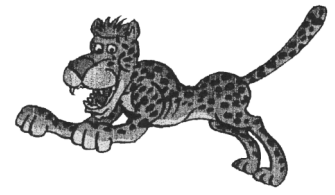


Supporting our teachers, families and school through community-building events, classes, services and more

Meridian Park Elementary PTSA

Cheetah Chatter



Math Club Rocks the AMC8

In November 2010, 24 Meridian Park Math Club members took part in the AMC8, a math contest for anyone eighth grade or below. Over 150,000 students from more than 2,200 schools participated this year. The test consists of 25 multiple-choice questions that are meant to be hard for eighth graders, so it is fantastic that our kids attempted this test! Good job, Cheetahs!

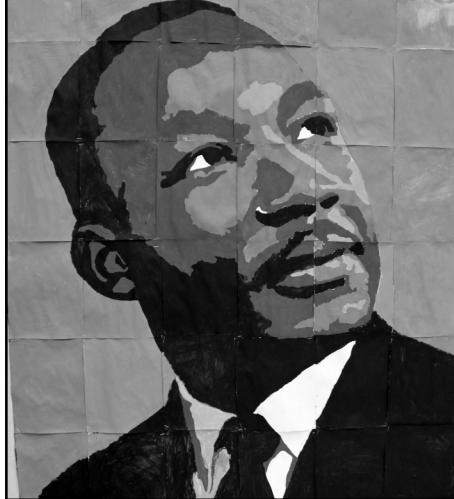
We had nine students whose scores qualified them for the achievement roll (sixth grade or below and score of 15 or better):

Stephan Huchala	Nathaniel Poole
Grant Hugh	Loren Stephens
Henry Krider	Jon Timbrook
Wing-Yee Law	Michelle Wang
Isaac Pang	

Meridian Park's top four scorers also landed on the honor roll (top 5%) with scores of 17 or better:

Stephan Huchala (first place)
Isaac Pang (second place)

MARTIN LUTHER KING



From the front lobby of Meridian Park: a picture of Martin Luther King, Jr., composed of smaller pictures painted by students in Ms. Quezada's fifth grade class.

Issue Four, 2010–2011
January 19, 2011

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Upcoming Events

- **January 18–21**
Early Release—Conference Week
- **January 28**
No School—Staff Work Day
- **January 29**
Kinderfest at the Shoreline Center
- **January 31**
2011–2012 Kindergarten Registration Begins
- **January 31**
5th Grade Winter Concert
- **February 1**
PTSA Monthly Meeting
- **February 6**
Landscaping Work Party
- **February 15**
Westside Band Concert / Orchestra Festival

MP Reflections District Finalists Chosen

Congratulations to the four artists from Meridian Park whose PTSA Reflections Art Contest entries were selected as District Finalists that will move on to the statewide competition. *Thank you* to our PTSA Reflections Chairs Shannon Brown and Connie Berkbigler for coordinating all the entries from Meridian Park.

Finalists included:

Athena Pentcholov (visual arts)
Christopher Combs (photography)
Logan Gnanapragasm (musical composition)
Samuel Mainwaring (musical composition)

Honorable mentions were awarded to:

Olga Cherepakhin
Cole Duthweiler
Erin Paul

Thank You for Another Great Food Drive!

Thank you for another successful Food Drive! Each year, the Meridian Park PTSA and community band together with all other Shoreline schools to collect food for families who need a bit extra support over the holidays.

This year, Meridian Park collected over 1750 items, including 180 bags of sugar! Thanks to your generosity, many Shoreline families had the food they needed over winter break.

2010–2011 MP PTSA Executive Committee

Kathy Henderson, Co-President
Dixie Yamane, Co-President
Janina Pacunski, VP Program
Reneé Smith, VP Events
Kathy Tinoco, VP Fundraising
Lorraine Flaherty, Secretary
Aileen Lu, Co-Treasurer
Brian Heagler, Co-Treasurer
Marianne Stephens, Legislative Chair

Mary Crandell, *Cheetah Chatter* Editor

The Talent Show is Coming!

Did you know...Meridian Park's Got Talent?!?
Do you have an act that no one can top?
Have you ever wanted a chance to Emcee at an awesome venue?

