

Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park Elementary School and the Meridian Park PTSA

Attention Business Owners!

Do you own a business? Would you like to sponsor a Meridian Park PTSA school event next school year? You would be helping out your child's school and highlighting your business in a community that wants to know about you. You could sponsor events like:

The Fall Carnival
Multicultural Festival

Winter Ball
Spring Family Fun Night
Variety Show

Family Movie Nights
Teacher Appreciation
Week

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:

Cheetah Rawr \$500-\$700

- Name/logo on all printed event materials including posters
- Name/logo in the April *Cheetah Chatter*, which reaches over 750 families
- "Shout out" at the event and an opportunity to bring your own materials
- Sponsor name and live link on the MPPTSA Facebook event page

Cheetah Meow \$250-\$499

- Name/logo on all printed event materials including posters
- Name/logo in the April *Cheetah Chatter*, which reaches over 750 families
- "Shout out" at the event and an opportunity to bring your own materials

Cheetah Purr \$100-\$249

- Name/logo on all printed event materials including posters

Additionally, we are starting an **ONLINE DIRECTORY OF BUSINESSES** on our MPPTSA website that support Meridian Park Elementary. Slots are filling up fast, so be sure to contact Naomi Hillyard naomihillyard@gmail.com for more details.

Meridian Park PTSA Seattle Storm Night

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 7:00 PM

Join us for an exciting evening of WNBA play as the Seattle Storm take on the Connecticut Sun. Also...

- Free Storm ThunderStix (bam bams)
- Jewell Loyd Bobble Head Giveaway Night (first 3,000 fans)
- First 10 kids that purchase via the link below will receive a postgame autograph pass

Visit <https://storm.spinzo.com/meridianpark> to purchase discounted tickets at \$18 each (normally \$29), of which \$3 will go to our PTSA for fund-raising. **Deadline to purchase is Thursday, June 14 at 7:00 pm;** don't wait!



Summer Reading Rocks!

Be ready to rock at **Meridian Park's Family Literacy Night** on **Tuesday, June 12, from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm!**

- Sign up for the KCLS Summer Reading Program
- Participate in the "Book Walk" and win prizes
- Play reading games
- Share book recommendations
- Learn and practice reading strategies

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Upcoming Events

Friday, June 8
Non-Student Work Day
No School

Tuesday, June 12
Summer Reading Rocks!
Family Literacy Night
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
MP Library

Friday, June 15
MP Field Day
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
MP Playfields

Friday, June 15
Seattle Storm MPPTSA Night
7:00 pm
KeyArena

Wednesday, June 20
Sixth Graders vs. Staff
Volleyball Game
2:35 pm - 3:15 pm

Thursday, June 21
Sixth Grade Moving On Ceremony
9:30 am - 11:00 am
MP Cafeteria

Thursday, June 21
Sixth Grade Moving On BBQ Picnic
Noon - 2:30 pm
Cromwell Park

Friday, June 22
End of Year Assembly
9:30 am - 10:30 am

Friday, June 22
Last Day of School
Early Release at 11:45 am

Saturday, June 23 - Sunday, June 24
Shoreline Arts Festival
10:00 am - 6:00pm/5:00pm
Shoreline Center

Announcements

Immunization Requirements for 2018-2019

Washington state law requires that all children up to the age of 21 be fully immunized on or before the first day of school. **Shoreline requires** that students must have proof of immunization or an approved Certificate of Exemption by the 30th calendar day after the first day of attendance. If no proof/waiver is received by then, the student may not continue to attend school until documents are received. For Meridian Park students who start on August 29th, this means **September 28th** is the last day they can attend without being in compliance.

To be in compliance, the school **MUST** have on file:

- A **CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION** form, **or**
- A **CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION*** form exempting the student from these requirements due to medical, philosophical or religious reasons



*Certificate of Exemption requirement:

The Certificate of Exemption form for newly enrolled students and/or current students with new immunization requirements must include a physician's signature for those wishing to be exempt for medical or philosophical reasons. A proof of membership in a religious group that does not allow a healthcare practitioner to provide medical treatment to a child is required for those claiming a religious exemption.

Special Message to Our 2017-2018 Overflow Kindergarten Families

The Meridian Park community would like to wish those students who attended kindergarten here from other schools well as they join their attendance area school next year. We are sad to see you go, but know you will do great in first grade! We will always hold you in our Cheetah hearts.



Lost and Found is FULL!!

Please **have your child check** for lost items before the last day of school!

Hi Cap Summer Meetup at Paramount Park - Saturday, July 21

For all families interested in the Shoreline Highly Capable program (new and current):

If you would like to meet and connect with other Hi Cap families this summer, please join us on **Saturday, July 21** at **Paramount Park** (NE 155th St & 8th Ave NE) from **12 Noon - 2:00 pm**. Bring your kids and lunches to the park for some sunshine and outdoor time, and look for us in bright green t-shirts near the balloons. We hope to see you!

Contact **Mary Kate Horwood** (marykatea@gmail.com) or **Megan Menis** (megan.menis@gmail.com) with questions.

Please note: This is an informal gathering of interested Hi Cap families and is not a sponsored event by the Shoreline Hi Cap Advocacy Group

Summer Basketball Clinics for Girls at Shorewood High School



All girls in the Shorewood community are encouraged to come to our summer basketball clinics. They are a fun way for girls in the community to improve their game or be introduced to basketball for the first time.

