

# Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park Elementary School and the Meridian Park PTSA

## School District Levies - Please Vote on February 13

At their November 6, 2017 meeting, the Shoreline School District Board of Directors approved two 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.

### PROPOSITION 1:

#### Replacement of Expiring Levy for Educational Programs and Operations

This replacement levy helps fund education programs not fully supported by state and federal funding including (but not limited to): **special education** programs, **highly capable** programs, and **remedial** programs - as well as **extra-curricular** student activities such as **music, drama and athletics**.

The maximum tax rate for Proposition 1 would be **\$1.50 per \$1,000** of assessed property value annually. This rate would collect:

- \$21,300,000 in 2019
- \$23,500,000 in 2020
- \$25,602,000 in 2021
- \$28,250,000 in 2022

**This accounts for roughly 20 percent** of Shoreline School District's operating budget.

### PROPOSITION 2:

#### Replacement of Expiring Capital Levy for Technology Improvement and Support

This replacement levy funds instructional technology and internet access for students and staff across the district. These funds help pay for (but are not limited to): student and staff **computers and technology access**, as well as **staffing, professional development and training**.

The estimated tax rates for Proposition 2 would be as follows:

- **\$0.23 per \$1,000** of assessed property value in 2019
- **\$0.21 per \$1,000** of assessed property value in 2020
- **\$0.19 per \$1,000** of assessed property value in 2021
- **\$0.17 per \$1,000** of assessed property value in 2022

These rates would collect **\$3,250,000 annually**.

Ballots will be mailed to registered voters in Shoreline School District on **January 24, 2018** and must be returned or postmarked by **February 13, 2018**. To register to vote, visit [www.kingcounty.gov/elections](http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections). **The deadline to register is January 15 in order to vote on the February ballot.**

You can find information about the levies, community presentations, how to request a presentation or submit questions at:

<https://www.shorelineschools.org/levy>.

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## Upcoming Events

**Friday, January 12**  
**Martin Luther King, Jr Assembly**  
 9:30 am - 10:00 am (Grades 1-6)  
 MP Cafeteria  
 2:45 pm - 3:15 pm (Kindergarten)  
 Small Gym

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

**Monday, January 15**  
**Day of Service - Landscaping**  
 9:00 am - 11:00 am  
 MP School Grounds

**Tuesday, January 16,**  
**Wednesday, January 17, and**  
**Thursday, January 18**  
**Wizard of Oz Jr Auditions**  
 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm  
 MP Cafeteria

**Thursday, January 18**  
**MP Winter Ball**  
 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
 MP Cafeteria and Gym

**Thursday, January 25**  
**MP Variety Show Tech Rehearsal**  
 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm  
 Shorewood High School

**Friday, January 26**  
**MP Variety Show**  
 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
 Shorewood High School

**Friday, January 26**  
**End of First Semester**

**Monday, January 29**  
**Non-Student Work Day - No School**

**Monday, January 29**  
**MP Students Piano Recital**  
 11:00 am - 1:00 pm  
 Shoreline City Hall

**Wednesday, January 31**  
**West Side District Band Festival**  
 7:30 pm  
 Shorewood High School

**Thursday, February 1**  
**West Side Choral Festival**  
 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
 Shorewood High School

**Tuesday, February 6**  
**MP PTSA Meeting (all are welcome!)**  
 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
 MP Library

**Thursday, February 8**  
**Gifted Education Day**  
 Olympia, Washington

# Announcements

## Hi Cap Corner

### GIFTED EDUCATION DAY – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8



Join fellow 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. We also have a guided tour of the Capitol

building scheduled to begin at 1:00 pm. Due to limited capacity, please email the **Shoreline Hi Cap Advocacy Group** (S.H.A.G.) in advance if you and your student

would like to be included in this tour. 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 approaches. Email: [shoreline.hicap.advocacy@gmail.com](mailto:shoreline.hicap.advocacy@gmail.com)

### KINDERGARTEN HIGHLY CAPABLE PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE AND TOUR

Meridian Park Elementary  
January 30, 2018  
2:15 pm - 3:00 pm

This is an optional, informal opportunity to meet the team, see the classroom, and answer questions. No RSVP is required. Please **meet in the main entrance foyer** beginning at 2:00 pm. Students are welcome!

