



December 15, 2015
2015-2016 School Year
Issue 4

Cub News

Upcoming Events

December 16
Spirit Day
College Day

Staff Cookie Exchange

Lost & Found Items
Donated to Charity

December 21-January 1
NO SCHOOL
First Winter Break

January 4
School Resumes

January 14
1st Grade Concert
6:30 PM

January 19
NO SCHOOL
MLK, Jr. Day

January 22
Coffee Talk with Rich
Mellish
9:30 AM

January 25
NO SCHOOL
Teacher Work Day

Presidents' Note

Happy holidays to all Newcastle Lions and families! In this last Cub News of 2015, we want to take a moment to reflect on what "Healthy Kids, Healthy Community" programs we have implemented or continued this year with the support of our generous PTSA members. Kids have been engaged in the new Recess Program, a collaboration with the Coal Creek Family YMCA; families have reached out to aid those in the community through the Food Drive and Polar Express; dozens of volunteers have enriched the lives of current students by being an Art Docent or supporting the Gift-A-Book program - all of these programs support this healthy theme!

In the coming months, the PTSA is sponsoring the Geography Bee, Spelling Bee, and Math Adventure. Additionally, the PTSA is providing incentives for a 30-Day Challenge (details to come soon) and will collaborate with the school to host a Culture & Heritage Festival as our Winter Family Night on February 4th, 2016. We hope your family will participate in these terrific events!

Please mark your calendars for our PTSA General Membership meeting on February 1, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Library. Superintendent Ron Thiele and Issaquah School District Board Member and former Newcastle parent Marnie Maraldo will do a special presentation on the upcoming 2016 School Bond. We will also discuss regular business, elect the nominating committee, and make decisions about how monies raised will be spent! We will again offer a movie for kiddos while family members attend the membership meeting.

May your winter break be safe and enjoyable. We look forward to seeing you in 2016!

Warmly,

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



Auction Co-Chairs Needed!



Planning is underway for the 2017 Newcastle Auction. Interested in joining Helen Gray-Schnase and chairing this fantastic event? Please contact [Kate Lonning](#) to get involved.

Please Check the Lost & Found!



If your child is missing anything, please check the Lost & Found located just outside The Commons in the hallway facing the playground. **All unclaimed items will be donated to charity on December 16th.** Items cannot be kept year round as our Lost & Found gets too full.

To avoid losing clothing and other items, please clearly label your child's belongings. Labeled items will be delivered to your child's classroom. Questions?
Contact [Leanne Cole](#).

PTSA Nominating Committee Applications

The PTSA Nominating Committee is responsible for putting together our team of PTSA leaders for the 2016-2017 school year. Having qualified people step into leadership positions at Newcastle will ensure success for many years to come. The work of this committee is paramount to fulfilling our mission as a PTSA. We are so excited to have new faces and new energy to add to our organization!

Please contact [Julie Pedraza](#) for more information or if you know someone who wants to get more involved.

Share Your Favorite Cookie! Announcing the Holiday Cookie Exchange for Newcastle Staff

Please help us host a Cookie Exchange on Wednesday, December 16th. We will have containers for the Staff to fill up with a variety of your favorite homemade treats to take home (if they make it that far!). Items can be dropped off at the table in front of the office on Tuesday, December 15th, or before 10 AM on Wednesday, December 16th. Please label your treats so we know what they are and include a recipe if you like! Sign up [here](#) or contact [Yvette Blauvelt](#) with questions.

Are You Registered to Join the Quest?



Math Adventure, a highly energetic, interactive math experience for 2nd-5th grade, is coming to Newcastle Elementary on Thursday, January 28, 2016. More than 60 kids have registered so far and there's still space available.

If your child enjoys brainteasers, puzzles and solving problems, then this is the event to attend! In this program, groups of three to five kids solve math puzzles then move to various locations around school on a quest. Each team must be accompanied by two adult volunteers - one to coach and the other to serve as an actor in the quest. This event is first come, first served with a limited number of total participants.

More details are available at www.newcastleptsa.org, and teams or individuals can register at www.mathadventure.org/newcastle. We will make every effort to help registered individuals group together into grade level appropriate teams. If you have any questions, please contact [Danielle Dixon](#).

Kind & Generous Families at Newcastle

Newcastle Elementary families generously donated much needed toys, along with many articles of clothing and books during the PTSA-sponsored Polar Express Holiday Gift Drive! There is no doubt that these contributions will help deliver smiles to children in our community. Thank you again to all who donated, and a special thank you to Chantra Cruikshank and Elizabeth Brecht for chairing our Polar Express drive this year!

Calling All Parents-Yearbook Photos Needed for Concerts and Classroom Parties!

