

# Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park Elementary School and the Meridian Park PTSA

## Cheetah Family Spotlight

### CALLING ALL 3<sup>RD</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FAMILIES!

Now is your chance to shine on the Cheetah Family Spotlight at the front of the school. Give your student's teacher a family picture with your name and teacher's name on the back, or place it in the PTSA President's Box in the work room. You'll be featured in February and March! Looking forward to seeing some smiling faces.

## Seeking Auction Items



The Second Annual Silent Auction and Spring Family Fun Night is on April 18 and procurement is underway!

Do you have a property you could donate for a weekend vacation? Are you a business owner who'd like to make a difference in our students' lives through a service or business item? Do you have some unused airline miles you won't be using this year? Are you an artisan or artist wanting to share your creativity? Do you have a present or two from your birthday or the holidays you don't want? No item is too small and every donation is tax deductible!

We are also looking for a strong and determined team to help us with procurement right away - this can be as simple as scouring the internet for business to ask or reaching out to our local community, friends, and family for donations.

Please contact [jacquelinhiggins@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelinhiggins@gmail.com) for more information, to join the team, or to arrange a donation. Nothing is possible without your help.  
Thank you!

## 2019-2020 PTSA Board Positions

It's already time to start thinking about MPPTSA's 2019-2020 school year! This upcoming school year is one of transition as many of our veteran board members are moving on or into different roles within the PTSA. We have a wide variety of volunteer opportunities, including:

- Co-President
- Co-VP of Events
- Co-VP of Programs

We are an awesome, welcoming, and collaborative group of parents who want to make a difference in our kids' lives through fun activities, advocacy, and supporting our teachers.

If you are interested in any of the above board positions or more information please contact the nominating committee:  
[calliel\\_@hotmail.com](mailto:calliel_@hotmail.com) or [whitneyhardie@gmail.com](mailto:whitneyhardie@gmail.com)

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## Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 7

**MP Skate Night**

**6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

Lynnwood Bowl & Skate

Thursday, February 7

**Kindergarten Valentines Celebration**

**6:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

MP Cafeteria

Monday, February 18

**President's Day**

No School

Tuesday, February 19 – Friday, February 22

**Mid-Winter Break**

No School

Monday, February 25

**Read-A-Thon Begins**

Thursday, February 28

**'Screenagers' Viewing**

**6:30 pm – 8:00pm**

Highland Terrace Elementary

Friday, March 1

**Multicultural Night and Family Board**

**Game Night**

**6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

MP Cafeteria

Monday, March 4 – Friday, March 8

**Parent-Teacher Conferences**

**Early Release at 11:45 am**

Monday, March 4

**The Wizard of Oz, Jr. Tech Rehearsal**

**4:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

Shorecrest High School

Tuesday, March 5

**PTSA Meeting**

**6:30 pm – 8:00 pm**

MP Library

Thursday, March 7

**Teacher Appreciation Dinner**

MP Staff/Teacher Lounge

Friday, March 8 – Saturday, March 9

**The Wizard of Oz, Jr. Performances**

**7:00 pm**

Shorecrest High School

Saturday, March 9

**Shoreline Math Olympiad**

**8:00 am – 3:00 pm**

Shoreline Community College

# Announcements

## Art Docent

Hi Parents! Our second Art Docent project of the year is underway (Printmaking = make our own stamps)! But we have a shorter time frame, finishing this month. Please respond if your teacher or class Docent asks for more hands, if you are available. Families will receive info next month with options to order products made with your child's print, with proceeds contributing to future MP art; triple fun!

*With thanks, your Art Docent team co-leads Whitney Hardie & Tauryn Beeman*



## Lost and Found

**LOST AND FOUND ITEMS  
WILL BE ON DISPLAY  
UNTIL THIS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8.**

Please have your children look through it for their items.

And please put your name on your things, as anything with a name in it will be returned.

Thank you!

## February Skate Night



**All-School Skate Night** is scheduled for **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7 FROM 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM** at Lynnwood Bowl and Skate. Admission is \$7.00 and includes roller skate rentals.

