

# Newcastle Elementary PTSA

Parent Teacher Student Association



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

October 9, 2015  
2015-2016 School Year  
Issue 2

## Cub News

### Upcoming Events

**Monday, October 12**  
**NO SCHOOL - Teacher**  
**Work Day**

**Friday, October 16**  
**Coffee Talk with Rich**  
**Mellish**  
9:30 - 10:30 AM  
The Commons

**October 19 - October 30**  
**Food Drive**

**Tuesday, October 20**  
**Picture Retake Day**

**Friday, October 23**  
**PTSA Family Event:**  
**Newcastle Elementary**  
**Costume Carnival**  
6:00 - 8:00 PM  
The Commons

**Thursday, October 29**  
**Deadline to Submit**  
**Reflections Entry**

**Friday, November 6**  
**Veteran's Day**  
**Recognition School**  
**Assembly**  
3:00 PM  
The Commons

**Monday, November 16**  
**Polar Express Begins**



### Presidents' Note

Each fall, the Newcastle PTSA updates and approves chapter Goals at the first PTSA General Membership Meeting. Our theme for 2015-2016 school year is "Healthy Kids, Healthy Community". Staying connected with families is just one aspect of a healthy community. To that end, we send a monthly Cub News in addition to our weekly "What's Happening".

Your involvement in the PTSA is another aspect of our theme, as it shows your commitment to every child attending Newcastle. As of October 1st, we have already increased this year's membership more than our targeted 3% over last year's membership! Your registering with the PTSA has resulted in 18 classes qualifying for the \$50 Book Incentive! Thanks to all the families who have prioritized this task and have made it possible for over 350 students to have new books inside their classrooms.

Members present at our September 21<sup>st</sup> PTSA General Membership Meeting approved our budget, making it possible for us to continue or add the following programs and more:

- Contribute more than \$18,000 for classroom, staff, and grade level grants.
- Fund an Educational Assistant [EA] for reading and provide funds for EA math support (\$30,000 combined).
- Budget \$6,000 for science enrichment curriculum.
- Designate \$16,000 from the Raise the Paddle event at the 2015 Auction for laptop purchases to update technology utilized by students.
- Provide training, materials and project plans for our LionArt Docent Program (\$7,000).
- Support the Issaquah Schools Foundation [ISF] to help bridge state funding shortfalls to prepare students for success in life.
- Engage in community outreach through our annual Food Drive and Polar Express initiatives.
- Show our incredible teachers and staff at Newcastle how much they are appreciated by providing themed lunches throughout the year and Teacher Appreciation Week in the spring.

We have plans to hold events to connect our new families with others at the school and to engage our wonderfully diverse population. If you have

**Presidents' Note Continued...**

## Gift-A-Book to Benefit Our Newcastle Elementary Library

Please be on the lookout for a yellow flyer that will be coming home on October 15<sup>th</sup> to sign up for the annual Gift-A-Book donation! Our campaign runs until November 13<sup>th</sup>. Your donations help fill our Newcastle Elementary library with wonderful books, hand selected and signed by your child!

If you have already signed up to donate to the library during the PTSA Online Registration in August, we will contact your child to select a book. If you have any questions, please email Eva Downs at [e2downs@msn.com](mailto:e2downs@msn.com) or Laura Berry at [berryl@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:berryl@issaquah.wednet.edu).

Many thanks to all who have already so generously donated to the Newcastle Elementary School Library!

## Picture Day Success!

A huge thank you to Taryn Bailey, Julie Pedraza, Michelle Riley, Tiffany Ryan, and Sue Wilkos for helping on Picture Day.

The schedule ran smoothly, messy hair was combed, lunch faces were wiped, and collars were straightened! For those interested in retakes, the scheduled retake day is Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

any input on events you'd like to see and participate in, we'd love to hear from you. Together we can promote healthy behaviors and perspectives for all our kids and our community!

Warmly,

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

## The PTSA Costume Carnival is ON!



All you ghosts and goblins, grab your costumes and please join us for a night of spooky cool fall family fun on Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the Newcastle Commons! There will be a photo booth, DJ, a treat walk, carnival games, prizes, pizza, and even a chance to SLIME the Principal and Dean (with a Food Drive donation)! Everyone is welcome - parents, students, siblings, and staff. Hope to see you all there for a howling good time!

