

Cheetah Chatter

Published by Meridian Park Elementary School and the Meridian Park PTSA



The Holiday Canned Food and Gift Card Drive will run for 2 weeks from 12/2-12/13.

Meridian Park’s target Food item this year is Mac & Cheese! Can MP students bring in 550 Mac n Cheese items and 1,700 total items? How about grabbing a tag from the Giving Tree in the MP lobby and purchasing a \$10-\$25 gift card for a Shoreline teen? Show your Cheetah spirit and help Shoreline families in need by bringing in donations through 12/13! Thank you Cheetahs! One Community, Stronger Together

Not sure what to get your teacher for the holidays?

Consider donating something for our Winter Wonderland Open House just for Teachers & Staff!

We’ll be hosting a Teacher Appreciation Open House on **December 18th** starting at 1:30 pm for our teachers and staff before they head out on Winter Break. We’ll have coffee, warm apple cider, fruits, desserts, and a chocolate fountain bar for a bit of indulgence.

Food donations should be clearly marked “Teacher Appreciation” and can be dropped off in the teacher’s lounge anytime before 1:00 pm. Refrigerators are available if you need them. Please contact Miranda Jennings at baeksonghwa@gmail.com. Thank you!

Sign up at: <https://perfectpotluck.com/ODEZ7081>



Registration for Highly Capable Testing is now Open!

Are you interested in having your a grade 1-6 student assessed for highly capable services for next year? Shoreline is offering testing for HiCap eligibility in January 2020 for any student not previously screened or tested during the 2019-2020 school year. *Please note: All Shoreline Kindergarten and 2nd grade students are screened for highly capable program eligibility in the fall. These students DO NOT need to register for testing.*

Registration will close on December 20, 2019 at 4pm.

No late registrations will be accepted.

For more information or to register on-line, please visit

www.shorelineschools.org/Domain/90.

You may also contact the HiCap program office at 206-393-4771.

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Upcoming Events

- December 2 – 13th
MP Food Drive
- Thursday, Dec. 5th
All School Skate Night
 6:00-8:00 pm
 Lynnwood Bowl & Skate
- Thursday, Dec. 12th
MP Variety Show Auditions
- Thursday, Dec. 12th
Mandatory Drama Parent Meeting
 6:00 pm
 Meridian Park Library
- Tuesday, Dec. 17th
Kindergarten Gingerbread Houses
 6:00 - 7:30 pm
- Wednesday, Dec. 18th
Teacher Appreciation Open House
 1:30 pm
- Thursday, December 19th
MP Community Coffee
 9:05 am
- Thursday, December 19th
Multi-Cultural Holiday Sing-A-Long
- December 21 – January 5
Holiday Break, No School
- Monday, January 6th
School Resumes
- Friday, January 10th
MP Yearbook Cover Contest Deadline
- Thursday, January 16th
Family Math Night
- Monday, January 20th
Martin Luther King Jr. Day,
 No school
- Wednesday January 22nd
No early release
- Thursday, January 30th
Winter Ball / Dance
 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Announcements

The next MP All School Skate Night is on December 5th from 6-8pm.



Where:
Lynnwood Bowl and Skate
6210 200th St. S.W
Lynnwood, WA 98036

Admission Price:
\$8 per person, skates included
Inline Upgrade: \$3.25 additional
**Bring the whole family but please no drop-off*

See Annie Gage for scholarship vouchers or email her at annie.gage@shorelineschools.org.

Meridian Park Annual Variety Show!

Looking for ACTS - jokes, dancing, music playing/singing, magic, skits, video! Look for teal colored forms that came home before thanksgiving break, also attached.

Dates to Remember:

Auditions:

Thursday, December 12th from 3:45-6pm

Mandatory Dress Rehearsal:

Thursday, Jan 23 4-7pm

Variety Show: Friday Jan 24 6-8pm

Are you interested in helping students get ready for the show? We are looking for performance coaches too! Contact Callie Steward callie_l@hotmail.com or Megan Bloom mjbparker@gmail.com with any questions or to VOLUNTEER to help with this amazing production!

