

# Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park Elementary School and the Meridian Park PTSA

## Holiday Baskets Food Drive and Teen Gifts

Last day for donations is **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8!**

The **Holiday Baskets, Food Drive and Teen Gifts** program's objective is to provide quality food and gift support to Shoreline School District families who will be needing assistance during the holiday season.



Meridian Park's food item is **CANNED VEGETABLES**, but any non-expired (non-glass) packaged food is appreciated. *Our school goal is 500+ items.* There are drop boxes in every classroom and in the lobby of the school.

*\*\* There will also be a hot chocolate party awarded to the classrooms that bring in the most items! \*\**

The distribution of food and gifts will be held on Saturday, December 9, from 11:30 am - 4:30 pm at Kellogg Middle School.

## Meridian Park's First-Ever Winter Ball!

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 18**  
**6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**



Mark your calendars and dust off your cheesy formal wear! We will be hosting Meridian Park's first schoolwide Winter Dance on January 18! We are currently in the first stages of planning, and *we welcome your party planning skills!* Contact Blyn Redden at [blyn.redden@shorelineschools.org](mailto:blyn.redden@shorelineschools.org) to join the party planning committee.

## Teacher Appreciation Event - Monday, December 18

Colder weather is here!

We would like to provide a **HOT DRINK AND BREAKFAST BAR** for our teachers and staff - and we need your help!

We will be setting up **hot drinks, fruit and pastries** in the teacher/staff lounge before school starts at 8:00 am on Monday, December 18. You can sign up to bring a drink or food to share, or volunteer to help with set-up or clean-up using the following "Perfect Potluck" link:

<http://www.perfectpotluck.com/meals.php?t=Y0BU9078&v=81dc9bdb52>

You can drop off items in the staff lounge (use a staff refrigerator if needed) *on or before Friday, December 15.* If you have something hot you want to bring, please bring it to the staff lounge by 7:30 am on Monday, December 18. Also, please label your item *"Staff Appreciation"*.

Thank you so much!  
MP PTSA Appreciation Committee

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## Upcoming Events

**December 7**  
MP PTSA Movie: *Foosball (Underdogs)*  
6:15 pm – 7:45 pm  
MP Cafeteria

**December 7**  
Drama Club Parent Meeting  
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
MP Library

**December 8**  
Holiday Basket Food Drive Ends

**December 9**  
Elementary STEM Day  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Shorecrest High School

**December 12 and 13**  
Variety Show Auditions  
3:45 pm – 6:00 pm  
MP Music and Band Rooms

**December 14**  
Kindergarten Gingerbread Houses  
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm  
MP Cafeteria

**December 18**  
Teacher Appreciation Breakfast Bar  
MP Teachers' Lounge

**December 18**  
Winter Sing-Along Concert  
2:35 pm  
MP Cafeteria

**December 20 - January 2**  
Winter Break - *No School*

**January 3**  
School Resumes

**January 9**  
PTSA General Membership Meeting  
with Levy Presentation by Marla Miller,  
Deputy Superintendent  
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
MP Library

**January 12**  
Martin Luther King, Jr Assembly  
9:30 am - 10:00 am  
MP Cafeteria

**January 15**  
Martin Luther King, Jr Day - *No School*

**January 16-18**  
Drama Club Auditions  
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm  
Location TBD

# Announcements

## Hi Cap Corner: Gifted Education Day – Thursday, February 8

Mark your calendars for **GIFTED EDUCATION DAY** on Thursday, February 8! Join other Shoreline families in Olympia and learn about issues affecting Highly Capable services in our state, meet our legislators, participate in a tour of the Capitol, and see government at work. *This will be an excused absence day for students who wish to participate in Gifted Education Day festivities.* The Shoreline Hi Cap Advocacy Group will provide more information on its website ([www.shorelinehicap.org/advocacy](http://www.shorelinehicap.org/advocacy)) as the date draws nearer. If you have questions, email: [shoreline.hicap.advocacy@gmail.com](mailto:shoreline.hicap.advocacy@gmail.com)

## Parent Volunteers Are Needed to Help with Health Screenings

Washington State law requires schools to conduct **AUDITORY AND VISUAL SCREENINGS** for elementary students in grades K, 1, 2, 3, and 5. The Meridian Park nurse will be doing these screenings on **Wednesday, December 6 through Friday, December 8**. Screenings will be done from 9:30 am – Noon and 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm on each of those days. No experience is necessary and training will be provided. If you are able to help, please contact Nurse Tama Leahy at (206) 393-4124 or [tama.leahy@shorelineschools.org](mailto:tama.leahy@shorelineschools.org).