Then get ready to audition for the 2011 Talent Show!

Parents: You can get involved by supervising at the auditions (either afternoon), the rehearsal and the performance. If you are interested in learning more or if you have any questions, please contact Dixie Yamane at dixyamane@yahoo.com or 206-795-2481.

Auditions
February 15 & 16, 2011

Performance
March 11, 2011
Shorecrest High School Auditorium

Help the WA State PTA Advocate for Children & Families

By Marianne Stephens, MP PTSA Legislative Chair

State Budget Cuts Affect Education

As you have probably heard, Washington State is having a budget crisis and there will be cuts to many programs, including education. The bulk of education programs are protected by law and cannot be cut, but those that are not protected will have severe cuts or the funding will be eliminated entirely. Shoreline stands to lose money under three categories.

Shoreline will lose: at least \$500,000 in K-4 Class Size Reduction Funds; about \$75,000 in areas that include highly capable and student

achievement; and up to \$1.76 million in a reduction related to federal EduJobs funding. (Please note that while the state will probably eliminate highly capable funding, our district has no current plans to eliminate the program.) Shoreline School District plans to use financial reserves to make up for class size reduction, highly capable, and other categories of funds. This strategy,

however, will not be feasible long-term, and it may not be able to cover all of the cuts. The District Web site, www.shorelineschools.org, will have the latest information on local impact.

The 2011 Legislative Session began last week, and the legislators and the governor are figuring out where to cut the budget. If you want to speak up to

Senator Maralyn Chase:
maralyn@maralynchase.com,

Representative Ruth Kagi:
Ruth.Kagi@leg.wa.gov,

Representative Cindy Ryu:
Cindy.Ryu@leg.wa.gov.

Governor Christine Gregoire:
[www.governor.wa.gov/
contact/default.asp](http://www.governor.wa.gov/contact/default.asp)

our legislators about their decisions, please contact them. Emails for Legislators can be found through the www.leg.wa.gov/pages/home.aspx page, or try the ones listed here.

We will keep you updated on how the state cuts will affect Shoreline. Now more

than ever is an important time to be involved in your student's education by supporting your child's teacher, attending PSTA or School Board meetings, and keeping up with the news.

Please contact me at marianne.stephens@comcast.net if you have any questions.

Join us for Focus Day—February 21

You might think of the Meridian Park PTSA as mostly sponsoring activities here at school. We do that, but we also advocate for kids on the state level. This often includes involvement in legislative matters in Olympia. PTA volunteers communicate with legislators and advocate for laws that will benefit education all during the legislative season. One day a year, however, we ask all parents and PTA members to join in with the advocacy portion of PTA.

This year, what we call Focus Day is on Monday, February 21, 2011. On Focus Day, parents and kids from PTA chapters from across the state gather in Olympia. Often we meet with our local legislators, hear from state education officials, and enjoy an informative behind-the-scenes tour in the State Capitol. Focus Day would be an educational experience for both kids and adults.

February 21 is the first day of Midwinter Break, so if your family decides to go, your kids will not have to miss school. Shoreline PTA is chartering a bus with Northshore PTA, so you do not even have to drive yourself. The cost of the bus will be \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids. The exact schedule will be released soon. If you have questions or know you would like to go, please contact me (206-542-0931 or marianne.stephens@comcast.net) and I will get details to you as they are available.

Thank you. Hope to see you on February 21!

Presidents' Message

Happy New Year Meridian Park Families!

We hope you all had a restful winter break! The fall semester was busy and loads of fun! Our Reflections Program was a huge success thanks to the brilliant organizational skills of volunteer, Shannon Brown and her trusty assistant Connie Berkbigler. We had over 60 entries of art, photography, musical composition and literature with 12 finalists moving on to the PTA Council level. After the votes were tallied, it was determined Meridian Park will represent us well at the state level with 4 finalists! Congratulations to all of our talented artists!

The Meridian Park PTSA has a full schedule coming up in the next few months. We are getting ready to launch the Read-A-Thon fundraiser which is a great way for the students to be leaders and active participants. Our hope is this activity will spur student involvement and some healthy competition while having fun reading!

