

Newcastle Elementary PTSA

Parent Teacher Student Association

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

February 1, 2013
2012-2013 School Year
Issue 8

Cub News

Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 7th
Student Banking at Lunch
Time

Friday, February 8th
6:00pm
Science and Art Family
Night

Tuesday, February 12th
7:00pm
Issaquah Special Needs
Group ([info](#))

Feb. 18th - Feb. 22nd
President's Day & Second
Winter Break - No School

Monday, March 4th
6:30pm
Race to Nowhere showing
@ Liberty HS ([info](#))

Tuesday, March 5th
Author Kirby Larson visits
Newcastle

Thursday, March 7th
Student Banking at Lunch
Time

For the full calendar and all
up-to-date information,
please
visit us on the Web!

<http://www.newcastleptsa.org>

Presidents' Note

Parent volunteering at Newcastle is one of the key things that makes our school such an amazing place. It takes at least 50 people to fill just the Executive Committee and Committee Chair positions each year - and it takes hundreds more to help make it all happen... room parenting, family events, fundraisers, vision and hearing, art docents, staff appreciation and all the rest. The time you give helps enrich the education of all of our 560+ students. By joining PTSA you are making your voice heard as an advocate for our kids all the way up to the state level.

The NEA (National Education Association) has researched the benefits of parent involvement in education and has determined,

"When schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and like school more." That's the conclusion of A New Wave of Evidence, a report from Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (2002). The report, a synthesis of research on parent involvement over the past decade, also found that, regardless of family income or background, students with involved parents are more likely to:

- Earn higher grades and test scores, and enroll in higher-level programs
- Be promoted, pass their classes, and earn credits
- Attend school regularly
- Have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school

If you know of someone who you think should be recognized for her/his commitment to our students and school, please consider completing a Golden Acorn nomination form for that person. (More information can be found later in this Cub News, along with a link to the nomination form.)

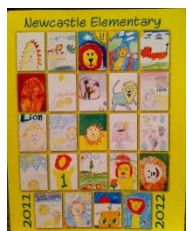
Lastly, if you have always thought about getting more involved in PTSA, now is your chance! We are currently assembling our Nominating Committee, which is responsible for working together to create the slate for the 2013-2014 PTSA Executive Committee. The committee works from February through the end of March, and the new Executive Committee will be elected at the April PTSA General Membership meeting.

We hope to see you all at the Reach for the Stars Auction on March 16 at the Westin!

Edana & Kim (edanatish@aol.com, kplowman@premieremarket.com)

WANTED: Student Candids for the Yearbook!

Hello parents! The Yearbook Committee is looking for some great student photos from the school year thus far. Are you a classroom volunteer? Have you been a field trip chaperone? Did you watch your child perform in chorus? Or attend an evening classroom event? If you have a cute picture to share from any of these occasions, please email the photo, along with the names of the students featured, their grades, and teachers (if known), to Natalie Roberts at newcastle.yearbook.photos@gmail.com. Thank you all for your help!



Teachers in the Spotlight: Kindergarten

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

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 Bob Moawad (John L. Scott)
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 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!

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This month, the PTSA welcomed our fantastic Kindergarten teaching staff to present at our General Membership meeting. Kristin Cakarnis, Cathy Andrews, and Michelle Robinson reported on the progress our Kindergarten students are making this year, as well as provided an update on how iPads are being used in one Kindergarten classroom.

Cathy Andrews expressed the teachers' appreciation for the new book room and how it supports the Making Meaning Curriculum. Kindergarteners especially needed guided reading books and the book room has offered a large variety for our youngest students. The plethora of books now available allows students to work more collaboratively, as well as boosting independent reading with so many options for their book bins. This has teachers and students excited!

Classroom art participation is thriving, and the Kindergarten teachers said a huge thank you to their auction project and art docent parents. "The volunteers are amazing - so much dedication. Kids are excited to participate!" said Michelle Robinson.

Kristin Cakarnis, who teaches both AM and PM classes, participated in the Issaquah Technology Project last summer. This intensive course covers best practices for using technology as an integral part of classroom instruction. As part of the course, Kristin received 7 iPads and a printer for her classroom. Kristin explained how she is using the iPads to support Kindergarten social studies, reading, and math curriculum with great success. Our other Kindergarten teachers are on the waitlist for this summer's session of the Issaquah Technology Project.

The PTSA thanks our Kindergarten teachers for all of their hard work for our kids and for taking the time to present to us at our monthly meeting! At each PTSA meeting, a new grade level reports. At our February meeting, we will focus on 5th grade. Hope to see you there!