SKILLS CAMP (ages 9-13)

10:00 am-12:00 pm | Monday, June 25 - Friday, June 29 | Cost: \$85.00

FUNDAMENTALS CAMP (ages 6-8)

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm | Monday, June 25 - Thursday, June 28 | Cost: \$40.00

For details about the clinics and instructions on how to sign up, please click [here](#) for an informational flyer. To register for camp, visit <https://wa-shoreline.intouchreceipting.com>.

And if you have questions or would like other information, email **Mark Haner**, Shorewood Girls' Basketball Head Coach at mark.haner@shorelineschools.org.

Cheetah Cheers

Edwin Pratt Early Learning Center

On May 21, 2018, the Shoreline School Board voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to honor **Edwin Pratt** by naming the new Early Learning Center after him. We are so happy for his family, our community, and for **Meridian Park 4th grader, Sarah Haycox**, who dedicated over a year of her young life to making sure that this civil rights hero would not be forgotten. She would like to send thanks to all of you who supported her and this cause in so many ways!



Teacher Appreciation Week



THANK YOU, THANK YOU to everyone who sent in food, notes, flowers, gifts cards, handmade items and more for their teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week! We had even more donate their time to helping make the week a success, and we are so grateful for it. With all of your help, we were able to collect flowers on Monday, feed the teachers breakfast on Thursday, and deliver gift bags of goodies and notes on Friday. Special thanks to **Liz Sheffield, Alex Hart, Isabel Burt, Carrie**

Getz, Laura Graven, Suni Tolton, Ryan Ferolino, Jen Post, Eva Murrell, Denise Murrell, Miranda Jennings, Naomi Hillyard, Kathy King, Vien Do, Correne Saunders, Megan Menis, Susie Laclergue, Diana Gray, Stacy Moore, Tauryn Beeman, Ria Francisco, Trang Fly, Malak Itani, Sage Kleinhantz, Mary Kate Horwood, and Ann Yee!



Also, thank you to parent **Ann Yee** for generously donating new silverware for use in the teacher's lounge.

♪(Note) of Thanks from Shari Anderson, Music

Many thanks to the PTSA for the wonderful Meridian Park Arts Festival event in support of music and the arts! And thank you for the gift of these choral songs: *Little Birch Tree* and *Goin' to Bandy Rowe*.

PTSA Grants - Funds Put to Good Use!



I can happily say that I've already used many of the books with individual students while building social skills and have even loaned out my favorite so far to a teacher to benefit all students in her class. I hope to build upon the individual work next year and expand to offering social skills groups to many students throughout the year, and will certainly be utilizing these grant materials! Thank you so much to the MP PTSA Grant Committee!!!

- **Katie McCain, Counselor**

Cheetah Cheers



Thanks to our grant from PTSA, our **fifth graders** were able to learn more about healthy ecosystems and environmentally-friendly choices from Naturalist Julie Luthy. Students enjoyed a field trip to Cromwell Park where they participated in a field study to see if the wetland there is healthy. Good news - Cromwell Park wetlands are healthy and teeming with wildlife. We appreciate this opportunity to explore the outside world to enrich the ecosystems science kits we have in our classrooms!



This year, **Mr. Pozarski's** class and **Mrs. Keeley's** class had a wonderful opportunity to practice coding at the next level in the classroom! Students made mazes for a robot to travel through, then coded a robot to drive through the maze. It was a lot of fun and a lot of learning! We grew in our teamwork skills, perseverance, and in troubleshooting!

As a follow up, due to the generous grant from the PTSA, **Mrs. Keeley's** class was able to visit the Living Computer Museum (LCM)! The LCM lets students explore computers and technology from the 1960s to cutting edge technology, including self-driving cars, robots, and an old IBM PCjr from the 1980s.

Students participated in an exploration lab, where they built cardboard computers and learned about the hardware aspects of technology to complement all the hard work we've been putting into learning about software and coding. Students said it was their favorite field trip they had gone on this year (outside of camp, of course). This trip was enriching, fun, and definitely worth it! Thanks, PTSA, for helping make it happen!



Cheetah Cheers



Thank you so much for the magnetic letters you provided for our **kindergarten** students! They have loved being able to have some hands-on tools to help engage them in learning and spelling!

ELL teacher **Jennifer Merkle** is very thankful for the PTSA grant she was given, which funded the traveling cart/board she now uses when she visits classrooms. It is making a huge difference in her work!



Thanks to a generous grant from MP PTSA this year, **Ms. Sezate's**, **Ms. Borovina's** and **Mr. Pozarski's** sixth grade classes were all able to experience a team Mission to Mars at the Museum of Flight! Students worked together on a realistic, simulated space mission that used hands-on, inquiry-based activities to challenge participants in the areas of teamwork, communication, problem-solving and critical thinking. Many sixth graders felt it was the highlight of sixth grade (again, other than camp, of course)!



**PTSA Grants Committee
and Financial Supporters!**



Principal's Letter

Dear Families,

This has been another fantastic year at Meridian Park. Because of our amazing students, hard-working staff, and super supportive families, we continue to learn and grow.

Our teacher teams are carefully creating class lists for the fall.