## 9th Annual Meridian Park Musical

The Meridian Park PTSA & Dandylyon Drama are pleased to announce this year's musical...

### THE WIZARD OF OZ, JR.!!!



This wonderful show will be performed by 4th-6th graders, and *for the first time ever*, our 1st-3rd graders will have the opportunity to be a part of the event! It is sure to be a great crowd pleaser!

Here are some **important dates and information** regarding the show:

### MANDATORY PARENT MEETING

**Thursday, December 7**

**7:00 pm, Meridian Park Library**

Parents will learn how Drama Club works and how the students will participate.  
Registration packets will also be available.

### MANDATORY AUDITIONS FOR 4TH-6TH GRADES

**January 16 - January 18**

**3:30 pm - 5:30 pm, Meridian Park**

### Starting in January

#### DRAMA REHEARSALS FOR 4TH-6TH GRADES

**Various Mondays – Thursdays**

**3:30 pm - 5:30 pm**

#### DRAMA REHEARSALS FOR 1ST-3RD GRADES

**Tuesdays**

**3:30 pm - 4:45 pm, MP Cafeteria**

### THE WIZARD OF OZ, JR PERFORMANCES

**Friday, March 16 and Saturday, March 17**

**7:00 pm, Shorecrest High School**

**Registration packets** will be available at the parent meeting and in the school office on **December 8**.

This club is **first come, first served!** The first **50** who turn in completed packets with money are guaranteed a spot. Cost of the club is **\$85** - Scholarships are available.

Questions? Contact Susan Duthweiler at [sduthweiler@gmail.com](mailto:sduthweiler@gmail.com)

# Announcements

## Variety Show Reminders

**AUDITIONS:** Tuesday, December 12 and Wednesday, December 13, 3:45 pm - 6:00 pm  
(You will be notified in advance as to which date your child should attend)

**MANDATORY TECH REHEARSAL:** Thursday, January 25, 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm

**VARIETY SHOW:** Friday, January 26, 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm at **Shorewood High School**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Margaret Stapleton at [margaretstapleton@hotmail.com](mailto:margaretstapleton@hotmail.com)



## Favorite Recipes Wanted!



Do you have a favorite family recipe that you love to cook for special occasions? Do you have a recipe that is always a hit with your family? The Meridian Park PTSA is putting together a recipe book of YOUR favorite family recipes.

You may submit photos and/or handwritten recipe cards directly to Naomi Hillyard. We will scan them and return them to you. Or, submit your recipe by email at [mpptsarecipes@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsarecipes@gmail.com).

**The submission deadline is February 28.**

## Brown Bear Car Wash Fundraiser for 6th Grade Camp

Meridian Park 6th graders are partnering with The Brown Bear Charity Car Wash Program to sell car wash tickets to raise money for the 6th Grade Camp Orkila trip.

Each spring, Meridian Park 6th graders and teachers attend Camp Orkila for a unique team building and bonding experience. Students describe camp as the “best part of 6th grade!” All profits from the sale of these tickets benefit ALL Meridian Park 6th graders as well as assisting with camp scholarships.

Please consider purchasing tickets! **Tickets cost \$6 each.** Forms to purchase tickets have been provided

to each classroom for your child to bring home. Attach payment in cash or personal check (payable to “MERIDIAN PARK ELEMENTARY”) and turn in to your child’s teacher or the school’s front office. The tickets will be delivered to your child’s class to bring home.

Questions? Email Susan Duthweiler at [sduthweiler@gmail.com](mailto:sduthweiler@gmail.com). **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!**



## Replacement Levies Adopted for February 13 Ballot

At their November 6, 2017 meeting, the Shoreline School District Board of Directors unanimously adopted resolutions to place **two four-year replacement levies** on the February 13, 2018 special election ballot. These levies would replace existing levies that will expire at the end of 2018.

