

# Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park Elementary School and the Meridian Park PTSA

## Shoreline School District LGBTQ+ and Allies “Virtual” Potluck

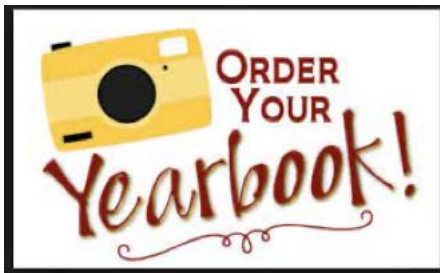
**Thur. May 6, 5:30pm-7:00pm**

[Register online](#) for zoom link

Shoreline School District's Equity and Family Engagement department and Shoreline PTA Council hosting a virtual potluck for LGBTQ community and allies.

Email [equity@shorelineschools.org](mailto:equity@shorelineschools.org) with any questions.

## IT'S YEARBOOK TIME!



Yearbooks are always fun, but this year's book will be a keepsake of the extraordinary year we all experienced. We are thoughtfully working to create a book that captures all the hard work that students, parents, teachers, and families did to make the best we could of a very unique school year. The book will reflect that experience and how we did it. For all that we couldn't do, we still did some neat things — but virtually!

Yearbooks are **\$15.00** each. Please note that you can also opt to donate a yearbook for another student or a teacher. You can do this in the online pre-order form (link below).

If you are unable to purchase a yearbook but would like one, please contact Annie Gage, MP Family Advocate, to ask for a scholarship [annie.gage@shorelineschools.org](mailto:annie.gage@shorelineschools.org).

### To PURCHASE a yearbook:

- Click on this link [www.yearbookordercenter.com](http://www.yearbookordercenter.com)
- Enter School Order # 18617, or search via school name “Meridian Park”
- Select Order Your Yearbook and follow instructions.
- Place your order and complete your credit card payment.
- **Please try to order by May 14, 2021 if possible.** \*\*NOTE: Purchases can be made online until June 15th, but preordering helps us better guide our order quantity and ensures we order enough.

Online ordering is preferred, but if you would like a paper order form to pay by check or cash, email [MPPTSAyearbk@gmail.com](mailto:MPPTSAyearbk@gmail.com).

Yearbooks will be available in mid-June. Details on where and when yearbooks will be available to be picked up will be announced at the beginning of June. If you have yearbook questions, please email Molly Chapman or Nancy Jenkins.

*Thank you!*

*Molly & Nancy*

PTSA Yearbook Team [MPPTSAyearbk@gmail.com](mailto:MPPTSAyearbk@gmail.com)

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### Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, May 11th**

5th Gr Virtual Choir Concert  
Details TBD

**Wednesday, May 12th**

Final Curb Checkout of the Year

**Friday, May 14th**

Deadline for Yearbook Order  
See details on front page & link for orders

**Saturday, May 22nd**

Parent Zoom Coffee Hour  
10:00 am

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 851 6739 9196  
Passcode: 634404

**Monday, May 31st**

Memorial Day Holiday  
No School

**Friday, June 18th**

Last Day of School

### VIRTUAL COUNSELING OFFICE

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



## Parent Coffee Zoom May 22nd at 10 am

Grab your coffee and join us for a 1-hour Parent Coffee Zoom on Saturday, May 22nd at 10am. It's a great way to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. For this month's coffee zoom, we'll be talking about fun ideas for kids and families this summer. Bring any questions you may have about Meridian Park and the PTSA as well!

### Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 851 6739 9196  
Passcode: 634404

## Free Little Libraries Update



Thanks to your generous donations to our PTSA and a substantial discount from **Third Place Books**, our 5 Free Little Libraries now feature new books that reflect our school's wonderful diversity in terms of race, LGBTQIA+ and ability. Just in time for our May Read-a-Thon! Come borrow and/or donate K-5 books at any of our 5 neighborhood locations, open all day, every day.

### 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)

## 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 Cheers

## Read-a-Thon T-Shirt Contest - Winners

Meridian Park's annual Read-a-Thon is upon us. For the past several years, a student has designed the official R-a-T t-shirt. This year is no exception.

