Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park Elementary School and the Meridian Park PTSA

Art Docents SAVE THE DATE

Fri Jan 10th, 9:15am in art room for next Project Prep. Theme:
Faith Ringgold & collage techniques.

Seeking MAGAZINES

Our Art Docent Team is collecting used Magazines for kids collage projects in the Winter. Please place in box in lobby, or in "paper bag" cupboard in Art Room.

Thanks!



You are cordially invited to attend the Meridian Park Winter Ball

January 30, 2020

6PM-8PM

Feel free to dress fancy, or not! Dancing, karaoke, games, and fun.

Concessions sales to benefit Meridian Park Kindergarten
cash and card accepted.

To sign up to volunteer, click here.

Sponsored by Meridian Park parent, William Chen! willchencpa.com



Meridian Park Variety Show

Join us on January 24th at 6PM to cheer on our fellow Cheetahs while they perform in the Meridian Park Variety Show at Shorewood High School. This free event is sponsored by Shoreline Little League and for the 3rd year in a row Dr. Howard Jue at Orthodontics Exclusively.



Sign your student up for Little League at shorelinelittleleague.com



Find Dr. Jue's information at orthodonticsexclusively.com

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Upcoming Events

Wednesday, January 8th Early Release 1:50 pm

Friday, January 10th
Art Docent Meeting
9:15 am

Friday, January 10th
MP Yearbook Cover
Contest Deadline

Wednesday, January 15th Early Release 1:50 pm

Thursday, January 16th Family Math Night

Thursday & Friday, January 16th - 17th MLK Assemblies

Time TBD

Monday, January 20th Martin Luther King Jr. Day,

No school

Wednesday January 22nd
No early release

Friday, January 24th
MP Variety Show
SW Auditorium, 6:00 pm

Saturday, January 25th
Kinderfest
Shoreline Center, Shoreline Room
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Wednesday January 29th
No early release

Thursday, January 30th
Meridian Park Winter Ball / Dance
6:00 - 8:00 pm

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Friday, January 31st Staff Work Day No School

March 2 - 6
Conference Week
Early Dismissal 11:45 am

Cheetah Chatter

Announcements

Meridian Park PTSA Presents:





Friday, Jan 24 from 6-8pm Shorewood Theatre



This event is FREE and we encourage all families to come and see Meridian Park students' and teachers' talents on display. We have over 20 acts and a whole lot of laughs. There will be concessions for sale before the show and during the short intermission. Plus, you and your students get an opportunity to see the high school. There is also plenty of parking.



Please take a moment to thank our sponsors. We couldn't put on this free show without their support - Shoreline Little League and Orthodontics Exclusively Thank You!





REMINDER for Performers: Thursday, Jan 23 4-7pm - Mandatory Tech Rehearsal for all performers 4-7pm. Please arrange your transportation to Shorewood Theatre.

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Announcements





Dandylyon Drama & Meridian Park PTSA



present...

1st, 2nd, & 3rd Grade



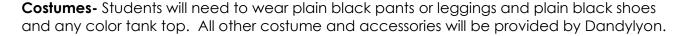
Junior Musical Opportunity

Red Apples Opening Act Club

Description- Discover the secrets to overcoming stage fright while playing drama games and learning how to sing and dance in a group. Junior Musical Club performers will be coached by a Dandylyon Drama Director, Choreographer, and Musical Director and perform the song "Bad Apples" as the opening act of the larger school musical. It's a wonderful way to introduce younger kids to performing on the big stage in an age appropriate way.

Rehearsals & Commitment-Students must be available to participate in all the following rehearsals and both performances:

- ❖ Tuesday, January 28th 3:30-4:45pm@ MP Kinder Music Room
- ❖ Tuesday, February 4th 3:30-4:45pm @ MP Kinder Music Room
- ❖ Tuesday, February 11th 3:30-4:45pm @ MP Kinder Music Room
- ❖ Tuesday, February 18th NO CLASS/MID-WINTER BREAK
- ❖ Tuesday, February 25th 3:30-4:45pm @ MP Kinder Music Room
- ❖ Tuesday, March 3rd NO CLASS/CONFERENCE WEEK
- ❖ Tuesday, March 10th 3:30-4:45pm @ MP Kinder Music Room
- ❖ Friday, March 13th, 5:45pm-7:30pm @ Shorecrest H.S.
- ❖ Saturday, March 14th, 5:45pm-7:30pm @ Shorecrest HS





