

Newcastle Elementary PTSA

Parent Teacher Student Association

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

October 2, 2012
2012-2013 School Year
Issue 2

Cub News

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, October 2nd
7:00pm
Classroom Auction Project
Kickoff Meeting

Thursday, October 4th
Student Banking
During Lunch

Friday, October 5th
Entertainment Book Sale
Deadline

Friday, October 5th
PTSA Directory Cover Art
Contest Deadline

Tuesday, October 9th
10am - 2pm
Auction Procurement Blitz
at Panera Bread (The
Landing)

Thursday, October 18th
Student Banking
During Lunch

Tuesday, October 23rd
Picture Re-take Day

Friday, October 26th
9:15am
Mochas with Marla

Friday, October 26th
6:00pm
Costume Carnival

Presidents' Note

Welcome to fall, everyone! Yep, it's "official" now, even though we're still lucky enough to be enjoying summer-like weather. That means our fall PTSA activities are underway... the ever-popular, not-to-be-missed 4th Annual Costume Carnival is Friday, October 26th, and we're looking forward to seeing both kids and parents decked out in their amazing costumes! We also have our Annual Food Drive beginning on November 1st, so start stocking up now on non-perishable items - we love to see those bins overflowing and see the kids' eyes light up when they see how much we can all accomplish by working together for a cause. Right after that, we'll launch our Polar Express gift-giving program to help local families in need.

One big change we've made this year is to our book fairs. During the first week in December, we'll once again have our Barnes & Noble book fair week, along with the California Pizza Kitchen fundraiser. You can take a night off from cooking, then head over to Barnes & Noble to buy books and gifts for the holidays. Then, in the spring we'll bring the books to you - University Book Store will be coming to school with a great selection of summer reading options for you and your kids! More information on both book fairs will head your way closer to the dates. Due to state budget cuts over the years, we no longer receive annual library funding. Both fundraisers directly benefit our Newcastle library.

Thank you so much to all of the parents who have volunteered their time already this year! We can't do it without you!

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

Fall Fundraiser Update!

Our fall fundraiser launched last week to the cheers of students who learned there are many incentives they can earn for selling Entertainment Books. While that is incredibly enticing to the kids (and perhaps not so enticing to the parents), we want to remind everyone that the fundraiser raises significant amounts to support PTSA programs like Art Docent, the Book Room, Science Initiatives and Family Events. We sincerely appreciate the time and effort each family puts into this fundraiser.

Books sell for \$30 each. Please have your student collect payment in advance, and once they have completed sales, turn in their order envelopes to the PTSA office by October 5th.

Please use the book sent home to complete your last order. If students ordered more than 1 book, we'll provide the additional books to the students during the week of October 8th. If you have any questions, please contact [Laura Derwin](mailto:Laura.Derwin@newcastleptsa.org) or [Meri Hartman](mailto:Meri.Hartman@newcastleptsa.org).



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
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Sambica
Sean Nielsen (Realogics)
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A Kids Place Dentistry
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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

Comfort Kits

The Newcastle PTSA Emergency Preparedness Committee has sent home a Comfort Kit with your child. This kit consists of an uplifting message and a picture of your family on an index card within a plastic Ziploc baggie. These kits provide some measure of comfort to your child in the event of an emergency. Please include your child's name on the baggie. Each kit will be returned to you at the end of the school year. The PTSA also provides each classroom with bottled water, animal crackers, and other emergency items. If you have any questions, please email Lance at lancegolance@hotmail.com

Does your student like to draw or paint? Author their own stories? Or would they prefer to make the next viral YouTube video??

If you answered yes to one, or more, of those questions...then REFLECTIONS is for you!! The Reflections Program challenges students to create art that supports a specific theme. We are so excited about this year's theme...

“The magic of a moment...”

Students participate by submitting entries in one of seven categories: Visual Arts, Literature, Photography, Film Production, Dance Choreography, Musical Composition, or Special Artist. This program provides an opportunity for students to explore and learn about various art forms. Artistic exploration and expression enhance and develop intellectual, social, and physical skills. Creating art is a valuable learning process.

To get started, talk with your student about what is “magical” to them. Maybe it's that trip they took to Disneyland this summer, or how they felt the first time they rode their bike on their own, or seeing something for the first time. Magic happens every day in the life of a child...and that is what this year's Reflections theme is all about. So, your child doesn't have to be a protégé of Monet, Gene Kelly, or Steven Spielberg to participate...Reflections is for everyone!

Entries are due Monday, October 29th. This year there is a class incentive. The class with the most entries will win a “Build Your Own” party. More on that later...

