



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 26th
1st Grade Music Concert

January 30th
Teacher Work Day / No School

January 31st
Last day for Haircut Raffle!

February 1st – February 8th
Winter Online Auction

February 1st
Raffle drawing for Mr. Miller Haircut

Dine to Donate Auction Fundraiser at Resonate Pizzeria & Brewery

February 2nd
Haircut for Mr. Miller

February 4th
Liberty HS Daddy Daughter Dance

February 6th
School Wide Spelling Bee

February 6th - February 13th
Bring in Lunch for the Break Donations

February 7th
Winter Staff Appreciation Luncheon

February 8th
Science Technology Engineering & Math Night

February 9th
Deadline for Golden Acorn Award Nomination

February 15th
Kindergarten Enrollment Fair

February 16th
2nd Grade Music Concert

February 17th
Kindergarten Movie & Potluck

February 20th – February 24th
Second Winter Break / No School

February 27th – March 1st
5th Grade Environmental Camp

March 10th
Deadline for Yearbook Photo Submissions

March 11th
Dare to Dream Auction

President's Note

As many of you know, my illustrious Co-President, **JuliAnne Diesch**, and her family have recently moved to California for a new adventure in their lives. I already miss her wisdom, listening ear, care and concern for our school community, and most importantly, at this very moment, I am missing her writing talent! JuliAnne has been the crafter of the President's Note in Cub News for quite some time and though I will not do it justice, I will try to communicate our messages with her same eloquence.

Our new calendar year is off to a big running start! We are in a major push to the Dare to Dream Auction finish line (just over 6 weeks away!) and we need your continued help to make this event a success. So, if you are looking to help in some way, please see the many opportunities listed below. There are so many volunteers helping to make the auction happen, but I want to give a shout out to **Lisa Lewis** and **Helen Gray-Schnase**, our Auction Co-Chairs who have been tirelessly working on auction preparations since the beginning of 2016 and to **Elysa Piha**, our VP, Ways and Means who has been supporting their efforts. Thank you all for your dedication and talents!

In addition to the work of the auction, the school and PTSA continue to offer programs in support of our students, staff and broader community! Read further for more information about these programs coming up in February, such as STEM night, Enrollment Fair, Movie nights, Yearbook needs, Lunch for the Break, Staff appreciation luncheon and more. There truly is a way for everyone to be involved in our school community.

Lastly, I want to personally acknowledge and thank **Eileen Rubenstein** for her many contributions to the Newcastle Elementary community for 10 years. Her son, Tyler, entered the Merlin program at Apollo and naturally her focus will be there. Eileen has graciously continued to help with the Spelling Bee, the Golden Acorn Award and transition the Yearbook work and I can't thank you enough. Please join me in showing gratitude to Eileen for her years of dedicated volunteering, wisdom and friendship. Best of wishes to you Eileen!

Warmly,

Angela Ursino
PTSA President
NewcastlePTSA.President@gmail.com

Help us Recognize our Volunteers with a Golden Acorn!

Each year our PTSA awards the Golden Acorn award to individuals in our school who have given outstanding, continued and dedicated volunteer service to the children and youth in our school community. 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 Newcastle PTSA also makes a donation in the winners’ names to the Washington State PTA Scholarship Foundation, which provides scholarships to selected high school students entering post-secondary education.

Do you know a Newcastle Elementary volunteer who deserves recognition? If so, please complete a Golden Acorn Nomination form (links below) and **return it to the PTSA office by February 9th**. Last year's recipients – **Yvette Blauvelt, Stina Fluegge & Eileen Rubenstein** - are eager to recognize this year's outstanding volunteers! Since they evaluate the nominations, they cannot nominate volunteers themselves, so please help if you can! Nominees are evaluated on the criteria below, in overall service not just this year. *The more details and/or examples you can provide, the better.*

- **PTA:** Service, Advocacy or Education through the PTA
- **School:** Volunteer work, Advocacy or Education in the School (non-PTA)
- **District:** Service, Advocacy or Education district-wide to the school's community
- **Community:** Service, Advocacy or Education in the community (non-school/non PTA)

Complete the nomination online **HERE**, or by printing the form at www.newcastleptsa.org. 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 this March. Thank you for your help!