**Volunteers are Needed!!** Parents, if you would like to help or have a middle school student who would like to help with this much-loved event, please click on the Volunteer Spot link: [PTSA Volunteer Signup](#). There are still volunteer opportunities including helping with set-up, running a game station for an hour, and helping with the clean-up. If you would like to help but cannot volunteer your time, please consider donating a store-bought, nut-free individually-packaged baked good or a small treat for our "Treat Walk". It would be very much appreciated.

## PTSA Food Drive for Issaquah Food Bank

Help make a difference in our community by donating non-perishable food items and essential supplies during the Newcastle PTSA Food Drive. The Food Drive will benefit Issaquah Food Bank, a local non-profit organization that helps meet basic needs of community members and promotes self-sufficiency.

Your donations can be deposited anytime from October 19<sup>th</sup> through October 30<sup>th</sup> into one of the two bins located just outside the main office at Newcastle Elementary as well as during the evening of the Costume Carnival, earning a ticket to have the chance to SLIME Mr. Mellish and Mr. Neugebauer!

Bins will be labeled "Crazy Hair Day" and "Pajama Day." At the end of the Food Drive, whichever bin contains the most donations will determine which kind of spirit day the whole school has on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Contact Heather Ackermann ([hm\\_ackermann@yahoo.com](mailto:hm_ackermann@yahoo.com)) with any questions.

## Attention 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Families!

Now is the time for current 4<sup>th</sup> Grade families to begin planning for next year's camp fundraising which will run from January through December 2016. We are seeking co-chairs to lead these efforts. Please contact Eva Downs at [e2downs@msn.com](mailto:e2downs@msn.com) or Kate Lonning at [kate\\_bounds@hotmail.com](mailto:kate_bounds@hotmail.com) with questions! This is a terrific opportunity to impact all 5<sup>th</sup> Graders before moving on to middle school.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp Seymour Fundraiser: Thank You Newcastle!

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the Tapatio/Zoe fundraiser for 5th Grade Camp! From teachers, to staff, to alumni, to future campers, both locations were packed most of the afternoon and evening. Your enthusiastic support is what makes Newcastle Elementary's community truly stand out. Thank you, on behalf of this year's 5<sup>th</sup> Graders, for making the event a huge success. Special thanks to Trisha Pollara, Edana Peacock, and Kathy Keegan for coordinating such a successful fundraising event!

## Brown Bear Car Wash Sale Coming Soon!

Newcastle 5<sup>th</sup> Graders will soon be selling Brown Bear Car Wash coupons as their last camp fundraiser of the year! Tickets will be \$5 each and can be used at any of the 21 locations in the area. They are great to keep on hand during the long, muddy winter and they are welcomed holiday gifts and stocking stuffers! Students will take pre-orders starting at the end of October and tickets will be delivered at the beginning of December. If you have any questions, please contact either Edana Peacock ([edanapeacock@gmail.com](mailto:edanapeacock@gmail.com)) or Kathy Keegan ([bkbkeegan@comcast.net](mailto:bkbkeegan@comcast.net)).



## First Weeks of School

"Never think that what you have to offer is insignificant. There will always be someone out there that needs what you have to give." Author Unknown.

The school year is off to a great start because of the coordinated help of teachers, staff, and our amazing volunteers. Thank you to all who gave their time and energy to get the 2015-2016 school year off on the right foot by helping with Drop-Off, Pick-Up, the Bus Loop, and Kinder/First Grade Lunches. Your help was significant and the students were grateful to have you there! Children are getting to where they need to be with relative ease, Kinders are learning the ropes, and intermediate grades are showing great leadership in the lunchroom.

Thanks also to those who helped with PTSA activities such as the Back to School Picnic, KinderConnect Events, SpiritWear Showcase, Popcorn Fridays, Coffee Talk with Rich Mellish, publishing *What's Happening* and *Cub News*, maintaining [newcastleptsa.org](http://newcastleptsa.org) website, preparing the annual budget, "chaperoning" kiddos for the movie night during the September PTSA meeting, and more!