YEARBOOK COVER CONTEST

Calling All MP Artists! The yearbook staff is having a Cover Contest for the 2019-2020 MP yearbook. If your student would like to enter, please submit your art to the Yearbook staff by January 10th. It must be in Full Color and on 8.5X11 inch paper. Please incorporate our yearbook theme into your art - "Looking to the Future 20/20". Remember that this is the cover, so the more full the page is, the better it will look. If you have any questions, please email Molly Nordstrand at moogie1221@gmail.com.



MONTHLY COMMUNITY COFFEE

December 19th, 9:05am

This year, MP PTSA is hosting monthly Community Coffees to provide a casual space for learning more about our school and each other. Children are welcome. Please let us know if you have any specific needs, and we will do our best to accommodate them.

At December's Community Coffee, we will hear from our Family Advocates and learn more about how they serve MP students and families.

Remaining 2019-20

Community Coffee Dates:

- December 19th
- January 16th
- February 13th
- March 19th
- April 16th
- May 21st

[Learn more and RSVP here.](#)

Go From "I Can't" To "I Can!"

At Mathnasium, we transform struggles into triumph! We'll help your student tackle math homework with ease and understanding. Our expert instructors work with your child on assignments to understand concepts and achieve mastery. Along the way, they'll develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills that apply not only to math homework, but also to test scores and even other academic subjects.

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Principal's Letter

Dear Cheetahs –

Winter is here! We are focused on academics, positive behavior, and fun. Thanks for our partnership in growth and learning. This month, I want to share about attendance and some other news.

Attendance matters! On time attendance is extremely important to learning. Research and experience show that absences and lateness have a negative impact on learning. We appreciate families taking trips on and around regular school breaks. If you have questions or need support, contact our family advocates. Students should arrive by 9:05 am and please limit unnecessary absences. Thank you!

District news: Related to current enrollment, our Shoreline School Board recently decided to delay the re-opening of North City Elementary for at least one year. Part of this decision involves consolidating the highly capable magnet program at Meridian Park. Another part of the decision involves ending the Kindergarten programs at MP and North City. Please contact me, Derek, or see the district website for more information.

Starting next year, MP will be a K-5 school and our new middle schools will be 6-7-8 programs. This is the last year of sixth graders at the elementary level and it's the last year for our fifth and sixth graders to attend MP. We are celebrating our fifth and sixth graders all year long!

This holiday season, thank you for the wonderful gift of your family and children. Because of all of us, Meridian Park is an amazing learning community committed to the learning and lives of all students. We are grateful for our wonderful families and so proud of each and every Cheetah.

Happy Holidays!

David Tadlock, Principal



Holiday Assembly

The holidays are a wonderful time to celebrate and learn about diverse family cultures and traditions.

At MP, many multi-cultural holiday activities will occur in classrooms and culminate with our Multi-Cultural Holiday Sing-A-Long on Thursday, December 19 at the end of the day. Families are invited to join the fun! Families who prefer their child(ren) not participate in this multi-cultural event may leave early or request an alternative activity through your teacher.

Reminders

- During bad weather, check the media about late start or closure.
- If we are late, school starts at 11:05 am.
- Lost and Found is in the hall near the cafeteria and always open for you to check.
- Safe and Slow in our Parking Lot and Meridian/175th! Please use cross walks.
- Please send kids to school with coats/hats; contact us for needs with cold weather clothing. If you have donations, please contact our office or contact The Works.

Parking Lot Reminders

It's just like the airport! Please:

- pull as far forward as possible at the curb to drop/pick-up
- stay with your car in the curb lane; or
- park and walk to the classroom door
- be patient and kind! Thank you!

We appreciate your cooperation!

Tadlock Tip

This holiday season I hope you will give the gift of reading. Take a family field trip to local bookstores or the library to find books for the family to enjoy together or share with others. During winter break, turn everything off for at least 30 minutes a day for family quiet reading or read aloud.



