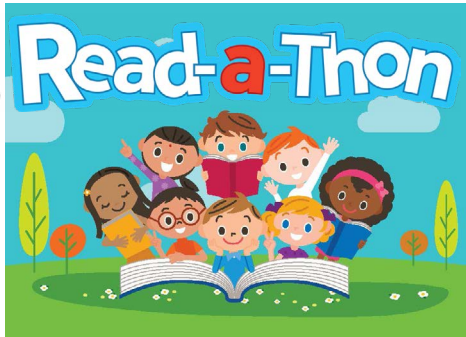


Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park Elementary School and the Meridian Park PTSA



2021 MERIDIAN PARK PTSA READ-a-THON (R-a-T)

It's almost time for the 2021 Read-a-Thon! This year's event will start on Monday, May 3rd, and run through Sunday, May 16th.

There will be no fundraising this year - just LOTS of READING! Read-a-Thon T-shirts and bookmarks will be earned based on the number of minutes read, so start checking out your library books now so you're ready for the big event! Additional details and R-a-T tracking sheets will be sent home with students in April. Please feel free to contact Lori Finch at LorShore4@gmail.com with any questions!

Local Library Resources

Meridian Park's Cheetah Curbside Check Out:

Watch for Mrs. Hillger's Monday Messenger and Seesaw announcements for details on reserving books for pickup on April 28 & May 12

Free Little Library Locations located around our Meridian Park neighborhood:

16733 Burke Avenue N (across from Edwin Pratt Early Learning Center)

16525 Linden Ave N (near Richmond Highlands Park)

2324 N 172nd St (across from school. They also have a terrific food pantry with fresh produce!)

16739 Ashworth Ave N (167th St & Ashworth Ave N)

King County Public Libraries

<https://kcls.org>

Reserve on-line and pick up at your local King County Library (Shoreline, Richmond Beach, Lake Forest Park)

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Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 10th
Virtual BIPOC Job Fair
For Teachers
10:00 am – noon

Wednesday, April 14th & April 28th
Cheetah Curbside Library
Check Out

Saturday, April 17th
Parent Zoom Coffee Hour
10:00 am
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 846 9590 0485
Passcode: 690379

Tuesday, April 27th
Virtual Shoreline SD 5th Gr
Honor Choir Concert
More details to follow

Monday, May 3rd
MP Read A Thon Begins

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](#)



Parent Coffee Zoom Saturday, April 17th at 10 am

We want to apologize for March's Parent Coffee Zoom, as an unexpected matter arose with one of the meeting hosts. We've taken steps to ensure this won't happen again. So please grab your coffee and join us on Saturday, April 17th at 10am! We'll be having an open forum to talk about how the hybrid/remote model is working for families, as well as an update on the 175th & Meridian traffic corridor project.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 846 9590 0485, Passcode: 690379

Principal's Letter

Dear Cheetahs--

Despite much adversity, we are having a great year at Meridian Park. Along with your support and the hard work of our staff, our students are meeting the many challenges of remote or hybrid learning and more.

We are busy preparing for the next phase of hybrid learning to start on April 26. At the same time, we honor that many students will stay fully remote. In person or remote, and with flexibility and compassion, we honor the stories, strengths, and needs of all students and families.

We are also starting to plan for next year. While we do not have program details for Fall, we are starting to think about classes, and need to collect parent input regarding classroom assignments. We are welcoming new students; and we need to know if you will be moving or changing schools. If you are moving or if you have new neighbors with children, please contact Jake in the office. If you would like to offer input for your student's classroom assignment for next year, please see the info at the end of this newsletter.

Cheetahs support Cheetahs! In-person or remote, this year and always--Meridian Park will be a school full of love and laughter; a learning community where all students and families are welcome, accepted, and supported. Thank you for believing.



Now and always, we are 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

Counselor's Corner

With the switch to hybrid learning, students may be missing some of their friends from other classes and/or those who stayed in remote learning. I will be offering a lunch bunch twice a week to bring student "back together." Check Seesaw for the announcement with link, days and times!



April's Character Trait is LEADERSHIP. This is a great time for students in either hybrid or remote learning to demonstrate their bravery, face challenges keeping their head held high, having the courage to persevere, and admitting mistakes and learning from them. We will celebrate students demonstrating strong leadership at our VIC (Very Important Cheetah) Lunch at the end of the month.

