



November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
2014-2015 School Year  
Issue 4

## Cub News

### Upcoming Events

November 17<sup>th</sup> -  
December 5<sup>th</sup>  
Polar Express Gift Drive

November 20<sup>th</sup>  
Chorus  
8:00 AM  
Music Room

First Grade Concert  
6:30 PM  
Commons

Mr. Miller Hair Cut Raffle  
Kicks-Off!

November 21<sup>st</sup>  
Math Olympiad  
8:00 AM  
Portables

November 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Chorus Performance  
4:00 PM  
The Landing

November 26<sup>th</sup>  
Report Cards Available on  
Family Access

November 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>  
NO SCHOOL  
Thanksgiving Recess

December 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>  
NO SCHOOL  
Parent-Teacher  
Conferences

December 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>  
Holiday Online Auction

### President's Note

In setting our PTSA theme this year as “Community & Service”, the Executive Committee members and I hoped to witness an increase in the involvement of families at Newcastle Elementary as we committed to serve this community. We have seen volunteers by the dozens turning out to support efforts from Picture Day to Vision & Hearing Screening to the Costume Carnival. The Food Drive saw great numbers - especially at the Family Night when Mr. Mellish and Mr. Neugebauer succumbed to the Slime-nator after more than 300 food items were donated. The Gift-A-Book program has had a robust response, and we feel encouraged that the Polar Express will benefit from the generosity of our community. The PTSA Directories and Spirit Wear have been delivered already, as the PTSA committed to getting these items in hand by early November to maximize usage of Spirit Wear and allow the connectivity for the community in having the Directory of registered PTSA members.

None of these tasks happens without the effort of dedicated volunteers, and I am grateful for the energy and time given to meet deadlines, hold events, and serve our community! Even as we continue through the programs and events for the 2014-2105 year, we are starting to plan for the future as well. At our next General Membership meeting on January 26, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Commons, we will elect our Nominating Committee, which is charged with recruiting the most qualified people for the 2015-2016 Executive Committee. **We are looking for one parent from each grade level to serve on the Nominating Committee** (including alternates). The commitment is a short one and is vital to fulfilling our mission as a PTSA. Committee work includes holding confidential meetings, reviewing nominations, and searching for the best qualified candidates for leadership roles in the Newcastle PTSA. If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee or have questions, please contact me directly!

**Coming Soon: Auction Events!** Excitement is mounting as we draw closer to the March 14, 2015 *Inspire Greatness* Auction at the Westin Bellevue. New this year: Mr. Miller has offered to allow 5 students the chance to cut his hair! Raffle tickets for this event are coming home via Kidmail this week. In addition, the Holiday Online Auction, featuring many great items, will run **December 3 - 8**. Mark your calendars to benefit our students and Newcastle Elementary!

Warmly,  
JuliAnne Diesch



## Holiday Online Auction Starts Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Power up your computer and get ready to bid! Make a dent in that holiday shopping (or wish) list and support our Newcastle Elementary students at the same time.

This auction is available to EVERYONE...friends, neighbors and relatives near and far! Registration is easy: watch for the online registration link which will be sent to you the morning of December 3<sup>rd</sup> via auction e-newsletter. Share the link with your friends and family -- post it on Facebook!

All major credit cards accepted. Bidding will remain open until Monday, December 8 at 10pm. Items will be available for pick-up in the PTSA office December 10 - 12. Bid early, bid often and happy shopping!

Over 50 fabulous auction items and experiences are up for bid, including:

- Hotel stays at the Westin and Great Wolf Lodge
- Autographed Seahawks Yearbook
- Gift certificates for Purple, PF Chang's, Seven Salon and Mint Salon & Spa
- Tutoring and Birthday Party Packages
- And many more exciting items!

## Mr. Miller Haircut Raffle to Benefit PTSA Auction



Our PE teacher Seth Miller badly needs a haircut and we're raffling off a chance for five students to be the barber and cut off his hair! Money raised will go toward our Auction proceeds. Today, each student will be sent home with five tickets and each ticket will represent a chance to be thrown into the raffle hat. Ticket prices are \$5 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$20. Be sure to bring purchased tickets and raffle money back to school with your child in the provided envelope by December 8.