Students have used their imaginations to create some fun and inspiring illustrations. The MP staff is so impressed by their creativity and spirit.

First, congratulations to the 40 students who entered the Read-a-Thon T-shirt design contest. We applaud your effort, creativity, and persistence in creating fun and imaginative designs.

You can view their designs [here](#).

Additional congratulations go to the following eight students whose designs were chosen for the T-shirt, bookmark, and grade level honorable mentions.

### T-Shirt Design Winner -

Avery Van Gunst, 3rd Grade

### Bookmark Design Winner -

Isaac Binz, 3rd Grade

### Grade Level Honorable Mention

Kindergarten - Angelina Dydychkina

First Grade - Isis Macadaeg

Second Grade - Salma Bouhdili

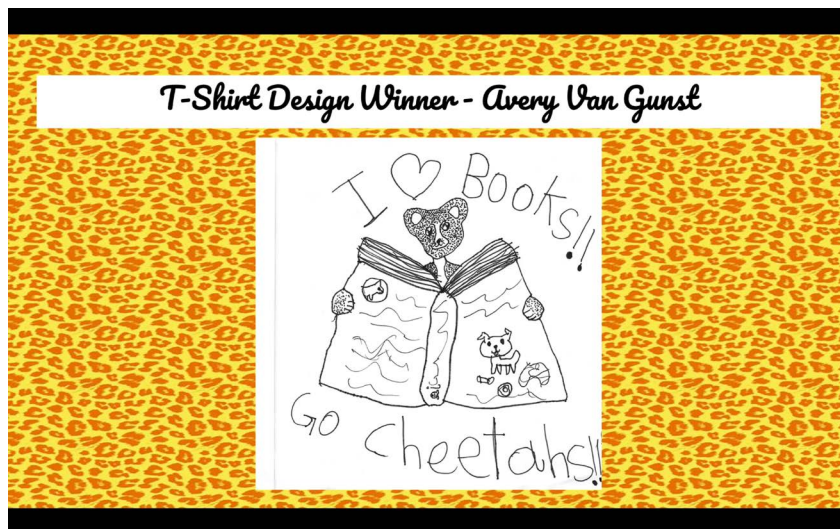
Third Grade - Deva Mora

Fourth Grade - Etta Beck

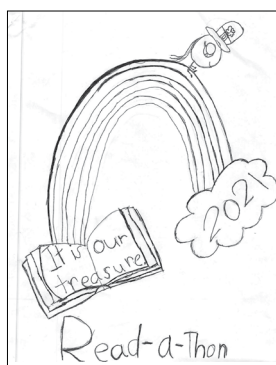
Fifth Grade - Mina Bachety

To view the winning [designs](#).

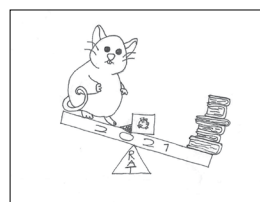
Thank you to all of the students who participated in this year's contest!



T-Shirt Design Winner - Avery Van Gunst, 3rd Grade



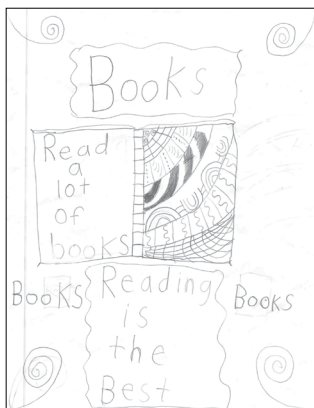
Kindergarten -  
Angelina Dydychkina



Bookmark Design  
Winner - Isaac Binz,  
3rd Grade



First Grade -  
Isis Macadaeg



Second Grade -  
Salma Bouhdili



Third Grade -  
Deva Mora



Fourth Grade - Etta Beck



Fifth Grade - Mina Bachety



# Principal's Letter

Dear Cheetahs--

As we enjoy the warm, light, and long days of May, we are so grateful for everything and everyone who make us a very special learning community.

We are especially grateful for your family; and for each of our students who have overcome many challenges to learn, grow, and believe they can do anything.

We are also so grateful for our amazing teachers and support staff, who bring unconditional commitment and caring to our students each day. Please take a moment to say thanks to your teachers.