The Newcastle 2017 National Geographic Bee Champion is...

After outstanding effort by all ten finalists in the Newcastle National Geographic Bee, the exciting championship round came down to **Nidhi Achanta** and **Dylan Bahn**! In the end, it was Dylan who earned the title of school champion. Dylan will now take an online test provided by the National Geographic Society in an attempt to qualify for the state competition. The top 100 students in the state (selected based on qualifying test scores) will represent their schools and compete at the state level on March 31, 2017.

Compliments again to all of our school finalists who competed on stage this year: **Nidhi A, Dylan B, Zach B, Andrew K, Aditi M, Pablo P, Brandon R, Erza R, Ryan S & Mia W**! Thank you to **Ms. Keith** for being the teacher coordinator this year and **Mr. Mellish** for being the emcee. Many thanks also to **Wendy Kirchner** from the City of Newcastle & **Vicki Heck**, Head Librarian at the Newcastle library, for joining us as judges. Lastly, thank you to the PTSA for sponsoring this exciting event! **We all wish Dylan the best of luck!**



Cancelling Winter Family Night & Moving the Culture & Heritage Fair to the Spring Family Night

Given all of the activity and volunteers supporting the auction at this time of the year, we have chosen to cancel the Winter Family Night this year and move the Culture & Heritage Fair to our Spring Family Night on May 19th. The PTSA has introduced the grade level movie nights this year and they have been very successful so far in bringing together smaller groups of families. We hope you take advantage of those events!

Fall membership drawing

Congratulations to **Kathy Dildine, Sangeet Kindra & Lisa Tom** who each won a \$25.00 Amazon gift card in the fall membership drawing. Thank you to everyone in our community who shows their support of the Newcastle PTSA through ongoing membership.

Reflections

Congratulations to **Addison T.** and **Hailey W.** as their Reflections projects are moving forward to the State PTA competition.

Spelling Bee Summary

Congratulations to the following students for advancing to Newcastle's Second Annual Spelling Bee!

3rd Grade: Aarush G., Aashna S., Anayah C., Ayla C., Bhavya W., Elizabeth C., Ella C., Evelyn G., Jaden Y., Jonas C., Snehbir B., Stella H.

4th Grade: Aditi M., Amelia M., Andrew K., Anushka D., Dylan B., Hailey W., Lukas F., Tommy H., Tyler R.

5th Grade: David V., Jasleen K., Katherine S., Nidhi A., Riddhi G., Travis O.

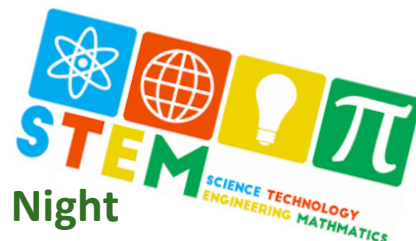
Our Yearbook needs Your Photos!

Yearbook needs your help! If you have taken photos of your children and their friends around school or at school events, please send them to our yearbook editors at Newcastle.Yearbook.Photos@gmail.com. Please make sure pictures are in highest resolution possible and label them by class name and/or event. Some examples include:

- First Day of School
- Spirit Wear days
- Music Concerts
- Assemblies
- Field Trips
- Classroom Candids
- Spelling Bee
- Geography Bee
- Reflections
- Costume Carnival
- Chorus
- Read Across America

Many thanks, in advance, for helping shape our Newcastle Elementary yearbook! Photo deadline submission is March 10, 2017. Questions? Contact **Bushra Sajeel** at Newcastle.Yearbook.Photos@gmail.com.

New School Sponsored STEM Learning Night coming to Newcastle!



Join us for a **Science Technology Engineering and Math** night on Wednesday, February 8th, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm at the school.

The mission of the Issaquah School District STEM program is to provide leadership, support, and resources to ISD schools and staff that will allow for the design and implementation of effective STEM experiences and opportunities for all students. This night is designed to give parents an opportunity to do hands on activities alongside your children. Also, this event will incorporate activities with math and our new curriculum, Eureka.

