

Newcastle Elementary PTSA

Parent Teacher Student Association



PTA Unit: 2.6.18 • PTSA Co-Presidents: JuliAnne Diesch & Chris Longfellow • Newsletter Editor: Melia Cossette

February 29, 2016
2015-2016 School Year
Issue 6

Cub News

Upcoming Events

February 29-March 4
Newcastle Read Across
America

February 29-March 2
5th Grade Camp
Camp Seymour

March 10
Visiting Author Assembly
and Workshop
Suzanne Selfors
Grades 2-5

March 16
Visiting Author Presentation
Samantha Vamos
Grades K-1

March 17
4th Grade Recorder Concert
6:30 PM
The Commons

March 18
Coffee Talk with Rich
Mellish
9:30-10:30 AM
The Commons

Report Cards Available
4:30 PM
Family Access

March 24
5th Grade Visit to Maywood
School Day Visit
5th Grade Parent Information
Night
6:30 PM
Maywood Cafeteria

Presidents' Note

We hope you all enjoyed your mid-winter break and took some well-deserved respite from daily schedules. Now that we're back, we'd like to highlight some of the recent work accomplished by our PTSA volunteers and that which is ongoing!

The Winter Family Night "Roam Around the World" Culture & Heritage Festival was a huge success. Thank you to all of the families who attended and participated. What a sight it was to see such rich cultural diversity in our community. Amazing entertainment, tasty traditional fare, and a great sense of inclusion in our community hallmarked the event! We couldn't have done it without all of the families who shared their cultures with us and all the volunteers as well.

"You don't need to be the best there is to volunteer; you just need to offer your best." Byron Pulsifer

Our PTSA is powered by the work of countless volunteers, from those who pitch in to help when and where needed to Vice Presidents on our Executive Board to the Chairs of our numerous committees. We would be unable to provide the services and raise the money we raise without the hard work and dedication of so many people, both visible and behind the scenes. 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 on this prestigious volunteer award can be found later in this Cub News, along with a link to the nomination form.)

At our General Membership Meeting on February 1st, our Nominating Committee was elected. The Nominating Committee is the most important committee in PTSA, as its members are responsible for putting together our team of PTSA leaders for the 2016-2017 school year. Having qualified people in leadership positions at Newcastle will ensure the success of the PTSA for years to come. Consider the impact your ideas and energy can make for all the students at Newcastle Elementary! For more information or if you know of someone who wants to get more involved, please contact any of the Nominating Committee members: [Mary Brown](#), [Christie Pitts](#) and [Allison Sweeney](#).

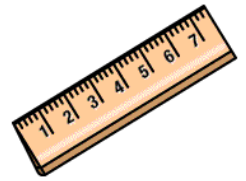
Regards,

[Chris](#) & [JuliAnne](#)

Calling All Parents- Yearbook Photos Needed!

If you have been or will be taking photos around school of your kiddos and their friends and want to see them in the yearbook then please email them to newcastle.yearbook.photos@gmail.com. Examples include photos taken on the first day of school, assemblies, field trips, classroom candid, Costume Carnival, etc. Please submit the highest resolution possible and label them by class and/or event. Please contact Trisha Louie at newcastle.yearbook.photos@gmail.com with any questions.

We All Measure Up: *Orange Ruler* Spring Fundraiser



Our big spring fundraiser, the *Orange Ruler Fun Run*, is coming soon! This exciting two-week event will kick-off with a school-wide assembly on Wednesday, April 20th. The *Orange Ruler* team has put together a fun-filled experience for our children and school community that focuses on teamwork, staying active and believing in yourself. This important program will help us raise money that will be used to continue to provide for PTSA funded programs like the Reading Club EA support, classroom grants, technology updates, enrichment programs, and the LionArt program. Please be on the lookout for the *Orange Ruler* parent letter and donation envelope which will be coming home with your child on the day of the kick-off assembly.

We look forward to working together with you to help make this our most successful Fun Run yet! If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact [Kate Lonning](#) or [Eva Downs](#).



GOLDEN ACORN Nominations

Each year our PTSA awards the Golden Acorn to individuals 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 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.

THE NOMINATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 29, 2016

New this year! Complete the nomination online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Newcastle-Awards2016> or by printing the form at www.newcastleptsa.org 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 early March.

Questions? Contact: [JuliAnne Diesch](#), [Sangeet Kindra](#) or [Stefanie Williamson](#).