At MP, we are intentional about creating classes that are balanced, provide opportunity for student success, and are a good match for teacher, student, and family. Teachers

collaborate in teams and consider many important factors, including social dynamics, learning/teaching styles, and class size.

There are challenges related to our three programs and number of classrooms per program. For grades 1 through 6, combination classes are likely, and changes are possible the first week of school. **We will do our best to limit changes and appreciate your trust.**

Even as a great school, we continue to grow and improve. Our staff cares about providing a positive, balanced academic and social experience for all students. Students had wonderful experiences in Music, PE, and Library. Lunch was delicious and recess was full of exercise, fresh air, and rain.

Thank you, **Callie, Naomi, and the PTSA Board**, for leading our PTSA to greatness. Thanks **classroom volunteers** for all of your time and talents. **Linda and Diana**, thank you for this amazing newsletter. We have wonderful support staff, including **Suzy, Diane, Jill, Annie, Micaela, Katie, Kim, Tama, and our awesome supervisors, crossing guards, custodians, and para-educators.** Thank you, **Lara and Kindergarten team** - you're the best!

Congratulations to our Kindergartners, Class of 2030 and our Sixth Graders, Class of 2024! We wish you nothing but the best on your educational journey! MP is a wonderful and growing story, full of all the special experiences that are part of being a Cheetah. Thank you for sharing your children and family with us. **We are One Community, Stronger Together**, and it is an honor to be your principal. Have a great summer full of play, sun, walking, running, swimming, reading, and quality time together. We look forward to seeing eager and smiling Cheetah faces in the fall!

David Tadlock, Principal



Important Dates to Highlight

Monday, August 27	MEET THE TEACHER , 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm (<i>all classrooms will be open</i>)
Monday, August 27	PTSA WELCOME BACK DINNER , 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm (<i>in the cafeteria and out back</i>)
Wednesday, August 29	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!
TBD	CURRICULUM NIGHT

Back to School - Monday, August 27

- 2018-19 **class assignments** will be provided that day (*we are exploring email and other distribution options*)
- **Meet the Teacher** will begin at 5:00 pm; all classrooms will be open for students to meet their teacher in their classroom
- Following Meet the Teacher, the PTSA will host a **Family Back-to-School Dinner** at 6:00 pm



Wednesday Early Release Reminder:

All Wednesdays with full 5-day weeks - MP Dismissal Time will be at 1:50 pm

Please plan ahead!

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

Kindergarten Program

Dear Kindergarten Families,

Our Kindergarten team has been honored to work alongside you to make the first year of your child's formal education a memorable and positive experience. We have truly enjoyed getting to know each student, and as a whole Kindergarten class, our students will transition to first grade showing the following characteristics:

- Our Kindergarten students show interest in listening to stories, creative play, movement and dance, art, and sharing ideas with each other
- Our Kindergarten students have learning dispositions that include being happy, eager and enthusiastic about learning, engaging in activities, being curious and active
- Socially/emotionally, our Kindergarten students exhibit skills that include kindness and care for others, making friends, and an interest in being recognized
- Academically, our Kindergarten students are learning quickly, making connections to their background knowledge, and showing strength in foundational reading skills



Thank you for all of your support throughout the year! We wish you all a wonderful summer filled with laughter and happiness.

Sincerely,

Lara Drew and the Kindergarten Team



Library Reminder

All library books are due next Tuesday, June 12! Please help your student to track down any missing or overdue books. If you have questions or want to know the title of the book your student is missing, please don't hesitate to e-mail! I can even send you a picture of the cover!

Maggie Cramer - Kindergarten Librarian
maggie.cramer@shorelineschools.org



Summer Resources

As we get closer to the end of the school year, we wanted to share some helpful resources for summer:

FREE SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS AND TEENS

Any child age 18 or under can receive free meals at Meridian Park Elementary School on weekdays beginning June 27 through August 24, 2018.

In addition, multiple sites including the Dale Turner YMCA, the Shoreline Library, Hamlin Park, Paramount School Park, Echo Lake Elementary School and Shorewood High School will be providing summer meals for kids and teens. Please contact Micaela Katz, Kindergarten Family Advocate, for specific site information.

SHORELINE BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT - SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 2018

The Back to School event provides free school supplies, haircuts, and clothing assistance for families in need. This year's event will be held on **Saturday, August 25** from 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm at Ridgecrest Elementary School. To attend, please RSVP in one of the following ways:

- Online at btsconsortium.org
- Call the Back to School information line and leave a message: (206) 393-4916
- Contact the Kindergarten Family Advocate

More information regarding school district free summer meals and the Back to School event can be found in the [Community Resources](#) section at the end of this newsletter.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Micaela Katz - Kindergarten Family Advocate
micaela.katz@shorelineschools.org
 (206) 393-1763

Kindergarten Program

Transitioning Strategies

It has been such a joy to be around our growing Kindergarteners this year! Hard to believe this school year is almost complete. As our students make the transition from Kindergarten to 1st grade, and many to their home schools, we wanted to share a few strategies and ideas that can help support students navigate the transitions ahead:



- **Maintaining a routine:** Summer is a wonderful time of play and much needed break. However, if we are able to help our students maintain some aspect of their daily routines such as morning, grooming, breakfast, reading time, bedtime, etc., it will ease the transitions to summer and back to school come fall. All of our kindergarten classrooms utilize visual schedules for daily routines for the many benefits that they provide, including creating predictability, increasing focus, making expectations clear, and supporting social/emotional needs. For more info on the power of visual schedules at home and school, visit:

<https://theinspiredtreehouse.com/visual-schedule/>

Summer activity idea: Have your child draw pictures to help create your own daily visual routine for the summer months.

