

Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park Elementary School and the Meridian Park PTSA

Food Services Updates

• Thank you for supporting the food and nutrition department by ordering [weekly meal boxes](#). Please remember to place pre-orders so we can ensure to have enough food prepared each week.

• Meals for students will remain free for the remainder of the school year. If you think you qualify for free or reduced meals, please complete and submit an [application](#) as there are other benefits that might be available to you.

• Our District will have meal distribution during Mid-Winter Break on Wednesday, February 17th! The special menu for the non-school week will include a whole cheese pizza, a six-pack of whole grain bagels, fresh fruit and veggies, and milk. The order process will be just like ordering a regular meal box. **Be sure to place your order between February 8th and February 10th.** To accommodate reduced staffing, the Edwin Pratt Early Learning Center will not be a pick-up site for this special week.



Last year, the federal government launched the Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) program to help families buy food when schools were closed to in-person classes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds were issued to families whose K-12 students had qualified for school meal benefits for the 2019-2020 school year.

In fall 2020, the federal government passed continuing resolution H.R. 8337 that extends and expands Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) for the 2021 federal fiscal year.

We are awaiting final details about when and how the one-time benefits will be issued to qualifying families. **In order to qualify for P-EBT benefits, your student must be approved for free or reduced meals for the current school year, even though school meals are currently free for all students.** If your student has not already been approved for free or reduced-price meals for this school year and your family may qualify for benefits, **please submit a benefit application now.** Electronic applications can be found by logging into your [FAMILY ACCESS](#) account, on the Food Service tab. An application in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), along with income guidelines, are attached to this email. Printable applications in multiple languages can be printed from our webpage, [HERE](#). Applications can be returned by [email](#), fax or US Mail (contact information below).

It is also critical that your mailing address on file with the Shoreline School District is up-to-date. Please contact us with any questions.

Contact Information: email - nutrition.services@shorelineschools.org,

fax - 206.393.4104, phone - 206.393.4209, mailing address -

Shoreline Food Services, 18560 1st Ave NE, Shoreline, WA, 98155.

Inside This Issue

Principal's Letter	3
Cheetah Notes	4
Community Resources	5

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Feb. 3, 10, 24
Early Release, 11:10 am

Wednesday, Feb. 3rd
PTSA Meeting, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
[Zoom Link](#)

Saturday, Feb. 13th
PTSA Coffee Hour, 10:00 am
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

February 15th - February 19th
Mid Winter Break

March 1st - March 4th
Parent Teacher Conferences
Half Day Release

Friday, March 5th
2021 Variety Show, 6-8pm

April 19th - April 23rd
Spring Break

VIRTUAL COUNSELING OFFICE

Learn more [HERE](#)

HYBRID LEARNING INFORMATION

Learn more [HERE](#)

FREE MEAL PICKUP EVERY WEDNESDAY

Learn more [HERE](#)

PTSA LINKS

[BECOME A PTSA MEMBER](#)

[VOLUNTEER](#)

[PTSA CALENDAR](#)

[FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK](#)

[LINK YOUR FRED MEYER](#)

[REWARDS CARD](#)

[SUPPORT US ON](#)

[AMAZON SMILE](#)

Announcements

February is Black History Month

This February, in honor of Black History Month, Meridian Park and all Shoreline public schools will be celebrating Black Lives Matter at School week of action and the Black Voices week of events. The Shoreline PTA Council has put together a great toolbox of resources for families to learn more together:

- “What Does Black Lives Matter Mean” video tailored for younger children: <https://youtu.be/tJaMniBPr8w>
- Pre-recorded read alouds in English and Spanish to easily access books related to the BLM movement, Self Love & Empowerment, and Black History: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/18pOK3roiWPQ9WF7D2wA0o7Ktr8KwAJeZfn-o6O8T_Y/edit?usp=sharing.
- BLM Activity & Coloring Books: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1S7qh7s_yIPH0V3PtGGRMNKQo_dr78dI?usp=sharing.

February Parent Coffee Zoom – Saturday, February 13th at 10am



Grab a cup of coffee and join us for a parent zoom social hour on Saturday, February 13th at 10am. We'll be checking in to see how everyone is doing, and discussing how to honor Black History Month in your family.

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84695900485?pwd=bERzdHg2dmJleStqMXp5VnNVLOVXdz09>

Free Little Libraries



Visit our first Free Little Library at 16739 Ashworth Ave N, located just off the corner of 167th St. It's open every day, 24 hours a day. Thanks to our parent & teacher community who have generously donated so many terrific books, there's a frequently changing inventory of K-5 books. If you are interested in hosting your own pre-built Free Little Library, please email alex@solanite.com.