Digital Citizenship and Online Safety

In September and in January students have been learning how to stay safe online during their library time. Digital safety and citizenship are important topics and can be tricky to navigate. Parents can find links to many outstanding resources from Common Sense Media on the Newcastle Elementary Library Connect site.

Washington State's Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) called, "Tips for Safe Surfing: Cyber Safety" to take home and review with their parents. This can be found electronically in other languages at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/SafetyCenter/InternetSafety/default.aspx> as well. For cyber safety information in Tagalog, Spanish, Cambodian, Korean, Russian, Somali, Ukrainian or Vietnamese, visit the above OSPI link.

OSPI lists several good resources for parents to use to talk to their children about online safety:

- www.theinternetandyourchild.org
- www.GetNetWise.org
- www.ncpc.org/cyberbullying
- www.safely.yahoo.com

Our Newcastle Library Catalog offers parents a great, free way to help their children safely search for information online. To access this at home, go to the Newcastle page (www.newcastle.issaquah.wednet.edu). The home page has many safe places for kids to research, learn and enjoy fun websites. For safe searching, click on the "Library Catalog" link. This takes you onto our online catalog. Select "WebPath Express" on the left. This search engine is designed to allow students to find information without accidentally viewing unexpected or inappropriate search results.

If you have questions, please email Laura Berry.



Register NOW for Auction Night!

It's that time! [Click here](#) to purchase tickets for the March 16th Reach for the Stars auction at the Westin Bellevue. Tickets are \$75 per person before February 11th (or \$85 after that date). We hope you will join us for a fun-filled evening in support of our students.

Planning on making a night of it? The Westin has set aside a limited number of rooms for us at a guaranteed rate of \$159. [Click here](#) to book your room now!

Donations Still Needed!

- Wine (magnums, premium wines, etc). Contact: khay210@gmail.com
- Gift Cards (any value, any store)
- Desserts for 12 (We've almost reached our goal! Bakers, please help us by making a delicious treat for our Dessert Dash. Non-Bakers, you can help too! We will use your check donation to purchase a delectable treat for guests to bid on during Auction Night. Contact: rtrryan@comcast.net)

\$1,000 Cash Raffle!

Tickets for our fundraising raffle were sent home a few weeks ago. Ticket prices are just \$10 each or 3 for \$25 for your chance to win \$1,000. The winning ticket will be drawn auction night. You do not need to be present auction night to win, which means neighbors, friends and family near and far can all participate for a chance to win (18 years and older please). For more information, contact karawbeal@yahoo.com.

February 8 Science and Art Family Night

The PTSA-sponsored Science and Art family night is just around the corner! Please mark your calendars for Friday February 8 from 6-8 pm!

- Start your evening with Pacific Science Center's Super Cool Science Show, then participate in hands-on activities provided by KidsQuest, Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery, and Liberty High School's Physettes.
- Don't miss your opportunity to see the Reflections entries from Newcastle, including those that moved on to the District competition!
- Preview the creative classroom art projects that will be highlighted at the PTSA Reach for the Stars auction on Saturday March 16.
- Take a chance at winning \$1000 in cash by entering the auction raffle (\$10/ticket or three tickets for \$25; actual drawing to take place on 3/16).
- And support the fourth grade's fundraising efforts by purchasing pizza, salad and beverages at the event!

See you Friday, February 8th!

Golden Acorn News: Committee & Nominee Information

Golden Acorn Committee

We are trying to find 1 more person to join Kim Plowman and Lani Pedersen on this year's Golden Acorn/Awards committee. The job involves collecting nominations, then spending an afternoon or evening as a group working through everything with the rubric we will provide, then ordering certificates and letting the winners know they won. Pretty simple, yet incredibly important and valuable. Please email Kim if you would like to join her or if you have any questions - kplowman@premieremarket.com

Golden Acorn Nominations

Each year our PTSA awards the Golden Acorn to individuals who have given outstanding volunteer service to the children and youth in our school community. The Golden Acorn is special and given for continued and dedicated service. 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 Council 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. Please take a few minutes and complete [the form](#) to nominate someone who is making a difference in our children's lives. Send the completed form to the PTSA, ATTN: Golden Acorn through kidmail. The Golden Acorn Committee will make the final selections and notify the winners in mid-March. Questions? Contact: Kim Plowman, kplowman@premieremarket.com



ISF LOVES Parents, Donors, Students and Teachers! Thanks for partnering with us. You're the reason for letters like these...

