

# Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park Elementary School and the Meridian Park PTSA



L to R: Mr. Tadlock, Mr. Alford, Mr. Dalasta

## Meridian Park PTSA needs you!

Please make sure to support our fabulous Meridian Park PTSA which is instrumental in providing access to programs, events, clubs, and so much more. Please send in your yellow membership envelope today or register online at <http://www.memberplanet.com/s/meridianparkfamilyassociationpta/membership>.

When registering online, you will be asked to create an account and add family members. If choosing to add additional family members, make sure to edit each family member before moving on to the membership selection options.

## Calling Kindergarten parents!

**You can make a HUGE positive impact on our kindergartners by volunteering during lunch -- any school day from 11:15 - 11:45 am.**

You will help our youngest learners with things such as finding/buying their lunch, opening containers that their little fingers are not yet skilled at, reminding them to focus on actually eating, and helping them learn to clear their table to the trash, recycling, and compost. (Yes, Meridian Park is proud to be a green school!) And - if you have a kindergartner - you will get to see them interact with their classmates. Such fun!

Sign up to volunteer at kindergarten lunch here:

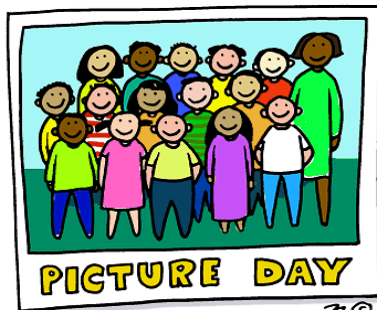
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B4FA8A723A5FB6-kindergarten>

### Are you ready to take the 2-hour volunteer pledge?

We have a goal of having 100 different Meridian Park parents/grandparents/guardians give 2 hours (or more!) of their time to the school community this year. There are many opportunities and ways to participate. Look for the volunteer survey in your student's welcome paperwork, or submit it online at

<https://mpptsa.org/volunteer/>.

We'll reach out to you throughout the year and you can say yes to what works for you. Thank you for helping to make our school community great!



### Picture Day is coming October 1st & 2nd!

More information will be coming home the last week of September. Would you like to help bring out the best Cheetah smiles? If you can spare an hour or two to volunteer on one of these days, please email Ann Yee at [theyeefamily@hotmail.com](mailto:theyeefamily@hotmail.com).

### Inside This Issue

Announcements .....	2
Principal's Letter .....	3
Cheetah Notes .....	4
PTSA News .....	9
Cheetah Cheers .....	11

### Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, September 11th**

First Early Release Wednesday  
Dismissal at 1:50 pm

**Thursday, September 19th**

MP PTSA Community Coffee /  
Volunteer Tour  
9:05 AM  
Meridian Park Elementary

**Tuesday, September 24th**

Curriculum Night  
5:15 pm or 6:00 pm

**Friday, September 27th**

Move-A-Thon  
(formerly Walk-A-Thon)

**Monday, September 30th**

"How to Be a Powerful Advocate  
for your Gifted Student"  
Presented by Marcia Holland,  
Northwest Gifted Child Association  
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Meridian Park Elementary

**Tuesday-Wednesday, October 1st-2nd**  
School Picture Day

**Friday, October 4th**

PTSA Movie Night &  
6th Grade Pizza Sale  
6:00 pm

**Saturday, October 5th**

PTSA Board Meeting &  
Candidate Forum  
10:00 am

Thank you to  
Gentling Dentistry for  
sponsoring the  
Back to School BBQ and  
handing out toothbrushes  
for a healthy smile.



# Announcements




MP小学中文班欢迎您

## Mandarin

SPONSORED BY MP-PTSA

Morning and Afternoon classes for all students



Language

语言



Cooking

烹饪



Calligraphy

书法



Culture

文化

October 1st, 2019 morning classes  
October 2nd, 2019 afternoon classes

Mandarin Teacher  
Mrs. Hua Zhang

**Morning classes:**  
**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
8:00AM-9:00AM

**Afternoon classes:**  
**Mondays and Wednesdays**  
3:35PM-4:35PM  
Early release days will TBD

K-6th  
ROOM: TBD

**Tuition**  
\$15 per class  
The tuition includes learning materials, cooking class, art class supplies, lightly snacks and Lunar New Year celebrations expenses, etc.  
The registration form come home soon.