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

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

Counselor's Corner



Character Trait of the Month: This month students are learning and practicing the trait of **COOPERATION!** Students will be learning and practicing the ideas of working together, compromise, flexibility, teamwork, and collaboration. On December 19th, we will celebrate students who have been demonstrating this trait in our VIC (Very Important Cheetah) Lunch. Please see the [booklist](#) for great ideas on how to continue the learning at home with trait specific books.

*Katie McCain, M.Ed.
Meridian Park School Counselor
206-393-1785*

SAVE THE DATE
Family Math Night
January 16th

Kindergarten News

We have really enjoyed getting to see our Kindergarten families at our community events. The evening family engagement events we have scheduled for the rest of the school year are listed below. More specific information about each event will be shared with families through classroom communications. We are looking forward to seeing kindergarten families at our next event, creating gingerbread houses on **Tuesday December 17!**

| Event | Date/Time |
|---|--|
| Gingerbread Houses (KG only) | December 17, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm |
| Winter ball/dance (All School K-6) | January 30, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm |
| PTSA Multicultural Night (All School K-6) | March 6, 6:00 - 7:30 |
| K-2 STEM night | April 2, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm |
| Spring Family Fun Night (All School K-6) | April 16, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm |
| Kindergarten Art Gallery | May 21, 6:00 pm (during the school's annual Arts Festival) |
| All KG Playground playdate (KG only) | June 10, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm |

Positive Behavior Supports Intervention (PBIS):

Our Kindergarten team works closely with our 1-6th colleagues and classrooms to share in our work around Positive Behavior Supports Intervention (PBIS) at Meridian Park. We believe, if we are consistent in teaching common social emotional skills and use common language, it will have a positive impact on students developing meaningful relationships, creating a sense of belonging, and increasing engagement in learning. Below is an overview of several PBIS systems our kindergarten community utilizes.

PBIS celebrations:

- Cheetah Cheers (individual) & Cheetah Paws (class)
 - School wide behavior expectations learning (hallway, bathroom, cafeteria, bus zones, classrooms, arrival/dismissal)
 - Classroom meetings to build community and connection
 - Our Guidance Team meets weekly to support student needs and growth
 - Second Step - Social Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons
 - Bully Prevention Assembly by Taproot Theater (coming up on Dec. 6)
 - Reset Stations - every classroom (including library, P.E., and music) has a reset station available for students
 - We use the Zones of Regulation curriculum throughout our program to help students learn to identify, talk about, and self-manage their emotions
- If you have any questions about our PBIS efforts please don't hesitate to contact our School Counselor, Chelsey Hays at 206-393-1797.

Cheetah Notes

Kindergarten News

Kindergarten Team: Our Kindergarten Team is fortunate to have a fabulous group of Paraeducators supporting your children in a variety of ways. The Paraeducators work with students in classrooms, on the playground, in the lunchroom, and during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal. They bring to their work a passion for working with young learners, care and compassion for our students, and a variety of experiences working with children. Ms. Geri, Ms. Sarah, and Ms. Brenda are just three of the paraeducator members of our team. Here is some information to help you get to know more about them.



Ms. Geri

Hello Cheetahs! My name is Geri Johnson aka Ms. Geri. I have a multitude of jobs here at Meridian Park. My main work is with our Kindergartens. If your student rides

the bus, I see them when they arrive and when they depart school. I help assist in four of the nine classes. Your student will find me supervising on the playground or in the cafeteria. In my yellow pack around my waist, I am prepared with a sticker, a band aid, a tissue or whatever else to help assist our kindergartens. At recess, I love watching our students grow in figuring out how to solve a problem with words and not using their body.

I grew up in Shoreline and went to Shoreline Schools, Parkwood Elementary, Cordell Hull Middle School (now the home of MP) and graduated from Shoreline High School (now the home of the Shoreline Center). Shoreline is the home for my family. Both my son and my daughter went through the Shoreline School District and graduated from Shorewood. They both attend the University of Washington. When not at MP, I spend a lot of time over in Central Washington with my husband and my two children.



