

# Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park Elementary School and the Meridian Park PTSA



## Room Parents

The Meridian Park PTSA is looking for Room Parents for the 2020-21 school year! As with everything, Room Parenting is going to be a little different this year as we work together with teachers to find the best ways to support them. Some responsibilities may include:

- Finding volunteers & opportunities to help your teacher
- Organizing class celebrations
- Creating a class parent contact list & connecting parents

If you're interested, please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/mproomparents>

### Inside This Issue

Principal's Letter ..... **2**  
 Cheetah Notes ..... **3**  
 PTSA News ..... **6**  
 Community Resources ..... **7**

### Upcoming Events

Wednesday, October 14  
 PTSA Meeting on Zoom  
 6:30 pm

Wednesday, October 14  
 Applications Due for Open School Board Positions 2 & 3  
 Learn more [HERE](#)

Friday, October 16  
 Move-A-Thon  
 Celebration of Movement  
 Watch for more info soon.

Wednesday, November 11  
 Veteran's Day - No School

November 26 - 27  
 THANKSGIVING BREAK

Dec 21 - Jan 1  
 WINTER BREAK

**FREE MEAL PICKUP EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
 Learn more [HERE](#)

**Chromebook Not Working? Tech Problems?**

**Contact**  
[gloriann.harrigan@shorelineschool.org](mailto:gloriann.harrigan@shorelineschool.org)

## Neighborhood Little Free Food Pantries

Give what you can, take what you need! The pantry nearest to our school is at 18312 Corliss Ave N. The North City Little Free Pantry located at 18910 8th Ave NE also has 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.



## The WORKS has opened!

Do your kids need access to clothing? Do you have clothing to donate? To visit The Works, please visit <http://www.shorelinepta.org/the-works.html> for more information and to make an appointment.

Safety precautions are required during visit.

The WORKS clothing room provides high quality, clean, gently used children's and teen clothing to Shoreline School District families. Shoreline families experiencing economic hardship can bring their children to "shop" for gently used, stylish clothing. During the month of October, join the Socktober 2020 challenge! Donate new socks for K-12 students (athletic, no show, ankle, crew -please no shoe liners). To schedule a donation visit, sign up on their website.

### PTSA LINKS

[BECOME A PTSA MEMBER](#)

[VOLUNTEER](#)

[PTSA CALENDAR](#)

[FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK](#)

[LINK YOUR FRED MEYER](#)

[REWARDS CARD](#)

[SUPPORT US ON](#)

[AMAZON SMILE](#)

# Principal's Letter



Dear Cheetahs--

Writing this message on this warm autumn evening, I cannot find the words to express how grateful we are for your children, your family, and our learning community.

These are such challenging times not only because of COVID, but also because of the many things happening around us--things that sometimes work to move us apart rather than bring us together.

Despite the challenges, there is so much that unites us. Respect, kindness, peace, and love can bring and keep us together. Schools and classrooms based on flexibility and compassion bring us together. Talking, learning, laughing, music, reading, and playing outside bring us together.

Let us celebrate everyone and find strength in each other. Let us find our way back into our school together. And let us always be One Community, Stronger Together, united in our commitment to all students and families.

Thank you for believing that together we can do this. Please reach out to me, our Dean Matt Alford, or a member of our staff at any time.

*David Tadlock, Principal  
Meridian Park Elementary*

Please vote by November 3. Learn more, check your voter registration, or register to vote at <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/elections.aspx>



**One Community • Stronger Together  
Celebrating 26 Years of Greatness**

## Attendance Tracking

Beginning on October 5, all schools in Washington will begin marking absences from remote learning as excused or unexcused in accordance with rules set by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). An absence can be excused for any previously allowable reason and any COVID-19 related circumstance with the student or family member. A student's parent/guardian can excuse an absence by calling or emailing our school attendance secretary within five (5) days of the absence.

Our school's attendance secretary, **Jake Goett**, can be reached at 206-393-1778 or by email, [Jake.Goett@shorelineschools.org](mailto:Jake.Goett@shorelineschools.org).

Below are two common questions and answers about how students can demonstrate attendance in the remote learning environment. You can also find more information [HERE](#). If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact our attendance secretary.

### **Can a student demonstrate attendance before or after regular school hours?**

Yes. OSPI recommends that school districts provide multiple methods for students to access learning, outside of and beyond participation in live synchronous lessons. Our school district will count a student present if they engage in asynchronous activities, in place of a live scheduled session. This can include a student attempts an assignment, logs on for a part of the class, or asynchronously demonstrates participation. Students are encouraged to watch live teaching when possible.

### **Can a student demonstrate attendance over the weekend for the previous week?**

Yes. Our schools will provide flexibility for families unable to log into live sessions due to internet access, bandwidth, access to childcare, other family obligations and work schedules. If your child is not able engage on a daily basis, you should contact our office to share that information in order to develop a plan to track their attendance.