Website: <https://huamandarin.wixsite.com/studio/home>

Question? Contact instructor Ms. Hua Zhang    Email: [huazhang98@yahoo.com](mailto:huazhang98@yahoo.com)    Phone: 206-669-0819

## Mandarin Club is excited for another school year to begin!

We look forward to seeing all former students return to continue with the learning of this fascinating language – and, of course, we welcome new students to join us!

### What is new this year for Mandarin?

First, we will keep morning Mandarin classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the same start time. We hope to schedule Monday and Wednesday afternoon classes this year as well. Because of the Wednesday early release, we will start class earlier that day and add more enrichment activities. The detailed class flyers will arrive home soon after school begins.

**Introduction:** Mandarin teacher Hua Zhang currently teaches Mandarin 4 at Shorewood High School. Hua is a natural story teller and a native Chinese Mandarin speaker, and formerly an award-winning public speaker, journalist, and editor in China. When Hua arrived in the United States in 1996, she re-invented herself as a designer and a dancer who performed traditional Chinese folk dance in various international culture events. Her dance pictures were featured in local print media numerous times. Hua started her first Mandarin program at Meridian Park Elementary during the 2005-2006 school year. Her Mandarin services have benefited many MP students, families and the community during the past 14 years. From 2007 to 2018, Hua has been recognized many times for her excellent and dedicated work in periodicals including: Enterprise Newspaper, Shoreline Area News, Seattle Times and World Journal, the largest Chinese newspaper in the North America.

Hua teaches more than just the Chinese language. In her lessons, she often incorporates Chinese history, customs and traditions so that her students can experience the Chinese culture in various ways. She has developed her own teaching materials and curricula for students who are at different levels of learning the language. Hua believes in establishing a solid foundation for the long-term learning of Mandarin by engaging her students through different forms of enrichment and by maximizing their interest.

## Would you like to learn Spanish?

Join Maestra Monica for Spanish grades K-5  
Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Learn Spanish in an immersive environment with differentiated learning across all grade levels. Sing, be creative, and learn about Spanish speaking cultures. Speak Spanish at home? Bring your heritage language experience and learn even more.

This is a MPPTSA sponsored enrichment activity and brought to Meridian Park by Language Link LLC. To sign up, visit:

[https://www.6crickets.com/schools/US/WA/Shoreline/Meridian-Park-Elementary-School/2769?refer=&school=2769&include\\_sold\\_out=&address=shoreline,%20wa,%20US#programs](https://www.6crickets.com/schools/US/WA/Shoreline/Meridian-Park-Elementary-School/2769?refer=&school=2769&include_sold_out=&address=shoreline,%20wa,%20US#programs)

## Math club volunteers needed

Math club is preparing another exciting year of problem solving. We rely heavily on volunteers to help run math club meetings and coordinate math competitions. In order to provide a successful program, we are in need of volunteers. No math skills are needed, just a desire to help students learn. Volunteers can be a parent, grand parent, sibling, or anyone that enjoys math.

If interested please contact [mpmathclub@gmail.com](mailto:mpmathclub@gmail.com)

Thanks,  
- MP math club

The MPPTSA is looking for businesses to promote in our Cheetah Chatter newsletter and on our website. We would love to provide this opportunity to you. Email Naomi Hillyard at [naomihillyard@gmail.com](mailto:naomihillyard@gmail.com) or text 206-355-7365 for more information.



# Principal's Letter

Dear Cheetahs -

Welcome back to a fantastic new year. After a long career in public education, this will be my seventh year at MP and my 35th year overall, and I am honored to be the principal of our amazing school. My daughter is a graduate student at UW and my son a junior at Montana State. Both attended public school and I believe deeply in public schools as the foundation of our community and democracy.



Welcome new families and welcome kindergarten families to our amazing kinder program led by Derek Dalasta and team. With approximately 200 kindergartners and 550 students in grades 1 - 6, we are 750 Cheetahs strong. We hope you like our theme: One Community • Stronger Together.

Each adult at MP is committed to a safe and positive school experience for each and every student. Our core values, mission, and district vision are included in this newsletter. These words provide a lens to guide our work together.

Respect is one of our core values and our theme for September. In all of our interactions, let's all commit to expecting, teaching, and modeling respect. Please take a few minutes to talk about 'respect' as a family.

As we celebrate 26 years of greatness, we also celebrate the last year at MP for our fifth and sixth graders. Thank you to Gretchen and the entire PTSA team for kicking off our year with the best BBQ ever. We encourage you to be involved in PTA, your classroom, or both! Curriculum Night is September 24, and we hope for 100% participation. We can't wait to see you soon.

