



February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
2014-2015 School Year  
Issue 7

## Cub News

### Upcoming Events

**February 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Math Olympiad  
Portables  
8:00 AM

**February 16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>**  
NO SCHOOL  
Presidents Day &  
Mid-Winter Break

**February 26<sup>th</sup>**  
*Fostering Resiliency* Parent  
Education Opportunity  
7:00 PM

**February 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Golden Acorn Nomination  
Deadline

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>**  
Spring Online Auction

**March 12<sup>th</sup>**  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert  
(Recorders)  
6:30 PM  
Commons

**March 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Coffee Talk with  
Mr. Mellish  
9:30 AM  
Commons

**March 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Auction Night  
The Westin Bellevue  
5:30 PM

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
PTSA Board Meeting  
9:45 AM  
YMCA

### President's Note

With the Second Winter Break next week, many will take some well-deserved respite from daily schedules. Before taking a break, I'd like to recognize some of the work that has been accomplished by our PTSA volunteers recently and that which is ongoing!

#### Winter Family Night Dance Party, Auction Class Project Preview & Reflections Finalist Work Display

The song "Celebration" is in my head as I reflect on what a fun night we had thanks to event coordinators Yvette Blauvelt and Stacy Tribble. Chris Longfellow and Dean Adamo and their classroom project leads piqued my interest even more for the upcoming *Inspire Greatness* Auction on March 14 with all the incredible art that will be available for bidding that night. Having the chance to see the works of our Reflections finalists is always inspirational; thanks to Yvette Blauvelt and Janet Cloud for keeping our talented artists in the limelight.

#### "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." – Aesop

Our PTSA is powered by the work of countless volunteers, from the most valuable people who pitch in to help when and where needed to Vice Presidents on our Executive Board and 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.)

#### Nominating Committee is Hard at Work

If you know Katie Blechman, Evelyn James or Denelle Wolff, please take a moment and talk with them about getting involved in the PTSA. 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 2015-2016 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:

Katie Blechman, [kathrineblechman@aol.com](mailto:kathrineblechman@aol.com)

Evelyn James, [evelyngrj@aol.com](mailto:evelyngrj@aol.com)

Denelle Wolff, [dlwolff@gmail.com](mailto:dlwolff@gmail.com)

**President's Note Continued...**

## The Newcastle 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 Leon Banh and Pravir Chugh!

In the end, it was Pravir who earned the title of school champion (for a second year in a row)! Pravir will now have the opportunity to take a written test provided by the National Geographic Society. The top 100 students in the state (selected based on qualifying test scores) will represent their schools and compete at the state level. Thank you to Mrs. Rickey for being the teacher coordinator for a fourth year in a row, Mr. Mellish for being the Emcee, Wendy Kirchner and Rob Wyman from the city of Newcastle for joining us as judges and the PTSA for sponsoring this exciting event! And a big thank you to Stina Fluegge for all the work she does every year to make sure that the Bee happens in compliance with regulations and runs so smoothly.

We all wish Pravir the best of luck!

### *Inspire Greatness Auction Team*

Luisa Gass and Elysa Piha lead a dedicated group of volunteers who are preparing for a magical night on March 14, and I thank them sincerely. Our auction is not only a biennial social event for the community but a crucial fundraiser for our PTSA that funds the majority of our programs over a two year span. We truly appreciate not only the hard work and guidance provided by Luisa and Elysa, but their committed team and the whole community for supporting this key event. I hope that everyone has an encouraging smile for them as they enter into the last few weeks of preparations before the big night! This past week's Winter Online Auction has wet my appetite for the auction action. I'm eager for the Spring Online Auction March 2-March 9 for Teacher Experiences and more great offerings and hope you are too!

May you and your family enjoy this break from the daily routine!

Warmly,  
JuliAnne Diesch  
[jpdiesch@yahoo.com](mailto:jpdiesch@yahoo.com)  
Newcastle PTSA President

## Newcastle Elementary Parent Education Opportunity: Fostering Resiliency

Award winning author, editor and writer, Linda Morgan will lead a parent education session in the Newcastle Elementary Commons on Thursday, February 26 from 7:00 PM-8:15 PM. Linda will focus on why resiliency is important and how to nurture this quality in our children.