*Bring the whole family and enjoying skating with classmates! No drop-offs please.*

**THE MERIDIAN PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND DANDYLYON DRAMA PRODUCTION OF**

**Disney THE LION KING JR**

**7:00 PM FRIDAY, MARCH 8 & SATURDAY, MARCH 9**  
**SHORECREST PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**  
**15343 25TH AVENUE NE, SHORELINE**

**TICKETS AT [BROWNPAPERTICKETS.COM](http://BROWNPAPERTICKETS.COM)**

**DIRECTED/CHOREOGRAPHED BY EVELYNE ASOBO & MELANI LYONS**  
**MUSICAL DIRECTION/ACCOMPANIMENT BY BRIAN NAGURNY**  
**FEATURING JHP LEGACY AFRICAN DRUM BAND**

**Dandylyon Drama** **MPPTSA** **MERIDIAN PARK PERFORMING ARTS COUNCIL** **4 CULTURE**

Music and Lyrics by Elton John & Tim Rice. Additional Music and Lyrics by Lebo M, Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin, and Hans Zimmer. Book by Roger Allers & Irene Mecchi. Based on the Broadway production directed by Julie Taymor. Music Adapted & Arranged and Additional Music & Lyrics and "Luau Hawaiian Treat" written by Will Van Dyke. "It's a Small World" written by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman.

DISNEY'S THE LION KING JR is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Music Theatre International [www.MTIsShows.com](http://www.MTIsShows.com)



# Announcements

## Shoreline Math Olympiad

The annual Shoreline Math Olympiad (SMO) event is approaching (March 9th). This is a great event to help keep kids engaged with math and encourages future participation with math activities. It's an all volunteer event and helps build community awareness for math education. All MP 4-6 grade students are eligible to participate in this event including students that are NOT enrolled in math club. If you know of a cheetah that would be interested in competing at the SMO have them [register on 6crickets](#). More information about this year's event is on the [SMO website](#).

The SMO committee is also looking for volunteers to help put on this event, no math experience needed. Please help if you can! Just email Steve ([SRuiter@comcast.net](mailto:SRuiter@comcast.net)) or Lisa ([lisa\\_mcd@comcast.net](mailto:lisa_mcd@comcast.net)) for more info.

## Global Reading Challenge



### Participating Teams:

#### Reading Rockets -

Elsa, Lilly, Ayesha, Emanuel, Jasper, Pamela

#### Trojans -

Eli, Lorenzo, Rilan, Maily, Yosef, Arthur

#### No Name -

Xinyi, Ian, Kanata, Henry, Reese, Tian-Tian

#### The Flying Books -

Ashlinn, Ellie, Amelia, Suvanny, Ruby, Sadie

#### Flying Potatoes -

Clarisse, Mara, Yena, Ivy, Kasey, Enya

#### Team Lightbulb -

Michaela, Juliana, Angel, Henry, Eli, Winston



**Reading Rockets was the winning team and will go on to the district competition on Thursday, February 28 at the Shoreline Center.**

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL SCREENING OF

# SCREEN AGERS

GROWING UP IN THE DIGITAL AGE

SPONSORED BY: Meridian Park PTSA and Highland Terrace PTA

**Thursday, February 28 at**

Highland Terrace Elementary, 100 N 160th St, Shoreline

- Movie viewing 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
- Open discussion 7:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Visit [screenagersmovie.com](http://screenagersmovie.com) for information about the movie

[screenagersmovie.com](http://screenagersmovie.com)

share this event



# Principal's Letter

Dear Families -

We are so proud of our super star Cheetahs for first semester's learning and growth! Students will bring home progress reports on February 15. Your teacher will contact you to schedule a conference the week of March 4. While we value our regular and ongoing communication, we appreciate you holding your questions about the progress report until your conference.

We are starting to think and talk about a special part of next school year. In Shoreline, the 2019-20 school year will be the last year of K-6 elementary schools. Not only will our sixth graders experience their last year at MP – fifth graders will also have their last year at MP next year. In keeping with tradition, this means that the fifth and sixth graders will go to camp to celebrate the end of elementary school and moving on to middle school. If you're currently a fourth grade family, your student will be going to camp in October 2019, and current fifth grade families will have their student attend camp as sixth graders in May 2020. Both grades will then move on in the Fall of 2020 to Einstein, where all current fourth graders on our side of the district will be the first class of sixth graders to attend the newly-built middle school. This is exciting news for our community!

In February, we are practicing 'kindness'. On behalf of the staff, please know how grateful we are for the kindness of your students and family, and please don't hesitate to contact a staff member or myself at any time. Meridian Park is a great school—One Community, Stronger Together—because of all we do *together*. Thank you.

**David Tadlock**, Principal



**One Community • Stronger Together**  
**Celebrating 25 Years of Greatness**



## Tadlock Tip:

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

## Wellness Policy Reminder

As we approach our mid-year celebrations of learning and growth on February 14 or 15, we appreciate our partnership regarding the district's updated Wellness/Nutrition policy that requires class parties include healthy snacks and treats.