There are **four community-wide presentations** scheduled, all held in the Shoreline School Board Room (18560 1st Ave NE, Shoreline) - **December 13** at **10:00 am** and **7:00 pm**, and **January 9** at **10:00 am** and **7:00 pm**. Also, Marla Miller (Deputy Superintendent) will do a levy presentation at the January 9 MP PTSA Meeting.

You can find information about the levies, the community presentation schedule, request a presentation and submit questions here: <https://www.shorelineschools.org/domain/1334>.

# Announcements

## Elementary STEM Day - Saturday, December 9



### Shorecrest High School Technology Student Association presents... **Elementary STEM Day**

**Who:** all Elementary age students  
Priority will be given to new registrants

**What:** A STEM activity day that will include structural challenges, driving a robot, designing an efficient boat, coding, and more!  
Snacks will be provided

**When:** Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
2 sessions: 9am-12pm OR 1pm-4pm

**Where:** Shorecrest High School - M180  
15343 25<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
Shoreline, WA 98155

**Why:** Help support the Shorecrest High School Technology Student Association by sending your kid to a fully supervised, interactive event that exposes them to technology classes at the high school.

**How:** Go to <http://tinyurl.com/SCStemDay>  
Once there, pay the \$25 flat rate and enter the information for your child in order to get them registered. Registration is required **prior** to the event.

Email the TSA advisors at  
[kari.potter@shorelineschools.org](mailto:kari.potter@shorelineschools.org) for help!



Shoreline School District #412 does not discriminate against any protected classes. For further information on notice of nondiscrimination, including the address and phone number of the Title IX officer, visit [http://www.shorelineschools.org/info/title\\_ix.php](http://www.shorelineschools.org/info/title_ix.php)

# Cheetah Cheers



A hearty congratulations to our very own Meridian Park teacher **Denise Peters** who was presented with the **PATSY COLLINS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND COMMUNITY** and a **\$10,000 classroom grant** by Islandwood at their annual *Waking the World Benefit Breakfast* on November 15! She was one of only three teachers in the Puget Sound region to receive the prestigious honor. Learn more [here](#).

*Denise Peters with student Sarah Haycox at the November 15 recognition event*

Thank you to everyone who attended the **Multicultural Festival**. We had a great time eating delicious food and listening to and dancing to mariachi music. The Mandarin and Spanish Clubs showed off their stuff, and we all learned about some of the cultures represented at our school.

***Much gratitude*** to **Julie Reinhardt, Alma Mendez** and **Annie Gage** for organizing this event and making it a huge success!



**james alan**  
SALON & SPA

***Big thanks*** to **JAMES ALAN SALON** (<http://jamesalansalon.com>) for sponsoring the Multicultural Festival and donating the fabulous raffle item!

If you would like to contribute a raffle item for an upcoming event (Variety Show, Winter Ball, Spring Family Fun Night), please contact [naomihillyard@gmail.com](mailto:naomihillyard@gmail.com).

# Teacher/Staff Profiles



## Michelle Hageland, Resource Room

Hello! My name is Michelle Hageland. I am in my 6th year of teaching. I have two wonderful, grown up boys, 21 and 19, who attend college. I am married to my best friend for 25 years. I started my career late to be a stay-at-home mom. I love working with students and seeing their eyes light up from learning. I work in the resource room on academics and social skills. I feel my job is to find all the genuine positives that I can to encourage my students to learn and to give them a safe place to make mistakes.

## Matt Reiman, 4th Grade

MP is an amazing community, and I ought to know because I am definitely one of the 'old' teachers. I am not a founding staff member, but I have been around long enough to know that MP is something special. I am grateful to be a part of it. I have taught at MP for 17 years, two years at Echo Lake, and eight years before that in the Highline School District. I have taught 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade, and I was even a librarian for 2-1/2 years. I love to teach Science and Math, even though I have a degree in English Literature. I think if I could go back in time and do it all over again, I would study engineering with a focus on renewable energy. I grew up and continue to live in North Seattle. My son attends Shorewood H. S., and my partner is a reading specialist in the Edmonds S. D. and a cello teacher. I love to learn new things, and I love music. Thank you for entrusting your children to me. They are the future.



## Annie Gage, Family Advocate

I am the Family Advocate and this is my 8th year at Meridian Park. The job used to be half-time, and I am really happy it is full-time now.

