



Syre Scratchings

Syre Parent Teacher Association Local Unit 6.12.70 Newsletter
Volume 30 Issue 3 November 2009



PTA Co-Presidents' Message

WOW – what a turn out! Even though our normal Walk-a-Thon route was squished into a smaller space the turn out of students, teachers, volunteers, parents and family friends was amazing! So was the dry pocket of weather that some how happened in our little corner of Puget Sound while it rained nearly everywhere else!

Even in these tough financial times we were able to exceed our budget for Walk-a-Thon income. What an amazing community we live in! Because the Walk-a-Thon was so successful we have raised nearly enough funds to cover our operating budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year. Our budget includes funds for educational grants to benefit the Syre students, like art smarts, author visits, sensory materials for the BRITE students, I-Spy books for the 1st graders, balance and motion for the 2nd graders, Native American story telling and art for the 3rd graders, PE and music equipment, as well as matching grants for other activities.

Paying for all these grants will require dipping into our savings a bit this year. We are hopeful that our Scrip program will begin to be utilized by more Syre families to cover some of the shortfall. We have also taken a hard look at our budget and paired down any expenses that we were able to in order to provide as many dollars as possible for the educational grants.

If you didn't have time to support the Walk-a-Thon when it happened – it is never to late to donate – just make your check out to the Syre PTA (and the donation is tax deductible). Thank you for giving generously to our largest fundraiser – it really does make a difference in your children's experience at Syre.

Thank you to Dawn Bowerman and Hanne Torgersen for organizing this year's Walk-a-Thon with a special thanks to Gail Turk for her past experience and leadership.

Michelle Brown and Gail Turk
Co-Presidents



November – December PTA Calendar

November 2009

11/11	Wednesday	No School - Veteran's Day	
11/18	Wednesday	Book Fair (library)	8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
11/19	Thursday	Book Fair (library)	8:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m.
11/19	Thursday	Family Fall Event (cafeteria & gym)	5:30–7:30 p.m.
11/20	Friday	Book Fair (library)	8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
11/24	Tuesday	Executive Committee Meeting	6:00–7:00 p.m.
11/24	Tuesday	PTA Meeting (library)	7:00–8:30 p.m.
11/25	Wednesday	Early Release	11:50 a.m.
11/26–27	Thurs – Fri	No School – Thanksgiving Break	
11/30	Monday	No School – Staff Work Day	

December 2009

12/3	Friday	PTA Executive Committee Meeting	6:30–8:30 p.m.
12/7–18		Shoreline PTA Holiday Food Drive	
12/7	Monday	Parent Coffee	11:00–12:00 p.m.
12/18	Friday	Multi-Cultural Holiday Sing-A-Long	11:00 a.m.
12/21–1/1		No School – Winter Break	

Syre Elementary
19545 12th Ave NW
Shoreline, WA 98177
206-368-4165

Principal David Tadlock

**2009–2010
Syre PTA Officers**

Co-Presidents
Gail Turk 533-8828
turkg_turk@yahoo.com
Michelle Brown 546-6675
michellebrown@me.com

Co-VP Ways & Means
Dawn Bowerman 533-1374
dawnbowerman@comcast.net

Hanne Torgersen 240-4118
htorger@aol.com

Co-VP Community Services
Beth Molvik 542-4609
bmolvik@comcast.net
Jennifer Gettmann 542-5483
jennifer.gettmann@mossadams.com

Co-VP of Legislation
Kristine McLane 542-8138
dkmclane@att.net

Nancy Malek 533-8475
malekjns@comcast.net

VP of Site Council
Suzanne Westmoreland
542-1869
spencereve@comcast.net

Treasurer
Sallie Lumley 546-8176
whizzkids22@hotmail.com

Secretary
Jake Goett 546-5549
goettjt@msn.com

<http://www.geocities.com/syrepta/>

Newsletter Editor
Patty Cummings 542-1433
syrenews@hotmail.com

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Don't Miss 'Around the World' Book Fair

The annual Syre Scholastic Around the World Book Fair will be held from Wednesday to Friday, November 18 – 20. The Book Fair will be open for browsing and holiday shopping at the library on:

- **Wed, (11/18) 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**
- **Thurs, (11/19) 8:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.**
- **Fri, (11/20) 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

The library will be transformed into a bookstore filled with books and materials from Scholastic. This is great timing for holiday shopping and a percentage of all purchases benefits the Syre Library. Parents will also have an opportunity to buy and donate items for each teacher's classroom library.



We still need lots of volunteers. If you can help out, please contact Janet Onadatje at daonadatje@comcast.net.

Share Your Heritage at Syre's Multi-Cultural Fair

To celebrate the cultural diversity that makes our community vibrant, Syre PTA announces its Fourth Annual Multi-Cultural Fair. On February 25, we will showcase the talents and traditions of our community. This is a potluck event in which families bring a favorite dish. We are looking for people to:

- Demonstrate or perform art, dance, music or handcrafts.
- Provide displays such as posters, photos, costumes or other items.
- Teach a craft from another country.
- Bring in toys or teach games from around the world.

