulating the cafeteria and to assist with opening items, reminding kids to eat, working with staff to address bathroom needs, and just generally making sure lunch is successful.** We hope that within a few weeks the kindergarteners will be in the swing of things and won't need as much help. Help out just once a week or every day. Your time and efforts are very much appreciated. How do you help? Come in to the school around 11:15 and sign in at the office. You can then walk right down to the cafeteria and check in with the lunchroom monitors. Tell them you are there to help with lunch. You will walk around and visit, remind kids to eat their lunch, and be ready to open a lot of milks!



PTSA News

GREEN TEAM PARENT LEADERS (Daily, 11:30 am - 1:15 pm)

Help train the student Green Team to be confident school leaders. Their job is to remind their classmates how to dispose of their lunch properly. At Meridian Park, we recycle and compost in the school lunchroom. All plastic forks, spoons, straws, and wrappers go into the trash. We also are required to throw away yogurt containers and other plastic containers like Lunchables. We do **RECYCLE** the milk cartons, juice boxes, any cans, and water bottles. We **COMPOST** all leftover foods and paper products. It is **HARD** to get the littlest of our students through the garbage line at school. **The Green Team needs assistance regarding how to do this job themselves and to receive words of encouragement as they help their classmates.** It is a rewarding opportunity to make a positive impact at our school and have a really fun time too! Preference for sign-up is to choose one day of the week and attend all lunches on that week day for the month of September. **After September, Green Team parents will attend lunch the first full week of each month: October 2-6, November 6-10, December 4-8, January 8-12, February 5-9, March 5-9, April 2-6, May 7-11, June 4-8. SIGN UP for a day or AS A FILL-IN PERSON.** Special Note: you will have plenty of time to have lunch with your child on the day you are signed up. Email: mpptsagreenteam@gmail.com

ART DOCENT VOLUNTEERS

The Art Docent program is in its ***eighth year*** of providing quarterly art history lessons and hands on projects to our MP children. These lessons focus on famous and local artists and explore a **diversity of mediums and topics** including sculpture, painting, and ethnic art styles. Our program is **100% run by a group of volunteering parents**, some who have matriculated along with their students. Hence, we make a yearly request for parents' participation to renew our volunteer pool.



"Cave Painting" - Fall 2016

Without enough volunteers, these art lessons most likely will not be provided for your child's classroom; these special services and lessons are not the teachers' responsibility, but rather by volunteering parents.

If you choose to volunteer, we will be sending you an email which will **ask what classroom(s)** you would like to work for and which times (day and hour) you have availability to attend an hour orientation and art instruction meetings for each of the **three projects**. You do not have to commit to all three art projects.

At each **art project's training meeting**, we will review the project focus and "how to" steps, trying it as a group ourselves. Afterwards you will have access to an easy-to-follow PowerPoint presentation, which includes some illustrations of the artist's work and an instructional script for performing the art project. Art Docents also arrange for use of the school-wide "art cart", which is stocked with project specific supplies. No art background is necessary.

If want to share some of your time for this great program, please contact **Isabel Burt** at gymgeme@gmail.com. Thanks!

Spirit Wear Promotion

Place your order online between **now** and **September 18th** on www.meridianparkspiritwear.com and you'll receive **free shipping!**



PTSA News

PTSA Meeting Schedule (September – December)

PTSA meetings are always open to everyone. We typically meet at the MP library on the **first Tuesday of the month**, unless otherwise noted. Childcare is provided by the YMCA. You can be added to the agenda by emailing mpptsapresident@gmail.com.

September 19*

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Board of Directors (BOD) meeting

Topics: *Fall calendar discussion; fundraiser; strategic goals; budget amendments; structure of organization*

**Note – this is a date change from 9/12*

October 3

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

General Membership (GM) meeting & ELL Family Night

Topics: *Vote on goals, budget amendments and structure; outline fall events and schedule for volunteers*

November 7*

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

BOD meeting

Topics: *Event planning; budget overview; fall fundraiser updates*

**Note – possible location change – stay tuned!*

December 5

6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

GM meeting & Choral Performance

Topics: *Food drive; fundraiser updates; Variety Show; Drama Club*

Join the Award-Winning Meridian Park 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?

Any student in grade 3, 4, 5, or 6. Fees vary by grade.

When do we meet?

Wednesday mornings, 8:00 am - 9:00 am, 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, detailed schedule, parent volunteer commitments, and answers to the problems above: www.mpmathclub.com. If you have more questions, you can email the coordinator at mpmathclub@gmail.com.

PARENTS!!

We need a **coach** for 3rd and 4th grades! We also need an **administrator** to help us keep things running. If you love math, **the kids need you!**

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

WITHOUT MORE HELP WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP MATH CLUB RUNNING.