Go Cheetahs!

David Tadlock, Principal



**One Community • Stronger Together**  
**Celebrating 26 Years of Greatness**

## Tadlock Tip #1

Now is a great time for families to establish consistent daily routines. Set up a fun and positive routine for before and after school. Limit screen time, play outside together, and read together! Weekend routines and structure are good, too. We encourage all Cheetahs to be positive self-managers and help out around the house.

**Patience Please in the Parking Lot**

Please do not park in the curb lane: drop off and pick up only—thank you!

**Meridian Park Elementary**  
**Home of the Black & Gold Cheetahs**  
One Community • Stronger Together  
Celebrating 26 Years of Greatness

## MP Core Values

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

## Mission Statement

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

## All Families Welcome

At Meridian Park Elementary, we welcome, embrace, and care for ALL families. Because at times families can experience feelings of uncertainty or anxiety, we say strongly that our public schools, including Meridian Park, are a safe place for ALL students and families to learn, grow, and be part of a community. If you or another family have any questions, concerns, or need support, please contact us directly or any member of our staff. Each and every day, please join us in making all families feel welcome and part of our wonderful school.

- Meridian Park Staff  
- David Tadlock, Principal  
- Derek Dalasta, Kindergarten Administrator



Meridian Park Elementary Staff & Faculty

# Cheetah Notes

## Kindergarten News



As the Kindergarten Program Administrator here at Meridian Park, I am excited to welcome all 204 of our new kindergarten

students and their families to the community! Our Kindergarten Team is committed to partnering with families to make the first year of our students' formal education a positive and productive experience for each student and family.

### We believe a thriving kindergarten community includes ...

- an environment that develops the whole child while creating a balance between developmentally appropriate and high academic standards
- classrooms which provide rich learning experiences through exploration, play, practice, and application of concepts

- learning with a balance of teacher-guided experiences, intentional learning centers, and child-initiated play across all academic areas
- embracing families as valued and essential partners in these educational efforts

Our Kindergarten team includes classroom teachers, specialists, and paraeducators. We believe all of us are teachers, role models, mentors, coaches, and leaders.

### Our team will ...

- take care of our students • encourage our students • challenge our students
- inspire our students

I have had the pleasure of spending the last few weeks getting to know the staff, students, and families in the community. I have been so inspired by the remarkable culture of acceptance, kindness, and engagement here; it really makes our program a great place to be a kindergartener!

Derek Dalasta,  
Kindergarten Program Administrator,  
Meridian Park Elementary  
[derek.dalasta@shorelineschools.org](mailto:derek.dalasta@shorelineschools.org)

## From the Health Office

**Welcome to the new school year!** Please keep me informed of any health concerns or changes in your child's health including new health issues, medication changes, and immunization updates.

**Medications:** Whenever possible, medication should be scheduled during non-school hours. However, in the event your child needs medication during school hours, please be sure to have the "Permission to Administer Medication" form completed by your child's physician and returned to the school nurse.

**Hearing/Vision Screening:** Washington State law requires schools to conduct auditory and visual screenings for elementary students in grades K, 1, 2, 3, and 5. The Meridian Park nurse will be doing hearing and vision screenings in October 2019 (dates to be determined). Parents/guardians will be notified of abnormal results.

**Immunization Compliance:** Washington State law requires that all children up to the age of 21 be fully immunized on or before the first day of school. Students can attend school under a temporary status, but they must have proof of immunization or an approved Certificate of Exemption by the 30th calendar day after the first day of attendance. If there is no proof/waiver by the 30th day after the first day of attendance at school, the student may not continue to attend school until documents are received. For students who start on September 4th 2019, this means October 4th is the last day they can attend without being in compliance.

Thank you.

Tama Leahy, RN Meridian Park School Nurse  
206-393-4124  
[tama.leahy@shorelineschools.org](mailto:tama.leahy@shorelineschools.org)

# Cheetah Notes

## From the Library



### Greetings from the Meridian Park Library Media Center!

Welcome to the 2019 – 2020 school year in the Meridian Park Library! We are going to busy reading and checking out many fabulous books, as well as learning to access and use information, coding robots, and having Maker Space experiences in the library! Students visit the library with their classes once per week, and may visit on their own as their class schedules allow throughout the week. There is no student supervision in the library before school begins in the morning. Therefore, students are not allowed in the library until 9:00 to return and check out books. Students may also stop by the library to return, renew, and check out new books after school. Parents can also check out books from the MP library. Parents can stop by the library at any time to set up MP library accounts for themselves.