For more information on the program, entry forms, category guidelines and FAQs, go to <http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/reflections/index.html>

We look forward to seeing all of the magical entries!

Chris Longfellow and Jahna Smith
Reflections Co-Chairs

Volunteers Needed For Vision and Hearing Testing

On Thursday, November 1st our school nurse, Karen Herring, will be conducting both vision and hearing testing on every student at Newcastle. We are in need of volunteers for either morning or afternoon shifts. It is a fun and easy way to volunteer and get to know your kiddo's fellow students.

<http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/743052734080>

Interested in an afterschool activity?

It's not too late to sign up for one of these great programs! Click on the websites for registration information.

Spanish: K - 2, Tuesdays before school; grades 3 - 5, Thursdays before school <http://spongeschool.com/newcastle>

Chess: K - 5, Tuesdays after school http://www.chess4life.com/Issaquah/School_Classes.php

Legos: K - 2, Wednesdays after school http://www.leap4kidz.com/After_School_Classes.html

Spanish classes are starting up at Newcastle on October 2nd!

Children learn functional language and useful vocabulary through activities, story-telling, drama, music, and art. Students focus on building comprehension and communication skills while having fun!

Sponge is offering K-2nd and 3rd-5th classes on Tuesdays before school. Visit <http://spongeschool.com/sign-up/> for more information and to register; email Sponge at info@spongeschool.com or call us at 425.274.5188 with any questions. Register now and secure your spot in class!

Welcome event for Sponge parents and caregivers

Please join us for an orientation meeting for the Sponge language program on October 3rd, from 7-8 PM in the Mercer Island Community Center.

We know that parent involvement in a child's language learning experience is invaluable. Please join us as we discuss the program, our language learning goals for the year, our curriculum & teaching methods and more.

We appreciate a quick RSVP so that we can make sure we have the correct number of handouts: info@spongeschool.com or call us at 425/274-5188. We're looking forward to seeing you!

Chess4Life at Newcastle Elementary: Tuesdays, 3:45-4:45 PM

Our mission at Chess4Life is to impact positively, as many children's lives as possible through chess, teaching life skills, character qualities, and the importance of a core set of values. By encouraging students in a positive manner, chess teaches sportsmanship, good decision-making, patience, planning, and learning from mistakes.

Chess has also been shown to improve critical thinking skills, math competency, English skills, concentration, and spatial reasoning. This can be summed up in our mission statement - Teaching Life Skills Through Chess.

Our classes consist of the following elements:

- Lesson or lecture on chess strategy and tactics
- Chess exercises, including puzzles
- Practice time for chess play
- Reviewing material learned

We at Chess4Life very much look forward to working with you and your children to positively impact their lives through chess. Space is still available. The price will be prorated for those kids starting late. Please email Issaquah@chess4life.com to sign up.

For the full calendar and all up-to-date information, please visit us on the Web! <http://www.newcastleptsa.org>

Auction News

Neighborhood Auction Procurement Help Needed!

Do you live in China Falls, Olympic Ridge, Licorice Fern, Ridgewood, Mile Post or Olympus? If so, we need your help! Our Auction team needs 1 or 2 people from each area to lead your neighborhood donation. What is involved? It is simple! Reach out via email to your neighbors and ask them to contribute so your neighborhood can in turn donate an item or experience to the auction. What to donate is entirely up to you. We have a fabulous list of ideas to help inspire you. For ideas to get your wheels spinning & any other questions, please contact Suewilkos@comcast.net.

Reminder, all the proceeds go to our precious students & amazing teachers. We cannot do it without your time & support.

For those of you in China Creek (including the Crest, Terrace and Meadowview Park), Bristol Court, The Highlands, The Reserve & Stonegate, great news! You have a volunteer who has already committed to lead this initiative for you. They will be reaching out to you very soon! THANK YOU!

Printing help needed!

Are you someone with connections to a great printer or a printing business? Know someone who is?

We need your help! Our auction team is seeking a place to get our materials printed for our 2013 auction. These materials include the invitations, auction catalog, and signage. We would love a discount or even donation if possible! Any business making a donation will be given free advertising via our website, catalog, and 'night of' signage.

Please contact us if you are able to help!

Signage Coordinator: Kelly Hay, khay210@gmail.com

Invitations Lead: Sue Mystkowski, smystkowski@yahoo.com

Auction Catalog Lead: Stefanie Williamson, stefanieong@yahoo.com

Auction Volunteers Needed!