\$80 Tuition (fair market value)

"Pay What You Can" Scholarships Available

Full Scholarship Available for 1 Parent to Chaperone ALL Sessions**

**Per PTSA Rules, 1 chaperone must be present and have completed a background check



REGISTER @ DANDYLYONDRAMA.ORG BEFORE January 20th *LIMITED TO 30 STUDENTS * Questions? Contact registrar@dandylyondrama.org

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Cheetah Cheers

We would like to give a shout out to the Art Docent Program and the nearly 100 volunteers who give their time and energy to bring art instruction to our elementary school students. We're calling for families to please donate magazines to the box in the front lobby for our next project - collage!



Holiday Canned Food & Teen Gift Card Drive:

Our amazing Meridian Park
Community donated a grand total
of 2,813 food items and \$910 in
gift cards to families in need this
holiday season!! To express our
thanks, the MP student body will
get to take part in a fun all-school
outdoor activity, and hear our
very own Meridian Park Admin
band play at lunch time! Thank
you so much for your generosity
and community support,
Cheetahs!! One Community,
Stronger Together!



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!

Principal's Letter

Dear Families -

Welcome back for a new year in 2020! Thanks to our families, PTSA, and Student Council for a successful Food and Gift drive in December, with over 2000 food items and \$950 of gift cards collected!

This month we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In our classrooms we regularly celebrate the many cultures, talents, gifts, and traditions of our diverse community. You're invited to our assemblies, and we hope you will join us in modeling and promoting respect, kindness, and fairness.

We finish up first semester on January 30 and teachers will prepare progress reports to go home on February 14. Conferences to discuss academic progress are scheduled for March 2-6.

Thank you for supporting early release on Wednesdays. We are thoughtful and intentional about utilizing this professional learning time to improve our instructional practices to improve learning experiences for all students. We realize early release impacts families; and we are grateful for your support.

Safety is our #I priority, and we are committed to every effort to ensure safety each day. As a reminder, entry to the building is allowed through the main entrance only and we require all visitors to sign-in and wear a pass each time you visit. We welcome our frequent volunteers and visitors; but please check-in and wear a pass if only for a few minutes. Thanks.

Thanks for our continued partnership in 2020 and we look forward to seeing you soon.

David Tadlock, Principal

Tadlock Tip

For students and adults alike, I encourage daily exercise routines, especially in January and February. Get out and walk, take bike rides, swim, or keep your commitment to the gym (and take the kids). I walk or run for at least 15 minutes every morning and play golf on Sundays. I get out and play golf in all weather! January & February are important months to be active and model outside and 'screen-free' activities for our kids.



One Community • Stronger Together Celebrating 26 Years of Greatness



Coming Up

- Grade KG and I-6 MLK Assemblies, times TBD for January 16 and 17
- We do NOT have early release on January 22 and 29 because these are 4-day weeks.
- First Semester Progress Reports Will Be Sent Home with Students on February 14
- Conferences and 11:45 dismissal March 2 6.

Kindergarten Fall 2020

Kindergarten Fair at the Shoreline Center,
January 25 at 10 am - Optional
Registration begins February 3 in our main office;
families can register at any time through the spring,
summer, and fall. While early registration is helpful,
registration is NOT first come, first serve; and
residents can register at any time. All resident
families will be provided a kindergarten seat at
MP or another district location.

Weather related late start or closure

Please check your family weather plan. If late, school starts at 11:05 am; students line at up at 11:00 am. If closed, our make-up dates are to be announced. Please check the media or district website for late start or closure announcement. Please limit calls to school to keep our lines and staff free!

Cheetah Notes

Counselor's Corner

Character Trait of the Month: This month students are learning and practicing the trait of PERSEVERANCE!

This is especially important after coming back from a long break when it can be hard to get back into a routine. Students will learn and demonstrate the act of continuing to do something



even when it's hard, being persistent and determined, and being okay with mistakes and trying again.