Linda is the former managing editor of "ParentMap" and author of *Beyond Smart: Boosting Your Child's Social, Emotional, and Academic Potential*. She has appeared on television programs in California, Arizona and Oregon.

The Newcastle PTSA is sponsoring this free event, open to all parents of students in the Issaquah School District. Please contact Danielle Dixon ([danielle\\_dixon@comcast.net](mailto:danielle_dixon@comcast.net)) or Stina Fluegge ([stinafluegge@gmail.com](mailto:stinafluegge@gmail.com)) with any questions. We hope to see you on the 26<sup>th</sup>!

## Calling all Shutter Bugs - Classroom Snapshots Needed!



The Yearbook Team has begun creating the 2014-2015 yearbook! If you have candid photos of Newcastle students, please email them to [newcastle.yearbook.photos@gmail.com](mailto:newcastle.yearbook.photos@gmail.com). Examples include pictures taken at the first day of school, assemblies, field trips, classroom candid shots, Costume Carnival, etc. PLEASE SUBMIT IN THE HIGHEST RESOLUTION AVAILABLE. Our yearbook is incomplete without your photos! Thanks!

Questions? Contact Meri Hartman at [Newcastle.yearbook.photos@gmail.com](mailto:newcastle.yearbook.photos@gmail.com)



## THE LATEST AUCTION NEWS AND REMINDERS...

The *Inspire Greatness* PTSA Auction is only four weeks away! Thank you for all your support and contributions so far!

### Priceless Teacher Experiences - Coming Soon!

Mark your calendar for **Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>** when Teacher Experiences will be offered as part of the upcoming Spring Online Auction. Only two spots will be available per class for your child to join his or her teacher for a truly memorable and “priceless” experience this school year:

- Creative Ceramics with Kindergarten Teachers
- Pajamas & Pancakes with 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teachers
- Ceramic Painting & Ice Cream with 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teachers
- Burgers & Bowling with 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teachers
- Lucky Strike Bowling with 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers
- Whirlyball Fun with 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers

### Auction Tickets

Registration for Auction Night is available online at [www.newcastleptsa.org](http://www.newcastleptsa.org). Tickets are \$85 per person. All proceeds from the Auction directly benefit our students' education. We hope you'll join us for a fun and memorable night!

### \$1,000 Cash Raffle

Just \$10/ticket or 3/\$25 for your chance to win \$1,000 cash on Auction Night (you do not need to be present to win, 18 and older please). Please submit all monies from ticket sales to the PTSA office by Friday, March 13. For additional tickets, please contact Christine at [ajandchristine@gmail.com](mailto:ajandchristine@gmail.com).

### Volunteers Needed for Auction Day & Night

We still need volunteers to assist with various set-up tasks during the day on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Also, if you are not planning to attend Auction Night but are available to help, please let us know. Contact Luisa at [L\\_vacca@hotmail.com](mailto:L_vacca@hotmail.com) or Elysa at [empiha@gmail.com](mailto:empiha@gmail.com).

### Wine & Gift Cards Still Needed

We are still eagerly accepting donations of wine and gift cards. Gift cards for any value from Starbucks, Amazon, Nordstrom, Target, Zoe Yogurt, nail salons, etc. would be greatly appreciated. These items will be used for games and for the Premium Wine Table on Auction Night. Contact Angela at [angelaoster@gmail.com](mailto:angelaoster@gmail.com) if you are able to contribute.

### Dessert Dash Bakers Needed

If you love to bake, consider donating a dessert for Auction Night. If interested, contact Candace at [cberde@yahoo.com](mailto:cberde@yahoo.com).

## Outdoor Learning!

5<sup>th</sup> graders are getting ready to head to Camp Seymour the first week of March for our annual outdoor education program. If you have a child headed to camp make sure you review the packing list sent via email to ensure your child is prepared. Rain or shine we will be hiking in the woods, exploring sea life, scaling the climbing wall and much more. If you have any questions, please contact [shaunacour@hotmail.com](mailto:shaunacour@hotmail.com).