- **Acknowledging loss:** In the excitement to reach our summer days and celebrate an amazing year of learning and growth, it's easy to overlook that our soon-to-be 1st graders are going through many natural goodbyes such as teachers, familiar desk and daily routines, classmates, and for many, the familiarity of the school building/playground. Transitions in general can naturally create anxiety and/or highlight other worries we may not have realized children are experiencing. It's a good opportunity to invite children to talk about their feelings (*please refer to previous kindergarten email about our reset stations and zones of regulation*) while providing a safe place for them to practice their emotion regulation coping strategies. If you find your child could benefit from additional support, you can find a list of community-based counselors on our Shoreline district website: <https://www.shorelineschools.org/Page/80>

Summer activity idea: Have your child help with creating your own home reset station (items in our school basket include: deep breathing tool such as pinwheel, mirror to see facial expressions, squishy stress ball, visual bubbler to help calm, crayons, earmuffs to block out sounds, etc.)

- **Providing information:** Adjusting to a new routine can be stressful, so assisting children to understand what they can expect is helpful. If you are moving or if Meridian Park isn't your home school, scheduling play dates on the playground of where your child will attend will help them get familiar with the grounds before the first day of school.

Summer activity idea: Print out a summer calendar posted with a countdown to 1st grade on the fridge with other summer plans they can refer to (also an opportunity for them to practice counting and other skills as they use it this summer!)

- **Building confidence:** Provide an opportunity to celebrate the learning that has taken place this year by inviting your child to practice and strengthen their skills. For example: tying their own shoes, increasing responsibilities at home (clearing table, cleaning up toys, etc.), having your child read to you every day, counting items in the grocery cart, and practicing patience/waiting skills.

Summer activity idea: Create a summer journal practicing writing and recording fun things they are experiencing and learning.

For additional resources to support school transitions in elementary, middle and high school years, you might find the following article helpful: <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/transition-resources-teachers-matt-davis>

If there is anything I can do to help support you and yours, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Take good care,

Kim Kauffman - Kindergarten Counselor

kim.kauffman@shorelineschools.org

PTSA News

Message from Incoming PTSA Co-President, Jax Higgins

When I started the 2017-2018 school year as a first-time kindergarten parent, I didn't know what to expect from the teachers, how to interact with the school staff, where to drop my daughter off on that first day, and who to ask for Band-aids when my daughter inevitably tripped with her new, too-big shoes. I definitely didn't understand what the PTSA did other than hold meetings, ask for financial support, and request volunteers for what seemed like a cornucopia of tasks. Honestly, I was probably more nervous than my daughter about who would be her (my) new friends and if we would find a community in which we could both grow.

As those first few weeks passed, I started volunteering as the room parent and art docent in my daughter's class and found that I truly enjoyed being with her classmates, helping them explore and produce art, as well as being a conduit between my fellow parents and the teacher. I was able to see my daughter make friends, grow more comfortable, and share laughter with her classmates. At the same time, I found my own friends, grew more comfortable with my new roles, and discovered **the heart of the PTSA: COMMUNITY.**

Meridian Park PTSA is a community of caring, focused, giving, and tireless volunteers who step up to the plate and give what they can when they can. This volunteering can be as small as making copies or as big as becoming a board member. Each task, no matter how small, makes the whole PTSA endeavor not only work, but thrive. Each idea, big or small, when voiced can be made into a reality. I'm proud to be a part of this amazing group of people who provide so many enriching and fun activities for our children. We would love to hear your thoughts on how to achieve a greater sense of community for all and ways that we can help our children thrive. If you'd like to take on a new role, join a community of amazing people, and help our children thrive, **we have the following volunteer positions available:**

Co-Vice Chair of Events
Co-Vice Chair of Programs/Clubs
Volunteer Orientations
School Photos
Welcome Coffee/Teas and Tissues

Movie Nights
Reflections
Variety Show
Seattle Storm Night
Green Team (Lunchroom)

Golden Acorn/Outstanding Educator
Fundraising Coordinator
Fall Fundraiser Chair
ELL Board Position
Special Needs Board Position

Why support MP PTSA?



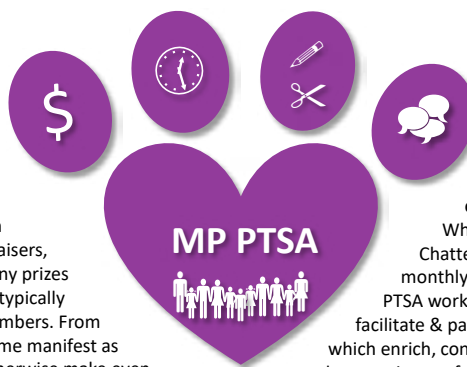
School funding comes from several sources, including the state (66%), local bonds & levies (28%), the federal government (5%), and other student fees or private funds (1%). Generally, these funds provide for transportation, school facilities, food service, student support programs, and wages for the administrators, educators, and other specialists our students interact with during the school day. **PTSA fundraising dollars** support our students' enhanced classroom experience through teacher grants for supplies, field trips & special projects, as well as our collective experience as families by funding the events in the "community" box.