And we are grateful for the power of pulling and sticking together instead of pushing and coming apart. We are an example of why and how there is more that unites us than divides us. Cheetahs support Cheetahs!

In-person or remote, Meridian Park is 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

You may have noticed that counselor Suz Fix is back in the building! She and Katie McCain are again sharing the school counselor roll through the end of the year. You can contact either of us if you need any support for your student or have any questions. Scheduled school counseling support will remain remote via Zoom for the remainder of the year, but occasional "walk-and-talks" may happen outside with students as needed.

Electronic resources: [Virtual Counseling Office](#) and [Virtual Calming Room](#)

The Character Trait for May is **POSITIVITY**. Teachers will be on the lookout for students being optimistic, enthusiastic, and cooperative, and those looking for the best in others and finding new solutions. We will celebrate chosen students demonstrating this trait at the end of the month during our remote Very Important Cheetah (VIC) lunch. Don't forget to check out the [booklist](#) for ways to reinforce POSITIVITY at home!

## From the Music Department

Dear Meridian Park Families,

We are back from spring break and busy learning music once again! I appreciate all the efforts made by students and parents in Seesaw music class this year! I love the student responses! So proud of you all!

Congratulations to 5th grade singers who participated in the 2021 Shoreline School District Honor Choir. Students from all Shoreline elementary schools learned and recorded their songs remotely. There is a virtual concert on May 11, 2021. Watch for information about how to see this concert! Thank you, 5th grade Cheetahs!

I hope you are all enjoying the spring weather and the sweet spring birdsong!  
*Ms. Anderson, Music Teacher*

Shoreline School District #412 does not discriminate against any protected classes. For further information on notice of nondiscrimination, including the address and phone number of the Title IX officer, visit [http://www.shorelineschools.org/info/title\\_ix.php](http://www.shorelineschools.org/info/title_ix.php)

# Cheetah Notes

## From the Library



## May News from the Library

Greetings MP Families!

Thank you to everyone who checked out library books this year through our Cheetah Curbside Check Out program. It's been a big success. Students who have returned in-person have also been able to check out books using an in-school delivery system.

Our last Cheetah Curbside Check Out pick up date is **Wednesday, May 12th.**

The forms are currently available. They were sent out via Messenger and as a Seesaw announcement on Monday, May 3rd. You can also find the forms on the MP homepage under Headlines.

Forms are due by 4:00 PM on Monday, May 10th.

All library books are due no later than Friday, May 28th.

We appreciate your help in rounding up books that you have.

Please return library books to the bin located on the front porch of the school.

In-person students can return their books to the areas outside their classrooms.

Thank you for your help. It is much appreciated.



Meridian Park staff and students would all like to express our appreciation to the PTSA for the assembly presentation by the group "Black Violin" on April 8 and April 15, 2021. This terrific assembly was provided to us by a generous grant from our amazing Meridian Park PTSA, and through the Education & Community Engagement Department of the nonprofit arts organization Seattle Theater Group. In addition, we would like to express our thanks to Annie Bach, Meridian Park Office Manager, for writing the grant.

Our students heard Black Violin blend their original compositions, classical, hip-hop, jazz and pop music in many engaging song performances. Their high energy presentation inspired our students in commitment, practice, and dedication. Black Violin brought themes of perseverance, exploration, and unity to our students, encouraging students to realize their potential, look for opportunities, and do the hard work necessary to reach their goals. The Black Violin assembly also included a study guide with ideas and materials to prepare students for the assembly, so our students learned about different musical styles, cultures, and the violin prior to the assembly.

Here are a few of the many wonderful comments from our Meridian Park students and teachers about this amazing experience.

