

Newcastle Elementary PTSA

Parent Teacher Student Association



PTA Unit: 2.6.18 • PTSA President: JuliAnne Diesch • Newsletter Editor: Sangeet Kindra

October 17th, 2014
2014-2015 School Year
Issue 3

Cub News

Upcoming Events

October 20th
Food Drive Begins

October 21st
Picture Retake Day

October 23rd
Hearing and Vision
Screening Day

October 24th
Reflections Projects Due

Newcastle Elementary
Costume Carnival
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM in the
Commons

October 24th - 25th
Legislative Assembly
Vancouver, WA

November 11th
NO SCHOOL
Veterans' Day

November 14th
Coffee Talk with
Rich Mellish

President's Note

Each school year, the PTSA revises, updates, and approves the organization's Goals at our September General Membership Meeting. Everything we do - from family events to fundraising and funding - is done with these goals in mind. The theme adopted for the 2014-2015 school year is Community & Service. The PTSA will strive to support the physical, academic and social awareness and foster a culture of action in our students and their families.

Plans for the 2014-2015 school year include:

- Achieving 100% PTSA membership and increasing parent involvement in PTSA so that we can give every child a voice.
- Hosting three (3) school-wide Family Events, kicking off with our annual Costume Carnival on October 24th and including winter and spring events.
- Supporting the Issaquah Schools Foundation [ISF] in the 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 the annual Food Drive and Polar Express holiday gift giving.
- Funding an Educational Assistant [EA] for the LAP program to help our struggling readers and establishing funds for an EA to provide math assistance.
- Contributing more than \$18,000 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 \$6,000 for science enrichment curriculum.
- Providing \$9,000 annual budget for what I believe is the best art docent program in the District thanks to the time and leadership of Chris Longfellow and Stefanie Williamson and their entire art docent team.
- Crafting parent education seminars to fit the needs of our community.
- Showing our FABULOUS Newcastle Elementary staff how much we appreciate their time, talent, and tenacity by treating them to special themed lunches throughout the year and a week of appreciation in the spring.

All of these plans are achieved by the Newcastle PTSA governing itself with one simple idea:

Make every child's potential a reality.

I hope that you'll join me in this mission and will join the PTSA.

**President's Note Continued
on the Next Page...**

Coffee Talk with Rich!



Have you had a chance to meet our new principal? Do you have a question on your mind you haven't had a chance to ask? Do you want to know more about our curriculum, security & safety procedures or our culture of kindness?

These are just a few of the topics we've discussed so far this year.

If you'd like to know more, please join us for our next PTSA-sponsored Coffee Talk with Rich Mellish on Friday, November 14th from 9:30-10:30 AM. in the Commons. It's a great place to meet other parents too!

Mark your calendars now for the remainder of the school year: Coffee Talk will take place on January 9, March 13, May 8, and June 12. If you have any questions, please contact Mary McGuire Brown at brown073104@comcast.net.

Hope to see you there!

Dues are paid on an annual basis and are not used as part of fundraising efforts. Membership in the PTSA provides you the opportunity to:

- Get Connected - to what's happening in and around our school.
- Discover Great Resources - through programs designed for parents and students.
- Tap into a Network - meet other parents and teachers, build rapport, share ideas, discuss concerns.
- Be a Role Model - by demonstrating to your child the importance you place on education.
- Use Your Talents - to benefit your child and all children in the community.
- Speak Up - and have your voice heard!

As you read through the articles within this issue of Cub News, you'll see that we have a vibrant and active community of engaged members who are already living the theme of Community & Service. I invite you to join in - and include your Newcastle student as well as other family. I look forward to exploring many ways in which we can *all* share our gifts in service to each other and our community.

Warmly,
JuliAnne Diesch
jpdiesch@yahoo.com
PTSA President

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 24th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM** in the Newcastle Commons! There will be a DJ, a photo booth, a treat walk, carnival games, prizes, pizza, and even a chance to slime the principal (with Food Drive donation)!!! Everyone is welcome - parents, students, siblings, and staff. Hope to see you all there for some scary fun - Boo!

Volunteers are Needed!! 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). There are still 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* individually-packaged baked good or treat for our "Treat Walk" - or a bag of candy - would be very much appreciated. Remember: Volunteers make it happen!

Gift-A-Book Campaign



Please be on the lookout for a yellow flyer that will be coming home on October 24th to sign up for the annual gift-a-book donation! Our campaign runs until **November 14th**. Your donations help fill our Newcastle Elementary library with wonderful books. If you have already signed up to donate to the library during the PTSA Online Registration in August, we will contact your child to select a book.

