

# Newcastle Elementary PTSA

Parent Teacher Student Association



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

November 13, 2015  
2015-2016 School Year  
Issue 3

## Cub News

### Upcoming Events

**November 16**  
**PTSA General**  
**Membership Meeting**  
9:45-10:45 AM  
Room 145

**November 16 -**  
**December 4**  
**Newcastle Elementary**  
**PTSA Polar Express Gift**  
**Drive**

**November 18**  
**P.I.E. Night**  
5:30 PM  
Student Classrooms

**November 21**  
**Chorus Performance**  
4:00 PM  
The Landing

**November 25**  
**Report Cards Available**  
4:30 PM  
Family Access

**November 26 & 27**  
**NO SCHOOL**  
Thanksgiving Recess

**December 2 & 3**  
**NO SCHOOL**  
Parent-Teacher  
Conferences

### Presidents' Note

In setting our PTSA theme this year as “Healthy Kids, Healthy Community,” the Executive Committee members expressed our commitment to the health and well-being of the students at Newcastle Elementary while extending this to the greater community. Some of the activities sponsored by the PTSA have always supported this theme, like gathering volunteers to help conduct Vision & Hearing Screening and helping to coordinate the Gift-A-Book program that keeps students' minds engaged with new books. We have also decided to increase the healthy food choices at our Family Nights, such as offering apples instead of cookies at the Costume Carnival. This month, the PTSA will launch the Recess Program in partnership with the Coal Creek YMCA. We hope your students will enjoy this new, healthy opportunity!

We appreciate the incredible responses we have seen to the PTSA-sponsored outreach programs. The Food Drive gave students the chance to “vote” for the Spirit Day theme while providing 1,000 pounds of food to the Issaquah Food Bank. Thanks to all who contributed, and congratulations to Joann John and Christian Skally for winning the opportunity to SLIME Mr. Mellish and Mr. Neugebauer. We hope that even without such an incentive, we will see strong support for the Polar Express Gift Drive. We thank you in advance for your generosity!

The PTSA fulfilled its commitment to get Directories and SpiritWear in hand by early November to maximize usage of SpiritWear and to allow PTSA Members to connect with other families in the community. None of these tasks happen without the effort of dedicated volunteers, and we are 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 2015-2016 year, we are starting to plan for the future as well. At our General Membership meeting on February 1st, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Library, we will elect our Nominating Committee, which is charged with recruiting the most qualified people for the 2016-2017 Executive Committee. We are looking for one parent from each grade level to serve on the Nominating Committee (including alternates). The overall commitment is short yet it 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.

**Presidents' Note Continued...**



## Legislative Update

Denelle Wolff attended the State's Legislative Assembly where the Washington State PTA voted to adopt the platform issues of supporting foster kids and providing more education for paraeducators. The Washington State PTA also forwarded a resolution we can pass to support funding under McLeary. This resolution is available in its entirety on our [website](#). Members will vote on this resolution at the February 1<sup>st</sup> PTSA General Membership Meeting. If you cannot attend, please send your comments to Denelle Wolff at [dlwolff@gmail.com](mailto:dlwolff@gmail.com).

## SpiritWear

SpiritWear has arrived and was delivered to your child! The new products and logos look amazing. We met our goal of having the new merchandise to our families by the end of October. If you didn't get a chance to order this time, stay tuned for another opportunity in the New Year. If there is a problem with your order or you have a question, please contact Mary Brown, [brown073104@comcast.net](mailto:brown073104@comcast.net). A huge thanks to Mary Brown, and Jason and Erin Genthner for your hard work and support!

If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee or have questions, please contact Julie Pedraza, our VP of Volunteers!

Warmly,

Chris & JuliAnne

## Spreading Cheer this Holiday Season with the Newcastle Polar Express



The annual Newcastle Elementary PTSA Polar Express Gift Drive is back! From Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> through Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, Newcastle families will have the opportunity to help make the holiday season a little brighter for local children in need of extra support and cheer.

Just place a new, unwrapped gift in the bins by the Front Office by December 4th. Then these gifts will be displayed at Pickering Barn for Issaquah families in need to shop for their children. An easy way to contribute and assure variety is to purchase gifts that match your children's ages and genders. The Food Bank targets grades K- 12, yet historically lacks donations for 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> graders. So if you can, please consider donating something extra like movie passes or gift cards for older kids. While gifts can vary in price, the Food Bank will ensure equity for all children.

