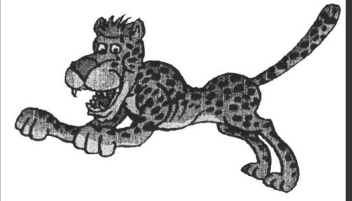




Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park School & Meridian Park PTSA



Shoreline Classic Car Show

What a great day for a Car Show! Hundreds of people enjoyed the weather and fun at the 2013 Shoreline Classic Car Show on August 4. Almost \$8,000 was raised for Meridian Park!



More photos available at www.meridianparkptsa.org

Issue Two, 2013–2014
September 18, 2013

In This Issue

Shoreline Car Show	1
Principal's Message	2
Friends, Families & Fun!	3
Music & Library News	4
PTSA President's Message	5
Community Events	6

Walk-a-Thon

September 27, 10:00–11:30am

Here's your chance to make a donation to the ASB/Student Council's walk-a-thon to raise money for field trips, playground toys, and much more. All the money raised from the walk-a-thon is used for MP students.

Keep your eyes peeled for a pledge sheet and more information about this event. Volunteers are needed before and after the event and to help monitor students as they walk around the perimeter of the school.

If interested, please contact Aissa Quezada at aissa.quezada@shorelineschools.org or Tamara Plandel at tamara.plandel@shorelineschools.org.

Drop Off – Pick Up

We want children to be safe in the mornings and afternoon! Please be careful in our parking lot during drop-off and pick-up. Please use our drop-off/pick-up lane, or if you park, please walk your child to the grass. Dropping off after the first week or two allows your child to develop independence.

Skating Party

Join us for the first skating party of the year on **Thursday, October 10 from 6:00–8:00pm** at Lynnwood Bowl & Skate, 6210 200th St. SW, Lynnwood. Admission is \$3.00 for inline skate rental and \$6.50 for quad skate rental. Parents are encouraged to participate. No drop-offs allowed. Hope to see you there!

Upcoming Events

- September 24 & 26**
Picture Day
- September 27**
Walk-A-Thon
- September 27**
Early Dismissal, 11:50am
- September 30**
No School—Staff Work Day
- October 1**
PTSA Meeting, 6:30pm
- October 9–11**
Parent / Teacher Conferences
Early Dismissal, 11:50am
- October 10**
Skate Party, 6:00–8:00pm
Lynnwood Bowl & Skate
- October 16–30**
Fall Fundraiser
- October 18**
Fall Festival

Construction on 175th

As you noticed, The City of Shoreline is doing a payment overlay on 175th near Meridian Park. The roadway work will be done at night (6:00pm–7:00am). More info is available on the City of Shoreline Web site.

Fall Festival! Save the Date

Save the date for the Meridian Park Elementary Fall Festival (formerly Fall Carnival):
Friday, October 18, 6:00–7:30pm

Back-to-School BBQ

Thank you to Lee Lambert for organizing and to volunteers at the Back-to-School BBQ. Despite the rain, families had a great time seeing old friends, making new ones, and meeting their teachers. See page 3 for more photos.



Visit our Web sites for complete and up-to-date calendar information:

www.meridianparkptsa.org
schools.shorelineschools.org/meridianpark/

Follow the MP PTSA on Facebook



Meridian Park News

Principal's Letter

Dear Families:

We are off to a great start at Meridian Park! Thank you for the special opportunity to serve your children and family. We are committed to academic and social growth for each of our students.

Student learning and our **academic programs** are a priority. Our core academic programs will continue to be guided by the district, state, and national common core standards. We have amazing specialist programs in Library Info/Tech, Music, Health/Fitness, and the Arts. We want every child to be a reader, a mathematician, a scientist, an artist or musician, and more!

Positive Behavior is another priority. Our theme is: "I am an MP learner. I am **respectful**, **responsible** and **safe**, inside and outside!" We also teach students to use appropriate voice levels, and we appreciate quiet adult voices in the school when you are visiting or volunteering—thanks.



Safety is a priority. Thank you for helping daily before and after school. Our parking lot is busy in the mornings and afternoons, and we appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation. We hold safety drills at least monthly, including fire, earthquake, and lockout drills. If needed, please talk with your children about before and after school safety and other situations like earthquakes.

Communication is also a priority. Our teachers are committed to regular

classroom communication through newsletters, Web sites, and email. This newsletter, our school or PTSA Web sites, and our weekly broadcast emails are great communication tools. Our general rule for questions or concerns is to contact the staff member closest to the situation. We prefer to handle situations at the lowest level, such as the classroom level, the nurse, or the office staff, whenever possible. We appreciate everyone's help returning Boomerang folders on Thursdays!