Join us in thanking our significant volunteers:

Heather Ackermann, Michelle Arney, Marci Beppu, Marie Birve, Elaine Brabant, Mary Brown, Tammy Chin, Leanne Cole, Susan Crow, Khanh Dang, JuliAnne Diesch, Eva Downs, Teresa Fagan, Brittany Frank, Luisa Gass, Helen Gray-Schnase, Erin and Jason Genthner, Dillon Gyotoku, Gina Hall, Meri Hartman, Susan Hoki, Susan Houpt, Grace Hsieh, Qi Hu, Mikiko Imai, Hitesh Jawa, Nishy Kaur Hayre, Ruthie Keyes, Sangeet Kindra, Nancy Ko, Chris Longfellow, Hunter Longfellow, Kate Lonning, Amar Mahal, Jen Matin, Gimena Mazzetti, Christine McClure, Johanna Miller, David Nelson, Ruxandra Pajor, Jane Palelek-Maio, Michelle Riley, Huyen Sewell, Karen Sharp, Lisa Sunde, Allison Sweeney, Faye Till, and Nikki Wiebe.

Reflections challenges students to create art that supports a specific theme. The 2015-2016 theme is:

## “Let Your Imagination Fly”

You can enter as many times as you like in any of the seven different categories:



**Literature** – Original works of fiction or nonfiction, prose, poetry, drama, short stories.



**Music Composition** – Original musical composition with or without words.



**Photography** – Original prints in black-and-white or color. Techniques may include retouched, montage, multiple exposure, sandwich and photograms.



**Visual Arts** – Drawing, painting, two dimensional collage, or computer generated artwork.



**Film/Video** – Original works of fiction or nonfiction, with or without sound. Categories include animation, narrative, documentary, experimental or music video/film.



**Choreography/Dance** – Original choreographed dance composition recorded on DVD.



**Specialist Artist** – This is a new option for students with a disability as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

**Entries are due in the bin in the main office by 3pm October 29<sup>th</sup>**

For more information on the program details, forms, category guidelines and FAQs, visit

<http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/reflections/index.html>

Reflections co-chairs: cindy\_buono@hotmail.com & mariebirve@hotmail.com

## 2015-2016 PTSA Executive Committee

### Co-Presidents

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### Treasurer

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## PTSA Student Directory Cover Art Contest: Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Directory Cover Art contest! We were blown away by the response this year, receiving over 100 entries! We have quite a pool of talented Newcastle artists, which will make this year's decision very difficult! Congratulations to all our participating Lion artists! This year's winner will be unveiled in just under a month when the Student Directory is sent home to Newcastle PTSA member families.

## PTSA Positions Still Available

The PTSA needs to fill the following positions. Please contact Julie Pedraza at [juliepedraza1@yahoo.com](mailto:juliepedraza1@yahoo.com) for more information or to sign-up!

- **2017 Auction Co-Chairs:** Newcastle Elementary holds a spring auction every two years to generate funds that support PTSA programs. We are looking for one or two individuals to chair the Spring 2017 auction. The chair will work with varied leads to bring this fun filled night to life!
- **New Family Welcome:** Be the point person for new families joining the Newcastle community
- **Room Parent Coordinator:** Manage communication with Room Parents to distribute to class parents
- **2016-2017 5th Grade Fundraising Chair(s):** Develop plan for and oversee all fundraising for 5<sup>th</sup> grade class, including food sales at PTSA family events, Brown Bear car wash tickets
- **Spring Fundraiser:** Oversee the Orange Ruler spring fundraiser campaign
- **Spring Family Event:** Help plan the fun family night in conjunction with the Science Fair.
- **Community Liaison:** Attend monthly PTSA meetings and report on things happening in the greater Newcastle community
- **Volunteers for Issaquah Schools:** Support VIS activities and needs in a ISD bond or levy year; communicate to our membership through oral reports & newsletter articles; coordinate volunteers for honk & waves
- **Grant Research & Writing:** Identify appropriate grant opportunities and complete application and necessary paperwork