## Weather-Related Late Start or Closures

Please check your plans!

If **LATE**, school starts at **11:05 am**; students line at up at 11:00 am.

If **CLOSED**, our **make-up dates are May 21 and June 8.**

Please **check the media or district website** for late start or closure announcement. Also, please **limit calls** to school to keep our lines and staff free!

## Attendance

Is your child late or absent? A call is required for an excused absence or late arrival.

For **KINDERGARTEN**, please contact **Suzy Cowgill** at (206) 393-4127 or [suzy.cowgill@shorelineschools.org](mailto:suzy.cowgill@shorelineschools.org).

For **GRADES 1-6**, please contact **Jill Gwazdauskas** at (206) 393-4252 or [jill.gwazdauskas@shorelineschools.org](mailto: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.

## Audition Reminder



Thank you everyone who registered for Dandylyon Drama's upcoming production of **WIZARD OF OZ, JR.!**

Remember, **auditions for 4th - 6th graders** take place Tuesday, January 16 - Thursday, January 18 in the cafeteria from 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm.

Also, please **save the date** for the performances on **March 16 and 17** at Shorecrest High School!

If you have questions, please contact [mpptsadramaclub@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsadramaclub@gmail.com).

## Day of Service - Monday, January 15, 9:00am

Bring your gardening tools for some landscaping and sprucing up of the school grounds. Contact **Joe Hardie** with questions at [josephhardie@gmail.com](mailto:josephhardie@gmail.com)

### MPPTSA ANNUAL VARIETY SHOW

Come see the talented students of Meridian Park Elementary perform!

**January 26th 6:00PM-8:30PM**  
Shorewood High School Auditorium

Concessions will be sold to benefit 6th grade camp

Admission is free thanks to the generous support of Dr. Howard Jue D.D.S

We treat our patients like family. Come in for a complimentary orthodontic consultation and join our extended family!

orthodontics exclusively  
HOWARD JUE D.D.S

# Announcements

## Winter Ball - Thursday, January 18, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

The kindergarten team at Meridian Park formally invites students and their families to an evening of **dancing, karaoke, and fun** for the **FIRST EVER Winter Ball!** *Fancy dress encouraged but not required.*

**Cafeteria - CONCESSIONS and KARAOKE**

(concessions sold will benefit books for the kindergarten library and classroom libraries - *cash only*)

**Large gym - DANCING**

(music provided by DJ Sean with *Seattle Parties*)

**Small gym - CHILL OUT**

**PHOTO BOOTH** (6:00 pm - 7:00 pm only) - \$5.00 (*cash only*) for a 5x7 photo

The MPPTSA would like to thank the following **sponsors**:

Hemlock State Brewing is owned by Cheetah parent, **Jerret Botch**, right here in beautiful Shoreline



Local accountant and Cheetah parent, **Will Chen** can help you this tax season and beyond

## PTSA Shout Out to MP Room Coordinators... and an All Call to Fill Seven More Spots!

A huge **THANK YOU** to the 25 parent volunteers who have stepped into the role of **Room Coordinator**! Our Room Coordinators ensure that parents and guardians in every classroom have a contact person for information, events, and any Q&A about MP's PTSA events, programs, and many priorities. *It means reaching out once a month via email with information that's provided by MP PTSA, and acting as a liaison if parents have any questions or feedback.*

Does this sound like something you might be able to take on? **We need you!!** At the moment, **seven** of our classrooms do not have a Room Coordinator. As follows:

**Barnes (1st) | Park (K) | Phelan (4th) | Pozarski (6th HC) | Reiman (4th) | Rudberg (5th) | Sezate (6th)**

Please email [leigh.wenstad@gmail.com](mailto:leigh.wenstad@gmail.com) if you would be interested in volunteering and/or if you have more questions about the role.