More information can be found at the link below.

<https://www.shorelineschools.org/Page/1265>

## Safety Reminder: Students Walking to/from School

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

## Recess

Recess is important. Thanks to the generosity of the Shoreline Foundation and the Dale Turner YMCA, we host a YMCA Recess Coach two days per week, 11 am – 1 pm. It's called the Play Everyday Recess Coach Program. If you have questions, contact Matt Alford or Ryan Ferguson. If you can volunteer at recess, even just one day per week, please contact Jake Goett in the office with your name and availability.

# Dean of Students Letter

## Emergency Student Release

One of my responsibilities as the Dean of Students at Meridian Park is coordinating emergency response plans for our campus. I take this job seriously and want to reassure you that health and safety of your children is always a priority. While unlikely, there might be an event requiring us to use our Emergency Early Release Procedures. The mostly likely of these would be a weather related closure or a natural disaster such as an earthquake. While as a parent, I understand the need to reunite with your children immediately after an emergency, there are a few things that will help us account for, and ensure the safety of, all the students at Meridian Park.

First and foremost, please make sure your emergency contact information is current with the school. I encourage you to think about expanding your network of people who could assist in the care of your children if you were unable to pick your during an emergency. We are legally prohibited from releasing your child to the care of someone not listed on your emergency contact form. Email Jake Goett at [jake.goett@shorelineschools.org](mailto:jake.goett@shorelineschools.org) to update 1st-6th grade students and Suzy Cowgill at [suzy.cowgill@shorelineschools.org](mailto:suzy.cowgill@shorelineschools.org) for kindergarten.

## Procedures for Emergency Release from Meridian Park Elementary

- Enter on the east side of the building through the front doors at the office
- Staff will direct you to form a line for student pick-up
- School personnel will ask you for identification and the name(s) of the student(s) you wish to pick-up.
- School personnel will locate your student's emergency contact information and verify you are listed as the child's parent/guardian/trustee.
- You be will asked to wait in the release area while school personnel locates your child.
- School personnel will escort your student(s) back to the release area and re-unite you with your child(ren).

## Unsafe Structure

In the event that our MP building is evacuated, we will release from the playground on the west side of campus using similar protocol.

- Park in the main lot adjacent to Meridian Avenue and walk to the back.
- Staff will direct you to form a line for student pick-up.
- Staff will ask for identification and the name(s) of the student(s) you're picking-up.
- Staff will check your student's emergency contact information and verify you are listed as the child's parent/guardian/trustee.
- You be will asked to wait in the release area while staff locates your child.
- Staff will escort your student(s) back to the release area and re-unite you with your child(ren).

## Off-Campus Safe Meeting Place

In the event that our campus is evacuated, our designated Safe Meeting Location is the Aurora Church of the Nazarene (1900 N 175th St, Shoreline, WA 98133).

- Use the main entrance to the church.
- Staff will direct you to form a line for student pick-up.
- Staff will ask you for identification and the name(s) of the student(s) you wish to pick-up.
- Staff will locate your student's emergency contact information and verify you are listed as the child's parent/guardian/trustee.
- You be will asked to wait in the release area while staff locates your child.
- Staff will escort your student(s) back to the release area and re-unite you with your child(ren).

Please take a moment to think and talk about your family's plan to get your children home from school in the unlikely event of an emergency related closure. Creating a mental map and having family systems in place helps reduce anxiety and confusion in the event of an emergency. It also helps the staff at Meridian Park re-unite families in a manner that prioritizes student accountability and safety.

Meridian Park is a leader in student safety and a safe place because of all of us working together. Thank you, and please reach out with questions or concerns.

*Matt Alford*  
 Dean of Students, Meridian Park Elementary  
[matt.alford@shorelineschools.org](mailto:matt.alford@shorelineschools.org)



# Cheetah Notes

## From the Library/Media Center

Greetings MP Families!

Below is information about what is happening in the library these days, plus a couple of requests.

### Building a Maker Space Program

I have been building a maker space program in the library for the past couple of years, incorporating more hands-on materials and activities into library instruction. I've received a few grants for electrical circuitry, building materials, and robots.

If you would like to contribute the following items, please send them to the library:

- Legos
- cardboard tubes
- plastic bottle caps
- beads

### What do Harry Potter and Percy Jackson have in common?

They're both very popular in the Meridian Park library! They're so popular, in fact, that they frequently disappear or their books are damaged. If you have hard cover copies of Harry Potter or Percy Jackson books that you no longer use or need, please donate them to our library.