Ms. Sarah

Hello Cheetah families! My name is Sarah Enders. I am thrilled to be a Paraeducator in the Kindergarten department at MP this year. I have so much fun every day I'm here

with our wonderful group of kindergarteners. During the school day, I help students get off and on buses, help out in classrooms, and spend lunch and recess with our kindergarten students. I am so enjoying the kind, silly, curious personalities of our awesome group of students.

I attended MP for a few years when I was in elementary school, so it's been really special to be back here! I grew up here in Shoreline before moving to Bellingham, where I attended Western Washington University for a degree in Psychology. Outside of school, I enjoy cooking, walking and hiking, watching the Great British Baking Show, and going for coffee with friends. I'm looking forward to a fantastic school year. Go Cheetahs!



Ms. Brenda

Hello Cheetah Families! My name is Brenda Harper (Miss Brenda) and I was lucky enough to join the Meridian Park team this year. Most of my time is spent supporting the

Kindergarten program - both in and out of the classroom. I am a big supporter of learning-through-play, so one of the jobs that I enjoy the most is Recess Supervision. Plus, I really enjoy being outside! There are two Kinder classrooms that I get to spend time in, helping the students get used to the routines of school as well as demonstrating the high standards we have of being safe, being respectful and being responsible.

I grew up in a small town in Wisconsin and moved to Seattle in 1997. I have a BS in Philosophy and a minor in Psychology from UW - Stevens Point. Both of my parents were teachers so I come from a family that believes strongly in the importance of education. I live in Shoreline with my husband Chris and my two sons Isaiah (5th grade) and Wyatt (2nd grade). When I am not at MP I spend as much time as I can with my family and I love to garden.

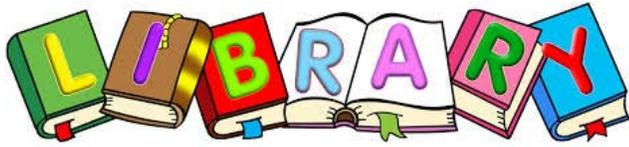
Meridian Park Spirit Wear

Be sure to visit the [Meridian Park Spirit Wear store](#) to pick up your Cheetah gear! Save 20% on Dryblend T-shirts (items 8000, 8000b) during the month of December with code **DEC19P**.



Cheetah Notes

From the Library



One-Day-Wonder Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you for supporting our One-Day-Only Scholastic Book Fair on December 3rd. It was both fun and successful.

We will purchase great new books for the library with the funds raised.

I'd like to thank all of the volunteers who helped to make the book fair a success: Alex Hart, Correne Saunders, Whitney Hardie, Wei-Ping Lin, Beza Misgana, Sue Puraficion, Phyllis DeShazo, Meridith Richardi, AnneMarie Kuhnau, Breanna Clouse, Elizabeth Swan, Charla Martin, Briana Bell, Anna Nordstrom, Bethany Gipson, Carolina Hernandez, Amy Duncan, Zoryana ALeksenko, Mae Cramer, and Elspeth Cramer.

Shoreline Foundation Grant

Maggie Cramer, the kindergarten librarian, and I are so grateful to the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation for funding three days with author-illustrator Dana Sullivan.

Over his three days with us, Dana will meet with all MP kindergarten through sixth grade students in 11 assemblies. Dana will share techniques and ideas for creating characters and stories. We are so excited for Dana's visit on February 25th, 26th, and 27th. Funds from our very own PTSA will also be used to pay for Dana's visit.

MP's Own eBook Library

We have had our own eBook library for a couple of years now. One of the great things about the eBook library is that all of the books are available to all students 24/7. There's no check out process, and there's no due date. An entire class can read the same book at the same time.

Please visit the library by following this link:

<http://www.mycapstonelibrary.com/login/index.html>

Login with **Capstone Interactive**.