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

Lara Drew, Kinder Administrator
lara.drew@shorelineschools.org

Hillery Clark, Director of Early Learning

Jill Gwazdauskas, Registrar

Diane Randall, Office Manager

Suzy Cowgill, Kinder Office Manager

Tama Leahy, School Nurse

Katie McCain, Counselor

Kim Kauffman, Kinder Counselor

Annie Gage, Family Advocate

Micaela Katz, Kinder Family Advocate

2017-2018 MP PTSA

mpptsa.org

Executive Committee

Callie Steward / Naomi Hillyard,
Co-Presidents
mpptsapresident@gmail.com

Meghan Jernigan, Secretary
mpptsasecretary@gmail.com

Joy Rieke / Ann Yee, Co-Treasurers
mpptsatreasurer@gmail.com

Mary Kate Horwood, VP Events
mpptsavpevents@gmail.com

Terrice Atkins, VP Clubs/Programs
mpptsavpprograms@gmail.com

Standing Committees

Lee Lambert, Grants

Adrienne Thompson, Legislative
mpptsalegisativechair@gmail.com

Janet Shin / Nauko Grimlund,
Membership
mpptsamemberships@gmail.com

Linda Tsai / Diana Gray, 'Cheetah Chatter' Editors
mpptsanewsletter@gmail.com

Heather Sterling, Webmaster
mpptsawebsite@gmail.com

Jiovanna Koceski, Friday Email Blasts

Hannah Peterson, Teacher Representative

Follow the MP PTSA on Facebook

facebook

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

Movie Screening Sponsored by Shorewood PTSA

The Shorewood PTSA is hosting a screening of **"Angst: Normalizing the Conversation Around Anxiety for Kids and Teens"** on Sunday, October 22 at 4:00 pm at the Shoreline Center Auditorium, 18560 1st Ave. NE. Tickets are **FREE**, but please register at <http://shorelinecommunitymovieangst.bpt.me/> so they have an official count.

Contributions for tickets and childcare are encouraged and benefit the Shorewood PTSA and Dale Turner YMCA scholarship program. Teens and tweens are welcome to attend. The film is recommended for ages 12 and up.

The film is a one-hour documentary that looks at anxiety, its causes and effects and what we can do about it. "Angst" features interviews with kids and young adults who have or have experienced anxiety and what they've learned. The film also includes experts charged with helping people manage their anxiety and those who focus on researching its causes and sociological effects, while offering tools and resources that provide hope. The project will explore a conversation about anxiety from a peer-to-peer standpoint that is intimate, honest and accessible.



Join Facebook Community Groups

The purpose of these groups are to **build community** and to **share information**. ***Please do not post concerns about school staff, students or teachers on these pages.*** Come on board if you're interested!

MERIDIAN PARK ELEMENTARY PTSA

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

The "official" Facebook page for our PTSA. Activities, photos, meeting and event notifications and other information can be found in the feed!

MERIDIAN PARK ELEMENTARY PARENTS (COMMUNITY GROUP)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/meridianparkelementaryparentcommunity>

This group can be used to learn about volunteer opportunities at the school, make playdates, get help from our community and get to know one another better. This is not affiliated with the MP PTSA, but it can be a place to talk about PTSA activities.

SHORELINE HI CAP ADVOCACY GROUP

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1758976331040298/>

This is a parent-based group that was formed in 2016 to build awareness of the needs of our Highly Capable learners throughout the district. This group is not affiliated directly with the Shoreline School District.



Meridian Park Elementary 2017/18

PTSA Volunteer Search Survey

Research proves that children excel in school with parental involvement!

Please return this form to your child's teacher ASAP. Thank you!



Parent's Name: _____

Best Phone # for me: _____ E-mail: _____

Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Please mark your areas of interest and if needed, specify the grade levels with which you would most like to serve:

K _____ 1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____ 4th _____ 5th _____ Any Grade _____ Not Applicable _____

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP AT MERIDIAN PARK

Checking any items on this list does not commit to this area of service, as we understand that life happens and things can change. We will contact you because of your interest, but it is ok to say "no." Some parents want to get involved but don't know how or what is needed. **We are so thankful for our parent volunteers; we couldn't do all this without you! Please feel free to write any more info on the back of this form. You help make this school a wonderful place!**

SCHOOL WIDE SUPPORT

- ☐ Find and Collect Items for Silent Auction, Door Prizes, or other giveaways
- ☐ Assist in Library shelving books
- ☐ Fundraising Coordination for PTSA
- ☐ Update Bulletin Boards & Displays, Creative
- ☐ Before/After School Club ex. Yoga, Jump Rope, Biking, bugs, etc. _____
- ☐ Monthly Landscaping/Gardening
- ☐ Special Projects Recycling/Environment ex. Used marker collection recycle
- ☐ Kindergarten Lunch Room Support 11-11:30
- ☐ Green Team Support Lunchroom occasional 11-1:15, you pick days!
- ☐ Green Team Awards/recognition of students
- ☐ Recess Monitors/Support/Play Coaching
- ☐ Assist with PTSA content, documents, website, newsletter
- ☐ Weekly Cleaning of teacher's lounge

CLASSROOM SUPPORT

- ☐ Help in Classroom/Teacher Arranged
- ☐ Room Parent See Chatter for Details!
- ☐ Art Docent/ Teach Classroom Art thru PTSA