A-M-A-Z-I-N-G

The 23 Newcastle Elementary students who participated in the two hour School Spelling Bee showed us their spelling skills, composure under pressure and support for each other.

Congratulations to David V., 4th Grade, our finalist, who will represent Newcastle Elementary at the Regional Scripps competition in Seattle on March 13, 2016, from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM. Travis O., also 4th grade, will be Newcastle's alternate if David is unavailable. You can view the Regional Bee live at <http://www.seattlechannel.org/live>, or by downloading the Livestream app for Android or iPhone and searching in that app for Seattle Channel.



Yearbook Sales!

Want to capture your child's fun memories at school this year? Purchase your 2015-2016 yearbook through the newcastleptsa.org website! Yearbooks will be delivered in June. You can reserve your child's copy by clicking on the 'Order Yearbooks!' icon on the left of the column on our home page and follow the prompts to complete your purchase. Yearbooks are available to purchase now through the end of March. If you bought one at the beginning of the school year, your order is confirmed and you do not need to do anything further. If you're not sure, you can log into the PTSA website, click on 'my account', log in, and view current orders. Contact [Mary Brown](#) if you have any questions.



Celebrating Our Fabulous Diversity!



Thank you to all of the families that attended and participated in our "Roam Around the World" Culture and Heritage Festival. What a sight it was to see such rich cultural diversity in our community with over 20 booths representing 18 countries and cultures! From amazing entertainment that included beautiful and energetic Korean, Indian and hula dancing, a fashion "Parade of Cultures" and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu to Indian Henna tattooing, a lot of fun was had by all. Attendees sampled tasty traditional fare such as meatballs from Sweden, mango lassi from India, dolmathes from Greece, sausage rolls from South Africa, Halal finger foods from Somalia and many other traditional treats.

We experienced a great sense of inclusion and real celebration of cultures. We couldn't have done it without all of the families who shared their cultures with us and all the volunteers as well.

Special thanks to ALL the participating families for their displays, arts/crafts, and food samples: Marie Birve, Yvette Blauvelt, Misa Murohashi Cartier, JuliAnne Diesch, Gergina Dukenjieva, Casey Ellsworth, Gina Empamano, Stina Fluegge, Koreen Hiramami, Fahra Khan, Samakshi Krishna, Tatiana Mihaylova, Uma Naik, Anelia Nikolova, Elysa Piha, Abi Ramachandran, Avani Sambaraju, Chhavi Sharma, Sarika Sikka, and Sahra Zwayrah.

Sincere appreciation to **Pho' Cyclo** for their generous donation of delicious eggrolls and pot stickers. Many thanks to **Morning Star Korean Dance Community Center**, Newcastle's own performers and fashionistas, **Elite Jiu-Jitsu**, and **Seattle Hula**. Also, thanks to the 2016-17 5th Grade Fundraising students and parents, and all the 8th graders who came to help.

Popcorn Fridays Have Been Saved...For Now



As previously reported, the PTSA canceled Popcorn Friday on Feb. 12 due to lack of volunteers. Thankfully, many parents responded to the recent need for volunteers and additional cancellations have been avoided for now-though there are several Fridays in April/May that could still be in jeopardy. If you (**yes you!**) volunteered for one Friday, we would be covered for the rest of the year!

Volunteering is easy: simply click [here](#), find an open slot and click "Sign Up"! There will be a training session on Friday March 11th at 11:30 AM in the cafeteria. You will learn how easy it is, and make new friends too! Please consider helping to keep this Friday tradition from fading away!

We would also like to thank the few faithful volunteers who have continued to help distribute popcorn on a regular basis all school year: David Nelson, Michelle Riley, Karen Sharp, and Lisa Sunde. You have made hundreds of kids very happy and have helped keep this very popular Newcastle tradition alive! For questions please contact [David Nelson](#).

Two Amazing Authors Are Visiting Newcastle!

Newcastle Elementary is excited to welcome TWO wonderful authors to our school! **Suzanne Selfors**, of *Imaginary Veterinary* fame, will be here on Thursday, March 10th for author assemblies and writing workshops with students in 2nd-5th grade. **Samantha Vamos**, bilingual author of the award-winning *The Cazuela That The Farm Maiden Stirred* and more, will be here on Wednesday, March 16th to meet and present to our Kindergarten and 1st graders.