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 Health Office



Dear parents and guardians,  
It's more important than ever to get your family vaccinated against the flu. The flu vaccine can prevent your family from getting sick with flu during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Health recommends a yearly flu vaccination for everyone

aged six months and older, including pregnant and nursing women, and people at higher risk for flu complications. Even children who learn virtually this fall should get a flu vaccine.

You can also help prevent both COVID-19 and flu by washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, covering your coughs and sneezes, staying home when sick, and wearing cloth face coverings when around other people. Your family should get vaccinated for flu early in the fall, and preferably by the end of October. It is best to get vaccinated before flu viruses start to spread in your community. Flu vaccines are available for the whole flu season at many locations near you, with guidelines in place to safely give vaccinations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Visit [www.vaccinefinder.org](http://www.vaccinefinder.org) for more information.

All children aged 18 and under in Washington can get flu vaccine and other recommended vaccines at no cost. The provider may charge a fee (called an administration fee) to give the vaccine. You can ask them to waive this fee if you cannot afford it. Remember, we may not have a vaccine yet for COVID-19, but we do have a vaccine for the flu.

For more information, please visit  
[www.knockoutflu.org](http://www.knockoutflu.org).

Questions or need more information?  
Contact your school nurse: Tama Leahy, RN at  
206-393-4124 or [tama.leahy@shorelineschools.org](mailto:tama.leahy@shorelineschools.org).

## From the Music Department



### WELCOME to MUSIC 2020-2021!

I look forward to the wonderful year ahead, and to sharing the joy of music with Cheetah students and parents!

#### Music Class is on Seesaw.

#### Here's a little about remote music class:

Students will participate and grow musically through experiences in singing, games, movement, listening, and rhythms. Students will participate in activities which include theory, harmony, form, style, music history, and world music. Students will be encouraged to express their feelings musically through exploring sound, improvising and creating music.

#### Here's how to find your music lessons:

Students click on their name on the left upper corner in Seesaw, and their other classes, such as music and PE will drop down. Click on music and that will take you to my Seesaw classroom, where you can find the activity or lesson for music, labeled by date.

**Music is scheduled for Monday and Thursday afternoons at 2:50**, but music lessons are available any time after noon, and remain available if students can't get to them right away.

**My teacher website:** <https://www.shorelineschools.org/domain/1568> Throughout the year, look for music highlights, links, events, and updates on my teacher website and in the PTSA/ school newsletters.

*Sing on!*

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!

# Cheetah Notes

## From the Library

Hello MP Families!

It is great to connect with you. I really miss teaching students and meeting everyone in person. It's fun to run into some of you around Shoreline - local stores, Shoreview Park, the dog park, and so on. I hope everyone is well.

I'd like to share information about three things:

- Cheetah Curbside Check Out
- Library Lessons
- Technology Assistance

### Cheetah Curbside Check Out

I am so excited to announce that we will have curbside library books check out on an ongoing basis.

- Currently, we are running the pilot program with a few students from each classroom. The purpose of this is to test our system and solve any problems that arise before we begin check out for all.
- Students will check out books in grade level bands. See the schedule below for your children's check out dates.
- I will send out a library book request form to families via School Messenger on the following Mondays to grade level bands: October 5, October 19, November 2, and November 16.
- You will submit a form for each of your MP students when it is your turn.
- All students, K-5, are allowed to have up to six books checked out on their accounts.
- Library Staff will fill your library book requests and honor specific title requests to the best of our ability.
- The Pick-Up day is always Wednesdays. Pick up dates coordinate with curriculum pick up dates.
- You may keep the library books for **two weeks**.
- You can **return your library books** only on the following days and at the following times: **Thursdays, 9:00 - 4:00, and Fridays, 9:00 - 4:00**.
- We will quarantine returned books for a minimum of 72 hours per the Governor's Phase 2 requirements for libraries, as well as recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Public Health – Seattle & King County, and the REALM project.

Be on the lookout for the message with the request form via School Messenger.

### Library Lessons

Elementary school librarians are collaborating weekly to provide lessons for students that will appear each Wednesday afternoon in each classroom's Seesaw class. We decided that our weekly lessons would be based on this year's Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award Nominees

Cheetah Check Out - Curbside Library Book Pick Up Program			
	Complete Online Form	Pick Up Library Books	Return Library Books
Pilot	Sept. 28th - Oct. 1st	Oct. 7th	Oct. 22nd & 23rd
Kdg, 4th, 5th Grades	Oct. 5th - 8th	Oct. 21st	Nov. 5th & 6th
1st, 2nd, 3rd Grades	Oct. 19th - 22nd	Nov. 4th	Nov. 19th & 20th
Kdg, 4th, 5th Grades	Nov. 2nd - 5th	Nov. 18th	Dec. 3rd & 4th
1st, 2nd, 3rd Grades	Nov. 16th - 19th	Dec. 2nd	Dec. 17th & 18th

for kindergarten through third grade, with one lesson for kindergarten and first grade, and another for second and third grade, and the Towner Award for Informational Books for fourth and fifth grades.