Winter Staff Appreciation Luncheon - February 7th 2017

Calling all 2nd and 3rd Grade Parents! Please help us create a delicious Italian feast for our teachers and staff to show them how much we appreciate them!

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Click this link to go to Signup.com - <http://signup.com/go/GpjQpX>
2. Enter your email address (You will NOT need to register an account on Signup.com)
3. Sign up! Choose your spots: You will receive a confirmation and reminder. Easy!

Thanks for helping make this a success! Please contact **Yvette Blauvelt** at ykblauvelt@gmail.com with any questions.

Nominating Committee Connections

The PTSA Nominating Committee is responsible for putting together our team of PTSA leaders for the 2017 - 2018 school year.

Having qualified people step into leadership positions at Newcastle will ensure success for many years to come. 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!

If you would like to serve on this short-term committee or would like to suggest a phenomenal volunteer for any positions within the PTSA, please reach out to our VPs of Volunteers, **Jeanie** and **Elizabeth** at NewcastlePTSA.Volunteers@gmail.com today!

Volunteer Opportunity

On February 15th Newcastle will offer an Enrollment Fair to assist families in completing enrollment packets for the 2017/2018 school year. The PTSA is asking for seasoned members of our Newcastle community to help new families with this process, as it can be overwhelming and complicated to fill out so many forms. There will be two hour-long sessions that day at 10am and 6pm. Speakers of Spanish, Mandarin, Hindi, Korean, Vietnamese, and Russian are in particular demand. Please contact elizabethbrecht@comcast.net if you can spare an hour to volunteer for either of these sessions. Thank you!

Lunch for the Break

Newcastle Elementary is excited to once again be supporting a wonderful local charity called Lunch for the Break (<http://www.lunchforthebreak.com>). This program provides boxes of groceries to each school aged child from our local community, who, during the school year, relies on free school lunches but doesn't have access to those lunches during breaks. Last year, as a school, we collected enough food to contribute 36 boxes of groceries and as a result, a number of other schools in the ISD are following our lead and joining forces to contribute to this charity!

Here's how you can help in 3 easy steps:

1. Click this link to go to Signup.com - <http://signup.com/go/oanhn2>
2. Enter your email address (you will NOT need to register an account)
3. Select your Teacher's Class. Sign up! Choose which grocery items from the list you would like to contribute and send them to school. Easy!

Please note the specific items/sizes requested on the signup page. LFTB requests these specific items so that each box can be uniform. (No expired or opened items please.) **You can send in your food donation any time from Feb 6 - Feb 13.** Thank you for helping to make this a success! Please contact **Yvette Blauvelt** with any questions: ykblauvelt@gmail.com.



2017 Dare to Dream

Auction News & Updates

Event Tickets on Sale Now!

Purchase your tickets **HERE** by February 10th to purchase your tickets for \$85. The ticket price will increase to \$95 on February 11th. Be a **Table Captain** and grab 9 of your friends to join you on this fun filled night benefiting our children.

There's Nothing Better Than Dashing For Dessert!

Calling on all baking enthusiasts! The Dessert Dash is a fun and entertaining part of our auction evening where tables of attendees can bid at a chance to dash to the desserts first and select from an array of fabulous confections. Showcase your talents and donate a cake, pie or sweet treat to the Dessert Dash by contacting **Christine McClure** at ajandchristine@gmail.com.

Dine & Donate – February 1st

Here's another easy way to contribute to our fundraising. Enjoy lunch or dinner at the **Resonate Brewery + Pizzeria** and



in Newport Hills on February 1st and a portion of all sales from dine-in and to go orders will be donated to our auction.

New Fun & Exciting Volunteer Opportunities!

We are in search of a **Signage Coordinator** and a **Registration Lead**. In addition, if you are not planning to attend the evening's festivities or if you have some time to spare on March 11th, we could certainly use your help with general event set up and other various tasks.

Contact **Helen Gray-Schnase** at helen.graymd@gmail.com and **Lisa Lewis** at lisa@lisaraelewis.com for more information.