- Items needed include: toiletries, socks, hats, gloves, PJs, etc.
- Items requested include: jackets, games, Seahawks gear, bikes, scooters, and wrapping paper.

Uncertain what to buy? Consider contributing gift cards to retailers or restaurants!

If you would like to help organize and deliver gifts to the Issaquah Food Bank, please contact Chantra Cruikshank at [chantra.cruikshank@gmail.com](mailto:chantra.cruikshank@gmail.com). If you want to volunteer or if your family needs support during this holiday season, visit [www.issaquahfoodbank.org](http://www.issaquahfoodbank.org) for more information.

## It Takes A Village!

Many activities at Newcastle would not occur without the help of the volunteers who put in numerous hours each month so that our community can benefit from improved communication, extra support for our teachers and staff, family events, and other fabulous additions to the school day. Without all of you, we wouldn't be able to accomplish so much for our school community. Thank you.

## Emergency Prep

Special thanks to Dan Tarleton and Marcia O'Donoghue for doing inventory on and restocking all the Emergency Preparedness Kits in the classrooms.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:newcastle.yearbook.photos@gmail.com) with any questions.

## Kidmail

Thank you to all those who helped manage and distribute Kidmail this month: Jackie Bartel, Elizabeth Brecht, Susan Crow, Teresa Fagan, Renee Klein, Caroline Lilley and Michelle Riley.

## Food Drive - Gratitude

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Food Drive. The PTSA collected 1,000 pounds of food and other essential supplies to help the Issaquah Food Bank and local families in need. The "votes" were overwhelmingly in support of one Spirit Day option, and the school celebrated with Pajama Day on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. 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 & Roger Blauvelt for the slime machine and to Principal Rich 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!



## Shop & Earn this Holiday Season!

It's time to start your holiday shopping and earn money for Newcastle. We are registered with two easy-to-use and shop-to-earn programs this year which can make a big impact on our fundraising efforts - AmazonSmile and Target. All you need to do is follow a few steps, shop, and share with your friends and family. If you have questions about either of these programs, contact Corporate Rebates Chair Tracy Ritterbusch at [tracy.ritterbusch@gmail.com](mailto:tracy.ritterbusch@gmail.com).

### AmazonSmile

You Shop. Amazon Gives!



Help us earn 0.05% of your Amazon purchases. Simply click this link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/77-0625672> and start shopping. Or visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), enter Newcastle Elementary in the charitable organization search box, click search and select 'Newcastle Elementary Ptsa 2 6 18', and start shopping. Bookmark [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to always start your shopping from your AmazonSmile profile.

### Target

We receive 1% of purchases made by Target REDcard and Target™ MasterCard® holders who have designated our school. To start earning, visit <https://www-secure.target.com/redcard/tcoe/home>, search for Newcastle Elementary, and then designate your school by entering your name and Target credit card number. The primary cardholder of a Target Debit Card™ can also sign up for the Take Charge of Education program by calling [1-800-316-6142](tel:1-800-316-6142). If you want to apply for a Target credit or debit card, apply from the link above and save 5% on all your purchases as well!

## Vision & Hearing

Very special thanks to Elizabeth Brecht and the following volunteers who helped with Vision and Hearing testing in October. Our school nurse Karen Herring is very grateful to have had so many volunteers to get every child tested: Jessica Anderson, Taryn Bailey, Jackie Bartel, Vivian Bastron, Candace Berde, Marie Birve, Cindy Buono, Katie Burris, Becky Butler, Lisa Crutchfield, Khanh Dang, Lee Dolson, Teresa Fagan, Brittany Frank, Luisa Gass, Christy Grabowski, Gina Hall, Alison Handlin, Joanna Hanson, Nishy Hayre, Jeanie Johnson, Sarah Jordan, Ruthie Keyes, Jean Kim, Renee Klein, Kate Lonning, Michelle Riley, Huyen Sewell, Noelle, Sharp, Karen Sharp, Zornitza Shomev, Heather Thibeau, and Nicole Wiebe.

## Please Show Your Support!

Every year, we are thankful for the support of so many businesses in our community, who, through their donations to our PTSA, show us the value they place on the services the PTSA provides to the students and staff at our school. In return, we ask our school community to support these hometown businesses with your patronage, if you have the chance. A very big thank you goes out to:

- Coldwell Banker Bain - Karen Saino
- Gentle Dental
- HomeStreet Bank
- Lice Knowing You
- Learning RX
- Miller Dermatology
- Newcastle Pediatric Dentistry
- Orthodontics Excellence
- Pacific Capital Resource - Melissa Larson
- Sturman Architects, Inc.