Elementary librarians chose these two award programs because they are high interest to all students, allow students to participate in state-wide literacy programs and vote for favorites in 2021, allow for a variety of student activities that work well in Seesaw, and fit well within a 30 minute video lesson format: seven - 10 minutes of text and instruction, with time to complete activities.

### Technology Assistance

I am available to help families with technology issues that arise with remote learning. Issues include, but are not limited to, login difficulties (usernames, passwords), password resets, processes for setting up devices and access pathways.

Over the past several weeks, I have helped many MP families with login issues. One of the biggest problems was not using **ClassLink first** to get to the Seesaw app and the Zoom links.

Think of ClassLink as the front doors to the school. You need to go through the front door to get to the classrooms.

Think of Seesaw as the classrooms.



You can reach out to me for assistance: [jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org](mailto:jenny.hillger@shorelineschools.org) (I check my email frequently) or at 206-393-4125 (library office number; I'm usually in the building).

*Happy Reading!*  
~Jenny Hillger, K-5 Librarian

# Cheetah Notes

## Family Advocate

### SCHOOL MEALS UPDATE

Happy Fall, Meridian Park Families!

I sure miss seeing you and your children, and I hope you are all doing okay or better.

I'm always happy to hear from families. A few questions have come my way regarding school meals.

For at least the next few months, meal boxes are free to all Shoreline students. If you do not qualify for free lunch in typical times, *that does not matter*. And, if your children get free lunch in this current program *it will not make it so other people go without*.

If your financial situation has changed since last year, and you wonder if your child might qualify for free or reduced-price lunch *please complete an application now*. If access to weekly lunches changes, or if we return to onsite school, it will be important to have those accounts established.

In addition, students who receive free and reduced-price lunch need documentation of that to receive certain scholarships and benefits

You can find information about school meals, sign up for weekly meal boxes, and apply for free/reduced meals here: <https://www.shorelineschools.org/Page/1270>

Please know I am available to assist you with this or anything else. If I don't know the answer, I'll figure out who does!

## Remember to Vote!

This year's Presidential, WA Gubernatorial and other important local elections is on **Tuesday, November 3rd**.

There's still time to register to vote – visit <https://www.vote.org/register-to-vote/washington/>.

Washington has been voting entirely by mail since 2011. For more information about our vote by mail process, check out the fact sheet at [https://www.sos.wa.gov/assets/elections/wa\\_vbm.pdf](https://www.sos.wa.gov/assets/elections/wa_vbm.pdf).

## Counselor's Corner

### Welcome to the 20-21 school year at Meridian Park!!

I am Katie McCain, your school counselor! To adapt to this unique school year, I have added a [Virtual Counseling Office](#) for students and families to access as needed. Lots of resources and fun tools for students – check it out! I know this is a very unique year and very stressful for many families. I am here to help!



**Positive Behavior:** At Meridian Park, we work hard to create a positive and welcoming school climate. In part, this is done through our Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) program. All year, students learn about our school wide behavior expectations (Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe) and how to earn Cheetah Cheers by doing the right thing and following the expectations in all of our common areas. We have a lot of fun positive interventions to catch kids doing the right thing. This year we are trying to implement as many of the same fun things as possible. Be on the lookout for Cheetah Cheer postcards, Friday announcements with Cheetah Cheer drawing winners, VIC lunch certificates, etc.

**Character Trait of the Month:** This month we are working on **RESPONSIBILITY** (for September it was Respect)! Our monthly Character Traits provide a specific time where teachers can teach really important vocabulary and students model the traits all month (and hopefully all year and life!). At the end of each month we celebrate students who have been role models in this area with our VIC (Very Important Cheetah) Lunch. During remote learning, we will still celebrate our VIC lunch winners, more info to come soon. [Please see the booklist](#) for great ideas on how to continue the learning at home with trait specific books.

# Cheetah Notes & PTSA News

## Race & Equity

Hi there virtual Cheetah families! I know this school year is off to a strange start, but I know all of your teachers are so excited to go on this journey with you! I just wanted to introduce myself! My name is Natalie “Ms. BW” Bachicha-Wells, 3rd grade. In addition to my official classroom role, I also have the honor to serve as Meridian Park’s Race and Equity Lead! In my role as Equity Lead, I am committed to ensuring our instructional practices serve the needs of all students. We’ve been working toward this goal through professional development and examining school wide data to identify trends. This year, I hope I can also be of service to you, our families and students, as we navigate remote learning. If and when concerns arise, I hope that you won’t hesitate to reach out. I believe that all students, regardless of race, ability, gender identity, and socio-economic status are entitled to a quality education and I want to make sure we are doing everything we can to make that possible.