From the PE Department

Thank you Meridian Park PTSA for the generous jump rope grant. This thoughtful grant has provided each Meridian Park Student with their own jump rope to use and keep. Jump roping is fantastic exercise that is fun, challenging and rewarding regardless if you are just learning or experienced.

A good online jump rope resource is "tricktionary.com". Check it out and get jumping!

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 Music Department



Dear Meridian Park Families,

Students at Meridian Park always amaze me, growing musically in so many ways! I am proud of the strides they make each day, and how they persist even when learning is online and so different right now!

A small but enthusiastic group of 5th grade singers are working hard and having fun preparing for the 2021 Shoreline School District Honor Choir. Students from all Shoreline elementary schools are learning songs remotely and will perform in a virtual concert on April 27, 2021. Watch for information about how to watch this concert! Thank you, 5th grade Cheetahs!

Our Meridian Park Cheetah students have a great assembly coming next week from the performing group "Black Violin." This assembly is being brought to us by the Education & Community Engagement Department of the nonprofit arts organization Seattle Theater Group, and by a generous grant from our wonderful Meridian Park PTSA!

Black Violin is a group that blends classical, hip-hop, jazz and pop music. This high energy presentation inspires students in commitment, practice, and dedication. Covering themes of perseverance, exploration, and unity, Black Violin encourages students to challenge stereotypes and status quo conventions.

Thank you, MP PTSA for bringing a fun, informative, and inspiring remote assembly to our kids!! And thank you for your continued amazing support of the music program at Meridian Park! Arts education brings benefits that last a lifetime, and is such an asset to their education!

I wish you all a happy spring!
Ms. Anderson

From the Health Office

Vision and Hearing Screening 2020/2021 School Year

The Washington State Board of Health sets standards for [auditory and visual screening](#) of students in Washington State. The purpose of this is to screen for and identify students who may experience auditory or visual impairments and refer them for care. These screenings can identify children who may otherwise have no outward signs of vision or hearing loss, but if not recognized, can lead to difficulties in school or even permanent damage.

For the 2020/2021 school year only, the Board of Health has recommended students participating in **fully remote learning not be screened** by the schools.

They also recommend the following students **participating in hybrid learning be prioritized** for these screenings: (1) students who exhibit warning signs of visual/auditory impairment, (2) the youngest students and (3) children who are at greater risk of developing vision problems (such as those with certain neurological conditions or with delays in their growth).

Shoreline School District will screen the following students during Spring 2021:

- Kindergarten students participating in hybrid learning
- Elementary students participating in hybrid learning for whom Shoreline School District does not have previous screening results
- Students participating in hybrid learning that require screening as part of their IEP or 504 plans
- Students participating in hybrid learning who have signs of possible vision or hearing loss, as reported by parents or staff

If your student is participating in **fully remote learning**, or **is not in one of the groups** of hybrid-learning students prioritized above, we recommend that you consider the possibility of vision or hearing screening outside of school. Please see [the attachment](#) about signs of possible vision problems in children, and contact your primary care provider or an eye care professional with your concerns. [Signs of hearing loss in children](#) can include delayed or unclear speech, not following directions, often saying "huh?", or turning up the volume of the TV or other electronic devices too high.

Regular well-child exams with a primary care provider are another important way of identifying vision and hearing problems. If your student has not had a well child check this year, schedule one soon and ask to have their vision and hearing checked.

If you have any questions or concerns about your student's vision or hearing, or if you need help finding a healthcare provider, [contact your school nurse](#).

For students enrolled in hybrid/in-person learning, more information about safety protocols can be found [here](#).

Cheetah Notes

From the Library



Greetings MP Families,

We will have three more cycles of Cheetah Curbside Check Out this year. It doesn't seem possible, but we are heading into the final stretch of the 2020 - 2021 school year.

The pick-up dates for Cheetah Curbside Check Out are:

Wednesday, April 14th,

Wednesday, April 28th,

and

Wednesday, May 12th.

Be on the lookout through the Monday Messenger announcement and Seesaw announcements to links to the order forms.

In-person students can also complete paper order forms, and have books delivered to the classroom.

All library books will be **due no later than Friday, May 28th.**

We need the three remaining weeks of the school year to make sure all library books have been returned.