The raffle drawing will be held on December 9 and winners will be announced that same day. On December 10, the five raffle winners will have their lunch with Mr. Miller and then each student will take part in giving Mr. Miller the best haircut ever! We'll roll the video camera and then air it to the entire student body so that everyone can see the fun and silliness in action. Want to improve your child's odds of winning? More raffle tickets are available for purchase by contacting Christine McClure [ajandchristine@gmail.com](mailto:ajandchristine@gmail.com).

## Calling all Creative Volunteers!

The PTSA is looking for a couple more volunteers who are able to dedicate a few hours a month to creating engaging and dynamic bulletin board displays by joining our Bulletin Board Committee. The bulletin board is an essential means of communication between the PTSA and our community and displays rotate on an ongoing basis to reflect the work and activities of the PTSA within the school. The Bulletin Board Committee works with other Committee chairs to design and implement messaging. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Michelle Ryberg at [MichelleRyberg@JohnLScott.com](mailto:MichelleRyberg@JohnLScott.com)

## Polar Express Gift Drive 2014!



The annual Newcastle Elementary PTSA Polar Express Gift Drive is back! From Monday, November 17 through Friday, December 5, Newcastle families will have an opportunity to help make the holiday season a little brighter for local children in need of extra support and cheer.

An easy way to contribute and assure variety is to purchase gifts that match your children's ages and genders. Every year the Issaquah Food Bank is short on gifts for middle and high school children, so if you can, please also donate something extra like movie passes, gift cards, etc. for older kids.

Please bring NEW and unwrapped gifts and/or gift cards to the school and place them in the bins near the front office. If you have time at the end of the gift drive to help organize donated gifts, deliver gifts to the Pickering Barn, or volunteer at the Barn, please contact Michelle Ryberg at [MichelleRyberg@JohnLScott.com](mailto:MichelleRyberg@JohnLScott.com) for dates and times of volunteer opportunities.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

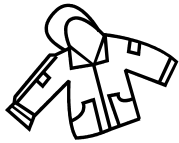
## PTSA Nominating Committee Applications

The PTSA Nominating Committee is responsible for putting together our team of PTSA leaders for the 2015-2016 school year. Having qualified people step into leadership positions will ensure success for many years into the future. The work of this committee is paramount to fulfilling our mission as a PTSA. We're so excited to have new faces and new energy to add to our organization! Please contact JuliAnne Diesch ([jpdiesch@yahoo.com](mailto:jpdiesch@yahoo.com)) for more information or if you know someone who wants to get more involved.

## Parent Education Opportunity Coming Soon

How is your child going to deal with getting passed over for the top job if he can't handle sitting out the basketball game? Or not getting the part in the play? Will your child be able to bounce back after a tragedy? These are some of the questions that Linda Morgan will address at a Newcastle Elementary PTSA-sponsored parent education session during the evening of **Thursday, February 26, 2015** in the Commons. The former managing editor of ParentMap and author of *Beyond Smart: Boosting Your Child's Social, Emotional, and Academic Potential*, Linda has appeared on television programs in California, Arizona and Oregon. She will be sharing her perspectives on why resiliency is important and what you can do to nurture this quality in your kids. Please mark your calendars now and save the date!

## Missing a Jacket? Where is the Lunchbox? Lost a Hat? Please check the Lost & Found!



The Lost & Found is almost at capacity with over 80 items including jackets, sweaters, hats, water bottles.... even a baseball glove! If your child is missing anything, please have them come in during school hours to check. The Lost & Found is located just outside the Commons in the hallway facing the playground. **NOTE:** ALL of the items that are unclaimed just before Winter Break will donated to the Issaquah Clothing Bank. Remember to label your items. Items clearly labeled will be delivered to your child's classroom. **Questions?** Contact Leanne Cole at [weezypt@comcast.net](mailto:weezypt@comcast.net).

## Still Time to Place Your Yearbook Order!



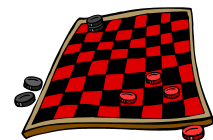
The time to order your yearbook is NOW!! All yearbook orders will be done online this year. No paper order forms will be sent home.