*"One thing this has helped me learn about music is like when you think of an instrument, you think of a certain kind of music that someone would make with that instrument, and then you hear people make types of music you never would have expected to hear from that instrument and it is really cool. Like when I thought about the violin, I would always think of classical music and orchestras and then I listened to Black Violin and heard them play music like hip-hop and rock that I never would have expected to hear from a violin."*

*"It has helped me understand how music is a way to keep cultures alive."*

*"Honestly, I think we all knew this, but something I learned from listening to Black Violin, is that no matter where you're from, where your history has started, or what type of music you listen to, you can make music that is beautiful, no matter what."*

From Natalie Bachicha-Wells, grade 3 teacher

*"I just wanted to share how much my students LOVED Black Violin yesterday! I know it's not the same as a live performance, but my morning class in particular enjoyed the ability to get up and dance on occasion. I had kids drumming, grooving, and all around commenting on the musicianship they were watching. They've shared with me that they've asked their Alexa devices at home to play Black Violin and have loved watching videos on their YouTube channel. My classes were highly motivated to get their work done efficiently to get to watch the "extended cut" as I called it. It was a hit! Again, thank you so much!"*

Thank you, MP PTSA for bringing this exciting, informative, and inspiring remote assembly to our students!!

# PTSA News & Community Resources

## Meridian Park Elementary

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

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

Matt Alford, Dean of Students  
[matt.alford@shorelineschools.org](mailto: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](http://mpptsa.org)

### Executive Committee

Joe Hardie, President  
[mpptsapresident@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsapresident@gmail.com)

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

Callie Steward, Treasurer  
[mpptsatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsatreasurer@gmail.com)

Alex Hart, Family & Community Engagement  
[mpptsavpevents@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsavpevents@gmail.com)

Erika Botch  
Co-VP of Programs/Clubs  
[mpptsavppprograms@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsavppprograms@gmail.com)

### Standing Committees

Kate Beck, Legislative Chair  
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Suni Tolton / Mary Webb /  
Katherine Vangunst, Grants  
[mpptsagrants@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsagrants@gmail.com)

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

Nicola Beck, Special Needs Representative

Natalie Bachicha-Wells,  
Teacher Representatives

Follow the MP PTSA on Facebook

**facebook**

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Meridian Park Elementary and  
the Meridian Park PTSA

Would you like to be involved in our fabulous PTSA? Do you have some new ideas to bring to Meridian Park? We would love to have you join us! Please consider being a "co" (co-treasurer, etc.) to share a role; there's something for everyone! Position descriptions can be found at [mpptsa.org](http://mpptsa.org).

- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Vice President, Clubs/Enrichment Programs
- Vice President, Events
- Membership Chair
- Website/Tech Chair
- Multi-language learners Representative
- HiCap Representative
- Cheetah Chatter Content & Layout Editors

Are you creative and would like to be involved? Do you enjoy reviewing content and creatively compiling information to share with families all from the comfort of your own home? Our Cheetah Chatter editors are moving on at the end of the year and we are looking for 1 or 2 parent volunteers to continue our Chatter publications. If you have a few hours a month to donate to the PTSA, please consider working on the Cheetah Chatter. If you would like to know more details about the roles, feel free to contact Jiovanna Koceski at [jiovanna@comcast.net](mailto:jiovanna@comcast.net) or Amy Baldwin at [aechristian@hotmail.com](mailto:aechristian@hotmail.com). If you are interested in taking over, feel free to contact Briana Bell at [brianarbell@gmail.com](mailto:brianarbell@gmail.com).

## 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](mailto:chap@kingcounty.gov).

## Shoreline COVID Vaccination Site Open

Beginning April 27, sites operates Monday through Friday, 9am-5:30pm, by appointment only for ages 18 and older. All appointments must be scheduled in advance. Drop-ins will not be accepted. For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine and to schedule a vaccine at this location or another UW Medicine vaccination clinic, go to the UW Medicine [vaccine site](#). Located at Shoreline Center 18560 1st Ave. NE, Shoreline.

## Asian America 2021: Anti-Asian Racism & Unlearning the Model Minority Myth

**Tue. May 11, 3:30pm-4:30pm**

[Register Online](#) to receive reminder email

Event will be on [this Zoom link](#). Passcode 351129

Sno-Isle Libraries presents Dr. Nina Kim Hanson, educator, anti-racist bridge builder, and member of the Lake Stevens Allies for BIPOC Advisory Board. Learn about the history of anti-Asian racism and how the model minority myth attempts to continually devalue Asian American voices and stories today. Also, critically examine common misconceptions and actively learn to participate in anti-racism that best serves our Asian American siblings better.