I love that my job is different every day. Most days include a mix of providing emotional support, helping with friendship dilemmas, helping families get things they need, and working with the smart, kind, and dynamic staff and families here. Starting now and into the future, my job also includes work on equitable family engagement. I am still learning what that means and looks like. It is exciting to get to learn something new.

Working in elementary school, I've learned it is important to have my "favorites" at the ready (Insect: dragonfly. Color: purple. Animal: giraffe.), but it's hard to say one favorite part of my day. Helping people get their needs met, whatever those may be, is very rewarding to me.

Although I am the daughter of an educational psychologist, my educational focus has always been on the social-emotional-social justice side of life. To that end, I think Meridian Park is getting better all the time. In my eight years here, I have seen students' awareness of empathy, kindness, and social skills increase. I love it that a lot of our students know about belly breathing to calm down, and that at Meridian Park we try to keep problems small.

My garden is my happy place, and I love to spend hours hanging out in the dirt with my crow and earthworm friends. I also love to read and am seeking opportunities to use a microphone. My wife and I have taken some big hiking trips in Europe and South America and look forward to more. Our 22 year old son is a dedicated skateboard photographer. I also have an elderly cat and an elderly dog and have lived in the same purple house near Green Lake for 25 years.

# Principal's Letter

## DEAR FAMILIES:

Winter is here! Students and staff are focused on academics, positive behavior, and fun. Thanks for our partnership in growth and learning.

Our **Safety Committee** meets regularly to review safety procedures. Thanks to the work of **Matt Alford, April Ingle**, and many of you, we have updated and organized our emergency supplies. We have held Fire and Lockdown drills, and we participated in the State Earthquake Drill. We encourage your family to prepare for the possibility of an earthquake.

Promoting positive behavior is our approach to social growth. Students learn to manage themselves based on the expectations of respect, responsibility, and safety. Each classroom uses a self-manager system, and students are recognized for positive behavior with **Cheetah Cheers**. Our **Very Important Cheetah (VIC)** lunch is a monthly activity for students selected by classmates for demonstrating the monthly theme.

We also have a **no-tolerance policy regarding bullying** behaviors. We focus on prevention and teaching students how to respond to hurtful situations by Recognizing, Refusing, and Reporting. We reviewed this information regularly in classrooms and at a school assembly. We are committed to personal and emotional safety for our entire community.

Again this year we have a schoolwide **Movement and Mindset Goal**. We know from much research and experience that movement and mindset are keys to healthy minds and bodies, so we take regular 3-5 minute **'brain breaks'** during the week to stimulate brain activity. As a school, we engage in short lessons on mindset and growth.

Thank you and congratulations to our **PTSA officers, board, and volunteers** for a wonderful fall supporting our school. **Callie, Naomi** and team are busy with many activities, and you're always invited to pitch in. Every little bit helps. We also hope to see you at our monthly Tuesday night meetings.

We are grateful for our wonderful families and proud of our students. Public education is a fundamental part of our country and free society, and MP is a great example of a public school that makes a difference in the lives of students and families. **Best wishes for rest, reading, and exercise during Winter Break**. I recommend family walks and other family outdoor activities, as well as reading and board or card games. I hope that adults and kids alike will limit screen time! We look forward to seeing all Cheetahs for a great year in 2018. Thank you for the wonderful gift of your children and family.

## Happy Holidays!

David Tadlock, Principal



## Tadlock Tip #4

This holiday season, I hope you will **give the gift of reading**. Take your kids to local bookstores or the library to find books for the family to enjoy together or share with others. During winter break, turn everything off for at least 30 minutes a day for family quiet reading or out-loud reading time.

## HOLIDAY ASSEMBLY

The holidays are a wonderful time to celebrate and learn about diverse family cultures and traditions. At MP, many multi-cultural holiday activities will occur in classrooms and culminate with our **Multi-Cultural Holiday Sing-Along** on [Monday, December 18 at 2:35 pm](#). Families grades 1 through 6 are invited to join the fun! Families who prefer their child(ren) not participate in this multi-cultural event may request an alternative activity through your classroom teacher.