In addition to the materials covered by teacher grants for classroom activities, funds collected by the PTSA literally materialize in the form of **PTSA supplies**. Flyers sent home in student folders advertising community events or fundraisers, materials needed to produce community events, and any prizes or incentives distributed during community events are typically provided by the PTSA or sponsors solicited by PTSA members. From copy paper to Read-a-Thon t-shirts, PTSA dollars and time manifest as tangible items used to communicate, incentivize, or otherwise make even more fabulous the experience of our community events!



Administrator, educator, and specialist time is dedicated to planning and providing the quality education and enrichment we enjoy for our students in the classroom! Levy funds provide a number of non-student work days, but there is a lot of time required to support and enhance the efforts of our teachers, specialists and administrators! **PTSA time** comes from **volunteers like you**, supporting classroom activities, acting as room parent liaisons and coordinators between teachers and parents, and also planning and executing events like the ones featured in the "community" box!



Because it is a connection point between parents, students, and school staff, educators, and administrators, the PTSA is a perfect place for **communication and advocacy!** Whether it's through the Cheetah Chatter, weekly e-mail blasts, or the monthly board meetings, the MP PTSA works hard to identify, then facilitate & participate in strategies which enrich, connect, & improve the experience of all our MP families staff, administrators, and educators!



Did you know...

...the following events are brought to us in all or in part by the MP PTSA:

Back to School BBQ • Movie Nights • Skate Parties • Fall Festival • Family Fun Night • Multicultural Night • Holiday Food Drive • Winter Ball • Drama Club • Variety Show • Read-a-Thon • Book Fair • Arts Festival • Volunteer Appreciation • Teacher Appreciation Treats • Landscaping Team • Green Team • Spirit Wear •

Support your MP PTSA!

For additional information on **school funding**, view Shoreline School District's online webinars at: <https://www.shorelineschools.org/domain/59>

For news, events, and additional information on **MP PTSA**, view the PTSA web site at: <https://mpptsa.org/>

To receive **e-mail notifications** from MP PTSA, visit the web site and scroll down to "E-mail Sign Up."

PTSA News

PTSA Budget and Membership Recap For the 2017-2018 Year

It has been a really terrific school year. Your PTSA includes over **208 MEMBERS** and we have raised about **\$54,000**. The money brought into the PTSA includes things like the **Drama Club** (\$10K), **Math Club** (\$4.5K), **Fall Fundraiser** (\$12K), **Membership Donations** (\$5K), **Read-A-Thon** (\$9K), and **Corporate Support** (\$3K). Drama Club and Math Club are designed to cover their costs, and their funds are not included in what the PTSA can spend. The Read-A-Thon, Spring Auction, Fall Fundraiser and Membership Donations (and others) are direct fundraising, where every dollar donated goes directly to PTSA programs. A terrific surprise for us this year was corporate donations – we went to our community businesses and asked them for monetary support for our events, and they responded above and beyond our expectations! We are really looking forward to partnering again with our family-owned and community businesses next year. We even plan to have a business directory to connect families with businesses that support the PTSA.

MP PTSA puts on **FOUR MAJOR EVENTS** each year and a handful of smaller events each month. The four big ones are the **Back to School BBQ**, the **Fall Carnival**, the **Multi-Cultural Fest**, and **Spring Family Fun Night**. In addition, we partnered with the kindergarten teachers this year to bring the **Winter Ball** to Meridian Park, which was a wonderful event. Our events were paid for mostly by our corporate sponsors: **KateBeck.com**, **William Chen CPA**, **James Alan Salon**, **Hemlock State Brewing Company**, **Exclusively Orthodontics**, **LFP MOD Pizza**, **American Dance Institute**, and **Dr. Eric S. Yao, DDS**.

Family-donated dollars were used to fund **\$4,000** worth of **teacher grants**, **\$1,750** in **teacher/classroom reimbursements**, **\$1,000** to the **music program**, **\$1,500** to the **library**, **\$600** for the **4th grade Olympia field trip**, and **\$1,500** for **6th grade camp**, among many other line items. The PTSA budget breakdown is always available at the PTSA meetings and for anyone who would like to review it.

We have accumulated a **RESERVE** over the amount recommended by National PTA, and last year we made two additional purchases of water bottle filling stations and funded earthquake locker supplies. This year, we would like to spend down an additional **\$5,000** by purchasing **new lobby furniture** and **an LED reader sign** for the front of the school. We are excited about the opportunities these two purchases will provide in helping to build our community, communicate about the school, and bring it closer together.