### Book Award Programs

We will run four Washington Library Association book award programs this year.

First, there is the **Washington Children's Choice Picture Book (WCCPB)** award program for kindergarten, first, second, and third graders. Students read 20 picture books both in the classroom and during library visits. At the end of the reading cycle, each student votes for his or her favorite book, helping to choose both the Meridian Park and Washington State winners.

Second, for the first time at Meridian Park, we will participate in the **OTTER Chapter Book** award program. **OTTER** stands for *Our Time To Enjoy Reading*. Students can check out the chapter books, and/or listen to them, then vote for their favorites later in the year.

Third, also for the first time at Meridian Park, we will participate in the **Towner Nonfiction Award** program. There are 10 nominees. Students will either listen to books during library lessons and/or check them out on their own, then vote for their favorites later in the year.

### The Library Staff

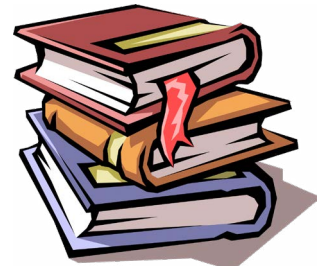
#### Jenny Hillger, Teacher~Librarian, First – Sixth Grades

This is my 16th year in the Meridian Park library, the best place in the whole school! I am so lucky to know and work with every single first through sixth grade MP student. My greatest joys come from introducing students to new books, authors, and genres of literature, as well as helping students learn how to use information, research their favorite topics, create with “maker space” activities, and robotics and coding.

One of my favorite picture book series is about a cranky bear named Bruce who accidentally becomes the mother to a gaggle of baby geese. The books, written by Ryan T. Higgins, are: **Mother Bruce**, **Hotel Bruce**, **Bruce's Big Move**, and **Be Quiet!**

#### Maggie Cramer, Teacher-Librarian, Kindergarten Program

We are so excited to have Mrs. Cramer in the library again this year. She does an amazing job with kindergarteners, inspiring a love of reading and books! Maggie loves helping students find great books and introducing them to Maker Space activities!



#### Jacob Kreutzer, Library Technician

This fall, we welcome Jacob Kreutzer to the library team. Jacob is interested in becoming an elementary school teacher, and this is the perfect opportunity for him to work with students. Jacob is looking forward to helping students find books they will enjoy and unlock the love of reading. Jacob's favorite children's books are the **Martin's Mice** by Dick King-Smith, the **Dealing with Dragons** series by Patricia Wrede, and **Please Don't Tell My Parents I'm a Supervillain** by Richard Roberts. In his spare time, Jacob spends time with his dog, Spencer the Whippet.

We are so happy to have Jacob with us this fall!

If you have questions about the library, would like to set up your own library account, or would like to learn about our online library catalog, please stop by the library before or after school.

*Happy Reading,*

*Jenny Hillger, MP Teacher~Librarian*



# Cheetah Notes

## Fall Book Fair



We will have a one-day-wonder Scholastic Fall Book Fair on Tuesday, December 3rd. This year's theme is "Arctic Adventure Book Fair."

The Book Fair will run during the school day as well as the evening along with the PTSA's monthly meeting and a family event. Students will have a chance to preview the Book Fair on Monday, December 2nd. It will be an enjoyable event for everyone.

Our one-day book fairs have been huge successes, as well as a lot of fun. Book fair profits benefit all MP students through the purchase of new books and the support of author visits and other literacy events.

If you would like to help out at the book fair by volunteering a few hours of your time, please let me know. My contact information is 206.393.4125 and [jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org](mailto:jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org).

## Counselor's Corner

**Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year at Meridian Park!!** Mrs. Katie McCain and Mrs. Suz Fix are your school counselors supporting grades 1-6. Please feel free to contact either of us with questions and [check out our website](#) with more information on what a school counselor does, how we work with students, and our contact information.

Happy new school year!!

Mrs. McCain – Monday -Wednesday

Mrs. Fix – Thursday - Friday

**Positive Behavior:** At Meridian Park, we work hard to create a positive and welcoming school climate. In part, this is done through our Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) program. All year, students learn about our school wide behavior expectations (Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe) and how to earn Cheetah Cheers by doing the right thing and following the expectations in all of our common areas. More information can be found [here](#).