SAVE THE DATE

Friday March 5th from 6-8pm

2021 Variety Show with special production help from Dandylyon Drama

Meridian Park PTSA is happy to announce we will be hosting a virtual Variety Show and Telethon with both pre-recorded and live appearances.

PTSA will provide an exciting opportunity for students to show their talents to our school community. Dandylyon Drama will be helping to produce and guide our students on their performances. We are excited to have this partnership for expert help on the technical side and workshops for our performers. This night promises to make you laugh, warm your heart, and bring us together.

Details for Performers and Parents:

1. Sign-ups/registrations start Jan 15th at www.dandylyondrama.org/register
2. Zoom Info Night, Thursday Jan. 26 at 7pm
3. Submissions Due Wednesday Feb 17th
4. Show will be live on Friday March 5th from 6-8pm.

You can follow Meridian Park PTSA on Facebook. More details are posted on our website. www.mpptsa.org Email questions to mpptsavarietyshow@gmail.com or calliel@hotmail.com

Principal's Letter

Dear Cheetahs--

We celebrate learning! Thanks to all of us--teachers, students, and parents--our students are learning so much! First semester ended last week and report cards will be mailed in mid-February. The elementary report card will show progress toward priority standards in accordance with OSPI guidelines. Please see more information in this newsletter; and we look forward to conferences the week of March 1.

As you know, our district has announced in-person hybrid learning starting March 8. Families will have the option to stay fully remote. We understand and appreciate you might have a lot of questions. While we are excited to welcome students back to the building, we of course support all families as they decide what is best for their student(s) and family. Cheetahs support Cheetahs, and safe learning is our priority! Please watch for more information from the district soon. In the meantime, you can read about planning on the district [Hybrid Learning](#) page.

Remote or in-person, Meridian Park is a school full of love, laughter, and learning, a learning community where all students and families are welcome, accepted, and supported. Thank you for believing. We are now and always: One Community, Stronger Together. Please reach out to us or a member of our staff at any time.

David Tadlock, Matt Alford, and MP Staff



One Community • Stronger Together
Celebrating 26 Years of Greatness

Report Card Information

I want to give you a brief update on the district K-5 report card for the first semester. In general, the elementary report card will show progress toward priority standards in accordance with OSPI state guidelines.

Priority standards are the core standards selected by our district for this year. They are the standards for all classrooms district wide, and they include reading, writing, math, science and social studies.

While the report card might look the same, it's shorter. It will include number grades, participation grades, and other information. For standards not yet taught, you will see an asterisk (*). An IE grade (insufficient evidence) indicates that a student was provided opportunities to make growth in a content area, but the student was unable to complete assignments or the assessments necessary to evaluate growth. For Music and PE, students will receive a satisfactory (S) grade if they have participated.

Reports will be mailed by the school district during break, and as always, we look forward to talking with you more about your student's progress at conferences the week of March 1. Please watch for info from your teacher to sign up for a conference.

We are so proud of all Cheetahs for remote learning. Please let me know if you have any questions; and as always, thank you for supporting your student's learning during these special and challenging times.

Sincerely - David T, MP

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

Cheetah Notes

From the Library



MP's Cheetah Curbside Check Out - Great Changes!

Hello MP Families,

Just a reminder that we now offer MP Library Curbside Book Check Out to **ALL MP** students and families, kindergarten through fifth grade, every two weeks.

The next round of Curbside Check Out is here.

This form is open Monday, February 1st, through Monday, February 8th.

Here are the forms:

English Language Form - <https://forms.gle/MYuyqxbdkKo3Fua9>

Spanish Language Form - <https://forms.gle/wDvWFcjvA7Aydomm8>

We have an ever-expanding collection of books that support our emphasis this month on Black Lives Matter, Black History Month, and our ongoing support of diversity and inclusion at Meridian Park and in our community with titles that provide us with **Windows and Mirrors**.

If you would like to check out one of our featured books, please view the list of titles by clicking on the link [here](#), then add the title to your Curbside Check Out order form.

Pick up your library books on Wednesday, February 10th, between 2:30 and 5:00 at the front of the school.

Keep the library books for **two weeks**. If you'd like to renew a book, just let us know. You can email either of us to renew books.

Jenny Hillger, Librarian: jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org

Gloriann Harrigan, Library Technician:

gloriann.harrigan@shorelineschools.org.

You can return your library books on the following days and times:

Wednesdays, when you pick up your new set of books,

Thursdays, 9:00 - 4:00, and Fridays, 9:00 - 4:00,

(Put them in the book bin located on MP's front porch.)

We quarantine all books for 72 hours.

Be safe and well, and keep reading!