Our budget for next year looks very similar to this year's, with many of the same line items and amounts. We are raising our **teacher grant funds** to **\$6,000** next year, providing more opportunities for teachers to bring in new ideas, passions, and projects to their classrooms. In addition, we are raising the amount of **teacher reimbursement funds** so that every teacher can take advantage of getting this reimbursement. ***We know when you donate money to the PTSA, you want it spent in our school in ways that support all of our kids.***

Managing money is a very important part of the what the PTSA does, but just as important is connecting families to the school and fostering community. We have had a group of consistent **volunteers** this year that totaled **WELL OVER 100!** We are lucky and grateful to have volunteers that work on all aspects of the PTSA:

- **Events** - Planning, setting up, grilling hotdogs, stuffing buns, making balloon animals, running concessions or booths, climbing ladders, karaoke hosts, AV tech help, clean up
- **Art Docents** - Bringing art into our classrooms, writing curriculum, managing materials, gathering volunteers
- **Communication** - Website design, *Cheetah Chatter* editing, weekly blasts, information gathering, Facebook editors, new MPPTSA logo design, Room Coordinators
- **Family Support** - Cheetah Closet partners, food and essentials drive, kindergarten lunch helpers
- **Fundraising** - Read-A-Thon management, Box Top collecting, membership coordinators, treasurers, corporate support procurement, Spring Auction management, database management
- **Grants** - Managing and reviewing multiple grant requests with limited funds, working with administrators, presenting alternative sources of funding
- **Clubs** - Working with outside vendors to bring enrichment to students including world languages, parent volunteers
- **Board and Ad Hoc Committees** - Advocating for Meridian Park Elementary at school board meetings, at superintendent coffees, within the school, at the local and state levels of PTA

A **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone that pitched in and helped bring our community closer together this year. We are excited to see what we can do next year, and we are happy to be doing it with you!

PTSA News

Box Tops

PTSA uses Box Tops monies to support classrooms. We are so grateful to **Suzy Cowgill** for filling this position for the last two years. We are excited to welcome **Lori Finch** to the job for next year. Send those Box Tops in! You do not need to put them on a paper; just send them in a bag to your teacher or put them in the BOX TOP HOUSE that is often displayed in the lobby.



Elementary Mandarin Language Update

Time goes by so quickly! Mandarin classes for the 2017-18 school year will end on June 14, 2018.

nǐ hǎo
你好
hello, hi

How much time has been invested by our Mandarin language students attending classes during this school year? A total of **64 hours** for the morning class and **60 hours** for the afternoon class! So far, both classes have focused on basic strokes, radicals, greetings, numbers, dates, age, telephone numbers, family members, self-introduction, and occupations. The morning class has also learned time, daily routine, transportation, colors, clothing, etc. In addition to the academic topics, we celebrated the most important Chinese holiday: **LUNAR NEW YEAR** with a dragon/lion parade, calligraphy, brush painting, arts and crafts, traditional cooking and red envelopes

(brand new Chinese currency). We should be proud of our wonderful kids for their dedication and work.

I'd like to thank all of my students' families, the Meridian Park PTSA, and our school administration for their wonderful support of another great year! I look forward to seeing you all in the fall. I would also like to welcome new students to join us and engage in an enjoyable, interesting, and culturally-rich learning journey with Mandarin. If you are curious to know more or have questions about the class or summer opportunities, please contact me at the email address below.

Teacher **Hua Zhang**, Mandarin instructor
huazhang98@yahoo.com

Foreign Language Enrichment Survey

The PTSA is investigating how to expand our foreign language enrichment opportunities at Meridian Park. In order to create a program that best meets our community's needs, we need your help answering a few questions. Please complete the following online survey when you have a few minutes to spare:



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZK6HKT8>

Cheetah Notes

Counselor's Corner

The Positive Behavior Theme for June is **INDEPENDENCE!** As we enter our last month of the school year, we will be looking for students practicing independence - ***relying on themselves, their knowledge, and the resources around them.*** Independence may look like using the restroom during breaks (*also part of responsibility*) and using tools/skills learned throughout the year before asking for help. For our younger students, I challenge them to practice opening their own milk cartons at lunch! :-) We'll celebrate our Independent students at our last VIC lunch of the year during the last week of school.

Please see the booklist from Mollie Merkley and Jenny Hillger for great ideas on how to incorporate more learning about independence by visiting <https://www.shorelineschools.org/Page/2897>.

Katie McCain
School Counselor, Meridian Park Elementary
(206) 393-1785



From the P.E. Department

FIELD DAY is coming **Friday, June 15**, and we need your help! This is one of the highlights of the year for many kids, and we need lots of family support to make it successful. There will be many stations around the field with everything from ***bubble blowing*** and ***water balloons*** for the 1st-6th graders, to ***belly bumpers*** and ***an obstacle course*** for the kindergarteners. If you are willing to volunteer to run a station, please indicate that below, and we will get in touch with you. Our goal is to have **two parents/volunteers at every station for both sessions**. If someone you know is volunteering and you would like to work at the same station, please indicate that as well.



KINDERGARTEN FIELD DAY

9:30 am - 11:00 am

SEND INFO/FORM BELOW TO:

Tiffany Smith

tiffany.smith@shorelineschools.org

Important: Please meet Ms. Smith at the *playground* no later than **9:15 am** on June 15 so you can get your station set up and ready. Thank you.

1ST-6TH GRADE FIELD DAY

1:00 pm - 3:15 pm

SEND INFO/FORM BELOW TO:

Spencer Lockwood

spencer.lockwood@shorelineschools.org

Important: Please meet Mr. Lockwood and/or Mr. Alford at the *water drink station out on the playground by the music room* no later than **12:45 pm** on June 15 so you can get your station set up and ready. Thank you.

