

Newcastle Elementary PTSA

Parent Teacher Student Association

PTA Unit: 2.6.18 • PTSA Presidents: Kim Plowman/Edana Peacock • Newsletter Editor: Sangeet Kindra

October 18th, 2013
2013-2014 School Year
Issue 2

Cub News

Upcoming Events

October 23rd

7:00 - 8:00pm

Parent Ed Opportunity
Pacific Cascade Middle
School

October 24th

Vision/Hearing Screening

October 25th

Reflections Deadline

Mochas with Marla/Early
with Shirley
9:15am

Newcastle Commons

Costume Carnival

6:00 - 8:00pm

Newcastle Commons

October 29th

Staff Appreciation

Luncheon

Hosted by 4th & 5th Grade
Families

Presidents' Note

Over the past few years, one thing we often hear is people don't really know what PTSA does. Why is it important to join PTSA? Do I really have to join every year? What exactly does PTSA contribute to our school and to our community? Well, we're glad you asked...

Why is it important to join PTSA?

- Get Connected. There's no better way to find out what's happening in our school.
- Discover Great Resources. The PTSA offers a variety of programs designed for both parents and students.
- Tap into a Network. PTSA functions are opportunities to meet other parents and teachers, building rapport and discussing issues that are on your mind. You can share ideas, concerns, and experiences.
- Put your skills and hobbies to use to benefit your child and all children in the community.
- Speak Up. PTSA is a great way to have your voice heard!
- Be a role model - demonstrate to your child the importance you place on education.

Do I really have to join every year?

Yes. Our dues are paid on an annual basis and cover one school year. **Please note:** Membership fees are not used as part of fundraising efforts.

What exactly does PTSA contribute to our school and to our community?

At its core, Newcastle Elementary PTSA governs itself with one simple idea:

Make every child's potential a reality.

Each year we revise, update and approve our PTSA Goals at our September General Membership meeting and everything we do - from family events to fundraising to funding - is done with these goals in mind. Please click [here](#) to view the complete document. Our theme for the 2013-2014 school year is Health & Fitness. We will strive to support the physical, academic and social health of our students and families in everything we do.

...continued on next page

Annual Costume Carnival!



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 25th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm** in the Newcastle Commons! There will be a DJ, a photo booth, face painting, a treat walk, carnival games, prizes, pizza, and more!!! Everyone is welcome - parents, students, siblings, and staff. Hope to see you all there for some scary fun - Boo!

Parents, if you would like to help, or have a middle schooler who would like to help with this much-loved event, please contact Michelle (mmriley628@hotmail.com) or JuliAnne (jpdiesch@yahoo.com).

There are still a few volunteer opportunities: helping with set-up, running a game station for an hour, or helping with the clean-up. If you would like to help but cannot volunteer your time, donating a "store-bought, nut-free" baked good for our "Treat Walk" or a bag of candy would be very much appreciated. Remember: Volunteers make it happen!

Presidents' Note Continued...

Our plans for the 2013-2014 school year include:

- Achieving our goal of 100% PTSA membership and increasing parent involvement in PTSA so that we can give every child a voice
- Hosting 3 school-wide Family Events, kicking things off with our annual Costume Carnival on October 25th and ending with our Health & Fitness Family Night and Spring Walk-a-thon (*our only major fundraiser this year*)
- Endorsing the Issaquah School District's 3 replacement levies on the February 11, 2014 ballot:
 - 1) Renewal Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Levy: *Classroom learning*
 - 2) Renewal School Bus Levy: *Health, safety, and efficiency*
 - 3) Renewal Capital Levy: *Classroom technology and critical repairs*
- Supporting the Issaquah Schools Foundation (ISF) in their quest to bridge the gap between funds the state provides for basic education and the dollars our schools need to prepare students for success in school and life.
- Supporting the community at large through our annual food drive and Polar Express holiday gift giving
- Funding 12 iPads and an Educational Assistant (EA) for our BEL program to help our struggling readers
- Contributing more than \$17,000 for classroom, staff and grade level grants
- Supporting our school library, classroom libraries and leveled-reading book room through direct grants and our spring book fair
- Budgeting \$12,000 for science enrichment and support for the common core curriculum
- Providing a \$9000 annual budget for what we think is the best art docent program in the district thanks to the time and leadership of Laura Derwin, Chris Longfellow and their entire art docent team
- Crafting our parent education seminars to fit the needs of our community (see article and link to survey below)
- Showing our FABULOUS Newcastle Elementary staff how much we appreciate their time, energy and efforts by treating them to special theme lunches throughout the year and a week of appreciation in the spring