Sincerely,

Jenny Hillger, MP Library Media Specialist

Counselor's Corner

The Character Trait for February is KINDNESS.

This is one that can easily be taken for granted, or one that we think we do well already.

But there is never enough kindness in the world and we can all use an extra boost right now! Did you know that doing an act of kindness not only benefits the other person, but you too!!

Check out my [virtual counseling office](#) for a few books relating to Kindness (and other resources too)!



From the Music Department



Congratulations, Cheetahs, on a great semester of online music learning! You did it! You made it to the half-way point of this unusual school year! I miss seeing you in music class, but I have enjoyed getting to know you this year through your questions, comments, ideas, and recordings. You are all doing so well with the songs, games, and activities in Seesaw music class! Wow!

Thank you, parents, for helping your kids find their first semester remote music lessons, for encouraging them, and even joining in on songs, activities, and games! You are our heroes!

5th grade students have the option of joining all-district Honor Choir. Students from all Shoreline elementary schools will learn songs remotely and perform in a virtual concert on April 27, 2021. Check the letter about this amazing opportunity in Seesaw, sent on 1/27/2021 in 5th grade music class announcements.

Here we go with the exciting 2nd semester. I'm proud of you, Cheetahs! See you in Music Class!

Community Resources

Meridian Park Elementary

www.shorelineschools.org/meridianpark/

David Tadlock, Principal
david.tadlock@shorelineschools.org

Matt Alford, Dean of Students
matt.alford@shorelineschools.org

Jake Goett, Registrar

Annie Bach, Office Manager

Tama Leahy, School Nurse

Katie McCain, Counselor

Annie Gage, Family Advocate



2020-2021 MP PTSA
mpptsa.org

Executive Committee

Joe Hardie, President
mpptsapresident@gmail.com

Briana Bell, Secretary
mpptsasecretary@gmail.com

Callie Steward, Treasurer
mpptsatreasurer@gmail.com

Alex Hart, Family & Community Engagement
mpptsavpevents@gmail.com

Erika Botch
Co-VP of Programs/Clubs
mpptsavpprograms@gmail.com

Standing Committees

Kate Beck, Legislative Chair
mpptsalegislativechair@gmail.com

Suni Tolton / Mary Webb /
Katherine Vangunst, Grants
mpptsagrants@gmail.com

Laura Graven,
Membership Coordinator
mpptsamemberships@gmail.com

Volunteer Coordinator
mpptsavolunteers@gmail.com

Jiovanna Koceski / Amy Baldwin,
'Cheetah Chatter' Editors
mpptsanewsletter@gmail.com

Nancy Jenkins, Webmaster
mpptsawebsite@gmail.com

Nicola Beck, Special Needs Representative

Natalie Bachicha-Wells,
Teacher Representatives

Follow the MP PTSA on Facebook

facebook

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

From the Health Office

Hello Meridian Park Families,

With COVID-19 cases at a high level in King County, it's more important than ever to stop the spread. Public Health - Seattle & King County recommends the following guidelines:

- Wear a mask around people you don't live with (even close friends and family).
- Stay home as much as possible.
- Follow the Governor's limitations on indoor gatherings.
- Quarantine and get tested at the first sign of illness or if you've been around someone with COVID-19.
- The safest option is to avoid gathering with people you don't live with this holiday season.

For more information and resources, please visit the Public Health - Seattle & King County [website](#).

Resources Available to Families

The Covid crisis has caused challenges for many families. The Meridian Park PTSA and Shoreline/LFP communities offer numerous forms of support to families who are experiencing hardship. Support includes:

- Gift cards for groceries and other needs
- The Works clothing bank providing gently used clothing at no cost
- Information or help with utilities
- No-cost meals through the school district and elsewhere
- Food banks and pantries
- Scholarships
- Assistance with navigating various support systems

If you would like information about any of these, please contact Meridian Park Family Advocate Annie Gage at annie.gage@shorelineschools.org (206-393-1768).

All personal information is kept confidential.

Neighborhood Little Free Food Pantries

Give what you can, take what you need. The pantry nearest to Meridian Park is at 18312 Corliss Ave N. The North City Little Free Pantry located at 18910 8th Ave NE also has meat, clothing, books, baby supplies and household items when donated. We'd like to thank the organizers and contributors for helping our community during this incredibly challenging time.

Free COVID-19 testing locations

For most updated information call the King County COVID-19 Call Center (open 7 days a week, 8 AM – 7 PM), at 206-477-3977.

Testing sites may change and new ones may open.

King County Public Health COVID website has common questions, downloadable fact sheets in multiple languages. Translated Public Health and state helpline info also available at <http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/covid-19>.