## Piano Recital Featuring Meridian Park Students at City Hall

**Attendees** – We are so excited for this opportunity to enjoy our beautiful city hall and to listen to Meridian Park's talented students play piano – our **first ever City Hall Piano Recital** on **Monday, January 29** from **11:00 am - 1:00 pm**. You are also welcome to bring a tidy snack lunch. Students should attend with a supervising adult – 1 adult per 6 children.

**Performers** – Flyers have been sent home with our students. Please fill out if you would like your child to perform. All students are welcome, no matter the skill level. If you have missed the flyer – NO PROBLEM. Just email your student's name, grade, teacher, and the name of the piece that your student will play to [mpptsapresident@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsapresident@gmail.com). The performance piece should be no longer than 4 minutes. Please arrive by 11:00 am, and expect to finish by 1:00 pm.

**Behavior Expectations and Supervision Requirements** – Parents/guardians, please review the following expectations with your students who will be attending: All students will be responsible for thoroughly cleaning up after themselves after any food items are consumed on-site, so please be thoughtful about what is brought. Any running, yelling, or disrespectful behavior by a student will be addressed by asking that student to leave immediately. ***There will be no exceptions.*** Parents are expected to be present, monitor behavior, and set expectations – public library behavior. You can bring up to six children with you, but if you are asked to leave due to a student in your group not following the behavior expectations, please gather your group and do so quickly and quietly. This is an amazing opportunity and we are so excited to put our best behavior on display, so let's enjoy each other, and represent Cheetah Pride!



# Principal's Letter

## DEAR FAMILIES:

**Welcome back for a new year in 2018!** Thanks to our families, PTSA, and Student Council for a successful Food and Gift drive in December.

This month we celebrate the life and legacy of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** In our classrooms we regularly utilize activities to celebrate the many cultures, talents, gifts, and traditions of our diverse families and community. You're invited to our assemblies as announced in Mrs. Anderson's column and on the first page under "Upcoming Events". We hope you will join us in modeling and promoting respect, kindness, and fairness.



This month we also finish up first semester, and teachers will prepare progress reports to go home on February 9. **Conferences are scheduled for March 6-9;** later this month, please watch for an invite to schedule.

Our School Board recently approved **two levy propositions** for the February 13 ballot. Refer to the information provided in this newsletter and please vote.

### Tadlock Tip #5

For students and parents alike, I encourage daily exercise routines especially in January and February. Get out and walk for 15 minutes daily, take bike rides, swim, or keep your commitment to the gym (and take the kids). I walk or run for at least 15 minutes every morning and play golf each Sunday. While it is easier to get outside in March, January and February are also important months to be active and model outside and "screen-free" activities for our children.

**Safety is our #1 priority.** While we believe our building and campus are safe from unwelcome visitors, we are committed to making every effort to ensure our students are safe each and every day. As a reminder, **entry to the building is allowed through the main entrance only** and we require all visitors to **sign-in and wear a pass each time you visit.** We welcome our frequent volunteers and visitors; please check-in and wear a pass if only for a few minutes. Thanks.

Thank you for our continued partnership in 2018, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

David Tadlock, Principal

## Cheetah Cheers



### December's Teacher and Staff Appreciation Event

**Thank you** to everyone who brought fruit and baked goods to December's Teacher and Staff Appreciation Event!

We'd specifically like to thank **Jen Post, Miranda Jennings, Stacy Moore, Wei-Ping Chung, Kristina LaBore, Ria Francisco, Susie Gallin LaClergue, Naomi Hillyard, Sage Kleinhantz, Suni Tolton, Leigh Wenstad, Kathy King, Vien Do, and Correne Saunders.**

We can't do these events without great people like you!

### Holiday Baskets Food Drive and Gifts - Meridian Park Results!

Our school did an **outstanding** job gathering the following items for the Food Drive last month:

- 1,102** cans of veggies (the goal was 550)
- 1,035** other food items
- 2,137** total food items donated
- 30** Gift Cards totaling **\$500**

**THANK YOU AND GREAT WORK EVERYONE!!**

### A Big Welcome to Our Newest Little Cheetah

Congratulations to **Matt Alford** (P.E.) and his wife, Jenny, on the recent birth of their son, **REID JIMMIE ALFORD!**

We're told the family (including big sister, Ruby) is doing well and settling in to the new family dynamic. Many (Cheetah) Cheers to the Alfords!



