

Newcastle Elementary PTSA

Parent Teacher Student Association

PTA Unit: 2.6.18 • PTSA Presidents: Kim Plowman/Edana Peacock • Newsletter Editor: Sangeet Kindra

September, 16th 2013
2013-2014 School Year
Issue 1

Cub News

Upcoming Events

September 16th
7:00 - 8:30pm
PTSA General Membership
Meeting

September 17th
5:30pm
Curriculum Night
Grades 3 - 5

September 19th
Picture Day!

September 25th
First Day of Chorus
Grades 3 - 5

September 27th
9:15am
Mochas with Marla/Early
with Shirley
In the Commons

October 7th
Last Day to Enter Family
Information into the PTSA
Directory

Presidents' Note

WELCOME BACK! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer and that you are all back into your school routine. We are excited to be back as your PTSA Co-Presidents for a third year... Wow, how time flies when you're having fun!

One of our goals this year is to get every Newcastle family registered on the PTSA website (www.newcastleptsa.org). If you haven't already done so, please make it a priority to visit the website, taking special note of "back to school sign-up" on the top left of the home page. This will take you step-by-step through the following:

- Family information page
This is where you enter or edit your family's contact information & kids' homeroom teacher(s), and **THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GET YOUR FAMILY'S INFORMATION IN THE 2013 - 2014 PTSA STUDENT DIRECTORY** (*we will no longer be getting the information from the school.*) Family contact information must be entered by **October 7th** in order to be included in this year's directory.
- PTSA membership
- Volunteering opportunities
- Donations for staff PTSA memberships/auction tickets
- Donations for Gift-a-Book to support our school library
- Purchase your student's yearbook

We would like to give a HUGE thank you to everyone who has already registered on our PTSA website (www.newcastleptsa.org). We currently have over **75%** of our families registered and are hoping to reach our goal of 100% participation so that we can communicate with all of our families this year! Our PTSA communication is sent directly from our website, which means that only families who are registered will receive important PTSA updates and information. Registering on the PTSA website is not the same thing as joining PTSA...We also encourage all of our families to join PTSA and give a voice to all of our children!

In our continued effort to reach all of our families and not inundate you with unnecessary information we will be making a few minor changes to our communication this year. We will be sending out Cub News monthly rather than bi-monthly (via email.) We will continue to send out weekly calendar e-blasts and once a trimester we will be sending home a printed newsletter that will highlight past events and give a snapshot of upcoming happenings.

We are thrilled to say that we will not be having a fall fundraiser this year due to the huge success of our 2013 Auction!! The only fundraising that we will be doing this year will be our Walk-a-Thon that will be held in conjunction with our Health and Fitness fair & University Book Store Book Fair next Spring.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We are looking forward to a great year!

Kim Plowman & Edana Peacock
kplowman@premieremarket.com, edanatish@aol.com
PTSA Co-Presidents

**Thank you to the following
business members for
supporting our kids!**

Orthodontic Excellence
Olympic Physical Therapy
Bob Moawad (John L. Scott)
Nick Sooy (Farmer's Insurance)
Acura of Seattle
Healthy Smile Dentistry
HomeStreet Bank
Lice Knowing You/Nancy Gordon
Loan Central (Doug Blik)
May Creek Landscaping
Melissa Larson (Financial
Advisor)
Sambica
Sean Nielsen (Realogics)
Sotheby's International Realty)
A Kids Place Dentistry
Dr. Rod Nordberg
Eastside Pediatric Dental
Jayme Benson/Jayme's Hair
Design
Ken Cole, PT, COMT, FAAOMPT
Kendra Vadney/Stella & Dot
Marcie Maxwell & Lisa Lam
Michelle Woo (Windermere)
Paula Spence/Emergency-Pac
Rainier Ballet Academy
Lisa Jensen Websites

**Thank you to our
corporate sponsors for
their generous annual
contributions to Newcastle
PTSA!**

The more we use their services,
the more we can do for our kids
& school!

Orthodontic Excellence
Safeway
Everything Party
Precision Autocraft
Target
Office Depot
Bartells
GoodSearch.com

Critical Volunteer Positions!

Thank you to the many parents, grandparents, older siblings and community members that have volunteered to help with PTSA programs this year! With your assistance, the students will have a memorable and enriching school year.

While so many have generously offered their time, we are still in need of several people to lead touchstone programs offered by the PTSA:

- Costume Carnival Co-Chairperson (October 25)
- Kid-mail Chairperson (on-going)
- Winter Family Event Chairperson (January 31)
- Membership Chairperson (fall)
- Reflections Chair (fall)

If you have interest in any of these positions, please go to:

<https://newcastleptsa.ourschoolpages.com/Packet/Volunteer/SignInPacketPage/0>

Spirit Wear

We are excited to offer Newcastle Lions Spirit Wear on sale from now until October 4th. There are lots of new and fun exciting items for kids and adults. Many of the items are available in a variety of colors (green, pink, yellow, grey) and some of the items (Football Jersey, Hoodie and tees) can be personalized with your students last name and even a number! Look for a flyer in your child's backpack next week via KidMail. Check out the flyer on the Newcastle PTSA website and check out some of the great samples that are available in the school entry hall outside the office at the bulletin board. To view the flyer online please go to:

<http://newcastleptsa.org/Doc/PTSADocuments/NewcastleSpiritWear2013.pdf>

Orders need to be returned to Newcastle Elementary with checks made payable to Newcastle Elementary PTSA by October 4th. If you have any questions, please contact Lissa Wax at lissawax@gmail.com

Newcastle Annual Costume Carnival!



