

Newcastle Elementary PTSA

Parent Teacher Student Association



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

September 11, 2015
2015-2016 School Year
Issue 1

Cub News

Upcoming Events

- September 16th**
Curriculum Night,
1st - 2nd Grades
5:30 PM (Individual classrooms)
- Principal's Session
6:15 PM
The Commons
- September 17th**
Picture Day
- Curriculum Night, 3rd - 5th Grades
5:30 PM (Individual classrooms)
- Principal's Session
6:15 PM
The Commons
- 5th Grade Camp Seymour Parent Meeting, immediately following
Principal's Session
The Commons
- September 18th**
Coffee Talk with Rich Mellish
9:30 AM
The Commons
- September 21st**
First General PTSA Meeting
7:00 PM
The Commons
- September 22nd**
5th Grade Camp Seymour Fundraiser at
Tapatio & ZoeYogurt
- September 25th**
Deadline to order Spirit Wear
Deadline to register with PTSA to
qualify for Classroom Book incentive
(\$50 to teachers with 100% registered
families)
- October 2nd**
Deadline for inclusion in the Student
Directory
Deadline for Directory Cover Art
Contest
- October 8th**
Vision and Hearing Screening
- October 12th**
NO School-Teacher Work Day
- October 16th**
Coffee Talk with Rich Mellish
9:30 AM
The Commons
- October 23rd**
Costume Carnival
6:00 PM
The Commons

Presidents' Note

The recent rainfall is a welcome indicator of the fall season and the beginning of the school year. Our families enjoyed an incredible summer of sunshine and activity and we hope that your family was able to take advantage of this rare hot summer as well! Our PTSA theme this year is "Healthy Kids, Healthy Community", which we think pairs well with this year's school theme of "Growing Together".

Please note: In sticking with our technological world, this will be our ONLY printed Cub News this year. So don't miss out on receiving future Cub News, our weekly What's Happening updates, occasional special e-blasts and Room Parent communications by registering with the PTSA!

What is the PTSA? The PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association) is a member-driven, all-volunteer organization with the purpose of enriching the experience at Newcastle Elementary for every child. We strive to have an adult representative for every student.

What are the benefits of joining? Your \$25 membership fee provides voting rights (for example, to help determine how we allocate funds from our biennial auction and various fundraising efforts) for two named adults, WA State PTA and National PTA membership, and a Newcastle PTSA Directory for 2015-2016. In addition, the WA State PTA has negotiated some excellent discounts for members at businesses throughout the state (and into Idaho); check out up-to-date benefits at http://www.wastatepta.org/member/value_benefit/value_benefit.html for full details.

How do I register? Go to newcastlepta.org and click on the "Back to School" button on the left to get started. Each class that has 100% of families registered with the PTSA by September 26 will receive \$50 to buy books for the classroom. You can manage your desired communications from the website.

General Membership News. Join us for our first PTSA General Membership Meeting on Monday, September 21st at 7 PM in The Commons, as we examine and approve the Annual Budget for 2015-2016 as well as learn what programs are in store for the year. If you haven't attended meetings in the past due to childcare needs, please know that your children are welcome! We will set up an area for a movie showing

Presidents' Note Continued...

New Faces, New Energy!

The Newcastle PTSA would like to welcome all new staff to the Newcastle Elementary School community. We are so thankful to have such wonderful, caring individuals working together to help our Lions be the best that they can be, each and every day!!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Alissa Miller and Kathy Noblat in Kindergarten; Emily Martinson in Second Grade; Angela Roybal in Fourth Grade and Katie Keith in Fifth Grade among the many new support staff who have joined our overall community too. When you see a new face in the hallway, please take a minute to welcome them!

your children are welcome! We will set up an area for a movie showing and have youth volunteers to help out in that area. This is a new option available to us; we hope it will help our members to be engaged with the PTSA!

Be well,

JuliAnne Diesch & Chris Longfellow
PTSA Co-Presidents, 2015-2016
jpdiesch@yahoo.com
chrislongfellow17@comcast.net

Welcome Trisha Snyder - our new Overflow 3rd Grade Librarian!