Just around the corner is the PTSA Talent Show. "Meridian Park's Got Talent" auditions will take place February 16 & 17. Watch for those audition applications in your student's boomerangs. This annual event is a favorite and will be held at the Shorecrest High School Auditorium on Friday, March 11.

As we round the corner into the second half of the year, we begin the exciting process of recruiting for next year's PTSA Board. These positions are a vital part of our organization and a fun way to get to know other parents all striving to provide awesome opportunities for our kids. A Nominating Committee will be formed this month. If you are interested in being on the committee or just want to know more about volunteering please do not hesitate to contact us at kathyhenderson@me.com or dixyamane@yahoo.com.

Finally, we want to look back on 2010 and thank all of you for making our Food Drive an outstanding success. Our school brought in over 1750 items and almost 200 bags of Sugar!! Nice work Meridian Park! We look forward to the months ahead and continuing to support our children, teachers, staff and community while having a ball along the way!

~ Kathy Henderson & Dixie Yamane

2010-2011 Meridian Park PTSA Co-Presidents

What's Going On?

New Creative Writing Class Available

The new Creative Writing class led by MP's wonderful Family Advocate, Annie Gage, begins after school on Tuesday, January 25 for grades 3-4 and Wednesday, January 26 for grades 5-6. Space is limited, so contact Annie Gage right away if you're interested: 206-393-1768 or annie.gage@shorelineschools.org. Classes will be held in Room 403.

It's Almost Read-A-Thon Time!

The annual Meridian Park Read-A-Thon helps the PTSA raise money for programs, including classes, events and grants to teachers. This is a great way to support your school—and get in some good reading at the same time!

Volunteers can contact Melanie Gillespie at melaniegillespie@mac.com about helping with things like working at the Book Swap table for a couple of hours during the day, helping with copying and distributing materials, work on a team to tally the results and count the funds raised or help with recognition events for kids after the event. There's something that fits any schedule—sign up today.

Student participation doubled from year one to year two. Let's see if we can get it to double again for year three. Preparation will start in late January, and the Read-A-Thon starts in March. Watch your Boomerangs for more information.

Get Ready for Some Drama (Club)

Get your act on. The Meridian Park Drama Club will start up again in the spring with auditions on March 31, April 1 and April 4 (please note the change in date). The performances will be May 26 & 27.



Rec Chess Starts Session 2

Session II of MP Recreational Chess started on Thursday January 13 with a couple of spots still open. Session I of the Recreational Chess was successful with a record number of 26 participants! To sign up, contact Lira Cherepakhin at lira@cherepakhin.net.

Both Tournament and Recreational Chess club kids participated in the Meridian Park Chess tournament on Saturday, January 15, with 200+ players attending.



Meridian Park's Recreational Chess Club

We're Giving Money Away ...and you can help!

The PTSA offers cash grants to Meridian Park teachers for projects and supplies that help our kids succeed. Volunteers are needed to join the committee that reviews the grant applications and distributes the funds. This is a small time commitment (reading the applications and attending one meeting) that makes a tangible difference for our school. Contact Jodi Forschmiedt at jodi@jodiwrites.com or Melanie Gillespie at melaniegillespie@mac.com to get a spot on the committee.

Each month in the *Cheetah Chatter*, we will highlight a couple of projects funded directly with the money you and your family raise. Thank you for supporting our school!

Fifth Grade Art & Technology Program

A specialist will lead fifth grade students in three classes through an extensive art and design project that includes using Sketch-Up, a computer program, to complete a 3-D design of a building. The project involves eight one-hour lessons and will increase students' skills in technology, language, scale, volume, angles, contour, and geometry.

Novels for Sixth Grade Classrooms

Copies of *The Cay*, by Theodore Taylor, will be purchased for sixth grade novel study. The lessons will address Washington State Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) in reading, writing, and social studies. The sixth grade team currently does not have enough copies of the book for all students.

December Staff Appreciation

On Tuesday December 14, our sixth grade PTSA Liaisons organized a Cookie Exchange for Meridian Park staff. Families of sixth grade students sent in dozens of cookies so each staff member could make a plate of assorted cookies to take home and share with their families over the holidays. It was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who participated.