**Character Trait of the Month:** This month we are working on RESPECT! This is one of our three main school behavior expectations, which is part of our overall PBIS program. We have a lot of fun positive interventions, like our VIC lunch, to catch kids doing the right thing. Our monthly Character Trait intervention provides a specific time where teachers can teach really important vocabulary and our student's model the traits all month (and hopefully all year and life!). At the end of each month we celebrate students who have been role models in this area with our VIC (Very Important Cheetah) Lunch in the cafeteria. Please see the booklist for great ideas on how to continue the learning at home with trait specific books.



## Roots of Empathy

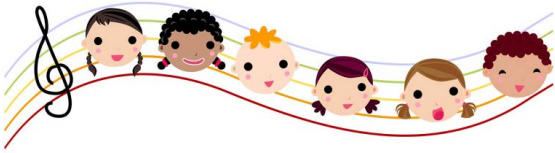
Are you interested in nurturing empathy in children? Empathy enables children to build healthy relationships, reduces bullying and aggression, and contributes to their well-being. Roots of Empathy is entering its 13th year of partnership with elementary schools in Shoreline. We are looking for volunteers to train as Roots of Empathy Instructors in Shoreline elementary schools for the coming school year. Training dates are available this October at no cost to volunteers.

Want to see what Roots of Empathy looks like? Here is a brief introductory video that explains how Roots of Empathy works and why a baby is such a powerful teacher of empathy. Please contact Melissa Soltani at [msoltani@rootsofempathy.org](mailto:msoltani@rootsofempathy.org) if you're interested in joining Roots of Empathy in changing the world, child by child.

Suz Fix, Katie McCain  
School Counselors  
Meridian Park Elementary  
(206) 393-1785

# Cheetah Notes

## From the Music Department



Dear Meridian Park Cheetah Parents and Students,

**WELCOME to MUSIC 2019-2020!**

I look forward to the wonderful year ahead, and to sharing the joy of music with your children!

Here's a little about what we do in music class. In a balanced, varied music curriculum, students participate and grow musically through experiences in singing, games, movement, listening, rhythms, and playing instruments. At a developmentally appropriate pace, students learn about theory, harmony, form, style, music history, and world music. Students are encouraged to express their feelings musically through exploring sound, creating, improvising and composing music.

## RECORDERS

All 4th and 5th and 6th grade students will play soprano recorder. Students keep these in the music room, but may bring them home over long vacations. Watch for your student to bring a letter about recorders!

Throughout the year, look for music highlights, events, and performance updates in the PTSA/school newsletters, and on my teacher website linked to the school website.

Ms. Shari Anderson  
General Music Teacher

## PERFORMANCES

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

### 3rd grade

Sings at 6:00 p.m. at the Book Fair Night & PTSA Meeting  
Tuesday, December 3, 2019.

### 2nd grade

Sings at 6:30 p.m. at the Meridian Park Arts Festival  
Thursday, May 21, 2020.

### 4th grade and 3/4th combination classes

Sing at 7:00 p.m. at the Meridian Park Arts Festival  
Thursday, May 21, 2020.

### 1st grade

Sings at 6:15 at the PTSA Meeting  
Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

### 5th grade

Sings at 9:30 a.m. at their moving up program  
Tuesday, June 16, 2020.

### 6th grade

Sings at 9:30 a.m. at their moving up program  
Wednesday June 17, 2020.

*Meridian Park students also sing in several other events, such as Veterans Day in November, Winter sing along in December, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January.*

### 5th and 6th grade

Both 5th and 6th grade students have instrumental performances here at Meridian Park. 5th and 6th grade students may perform at the west side choral festival honor choir January 30, 2020. 6th grade students have additional performances with band and orchestra festivals.

## Fall Festival!

Would you like to be on the planning committee of the Fall Festival? We want YOU to join us on this fun event. Fall Festival is on Friday, October 25th. We need your energy and input to make this event fantastic!



We promise it won't be a huge time commitment and can work around your work schedule. E-mail Julie Reinhardt - [julie@shesmoke.com](mailto:julie@shesmoke.com) or call 206-331-8279.

## SPIRIT WEAR

Be sure to visit the [Meridian Park Spirit Wear store](#) to pick up your Cheetah gear for the school year! There are new designs, and shipping is free on all orders placed from **September 13th - September 30th.**



# PTSA News

## WELCOME BACK FROM MP PTSA

Hello, Cheetahs!

I am very grateful to be joining the Meridian Park community and look forward to helping continue our PTSA's focus on inclusion, equity, and engagement this year.