## REMINDERS

- During **bad weather**, check the media about late start or closure. **If we are late, school starts at 11:05 am.**
- The **Lost and Found** is in the hall near the cafeteria and always open for you to check.
- **Safe and Slow** in our parking lot and Meridian/175th! Please use crosswalks.
- Please send kids to school with **coats/hats**; contact us for needs with cold weather clothing. If you have donations of warm clothing, please contact our office or contact **The Works**.

# Kindergarten News

## Family Events

We have really enjoyed getting to see our Kindergarten families at our evening community events. Below are the events we have throughout the rest of the school year. More specific information about each event will be shared with families through classroom communications. We are looking forward to seeing families at our upcoming event on December 14!

### Event

Making gingerbread houses  
Winter ball/dance  
Valentine's celebration  
STEM night  
Kindergarten Art Gallery  
Playground playdate

### Date/Time

December 14, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
January 18, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
February 8, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
March 15, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
May 24, 6:00 pm (*during the school's annual Arts Festival*)  
June 7, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

## Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) Update

Our Kindergarten team works closely with our 1st-6th colleagues and classrooms to share in our work around Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) at Meridian Park. As we began our school year together as a staff, one of our school improvement goals included PBIS efforts. We believe that if we are consistent in teaching common social emotional skills and use common language, we will have a positive impact on students developing meaningful relationships, creating a sense of belonging, and increasing engagement in learning.

Below is an overview of several PBIS efforts that our Kindergarten community has been working to incorporate in our learning together this Fall.

### FALL PBIS CELEBRATIONS:

- Cheetah Cheers (*individual*) and Cheetah Paws (*class*)
- Schoolwide behavior expectations learning (*hallway, bathroom, cafeteria, bus zones, classrooms, arrival/dismissal*)
- Classroom meetings, building community and connection
- Schoolwide monthly themes and focus: Sept - Respect, Oct - Responsibility, Nov - Gratitude, Dec - Cooperation
- Kinder Family engagement survey  
(*If you haven't already, Kinder families can complete it at <https://goo.gl/forms/K6WnsXoftTR98bov1>*)
- Our Guidance Team meets weekly to support student needs and growth
- Second Step – social emotional learning lessons
- Big Buddy/Little Buddy Kinder classroom time
- Bully Prevention Assembly by Taproot Theater
- Reset Stations and Zones of Regulation.... we are excited to share that Reset stations will soon be found throughout all learning environments in our Kindergarten program! Please look for an email to all Kinder families explaining Reset stations in depth.

If you have any questions about our PBIS efforts, please don't hesitate to contact our Kindergarten Counselor, Kim Kauffman at (206) 393-1797.



# Kindergarten News

## Kindergarten Team

Our Kindergarten Team is fortunate to have a fabulous group of Paraeducators supporting your children in a variety of ways. The Paraeducators are with students in classrooms, on the playground, in the lunchroom, and during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal. They bring to their work a passion for working with young learners, care and compassion for our students, and a variety of experiences working with children. Ms. Geri, Ms. Sam, and Ms. Sheryl are members of our team. Here is some information to help you get to know more about them.

### Ms. Geri



Hello Cheetahs! My name is Geri Johnson - aka Ms. Geri. I have a multitude of jobs here at Meridian Park. My main work is with our Kindergarteners. If your student rides the bus, I see them when they arrive and when they depart school. I assist in four of the nine classes. Your student will find me supervising on the playground or in the cafeteria. In my yellow pack around my waist, I am prepared with a sticker, a band aid, a tissue or whatever else to help assist our kindergarteners. At recess, I love watching our students grow in figuring out how to solve a problem with words and not using their body.

I grew up in Shoreline and went to Shoreline Schools - Parkwood Elementary, Cordell Hull Middle School (now the home of MP), and graduated from Shoreline High School (now the home of the Shoreline Center). Shoreline is home for my family. Both my son and my daughter went through the Shoreline School District and graduated from Shorewood. Now, they both attend UW. When not at MP, I spend a lot of time in Central Washington with my husband and two children.

### Ms. Sam

Hi fellow Cheetahs! My name is Samantha Bircher, but the kiddos know me as Ms. Sam. This year is my first year working at MP, and I am so lucky I get to be so involved in many different aspects of a kindergartener's day! My day at MP starts and ends with getting the kiddos on and off the buses and making sure their day starts and ends on a positive note. I am in multiple kindergarten classrooms, helping to facilitate reading and learning throughout the day. I supervise playground and lunch, which is where I get to know each individual's personality and hear about what is going on in his/her life.



