



Meridian Park Messenger

A Publication of Meridian Park Elementary Community

January 12th, 2009

News from Principal Jessee

Happy new year! Welcome back from a much longer break than we had anticipated due to the snowy days in Shoreline! As always, at the turn of a new year, I reflect on how grateful I am for the gifts in our Meridian Park community - great students and families, an amazing office and support staff, an incredible instructional staff for our students, and a supportive community of volunteers and helpers at our school. MP would not be the place that it is without all of you. Thank you.

On Dec. 19th, I was visibly reminded of the power of this incredible community when I joined over 50 volunteers (students and families!) at MP to help load up cars with food and toy donations for the Shoreline Council PTA food drive. The roads were icy and snowy yet families still came to help support this important endeavor. It was a great way to begin the holiday season with a focus on helping others. Also, earlier this month, I learned that we received a community art grant that I wrote along with some great community artists, Cheri Micheletti and Esta Modian. Thanks to this grant, we will be able to purchase all art supplies for our classroom projects with these wonderful art docents. Again, it reminded me that when we work together, magical things happen for this place called Meridian Park.

Over break, I had some extra time to catch up on some professional development and read and reviewed some great books about enhancing school learning for all. Some of these included: Learning By Doing (Dufour/ Eaker), Whatever It Takes (Dufour/ Eaker) and What Works in Schools: Translating Research into Action (Marzano). These books affirmed for me all of the positive steps that Meridian Park staff members already do to help support our struggling learners while also continuing to engage our successful learners. We are a professional learning community already and we will continue to work together to meet and exceed our school goals.

Our goals for 2009 include:

This January and February, our K-6 teachers will work together to read and discuss the book: Strategies that Work: Teaching Comprehension For Understanding and Engagement (Stephanie Harvey and Anne Gordan). By sharing in this professional development opportunity, it is our hope that we will continue to push ourselves instructionally to be the best educators we can be. Along with that goal, we are also pleased to share that we will be offering some additional, targeted after-school opportunities for our students who may struggle with math or reading. We have some super staff committed to providing this extra time to help with these programs and we are committed to serving all the instructional needs at MP.

Again, thank you for your support of our school and please accept my best wishes to you for a wonderful new year.

Regards,

Amy Jessee

School Calendar of Events

January 15	6:30pm: Library Parent information night in the library
January 22	6:45pm – 9pm: Getting School Ready Event at MP (for parents of future Kindergarten students)
January 29	7pm; MP and Room Nine Community School Winter Band/Orchestra Concert at MP
January 30	No school – staff work day
January 31	District Kinderfest at SLC, 10am – 12pm
February 2-5	Kindergarten registration begins (register ASAP!)
February 6	Kindergarten lottery (All Day K only)
February 9	Kindergarten registration for out of district students (Must go to Shoreline Center to register)
February 4	Astronomy Night at Shorecrest High School – for all ages! 7pm – 9pm.
February 12	Open House at MP and Scholastic Book Fair (5:30-8pm)
February 16-20	No school – WINTER BREAK
February 24	7-8pm at Einstein MS - 6th Grade Parent Information Night
March 13	No school - Report card prep day
March 22	Amy Jessee's tentative due date. Substitute administrator will be at MP around this date.
March 31 -	
April 3	No school – SPRING BREAK

Attention Parents of Students Starting Kindergarten in the Fall of 2009

Kinderfest 2009

Saturday, January 31, 2009 from 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.

Shoreline Room, Shoreline Center

18560 – 1st Ave NE

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.

Kindergarten registration for Shoreline residents with students starting kindergarten in the fall of 2009 will begin on Monday, February 2, 2009 at your neighborhood school. In order to attend kindergarten in the fall, a child must be five years old by August 31, 2009.

Kindergarten registration for out-of-district students will begin on February 9, 2009. Parents will need to come to the Instruction Department of the district offices (Shoreline Center: 18560 – 1st Ave NE) to submit the registration form and boundary request paperwork. For more information on kindergarten registration and Kinderfest, please call Cathy Allred at 206.361.4211.