We're excited to introduce the following plans for 2019-20:

- Timely and relevant **Parent Education** nights, beginning October 2nd with author [Bonnie Rough](#) to discuss her book *Beyond Birds & Bees: Bringing Home a New Message to Our Kids About Sex, Love, and Equality*

- Monthly **Community Coffees**, where MP families can come together in a casual atmosphere to ask questions, find out more about our school, and discuss what's important to us.

- Two of our monthly **PTSA meetings** will be held on **Saturday mornings** — **October 5th and February 8th** — with the hope of making them more accessible to our wider membership.

- Supporting the ASB's decision to rename Walk-a-thon to **Move-a-thon**

We are excited to see all of you at school, PTSA meetings, and community events. If you have questions, ideas, or feedback, please reach out — we'd love to hear from you!

Looking forward to the year ahead,  
Gretchen Bjork Knudsen, MPPTSA President  
[mpptsapresident@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsapresident@gmail.com)



## PTSA LINKS

[BECOME A PTSA MEMBER](#)  
[VOLUNTEER](#)  
[PTSA CALENDAR](#)  
[FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK](#)  
[LINK YOUR FRED MEYER](#)  
[REWARDS CARD](#)  
[SUPPORT US ON AMAZON SMILE](#)



## SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY COFFEE

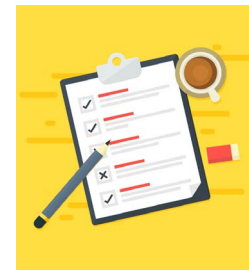
This year, MP PTSA is hosting monthly Community Coffees to provide space for learning more about Meridian Park and each other. Please join us for our first Community Coffee of the year at **9:05am on September 19** in the lobby. We will tour the school — focusing on specific details to help our volunteers — and follow up with a casual chat. Children are welcome. Please let us know if you have any specific needs, and we will do our best to accommodate them.

## OCTOBER 2ND PARENT EDUCATION EVENT: AUTHOR BONNIE ROUGH



Bonnie J. Rough, author of *Beyond Birds and Bees: Bringing Home a New Message to Our Kids About Sex, Love, and Equality*, will share the practical lessons she learned as a parent and journalist when she took a close look at the world-famous Dutch approach to sex education, instrumental in producing one of the most sexually healthy and gender-equal societies on the globe. With immediate takeaways for parents/ caregivers and time for sharing and questions, this event will show how we can make the most of—and enjoy—life's many opportunities to change the conversation with our kids as we empower them to build a more equitable and inclusive future.

**October 2nd from 6:30-8:00pm in the Meridian Park cafeteria:** discussion followed by Q&A, book sale & signing. Presented by Meridian Park PTSA, Syre PTA, Brookside PTA, and Highland Terrace PTA. [RSVP here!](#)



## MERIDIAN PARK STAFF SURVEY

Meridian Park educators and staff: we'd love to hear how the PTSA can best support your work this year. Please take a moment to complete the [2019-20 Staff Survey](#) to let us know about your priorities, challenges, and feedback, and let's work together to make this school year our best yet!



# PTSA News

## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!



Our school depends on the generous support of our volunteers each year. We invite you to complete the **PTSA Volunteer Survey**, either [online](#) or using the [printout](#) that came home in your Welcome Packet, so that we can match your interests/schedule with volunteer opportunities throughout the school year. Students thrive with family involvement at school, and we can't do it without you!

Be sure to make a **Two Hour Volunteer Pledge** this year! Post the image above to your social media with the hashtag **#2HoursForMP** to let your friends and family know that you're proud to help our school — then donate just two hours of your time during the year to make a real difference in the Cheetah community.

Link Your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Meridian Park PTSA Support Meridian Park PTSA by [linking your Fred Meyer Rewards card today](#) [Meridian Park PTSA #TY486]. Don't worry — you'll still earn fuel points, rewards points, and rebates all while supporting your school. It's a win-win!

## HELP KEEP MP PTSA GOING STRONG!

If you're ready to take volunteering to the next level, please consider one of the following open positions:

- Co-VP of Volunteer Engagement
- Co-VP of Events/FACE (Family and Community Engagement)
- Membership Co-Chair
- ELL/Bilingual Board Representative
- Room Coordinator Lead

Email Gretchen, [mpptsapresident@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsapresident@gmail.com) if you're interested in learning more about any of these important roles.