We really appreciate MP families' help in getting library books back to school. We lost a significant number of books last spring when we went into lockdown, so it's important that we keep what we do have and not lose more of them. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Happy Reading,

Jenny Hillger, MP Librarian

Greetings MP Families,

I am leading the 2021 Read-a-Thon T-Shirt Design Contest. It will run March 29th – April 12th, 2021. All students are encouraged to enter the contest. Interested students need to create a black line drawing that promotes the 2021 Read-a-Thon, reading, and/or books.

Here are the details:

- Your design must be on a sheet of plain white 8.5" X 11" paper.
- Your design must be done in black ink (felt-tip pen or marker), no color. (It's okay to use pencil first.)

Judges will choose one design to be printed on the 2021 Read-a-Thon T-shirt, as well as a runner-up design that will be printed on the 2021 Read-a-Thon bookmark. They will also choose one honorable mention entry per grade level. All entries will be displayed on our school website, in the yearbook, and in the school foyer. The winning entries will also be displayed in the Cheetah Chatter newsletter.

Each grade level honorable mention recipient, as well as the runner up, will receive a \$10 gift certificate to spend on a Scholastic Book Club order. The T-shirt design winner will receive a \$15 gift certificate to spend on a Scholastic Book Club order, as well as have his/her design featured on the R-a-T T-shirt.

Submit your entry to me, Ms. Hillger, MP librarian, in one of these three ways:

- If you attend school in-person, you can put your design in your teacher's Read-a-Thon T-Shirt folder.
- If you attend school remotely, you can put your design in the Read-a-Thon T-Shirt box in the front of the school. The box will be out every day, March 29th through April 12th, except for weekends.
- If you attend school remotely, you can scan and email your design to her. Her email address is jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org.

All entries are due no later than 4:00 on Monday, April 12th.

If you would like to watch a video about the contest, click here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ma8pfu4v>

If you would like to download the information, click here:

<https://tinyurl.com/wscunnju>

I hope all of you participate! The Read-a-Thon T-shirt contest is always so much fun!

2021 Read-a-Thon T-Shirt Design Contest

Your First and Last Name: _____

Grade: _____ Room # and Teacher's Name: _____

Attach your design to this sheet.

Turn in your design and this form to your in-person teacher or to the box located at the front of the school no later than Monday, April 12, 2021.

PTSA News & 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

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Briana Bell, Secretary
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Callie Steward, Treasurer
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Alex Hart, Family & Community Engagement
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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

Announcing our 5th Free Little Library!



We're excited to announce that our 5th Free Little Library has gone up in Cromwell Park, conveniently located between the bathrooms and the basketball court. This spring, thanks to a generous grant from the PTSA, we'll be expanding our selection of books to represent our diverse community with particular focus on race, LGBTQ+ and ability. Our 5 Free Little Libraries are open all day, every day – please stop by to borrow and/or donate K-5 books.

Free Little Library Locations:

Cromwell Park

(across from bathrooms & basketball court)

16733 Burke Avenue N

(across from Edwin Pratt Early Learning Center)

16525 Linden Ave N (near Richmond Highlands Park)

2324 N 172nd St (across from school.)

They also have a terrific food pantry with fresh produce)

16739 Ashworth Ave N (167th St & Ashworth Ave N)

Community Racial Equity Series

The Shoreline PTA has invited Dr. Tanisha Brandon-Felder (Director of Equity and Family Engagement for Shoreline School District) and Rebekah Gardea (Equitable Family Engagement Coordinator) to present:

- Building Your Racial Literacy: Understanding the Terminology
- Your Connection to Race: How and when do you talk about race?
- History of Race and Oppression in the US: The context and the history is EVERYTHING.

This will be a 3-part series spread out over a month and a half. Please plan to attend all three nights.

90 minutes each, from 7-8:30pm

April 29, May 19, June 2

To register for this free series, please visit

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-racial-equity-series-tickets-144520497699>

Shoreline Public Schools Virtual BIPOC Job Fair – Teachers and Certificated Staff

Sat. 4/10, 10am – Noon

Register online at [FastTrack](#) and follow instructions at top of page
Shoreline School district serves over 9,000 students, 48% are Black, Indigenous, and other students of color. Event will include: Panel Discussion with Equity and Instruction Leaders, Students, and Family Representatives, Equity and Family Engagement Department staff, overview of Ethnic Studies Resolution, Staff Affinity Groups, and Student Advisory Groups. Learn about screening interviews and application assistance workshops at the event!