We want you all to know that we welcome, want and need your support, ideas and time in order to achieve our annual goals. Please reach out to us at anytime!

Have a wonderful weekend,

Edana Peacock & Kim Plowman
 edanatish@aol.com/kplowman@premieremarket.com
 Newcastle PTSA Co-Presidents

Help us design our parent education forums!

Please help us identify parent education topics of interest to you. We have created a brief (five minutes) online survey to help us determine what issues are of most interest to Newcastle Elementary parents, as well as popular days and times for offering parent education sessions this year. We would really appreciate your feedback by October 25th. Please click [here](#) to begin the survey.

If you have any questions, please contact Danielle Dixon (danielle_dixon@comcast.net) or Stina Fluegge (stinafluegge@gmail.com). Thanks for your participation.

Found & Found!

The Lost & Found is getting full! From time to time students leave personal objects behind in classrooms, hallways, bathrooms and on the playground. These items are collected and stored on the hanging rack in the Newcastle Commons. Please have your kiddos check here for missing items. Thank you!

Student Banking Break

Due to a number of factors, Student Banking will not be offered during lunch this year. However, HomeStreet bank customers can still make deposits into their student savings accounts at the bank branch. Stop in anytime during business hours to continue to build your savings and meet your goals.

School Snap-Shots Needed!



The Yearbook Team has begun creating the 2013/2014 yearbook! If you have snapshots of Newcastle students, please email them to newcastle.yearbook.photos@gmail.com. Thanks!

Do You Know What Site Council Does?

Similar to other schools in the Issaquah School District, Newcastle Elementary has a site council that provides a forum for collaboration between school staff, parents, and the community. The goals of our site council include:

- fostering continuous improvement of the school's educational program;
- blending the values and perspectives of staff, parents, and community;
- fostering effective communications among all stakeholders in Newcastle Elementary; and
- providing an effective venue for creative school-wide planning and problem-solving.

Newcastle Elementary's site council focuses on issues directly and indirectly related to improving student learning, such as achievement data, enrichment and remedial opportunities for students, safety/security, school policies and procedures, school culture and learning climate, and concerns related to school rules and student discipline.

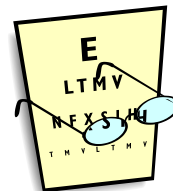
This year's council comprises 12 members:

- Marla Newton or Shirley Roberts, School Principal
- Donna Wood, Principal's Secretary
- Rich Crispo, community member
- Edana Peacock and Kim Plowman, PTSA Co-Presidents
- Kristin Cakarnis, representing K-2nd grade teachers and students
- Sarah McKenzie, representing 3rd-5th grade teachers and students
- Laura Berry, representing staff specialists
- Terry VanPelt, representing classified staff
- Danielle Dixon, representing parents and students in K-2nd grade
- Jacqueline Park, representing parents and students in 3rd-5th grade
- Eileen Rubenstein, representing parents and students across all grades

The Newcastle Site Council generally meets the first Monday of each month. More information about our site council, including the monthly meeting minutes, can be found at <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/schools/SiteCouncils/Newcastle.aspx>

Vision and Hearing Screeners Needed!

Newcastle Elementary students will take part in a vision & hearing screening on Thursday, October 24th. There are openings for parent volunteers to help with the screenings in either a morning or afternoon shift.



Please click [here](#) to sign up!

Want to Know More about Common Core Standards?

The Issaquah School District invites you to attend one of their parent/community workshops to learn more about the new Common Core Standards. The meetings take place at the ISD Administration Center at 565 Holly Street from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Choose from Monday, November 18th, Thursday, November 21st, or Wednesday, December 4th. Want more information now? Please click [here](#) to visit the ISD Common Core Information Page to learn more and find links to additional resources.