ON GOING/ONE TIME AT HOME OPPORTUNITIES

- ☐ Evaluate teacher requests for PTSA Grants
- ☐ Look for grant opportunities and report in Chatter
- ☐ Offer assistance for filling out grant paperwork (mostly assisting teachers or specific programs)

ONE-TIME OPPORTUNITIES -FALL

- ☐ Picture Day Assistant (Sept. 26)
- ☐ Reflections TEAM- National Visual Arts Recognition Program (Nov)
- ☐ Book Fair (TBD)
- ☐ Teachers Appreciation Lunch (Oct 11)
- ☐ Movie Night (Sept 29)
- ☐ Fall Food Drive (Nov 28-Dec 9)
- ☐ Cultural Festival/Potluck (TBD)
- ☐ Organize Teacher Cookie Exchange Dec18

ONE-TIME OPPORTUNITIES SPRING

- ☐ Variety Show (Jan 25/26)
- ☐ Coaching for Variety Show (dance, music, drama) 3:30-5 **Jan 8-12** ☐8, ☐9, ☐10, ☐11, ☐12
- ☐ Teachers Appreciation Dinner (March 8)
- ☐ School Play/Drama Club assist with supervision of students Jan 8-March 17
- ☐ Family Fun Night /PTSA Awards (April 12)
- ☐ Teacher Appreciation Breakfast (May 9)
- ☐ Arts Festival/Open House (May 24)
- ☐ Volunteer Appreciation (June 5)
- ☐ Field Day (June 15)
- ☐ 6th Grade Celebration

☐ **ON-CALL VOLUNTEER: Not sure how to help now, but want to get asked anyway! Sign-up! We will ask when we need the most help.**

☐ **I'm flexible: Email me anytime to work at school**

Meridian Park Elementary Daily Schedule

2017 - 2018

Breakfast Begins	8:45 AM	Open to All Students Patrol 8:40 ok
School Bus Arrival	8:55 AM	
Students Line Up at Rooms	9:00 AM	
Doors Open	9:05 AM	bell
Instruction	9:10 AM	bell
Attendance	9:30 AM	
Lunch Money	10:00 AM	

Recess/Lunch Block	50 minute blocks		
Grade	Recess	Lunch	Classroom
Kindergarten	11:00 - 11:20	11:20 - 11:45	11:50
Grades 1-2	11:30 - 11:50	11:50 - 12:15	12:20
Grades 3-4 & 2/3 combo	12:00 - 12:20	12:20 - 12:45	12:50
Grades 5-6	12:30 - 12:50	12:50 - 1:15	1:20

dismiss 11:47, 12:17, 12:47, 1:17

AM & PM Recess

Grades 5 & 6	10:45 - 11:00 AM
Grade K	1:30 - 1:45 PM
Grades 1 - 2	2:00 - 2:15 PM
Grades 3 - 4	2:15 - 2:30 PM

Dismissal	3:30 PM	Bus 3:35
Early Dismissal	11:45 AM	Bus 11:50

Band/Orchestra

Wednesday	Friday
Grade 6 9:55 - 10:45	Grade 6 1:20 - 2:05
Grade 5 11:00 - 11:50	Grade 5 2:25 - 3:10

ENGAGING MINDS. INSPIRING DREAMS. EMPOWERING LIVES.
Shoreline Public Schools Instructional Strategic Plan



MISSION

Provide a collaborative learning community which engages all students in learning the academic and work-life skills needed to achieve their individual potential and become responsible citizens.

VISION FOR STUDENT LEARNERS

Shoreline School District will support **all students** in becoming ...

Persistent
Effective Communicators
Growth Oriented
Critical Thinkers
Empathetic
Creative
Global Citizens
Knowledgeable
Collaborative



SHARED BELIEFS

All students can achieve

All students can grow to reach their academic and personal excellence.

Equitable access to rigorous learning is essential

All students will be provided with equitable instruction, access to innovative programs, and necessary supports for success.

Diversity makes our community stronger

We view diversity as an asset. Fostering an environment of dignity and respect, all individuals, opinions, and contributions are valued.

Curiosity sparks creativity and innovation

Students will be encouraged to generate questions, explore topics of interest, and engage in inquiry to develop new ideas and novel ways of thinking.

Respect, empathy, and collaboration are at the core of community

Students will broaden their perspectives by seeking to understand the perspectives and experiences of others to enable them to work collaboratively. Students will understand their role and responsibilities in our local and global community.

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

We will design and implement systems of learning that honor individual student goals and dreams, while building college and career readiness in an environment that supports social, emotional, and physical well being.

- 1. Support a **culture of ongoing learning and growth.**
- 2. Embrace **equity and diversity.**
- 3. **Know our students** and meet their social, emotional, and academic needs.
- 4. Foster students' ability to develop **academic, life, and career skills.**
- 5. **Teach** in ways that are **relevant, engaging, innovative, student-driven, and rigorous.**