The MP yearbook staff needs your help to make the 2019-2020 school year one to look back on! If you attend an event, chaperone a field trip, or volunteer in the classroom, take a few pictures with your phone and email them to us at [mpptsayearbook@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsayearbook@gmail.com)! If you are looking for more ways to be involved, please let us know. We are always looking for more hands.

## “How to Be a Powerful Advocate for your Gifted Student”

*Presented by Marcia Holland, Northwest Gifted Child Association*

**Date:** Monday, September 30, 2019

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Meridian Park Elementary School  
17077 Meridian Ave N, Shoreline, WA 98133

Gifted students have complex needs and being labeled “gifted” doesn't mean school is easy for them. In this meeting, sharpen your set of “tools” to better advocate for your child with the teacher, principal, school and district. Such as:

- The steps of effective advocacy
- Barriers that need to be overcome to be persuasive
- What it is about Highly Capable kids that leads to the need for accommodation
- The legal basis that supports advocacy for Highly Capable students
- Specific tactics that advocates can request
- What to say to your own children about giftedness so they can also be advocates

We welcome all interested families to attend this free speaker event!

Register at Eventbrite: <https://tinyurl.com/y5fnx5p>

**About Ms. Holland** – Marcia Holland has been involved in supporting excellence in education for children since her sons were students in the Renton School District in the 1970s and 1980s. Marcia has served on the board of the [Northwest Gifted Child Association](#) on and off over the last 30 years. Her focus has always been educating others – parents, educators, administrators and legislators – about the unique learning needs of children who learn at markedly faster and more complex rates than their chronological peers. Having been an unserved gifted child herself, she remembers the sense of frustration, isolation and “marching in place” of her K-12 experience.

Contact the **Shoreline Hi Cap Parent Association** with questions:

[shoreline.hicap.advocacy@gmail.com](mailto:shoreline.hicap.advocacy@gmail.com)

# PTSA News

## ART DOCENTS DESIRED

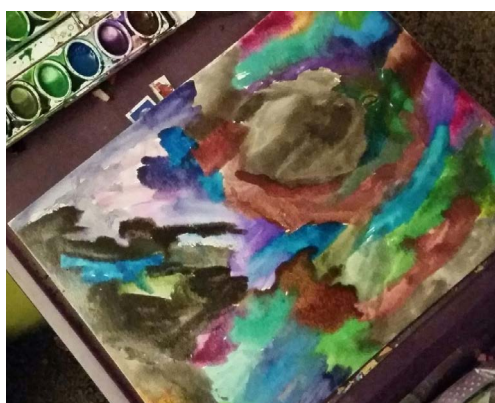
Our Volunteer-led **Art Enrichment program** is seeking *NEW and returning Art Docents* for weekday project support this school year.

**How does it work?** The Art Docent parent-volunteer team aims to bring *three interactive art lessons* to all of MP (by classroom) yearly & supports the MP Spring Art Fest (5/21) with an "Art walk" of student projects. Our **2019-20** theme is: **COMMUNITY!** **Is there support?** Yes! The Art Docent Volunteers attend an **initial Orientation** (Fri 9/20, 9:15am or Tues 10/1, 7pm) then *meet quarterly* (select Fridays 9:15am) to explore the materials and methods of the next school-wide project. Docents receive info via email, schedule use of a shared stocked materials cart and have access to a Google Drive slideshow for classroom presentations.

**Can I help?** YES!! Sign-up as a Volunteer for your child(ren)'s classroom or beyond! You can lead or support (or both). **Please contact:** Art Docent co-leads Whitney Hardie @ [whitneyhardie@gmail.com](mailto:whitneyhardie@gmail.com) (Registration or Orientation questions) & Tauryn Beeman @ [t.travels@hotmail.com](mailto:t.travels@hotmail.com) (Schedule questions).

## PAPER BAGS NEEDED

Our Art Docent Team is currently collecting **folded PAPER GROCERY BAGS** to re-purpose as Student Art Portfolios (1 ea) for the year. That's 750+ needed! Please consider contributing yours at our collection box in the main lobby (near box tops), or in the PTSA supply closet (left side) or bring to Curriculum night 9/24. Thanks!



## Meridian Park Clubs!

While we are still working on what Programs to bring to Meridian Park Elementary this year, we wanted to let you know that they will start the first week of October. We are hoping to bring: Kids in Sports, Hip Hop, TGA sports, Dandy Lion Drama, Mad Science, Yarn Arts, Rainy Day Cooking Club, Mandarin and Spanish along with a few others. Get ready to have some fun this Fall and please utilize the scholarships from Annie Gage if needed OR be the parent representative (all the classes need one) and your child gets to go free. Keep an eye out for more information coming soon!