Our username is **mpark**.

Our password is **school**.

*Best Wishes for a beautiful holiday season,
Jenny Hillger, Teacher-Librarian*

PTSA News

The Shoreline Special Needs PTSA (SSNPTSA) is now accepting applications for its 2019-2020 Grant Program. This year, thanks to the generosity of Shoreline community members and friends, a minimum of 27 grants are available, up to \$125 each. Any Shoreline Public School District educators supporting special needs students in their classrooms or programs are welcome to apply -- this includes general education teachers and programs.

Applications are due **December 20, 2019** and can be submitted [HERE](#). For information on past grant recipients, to learn more about SSNPTSA's mission, or to become a member, please visit the website [HERE](#).

Questions regarding the grant program can also be sent to info@shorelinespecialneedspta.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Would you like to be more involved at school and connected to the MP community? MP PTSA has several vital roles waiting for the right volunteer! We're currently looking for someone to shadow the current president and come on as Co-President next year. It's a great way to learn about all the ins and outs of Meridian Park and serve our community in a much-needed way!

Please email mpptsapresident@gmail.com if interested in this and/or other open roles.

MP PTSA is also looking for one or two volunteers to head up this year's Spring Auction! If you'd like to help organize the auction, procure items, and lead a team of volunteers, please contact mpptsapresident@gmail.com.

PTSA LINKS

[BECOME A PTSA MEMBER](#)

[VOLUNTEER](#)

[PTSA CALENDAR](#)

[FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK](#)

[LINK YOUR FRED MEYER](#)

[REWARDS CARD](#)

[SUPPORT US ON AMAZON SMILE](#)

Cheetah Notes

From the Music Department

Happy Musical December! I hope this finds you and your family well and enjoying family traditions!

As you take in the sights of the season, consider taking in the sounds as well. Attend a choir or orchestra concert, the ballet (a performance of The Nutcracker Suite perhaps,) Seattle Symphony's holiday concerts, take in a performance from the Christmas Ship, or listen to music together at home. There are also many children's choirs in the area that do fantastic, kid-friendly concerts of excellent music. Enjoy doing some musical "decorating" by singing together at home or around the neighborhood as a family. Consider participating in a sing-along of winter songs or Handel's Messiah, or sing at a nearby care facility or hospital to brighten up the lives of others! Come back ready to share your musical stories in January 2020!

COMING UP AT MERIDIAN PARK!

3rd grade sings at 6:00 p.m. at the PTSA Meeting in the cafeteria Tuesday December 3, 2019

(this is also book fair night so families can visit the book fair.)

Dec. 19, 2:30 – 3:15 p.m. is the Winter Sing Along assembly for grades 1 – 6 in the cafeteria. 5th graders are hoping to present a song to the assembly as well.

Congratulations to those 5th and 6th grade students who qualified for Honor Choir in January. Rehearsals begin soon. Refer to the schedule your students brought home, which will also be listed on my teacher website. Please return forms right away if you haven't already.

Enjoy the beginning of winter, from Ms. Anderson in the music room.

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

Meridian Park Arts Festival, Thursday, May 21, 2020:

2nd grade and 1/2nd
combination classes sing at 6:30 p.m.

4th grade and 3/4th
combination classes sing at 7:00 p.m.

1st grade

Sings at 6:15 at the PTSA Meeting
Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

5th grade

Sings at 9:30 a.m. at their moving up program
Tuesday, June 16, 2020.

6th grade

Sings at 9:30 a.m. at their moving up program
Wednesday June 17, 2020.

Meridian Park students also sing in several other events, such as Winter sing along in December, and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Assembly in January.

5th and 6th grade

Both 5th and 6th grade students have instrumental performances here at Meridian Park. 5th and 6th grade honor choir students perform at the west side choral festival January 30, 2020. 6th grade students have additional performances with band, and orchestra festivals.



HELP KEEP MP PTSA GOING STRONG!