Parent/Teacher **Conferences** are scheduled for mid-October. The conferences are a great opportunity to establish a positive working relationship with your teacher. We hope to have 100% participation, so please contact your teacher if you need to schedule. *Reminder:* early dismissal at 11:50am on October 9, 10, and 11.

Fall is a great season with cool mornings and warm afternoons. Please help your students be on time, ready to learn, and ready for recess. I encourage all Meridian Park families to develop good family routines for weekdays and weekends. We hope you can spend time together exercising minds and bodies with walks, bike rides, music, and sports. Let's keep an eye on screen time, so that every youngster can also be reading, playing outside, and helping out around the house.

My personal thanks to our hard-working staff. It was great to see so many of you at Curriculum Night! Please join our PTSA, and we look forward to seeing you again at conferences in October. Go Cheetahs!

~David Tadlock, Principal
david.tadlock@shorelineschools.org

Meridian Park Staff Information

We are very proud of our highly qualified staff at Meridian Park Elementary School and would be pleased to share any information regarding the professional qualifications (such as teaching certificates, endorsements, college degrees) of your child's classroom teacher, Title I teacher, or instructional assistants. As part of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, parents have the right to this information.

Free and Reduced Lunch

Did you know that free and reduced lunch forms need to be completed each year? This year, forms were provided in your first day packet. At Meridian Park, we want every family to be supported! Please contact Family Advocate Annie Gage for more information at annie.gage@shorelineschools.org or 206-393-1768.

Attendance

Please call 206-393-4252 or email jill.gwazdauskas@shorelineschools.org if your child will be late or absent, and provide the reason. It is very important that we have this information before 9:30 so we can complete attendance reporting.

Calling School

Dial 206-393-4252 to reach the front office. For all other calls, dial 206-393-4251.

Walk-a-thon
Volunteers Needed!
If you can donate your time before,
during or after September 27th,
please consider helping!
TO HELP PLEASE CONTACT
AISSA QUEZADA OR
TAMARA PLANDEL
AISSA.QUEZADA@SHORELINESCHOOLS.ORG OR
TAMARA.PLANDEL@SHORELINESCHOOLS.ORG

Shoreline School District #412 does not discriminate against any protected classes. For further information on notice of non-discrimination, including the address and phone number of the Title IX officer, visit: www.shorelineschools.org/info/title_ix.php.

Meridian Park News

Families, Friendship, Feelings & Fun

Greetings! I am the Family Advocate at Meridian Park. What is a Family Advocate?

I think of my job as a cross between two disciplines. In some aspects I am a school social worker, who helps families with information about where to get resources such as counselors, low-cost dental care, and food.

In other ways, I function more as a school counselor, helping kids with friendship issues, emotion management, and social skills, and also working with parents who have questions or concerns about their child's social/emotional life.

I work in partnership with other school staff, and also keep personal information confidential.

You may hear your student talk about Friendship Groups, and at some point while your child is at Meridian Park, you may get an email or note that your child is invited to participate in one. They

are fun groups of no more than seven children who meet with me once a week for 8 or more weeks.

Friendship Groups take place during lunch and/or recess. We eat lunch together and every participant gets to lead the group for one session. The purpose is to have a positive small group experience, and practice such social skills as taking turns, leading, following and listening.

Students can fill out a form to let me know they'd like to talk to me, or they can ask their teacher to send me an email.

My hours are 9:00am–2:30pm every day, and my office is behind Diane Randall's desk in the main office. I look forward to meeting you!

Annie Gage, MSW
206-393-1768
annie.gage@shorelineschools.org

Back-to-School BBQ



Meridian Park News

Notes from the Music Room

Fall is busy and exciting, and we are already learning new things in music class.

We have been working on:

- Proper use of our vocal instrument, and singing in tune
- Playing singing games
- Learning new songs and rounds
- Reading notes and rhythms
- Playing instruments with songs

a message from Shari Anderson, Music Teacher

If you haven't already, please read the yellow letter that came home in the September 11 Boomerang. There is important information for you regarding music classes, equipment, and performances.

Please put **May 29, 2014** on your family calendar. This is our annual celebration of the arts at Meridian Park, where 2nd through 5th grades will perform a wonderful concert of children's songs and choral music. Thanks, and have a fantastic, musical school-year!

Library Notes

a message from Jenny Hillger, Library Media Specialist

Greetings from the Meridian Park Library Media Center!

