

Newcastle Elementary PTSA

Parent Teacher Student Association



PTA Unit: 2.6.18 • PTSA Co-Presidents: JuliAnne Diesch & Chris Longfellow • Newsletter Editor: Melia Cossette

January 22, 2016
2015-2016 School Year
Issue 5

Cub News

Upcoming Events

January 25
NO SCHOOL
Teacher Work Day

January 28
Math Adventure
5:30-8:30 PM

February 1
PTSA General Membership
Meeting
7:00-8:30 PM
Library
Room 145: "Minions" movie
showing for students of
parents attending meeting

February 4
"Roam Around the World"
Culture & Heritage Festival
6:00-8:00 PM
The Commons

February 10
Lunch for the Break
Donations Due
www.lunchforthebreak.com
for shopping lists and details

February 11
Chorus Performance:
ChoirFest Invitational
5:30-7:00 PM
Liberty High School

Kindergarten Information
Night
6:00-7:00 PM
The Commons

February 15-19
NO SCHOOL
President's Day & Mid-Winter
Break

February 25
2nd Grade Concert
6:30 PM
The Commons

Presidents' Note

Happy New Year! We trust that the routines since the winter break have been re-established and we hope you have had an invigorating start to 2016.

The business of the PTSA continues as well as the activities at the school. We invite you to the February 1st General Membership meeting at 7:00 PM in the Library. Once again, we will offer a movie viewing for children of those attending the meeting to make it easier to be informed. Issaquah School District Superintendent Ron Thiele and School Board member (and former Newcastle parent) Marnie Maraldo are slated to present information about the upcoming bond measure, Principal Rich Mellish and Student Support Staff Cathy Chang will discuss social and emotional support at the school, and the collective members will elect the Nominating Committee responsible for finding candidates for the 2016-2017 PTSA board. If you haven't been to a PTSA meeting yet, this will be a great one to attend.

There is so much happening in and around the school with the support of PTSA monies and numerous volunteers - from the Geography Bee to the first Spelling Bee to the upcoming Culture & Heritage Festival and much more! Thanks for the commitment to Newcastle and all our students!

Regards,

[Chris](#) & [JuliAnne](#)



Nominating Committee

How are PTSA officers selected? A Nominating Committee is elected and tasked with finding PTSA members who would govern the 501(c)3 with integrity and enthusiasm for providing great programs for the students and families at Newcastle Elementary. We would love to have representation from each grade level on the Nominating Committee. Members of this short-term committee start meeting in February, then talk with potential candidates for leadership roles for 2016-2017. The slate of candidates will be presented at the April 25th PTSA General Membership meeting.

Interested in being part of this ad hoc and influential committee? Reach out to our VP of Volunteers, [Julie Pedraza](#) for more information.

Spirit Wear is Back!!!

Do you have a hard time getting your child to wear a coat? Check out the awesome sweatshirts available that many kids are wearing around school! Need a water bottle for the classroom or your child's next activity? We have those too! Visit NewcastleLions.com January 18th through February 5th to order. If you have any questions, please contact [Mary Brown](#).

Winter Staff Appreciation Luncheon - February 11th

Calling all 2nd and 3rd Grade Parents! Please help us create a delicious Italian Feast for our teachers and staff to show them how much we appreciate them!

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Click this [link](#) to go to our invitation page on VolunteerSpot.
2. Enter your email address. (You will NOT need to register an account on VolunteerSpot)
3. Sign up! Choose your spots - VolunteerSpot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Please contact [Yvette Blauvelt](#) with questions.

Share Your Cultural Pride

Join the fun and help us celebrate the amazing diversity of our Newcastle Elementary community by attending our "Roam Around the World" Culture & Heritage Festival on Thursday, February 4th from 6:00-8:00 PM.

We have many ways for families to get involved:

- Create your Family Culture Collage. Go [here](#) for more details.
- Are you creative? Then consider creating a display or booth that showcases your culture and heritage.
- Do you like to cook? Then bring a traditional dish for our community to sample!
- Do you have skills with a special cultural craft, like making a Chinese lantern or applying Henna Tattoos? Then choose to host an interactive demonstration for attending families and children.
- Do you or your student participate in a cultural performance group, or do you know someone who does?

Go [here](#) to sign up for any of the above sharing activities.

Contact [Chris Longfellow](#) or [Luisa Gass](#) for help with ideas or if you have any questions.



Terrific Job Reflections Finalists!