Name _____

Phone number _____

Email address _____

I am volunteering for: ☐ Kindergarten Field Day ☐ 1st-6th Grade Field Day

Person I would like to work with _____

Cheetah Notes

Notes From the Library/Media Center

Dear MP Families,

Please take advantage of the summer reading program and other great literacy programs sponsored by the **KING COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM** this summer.



From the King County Library System's website:

KCLS' Summer Reading programs emphasize science, technology, engineering, art, and math, and we offer hundreds of them. Want to build something? Head to a **Lego robotics** program or a **rocket-making class**. Do you enjoy music? Learn to **play the ukulele or violin**, attend a **Cuban strings and drums** concert, or sing along at a **"Carry-a-Toon"** event. Explore the science of sound at a **Hydraulic Sounds Science Workshop**. Make rain sticks at the **Family Noisemakers Art Workshop** or design an instrument that emulates the clap of thunder at the **Sound Storm Maker Workshop**.

Budding scientists can learn the **geology** of minerals, fossils, and geodes, the **physics** of roller coasters, or the migratory habits of wild salmon. Patrons interested in **cultural arts** can learn to write haiku or fold origami cranes.

THANK YOU!

Thank You

Thank you for your amazing support of the library throughout the 2017 - 2018 school year. With our book fairs, we were able to raise funds that we used to purchase library books for K-6 students, as well as support our Sasquatch and Young Readers Choice reading programs.

END OF YEAR – TURNING IN LIBRARY BOOKS

As of Thursday, June 7, students can only have **one book** at a time on their library accounts.

All library books are due on Tuesday, June 12.

Mike Adams, library technician, will send email notices as well as hardcopy letters to families beginning on Wednesday, June 13, if books are still out.

Students who cannot find their overdue library books can choose to either pay for the books (\$10 for a paperback or \$20 for a hardcover) or replace them with like copies.

If replacing or paying for lost library books is a financial hardship, please contact me at (206) 393-4125 or jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org.

Students who still have library books checked out on the last day of school will not receive their report cards. Report cards will be held in the office. Students can pick up their report cards once they have resolved their library book issues.

SUMMER READING

Look on the Meridian Park library homepage for links to the MP library website and lists of great books that students can read throughout the summer.

Have a great summer!
Sincerely,
Jenny Hillger, Teacher-Librarian



Cheetah Notes

From the Health Office

MEDICATION REMINDER – END OF SCHOOL YEAR INFORMATION

If your child has medication in the Health Office, please be aware that medications cannot be stored at school over the summer. Parents, please stop by the Health Office to pick up your child's medications on or before the last day of school. Emergency medications (Epi-pens and inhalers) should be picked up on the last day of school. Non-emergency medications (i.e. Tylenol, Ibuprofen) can be picked up before the last day of school. Medications will not be sent home with students. Policy requires that medications left in the Health Office after the last day of school (June 22nd, 2018) will be destroyed.

If you need to make special arrangements to pick up your child's medication, please contact Tama Leahy, Meridian Park School Nurse at (206) 393-4124 or tama.leahy@shorelineschools.org.

Thank you!

PARENTS OF 5TH GRADE STUDENTS

Reminder: Your student must have a **tetanus/pertussis booster (Tdap)** before returning to school next fall as a 6th grader.

If your student has not yet received this vaccine, we would recommend you make an appointment ASAP, since appointments may be harder to get right before the beginning of the school year. Please note that your student must be at least 11 years old to receive the Tdap booster. If your student turns 11 during the 2018-2019 school year, please schedule an appointment as soon as possible after his/her birthday.

Your doctor may recommend additional immunizations, but Tdap is the only one required for school attendance at this time. Students out of compliance at the beginning of next year will be excluded from school until they receive the vaccine.

Once your student has received the vaccine, please inform us by one of the following methods:

- Ask your healthcare provider to **fax the documentation** to (206) 393-4259
- Between now and June 22 **OR** after August 22: Leave a message on the MP nurse's voicemail (206) 393-4124 with your student's name, vaccine received, and date the vaccine was given.

Please call with any questions or if you need assistance finding a clinic.

Thank you!



From the Family Advocate Office

In the **FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SURVEY** we sent out to 1st - 6th grade families this year, **23% of the respondents** said they would like to know more about community resources.

On the school district website, community resources are listed here:

<https://www.shorelineschools.org/domain/72>

There are also **fliers** for many resources and events **in our school's lobby**.

However, people are asking for more! And I would like to help, but I need to know what is wanted.

Here's my request:

If you would like to know more about community resources, ***please let me know specifically what you are interested in.*** When I know, I can be sure that information is available at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year and beyond.

Thank you!