This is also my first year at Shoreline School District. I grew up in Olympia, WA and went to WSU (Go Cougs!) for a degree in developmental psychology. I will complete my degree online this Spring, since my husband and I moved here for his job. When I'm not at MP or doing school work, I am with my husband and our golden retriever puppy, Russell, probably watching the Mariners or the Seahawks!

### Ms. Sheryl



Hello Cheetah Families. I have worked at Meridian Park for the past 23 years. I have had the pleasure of working with the Kindergarten classes all of my 23 years. I work in Ms Gino's class this year, and I am with your kids on the playground and in the lunchroom. Some of you might see me out on the corner of 175th and Meridian crossing the kids in the morning, and when school's out, I help get the kids get on the bus for the ride home.

I grew up in Shoreline, attended Paramount Park Elementary (now the skateboard and play park on 155th), Morgan Junior High (which is now Kellogg Middle School), and Shorecrest High School. Go Scots! I have two kids that also went to school in Shoreline.

# PTSA News

## Fundraising Update

### *We are so grateful to those who have already donated!*

We recognize that not all families can give financially to the PTSA and that is OK. We ask that if you can donate or volunteer, please DO! Your participation by donating money to our fundraiser directly pays for these enrichment programs: Art Docent, Multicultural Night, teacher grants, library books, supplies for PE, music department support, movie nights, Variety Show... the list goes on! Here are some numbers for your consideration:



1. **PTSA FALL FUNDRAISER - CHEETAH RACE TO \$12,000.** We have collected a total of **\$6,001.70**. **You can still donate** to the PTSA and help us reach our goal at [www.mpptsa.org](http://www.mpptsa.org), or send in a check with your student made out to Meridian Park PTSA.
2. **SO FAR, 50 FAMILIES HAVE PARTICIPATED.** There are **750** students at Meridian Park. We would love to have **100 families** participate.
3. Meridian Park PTSA changed to a **"DIRECT ASK" FOR DONATIONS** four years ago, moving away from selling cookie dough and wrapping paper sales programs. Other local examples of "direct ask" collections: This fall, **Syre** collected **\$42,000** and **Parkwood** collected **\$18,000**! Remember, the money that is collected from families goes directly into our schools! You can even come to PTSA meetings and have a direct say in how the funds are spent.
4. **WHY SHOULD YOU DONATE, AND HOW ARE WE SPENDING THESE FUNDS?** We are currently giving out **\$2,000** in **Teacher and Staff Grants** this December. Our total budget for Grants is \$4,000 for the year. We won't be able to give out the additional \$2,000 in the Spring Grant cycle if we don't bring in more funds; we can't support these programs without the financial support of our families.
5. **WE WANT TO HELP YOU!** We would love to purchase an **informational sign for the parking lot** like many other schools have. This would be great for the school as well as the PTSA to inform and remind families of the many things going on in our school. All fundraising over \$8,000 will go to help purchase this sign!



# Cheetah Notes: Library

## Greetings MP Families!

### FALL SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Thank you for supporting our One-Day-Only Scholastic Book Fair on December 5. It was both busy and successful. We will be purchasing great new books for the library with the funds that were raised.

I'd like to thank all of the volunteers who helped to make the book fair a success: **Alma Mendez, Wendy Li, Wei-Peng Chung, Karisa Justice, Susan Duthweiler, Ann Yee, Linda Tsai, Rebbecah Emanuel, Charlie Livingston, Laura Graven, Janet Shin, Linda Burt, Elizabeth Swan, and Whitney Hardie.** *You guys are the BEST!*

### AUTHOR-POET-SONG WRITER ERIC ODE WILL VISIT MP ON MARCH 13 AND 14

**Mr. Ode** will share stories, songs, and poems in interactive ways with the Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd graders. He has visited MP twice in the past, and I cannot wait for another group of MP cheetahs to experience his enthusiasm and joy of language.

You can visit Mr. Ode's website at [www.ericode.com](http://www.ericode.com) to learn more about him.