### Overdue Library Books – Can you help us?

When students check out books, they can keep them for up to two weeks. Lately, students have been keeping books beyond the two-week due dates. At this point, the books are overdue. When students have overdue books, they cannot check out new books. And, other students cannot check out the books that have not been returned.

Books are very expensive. We cannot afford to replace overdue books.

We send email and paper notices to parents if and when books have been overdue for an extended period of time.

If you receive such a notice, please help your children look for the books in the house, care, backpacks, and so on.

**Thank you for your help!**

Sincerely,  
Jenny Hillger

## Resources – Resources - Resources

At Meridian Park, students have access to many electronic resources, including online encyclopedias and databases. Some of these resources are district subscriptions, while others are available through a special program with King County Library System.

The links for these resources are located on the Meridian Park homepage. Simply go to the homepage, find "students" on the page, and click on *learning tools*.

Here is the link: <https://www.shorelineschools.org/domain/394>

Here are the username/login and passwords for the various resources:

### King County Library Partnership with Shoreline S. D.

**Access a variety of electronic resources.** Each student has his/her own login information. The username is 412+student number and the password is the last four digits of the student number.

#### SIRS Discoverer

Online encyclopedias and search tools for elementary students.

Login – w412empark

Password – welcome

(SIRS Discoverer is more user-friendly than eLibrary, below)

#### CultureGrams

Shoreline School District subscribes to Culturegrams, an online database about countries and cultures of the world.

Login – w412empark

Password – culture

#### eLibrary

Shoreline School District subscribes to eLibrary, an online database of resources for students. Resources include newspapers, magazines, books, maps, pictures, audio/visual materials, and transcripts.

Login – w412empark

Password – welcome

#### Britannica Online

This is a district subscription, is geared toward elementary-age students, and includes a separate component for PreK – 2nd grade.

Login – MPES

Password – 412

In addition, we have our very own eBook library at Meridian Park. These books are available all the time, day or night, weekday or weekend. You can "check them out" whenever you like, on a school computer or a home device.

Here is the link to our **eBook Library**:

<http://www.mycapstonelibrary.com/login/index.html>

Our username is mpark. Our password is school.

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 Notes

## News from the Music Program

### HONOR CHOIR

Congratulations 6th grade Honor Choir students on your fantastic performance at the Shoreline Westside Choral Festival on January 31! What an amazing concert! Thirty-seven Meridian Park 6th graders represented our school, singing four songs with the honor choir and finishing with a beautiful combined piece with the high school choirs. Preparing for this took a good deal of extra time and hard work, but was a lot of fun as new friendships were made with other students who love to sing and will move on to Einstein Middle School together! Thank you to honor choir and their super supportive parents!

### SYMPHONY FIELD TRIP

5th, 4th/5th, and 5th/6th grade classes will be taking a field trip to Seattle Symphony's 12:15 p.m. concert "Link Up: The Orchestra Moves" at Benaroya Hall, Tuesday March 12, 2019.

Students will listen, sing along, play recorder and move to music performed by Seattle Symphony.

This educational opportunity is provided by the Seattle Symphony, and Weill Music Institute at Carnegie Hall in New York, with lead support provided by the Fund II Foundation.

### SPRING PERFORMANCES

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

#### MAY:

2nd grade, 4th grade, and all students in combination classes with 2nd and 4th grades will perform at the Meridian Park Arts Festival, Thursday evening May 23, 2019.

#### JUNE:

1st grade classes will sing at the PTSA Meeting on Tuesday evening June 4, 2019.

6th grade will sing at their moving up program on Thursday morning June 13, 2019.

Have a wonderful month of kindness this February, Cheetahs!  
Ms. Anderson

## Donations Sought for Raised Beds!

The raised beds in MP's library courtyard contain lovely bulbs that come up each spring, but they need help in order to beautify the school even more.

### Items Needed

(I am asking generously. Anything will help!)

Bags of soil (10)  
Annuals (21 small)  
Smalls shrubs to anchor each bed (3)  
Child-sized gardening gloves (10)  
Trowels (2)

Students will work on the raised beds as volunteers or as part of community-service.

**Please email me before you donate** so I don't end up with too much of one thing.



Thank you!