# Student Council Profiles

## Megan Chalcraft



### POSITION: CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

#### *What made you decide to join Student Council this year?*

I wanted to join Student Council this year because I was a class representative last year, and it was an enjoyable experience. I also think that Meridian Park is really awesome, but I want it to be better by the end of this year. After all, it is my last year at MP, and I want to make a difference.

#### *What is your favorite thing about Meridian Park?*

One thing that I love about Meridian Park is that we give older and younger kids a chance to make friends and get to know each other by pairing them up in "buddy classes." I have met many amazing kindergartners this way, and I think that the older kids help the younger ones learn, while the younger kids get to know some older students, and are not as distant from the older grades.

#### *What is one thing you would like to accomplish during your time on Student Council?*

One thing that I would like to accomplish during this year is more participation in Spirit Days. I love the days when you can show school spirit, be twins with your friend, or compare your favorite book character! I have noticed that while many students participate, there is still a large number of students that either don't want to or can't for some reason participate. It would be a great accomplishment to get more kids involved and have fun together!

## Sebastian Wagner



### POSITION: TREASURER

#### *What made you decide to join Student Council this year?*

I wanted to try Student Council.

#### *What is your favorite thing about Meridian Park?*

They really appreciate their students' hard work.

#### *What is one thing you would like to accomplish during your time on Student Council?*

Make this school a more friendly place.

## Audrey Eng



### POSITION: VICE-PRESIDENT

#### *What made you decide to join Student Council this year?*

I decided to join Student Council because I wanted to be a part of the discussion to help come up with Spirit Days and other school projects. I also joined because I wanted to be the voice for the younger kids.

#### *What is your favorite thing about Meridian Park?*

My favorite thing about MP is all of the great teachers and staff.

#### *What is one thing you would like to accomplish during your time on Student Council?*

I would like to accomplish during my time on Student Council is that I would like to make MP the most fun and inviting school. It can be from Spirit Days to recess equipment.

## Amelia Saito



### POSITION: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

#### *What made you decide to join Student Council this year?*

I wanted to change what we did at our school.

#### *What is your favorite thing about Meridian Park?*

That all my friends are here and I can meet new ones.

#### *What is one thing you would like to accomplish during your time on Student Council?*

I'd like to make most people in Meridian Park happy.







# Kindergarten News

## DEAR FAMILIES,

It is wonderful to welcome all students back to school after the long break! We would like to share information that we gathered from our family survey and the work that we are doing with students related to school and classroom expectations. Please let any of the Kindergarten team know if you have any questions.

Lara Drew, Administrator

## Family Engagement Survey

As we welcome 2018, we want to thank you for your time and valuable input as we collected information through our **Fall 2017 Family Engagement Survey**. One of the main focuses of the survey was to understand what our kinder families need in order to have the support necessary to help their children succeed. With **46%** of our kinder families responding to the questionnaire, we had strong proportionality representing students from different home schools, backgrounds, ethnicities and languages. For the full survey results, please visit:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h5KKafDzYfU4XUkDKyqnltplu1k5Ntjg/view?usp=sharing>

Based on the information received, the Kindergarten team will continue our work in the following areas of family engagement:

- Share specific resources and strategies to support children at home with social emotional learning and academics through classroom newsletters and kindergarten specific emails
- Work in collaboration with the PTSA around the length of the *Cheetah Chatter*
- Provide family STEM night to support Math and Science learning (Thursday, March 15)
- Facilitate transitions to home schools through school visits for families and students in the spring

## Playground and Recess Expectations

January is the time of year when staff and students are reviewing classroom and school expectations and revisiting what safe, respectful, and responsible behaviors look like and sound like. In the next few weeks, we will be doing some re-teaching of playground and recess expectations. We have created the poster to the right to help describe more specifically the messages that we will be conveying.

This is in response to some occasional unsafe behavior we were seeing prior to the winter break. We wanted you to see what we are working on with students so you can talk with your child(ren) about safe play at home.