Funds are available to assist with the cost of materials for crafts. If you are interested please contact Carrie Towle, 533-8844, carasea@hotmail.com; Renee Ostrem, 546-8353, renee@johnlscott.com, or Yvette Frazier, 546-6715, whyvet1@verizon.net by December 2.

Enjoy Pancakes and Books!

Syre's Family Fall Event

Mark your calendars for the evening of Thursday, November 19, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., for the annual Family Fall Event in support of Syre's Reading Around the World Book Fair. Syre parents and teachers will fire up the griddle for Syre's annual Pancake Dinner (\$3/person). The food is delicious, the people are fun, and Principal Tadlock promises he will again eat as many pancakes as he can in 2 minutes.

We can always use more help, so if you can volunteer, please contact Kristen Lunde, 542-3464, kristenlunde@aol.com, or Frannie Galley, 542-4764, galleyvant@comcast.net.



High Cap Testing for 2010-11 Year

Screening for Shoreline School District's Highly Capable Program for District first graders began in October. Students who qualified for further testing will be tested in January 2010.

Testing for current Shoreline School District students enrolled in grades 2–5 who are not in the High Cap program also will be in January. Parents who want their child to be assessed for program eligibility can self-register online at www.shorelineschools.org. Click onto Programs/Highly Capable/Announcements. Deadline to register is Dec. 4. Testing dates are listed below. If you have any questions, please contact Trudy Wright in the Highly Capable Program office at 368-4771.

Testing Dates

- 1st grade – Jan. 16 and 23 (Must attend both days)
- 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th grade – Jan. 16 and 23 (Must attend both days)

Community Services Holiday Food Drive

Syre PTA will be collecting food and supplies for the Shoreline Holiday Basket Project that provides food and gifts for Shoreline families in need. The annual food drive will be held December 7–18. Each grade level is asked to bring certain items to ensure that a wide variety of food is collected. Watch for more information to come home with your child.

Thank you in advance for your help in making the holidays bright for all Shoreline families.

Beth Molvik and Jennifer Gettman
Co-Chairs, Community Service

Help Earn Easy Money for Syre!!

You can help Syre earn easy money by participating in the BoxTops fundraising program. BoxTops offers simple ways for families to raise money for Syre.

1. Clip and send in BoxTops (now also found on Cascadian Farm and Avery products) and Campbell's Soup Labels (just the barcode).
2. Sign up your grocery cards to earn money through QFC, Fred Meyer, Safeway and Albertsons:
 - Earn e-labels from Campbell's Soup automatically when you use your QFC and Fred Meyer cards. Sign up at: www.elabelsforeducation.com. Click the "sign up now" link near the top of the page.
 - Sign up your Safeway Club Card at www.escrip.com and earn money every time you use your card. Just enter Syre as your school to support.
 - Sign up your Albertsons card at www.albertsons.com. You need to sign up with Albertsons on-line to do this.

Your relatives also can sign up to support Syre. For more information, contact Kristen Lunde 542-3464, kristenlunde@aol.com.



Legislative Update

Representatives at the state PTA Legislative Assembly will continue to advocate for the top five priorities voted on at last year's assembly, including basic education funding, strengthening math and science curriculum, improving Washington State Assessment System, supporting CORE 24, and supporting rational approaches to teacher compensation.

In addition, representatives voted to support legislation that would provide for improved school safety, provide autism insurance parity, improve school emergency preparedness, provide training for school nurses, prevent firearm violence, provide conditional scholarships for new teachers, ensure access to music and arts education, and increase funding and support for Highly Capable students. For additional information, go to: <http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy>.



Please join us at our upcoming November 24th PTA meeting when our guest will be Representative Maralyn Chase. She will be available to provide information on current legislative issues that will impact the upcoming school year and to answer parent questions.



New Shorewood High School on Display at Syre

A model of the new Shorewood High School once the Bond has been passed will be on display in the entryway of Syre on Nov. 19, Nov. 24, and Jan. 26. We hope you can stop by to take a look. For more information go to at: <http://learn.shorelineschools.org/shorewood/dshorewood/index.php>.

Site Council Helps Address Issues/Concerns

Site Council is a committee at Syre consisting of teachers, parents, community members, and Principal David Tadlock. The group meets nine times in the school year to discuss issues that involve the entire Syre community. Past issues that have been brought to Site Council include recess safety, 6th grade camp and traffic safety before and after school.

Site Council is not a decision-making entity, but rather a forum for discussion and an avenue for moving issues toward the channels that can make decisions. If you have an issue or concern for the Site Council, fill out a "Let's Talk" form, available in the office or on the Syre website under the "School Info" tab.

Syre Family Photo Gallery

Our Syre Family Advocate/Counselor is creating a display of photos representing our community of Syre families and we need your help collecting pictures.

