



# Meridian Park Messenger

A Publication of Meridian Park Elementary Community

September 17th, 2008

## Message from Principal Amy

Welcome to the school year 2008-2009! I feel so fortunate to be in my second year as the Principal of Meridian Park. Meridian Park is a busy and wonderful place and I enjoy every minute of my time here!

As you know, this school year began with lots of energy and hard work! We hired some new faces over the summer, said goodbye to some beloved staff members and welcomed some classified staff who transferred to MP from other schools around the district. To add to these changes, three days before school began, we added another 6th grade classroom to lower class sizes! That was great news and we pulled it off fabulously! I am thrilled to say that we have fantastic staff on board already at MP! Additionally, due to some classrooms who have reached full capacity in terms of student numbers, we will hire some more staff to fill our "classroom support teacher" roles in grades 1-6. Like last year, these teachers help out in small and large groups with students. They are a fabulous resource to our teaching team. Stay tuned to hear from your teacher if you have another support teacher helping with your child's classroom.

As we lead into our third week together, it feels like we are in full swing! We held our first "welcome back" assembly and it was great to hear over 500 voices singing our new school song in unison together. We watched a slide show with student photos from the family BBQ and the first few days of school. We also reviewed our three school-wide expectations for student behavior at Meridian Park – to be kind/ respectful, to be safe and to be responsible learners. The students already know them and are showing such positive behaviors all around campus.

As we lead into the next few months, we will continue to improve our school systems so that student learning comes first. This year, we changed our recess and lunch schedule to put an emphasis on student learning. Please read more about it in this newsletter. It is exciting and going well! A big thanks to many parent volunteers who came into help with the new system! In terms of student academics, we are already testing students in content areas with the DOMA (diagnostic online math assessment) and the DIBELS, STAR and SRI assessments (reading/ phonics assessments). Teachers are busy, busy, busy and as always, making student learning and achievement a priority!

I feel it in the air...this year is going to be fabulous! Feel free to stop by to day hello or to volunteer in your child's classroom. We invite you to see how wonderful Meridian Park is this year. *Here's to a great year together!*

I hope to see you at Curriculum Night on the 18th or at Embrace Shoreline Schools on Saturday, September 27th!

Amy Jessee

### Important Information from our Nurse:

Hearing Screenings are set for September 24th and 25th in the Health Office/Office area.

Health Screenings are set for October 15th and 17th in the Band Room.

Thanks to all of our wonderful parents and volunteers who help with this!

### Important Information from our wonderful lunchroom staff:

If you are a family who qualifies for only REDUCED meal prices, you might be eligible for FREE school meals if you receive food stamps.

If you are a family involved with the BOEING strike you may be eligible for FREE/REDUCED meals. Please fill out a Free/ Reduced forms to check out what might be available to you.

## Curriculum Night & PTSA Meeting

It is this week! Thursday Night for K-6!

K-2 from 6 – 6:45pm, PTSA meeting then 3 – 6 from 7:15pm – 8:00pm

Please note: It is Wednesday night for our Early Childhood Program!

### Dates to Remember for school year 2008-2009

**Tuesday, Sept. 16th** Early Childhood Curriculum Night

**Thursday, Sept. 18th** See above

**Saturday, Sept. 27th**

Embrace Shoreline Schools (community/PTSA event at each school in Shoreline; please come if you can)

**Sept. 30th & October 1st** School photos.

**October 9th and 10th** Non student days

**October 21 – 24th** Secret Garden Book Fair in library

**October 24th** Fall Carnival in the evening

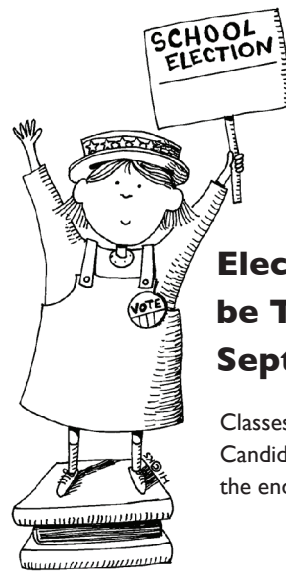
**November 7** Veterans Day Assembly in the morning (9:30am)

**November 10th** Staff work day (no school)



## Crosswalk Changes – a big THANK YOU to so many!

Thanks to our wonderful families for their patience and important feedback regarding the changes to our walking maps for Meridian Park School. We recognize that this new situation has caused some challenges and strong opinions and we appreciate your patience as our district works with our Risk Management Company and the City of Shoreline. Thank you.



### Election Assembly will be Tuesday morning, Sept. 23rd at 9:30am.

Classes will go directly back to class and vote. Candidates will know the results by the end of the day!

## Day of Caring Update on Friday, Sept. 12!

A wonderful thank you to our generous community volunteers from AT&T and Microsoft who worked all day at Meridian Park – pulling weeds, reading to students, playing math games and more! What a great day. Thank you to Cathy Liu Scott for organizing this event. She is our great volunteer coordinator!

## Student Patrols

A big hats off to our amazing 5th and 6th grade student patrols who safely help our new and younger students in K-2 get safely to and from the bus each day! We could not do it without these wonderful and responsible student leaders. Also, a big thanks to Chris Keller who also organizes the student patrols. Way to go!

### ELL Parents

The Shoreline School District English Language Learning (ELL) program will be holding meetings for ELL parents throughout the school year to share information with families. The meetings will be held in Korean and/or Spanish on the last Thursdays, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in Shoreline Center I-107. If you have any questions regarding the ELL Parent Meetings, please call Julie Kang at 206-361-4217. She is in the office on Mondays and Thursdays. The first meeting will be September 25, at 9:30am, at the Shoreline Center, in room I-107.

#### ELL Parent Meeting

9/25/08  
9:30-11:30am  
Shoreline Center  
Room I-107

How does a school district work?  
Participating in your child's education  
교육 지구가 운행되는 방법은?  
귀하 자녀의 교육에 참여하십시오  
Como funciona un distrito escolar?  
Participe en las educacion de sus hijos

## OUR FALL Fundraiser for PTSA!

Please support our school.  
It kicks off Sept 17th at all lunches and ends Oct 1.  
It is through Great American Fundraising.  
Our PTSA goal is \$30,000!



## Recess before Lunch

If you have not already heard the news from your child, MP changed the schedule for lunch and recess. Lunch is now after recess! We also added an extra 5 minutes to lunch for K-2. Recess is the same amount of time as last year.

*Research really supports this change for a number of reasons:*

- Students return to class more settled and focused
- Behavioral incidents on the playground and in the hallways decrease. Problems that do occur at recess are solved before students head back to class.
- Students eat and drink more because they have just exercised which is better for students. It also helps to decrease waste of food and milk!
- The atmosphere in the lunchroom is more relaxed, calm and conducive to eating as students are hungrier. Plus, they are not rushing to get outside to recess!