### First Saturday PTSA Board Meeting with School Board Candidate Forum

10-11am PTSA General Meeting  
11-1pm Local Candidate Forum and Mingle

Come and meet the candidates for School Board, City Council, and information on Prop 1. Each Candidate in attendance will be given the floor to speak about citizen engagement and what they hope to accomplish during their service. The audience then will have an opportunity to mingle with the candidates over lunch.

Lunch provided with donation request  
Bake Sale to Benefit MP PTSA

### Special thanks to all our business sponsors last school year.

Without your support we would not be able to fund all of the fun events we have at Meridian Park. We are looking for a sponsor for The Fall Carnival in October. If you are interested contact Naomi Hillyard at [naomihillyard@gmail.com](mailto:naomihillyard@gmail.com) or text 206-355- 7365.

# Cheetah Cheers

## 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



**2019-2020 MP PTSA**  
[mpptsa.org](http://mpptsa.org)

### Executive Committee

Gretchen Bjork Knudsen, President  
[mpptsapresident@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsapresident@gmail.com)

Briana Bell, Secretary  
[mpptsasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsasecretary@gmail.com)

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

Dawn Moser, VP of Events  
[mpptsavpevents@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsavpevents@gmail.com)

Mary Kate Horwood / Erika Botch  
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 /  
Katherine Vangunst, Grants  
[mpptsagrants@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsagrants@gmail.com)

Nauko Grimlund,  
Membership Coordinator  
[mpptsamemberships@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsamemberships@gmail.com)

Carolyn Hostetler,  
Volunteer Coordinator  
[mpptsavolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsavolunteers@gmail.com)

Jiovanna Koceski / Amy Baldwin,  
'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**

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

We served over 700 people At the Back to School BBQ! Imagine that happening in your house! WOW! Meridian Park PTSA has an amazing group of people to reach out to when we are serving our community.

It all starts with someone loading their car with hotdogs and buns. It moves on to getting the grill and grilling all those dogs. Hot stuff! Then those bun stuffers! Who would have thought that standing around a table putting hotdogs in buns would be so fun! There are the tables that our community get to explore while waiting in line that someone has to arrange and put together. The potluck table is always more work than anyone thinks it is going to be, but parents always step and lend a hand. All the signs and helping out the new time parents who are trying to figure out where to go. The massive cleanup that happened so fast and smoothly. There were the tiny hands (Juliette) washing dishes at the end. Closed up and out by 8pm folks - great work!

There were over 30 parents that helped make this event a success! We are sure to miss a few folks but know that your efforts and assistance is needed and appreciated!

Hoss Hostetler  
Jeff Steward  
Vien Do  
Meghan Jernigan  
Meiting Wu  
Derek Norton  
Julie Fischer  
Michael Backety  
Suni Tolton  
Bart Thompson  
Jiovanna Koceski

Molly Verschuyt  
Briana Bell  
Nikki Beck  
Megan Bloom  
Dena  
Erika Botch  
Erin Acheson  
Dawn Moser  
Carolyn Hostetler  
Theresa  
Veronic Beck

Lori Finch  
Sue Purificacion  
Mary Kate Horwood  
Gretchen Bjork Knudsen  
Ann Yee  
Naomi Hillyard  
Whitney Hardie  
Tauryn Beeman  
Elizabeth Swan  
Nauko Grimlund  
Khai Do

Thank you! The gift of your time and energy is valued and makes a difference in our schools and community. We know this from all the research and from the practical experiences we have. We couldn't do it without you! More importantly, our community wouldn't be the same without all of us taking the time to serve each other and showing our students that we value their education by showing up and supporting their schools.

## Community Event

### Back to Church & School Bash Aurora Community Church

Sunday, September 15th at 10am.

175th street and Meridian Ave. (across from Meridian Park Elementary)

We will have guest speaker Ben Malcolmson, personal assistant to coach Pete Carol. We will also be recognizing all of the teachers, administration and support team of Shoreline schools that faithfully care for our kids and our community. Bounce house for the kids and food for all.



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



**MISSION**

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

**VISION FOR STUDENT LEARNERS**

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

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



**SHARED BELIEFS**

**All students can achieve**

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

**Equitable access to rigorous learning is essential**

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

**Diversity makes our community stronger**

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

**Curiosity sparks creativity and innovation**

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

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

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

**INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**

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

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