## Kinderfest 2018

**Saturday, January 27 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | Shoreline Room, Shoreline Center (18560 1st Ave NE)**

Kinderfest is a great opportunity for families to hear and learn about the programs offered by the Shoreline School District such as: Food Services, Transportation, Nurses, ELL/Special Services, Highly-Capable Program, and PTA. Each elementary school in the Shoreline School District will be there for a meet and greet and to answer questions. Spanish, Amharic, Mandarin, Korean and Vietnamese interpreters will be available.

Limited, no-cost childcare will be available on-site for children over 2 years old who are potty-trained (sponsored by the Shoreline Children's Center). Please note that **food will not be allowed in the childcare room** due to possible allergies. Kindergarten registration will begin on Friday, February 2 at your neighborhood school. In order to attend kindergarten in the fall, your child must be five (5) years old by August 31, 2018 and reside in the city of Shoreline or Lake Forest Park. For more information on registration please visit the **Enrollment Page** on our website: [www.shorelineschools.org](http://www.shorelineschools.org)

If you have additional questions, please contact **Trinitee Swan** at [trinitee.swan@shorelineschools.org](mailto:trinitee.swan@shorelineschools.org) or (206) 393-4365.

## Kindergarten Registration for Meridian Park

**Registration begins February 2** in our main office; families can register at any time starting February 2 through the spring, summer, and fall. While early registration is helpful, residents can register at any time. **Registration is NOT first come, first served** – all resident families will be provided a kindergarten seat at Meridian Park or at another district location.

# 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  
[mpptsasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsasecretary@gmail.com)

Joy Rieke / Ann Yee, Co-Treasurers  
[mpptsatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsatreasurer@gmail.com)

Mary Kate Horwood, VP Events  
[mpptsavpevents@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsavpevents@gmail.com)

Briana Bell, VP Clubs/Programs  
[mpptsavpprograms@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsavpprograms@gmail.com)

### Standing Committees

Lee Lambert, Grants

Adrienne Thompson, Legislative  
[mpptsalegisativechair@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsalegisativechair@gmail.com)

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

Linda Tsai / Diana Gray,  
'Cheetah Chatter' Editors  
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Heather Sterling, Webmaster  
[mpptsawebsite@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsawebsite@gmail.com)

Jiovanna Koceski, Friday Email Blasts

Hannah Peterson, Teacher Representative

Follow the MP PTSA on Facebook

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Cheetah Chatter is published monthly by

Meridian Park Elementary and  
the Meridian Park PTSA

## What is Head Start?

The **Head Start Program** is a program of the United States Department of Health and Human Services that provides comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families.



The program's services and resources are designed to foster stable family relationships, enhance children's physical and emotional well-being, and establish an environment to develop strong cognitive skills.

In addition to the educational services, family involvement is at the core of Head Start's success. Head Start families can take part in the classroom as a volunteer, help with classroom projects, participate in trainings in areas such as parenting, job training, health and nutrition, as well as learn about other resources in our community.

### Shoreline's Head Start Program

<https://www.shorelineschools.org/headstart>

- Shoreline offers a 5 day/week full day program
- Program Hours: 8:30am - 2:30pm
- The program serves breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack
- We offer transportation to and from neighborhood schools

If you have questions please email [headstart@shorelineschools.org](mailto:headstart@shorelineschools.org) or call (206) 393-1764.

## Hopelink's "English for Work"

Hopelink's **free "English for Work" ESL course** is designed to give non-native English speakers the verbal skills they need to find work.

*Students learn technology skills, receive one-on-one advising, and participate in mock interviews conducted by local employers.*

Every quarter, many of our students are able to find jobs. Employers know about us, and often make us aware of job openings. Registration is open now. The first orientation session is January 9. Classes will be conducted at the Hopelink Center in Shoreline.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.hopelink.org/need-help/adult-education/english-for-work>

Translated versions of an **informational flyer** about the program are available in the following languages (click to download):

[Arabic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [Farsi](#) | [Japanese](#)  
[Korean](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Vietnamese](#)

Please contact **Esther** at (425) 429-1997 or [epark@hopelink.org](mailto:epark@hopelink.org) for more info on these classes.