## Is Your Child Ready for a MATH ADVENTURE?

Does your child like to solve puzzles and riddles? Do you want your child to have a fun, memorable math experience with their friends? Then be sure to register for Math Adventure, a highly energetic, interactive math experience for 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Our PTSA is sponsoring Math Adventure at Newcastle Elementary in the evening on Thursday, January 28, 2016. In this program, groups of three to five kids solve math puzzles and then move to various locations around school on a quest. This year, they will be facing challenges as they strive to help Odysseus return home. Each team must be accompanied by two adult volunteers - one to coach and the other to serve as an actor in the quest. More details came home last week via KidMail and will be posted at [www.newcastleptsa.org](http://www.newcastleptsa.org).

To register, go to [www.mathadventure.org/newcastle](http://www.mathadventure.org/newcastle). Our deadline for priority registration is December 28. But this event is first come, first served with a limited number of total participants, so be sure to form your teams and register early! If you have any questions, please contact Danielle at [danielle\\_dixon@comcast.net](mailto:danielle_dixon@comcast.net).

## Final Fundraiser for 2016 Camp Seymour



The 5th graders have one final fundraiser to help offset the per child cost of attending camp in February. From December 1<sup>st</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> graders will sell Brown Bear car wash tickets. Tickets will be sold for \$5.00 each, which is less than you'd pay for the car wash at the Brown Bear location itself! The tickets can be used at over 20 Puget Sound locations and are valid for one year from the issue date. It's never a bad time to run your car through the wash, so keep a stack of them in your glove compartment. Car wash tickets also make great gifts for the holidays. Consider giving them as corporate gifts or for that special, newly-licensed 16-year-old you know. The possibilities are endless!

**Fifth Graders:** The top 2 sellers will each receive a \$50 gift card to Target. So start making a list of the people you are going to ask for support! Family, friends, neighbors, parent's co-workers... get creative because everyone likes a clean car!

### 2015-2016 PTSA Executive Committee

#### Co-Presidents

JuliAnne Diesch  
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#### Co-Secretaries

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#### Treasurer

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## Newcastle Lions to Participate in 2016 National Geographic Bee for Fifth Year in a Row!



Disney's blockbuster movie *Frozen* is set in the fictional land of Arendelle, which was largely inspired by the country of Norway. Norway is located on which European peninsula?

The above sample question is just a taste of what Newcastle Elementary students will have the opportunity to contemplate and answer during their participation in the National Geographic Bee. Soon, our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will have the exciting opportunity to share their geographic knowledge as they compete in the National Geographic Bee challenge! Here is another chance for students to have fun together while learning more about the world that we live in!

Classroom Bees will take place the week of December 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. Ten classroom finalists will participate in the school Geography Bee on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to Mr. Laing for being the teacher coordinator for the Bee this year and also to the Newcastle PTSA for sponsoring this challenging and fun event.

*(Answer to above: Scandinavian Peninsula)*

## “Fangs” to Costume Carnival Volunteers!

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. Your dedication of time and materials - from procurement to set up, running stations, and cleaning up makes this event happen! Heather & Jason Ackermann, Roger & Yvette Blauvelt, Becky Butler, Ken & Leanne Cole, Chantra Cruikshank, Khang Dang, Vincent Diesch, Lisa Dow, Eva Downs, Dave & Teresa Fagan, Luisa Gass, Koreen Hirakami, Phyllis Huey, Ping Jiao, Therese Kosar, Chris Longfellow, Kate Lonning, Angela Oster, Julie Pedraza, Maggie Peloquin, Tiffany Ryan, Lisa Sunde, Tina Subherwal, Ali Thibeau, and Angela Ursino. Thank you, Maywood Middle Schoolers - three dozen came out to support this event by volunteering!

Thanks also to Kathy Keegan and Edana Peacock for organizing the 5th grade pizza sales and to the volunteers who staffed the sale, including: Cindy Buono, Yuko Hume, Molly Keegan, Alissa Miller, Stefanie Nunez, Maggie Peloquin, Khoa Pham, Elise Sickinger, Rick Teal, Brooke Ury and Ben Wasisco.

We extend our appreciation to Albertsons, QFC & Safeway for contributions for game giveaways, as well as to the numerous donors who donated treats for the Treat Walk.