***A huge thank you to the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation for funding this two-day event!***

### GRANTS

I am so grateful to the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation and the Sno-King School Retirees Association for funding **three grants** that will benefit MP students. Below is information about each grant.

1. We will be able to **purchase Maker-Space building materials** for Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd graders thanks again to the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation. Maggie Cramer (Kindergarten librarian), and I will teach a literature unit around the theme of building. As part of the unit, students will work with a variety of building materials to create their own structures. We look forward to this fun learning experience for all students.
2. With a grant from the Sno-King School Retirees Association, I will be able to **rent a Burke Box** about the Plateau Native Americans of Washington State. By interacting with the hands-on materials in the box, 3rd graders will enhance their understanding of how First Peoples lived in the Pacific Northwest.
3. Finally, I was able to **expand MP's Capstone eBook library** with a matching grant from Capstone Press. I spent \$750, and the company matched it with an additional \$750. ***You might not know that Meridian Park has an eBook library.*** I began developing it during the 2016 – 2017 school year with grants from the Shoreline Foundation and the PTSA. This year, I was able to add more books to the collection. While the focus last year was on supplemental social studies texts and fun choice books for students, ***this year, I focused exclusively on high interest, fun books for all students.***

One of the great things about the eBook library is that all of the books are available to all students 24/7. There is no check out process and no due date. An entire class can read the same book at the same time!

Please visit the library by following this link: <https://www.shorelineschools.org/domain/394>

Capstone is the second link. Follow the simple directions to access the ebooks.

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

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

# Cheetah Notes: Counselor's Corner

## December Theme: Cooperation

Our December Theme is **COOPERATION**: *working together, compromise, flexibility, and teamwork*. Even though it's a short month for this theme, it's an important one to help students learn! We will celebrate our students who demonstrate this theme at our Very Important Cheetah (VIC) lunch on December 14. Please see the booklist below from **Mollie Merkley** and **Jenny Hillger** for great ideas on how to incorporate more learning about cooperation at home! The booklist is also available online at <https://www.shorelineschools.org/Page/2891>.

Katie McCain, School Counselor, M.Ed. – Grades 1-6  
(206) 393-1785 – [katie.mccain@shorelineschools.org](mailto:katie.mccain@shorelineschools.org)



Title	Author(s)	Lexile	at MP?	at KCLS?
The Giant Jam Sandwich	Burroway, Janet; Lord, John Vernon	E NP	Y	Y
The Great Fuzz Frenzy	Stevens, Janet; Crummel, Susan Stevens	420L	Y	Y
Officer Buckle & Gloria	Rathmann, Peggy	510L	Y	Y
The Gollywopper Games	Feldman, Jody	590L	Y	Y
Swindle	Korman, Gordon	710L	Y	Y
Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library	Grabenstein, Chris	720L	Y	Y
No Talking	Clements, Andrew	820L	Y	Y
Doll Bones	Black, Holly	840L	Y	Y
Lunch Money	Clements, Andrew	840L	Y	Y
If You Plant a Seed	Nelson, Kadir	AD150L	Y	Y
Pumpkin Soup	Cooper, Helen	AD310L	Y	Y
Seven Blind Mice	Young, Ed	AD350L	Y	Y
Ninja Bunny	Olson, Jennifer Gray	AD410L	Y	Y
Chloe and the Lion	Barnett, Mac	AD460L	Y	Y
Zinnia and Dot	Ernst, Lisa Campbell	AD560L	Y	Y
Abiyoyo	Seeger, Pete	AD610L	Y	Y
Swimmy	Lionni, Leo	AD640L	N	Y
The Seven Chinese Brothers	Mahy, Margaret	AD820L	Y	Y
Building Our House	Bean, Jonathan	AD820L	Y	Y
My Friend Rabbit	Rohmann, Eric	BR	Y	Y
Rex Wrecks It	Clanton, Ben		Y	Y
Three Hens and a Peacock	Laminack, Lester L	590L	Y	Y

NP= Non-prose, no lexile

AD=Adult Directed

BR= Beginning Reader

# Cheetah Notes: Music

## Happy December from General Music!



### MUSICIANS AT MERIDIAN PARK ARE BUSY

Students sang together to honor and thank our country's veterans at the Veterans Day Program in November. Fourth grade students performed "*Song for the Unsung Hero*" for our Veterans, students, and guests.