I look forward to learning and growing with you all!

## Meridian Park PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association) is looking for a new President.

Please attend our PTSA meeting on **October 14th at 6:30pm.**

*Note to all that we have moved our PTSA meetings to the first Wednesday of each month.*

Join your PTSA here: [www.mpptsa.org](http://www.mpptsa.org)

Check out the Job Description here:

<https://mpptsa.org/about/board-positions/>

We don’t know what the school year will shape up to look like and what active role the PTSA will fill at Meridian Park. Historically, the PTSA does a lot of community building (as in parties), parent education through various workshops and talks, support of teachers through classroom grants, and advocacy across the district. Over the last few years our advocacy has included environmental stewardship, support of BLM, increased equity and representation, and financial support of our most in need students. In many ways, the President of the PTSA sets the advocacy agenda and brings along the entire board and then the entire community.

Are you right for this role? Is the PTSA right for you? PTSA’s are often something to giggle about and can be dismissed with movies like Bad Moms. At Meridian Park we have attempted to get past those stereotypes and work together for the community as a whole while still throwing some big and fun parties. Right now, while so much is happening in our world and community we have the opportunity to harness the best of PTSA, but we can’t do it without members of our community. This organization is 120 years strong and has been the reason for many of the positive changes we have seen for children - like Kindergarten classes, school lunch programs, juvenile justice system, child labor laws, and arts in education among others. What will we do next? Do you want to be part of that? We are looking for you!

## Volunteers needed for the 2021 yearbook and beyond!

This is my last year at Meridian Park and I would love to find someone to pass this fun and rewarding project to for the 2022 school year. If you are interested, or have questions, please contact me (Molly) at [moogie1221@gmail.com](mailto:moogie1221@gmail.com).

Did you miss the opportunity to own last year’s yearbook? If you are interested in purchasing last year’s book for \$20, we still have some left.



I am also in need of your photos. This year the yearbook may be a bit different from previous years and I need all the photos I can get from parents and teachers. This month I am asking for photos of our Cheetahs keeping active. Outside play, PE time, extracurricular physical activities, dancing, etc. Let’s work together to make the 2021 Yearbook amazing!

# 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

OPEN, *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)

Dawn Moser, *VP of Events*  
[mpptsavpevents@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsavpevents@gmail.com)

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

### Standing Committees

Kate Beck, *Legislative Chair*  
[mpptsalegislativechair@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsalegislativechair@gmail.com)

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

Laura Graven,  
*Membership Coordinator*  
[mpptsamemberships@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsamemberships@gmail.com)

*Volunteer Coordinator*  
[mpptsavolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsavolunteers@gmail.com)

Jiovanna Koceski / Amy Baldwin,  
*'Cheetah Chatter' Editors*  
[mpptsanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mpptsanewsletter@gmail.com)

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**

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

## FREE Student Meals

Shoreline School District Nutrition Services is providing FREE Student Meals on a temporary basis through Dec. 31. The Shoreline School District is encouraging all families to place meal box orders, regardless if they qualify for free or reduced lunch. The more families that order meals, the higher the chance the program will continue longer.

- Meal pre-orders can be placed Monday-Wednesdays for pick-up the following Wednesday. The [online order form](#) will be open from 12:01am to 11:59pm.

- Each meal box will contain **5 breakfast and 5 lunches.**

- Submit one order, including all children in your household on the same order.
- Pick up your meal boxes at the site and time you select in your order.
- For assistance in filling out the order form or if you do not have internet access, call the **Meal Order Hotline at 206.393.4103**. Calls will be responded to on Wednesdays between 7:30am-3:30pm.

*Head of the Lunch Program, Jessica Owsley, stated:*

Yes, this is 100% true all of the time. The more meals we serve, the more federal dollars the program has to pay employees. We've lost 50% of our normal participation because our "paid" families are no longer eating with us. This meal program is for all students, it's not just for free and reduced priced students, and it makes a huge difference in our ability to staff and plan meals when everyone participates as it makes meals more affordable the more we serve and it improves low income participation because the program is then less stigmatized.

**Read more about why you should sign up for FREE student meals [here](#).**



## 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>.

## Hopelink

Hopelink provides support for Shoreline residents through a food bank, emergency financial assistance, eviction prevention and move-in assistance. Hopelink isn't currently accepting physical donations of food out of an abundance of caution. However, you can still make a monetary donation.

To access resources, visit their website at

<https://www.hopelink.org/location/shoreline-food-bank-and-emergency-services>.