Hello! My name is Trisha Snyder and I am thrilled to be Newcastle's overload librarian this year. I live in Issaquah with my husband and two children (both are currently at Sunset Elementary). We love to hike, swim, visit the ocean, and of course, READ! Before becoming a librarian, I taught 3rd and 4th grade at Endeavour Elementary where I first met our fabulous and talented librarian, Laura Berry! I also taught science lessons with Science to Go for many years.

I am so honored and excited to be working with Ms. Berry and the Newcastle staff. But most of all, I can't wait to meet all my new students and start a wonderful year in the library!

Sincerely,
Trisha Snyder



Welcome ThanhVan Pham - our new counselor!

Greetings Newcastle Lions!

My name is ThanhVan (Von) Pham and I am the new counselor here at Newcastle Elementary. I grew up in Puyallup, WA and recently discovered the Issaquah area and am really excited to start my career here! I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences with a concentration in General Studies from University of Washington. In June 2015, I graduated from City University with my Master of Education in Guidance & Counseling. My coursework and internship was with Tacoma Public Schools. I will be at Newcastle Elementary Mondays, Thursdays and alternate Wednesdays. I am very eager to get to know our students, staff and families here at Newcastle!

Sincerely,
ThanhVan Pham

Smile! It's Picture Time!



It's time for the annual back-to-school picture of your kids! Mark your calendar for Thursday, September 17th, when Dorian Photography will be on site to take student photographs. Check your child's Kidmail for order forms and turn in the completed form with payment on or before picture day.

Questions? Contact Tiffany Ryan at rtrryan@comcast.net.

Buy Your Spirit Wear Now!

The PTSA has partnered with a new vendor this year, allowing us to offer many great items with new logos! Help your child show their school pride by purchasing one of the amazing shirts, sweatshirts, shirts, hats and water bottles! In addition, 10% of all proceeds will go back to the PTSA.

All orders should be placed online at NewcastlePTSA.org. The deadline to place an order is Friday, September 25th. The orders will be distributed to your child's teacher in late October.

If you have any questions or would like to see sample sizes, please contact Mary Brown at brown073104@comcast.net! We're looking forward to seeing all the kids in their new Spirit Wear this year!



Yearbooks!

Yearbook ordering has begun! All yearbook orders will be done online this year; no paper order forms will be sent home. You can order your yearbook with your free online PTSA registration!

Here is how to order:

1. Go to www.newcastleptsa.org
2. Click on "sign in" in the top right corner. If you don't have an account, you will be able to set one up
3. Log in to your account (if you forgot your password, you can retrieve it here)
4. Click on the Back to School Sign Up on the left hand side of the page. Follow the prompts to register with or join the PTSA and to order a yearbook for a student!

If you have questions, please contact Mary Brown at brown073104@comcast.net.

Coffee Talk with Principal Mellish

Would you like to learn more about our School and our Principal in a casual and welcoming setting? Do you have a question on your mind you haven't had a chance to ask? Please join us for our next PTSA-sponsored Coffee Talk with Rich Mellish on Friday, September 18th 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 October 16, January 22, March 18, and May 20.

If you have any questions, please contact Amardeep Mahal at asmahal75@yahoo.com. Hope to see you all there!

Membership Matters!

We welcome those who have joined the Newcastle Elementary PTSA this year and invite those who haven't yet joined to register today. PTSA is a non-profit, member organization that works in partnership with the school to make Newcastle a place where EVERY child can succeed. Every membership matters (and also includes a copy of the very useful 2015-2016 PTSA Member Directory)! To register, simply go to: <https://newcastleptsa.org>.

Please contact stinafluegge@gmail.com with any questions.

A “Spook”tacular Night for All!

“Save the Date” for a night of spooky cool fall family fun on Friday, October 23rd from 6-8 PM in The Commons! All you ghosts and goblins, grab your costumes and please join us for loads of carnival fun.....there will be games, music, food for sale, treats, photos, and more!!! Everyone is welcome - parents, grandparents, students, siblings and friends! If you would like to volunteer to help with the event, or have any questions, please contact Michelle Riley (mmriley628@hotmail.com) or JuliAnne Diesch (jpdiesch@yahoo.com). Hope to see you all there for a howling good time!

Calling All Volunteers!

