



# Syre Scratchings

Syre Parent Teacher Association Local Unit 6.12.70 Newsletter  
Volume 30 Issue 6 February 2010



## PTA Co-Presidents' Message

**W**ow Syre Families! Another Month has flown by and the parents and kids have been very busy. The Shoreline PTA Council held its annual Reflections judging. The winners will move on to be judged at the State level and then proceed to the National level. Congratulations to Oliver Stevenson and Vanessa Seymour for being the PTA Council Reflection's finalists. Fifth graders gave a wonderful winter concert for the parents. Kinderfest was a huge success; a lot of parents showed up. The kids wobbled and raced through another skate party, and let's not forget about focus day and all the people who made the trip to Olympia. The school year isn't over yet; we still have a lot coming. Multi-cultural night is just around the corner, come try all the great food and see all the different displays. Guys' and Kids' Night Out is full of sirens and bouncy houses. I hope everyone is looking forward to the coming events these months as we are. See you all there.



Gail Turk and Michelle Brown  
Co-Presidents

## February — March Calendar

### February 2010

2/10	Wednesday	Kindergarten Math Night (info only)	6:30-7:30 p.m.
2/11	Thursday	Parent Coffee	9:15-10:00 a.m.
2/11	Thursday	Parent Program—Kids and Money, Ali Webb (library)	7:00-8:30 p.m.
2/15-19		No School – Mid-Winter Break	
2/23	Tuesday	Executive Committee Meeting	6:00-7:00 p.m.
2/23	Tuesday	PTA Meeting (library)	7:00-8:30 p.m.
2/25	Thursday	Multi-Cultural Family Fair (cafeteria & gym)	6:00-8:00 p.m.

### March 2010

3/11	Thursday	Parent Coffee	2:45-3:30 p.m.
3/11	Thursday	End of Second Trimester	
3/12	Friday	No School – Staff Work Day	
3/16	Tuesday	Executive Committee Meeting	6:30-8:30 p.m.
3/18	Thursday	Partners in Print Workshop	6:00-7:30 p.m.
3/23	Tuesday	PTA Meeting, Golden Acorn & Outstanding Educator Award Ceremony (cafeteria)	7:00-8:30 p.m.



## Remember to vote February 9, 2010

*Ballots must be postmarked by 2/9/10*

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**Principal David Tadlock**

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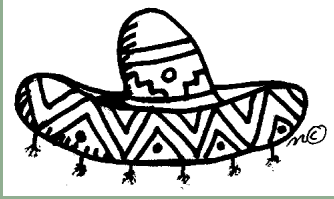
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## Don't Miss It!

*Syre PTA's Fourth Annual  
Multi-Cultural Fair  
and Potluck Dinner*

*Thursday, February 25th*

*6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.*

Please join us in celebrating the cultural diversity at Syre, and bring a favorite dish from your heritage!

We will showcase and share the talents, traditions and foods of Syre families. This is a potluck event and families are asked to bring a favorite dish to share.

If you would like to volunteer, we could still use your help. Please contact:

Carrie Towle, 533-8844,  
cara2sea@hotmail.com;

Renee Ostrem, 546-8353,  
reneeo@johnlscott.com;

Yvette Frazier, 546-6715,  
whyvet1@verizon.net.



## Parent Education Night *Kids and Money*

**Presented by Ali Webb, US Bank**

Thursday, February 11, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

In today's world, parents are required to spearhead their child's financial education. Money is an important tool in helping your child become an independent and financially savvy adult. Healthy money habits are formed at early ages and a child's financial mentoring often begins before entering kindergarten.

Ali Webb, of US Bank, will share some useful tips you can use to begin having (or continuing) discussions with your child about money matters.

Topics include allowances, saving, budgeting, philanthropy, assessing value in decision-making, and participation in family meetings. Bring your questions and your family's experiences and join in a lively discussion about how we can help a generation of youngsters become effective financial stewards in the future.

Please RSVP to Jennifer Gettmann at [jgettmann@hotmail.com](mailto:jgettmann@hotmail.com) or 542-5483. Childcare provided.

Please join us as we honor the  
2010 PTA Award Recipients



## 2010 PTA Awards

Golden Acorn  
and  
Outstanding Educator

Tuesday, March 23, 7:00 p.m.

**Syre Cafeteria**

*Featuring the Syre Singers*



## Congratulations To Our Syre Reflections Honorees

In January, 15 students from our PTA Reflections program had their work exhibited with other Shoreline students at the Shoreline center.

Two of these students qualified as Finalists and their work will compete at the state level:

- Oliver Stevenson**, kindergarten (visual arts)
- Vanessa Seymour**, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, (film)



Six students were awarded Honorable Mention:

- Devon Wilson-Gorsuch**, 1st grade, (literature)
- Christopher Combs**, 1st grade, (visual arts)
- Fred Liu**, 2nd grade, (visual arts)
- Luke Varne**, 5th grade, (photography)
- Muhen Huang**, 6th grade, (visual arts)
- Morea Daley**, 6th grade, (visual arts)

Last year's 2008-09 National PTA Reflections Gallery is now available for viewing at [www.wastatepta.org/programs/reflections/gallery.html](http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/reflections/gallery.html).

Our own Syre student, Maki Nakano (visual arts, intermediate level) made it to nationals and you can see her visual art entry. Vanessa Seymour (film production, intermediate level) made it to state and is also honored in this website.