Meridian Park Elementary PTSA

17077 Meridian Avenue N

Shoreline, WA 98133

Phone: 206-361-4251

E-mail: kathyhenderson@me.com

Web: www.MeridianParkPTSA.org



Meridian Park
PTSA

Visit our Web Site at

www.MeridianParkPTSA.org

Library News from Ms. Hillger

Dear Meridian Park Families: Happy New Year!

Throughout January and February we will receive new nonfiction books on a variety of topics, as well as picture books and novels. If your children bring home books with "new" stickers on them, then they've been added recently, and were funded by our building budget or book fair profits.

If you need ideas about what you and your children can read, check out the following Web sites:

Kidsreads.com: This site is updated monthly with new picture books, novels, and books in series, and is one of my favorites.

Guysread.com: This site is designed specifically for boys, with lists of books that boys will love!

Happy Reading! Jenny Hillger, Library Media Specialist

Resources for Families

Kinderfest 2011 is January 29

Kinderfest is an opportunity for parents who will be enrolling their children in kindergarten to hear about the kindergarten program offered by the Shoreline School District.

Kinderfest will be held Saturday, January 29, 2011, 10:00am–12:00pm in the Shoreline Room at Shoreline Center, 18560 1st Avenue NE.

For more information on kindergarten registration and Kinderfest, please call Cathy Allred at 206-393-4211.

Shoreline Youth Jam 2011

Shoreline Youth Jam, featuring Rock Bands, Pop Singers, Hip-Hop Groups, Vocal Groups, Accordion Players, Jazz Combos, Soloists, DJ's, Beat-Boxers and all musicians will happen on Friday, March 4, 6:00–9:30pm, at the Shoreline Community College PUB.

Tickets for the show will be sold at the door for \$2. For more information, contact Stefanie Gendreau-Stroud at lebbonbird@yahoo.com or 206-310-0560.

Join the PTSA

Your membership supports programs and events for our school as well as statewide and national advocacy for children and families. Membership is only \$10 per person for the year.

Three easy ways to join:

- 1) **VISIT** the MP office and ask for a membership envelope.
- 2) **E-MAIL** Ann Yee at theyeefamily@hotmail.com
- 3) **SIGN UP** at any PTSA event. Join us for some fun, then join the organization!



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.

Notes from the Music Room

Meridian Park Musicians are singing, playing instruments, learning notes and rhythms, and playing singing games from England and Scotland. We also sang some songs from the civil rights movement to commemorate Martin Luther King Day. *There are several special events coming up:*

Fifth grade instrumental students will give their first Band and String class demonstration concert on Monday, January 31 at 7:00pm in the Meridian Park Gym.

Sixth grade students are preparing for the Shoreline School District music festivals. Participating in these festivals is one of the milestones of elementary school, and marks a wonderful achievement for a young musician. Sixth grade students can participate in both the choral festival, and their instrumental festival, as rehearsals and concerts do not conflict. Families and students are invited to attend as well, to support our sixth grade students and hear their beautiful performances. The festival dates are: District Orchestra Festival: February 15; West Side Band Festival: February 17; West Side Choral Festival: March 8.

On Tuesday March 8, Meridian Park fifth grade students will be attending The Seattle Symphony Arts in Education Concert, featuring Saint-Saëns' Carnival of the Animals with selections from the original poetry by Ogden Nash.

Looking Ahead

You won't want to miss the 2011 Meridian Park Arts Festival Tuesday May 3. This annual celebration features a vocal music concert in the gym by all 2–5 graders, poetry readings, chamber music, and visual arts displayed around the building.

The Cheetah Gym with Ms. Willoughby

This month in PE

Classes are playing basketball—lead up games, skill drills and more. Second–sixth grades are playing Bump games, and there will be a Basketball Bump competition for all sixth graders. Additionally, all students will be tested at the Flex Arm Hang test for fitness gram and are playing fun tag and fitness activities.

Caribbean Dance

We had a great time learning Caribbean Dance last year, and Ms. Willoughby received \$1,800 from the Foundation and Arts Council to continue the fun this year with Caribbean Grant Phase 2. Parents are needed to help sew costumes. Please contact Ms. Willoughby at pamelawilloughby@shorelineschools.org or 206-393-4251.

Have a Healthy New Year!