If you have any questions, please email
Therese Kosar (Theresekkosar@gmail.com) or
Laura Berry (berryl@issaquah.wednet.edu).

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

5th Grade Camp Seymour Fundraiser: Thank You Newcastle!



A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the Tapatio/Zoe fundraiser for 5th Grade Camp! From teachers, to staff, to alumni, to future campers, both locations were packed most of the afternoon and evening. Your enthusiastic support is what makes Newcastle Elementary's community truly stand out. Thank you, on behalf of this year's fifth graders, for making the event a huge success.

It's Almost Time for the 4th Annual Newcastle Elementary Geography Bee!



Do you know which continent lies entirely north of the Tropic of Cancer? Newcastle Elementary 4th and 5th graders will once again have the opportunity to answer questions such as the above when they participate in the fun and challenging National Geographic Geography Bee this fall! To qualify for the school bee, 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 (date soon to be announced). After the school bee, our school champion will have the opportunity to take a written test in an attempt to continue on to the state bee, held on March 27, 2015. State winners are invited to National Geographic headquarters May 11th - 13th to compete in the national finals for scholarships and exciting prizes. The national winner receives a \$50,000 scholarship, a lifetime subscription to *National Geographic* magazine, a Galápagos trip, and \$500 cash! (Answer to the above questions: Europe!)

Wondering how to prepare for the geography bee? 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! The National Geographic website (<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee/>) is a great resource. You may also want to use atlases and Bee study books to strengthen your geography knowledge, download the Geo Bee App for practice quizzes and continue to explore more about the world in which you live!

Vision & Hearing Screeners Needed!



Vision and Hearing Screeners Needed!
Newcastle Elementary students will take part in a vision & hearing screening on Thursday, October 23rd. We are still in need of parent volunteers. Our school nurse, Karen Herring, needs help in the morning (9:00 - 12:00) and in the afternoon (12:30 - 3:30). Volunteers help administer the testing, and help usher the children to and from the testing areas. Training will be provided. We do ask that if you sign up, you commit to your entire time slot. Please make sure your volunteer paperwork has been submitted to the front office prior to the 23rd.

If you would like to volunteer - here is how:

1. [Click here](#) to go to our invitation page on VolunteerSpot.
2. Enter your email address: (You will NOT need to register an account)
3. Sign up! Choose your spots - VolunteerSpot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

If you have any other questions please [click here](#) to contact Elizabeth Brecht.

Thank you!

Final Fundraiser for 2015 Camp Seymour



The fifth graders have one final fundraiser to help offset the per child cost of attending camp in March. Beginning at the end of this month, they will be selling Brown Bear car wash tickets. Please consider purchasing these discounted tickets from a fifth grader near you. The more you buy, the greater your discount. Individual tickets will be sold for \$7.00/each. Purchase three tickets and the price decreases to \$6.00/each (3 for \$18.00). Purchase five or more tickets and the price is just \$5.00/each (5 for \$25.00). The tickets are good at over 20 Puget Sound locations and are good for one year from the issue date. With our crazy Northwest weather, it is never a bad time to run your car through the wash, so keep a stack of them in your glove compartment. Car wash tickets also make great stocking stuffers or small gifts as the holidays approach. Consider giving them as corporate gifts as well. The possibilities are endless!

Tickets go on sale soon, but you can preorder yours anytime with any fifth grade student! Thank you again for your tremendous support of our students. Fifth Graders: The top four sellers for this fundraiser will receive a gift card to Target, so start making a list of who you are going to ask for support! Family, friends, neighbors, parent's co-workers...get creative because everyone likes a clean car!

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:

Huyen Sewell and Samantha Chong - KinderConnect co-Chairs; Mary McGuire Brown - Coffee Talk with Rich Mellish; Stefanie Williamson and Chris Longfellow - Art Docent Chairs; Yvette Blauvett and Janet Cloud - Reflections Chairs; Lana Miller - Spirit Wear Orders; Brittany Frank - School Supply delivery; Rae Miller - Popcorn Friday Chair; Michele Maresh and Stefanie Williamson - 5th Grade Camp Seymour Fundraiser event at Tapatios/Zoe Yogurt event; Luisa Gass and Elysa Piha - Auction 2015 Chairs; Tiffany Ryan - Picture Day Chair; Becky Butler - August Staff Appreciation Luncheon; Nikki Wiebe - First Week of School Chair; Sangeet Kindra - Website and E-Communications Chair.