**Congratulations to all the Reflections honorees!**



## Levy and Bond Measures – Ballots Due

All ballots for the special election to fund the levy and bond propositions for Shoreline are due February 9. Ballots must be post-marked by February 9 to be counted in this election.

Funding would continue operating costs and maintenance for Shoreline schools, technology funding, and funding to remodel Shorecrest and Shorewood high schools. Mail your ballot today!

### Legislative Session in Full Swing

Legislators are currently in session to sort out Washington State's upcoming budget. There will be a severe loss of federal funding for education which will result in a cut to our school district's budget. Additional cuts for loss in revenue will also have their own negative impact. If funding education is a priority to you and your family, contact your legislators today and tell them how you feel.

- Sen. Dalene Fairley**, (360) 786-7662, [fairley.darlene@leg.wa.gov](mailto:fairley.darlene@leg.wa.gov)
- Rep. Maralyn Chase**, (360) 786-7880, [chase.maralyn@leg.wa.gov](mailto:chase.maralyn@leg.wa.gov)
- Rep. Ruth Kagi**, (360) 786-7910, [Kagi.ruth@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Kagi.ruth@leg.wa.gov)

## Optimism:

### *A little thing, a big difference*

More important than talent or intelligence, optimism is a key component in successful students. Students who are optimistic tend to be willing to try new things, believe in themselves, and are more successful students.

To help your student become more optimistic, parents need to model an optimistic attitude as well. Try to see the good in everything, learn from mistakes, show enthusiasm for trying new things, and be persistent when things don't go the way you'd like them to. Rather than focusing on your child's weaknesses, encourage him in his strengths. Talk to him about how he can use his weaknesses to develop such good qualities as resilience, learning how to work hard, and learning patience.

When you hear your child engaged in negative self-talk, encourage her to turn it around and see herself in a more positive light. Admire people who have overcome odds to accomplish something. Encourage your children to be resourceful and creative when faced with a problem.

*Excerpted from The Child Advocate, September, 2009*

## Community Service

**Lost and Found:** The lost and found is now located in the lunchroom, left of the stage.

**Nurse Request:** Please donate any clothes your child has outgrown to the nurse for when Syre students get wet and need clothes to change into. The Nurses needs pants and shirts ranging from size 4-10.

**B.R.I.T.E Program:** The B.R.I.T.E program seeks donations of snacks. If you can help out, please drop off your donation to Kye Hong.

**Thanks for your support!**

## Developing a Lifetime of Good Work Ethics

Developing good study habits requires three basic approaches: Preparing the right attitude, organizing time and projects, and modifying study practices to be more efficient and effective.

**Attitude** Most importantly a student needs a willing and positive attitude. This means that she accepts her need to do this work and mentally commits herself to doing it. It also means that when she runs into problems she will seek to solve them without giving up – perhaps by asking parents, re-reading a chapter in a textbook, reviewing an old assignment, calling a friend or searching the Internet for relevant information. When it comes to studying, the right attitude counts more than natural intelligence.

**Time-management skills** Once a student has a willing attitude, encourage him to map out a plan to complete the tasks he has to do each day, and plan ahead for long term projects as well. Encourage him to make daily and weekly to do lists and keep a master calendar updated with all assignments, projects and tests listed so he can look ahead and stay on top of larger tasks as well as daily work.

**Study habits** Several approaches can be used to make the most of study time.

- Plan the study time. Help your student choose to do the most difficult assignments first, when she is the most alert. Encourage her not to leave study time to be done at the end of the day when she is tired. Establish a study area that has all the supplies your student will need.
- Use the student's natural learning styles when studying for tests. Auditory learners learn best by listening to themselves repeat information aloud; visual learners remember best by seeing information in print either through words or graphic displays, kinesthetic learners remember best when acting out information, tactile learners remember best when making models with their hands.
- Students need to figure out what they need to know. They should ask the teacher questions, and use past tests in this class as indicators of what information is important.
- Effective test preparation involves several days of reviewing and should include making a practice test to determine what still needs attention.
- Mistakes are okay. Students can learn from them.
- Encourage students to ask questions if they don't understand.

*Excerpted from The Child Advocate, September, 2009*

## Wildcat WOW!

Thank you to all the bakers who provided goodies for the reflections reception on December 17th – the participants loved the treats! The students thank Vicki Freshwater, Susie Modica, Jill Steinberg, Kerry Petit, Heidi Alexander, Geri Johnson, Corinne Pann, Gail Turk, Michelle Brown and any other fabulous baker that we have accidentally omitted (please forgive us).

So many reasons to thank Jack Hutt – but for this month – thank you for helping the safety patrol and keeping them supplied with hot chocolate!

Thank you to the staff and parents for making our new conference week successful! Also thanks go out to Cindy Pridemore and Karen Davis for making the staff dinner for conference night!

Skating party success on a Tuesday this time – wows go out to Mary Ann McBreen and Michelle Ryder – the kids say “thank you!”

Thank you to Jennifer Combs and Julie Anneberg for running a successful Scrip program – we have amazing results for our first year!

Keep those box tops and labels for education coming in – special thanks to Kristen Lunde for going above and beyond to make these programs successful!

Kids love art! Thank you to our art coordinators Renee Easthouse and Kerry Petit!

Thank you to Frannie Galley for bearing with the “old” website and keeping us as up to date as possible – looking forward to our new website soon!



**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.