Annie Gage, MSW  
Family Advocate

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

Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30

206-393-1768

## Counselor's Corner

With *Random Acts of Kindness day* on Sunday, February 17, it only seemed appropriate that the Character Trait of the month be **Kindness**. This month, we'll be teaching and reminding students that kindness is all about thinking about and trying to understand someone else's feelings - having empathy or sympathy; acting gentle and thoughtful toward people and animals; including others in games or at lunch; helping someone without expecting something in return; a simple smile...

"Remember, there's no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end." ~ Scott Adams

As always, you can check out the helpful [booklist](#) for more ideas on how to incorporate this month's Character Trait at home.

Katie McCain and Suz Fix  
Meridian Park School Counselors Grades 1-6



# Community Events

## Meridian Park Elementary

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

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

Derek Dalasta, Kinder Administrator  
[derek.dalasta@shorelineschools.org](mailto:derek.dalasta@shorelineschools.org)

Jake Goett, Registrar

Annie Bach, Office Manager

Suzy Cowgill, Kinder Office Manager

Tama Leahy, School Nurse

Katie McCain / Suz Fix, Counselor

Kim Kauffman, Kinder Counselor

Annie Gage, Family Advocate

Susie Moore, Kinder Family Advocate



**2017-2018 MP PTSA**  
[mpptsa.org](http://mpptsa.org)

### Executive Committee

Naomi Hillyard / Jax Higgins, Co-Presidents  
[mpptsapresident@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsapresident@gmail.com)

Meghan Jernigan, Secretary  
[mpptsasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsasecretary@gmail.com)

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

Katie Johnson, VP of Events  
[mpptsavpevents@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsavpevents@gmail.com)

Briana Bell / Dawn Moser, Co-VP of Programs/Clubs  
[mpptsavpprograms@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsavpprograms@gmail.com)

### Standing Committees

Kate Beck, Legislative Chair  
[mpptsalegislativechair@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsalegislativechair@gmail.com)

Suni Tolton / Mary Webb, Grants  
[mpptsagrants@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsagrants@gmail.com)

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

Carolyn and Hoss Hostetler, Volunteer Coordinators  
[mpptsavolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsavolunteers@gmail.com)

Diana Gray / Jiovanna Koceski, 'Cheetah Chatter' Editors  
[mpptsanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsanewsletter@gmail.com)

Nancy Jenkins, Webmaster  
[mpptsawebsite@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsawebsite@gmail.com)

Elizabeth Swan, Friday Email Blasts

Hannah Peterson / Lara Gino, Teacher Representatives

Follow the MP PTSA on Facebook

**facebook**

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## Black History Month Event

**Friday, February 15, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**

Dale Turner Family YMCA (Rotary Room), 19290 Aurora Ave N.

Join the Dale Turner family and community on Friday, February 15 to celebrate Black History month, which honors the innumerable contributions that African-Americans have made to American history, society, and culture.

Light snacks will be provided, step performance by Northside Drill Team, and local art work provided by Shoreline School District. Contact Patrick Carr

[pcarr@seattleyymca.org](mailto:pcarr@seattleyymca.org) for more information. No cost.

Open to the community. Please bring ID if older than 16.

## "Under Our Skin" Video Screening

**Saturday, February 23, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm**

Shoreline City Hall, 17500 Midvale Avenue N

What do we mean when we talk about race? Explore The Seattle Times "Under Our Skin" video project around race and inclusiveness. Discussion will inspire you to think and talk about issues of race in a deeper way. "Under Our Skin" will challenge your assumptions and build common ground.

This session will focus on the terms:

Diversity, White Privilege, and White Fragility.

RSVP is not required, but helpful. Contact Suni Tolton, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator, at [stolton@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:stolton@shorelinewa.gov) or 206-801-2256 with any questions.

## Health & Wellness Series

A three-part series focused on childhood health and wellness.

All meetings will be held at

Richmond Beach Congregational Church, 1512 NW 195th St.

**Tuesday, Feb. 5, 7:00 pm**

Featuring Meaghan Ormsby of Sound Nutrition Counseling, PLLC. Meaghan is a registered dietician and has been practicing for over 10 years. Meaghan will be talking about childhood nutrition and obesity.

**Tuesday, Feb. 12, 7:00 pm**

Cher Anderton will be speaking on emotional wellness in children and managing big emotions such as anger, sadness, anxiety, and joy. Cher has her Master's in social work and is in private practice in Shoreline.

**Tuesday, Feb. 26, 7:00 pm**

This meeting will focus on online safety, cyber bullying and growing awareness of the danger children face online with the Seattle Police Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.