Winter Online Auction - February 1st to 8th

Mark your calendar for February 1st and be the first one to bid on those coveted first row spots at your child's performances for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years, as well as the priceless and truly memorable teacher experiences like....

5th Grade - Virtual Sports

*Two hours of LazerTag, X-Box One, and Pizza.
Warning: the Teachers have been practicing!*

*Two hours of rock climbing fun & food with the
Principal and Dean of Students
at Stone Gardens (Bellevue).*

"Be the Barber" Raffle Deadline Extended to January 31st!

The deadline for turning in raffle tickets has been extended to January 31st. Your student could be one of only five barbers who get to have lunch with **Mr. Miller** AND give him the best haircut ever at the end of the school day on February 2nd! Winners will be selected at random on February 1st.

BONUS as an added incentive, the two classes with the highest dollar amount raised in the raffle win a free popcorn day! As of right now, **Mrs. Genereaux's** and **Ms. Hill's** classes are in the lead. With the extension of the deadline, it's really anyone's game! So remember to get those raffle tickets in.



Be the barber! Turn in your raffle tickets NOW!

2016 - 2017 PTSA
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NewcastlePTSA.Secretary@gmail.com

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Debbie Park

NewcastlePTSA.Treasurer2@gmail.com

Thank you Cookie Exchange Volunteers!

The PTSA would like to thank all the volunteers who participated in the cookie exchange for our teachers before break. The event was a huge success! A special thanks to **Yvette Blauvelt** for organizing the event, and to **Tina Ferencz**, **Debbie Park** and **Michelle Riley** for setting up. At Newcastle we love to pamper our teachers, and we can't do it without volunteer help. Thanks everyone!

Stefanie Williamson, Farha Khan, Linh Ma-Vu, Missy Mlakar, Vicky Svidenko, Lana Miller, Koreen Hirakami, Gretchen Peterson, Shari Ojendyk, Trisha Marshall, Becky Butler, Mikiko Imai, Melissa Larson, Melissa Goldsmith, Faye Till, Alice Kim, Ashley Brown, Angela Ursino, Eva Downs, Michelle Riley, Tina Ferencz, Joanna Hanson, Laurel Webb, Alison Handlin, Debbie Park, Nadia Jackson-Jefferson, Gimena mazzetti, Heather Ackermann, Divya Abhishek, Kelly mccauley, Kristi Kuhl, Khanh Dang, Christie Pitts, Sangeet Kindra, Jeana Kim, Kim Meredith, Yvette Blauvelt, JuliAnne Diesch, Ali Bligh, Jeanie Johnson, Jana Arnold, HJ Shin, Ruxandra Pajor, Soo Shin, Sara Brester, Kristen Campbell, Gina Hall, Katie Burris, Vivian Bastron, Faye Till, Sara Brester, Tammy Chin, Shellee Flint, Divya Abhishek, Shirin Mirza, Sara Brester, Christine McClure, Katie Burris, Diane Talvo, Bushra Sajeel, Trisha Marshall, Ruxandra Pajor, Faye Till

Newcastle Elementary PTSA Mission

Newcastle Elementary PTSA is a non-profit organization which supports the children of Newcastle Elementary in the Issaquah School District. Through-out the school year, we sponsor several family events and student programs for our school families. We hope that all of our families will get involved by attending PTSA events, helping children participate in our educational programs, volunteering time and talents in the classroom, at the school, and for PTSA-supported activities. Please support our kids by joining PTSA!



Newcastle Elementary PTSA is a charitable, tax-exempt non-profit organization under Section 510 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Non-profit status is current through April 30, 2017. Tax ID / EIN: 77-062572 / UBI # 602384917.

DADDY *daughter* DANCE



\$20
Per
Couple

**Saturday, Feb. 4th
6:00 - 8:30 PM**

- WHO:** All elementary school girls and their dads
WHAT: Dancing, Fun Games, and Food
WEAR: Dress your best!
WHERE: Liberty High School Commons
PICTURES: Available at the dance, order forms are on the back

QUESTIONS? Please contact Andrea Antrim

Phone: 425-837-4621

Email: antrima@issaquah.wednet.edu