Here is how to order:

1. [www.newcastleptsa.org](http://www.newcastleptsa.org)
2. Click on "sign in" in the top right corner: If you don't have an account yet you will be able to set one up
3. Log in to your account (click on the link on the website if you've forgotten your password)
4. Click on the Back to School sign up on the left hand side of the page. Follow the prompts to order your yearbook.

If you have questions, please contact Lana Miller at [chrisandlana@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisandlana@yahoo.com)

## New or Lightly Used Games Needed!



The Newcastle game room recess option is up and running and we are looking for donations to help stock it. Kids only have 15 minutes, so we are in need of short games. This could be decks of cards, building games like Legos, Lincoln Logs, board games etc. If you have any to spare, please have your son/daughter drop them off in the office. If you have any questions you can e-mail the Dean of Students at [neugebauert@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:neugebauert@issaquah.wednet.edu). Thanks!

## Counselor's Message

Ms. Mez will be busy in the classrooms in November! Kindergarten through second grade will be practicing four of Kelso's Choices and third through fifth grade will be learning to refuse bullying by using assertiveness skills. Please visit Ms. Mez's Connect Site to find out more about what your student(s) will be working on!

[http://connect.issaquah.wednet.edu/elementary/newcastle/staff/ms\\_meseroles\\_site/b/default.aspx](http://connect.issaquah.wednet.edu/elementary/newcastle/staff/ms_meseroles_site/b/default.aspx)

## Thank You for the Warm and Delicious Meal



On November 6, the 4th and 5th grade families hosted a Fall Harvest Luncheon for the fabulous Newcastle staff to show how much they are appreciated! It was a great success and the staff truly enjoyed it. The staff room was overflowing with delicious food and yummy desserts. Thank you to the following parents for their contributions:

Angela Oster, Anne Lehr, Breanne Skolrud, Daniela Ferdico, Edana Peacock, Eileen Rubenstein, Erin Hayes, Grace Tazuma, Heather Thibeau, Jana Arnold, Janet Cloud, Joanna Hanson, Kim Moger, Linda Pepper, Linh Ma-Vu, Lisa Cain, Lisa Crutchfield, Lisa Dow, Liz Rattie, Mai Li Lee, Meri Hartman, Michele Maresh, Natalie Bauge, Nora Chin, Ruthie Keyes, Bridgette Scheppat, Stacy Tribble, Stefanie Williamson, Sue Mystkowski, Taryn Bailey, Therese Kosar, Yvette Blauvelt, Becky Butler, Allison Sweeney

## Fabulous Food Drive!

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's food drive. The PTSA collected 1,100 pounds of food and other essential supplies to help the Issaquah Food Bank and local families in need. Because the food drive was so successful, the school celebrated Spirit Day with pajamas AND crazy hair. Thank you to JuliAnne Diesch and Michelle Riley for helping to promote donations by including a raffle and slime machine at the Costume Carnival. Thank you to Yvette Blauvelt for the slime machine and to Principal Richard Mellish and Dean of Students Trent Neugebauer for volunteering to be slimed. And a very special thanks to Heather Ackermann for chairing this year's food drive!

## A Note of Enormous Appreciation from the Newcastle Elementary Library

Thanks to the fantastic Newcastle families and PTSA, the Gift-A-Book program purchased a record 147 new books for our kids to enjoy in the library! With funding cuts by the District, this program makes a big difference for our readers. Thank you to all who gave our school library the GIFT of READIN

*Gratefully, Laura Berry*



## Thank You Vision and Hearing Volunteers!

Did you miss it? Karen Herring wrote a lovely article in the Newcastle News on October 31, thanking our Vision and Hearing Volunteers. Below are her own words expressing her thanks. Thank you to our volunteers!