PTSA Food Drive 2013 - Pajama Day or Crazy Hair Day Contest!

Please 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 21st through November 1st 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. The 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 fun day the whole school has on November 6th. Please contact Janis Yu at kamjanis@yahoo.com with any questions.

Following is a list of Food Bank needs right now:

- Canned tuna, chicken and salmon
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Baby formula, baby wipes, diapers (especially size 4-6)
- Toiletries (toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, soap, hand soap)
- Dish soap and cleaning supplies
- Brand new socks and underwear
- Granola bars, Nutrigrain bars, other snack bars
- Canned soup
- Canned fruit

****PLEASE NOTE:** The Food Bank is currently overstocked on canned cranberry, canned pumpkin, kidney beans, stuffing, pasta and oats.

Volunteer Opportunities Online

The PTSA uses Volunteer Spot to organize and coordinate volunteer opportunities for all of its programs. If you're wondering where help is needed, click [here](#) to see upcoming activities.

Harvest Theme Staff Luncheon - Tuesday, October 29th



Three times a year, the families of Newcastle host a luncheon for the fabulous staff to show how much we appreciate all of the amazing things they do for our children. It is our tradition to have the 4th and 5th grade families kick-off this effort with a fall luncheon. This year, we need 4th and 5th grade families help creating a delicious harvest-themed lunch on Tuesday, October 29th. If you would like to contribute an item for our Harvest Luncheon, please follow the directions below:

Please sign up for Harvest Themed Staff Luncheon - here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Click [here](#) 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!

Note: VolunteerSpot does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please email Kara Ford at karatony@comcast.net or Kiersten Byus at kierstenbyus@comcast.net with any questions.

Thank you, in advance, for helping us show our staff how much they are appreciated!

Gift-A-Book Campaign



Once again, the library is excited about the annual Gift-A-Book campaign! If you are interested in donating a book to the Newcastle Library in your child's name, please look for the green flyer that went home via Kid Mail on October 17th.

Our campaign runs until November 22nd. You may have already signed up to donate to the library during the PTSA Online Registration in August. We will contact your child and have them select a book.

If you have any questions, please email Nikki Wiebe (nikkiwiebe@msn.com) or Laura Berry (berryl@issaquah.wednet.edu)

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

A Huge Thank-You to Our September Volunteers!

Volunteers make it happen! Please join us in thanking the following group for giving their time so generously to our school in September:

Isabelle Banville, Vivian Bastron, Laura Berry, Elizabeth Brecht, Cindy Buono, Kiersten Byus, Kristin Cakarnis, Tarika Chawla, Janet Cloud, Leanne Cole, Melia Cossette, Shauna Cour, JuliAnne Diesch, Danielle Dixon, Etleva Cico, Stina Fluegge, Kara Ford, Brittany Frank, Dani Frederick, Annette Gage, Rebecca Granados, Gina Hall, Alison Handlin, Meri Hartman, Molly Hegenderfer, Whitney Johnsen, Sangeet Kindra, Samakshi Krishna, Caroline Lilley, Rae Miller, Sue Mystkowski, Kathy Nolan, Tina Palmer, Edana Peacock, Lani Pedersen, Kim Plowman, Susan Reinhold, Michelle Riley, Natalie Roberts, Eileen Rubenstein, Allison Sweeney, Lissa Wax, Rachel Wax, and Janis Yu.

Want to know more about volunteer opportunities? Please click [here](#) to visit VolunteerSpot!

Please Sign Up for eScrip!



Newcastle families, it's time to sign up and help raise funds for the Newcastle PTSA with the eScrip program! By registering your Safeway card, and debit/credit cards with the secure online eScrip program, each time you shop at our local Safeway and Bartels stores, you will automatically earn a donation for Newcastle PTSA! If you've signed up in past years, we also need you to go to the site and renew your participation by November 1st to keep your contributions coming!