At the end of this month we celebrate students who have been demonstrating this trait in our VIC (Very Important Cheetah) Lunch. Please see the <u>booklist</u> for great ideas on how to continue the learning at home with trait specific books.

Katie McCain, M.Ed. Meridian Park School Counselor 206-393-1785

Hip Hop Kids Dance Fitness K-4

Tuesdays, Jan 14th - March 17th • 3:30 - 4:30pm at the Meridian Park Elementary Gym.

Online sign up here.



From the Health Office

Flu Season is Here!

Influenza (the flu) is a serious contagious disease that can lead to hospitalization and even death. You have the power to protect yourself and your family this season with these three actions to fight flu.

- I. Get a flu vaccine. Everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine by the end of October, if possible. A yearly flu vaccine is the first and most important step in protecting against the flu. As long as flu viruses are circulating, it is not too late to get vaccinated!
- 2. Take everyday actions to stop the spread of germs. Wash your hands often with soap and water, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you become sick, limit your contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- 3. Take flu antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them. If you get the flu, medicine, called antiviral drugs, can be used to treat flu illness. Antiviral drugs can make illness milder and shorten the time you are sick. They may also prevent serious flu complications.

Attendance Alert:

Did you know...

That when a child misses 18 or more days of school in a year they are less likely to graduate? As early as elementary school, students who miss just two days per month are more likely to fall behind, and less likely to graduate from high school.

Cheetah Notes

Kindergarten News

The end of the month (January 31) marks the end of the first semester and the exact midpoint of the school year. It's hard to believe that your child's kindergarten year is almost half over! We still have tons of learning and growth yet to happen this year, however we are also starting to set things up for a smooth transition to 1st grade next year. Families of current kindergarten students in our program do not need to register for 1st grade at their home schools. We will automatically enroll your current kindergarten student for 1st grade at their home school at the end of the school year. Please let us know if your family is moving or will not attend 1st grade at your neighborhood school for any other reason.

Many families have younger siblings who are starting kindergarten next year, please read below for information on registering students for kindergarten in the fall of 2020:

Kinderfest 2020

Do you live in Shoreline or Lake Forest Park and have a child who will be 5 years old by August 31, 2020? If so, Kinderfest is the place for you!

> Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020 10am – 12pm Shoreline Center, Shoreline Room (18560 1st Ave NE)

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

Limited, no-cost childcare will be available on-site for children over 2 years old who are potty-trained. Please note that food will not be allowed in the childcare room due to possible allergies.

Kindergarten registration will begin on **Tuesday, February 4th** at your neighborhood school. Registration is not on a first-come, first-served basis. All students registered by the close of business on February 28th will be put in a drawing to fill

Kindergarten spaces available at their neighborhood schools. Incoming kindergarten students who have a sibling at their neighborhood school will be given priority placement (at their neighborhood school) if registered prior to the close of business on February 28th. Those registering after February 28th will be added to their neighborhood school's wait list as they register.

In order to attend kindergarten in the fall, your child must be five years old by August 31, 2020 and reside in the cities of Shoreline or Lake Forest Park.

For more information on registration please contact your neighborhood school or visit the Enrollment page on our website: www.shorelineschools.org/enrollment

If you have additional Kinderfest related questions, please contact Trinitee King at trinitee.king@shorelineschools.org or 206.393.4365.

From the Music Department

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

Meridian Park Arts Festival, Thursday, May 21, 2020:

2nd grade and 1/2nd combination classes sing at 6:30 p.m.

4th grade and 3/4th combination classes sing at 7:00 p.m.

lst 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 other events, such as the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Assembly in January.

5th and 6th grade

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

Cheetah Notes

Kindergarten News

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



Mr. Carlos

Hello Cheetahs! My name is Carlos Humphrey, some of you know me as Coach Humphrey. This is my first year working at Meridian Park Elementary School. It has

been a joy to work with so many talented and smart kids throughout the day. I have many roles during the day- You may see me helping students cross the street as a Crossing Guard or out on the playground or in the lunch room as a supervisor.