Congratulations to the following 12 talented Newcastle students whose Reflections entries were selected to be finalists at the District level. These entries were selected as best representing this year's theme *Let Your Imagination Fly* in a variety of categories:

- **Literature:** Avni K. (3rd Grade), Chiara B. (5th Grade), and Lukas F. (3rd Grade)
- **Music:** Elizabeth C. (2nd Grade)
- **Photography:** Morgan H. (4th Grade) and Isabelle T. (5th Grade)
- **Visual Arts:** Anna C. (1st Grade), Chloe Y. (3rd Grade), Kara M. (3rd Grade), Mia W. (4th Grade), Nidhi A. (4th Grade) and Saaira G. (1st Grade)

Newcastle Elementary had a record number of participants this year. We thank everyone who participated and supported this program and look forward to what you have in store for us next year.

Accolades to Chiara B., Elizabeth C., and Morgan H. whose entries were also selected to go on to the State Reflections Competition!



A Warm Thank You for Our First Ever Holiday Staff Cookie Exchange

A big THANK YOU to all the families who provided treats for our first ever Staff Cookie Exchange last month. It was a HUGE success and will definitely be the start of a new tradition at school. The staff were absolutely thrilled to be able to fill their boxes with home-made treats to share with their families. Everyone left the lunchroom with a huge grin on their faces. We would like to thank everyone who participated. A lot of the treats were dropped off 'anonymously,' so even if we do not thank you personally, please know you are appreciated!



The Newcastle National Geographic Bee Champion Is...

After outstanding effort by all ten finalists in the Newcastle National Geographic Bee, the exciting championship round came down to Thomas Dawson and Vincent Diesch! In the end, it was Vincent who earned the title of school champion. Vincent will now take an online test provided by the National Geographic Society in an attempt to qualify for the state competition. The top 100 students in the state (selected based on qualifying test scores) will represent their schools and compete at the state level.

Thank you to Mr. Laing for being the teacher coordinator this year, Mr. Mellish for being the emcee, Wendy Kirchner and Rob Wyman from the city of Newcastle for joining us as judges, and the PTSA for sponsoring this exciting event! Compliments again to our school finalists who competed on stage this year: Zach B, Maury C, Thomas D, Vincent D, Ethan J, Hana K, Matisse M, Mirabelle W, Mia W and Jensen W. We all wish Vincent the best of luck!



How Do You Spell C-O-N-G-R-A-T-U-L-A-T-I-O-N-S?

Congratulations to all students who participated in Newcastle Elementary's first Spelling Bee! Grade level spelling bees were held Wednesday, January 6th to determine the 24 finalists who will participate in our Newcastle Spelling Bee Final **on Monday evening, February 8, 2016** at 6:30 PM in The Commons. Everyone is invited to attend. During our final school bee, students will be asked to spell words orally in front of a judge, their peers, and the assembled audience. One finalist will be selected to represent Newcastle Elementary at the regional competition on March 13, 2016 at Seattle Town Hall.

Congratulations to the following finalists:

- 3rd Grade - Aditi M., Amelia M., Angelina G., Annika S., Aubrey S., Dylan B., Jacob S., Hailey C., Hailey W., Ladan Y., Lukas F., Taylor H., Tyler R.
- 4th Grade - Addysen W., David V., Mia W., Nidhi A., Travis O., Yating Z.
- 5th Grade - Jady B., Jensen W., Julius C., Mia M., Sydney K.



**2015-2016 PTSA
Executive Committee****Co-Presidents**

[JuliAnne Diesch](#)
[Chris Longfellow](#)

VP Volunteers

[Julie Pedraza](#)

VP Outreach

[Nancy Ko](#)

Co-VPs Ways & Means

[Eva Downs](#)
[Kate Lonning](#)

VP Program Enrichment

[Michelle Riley](#)

Co-Secretaries

[Therese Kosar](#)
[Eileen Rubenstein](#)

Treasurer

[Angela Ursino](#)

Golden Acorn Nominations

Each year our PTSA awards the Golden Acorn to individuals who have given outstanding continued and dedicated volunteer service to the children and youth in our school community. This is an excellent way to honor our volunteers that have gone “above and beyond!” Award winners receive the Golden Acorn Award Pin and a special certificate from the Washington State PTA. The Newcastle PTSA also contributes in the winner’s name to the Washington State PTA Scholarship Foundation, which provides scholarships to selected high school students entering post-secondary education.

Do you know someone who you think deserves recognition? Please complete a Golden Acorn Nomination [form](#) and return it to the PTSA office by February 29th! Last year's recipients - [JuliAnne Diesch](#), [Sangeet Kindra](#), and [Stefanie Williamson](#) - are eager to recognize this year's outstanding volunteers!