Support our Asian American and Pacific

Sat. 4/10, 3:00pm

23120 56th Ave. W, Mountlake Terrace (old Roger's Market Parking lot)

[Mountlake Terrace Anti-Racist Coalition](#) stands with and for our AAPI community. We will have a moment of silence to those who were victims and bring awareness to anti-Asian violence and march around the block. Please bring signs with messages of love and support. See [event page](#) for more info.

Health Insurance Special Enrollment – Now until May 15

Open enrollment for people who are currently uninsured as well as those who are enrolled in other health insurance programs. You may enroll in coverage through the Washington Healthplanfinder website at any time if you have experienced a [qualifying life-changing event](#), including loss of a job. Contact [Community Health Access Program](#) (CHAP) for assistance at 1-800-756-5437 or email chap@kingcounty.gov.

April 10, 2021

Dear Families --

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about classrooms for next year. *While we do not have program details, we still want to collect your input regarding your student's classroom assignment.* As you know, student assignments are not random or arbitrary; we are intentional and thoughtful about how we determine class assignments and balanced classes. Our staff teams work together closely to consider many factors in creating balanced classes that provide for a positive experience for your student and all students.

Each classroom is a small learning community, and we support the idea that classrooms need to be representative of the social, emotional, and academic needs and abilities of all students. We consider the following criteria when we create balanced classrooms:

- Academic balance
- Social/emotional balance and the development of new social groups
- Balance of students who have a positive influence
- Special academic needs, social needs, and learning styles
- Balance of boys, girls, and grade levels (if possible)
- Benefits of having a male or female teacher if possible

We welcome input about your child's strengths, needs, circumstances, or other information that might be helpful. The Input Form is not a teacher request form, but an opportunity for families to provide information about their child's social, emotional, learning, or academic characteristics. Additionally, because we value the benefits of combination classes, we also invite families to indicate their preference for a split grade class (combination classes are likely in both programs).

In this process we also ask that you not make a private request of your current teacher or request a specific teacher for next year. Together, the teachers and I are careful about an appropriate placement for each student. While we will make our best plans this spring, we cannot anticipate teacher changes, enrollment changes, or other factors that may occur over the summer and fall, especially because of program factors involving COVID. We will be careful and thoughtful to make the best placements possible.

Input is optional. IF you would like to offer information related to your child's classroom assignment for next year, please complete the Input Form included with this newsletter and return by May 1. Please also let us know if you are not returning. Program and staffing depend on enrollment, and every student makes a difference. Please contact Jake in our office if you will not be returning to MP next year. (jake.goett@shorelineschools.org)

We appreciate our partnership and your support of this process as a key component of our program. We are confident that your student's class assignment will result in a positive experience next year. Thanks for your trust now and always, and our best to your family this special spring of 2021!

David Tadlock, Principal
Meridian Park Elementary

Parent Input Form (optional) Student Assignments for Next Year

Dear Parents: We know that your child's classroom assignment is important; and we are intentional in our efforts to create balanced classes. We have a strong teaching staff who care about student learning and social growth. We recognize that all students have different learning styles, needs, and respond in a variety of ways to changing environments. It's important to have your input as we create balance classrooms for next year. In creating balanced classes, we carefully consider several factors:

- Staff & parent input
- Academic and social needs of students; learning styles, student academic performance
- Behavior patterns, social groups, & overall class balance (gender)

Friendships are not one of the primary factors because it's difficult to assign all students with all of their friends. We do, however, consider the opportunity to create new and balanced social groups. We also invite families to indicate that they prefer combination classes. If you have info/input to add as part of our assignment process, please complete this form and return it by May 1.

Reminders:

- Staff and grade level configurations may change at any time; combination classes are likely in both programs
- Information is not confidential and will be shared with the staff
- We do not accept specific teacher requests or guarantee placement in a specific classroom
- Completion of this form is optional and all students are given careful consideration even if no parent input

Child's Name _____ Current Teacher & Grade _____

How do you view your child in the following areas - Strong, Average, or Area of Growth?

Reading/Writing _____ Math _____

Work/Study _____ Social _____

WORKS WELL: Individually _____ With Partners _____ In Groups _____ In Split Grade Class _____

Describe unique or specific learning needs

Describe special strengths

Describe the best type of learning environment

Other relevant information you would like to share?

Parent Signature _____

Deadline May 1, 2021

Return to: jake.goett@shorelineschools.org

Thank You!

Updated April 2021