Here's how to participate:

- Log onto www.eScrip.com. Enter the Newcastle PTSA group ID 500004191.
- Register your Safeway card number, along with your debit and credit card numbers.
- Each time you shop at Safeway and Bartels, use those registered debit or credit cards, and you will automatically earn a contribution for Newcastle PTSA!

You can also earn additional contributions by shopping online through the www.escrip.com Online Mall. To do so, simply go to the eScrip.com site (bookmark for easy access!), or the link on the home page of the Newcastle PTSA online (www.newcastleptsa.org) click on the ONLINE MALL logo, and then shop at your favorite brand name stores. Some of the participating retailers include:

- 1-800-flowers
- Amazon.com
- Barnes & Noble
- Best Buy
- Disney
- Gap
- Home Depot
- Nordstrom
- Old Navy
- Toys R Us

Thank you for helping the Newcastle PTSA earn contributions every time you shop! Register today on www.eScrip.com.

**Thank you to the following
business members for
supporting our kids!**

Orthodontic Excellence
Olympic Physical Therapy
Bob Moawad (John L. Scott)
Nick Sooy (Farmer's Insurance)
Acura of Seattle
Healthy Smile Dentistry
HomeStreet Bank
Lice Knowing You/Nancy Gordon
Loan Central (Doug Blik)
May Creek Landscaping
Melissa Larson (Financial
Advisor)
Sambica
Sean Nielsen (Realogics
Sotheby's International Realty)
A Kids Place Dentistry
Dr. Rod Nordberg
Eastside Pediatric Dental
Jayme Benson/Jayme's Hair
Design
Ken Cole, PT, COMT, FAAOMPT
Kendra Vadney/Stella & Dot
Marcie Maxwell & Lisa Lam
Michelle Woo (Windermere)
Paula Spence/Emergency-Pac
Rainier Ballet Academy
Lisa Jensen Websi

**Thank you to our
corporate sponsors for
their generous annual
contributions to Newcastle
PTSA!**

The more we use their services,
the more we can do for our kids
& school!

Orthodontic Excellence
Safeway
Everything Party
Precision Autocraft
Target
Office Depot
Bartells
GoodSearch.com

Levy News and Information

DID YOU KNOW . . .

Our school district has three levies that will expire in 2014? The Issaquah School District has submitted three replacement levies for a special election on February 11, 2014, to continue funding the current level of service and opportunities for our students. This month, we'd like to introduce you to the importance of levies in our operating budget in general. In each of the next three months, we will talk about each levy separately.

WHY HAVE LEVIES?

The state's definition and funding of "Basic Education" does not fully cover the actual needs of a modern school. As just one example, "Basic Education" does not include "technology," so school districts receive zero dollars from the state to put computers in the classroom, or to maintain Family Access or teacher/school/district websites. Washington State ranks 43 out of 50 states in per-pupil education funding, according to "Education Week"; Issaquah ranks 257 out of 295 Washington school districts in revenue per student. A levy or bond measure is the one funding mechanism provided by law that enables the local community to invest directly in the quality of its schools to overcome these shortfalls.

WHAT IS THE "LEVY CAP" AND WHY DOES IT EXIST?

By law, school districts are limited in the percentage of their budget that they can collect from local levies to supplement basic education, in order to prevent over-reliance on local dollars for school funding. Through a quirk in history, Issaquah's levy limit is set at 28.97% of the state and federal dollars received by the district during the prior year, while Bellevue's cap is 34.66%, which allows them to collect approximately \$9 million more per year than Issaquah.

FAST FACT:

The Issaquah School District has the highest bond rating (Aaa) of any public school district in Washington State on Moody's scale and has received exemplary audit reports for eleven consecutive years.

Mochas with Marla/Early with Shirley



Please join us for this year's second Mochas with Marla (this month known as Early with Shirley) on Friday, October 25th at 9:15am!

This event is a great opportunity to meet our Interim Principal, Shirley Roberts, and learn about what has been happening at Newcastle Elementary. Come with specific questions for Shirley, or just sit back and listen. You will also have a chance to meet other Newcastle families. We will meet in the Commons right after drop off until 10:00am.