I am excited about the upcoming school year. I hope that students will visit the library often to browse for and check out new books, as well as search for and use information. Parents can also check out books from the MP library. Please stop by at any time to set up an account for yourself.

I will run the Sasquatch and Young Readers Choice (YRC) chapter book award programs for fourth, fifth, and sixth graders, and the Washington Children's Choice Picture Book (WCCPB) award program for kindergarten, first, second, and third graders. The Sasquatch and YRC programs will begin in late September. Students who read three or more books and complete three simple activities are invited to vote for their favorites in late March. The WCCPB program will run for several months in the library and classrooms. In late March, the primary students will vote to select the MP winner and the Washington State winner.

Our small fall Scholastic Book Fair will be held Wednesday through Friday, October 9–11. The book fair will be open before school, during the morning, and in the afternoon during parent-teacher conferences, 8:40am–4:00pm. Please stop by and support the book fair. It will be a fun event for everyone. If you would like to help out at the book fair by volunteering a few hours of your time, please let me know. (206.393.4125; jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org).

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!

Welcome, New MP Teachers & Nurses!



Pam Uran, Grade 2
Highly Capable Program



Kelsey Jobst, Band



Tamara Plandel, PE



School Nurses
Tama Leahy, CK8 & ECE (left) and
Susan Goldman, MP (right)

PTA Reflections Arts Competition

“Believe, Dream, Inspire” is the 2013–14 Reflections National PTA Competition theme. Students may submit an original entry in these categories: Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts, Film/Video, and Choreography/Dance. The deadline for entries is Monday, October 21.

Finalists will be selected from Meridian Park to go on to the Shoreline competition in November 2013. The State Reflections Arts competition is adjudicated in April 2014.



PTA REFLECTIONS

For details and rules, visit <http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/reflections>. Watch for more information posted at school. If you have questions, contact Susan Duthweiler at sduthweiler@gmail.com.

PTSA Fall Fundraiser

This year's PTSA Fall fundraiser will kick off on Wednesday, October 16. Fundraiser packets will go home with the October 16 Boomerang. Included this year is a wider variety of child/teenage magazines as well as cookie dough to help out with all your fall and winter celebrations.

The fundraiser will be a two-week sale, ending on October 30. Delivery will arrive before the Thanksgiving weekend. Don't find something you're looking for? You can still help out and send in a donation. 100% of your donation will go directly to the Meridian Park PTSA.

The PTSA puts on a number of family events during the school year. They also support the music and physical education departments at Meridian Park. Teachers can also apply for grants twice during the school year, fully funded by the PTSA. These would not be possible without your participation and donations—so THANK YOU!

Do you have an hour or so at the start of school during the two-week sale? Are you able to help out on delivery day? Please contact Krista Keller (krista_keller@comcast.net) or Tracey Poole (tlp07@stevepoole.com).

Thanks for your support!

PTSA President's Letter

Welcome back Meridian Park families!

We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead! But first I have to thank Marty and Holly DeGrazia for leading the way in organizing the 4th annual Shoreline Classic Car Show this past August. This year's event attracted hundreds of attendees and brought in more than \$8,000 for the PTSA!

The PTSA relies on the work of our many volunteers and we have a few key openings still left to be filled for this year:

- Chair of the Volunteer ad hoc committee
- Parent lead for the K–3 Drama Club
- Parent lead for the Chess Club

The Secretary position is also open but we *may* have found someone to fill this post. However, if you are interested in the Secretary position (or any of the open positions) or just want to know how you can become involved in the PTSA, please contact me!

We have an exciting year ahead! The Fall Festival featuring a multicultural education theme will be Friday, October 18. The Fall Fundraiser runs October 16 through October 30. I am thrilled to announce that a coalition of parents have stepped up to run the Talent Show so mark your calendars for this popular event to take place on Friday, January 17, 2014 (dress rehearsal on January 16).

I invite you to attend the PTSA General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, October 1 at 7:00pm in the cafeteria. The Board of Directors Meeting will be held beforehand from 6:00–7:00pm. Free childcare is available from 6:30–8:30pm! The Board of Directors will be presenting our 2013–2014 strategic goals and the membership will vote on the Standing Rules and the final budget for the upcoming school year.

I'm looking forward to a great year and hope you are too!

~Kim Ositis

2013–2014 MP PTSA President

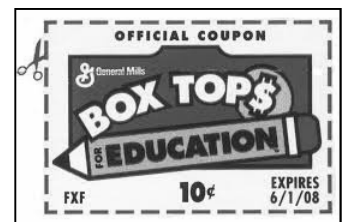
Box Tops for School

It's time to send in those Box Tops you've been saving all summer! The first submission date of the school year is in October.

