

Newcastle Elementary PTSA

Parent Teacher Student Association

PTA Unit: 2.6.18 • PTSA Presidents: Kim Plowman/Edana Peacock • Newsletter Editor: Elena Thibeault

December 16, 2011
2011-2012 School Year
Issue 9

Cub News

Upcoming Events

December 19th - January 2nd

Winter Break, No School

Thursday, January 5th
Student Banking

Monday, January 9th
Box Tops Contest Begins

Friday, January 13th
1:45pm

The School National
Geographic Bee
In The Commons

Monday, January 16th
Martin Luther King Jr.
Day - No School

Thursday, January 19th
Student Banking

Tuesday, January 24th
7:00pm
3rd Grade Musical

Friday, January 27th
9:15am

Mochas with Marla

Friday, January 27th
6:00pm - 8:00pm
PTSA Family Event:
Geography Night

Monday, January 30th
6:30pm
General Meeting

Presidents' note

As school winds down and we head into winter break, most of us are looking ahead to the upcoming holidays and special time with our families. This is the "season of giving" and we want to thank all of our Newcastle families for your contributions to making this holiday season a little bit easier for local families who needed our help.

Thank you so much to Kara Beal and your wonderful committee for organizing the annual food drive, during which we collected thousands of much-needed food items! Also, many thanks to Terri Catalani and your amazing team of volunteers for coordinating our Polar Express gift drive - there are 8 local families who will have happy holidays thanks to your efforts.

We want to wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy winter break and new year!

Kim & Edana

PTSA Directory and Art Contest Winners!

We are happy to report that the 2011-2012 PTSA Directory has been distributed to all PTSA members! If you have joined PTSA and did not receive your directory or if you would like to join, please contact Julie Monetti at jmonetti516@comcast.net.

Thank you to all who worked so hard to pull this together, Lisa Crutchfield, Molly Hegenderfer, Laurie Holmes, Julie Monetti, Edana Peacock, Lani Pederson & Kim Plowman.

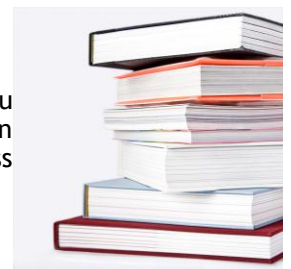
And the winner is.... There were so many talented artists who contributed to the cover contest, we couldn't pick one winner! A winner was selected from each grade and their work was used to create the collage on the cover. Thanks to the following kiddos that worked so hard to create this year's beautiful cover: Casey H., 5th; Jasmine L., 4th; Hailey C., 3rd; Anna S., 2nd; Christian K., 1st; and Mia W., Kindergarten.

All other artists' works will be a part of our yearbook.

Thank you, Newcastle Families

The 2011 Gift-a-Book campaign was a HUGE SUCCESS! Thank you to all 105 students and their families who purchased more than 130 books for our library collection! Your support and kindness are very much appreciated! Thank you all so much!

Laura Berry





ISD Bond

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 (Windermere)
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 Websites

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

Nothing spreads holiday cheer like talking about the ISD bond! Below you will find some good information on the bond and some quick facts to clarify many of the questions that you may have...

- [Bond homepage](#): A rundown of what's in the bond, the tax impact, and a bond overview.
- [Quick overview flier](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#): A few of the most common misperceptions we have encountered thus far; PLEASE CONTINUE TO SEND MORE QUESTIONS MY WAY AS YOU HEAR THEM, and I will add to the list.
- [Construction history/facts](#): A good snapshot of how we have been managing construction for the past decade and beyond.

If you would like the even more distilled version, here are some key messages that have been shared at bond presentations:

- Quick facts: The election date is April 17, 2012; the package is \$219 million and spans eight years of construction.
- The bond allows us to be fiscally prudent with maintenance and repairs so we don't otherwise have to use operations dollars that directly support classrooms. For instance, if a boiler breaks, the replacement cost is at least \$500,000 (equivalent to about six teaching positions).
- The bond includes rebuilds of our oldest schools during a period of historically low construction costs. After more than five decades, Clark Elementary, Issaquah Middle, and Sunny Hills Elementary are reaching the end of their lifespans; long-term financial forecasts favor rebuilding now rather than making ongoing major repairs for years to come. (This also saves operational dollars, as new buildings run much more efficiently.)
- How the Bond package affects our Newcastle kids: the package includes \$44,585,000 for Liberty HS and \$3,841,000 for Maywood MS.
- We are one of the most fiscally responsible districts in the country. Moody's recently reaffirmed our highest credit rating—AAA—even after the federal government's downgrade. Only 0.76% of all school districts nationwide share this distinction.
- In relation to current school tax expenditures, residents can expect to see a decrease even if the bond is approved. The owner of a \$500,000 home would pay about \$215 less per year. How? Recognizing the current economic climate, the new bond package is structured to be about half as much as the bond debt retiring in 2012. The retiring bond debt will drop the tax rate from \$4.85 to \$4.05 per \$1,000 of assessed property value; approval of the new bond will result in an estimated \$4.42 tax rate.
- By modernizing Tiger Mountain Community High School, we are expanding career and technical training to help all high-school students compete in a dynamic global economy. This could include partnerships with local STEM businesses, job training, and flexible scheduling (online home base) options for all.

Please let us know if you have any questions...

Edana & Kim

2011-12 PTSA Executive Committee

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Holiday Activities in Bellevue/Seattle Area

A lot of families are traveling during the winter break: visiting families in other states, taking cruises, or relaxing on the beach. A lot of families are also staying home and having a Staycation. There is a lot to do in our area, and here are some ideas for this holiday season:

Magic Season Ice Arena in Bellevue

<http://magicseason.com/events/icearena.html>

Open until January 9th, 2012 in Bellevue Downtown Park

The Theater at Meydenbauer Center

December 28-29: Ballet Bellevue presents The Sleeping Beauty

Ballet Bellevue opens its 16th Anniversary Season with The Sleeping Beauty, accompanied by live orchestra in three performances: Dec 28 (7:00 p.m.) and Dec 29 (2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.). First produced by Ballet Bellevue in February 1996, this beloved fairy tale ballet has over the years become a signature piece for the Eastside's own professional ballet company. Many of the original costumes will be worn for this special anniversary production.

[Tickets](#)

December 31: Seattle Choral Company presents Carmina Burana

For decades music lovers have thronged to concert halls to ring in the New Year in the style of Old Vienna and programs of Strauss waltzes. On December 31, 1991, the Seattle Choral Company began marking the occasion by presenting some very different but equally popular music: Carl Orff's Carmina Burana. Join Maestro Freddie Coleman, the Seattle Choral Company, guest instrumentalists, and soloists in a concert celebration to ring in the New Year.

[Tickets](#)

Garden d'Lights at Bellevue Botanical Gardens

<http://magicseason.com/events/garden.html>

Open until December 31st 5-10pm every evening (last entry at 9:30pm)

Snowflake Lane

<http://magicseason.com/events/snowflake.html>

Shows Nightly at 7:00pm, through December 24th

Gingerbread Houses on Display at Hilton Hotel Bellevue

Open until December 21st

Local architecture firms, bakeries and businesses partner with KidsQuest Children's Museum to custom design, bake and create awe-inspiring gingerbread structures displayed at the [Hilton Hotel Bellevue](#) (300 112th Avenue SE).

Christmas Ship Festival with Argosy Cruises

<http://www.argosycruises.com/themecruises/xmasSchedule.cfm>

HAPPY  HOLIDAYS

Visit us on the Web! <http://www.newcastleptsa.org>