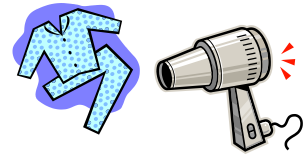
Want to know more about volunteer opportunities? Please [click here](#) to visit VolunteerSpot!

PTSA Student Directory Cover Art Contest: Thank You

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Directory Cover Art contest! We were blown away by the response this year, receiving over 100 entries! We have quite a pool of talented young lion artists at our school making this year's decision very difficult!

Congratulations to all our participating lion artists for participating! This year's winner will be unveiled in just under a month when this year's directory is sent home to families registered with the PTSA by our Oct 3rd

Pajama Day or Crazy Hair Day: PTSA Food Drive 2014



Please help make a difference in our community by donating non-perishable food items and essential supplies in the marked collection bins within Newcastle Elementary School during the Newcastle PTSA Food Drive, October 20th through October 31st, 2014. The Food Drive will benefit Issaquah Food Bank, a local non-profit organization serving our community. Its mission is to provide basic needs for our community members to promote self-sufficiency.

Your donations can be deposited anytime from October 20th through October 31st into one of the two bins located just outside the main office or at the bottom of the main stairs. 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 will have on November 7th.

Also, during the Costume Carnival on October 24th, a raffle ticket will be given out for every item donated that night for a chance to "SLIME" the Principal and the Dean of Students! Bring your items to the table by the Commons entrance closest to the kitchen.

Picture Day Success!



A huge thank you to Michele Maresh, Molly Hegenderfer, Sue Wilkos, and Nancy Ko for their help making picture day a success!

If you missed picture day or would like retakes, please send your child with their order form or picture packet on Tuesday, October 21st.

Attention 4th Grade Families!

As the current fifth grade classes' camp fundraising initiative winds down, it is time for the fourth graders to begin their camp cost reduction push. Camp fundraising for next year's fourth graders depends on volunteers from their grade level.

The fundraising timeframe begins in January 2015 and must be completed by December 2015. **If you are interested in chairing this PTSA position,** please contact

Michele (michele.maresh@comcast.net) or Stefanie (stefanieong@yahoo.com) for more information.



Ms. Mez's Monthly Newsletter

I will be focusing on conflict resolution at both Newcastle and Maple Hills. Conflict or disagreement is normal and often happens when children get together. However, hurtful words, gestures, or physical attacks are unacceptable ways to deal with conflict and disagreement at school. Students have been learning about Kelso's Choices and Steps to Respect as ways of appropriately resolving those difficult situations.

Kelso's Choices K-2

Our K-2 kiddos will be learning and reviewing Kelso's Choices this fall. Students learn the difference between small problems (those minor situations "they are strong enough and smart enough to solve on their own") and big problems (where they need an adults help, like when someone is being hurt) and what choices can help them re-solve those small problems.

Kelso's Choices include: Go to Another Game, Talk It Out, Walk Away, Ignore, Tell Them to Stop, Apologize, Make A Deal, Wait and Cool Off, and Share and Take Turns.



Please [click here](#) to see Kelso's wheel and feel free to print a copy and implement in your home!

Steps to Respect 3-5

The *Steps to Respect* program to helps students think about, develop, and practice positive social skills. Research tells us that children who learn and use these skills are more likely to get along with others and do better in school. The *Steps to Respect* program is designed to teach students the following:

- How to recognize, refuse, and report bullying when it happens to them or someone else
- Friendship skills that reduce the risk of being bullied, including how to make friends, join group activities, and manage conflicts.
- Emotional skills, such as understanding the feelings of others and managing emotions
- And how to use positive values (responsibility, respect, caring for others) as a guide for behavior.

Our 3rd graders will be introduced to learning how to Recognize, Refuse, and Report Bullying, while the 4th and 5th graders will review these concepts and practice being strong Bystanders and stepping in when they observe mean behavior. Please [click here](#) to see the page that describes the STR bullying definition.



EXPLORE the Arts!

PARTICIPATE in PTA Reflections

Theme: "The world would be a better place if..."

Reflect on the theme. Create an original work. Be recognized.

ART CATEGORIES:



Dance Choreography



Music Composition



Film Production



Photography



Literature



Visual Arts

Deadline for entries: Friday October 24th

For details, contact:

Yvette Blauvelt ykblauvelt@gmail.com and Janet Cloud robjanetcloud@yahoo.com

The Reflections Program is a National 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.