Please send a photo of your family (4 x 6 or smaller) to school or email it to kim.kauffman@shorelineschools.org. Please note, photos will not be returned. We hope to have every family pictured in our Syre Family Photo gallery!

Reflections 2009–10

Many Thanks to All The Volunteers

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the Reflections program this year. We held four art sessions during September and October, where kids in all grades got to enjoy painting, coloring, drawing, making collages, using glitter and lots of other good stuff. Without our volunteers, none of this would be possible. We'd like to recognize all those who helped in various capacities, including: Geri Johnson, Renee Smith, Evelyn Varne, Amber Montgomery, Jen Salvione, Jennifer Kleyn, Stephanie Harper, Tina Borgida, Michelle Ryder, Rhonda Bolton, Bevin Horn, Anjo Foster, NuNu Challa, Suzanne Daley, Lisa Day, Sarah Ertsgaard, Heather Grutz, Stephanie Manalili, Diane Taylor, Pamela Uran, Shannon Watson, Fanaye Ashagari, Chris Matsen.

For any last minute volunteers who helped out but did not put their names down, our sincerest thanks to you as well. And our apologies if we missed anyone.

All Reflections entries are displayed on the walls in the school. Please take a moment to admire all the wonderful artwork inspired by the theme "Beauty is ..."

Hannah Matsen and Debbie Vevik
Reflections Co-chairs

Walk-a-Thon Shout Outs!

To everyone who helped make the Walk-A-Thon a huge success — thank you! We were lucky to have fabulous weather and two new temporary walking paths that worked out in spite of space limitations!

To all of the families, friends and neighbors of the Syre Wildcats — thank you for so generously supporting Syre Elementary. More than \$21,000 was raised with your generosity and time. This will go a long way toward teacher, classroom and specialty grants, extracurricular academic programs, family programs and much more. What an amazing community we have!



A huge THANK YOU to all of the Local Businesses and individuals who donated to our Walk-a-Thon: Renee Ostrem, Sallie Lumley, Jennifer Combs, Gail Turk, Fred Meyer, Dicks Drive In, Display and Costume, Funtasia, Woodland Park Zoo, Spin Alley, Big 5, Glazed & Amazed, and the Seattle Sounders!

Check the Lost & Found

Clothes at the Lost and found are over flowing, so please take the time to check it. And don't forget to label your student's clothing. Clothes that are labeled with a child's name can be returned to the proper owner. Thanks!

Wildcat WOW!

A Big wildcat wow to all the parents that helped on Picture Day to make our students smiles bigger.

To Jack Hutt for sitting on the Safety Committee.

To Debbie Vevik, Hannah Matsen and all the volunteers that have helped our students produce such wonderful art for the Reflections program.

To Sallie Lumley, Kris Shelly, Hanna Torgersen, Michelle Brown, Suzanne Westmoreland, Gail Turk, Dawn Bowerman, and Renee Smith for helping with Walk-a-Thon prize day.

To Heather Warren and Jennifer Lopez for putting emergency care packets together for our children.

Wows to the many parents (far too many to mention here) who helped at the Walk-a-Thon. We couldn't do it without all your help! Thank you also to those who helped count money for the Walk-a-Thon: Renee Easthouse, Geri Johnson, Sallie Lumley, Hanna Torgersen, Karen Berquist, Dawn Bowerman, Gail Turk, Cindy Pridemore, Janelle Jacobs, Frannie Galley, Lisa Nelson, Jake Goet, Laura Taylor and Renee Smith.

To Cindy Pridemore and Karen Davis for their fine appreciations to the staff.

To Sarah Erstgaard for getting volunteers together for our annual Book Fair.

To Mary Anne McBreen for a successful skating party.

To Renee Ostrem for getting volunteers for Friends of Recess.

Wow: To the PTA board for reviewing grant requests and to the Syre families for donating money. Without your support we could not fund these grants.



Join Syre PTA

We're still striving for 100% membership in Syre PTA. If you haven't joined yet, please do so. Membership costs \$9 per individual or \$17 per couple and helps support the many PTA-sponsored events that benefit our children. Membership forms can be found in the Syre office or on-line at http://www.geocities.com/syrepta/. Join us in supporting our kids, our school, and reaching our goal of 100% membership!

Kristi Lin and Stephanie Harper
Membership Co-Chairs



About Syre Scratchings... The Syre PTA publishes the Syre Scratchings monthly and distributes it on the second Tuesday of the month during the school year. Extra copies can be found in the school office. To submit an article, email it to syrenews@hotmail.com. Articles may be written in the text of an email or attached in .doc form. There is also a folder in the office, but please also email if you leave an article in the folder. Include your name and phone number with submissions in case we have questions. All articles are subject to editing. If you excerpt a magazine, book, or other publication, please include a full source credit. Articles are due by the 25th of the month for publication in the following month's newsletter.