Vision and hearing screening would be impossible without the help of a large number of volunteers. We had close to 40 volunteers that generously gave up their time to help during the vision and hearing screening on Thursday, October 23. Thanks to such wonderful volunteers, the day was a huge success. We'd like to give a special thank you to Elizabeth Brecht for doing such a great job recruiting these amazing volunteers and also for her help on screening day. We'd also like to say thank you to Vivian Bastron, Michelle Riley, Christine McClure, Ruthie Keyes, Stacy Tribble, Jennifer Shook, Nikki Wiebe, Laurel Webb, Faye Till, Katie Ringwood, Karen Sharp, Grace Lee, Christie Pitts, Linda Pepper, Kate Lonning, Sahra-manon Muehlheim, Mary Hall, Theresa Hetherington, Lisa Crutchfield, Molly Sandvick, Korre Veitengruber, Zornitza Shomev, Qi Hu, Nishy Kaur Hayre, Meri Hartman, Chris Longfellow, Susan Crow, Lance Gytoku, Angela Oster, Christy Grabowski, Candace Berde, Katie Blechman, Jackie Williams, Uma Naik, and Yun Li. We apologize if we've inadvertently left out anyone's name!

Karen Herring, RN, School Nurse, and Jennifer Schoot, SLP

## 2014-2015 PTSA Executive Committee

### President

JuliAnne Diesch  
[jpdiesch@yahoo.com](mailto:jpdiesch@yahoo.com)

### VP Volunteers

Allison Sweeney  
[aewsweeney@gmail.com](mailto:aewsweeney@gmail.com)

### Co-VPs Outreach

Danielle Dixon/Stina Fluegge  
[danielle\\_dixon@comcast.net](mailto:danielle_dixon@comcast.net)  
[stinafluegge@gmail.com](mailto:stinafluegge@gmail.com)

### Co-VPs Ways & Means

Georgia Forchuk/Angela Oster  
[gforchuk@msn.com](mailto:gforchuk@msn.com)  
[angelaoster@gmail.com](mailto:angelaoster@gmail.com)

### VP Program Enrichment

Michelle Riley  
[mmriley628@hotmail.com](mailto:mmriley628@hotmail.com)

### Secretary

Eileen Rubenstein  
[edrubenstein@hotmail.com](mailto:edrubenstein@hotmail.com)

### Treasurer

Angela Ursino  
[angelaursino@comcast.net](mailto:angelaursino@comcast.net)

### Officer-at-Large

Edana Peacock  
[edanatish@aol.com](mailto:edanatish@aol.com)

## Costume Carnival Thank You



Costume Carnival Co-Chairs Michelle Riley and JuliAnne Diesch wish to extend many “fangs” to the dozens of volunteers who made the event a monster-mashing success: Kim Alhadeff, Maya Bashoury, Ruth Benitez, Cindy Buono, Melissa Burdick, Kerwin Burton, Leo Camo, Leanne Cole, Weene Crouse, Khang Dang, Lisa Dow, Heidi Erickson, Connie Gaidjergis, Luisa Gass, Lance Gytoku, Dana Harbert, Koreen Hirkami, Nancy Ko, Grace Lee, Anne Lehr, Chris Longfellow, Jen Matin, Angela Oster, Julie Pedraza, Eileen Rubenstein, Tiffany Ryan, Karen Sharp, Kelley Sweeney, Virgil Sweeney, Czarina Tabayoyong, Stacy Tribble, Angela Ursino, Terry VanPelt, Win VanPelt, Lauren Walden & Lissa Wax. Thank you also to the many Middle School volunteers.

We are also grateful to Michele Maresh and Stefanie Williamson for organizing the 5th grade pizza sales, and to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade volunteers and parents for staffing the sale. A thank you too to the Newcastle Produce Stand, QFC & Safeway for their contributions.

## Volunteer Thank You



“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart” - Elizabeth Andrew

In addition to the volunteers mentioned above, the following volunteers have given their time and their hearts in October and early November. Let's say Thank You and recognize these volunteers:

Heather Ackerman (Food Drive)  
Mary McQuire Brown (Coffee Talk With Rich)  
Lana Miller (Spirit Wear)  
Edana Peacock (Spirit Wear)  
Therese Kosar (Gift-A-Book)  
Sangeet Kindra (Website and Communication)  
Rae Miller (Friday Popcorn)  
Luisa Gass and Elysa Piha (Auction)  
Evelyn James (Issaquah Schools Foundation Rep)  
Becky Butler (Staff Appreciation)  
Yvette Blauvelt and Janet Cloud (Reflections)  
Elizabeth Brecht (Vision and Hearing Test)

Please feel free to contact Allison Sweeney  
[aewsweeney@gmail.com](mailto:aewsweeney@gmail.com) for more volunteer opportunities!