"Save the Date" for a night of spooky cool fall family fun on Friday, October 25th from 6pm to 8pm in the Newcastle Commons! All you ghosts and goblins, grab your costumes and please join us for loads of carnival fun.....there will be games, music, pizza, treats, photos, and more!!! Everyone welcome - parents, students, and siblings. Hope to see you all there for some scary fun. Boo!

****PLEASE NOTE: WE STILL DO NOT HAVE A CHAIRPERSON FOR THIS EVENT. IF WE DO NOT HAVE A CHAIRPERSON IN PLACE BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER, THE COSTUME CARNIVAL WILL BE CANCELLED.**

For the Full Calendar and all up-to-date information, please visit us on the Web! <http://www.newcastleptsa.org>

Get Ready for Picture Day: September 19



Time to practice those picture perfect smiles! Mark your calendar for Thursday, September 19, when Dorian Photography will be on site to take individual photographs. Check kidmail for order forms, and turn in the completed form with payment before picture day. Questions? Contact Tiffany Ryan at rtrryan@comcast.net

Popcorn Fridays!



Hello Families! Once again we are fortunate to have Popcorn Fridays! Please send \$.25 with your child on Friday morning starting September 20! Your child will be able to buy one bag of popcorn to enjoy during their afternoon recess. (Please refrain from sending big bills, as we don't have change to give back.) Thank you!

Calling All Student Artists!

Does your student like to draw or paint? Author their own stories? Or would they prefer to make the next viral YouTube video? If you answered yes to one, or more, of those questions... then REFLECTIONS is for you!

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:

Believe, Dream, Inspire

Students participate by submitting entries in one of six categories: Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts, Film/Video, Choreography/Dance and Special Artist. This program provides an opportunity for students to explore and learn about various art forms. 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, and category guidelines and FAQs, please go to:

<http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/reflections/index.html>

WANTED: Reflections Chairperson

"Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere."

- Albert Einstein

If you believe that the arts are an essential element of education and that the artistic process unlocks even greater human understanding, then we want YOU to chair this year's Reflections program!

The National PTA Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program that provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a pre-selected theme. The program increases community awareness on the importance of the arts in education.

As chairperson, you will help coordinate volunteers, distribute information and promote the program, display entries, identify judges, and coordinate a reception for participants. You will also get to witness awesome, imaginative, and amazing works of art unlike any you've seen before - all created by spectacular new talent from Kindergarten up to 5th grade.

At Newcastle Elementary, we see firsthand the impact an arts-integrated curriculum has on our students. If you'd like to positively influence our young artists, please contact Leanne Cole at weezypt@comcast.net. Student entries will be due the beginning of November.

****PLEASE NOTE: IF WE DO NOT HAVE A CHAIRPERSON IN PLACE BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER, THE REFLECTIONS PROGRAM WILL NOT HAPPEN THIS YEAR FOR OUR NEWCASTLE LIONS.**

2013-2014 PTSA Executive Committee

Co-Presidents

Kim Plowman/Edana Peacock
kpLOWMAN@premieremarket.com
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VP Volunteers

Meri Hartman
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Co-VP Outreach

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Secretary

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Co-Treasurers

Cindy Buono/Rae Miller
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ISF Provides MackinVIA to All Newcastle Students



Dear Families,

Thanks to generous support from the Issaquah Schools Foundation, all Newcastle students have access to an amazing digital resource called MackinVIA.

Access the resource at: www.mackinvia.com. You need to enter our school name. You child's user name is their 7-digit District ID which can be found on Family Access. (It begins with 08.) You child's last name is their password. Using "My Profile" you can adjust their password and add your email to get updates.

This handy portal can be used to view eBooks and our subscription databases (StarWalk Kids Media, CultureGrams, World Book Online, BrainPop, Easy Bib, World Almanac for Kids, Zoobooks and Tumblebooks) with one user ID and one password! It's VERY user-friendly and available 24/7.

Using the "Advanced Search" feature, you can search by Reading Level and even F&P levels! Anything you add to your favorites will be saved in your backpack and can be accessed via a Reader App when not online. It's pretty cool! All of the books are unlimited access, so you don't have to check out or return them.

If you use the iOS platform, you'll want to download the Puffin app (\$2.99 at the app store) in order view eBooks on Apple devices. This enables your device to read books created using the Flash program.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Laura Berry
Newcastle Elementary Teacher-Librarian
berryl@issaquah.wednet.edu
425-837-5825

School Counselor Message

Hello Parents!

As Newcastle's School Counselor, I have great resources to help provide support to you and your students on a variety of issues. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if I can help in any way! I am at Newcastle on Tuesday/Friday and alternate Wednesday's and I can be reached at meserolel@issaquah.wednet.edu or 425-837-5817.

To help me better support the needs of you and your student, please fill out the following survey by going to:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/17idehRPSbbBHjm2i1Bwv5cCVFXNyFCLJX8EDGktOZ2c/viewform>

This is a great help to me as I gather information and resources throughout the year. Thank you!!

Ms. Mez