Coffee and refreshments will be served. This event is ongoing, generally occurring the last Friday of each month. We are looking forward to seeing lots of new faces this year! For questions, please contact Elizabeth Brecht (elizabethbrecht@comcast.net)

2013-2014 *Reflections* theme:

Believe, Dream, Inspire

The Reflections Program is a National PTA and Washington State PTA cultural arts competition. The purpose of this program is to provide an opportunity for students to use their creative talents by expressing themselves through their own original works. Entries are judged primarily on how well the student uses artistic tools to communicate his/her Reflection on the theme.



Literature

Literature entries may be a work of fiction or nonfiction. Prose, poetry and drama are all accepted.



Visual Arts

A visual arts entry must be an original print, drawing, painting, collage, photographic collage, metal etching or punch work, fiber work or computer-generated artwork. Maximum size is 30"x24" and 3/8" thick.



Photography

Photomontage, Multiple exposure, Negative sandwiches and Photograms. A photography entry must be an original black-and-white or color image produced by a photographic process. 11"x14" including mount, is the maximum size for this entry.



Music Composition

A music composition entry may be for voice, instruments or a combination of voice(s) and instruments. Lyrics may or may not be included in vocal compositions. The composition is not to exceed 5 minutes.



Film Production

Animation, Narrative, Documentary, Experimental. A film production entry must be an original work of fiction or nonfiction. The student submitting the entry must be the director, screenwriter, and camera person. If the student chooses to use a computer, all storyboarding, editing, etc. must be done by the student. The student is not required to appear in the film.



Dance Choreography

A dance choreography entry must be an original choreographed dance. The choreography must be the work of one student and must demonstrate creativity and interpretation. It is very important that the student show a clear relation of the dance choreography to the theme. The connection should be made evident through the use of song(s), props, and the dance itself.



Special Artist Division

The Special Artist Division is non-graded and limited to students whose physical, cognitive, or mental health challenges meet ADA guidelines. Qualifying students entering this division create their own artwork but may receive non-artistic accommodation and assistance from an adult.



Please see <http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/reflections/forms.html> for specific rules, guidelines and entry forms for your submissions. Entry forms must be filled out completely and signed by parent/guardian or art work will be disqualified.



2013-2014 PTSA Executive Committee

Co-Presidents

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VP Volunteers

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Parent Workshop: Keeping up with Social Media - Your Child's Online World



The Pacific Cascade Middle School PTSA proudly presents a workshop that parents of any school age student should not miss, whether your child has already begun his/her 'online' life, or is about to. If you think you've heard it already, think again! Come hear Issaquah School District's popular speaker Stefanie Thomas from the Seattle Police Department Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force as she helps us help our children safely navigate their 'constantly connected' online world.

For more information please click [here](#) to read the full article or contact Pacific Cascade Middle School PTSA Parent Education Representative Julie Siefkes @ (425) 890-2948 or jsiefkes@siefkespetit.com

Date: October 23, 2013

Time: 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Location: Pacific Cascade Middle School, 24635 Issaquah Fall City Rd.

3rd Annual Newcastle Elementary Geography Bee!



What is the term for a part of an ocean or sea that cuts far into the bordering landmass and may contain one or more bays?

Newcastle Elementary 4th and 5th graders will once again have the opportunity to answer questions such as the above as they participate in the fun and challenging National Geographic School Geography Bee this fall!

To qualify for the school bee on November 22nd, our 4th and 5th graders will soon be participating in mini geography challenges in their individual classrooms to determine grade level finalists for our school bee. Our school champion will later have an opportunity to test for an option to continue on at the state level. State winners are invited to National Geographic headquarters in late May to compete in the national finals for scholarships in the amount of U.S. \$50,000, \$15,000 and \$10,000!

Although the classroom bees are still a few weeks out, it's not too early for interested students to start brushing up on their knowledge of the world we live in! For a great resource and place to begin, please click [here](#) to visit The National Geographic website.

Thank you to Mrs. Rickey for once again volunteering to be the teacher coordinator for this fun and challenging PTSA sponsored event! (Answer above is: gulf)