If you have been or will be taking photos around school of your kiddos and their friends and want to see them in the yearbook then please email them to newcastle.yearbook.photos@gmail.com. Examples include photos taken on the first day of school, music concerts, field trips, and classroom parties. Please submit the highest resolution possible and label them by class and/or event. Please contact Trisha Louie at newcastle.yearbook.photos@gmail.com with any questions.

How Do You Spell S-U-C-C-E-S-S?

Now is the time for Newcastle Elementary students in grades 3-5 to brush up on their spelling skills and prepare for Newcastle's first Spelling Bee! Sponsored by the Newcastle PTSA, our spelling bee will be part of the National Scripps Spelling Bee. Students brought home information, including a [permission slip](#) for participating in grade level spelling bees to be held during lunch time recesses. Permission slips need to be returned by Wednesday, December 16th! Grade level finalists will participate in our Newcastle Spelling Bee Final on the evening of Monday, February 8, 2016, to determine the one finalist who will represent our school at the regional competition in Seattle. We will provide practice spelling lists for students who opt to participate in the grade level bees, and additional lists for those who move on to the Spelling Bee Final.

Timeline:

Wednesday, December 16, 2015: Permission slips due to PTSA
Week of January 4, 2016: Grade level spelling bees during lunch time recesses
Monday, February 8, 2016 at 6:00 PM: Final Newcastle Spelling Bee in the Commons
March 13, 2016: Regional finals at Seattle Town Hall

Please contact [Eileen Rubenstein](#) or [Danielle Dixon](#) with any questions.



A Note of Appreciation from the Library

Thanks to the fantastic Newcastle families and PTSA, the Gift-A-Book program purchased a record 206 new books for our kids to enjoy in the library! With funding cuts by the District, this program makes a big difference for our readers. Thank you to all who gave our school library the GIFT of READING!



Gratefully, Laura Berry

A Warm and Sincere Thanks for an Enormous Buffet of Delicious Foods

On Tuesday, October 27th, the Staff enjoyed a fabulous array of food provided by the 4th and 5th Grade parents. A *special thank you* to Yvette Blauvelt, Cindy Kang and Michelle Riley, who also helped out with setup and cleaning up afterwards. *Many thanks to:* Jessica Anderson, Estelle Bettelli, Becky Butler, Kiersten Byus, Nora Chin, Janet Cloud, Leanne Cole, Lisa Crutchfield, JuliAnne Diesch, Rebecca Granados, Joanna Hanson, Briana Helm, Susan Houpt, Ruthie Keyes, Sangeet Kindra, Melissa Larson, Lisa Lewis, Amita Mathur, Lana Miller, Tina Palmer, Edana Peacock, Trisha Pollara, Christina Skally, Rachel Smith, Kellee Taylor, Joell Teal, Heather Thibeau, Tiko, Lissa Wax, Stefanie Williamson and Heather Witz.

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](#)

You Shop, Newcastle Benefits with AmazonSmile, Target and iGive!



Help us earn 0.05% of your Amazon purchases this holiday season. Simply click [here](#) and start shopping. Or visit smile.amazon.com, enter Newcastle Elementary in the charitable organization search box, then select 'Newcastle Elementary Ptsa 2 6 18', and start shopping.

If you have a Target REDcard, be sure to [register](#) Newcastle Elementary as your designated school and we'll receive 1% of your holiday shopping generosity! Have special stores in mind?

Try [iGive](#) with 1,700+ stores (REI, Pottery Barn, Nordstrom), and an easy-to-install browser button will remind you when you're on a site that will earn a rebate for Newcastle Elementary. Click [here](#) to create your account.

For those who Need a Little Help this Season



New this holiday season from Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank is **Lunch for the Break**. This program, which launched in Spring 2015, helps bridge the food gap during school breaks when children aren't getting their free/reduced school lunches. Each school-age child in a family receives a box of breakfast, lunch and snack food. They provide food boxes for Winter Break, Mid-Winter Break and Spring Break each school year. Distribution of the boxes is on the Thursday before each break. For more information, please email [Rebecca](#) or call (425) 392-4123 x11.

Coal Creek Family YMCA FREE Winter Festival

The Coal Creek Family YMCA would like to invite the families at Newcastle Elementary to their Winter Festival to be held on Saturday, December 19th from 3:00-5:00 PM. This is free to the community and is an afternoon of family fun with bouncy houses and activities in both gyms. No guest passes are needed.

Newcastle Families are encouraged to wear their Spirit Wear or green and gold school colors to represent the school! Enjoy some fun activities with the kids while meeting other families from the school in this informal social gathering. The Coal Creek Family YMCA is located 13750 Newcastle Golf Course Road. For more information, please call (425) 282-1500.