Important Safety Reminder for families who walk to school:

In reviewing the safe walking routes in the area of Meridian Park Elementary it was noted that some families are not using the safest route to walk to Meridian Park Elementary.

Some students/parents have been noted crossing at the school entrance where there is no crosswalk. This is not only unsafe - it is illegal. Additionally, some parents/students have been seen walking past the bog to 175th & Meridian to cross. The school district currently does not have a crossing guard at that corner due to the difficult visibility for drivers turning from Meridian (Northbound) to 175th (Eastbound). This is also unsafe.

Please accept this reminder to all families who live south of Meridian Park: Your safest walking route for students attending Meridian Park Elementary is to walk southbound on Meridian to the crosswalk near 170th & Meridian. A crossing guard is stationed there and this is by far the safest place for your student (and parents) to cross.

On the other side of the school, some other families have been observed crossing at the former crosswalk that is now closed. Again, please be aware that this is not only illegal but very unsafe. We no longer have crossing guards there and we strongly advise that families use the main intersection to cross.

Thank you for your understanding of these matters. The staff members at Meridian Park want to ensure the safety of our students when walking to school and your assistance with encouraging the safest route is appreciated.

Community News and Activities

The following information about events is provided by Meridian Park Elementary as a service to our families and students. We are not endorsing participation in any of the events.

•The Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Arts Council Presents: 2009 Poetry Month Celebration. Selected poets will be invited to read at a special event on Friday, April 24, 2008 at Shoreline Community College Campus Theater, featuring published poets Kim-An Lieberman, Kathleen Flenniken, and Ed Harkness. Winning poems will be displayed at the Shoreline Arts Festival in June. Poems will be judged in three separate divisions: Secondary Student (grades 7-12), College Student, and Non-Student Adult. Cash prizes will be awarded. Submission deadline is March 20, 2009. Application forms are available online at www.shorelinearts.net. For more information please contact the Arts Council office at 206-417-4645 or email at info@shorelinearts.net.

•Call to Artists for the 2009 Shoreline Arts Festival Weaving a Cultural Tapestry. The Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Arts Council seeks original artwork and graphic design for the 19th annual Shoreline Arts Festival poster. The 2009 Shoreline Arts Festival theme is "Weaving a Cultural Tapestry", with a focus on ethnic heritage and cultural diversity in our communities. Artwork should be existing work and graphic design will be created specifically for the poster. An artist/graphic designer may be selected or an artist and graphic designer may be selected. The poster will be used to promote this two-day community event celebrating all the arts; music, dance, visual arts, literary arts, theater, film, and crafts to be held at the Shoreline Center on June 27 and 28, 2009. Please send up to 10 images on CD and a resume or bio to: Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Arts Council located at 18560 1st Avenue N.E., Shoreline, WA 98155. Deadline for submission is February 1, 2009. Questions? Call the Arts Council Office at 206-417-4645. www.shorelinearts.net <<http://www.shorelinearts.net>>

Shorecrest Astronomy Night

Wednesday, February 4th from 7pm – 9pm at Shorecrest High School

Open to all ages! The purpose of astronomy night is to encourage interest and passion in astronomy, and to serve as a medium by which students can share what they have learned with the community. But above all, Astronomy Night is fun! Activities will include arts & crafts, interactive displays, student-made presentations, scavenger hunts, and so much more. An expert on astronomy from the University of Washington will also be present to talk to anyone interested.

Any outstanding questions can be sent to

Travis Baseler, travis_baseler@hotmail.com



Thank you to PTSA!

We loved our special holiday treat on the Tuesday before the snow began to fall.

Thank you so much from all of the staff for the wonderful cookies and yummy treats!

We appreciate your support of us greatly!

From all of the staff at Meridian Park



Please donate socks during the month of January! We will have a bin in the front lobby at Meridian Park.

Thank you for helping children and families in need in our community through the Work's program—PTSA

Meridian Park Math Club Mathletes!