Thank you for funding the lab materials and textbooks for forensics class. Because of your donations, I have been able to explore a potential career interest and am considering studying it (Forensics) in college. Because of this class I am learning to keep an open mind and to think critically, which are skills that I will use throughout my life. - Isabel B, Issaquah High

Hi, my name is Shanni. I am one of the fortunate students from Apollo Elementary. Do you like golf? I like golf. Do you like to relax and have a sweet time? I do and golf is the perfect description (sp). Did you know that me and my friends learn to drive. Actually, you might think of me driving a car but it's golf driving, so please don't call the police. We are lucky children because we have the opportunity to learn golf! - Shanni, Apollo Elementary

Let's Do It Again

Last year over 1,000 parents, civic and business leaders made **Nourish Every Mind** a record-breaking success. We need your help to do it again. **Save the Date for this year's Luncheon—Thursday, May 9 from 11 am - 1:00 pm at the Issaquah Community Center** and plan to attend. We promise it will be the most enjoyable, inspirational, informative and energizing 2 hours of your day. Contact your PTSA President or ISF/PTSA Rep to reserve a spot at one of your school's tables. Want to know more? Contact **Nourish Every Mind** Table Captain Chair, Cathia Geller at Cathia@cathiageller.com, 425.445.7046.

Calling All Kindergarten Parents

We're sending a special **Nourish Every Mind** invitation just for you. Get in on the ISF fun from the beginning. There's no ticket to buy in advance ... just come and enjoy. Contact your PTSA President or ISF/PTSA Rep or Cathia Geller, Cathia@cathiageller.com, 425.445.7046 for more information.

Anticipation Builds

26 applications ... over \$125,000 in requests ... and \$100,000 to distribute. Who will be among this year's **Academic Enrichment Grant** winners? Look for Balloon Brigade visits at your school on February 15 and March 15.

Mail Call

If you made a donation to the Foundation during the 2012 calendar year, expect your tax receipt by the February 8. New donors and those who hit the 5 and 10 year giving milestones will also receive a Donor Support Decal. 2011-2012 Annual Reports will also hit mailboxes this month.

We're Not Stingy

We love telling the world about amazing accomplishments our donors make possible. If you are not currently a donor and would like an Annual Report, email Michelle Weldon, mweldon@issaquahschoolsfoundation.org.

2012-13 PTSA Executive Committee

Presidents

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Introducing the 'B' Caring Card

Earn up to 4% for Newcastle Elementary with Each Purchase!
Pick up a 'B' Caring Card today at any Bartell Drugs.

You will need to register your card by calling 1-800-931-6258 or visit www.eScrip.com/BCaringCard. If you register online, you will need to know your eScrip supporter ID or username and password. Then click on "Go to Account Administration" and "Retail and Drug Cards." Select "Bartells" and enter your new BCaring Card number.

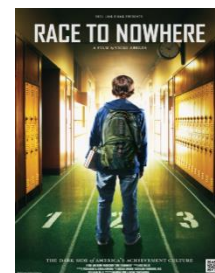


Bartell Drugs will contribute up to 4% of your purchases to Newcastle Elementary every time you shop and present your card or you can provide them your telephone number.

Questions? Contact Trisha Ackley at trishaackley@hotmail.com.

Race to Nowhere Film (PG-13) and Homework Forum at Liberty High School - Date Changed to March 4th, 6:30pm

Date: Monday, March 4th - Doors open at 6 pm - showing begins at 6:30 pm
Location: Liberty High School, 16655 SE 136th Street, Renton
NEW!! PAC (Performing Arts Center)
Cost: Free



A free showing of **Race to Nowhere** will be held in the new **Performing Arts Center (PAC)** at Liberty High School on **March 4th at 6:30 pm** with a Homework Discussion Forum immediately following. **Race to Nowhere** is an education documentary film for parents, students, educators and policy makers that challenges current thinking about how to best prepare students for success.

Using this documentary as a springboard for conversation - please stay after to share your thoughts and suggestions regarding the district's homework policy. Families and staff from across the district are invited to participate. To preview this policy and other homework related information, go to www.issaquahptsa.org/advocacy/homework-policy. Comments will be shared with the district. The district is beginning a review of the current homework policy for relevancy and improvements.

This showing of **Race To Nowhere** is sponsored by the Issaquah PTSA Council and hosted by Liberty High School PTSA and Briarwood Elementary PTA. For more information contact Leslie Kahler, Briarwood parent and LHS PTSA Race/Homework Forum Chair at lesliekahler@comcast.net or Renee Emerson, Liberty parent and Briarwood PTA Parent Ed Rep at emersongr@msn.com.

For more information on this documentary, please visit <http://www.racetonowhere.com>.

Pre-registration is available on this web site, but is not necessary to attend.

Race to Nowhere is a call to action for families, educators, and policy makers to challenge current assumptions on how to best prepare the youth of America to become healthy, bright, contributing and leading citizens.