There are still many opportunities to help with the auction from one-off projects which can be done at home to longer term leadership roles. We need you! Please contact gforchuk@msn.com to learn more.

Get Involved with the Auction Procurement Blitz!!!

The Newcastle Elementary "Reach for the Stars" Auction is quickly approaching. Let's join together at The Landing in Renton to secure more donations for our school.

Feeling bold? We'll send you out to secure donations from the local Landing businesses.

More of a "behind-the-computer-screen" type? We have a list of restaurants & businesses to target. Just bring your laptop!

When: Tuesday, October 9th

Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm (Stay the entire time or for just a little while)

Where: Meet at Panera Bread (The Landing in Renton, 921 N. 10th, Suite E, Corner of Park & N. 10th Pl)

No need to RSVP, but if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lissa Wax at lissawax@gmail.com or Georgia Forchuk at gforchuk@msn.com

Fall Family Event Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers to help with our upcoming Costume Carnival on October 26th. We have spots for set-up, clean-up and helping during the actual carnival!

Please log in here to sign up: <http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/642918624096>

Thank you for helping to make this event a success, we couldn't do it without volunteers!



Are You In?

Have you joined the All in for Kids Annual Fund Campaign? We know that state funding alone can't provide the comprehensive education our kids deserve and the marketplace demands. *All in for Kids* is our opportunity, as parents, to make sure our children have access to the resources they need to succeed. If you've already given, THANK YOU! If not, please give today. [Learn More](#)

P.S. - Did you know that the average family donation to the Foundation is \$283?

Share Your Thoughts

The Foundation is partnering with [Community Forums Network \(CFN\)](#), a nonpartisan public engagement organization to give parents the opportunity to let their voices be heard on the important issue of Ed Funding. From **September 14 through October 28**, CFN is hosting an online survey to gather feedback on education funding in a two-part series called "*K-12 Education in Washington*." You can share your opinion and help ISF earn a grant of up to \$2,000 by taking the online survey and choosing ISF as the charity of your choice.

It's easy to participate. [Click on this link to take the survey](#), then forward the link to others who support the Foundation and who care about public education in Washington State. Thank you.

New Teacher Support

The Foundation surprised teachers new to the District with Welcome Bags filled with an ISF insulated cup, coupons from local merchants and a \$100 Staples Gift Certificates. The idea was generated after the screening of a Community Conversations series film, "American Teacher." A young teacher in the audience shared her story of having to get a loan from her parents to prepare her classroom for the first day of school. The Foundation wanted to help, and thanks to ISF donors we could. IEA President Phyllis Runyon remarked, "*I was able to watch the faces of the new-hires and when that \$100 gift card to Staples was mentioned, I saw the eyes light up. A huge thank you to ISF for their generous gift to our new teachers.*" The Foundation also thanks the Issaquah and Sammamish Chambers of Commerce for their partnership on this project.

After-School Homework Labs and Open Library Programs

Does your student need homework help or a quiet place to study? Remind them to utilize the FREE donor funded resources at our middle and high schools. **After School Homework Labs** at high schools are staffed by teachers and/or counselors who offer assistance on a variety of subjects. **Open Library Programs** at middle schools offer students a safe, supervised place for group study as well as access to technology. Visit your school's homepage to learn what's offered at your location.

Donor Dollars Make a Difference

Check out these articles on two successful donor-funded investments that debuted this summer:

A Book for Every Level

http://www.issaquahreporter.com/green_editions/?iid=i20120830122150235

Summer School Program Preps Young Minds for Kindergarten

<http://www.issaquahpress.com/2012/07/24/summer-school-preps-young-minds-for-kindergarten/#more-75706>

2012-13 PTSA Executive Committee

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Seahawks Women's Association Hosts FB 101!



Women's Association

Grab your girlfriends and learn about the game of football! The Seattle Seahawks Women's Association is hosting a 'Football 101' workshop on Saturday, October 13th at the Virginia Mason Athletic Center (VMAC) in Renton.

This interactive workshop is designed to teach you the technical side of the game, including the basic rules and fundamentals. The workshop will feature a Q&A with current players and coaches; classroom instruction focused on learning the ins and outs of the offense, defense, and special teams; and the opportunity to run through football drills just like the players do inside the VMAC Indoor Practice Facility.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Wings of Karen, a local grassroots non-profit breast cancer foundation supporting research in the Pacific NW, benefiting women everywhere. The event is part of a broader NFL campaign to raise awareness for breast cancer during the month of October.

Registration: \$75.00 per person.

For more information and to register, please visit:
<http://www.seahawks.com/community/football-101.html>