This is my 3rd year working in the Shoreline School District. I grew up in Madill Oklahoma and went on to play college basketball at Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Missouri. After graduating I was able to play professionally in Luxembourg for several years.

I currently coach basketball at Shorecrest High School (Go Scots!) I'm also involved with the Shorecrest feeder basketball and many other organizations in the area. When I'm not at MP or working you can find me relaxing at home with my family.



Ms. Jane

My name is Jane Seslar aka Ms. Jane,

I start my day as a crossing guard; I "cross" families to and from school every day. I watch over all of our

Meridin Park Cheetahs at recess. I help out in classrooms and in the office. I have been part of the Shoreline since 2009. I have worked in every school in the district, until five years ago when Meridian Park became my permanent home.

I have always enjoyed working with our youth. I have worked in preschools and as my kids grew, I became both

a Boy Scout and Girl Scout leader, serving as District Leadership as well as coaching children in developing their strengths. These experiences came with quite a bit of training, culminating in earning my Woodbadge, a significant level of Boy Scout Adult Leadership.

I was born and raised in Seattle. I went to Bryant Elementary and then Eckstein Middle School. I graduated from Roosevelt High School.

As of this year, my husband and I celebrated 35 years of marriage. We have 3 amazing children. Of those 35 years, we were part of the Air Forces for 26 years.



Ms. Sheryl

Hello Cheetah Families. I have worked at Meridian Park for the past 25 years. I have had the pleasure of working with the Kindergarten classes all of my 25 years. I work in Ms Greathouse's

class this year and I am with your kids on the playground and in the lunchroom. Some of you might see me out on the corner of 175th & Meridian crossing the kids in the morning, then when school's out, I help get your kids get on the bus for the ride home.

I grew up in Shoreline, went to Paramount Park Elementary (which is now the skateboard and play park on I55th), Morgan Junior High (which is now Kellogg Middle School), and Shorecrest High School. Go Scots! I have two kids that also went to school in Shoreline.



HELP KEEP MP PTSA GOING STRONG!

If you'd like to get involved at school and help support MP PTSA in a vital role, please consider one of the following open positions:

- Co-President Co-VP of Volunteer Engagement
- Green Team Lead Hi Cap Board Representative
 - Co-VP of Events/FACE

(Family & Community Engagement)

• ELL/Bilingual Board Representative

Email Gretchen, mpptsapresident@gmail.com, if you're interested in learning more about any of these important roles.

Cheetah Notes

From the Library



Greetings MP Families,

I cannot believe it is 2020! Yikes... it's exciting to begin a new decade in the MP Library! But before I begin a new decade, year, and month, I'd like to recap Fall 2019. Below you will find a summary of what each grade level did in the library during the months of September, October, November, and December.

First Grade – First graders read books about learning to read, such as <u>Rocket Learns to Read</u> and <u>Rocket Writes a Story</u> by Tad Hills, <u>How to Teach a Slug to Read</u> by Susan Pearson, and <u>How to Read a Book</u> by Kate Messner. I also introduced the classes to my dog, Poppy, who is a German Shorthair Pointer full of mischief, sweetness, and love. I shared videos and photos of Poppy. The classes helped me to write stories about her. Then it was the students' turn to write and illustrate their own stories in blank books.

Second Grade – Second graders started the year with Beautiful Oops by Barney Saltzberg, a book of accidents that weren't really accidents. Students learned to look at these accidents or mistakes as opportunities to learn and grow. Students turned some "mistakes" into their own beautiful oops. You can see them on the library website under Student Media Projects.

We also completed a unit on *trickster tales*. Students learned what makes a story a trickster tale – characters that trick others for fun, to help themselves, and sometimes to help others. Tricksters are mischievous and clever. Trickster tales come from all over the world. Trickster tales we read include several Anansi stories from West Africa, Jabuti the Tortoise from the Amazon Rain Forest, and Papagayo the Parrot from Central America, Love and Roast Chicken from the Andes Mountains of South America, and My Lucky Day. We completed word sorts with these stories.

Third Grade – Third graders started the year by reading The Dot Trilogy by Peter Reynolds, which includes The Dot, Ish, and Sky Color. The big ideas of the books are being creative, expressing ourselves, not trying to be perfect, and making our marks. We finished the unit by making our marks and displaying them in the library. You can see them on the library website under Student Media Projects.