On Tuesday, November 18th, 2008, 15 Meridian Park Math Club mathletes took the American Mathematics Contest 8 (AMC 8). The contest, which covers middle school mathematics, is given at participating schools. Its purpose is to spur interest in mathematics and develop talent through the excitement of friendly competition at problem solving in a timed format. The AMC 8 is a 25 question math test, so the best possible score is 25. The national average was 10.83. Over 150,000 students from 2,500+ schools took the AMC 8 this year. One Meridian Park student is on the Honor Roll of Distinction for a score in the top 1%: Dylan Austin with a perfect score of 25. Students on the Achievement Roll with a score of 12 or greater: Dylan Austin, Amy Buswell, Connor Goldstick, Kyle Gugger, Josh Hickman, Gwen Miller, Salvador Josh Tarun, Teddy Timbrook, Steffen Torgersen, and Jessica Yuen. In addition, Meridian Park was awarded a School Certificate of Merit for a team score (the sum of the top three scores) of 50 or better. Congratulations to our Meridian Park mathletes!

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Check with Advisor to see if activity is already full.

All activities require a completed registration/permission form.

Winter Before/After School Activities	Grade(s)	Day(s)	Time	Location	Advisor	Duration
Global Reading Challenge	4-5	MON	3:35-4:20	MP LIBRARY	HILLGER AND PHELAN	THROUGH APR-13
Board Games	3-4	MON	3:35-4:20	ROOM 206	PARKS AND STEELE	FEB 2 TO MAR 23
Community Service Club	4-6	TUE	3:35-5:00	ROOM 401	JAMES	JAN 6 TO MAR 17
Indoor Soccer	3-6	MON AND WED	3:35-4:20	GYM	MASSOT AND HEROLD	JAN 12 TO FEB 9
Drama/Readers Theatre	3-6	THUR	3:35-4:20	ROOM 501 ROOM 502	SARAN AND GRAVETT	JAN 22 TO MAR 12
Kickball	K-6	MON	8:15-9:00	GYM	PALMER AND WILLIS	JAN 12 TO MAR 2
Girls Basketball	5-6	TUE	3:35-4:30	GYM	WILLOUGHBY AND WILLIS	JAN 6 TO FEB 10
Volleyball	4-6	THUR	3:35-4:20	GYM	PALMER AND WILLIS	JAN 8 TO FEB 12
Reading Round-Up	1-2	TUE AND THUR	3:35-4:20	ROOM 202 ROOM 207 ROOM 208	DETERT	DEC 2,4,9,11 JAN 6,8,13
Kids Cook Lunch	3-4	TUE AND THUR	10:55-11:40 REC/LUNCH	400 WING KITCHEN	JENKS AND STOKNES	DEC 2,4,9,11 JAN 8
Homework Club	1-2	MON	3:30-4:15	ROOM 207 ROOM 208	JENKS AND STOKNES	JAN 5,12,26 FEB 2,9,23
Circus Arts Performing Arts/Dance	4-6	THUR	8:15-9:00	GYM	WILLOUGHBY	JAN 8,15,22,29 FEB 5,12,26 MAR 5
	3-6	TUE	8:15-9:00	GYM	WILLOUGHBY	JAN 6 TO MAR 3
Math 180	1-2	TUE WITH VONHOFFMANN THUR WITH HEROLD	TEACHERS WILL REFER STUDENTS IF NEEDED	ROOM 101 TUE ROOM 103 THUR	VONHOFFMANN HEROLD	JAN 12 TO FEB 24
Math 180	3	TUE AND THUR	TEACHERS WILL REFER STUDENTS IF NEEDED	ROOM 201	LOES	JAN 12 TO FEB 24
Math 180	4	TUE	TEACHERS WILL REFER STUDENTS IF NEEDED	ROOM 206	STEELE	JAN 12 TO FEB 24
Math 180	5-6	TUE AND THUR	TEACHERS WILL REFER STUDENTS IF NEEDED	ROOM 404	LASKELLE	JAN 12 TO FEB 24
Honor Choir	6	MON, WED AND THUR	SELECTED 6TH GRADE STUDENTS	MUSIC ROOM	ANDERSON	DEC 15-19 JAN-MAR