Vision and Hearing Volunteers Needed! We are still in need of a few volunteers for our vision and hearing testing on Thursday, October 8th. We still need at least 8 volunteers for the afternoon shift, from approximately 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM. If you are able to help, please mark it on your calendar and contact Elizabeth Brecht at elizabethbrecht@comcast.net. Thanks!

Kidmail Volunteers needed! Thursday mornings, once or twice a month, we need volunteers to help copy and distribute flyers to be sent home with students. Volunteers work on a rotating basis. Please contact Elizabeth Brecht at elizabethbrecht@comcast.net with questions.

Mark Your Calendars! Tapatio/ZoeYogurt Fundraiser on Tuesday, September 22nd!

Newcastle families, mark your calendars. Get ready for another great community building event! Our friends at Tapatio will be supporting the 5th Grade class effort to raise money for camp. On Tuesday, September 22nd, they will generously donate a portion of all receipts for the entire day - lunch and dinner! So, plan lunch with co-workers or friends and definitely take the night off from cooking. Bring in the whole family or call ahead and get your order to-go. Want to maximize the fundraising? Cash sales get a larger percentage donation.

And...once you've had your fill of delicious food, walk on down to ZoeYogurt to top it off with dessert! That's right, ZoeYogurt is participating in the effort to raise money for camp, too! Load up that cup with lots of frozen goodness or grab a pre-filled pint or two to take home. Either way, you're making a difference!

Whether you have a child in fifth grade this year or one coming up the pike, this is a great opportunity to spend time with friends old and new! So come on out and show your Newcastle Pride to our generous community. See you there! Questions? Please contact Trisha Pollara, tlpollara@gmail.com.

The Inner Artist in Every Child!



Does your student like to draw or paint? Author her own stories? Or would he prefer to make the next viral YouTube video? If you answered yes to one, or more, of those questions... then REFLECTIONS is for your child! The Reflections Program is a National PTA and Washington State 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. Each year, Reflections challenges students to create art that supports a specific theme. Themes are selected from thousands of ideas submitted by students to National PTA's Reflections Theme Search. This year's theme is: **Let Your Imagination Fly.**

To learn more, go to NewcastlePTSA.org.

2015-2016 PTSA Executive Committee

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Issaquah Schools Foundation News



Newcastle Elementary ISF Ambassador needed!

Welcome back to school from the Issaquah Schools Foundation (ISF)! We're looking forward to a great year, and want YOU as our ISF Ambassador! **What is an ISF Ambassador?** Your "go-to" person for all Issaquah Schools Foundation information. ISF Ambassadors do a tremendous job of building bridges of understanding, support, and enthusiasm between our schools and the Issaquah Schools Foundation. And we need an ISF Ambassador at Newcastle Elementary. If you are interested, please contact JuliAnne Diesch at jpdiesch@yahoo.com for more information.

How can you contribute to a great education for your child?

Donate to the Issaquah Schools Foundation **All in for Kids Annual Fund Campaign**, running now through November 17th! Your gift will fund programs and initiatives that elevate education for your child and every Issaquah School District Student. Please give what you can—\$5 a month to \$5,000 a year. Your donation will fuel success for students in every school, and every classroom. Visit www.isfdn.org to make your donation today.

Shop with Amazon and Give Back!

Visit www.amazon.com for all of your back to school shopping needs and please use the ISF site to take you there. Visit www.isfdn.org and click on the Amazon logo in the top left corner. Add the link to your bookmarks and up to 8% of your total purchase will be donated to the Foundation. Happy shopping!

Career Cruising for High School Students

Issaquah students in all of our high schools will be cruising into their future with **Career Cruising** starting this year. This powerful program will help students build a plan that connects their schoolwork to real life - and to their futures - by engaging students to learn about themselves, explore their options, create a plan, then bring that plan to life. Their work is supported by the high school career counselors who can see how each student is doing and help guide them along the way. Parents will also have access to their child's progress at all times through the parent portal. The Foundation will also be expanding this valuable tool into the community through **Inspire**, which connects students to the local community so they can ask questions of real working people and learn about internship opportunities.

Thank you Puget Sound Energy

Puget Sound Energy is helping to ensure that all Issaquah schools and classrooms are safe and emergency prepared. Every school will now have a fully functioning Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and every classroom will be equipped with a fully stocked emergency backpack and first aid kit. Thank you Puget Sound Energy for keeping us safe!