Our second unit was reading a chapter book together: $\underline{\mathbf{8}}$ Class Pets + I Squirrel ÷ I Dog = CHAOS by Vivian Vande Velde. The story follows one squirrel through an elementary school as he tries to avoid capture by the principal's dog.

Mayhem ensues! While reading the book, we learned about characters' actions and cause and effect.

We finished out the first months of the year by researching the different animals that appeared in the book: dog, squirrel, owl, snake, rabbit, box turtle, rat, parrot, gecko, tetras, and hamster. Students chose animals and read nonfiction books to learn about actions, habitats, diets, and adaptations.

First, Second, and Third Grades – Throughout the fall, primary grades participated in the Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award program. Classroom teachers and librarian read many of the 20 nominees to students. We will finish up with the program in late January. Students will vote for their favorite books in order to help choose both the MP and state winners.

Fourth Grade – Fourth graders (and students in third-fourth grade classes) started the year with a challenge to build a structure out of gumdrops and toothpicks that would support one or more library books. The purpose of this activity was to build perseverance, working together and problem-solving ways to make the structures work. We read or reviewed the book, <u>The Most Magnificent Thing</u>, by Ashley Spires to remind ourselves that we are capable of facing challenges.

As a class, we read <u>Avalanche Dog Heroes</u> by Elizabeth Rusch, one of the Towner Award nominees, and then researched topics related to the book: avalanches, search and rescue dogs, the Cascade Mountains, and different breeds of dogs.

Fifth Grade – Depending upon the class, fifth graders learned more about different genres of literature – fantasy, science fiction, and realistic fiction. Some classes learned about Ada Lovelace, the first computer programmer, and algorithms, and then created their own algorithms for building Lego structures. Other classes completed a robotics unit by programming Ozobots to perform speed, turns, and cool moves.

Sixth Grade – Depending upon the class, sixth graders learned about elements of historical fiction and realistic fiction, read short stories and studied the elements of them, and/or learned informational note-taking skills.

Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Grades - Throughout the fall, intermediate grades participated in the Sasquatch Fiction Book Award program and the Towner Nonfiction Book Award program. Students who have read at least two books per program are invited to vote for their favorites in the spring.

During winter and spring of 2020, we will be incorporating Maker Space, robotics, and technology into our library lessons. I cannot wait!

Sincerely, Jenny Hillger

PTSA News

Meridian Park Elementary www.shorelineschools.org/ meridianpark/

David Tadlock, Principal david.tadlock@shorelineschools.org

Derek Dalasta, Kinder Administrator 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

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Elizabeth Swan, Friday Email Blasts

Hannah Peterson / Lara Gino, Teacher Representatives

Follow the MP PTSA on Facebook

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BLACK LIVES MATTER AT SCHOOL CREATIVE CHALLENGE



Calling all students — we want to see your creative talents as we prepare to honor Black Lives Matter at School National Week of Action: February 3-7th, 2020!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Create an art piece using the theme "My community shows Black Lives Matter when..." using the mode of expression of your choice:

- Visual Arts: 2-D or 3-D
- Written: poetry, essay, story
- Music and/or Dance
- Video
- and more get creative!
 Submit your work
 (include student's name, grade, and teacher) by

8pm Friday, January 17th, to the PTSA President inbox at Meridian Park, or digitally to MPPTSApresident@gmail.com.

Winning pieces will be announced by January 31st, awarded prizes, and featured at a city-wide community reception.



MONTHLY COFFEE

January 16th, 9:05am

This year, MP PTSA is hosting monthly Community Coffees to provide a casual space for learning more about our school and each other. Children are welcome. Please let us know if you have any specific needs, and we will do our best to accommodate them.

Remaining 2019-20 Community Coffee Dates:

- January 16th
- February 13th
- March 19th
- April 16th
- May 21st

Learn more and RSVP here.

PTSA LINKS

BECOME A PTSA MEMBER

VOLUNTEER

PTSA CALENDAR

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LINK YOUR FRED MEYER

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SUPPORT US ON

AMAZON SMILE