If you'd like to get involved at school and help support MP PTSA in a vital role, please consider one of the following open positions:

- Co-President
- Co-VP of Volunteer Engagement
- Green Team Lead
- Co-VP of Events/FACE (Family and Community Engagement)
- ELL/Bilingual Board Representative
- Hi Cap Board Representative

Email Gretchen, mpptsapresident@gmail.com, if you're interested in learning more about any of these important roles.

MP PTSA is also looking for one or two volunteers to head up this year's Spring Auction! If you'd like to help organize the auction, procure items, and lead a team of volunteers, please contact mpptsapresident@gmail.com.



Community Resources

Meridian Park Elementary

www.shorelineschools.org/meridianpark/

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

Derek Dalasta, *Kinder Administrator*
derek.dalasta@shorelineschools.org

Jake Goett, *Registrar*

Annie Bach, *Office Manager*

Suzy Cowgill, *Kinder Office Manager*

Tama Leahy, *School Nurse*

Katie McCain / Suz Fix, *Counselor*

Kim Kauffman, *Kinder Counselor*

Annie Gage, *Family Advocate*

Susie Moore, *Kinder Family Advocate*



2019-2020 MP PTSA
mpptsa.org

Executive Committee

Gretchen Bjork Knudsen, *President*
mpptsapresident@gmail.com

Briana Bell, *Secretary*
mpptsasecretary@gmail.com

Ann Yee / Callie Steward, *Co-Treasurers*
mpptsatreasurer@gmail.com

Dawn Moser, *VP of Events*
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Mary Kate Horwood / Erika Botch
Co-VP of Programs/Clubs
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Elizabeth Swan, *Friday Email Blasts*

Hannah Peterson / Lara Gino,
Teacher Representatives

Follow the MP PTSA on Facebook

facebook

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

Santa is coming to Shoreline!

Skip the mall, and bring your smartphone or camera to take your own photos this year -- holiday treats and Santa provided! A \$5 donation is suggested but not required. All proceeds go to the Greenwood Knights who donate to Toys for Tots, the Greenwood Senior Center, and local food banks. Stop by Frederick's Salon (16300 Aurora Avenue North, 98103) on Sunday, December 8th, 11AM-4PM. Full event details can be found [HERE](#).

Hopelink ESL Classes

Registration is open for Hopelink's free "English for Work" ESL. It is designed to give non-native-English speakers the verbal skills they need to find work. Students learn technology skills, receive one-on-one advising, and participate in mock interviews conducted by local employers. The first orientation session is January 7, and classes are Jan 13-Mar 23. Classes will be conducted at the Hopelink center in Shoreline. Contact 425-250-3007 or englishforwork@hopelink.org for more info on these classes, or to register. Multi-lingual flyers in 10 languages can now be found on [Hopelink's website](#). Flyers translated into different languages at <https://www.hopelink.org/need-help/adult-education/english-for-work>.

Photos with Black Santa in Shoreline

Sat. Dec. 7, 3:00pm-6:00pm at

Dale Turner Family YMCA, 19290 Aurora Ave. N.

Free event - enjoy holiday cheer, crafts, treats, and photos with Black Santa!

Photos by AshleyKay Photography (suggested photo donation \$5-10). Donations will be collected for Hopelink: new, unopened, unwrapped toys and games; new, unwrapped kids clothing; canned and dry pet food; baby items: size 3-6 diapers, wipes, formula; hygiene items: toothpaste/toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, deodorant, razors, lotion, combs, brushes; paper items: toilet paper, paper towels, foil, zip-lock bags; and household and cleaning items: dish or dishwasher soap, laundry soap.

Contact blacklivesmattersshoreline@gmail.com for any questions.

Seattle/King County FREE Dental, Vision, & Medical Care Clinic

Feb. 13-15, 2020

Seattle Center, 305 Harrison St., Seattle

FREE dental, vision, and medical services provided for anyone. No ID required and no advance registration required – first come, first served. For more info., see seattlecenter.org/patients and email skclinic@seattlecenter.org or 206-684-7200.