Annie Gage

(206) 393-1768

annie.gage@shorelineschools.org



Photos



Community Resources

Meridian Park Elementary

www.shorelineschools.org/meridianpark/

David Tadlock, Principal
david.tadlock@shorelineschools.org

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

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

Briana Bell, VP Clubs/Programs
mpptsavpprograms@gmail.com

Standing Committees

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mpptsagrants@gmail.com

Janet Shin / Nauko Grimlund,
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mpptsanewsletter@gmail.com

Heather Sterling, Webmaster
mpptsawebsite@gmail.com

Jiovanna Koceski, Friday Email Blasts

Hannah Peterson / Lara Gino,
Teacher Representatives

Follow the MP PTSA on Facebook

facebook

Cheetah Chatter is published monthly by

Meridian Park Elementary and
the Meridian Park PTSA

Free Meals for Children and Teens This Summer

This summer, Shoreline Public Schools will host a **FREE** summer meal program for kids and teens, 18 and younger. For 2018, the program expands to three sites. Lunch will be available at all three locations. Breakfast will be available at Meridian Park Elementary only. The dates and locations are as follows:

Meridian Park Elementary

June 27 to August 24 (closed July 4 and 5)

Breakfast: 8:00 am - 8:30 am

Lunch: 11:30 am - Noon

[Meridian Park Menu](#)

Echo Lake Elementary

July 9 to August 3

Lunch: 10:50 am - 11:30 am

[Echo Lake & Shorewood Menu](#)

Shorewood High School

July 9 to August 3

Lunch: 11:30 am - Noon

[Echo Lake & Shorewood Menu](#)

ANY CHILD 18 and under can come to one of these locations for a free lunch. **There is no registration or application required. Children do not need to be a Shoreline School District student.** For additional information, please contact Shoreline School District's Food and Nutrition Services at (206) 393-4209.

Click to see informational fliers in the following languages:

[English](#) -- [Spanish](#) -- [Chinese](#) -- [Vietnamese](#) -- [Korean](#) -- [Amharic](#)

Back to School Event

The **Back to School** event is a community effort that provides school supplies, hair cuts, and clothing assistance for families in the Shoreline School District who are living with a low income and/or experiencing circumstances in their life that make it challenging to prepare their children for going back to school in the fall.



SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 2018

12:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Ridgecrest Elementary
(16516 10th Ave NE, Shoreline)

There are many ways to register:

- Online at www.btsconsortium.org
- Mail in a registration form
- Call the BTS Info Line at (206) 393-4916
Leave a message and a volunteer will call back to register you over the phone
- Contact your School Nurse or Family Advocate

Registration deadline: August 17

2018-2019 School Calendar

Shoreline Public Schools

FINAL 2018-2019 SCHOOL CALENDAR

TA'd 5.3.18, Subject to SEA ratification and final board approval

2018					2019				
MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
JULY					JANUARY				
2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	
9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11
16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18
23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25
30	31				28	29	30	31	
AUGUST					FEBRUARY				
		1	2	3					1*
6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8
13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15
20	21*	22*	23*	24*	18	19	20	21	22
27*	28*	29*	30*	31*	25	26	27	28	
SEPTEMBER					MARCH				
3	4*	5	6	7					1
10	11	12	13	14	4	5	6	7	8
17	18	19	20	21	11	12	13	14	15
24	25	26	27	28	18	19	20	21	22
OCTOBER					25	26	27	28	29
1	2	3	4	5	APRIL				
8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5
15	16	17	18	19	8	9	10	11	12
22	23	24	25	26	15	16	17	18	19
29	30	31			22	23	24	25	26
NOVEMBER					29	30			
5	6	7	8	9	MAY				
12	13	14	15	16		1	2	3	
19	20	21*	22	23	6	7	8	9	10
26	27	28	29	30	13	14	15	16	17
DECEMBER					20	21	22	23	24
3	4	5	6	7	27	28	29	30	31
10	11	12	13	14	JUNE				
17	18	19	20	21	3*	4	5	6	7
24	25	26	27	28	10	11	12	13	14*
31					17	18	19	20	21
					24	25	26	27	28

* see note on right

 schools closed

 non-student workday

Total Student Days 180

Date

A/C/I Description

Jul 4		Independence Day (federal holiday)
Jul 5		Additional Independence Day Holiday (Certain Shoreline CBAs)
Aug 21	A/A	Non-Student SEA Staff Workday
Aug 22	A/C	Non-Student SEA Staff Workday
Aug 23	I/A	Non-Student SEA Staff Workday
Aug 24	A/C	Non-Student SEA Staff Workday
Aug 27	A/I	Non-Student SEA Staff Workday
Aug 28	I/I	Non-Student SEA Staff Workday
Aug 29		First day of School Grades 1 through 12
Aug 29-31		WaKIDS Conferences with K Parents; no school for K students
Sep 3		Labor Day (federal holiday)
Sep 4		First day of School for Kindergarten Students
Sep 12		First Weekly Early Release Wednesday; all students released 100 minutes before normal end time
Nov 12		Veterans Day (federal holiday)
Nov 21		Half day release for all students and SEA certificated staff
Nov 22 - 23		Thanksgiving Break (federal holiday plus one additional day)
Dec 24 - Jan 4		Winter Break
Jan 21		Martin Luther King Jr. Day (federal holiday)
Feb 1	I/I	No School; Work Day for SEA Staff
Feb 18		President's Day (federal holiday)
Feb 19 - 22		Mid-Winter Break; No School, Non-Work Days for Employees on School-Year Calendar
Apr 22 - 26		Spring Break; No School, Non-Work Days for Employees on School-Year Calendar
May 27		Memorial Day (federal holiday)
Jun 3	I/I	No School; Work Day for SEA Staff
Jun 14		Likely last day of school; half-day release all students

 A Administratively-directed Time

 I Individually-directed Time

 C Collegial Time