Fifth grade students in Ms. Peterson's, Ms. Norton's and Ms. Rudberg's classes performed four songs the evening of the Book Fair, December 5, in the Cafeteria.

The annual *Winter Sing Along* will be on **Monday, December 18**, from 2:35 pm - 3:15 pm. Sixth grade (and fifth graders in Ms. Keeley's class) will perform choral selections, then all students will sing winter songs together. Parents of performing students are invited to attend!

And have you noticed the beautiful lights decorating our community? As you take in the sights, consider taking in the sounds as well. Attend a choir or orchestra concert, ballet (a performance of *The Nutcracker Suite* perhaps), Seattle Symphony's holiday concerts, take in a performance from the Christmas Ship, or listen to music together at home. There are also many children's choirs in the area that do fantastic and kid-friendly concerts of excellent music. Enjoy doing some musical "decorating" by singing together at home or around the neighborhood as a family. Consider participating in a sing-along of winter songs or Handel's Messiah, or sing at a nearby care facility or hospital to brighten up the lives of others! Come back ready to share your musical stories in January 2018!

### LOOKING AHEAD

Our schoolwide *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day assembly* will be on Friday, January 12, 9:30 am - 10:00 am.

The *West Side Choral Festival* will be at Shorewood High School Thursday February 1, 2018: Sixth grade students who qualified for the 2018 Sixth Grade Honor Choir need to return their signed forms ASAP. See the Documents section on [Mrs. Anderson's teacher website](#) for a copy if you can't find yours. Thank you!

Fifth grade and Fifth/Sixth grade classes will be taking a field trip to *Seattle Symphony's Concert: Link Up (The Orchestra Rocks)* at Benaroya Hall, Wednesday, March 14 at 12:15 pm.

Please mark your calendars for the *Meridian Park Arts Festival* Thursday, May 25, 6:30 pm - 7:15 pm. Second, Third, and Fourth grade classes (and First grade students in Ms. Uran's and Ms. Clark's classes) will perform!

First grade (Ms. Barnes' and Ms. Loes' classes) will have their concert on Tuesday evening, June 5, at the *PTSA Meeting*.

Sixth grade performs Thursday, June 21, 9:30 am at their *Moving On Celebration*.

Happy Holidays!  
Mrs. Anderson and the Meridian Park Singing Cheetahs



# Resources for Families

## Meridian Park Elementary

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

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

Lara Drew, Kinder Administrator  
[lara.drew@shorelineschools.org](mailto: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](http://mpptsa.org)

## Executive Committee

Callie Steward / Naomi Hillyard,  
Co-Presidents

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

Meghan Jernigan, Secretary  
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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

## Would you like to be a Breakfast or Lunch Angel?

Shoreline elementary schools have emergency (scholarship) breakfast/lunch accounts that accept donations. The purpose of the account is to support families with a negative account balance. Many families who do not qualify for free/reduced meals still need support for breakfast or lunch.

If you would like to donate to Meridian Park's emergency breakfast/lunch account, you can do so by:

- Donating additional money by cash or check when you add money to your student's account; be sure to designate the amount
- Separate donation by check or credit card directly to Shoreline Schools or Food and Nutrition Service (206-393-4209); be sure to designate for MP Emergency Lunch Account

Please contact **Annie Gage** if you have questions:

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



## Message from Annie Gage, Family Advocate:

If you ever have a little extra, please keep Shoreline families in mind!

There are many ways to help out during the school year.

One way is to provide **gift cards for Fred Meyer or gas stations**. They can be incredibly helpful for families who are struggling financially.

It's wonderful to be able to give them to folks at my discretion.

Just put them on my desk, in my mailbox, or give them to Jill at the front office and let her know they are for the Family Advocate's office.

## Community Resources List

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

[211 Resource Connections](#)  
[Food4Kids Weekend Food Backpack Program](#)  
[Hunger Intervention Program \(HIP\)](#)  
[Holiday Baskets Gifts and Food Supplies](#)  
[The WORKS \(clothing\)](#)  
[Shoreline Community Care](#)  
[International Community Health Services](#)  
[Center for Human Services](#)  
[ParentHelp 123](#)  
[King County Homeless Housing Program](#)