Artistic exploration and expression enhance and develop intellectual, social and physical skills. Creating art is a valuable learning process! Your child doesn't have to be a protégé of Monet, Gene Kelly or Steven Spielberg to participate... Reflections is for everyone!

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



EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING FOR THE NEWCASTLE PTSA AUCTION!

SAVE-THE-DATE for the *Inspire Greatness* Auction which will be held on March 14, 2015 at the Bellevue Westin!

An upcoming Holiday Online Auction will take place Dec. 3-8, 2014. Stay tuned for more details!

The auction is the biggest fundraiser for our school. This year we have a profit goal of \$130K, 100% of which will go directly towards supporting math, science and arts curriculum as well as fund technology for our kids.

Reaching this goal depends entirely on the involvement and generosity of Newcastle families, community members and local businesses. Thank you in advance for your support!

Did You Know???

-The Issaquah School District ranks in the **bottom 10%** when it comes to state funding!

-This equates to a shortfall of **\$1 million annually** for Newcastle Elementary!

Our biennial auction is a priority as it helps bridge the gap left by decreases in state funding.

AUCTION NEWS & UPDATES

Corporate sponsorships have resulted in **\$15,000** towards our overall profit goal! Many great sponsorship offerings are still available to include the highly visible Sparkling Wine and Platinum sponsor packages! More information can be found [here](#).

Donations of items and experiences are coming in, but we still need many more to ensure a great line-up. Fabulous auction items already secured include:

- ✓ **A trip for four to the [Galapagos Islands](#)!** This small ship expedition offers a unique way for adventure travelers to explore one of the most beautiful and fascinating places on earth. A \$24,000 value! *Thank you Lindblad Expeditions!*
- ✓ **Four front row "Owners Seats" at a Seattle Mariners' game!** These tickets are unavailable to the public and will provide you and 3 guests the rare opportunity to watch the game from immediately behind the Mariners' dugout. *Donated by the Lilley family.*
- ✓ **Coal Creek YMCA Membership!** A three month family membership will give you access to all that the local Y has to offer, including group exercise, lap and kiddie pool, cardio and free weights, and childcare!

2014-2015 PTSA Executive Committee

President

JuliAnne Diesch
jpdiesch@yahoo.com

VP Volunteers

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Treasurer

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Officer-at-Large

Edana Peacock
edanatish@aol.com

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP!

- ✓ **Donate an item or experience to the 'Inspire Greatness' PTSA Auction.**
 - Fun For All: Restaurant gift certificates, cooking classes, electronics, spa & salon, vacation homes and hotel stays
 - Sports: Seahawks, Sounders or Mariner tickets, golf outings, and ski packages
 - For the Kids: B-day party packages, lessons, kids' concerts, museum passes or memberships, and camps
 - Wine: Bottles or tastings
- ✓ **Join the Auction Team!** Many leadership and support opportunities are still available to include Classroom Art Project Leads, Games and Dessert Dash coordinators, and Premium Wine Table host!
- ✓ Contact co-chairs Luisa Gass (l_vacca@hotmail.com) and Elysa Piha (Empiha@gmail.com) to find out more.

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

Orthodontic Excellence	HomeStreet Bank
Olympic Physical Therapy	Factoria Pediatric Dentistry
Coal Creek Family Vision	Karen Saino (Coldwell Banker Bain)
Peter Zevenbergen (Fairway Mortgage)	Melissa Larson (Pacific Capital Resource)
Newcastle Dentistry	Fireworks
Aesthetic Plastic Surgery	Eastside Pediatric Dentistry
Sweeney Conrad PS	Seattle Children's Hospital

Seeking Classroom Art Project Leaders or Teams!!



We are looking for parents to lead and/or join together to make a one-of-a-kind piece of art with their child's class. Each unique art project will be showcased at the Winter Family Night on February 6, 2015, and auctioned off at the PTSA Auction on March 14, 2015, at the Bellevue Westin! In the past, these collective projects have brought in as much as \$23,000 for Newcastle Elementary!!!

Please note that the following classes still need a Leader/Team:

Kinder: Andrews, Gaul (AM), Gaul (PM)

1st: Cakarnis, Bhatia

2nd: Eisele

4th: Laughlin, Vaughan

If you would like to help in some capacity, contact
Chris (chrislongfellow17@comcast.net / [425.221.1574](tel:425.221.1574))
Dean (daadamo1@comcast.net / [206.579.8291](tel:206.579.8291))