Box Tops are an easy way to bring in money and help support many of the PTSA's events for our kids throughout the year.

Did you know eBox Tops are becoming more popular? By linking Meridian Park Elementary to your Safeway Card, Albertson's Card, or Target Red Card, money gets sent to our school automatically. Check it out at www.BTFE.com.

Remember, Box Tops have expiration dates, so continue to send them in all year! Thanks for your support.



Resources for Families

information on these resources is offered as a service to families—these are not always MP or MP PTSA events or workshops

YMCA ACT! Program

FALL 2013 ACT! Actively Changing Together Program
Ready to get more play and good food into your child's routine? Start creating healthy habits with your child that can last a lifetime through the Y's ACT! program. The ACT! program appeals to children and parents alike by providing engaging, fun, and unique activities. By actively changing together, parents and kids can learn how to instill healthy lifestyle habits as a family. Specially trained Y staff offer guidance and encouragement for eating well, playing often, and preventing health conditions associated with being overweight. A YMCA membership is included for the duration of the program.

Fall program dates:

- Kids (8–11yrs): Starts September 30, 6:00–7:30pm
- Teens (12–14yrs): Starts October 1, 6:00–7:30pm

Contact chronicdiseaseprevention@seattlymca.org or call 206-344-3181 for more information and to register!

2014 Community Project Awards

Application Deadline: Thursday, November 7, 2013
Project dates: January–November 2014

Do you need help presenting an arts event that serves your community? The Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Arts Council wants to help. We promote experiences in the arts to enhance the quality of life in our community. Nonprofit organizations or Community groups that provide arts / cultural programming for the general public are welcome to apply. We fund special projects, artists' residencies, and performances that extend the group's usual scope. Awards range from about \$250–\$1000.

Find out more on their Web site <http://www.shorelinearts.net/index.php/Community-Project-Awards/community-project-awards.html>

Join Troop 325!

Do you like to camp in the wilderness? Hike up National Park peaks? Ride your bike through railway tunnels in the dark? Canoe on pristine wilderness lakes? Or maybe you are more interested in service opportunities and earning merit badges? If that sounds like you...Troop 325 is looking for you!

Boy scouts is for boys 11–18 years old. We meet Monday evenings at the First Lutheran of Richmond Beach church on 8th NW south of Rite Aid, from 7:15–8:30pm. throughout the year, and for outdoor outings on weekends, and week-long trips/camps in the summer. Parents are encouraged to participate! For more information, check out our Web site: <https://sites.google.com/site/bsatroup325a/home>, or call Suzanne at 206-533-6439.

Dine Out at Jersey's!

Dine out at Jersey's any time and help raise money for the Meridian Park PTSA! Any time you eat at Jersey's in Shoreline, 20% of your bill (excluding tax) will be donated back to the PTSA. Just let your server know you are a Meridian Park Elementary family and 20% of your dining bill will automatically be donated back to our school. Jersey's offers great food and fun for the whole family. Kids are welcome!



Mark your calendars for 2014!

Winter break: December 23, 2013–January 3, 2014
Mid-Winter break: February 17–21, 2014
Spring break: April 21–25, 2014



Providing clothing support to
Shoreline School District Families.

North City Portables
west end of North City Elementary
816 NE 190th Street, Shoreline
Wednesdays 6:30–8:00pm
206-393-4916

*The WORKS is a Shoreline PTA Council
Family Resource*

*The Cheetah Chatter is Published Monthly by
Meridian Park School and the Meridian Park PTSA*

17077 Meridian Avenue N :: Shoreline, WA 98133 :: 206-361-4251

Meridian Park Elementary

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

David Tadlock, Principal
email: David.Tadlock@shorelineschools.org
Hillary Clark, Early Childhood
Program Manager
Diane Randall, Office Manager
Jill Gwazdauskas, Registrar
Susan Goldman & Tama Leahy, School Nurses
Annie Gage, Family Advocate

2013–14 MP PTSA
Executive Committee
www.MeridianParkPTSA.org

Kim Ositis, President
email: kaositis@gmail.com
Janina Pacunski & Tracey Poole, VPs Clubs & Program
Dana Doerksen, VP Events
Open Position, Secretary
Krista Keller & Adrienne Thompson, Co-Treasurers
Adrienne Thompson, Legislative Chair

Mel Williamson, Denise Dana & Mary Crandell,
Cheetah Chatter Editors