All Newcastle Lions will have the chance to hear about the writing process from a real-life author! If your child is interested, books are available for pre-purchase. Students who purchase books will meet the author during the day and have their book signed. Information about the books went home via Kid Mail on Thursday, February 11.

Suzanne Selfors book orders are due back by Wednesday, March 2nd. Samantha Vamos book orders are due back by Wednesday, March 9th. If students own their own copies of books by either author, they are more than welcome to bring them in on the day of the visit to have them signed. If you have any questions, please contact [Laura Berry](#).

Newcastle Elementary Celebrates *Read Across America!*

Once again, Newcastle Elementary is excited to celebrate *Read Across America*, a nationwide reading celebration in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday! We have many fun activities planned during the week of February 29 to celebrate Reading and Dr. Seuss. Get your books and your student and get ready to read!

Monday, 2/29-The school-wide kick-off of our *Read Across America* celebration begins by reciting the Reader's Oath with Mr. Mellish. Teachers will read aloud a Dr. Seuss book with their students.

Tuesday, 3/1-**Read My Shirt Day**
Wear a shirt with words on it.

Wednesday, 3/2-**Storybook Character Day**
Dress up as your favorite book character. Show off your creative side!

Thursday, 3/3-**Silly Sock Day**
Silly Socks on your feet just can't be beat!
Stripes, polka dots, or swirls,
Colorful socks for all boys and girls!
Today at school, wear a pair of silly socks!



Friday, 3/4-**Cat in the Hat Day!**
Wear red and white or a hat like The Cat in the Hat! Newcastle will **Drop Everything and Read!** The whole school will be spilling out into the halls sometime on Friday to cuddle up with a good book. Be ready to read that day!

2015-2016 PTSA
Executive Committee

Co-Presidents

[JuliAnne Diesch](#)
[Chris Longfellow](#)

VP Volunteers

[Julie Pedraza](#)

VP Outreach

[Nancy Ko](#)

Co-VPs Ways & Means

[Eva Downs](#)
[Kate Lonning](#)

VP Program Enrichment

[Michelle Riley](#)

Co-Secretaries

[Therese Kosar](#)
[Eileen Rubenstein](#)

Treasurer

[Angela Ursino](#)

Many Thanks for the Warm Meal Provided by Families, Appreciated by Newcastle Teachers and Staff!

On Thursday February 11th, the Staff enjoyed a fabulous array of food provided by the 2nd and 3rd Grade parents. A special thank you to Kate Lonning and Eva Downs, who also helped out with setup and clean up afterwards.

Many thanks to:

Heather Ackermann, Jessica Anderson, Jackie Bartel, Vivian Bastron, Katie Blechman, Elaine Brabant, Sara Brester, Gina Capati, Samantha Chong, Liting Chuang, Leanne Cole, Khanh Dang, JuliAnne Diesch, Danielle Dixon, Eva Downs, Tina Ferencz, Stina Fluegge, Brittany Frank, Gina Hall, Alison Handlin, Koreen Hirakami, Cynthia Irvine, Jeana Kim, Chuck Kim, Nancy Ko, Therese Kosar, Kristi Kuhl, Yun Li, Caroline Lilley, Chris Longfellow, Lyanne Ma, Jen Matin, Shirin Mirza, Sahra Mohamud, Uma Naik, Shari Ojendyk, Julie Pedraza, Elysa Piha, Michelle Riley, Eileen Rubenstein, Alka Sandhu, Huyen Sewell, Faye Till, Korre Veitengruber, Bettina Vuong, Erica Yang.

Issaquah School Foundation Nourish Every Mind Breakfast and Luncheon



Please save the dates for these annual events that raise critical funds for so many programs integral to our Issaquah schools. This fundraiser has become so popular that they now offer both a luncheon and a breakfast so that it can fit into most people's schedules:

Luncheon: Thursday, April 28th, 2016 at Issaquah Community Center • 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm.

Breakfast: Wednesday, May 4th, 2016 at Eastridge Church, Issaquah • 7:30 am - 8:30 am

ISF helps fund many of the programs that support our kids including:

- National Board Certification (NBC) Scholarships for teachers
- New Teacher Classroom Start-Up Funds
- Highly Capable (MERLIN and SAGE)
- Pre-K/K Summer School
- Volunteers of Issaquah Changing Education (VOICE) Mentor Program

To sign up and show your support of these wonderful programs, please contact [Farha Khan](#).