## Missing Coat? Lost Hat? Misplaced Lunch Box?



Come check the Newcastle Elementary Lost & Found! Our Lost & Found is almost at capacity so if your child is missing anything, PLEASE have them check the Lost & Found or come in during school hours to check for yourself. The Lost & Found is located just outside the Commons in the hallway facing the playground. Remember to label the items you send to school with your children, as this helps us get items returned to their rightful owner! Items clearly labeled will be delivered to your child's classroom.

### Questions?

Contact Leanne Cole at [weezypt@comcast.net](mailto:weezypt@comcast.net).

## Spring Clean AND Help Send 5<sup>th</sup> Graders to Camp!

Get rid of your unwanted textiles and you can help next year's 5<sup>th</sup> graders go to camp! We have partnered with Clothes for the Cause to raise money for 5<sup>th</sup> grade camp and here's how you can help: look around your house for textiles you don't want anymore. Throw everything into a big plastic garbage bag, stuff it full, tie it up and bring it in to school *starting the week after spring break*. That's all there is to it. We'll take care of the rest! The best part is you're cleaning out unwanted items from your house and Clothes for the Cause pays us for them! They will make sure all of our donated items are reworn, reused or recycled. (Non-reusable clothes are recycled into insulation, wiping rags or broken down to reclaimed fiber.)

### What do they take?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clothing - <u>Any Kind or Condition</u></li> <li>• Shoes</li> <li>• Towels - Kitchen, Bath, Rags</li> <li>• Sheets</li> <li>• Blankets</li> <li>• Quilts</li> <li>• Comforters</li> <li>• Curtains/Draperies</li> <li>• Throw Rugs (Not Carpet)</li> <li>• Tablecloths<br/>(Including Vinyl Backed)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placemats</li> <li>• Decorative Pillows</li> <li>• Stuffed Animals</li> <li>• Soft Sided Luggage</li> <li>• Backpacks</li> <li>• Duffle Bags</li> <li>• Purses-Synthetic/Leather</li> <li>• Belts-Synthetic/Leather</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Hats</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

The collection bins will be out at school starting just after spring break and we'll have the big collection truck on hand the night of the May 15 PTSA Family Event, too. In the meantime, start bagging things up and tuck them out the way for now. If you need (or just really, really want) to unload your things now, contact one of us and we'll arrange for a drop off at one of our houses. Thanks for your support!

Edana Peacock & Kathy Keegan, 2015 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Fundraising Chairs,  
[edanapeacock@gmail.com](mailto:edanapeacock@gmail.com)/[bkbkeegan@comcast.net](mailto:bkbkeegan@comcast.net)

## Like a Good Neighbor...



During this rainy season, we see higher traffic volumes at Newcastle Elementary. The homeowners in the immediate vicinity have a reasonable expectation of being able to travel to and from their homes despite the weather outside and regardless of our school schedule. When coming to the school, please be considerate of these neighbors as well as cautious for the students of Newcastle Elementary. Should we lapse in following the signs posted by city officials, law enforcement may be called to urge our compliance.

## 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 27, 2015**

Please take a few minutes and complete the form at [www.newcastleptsa.org](http://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: Chris Longfellow at [chrislongfellow17@comcast.net](mailto:chrislongfellow17@comcast.net) or Meri Hartman at [merimelissa@yahoo.com](mailto:merimelissa@yahoo.com).

## Newcastle Elementary Celebrates Read Across America!



**Tuesday, 2/24**

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.

**Wednesday, 2/25~ Storybook Character Day**

Students are encouraged to dress up as their favorite book character. Show off your creative side!

**Thursday, 2/26~ Read My Shirt Day**

*Wear a shirt with words on it.*

**Friday, 2/27~ 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!**

**Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> (Dr. Seuss' 111<sup>th</sup> Birthday)~ 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 Monday to cuddle up with a good book. Be ready to read that day!



**Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!!**



## 2014-2015 PTSA Executive Committee

### President

JuliAnne Diesch  
[jpdiesch@yahoo.com](mailto:jpdiesch@yahoo.com)

### VP Volunteers

Allison Sweeney  
[aewsweeney@gmail.com](mailto:aewsweeney@gmail.com)

### Co-VPs Outreach

Danielle Dixon/Stina Fluegge  
[danielle\\_dixon@comcast.net](mailto:danielle_dixon@comcast.net)  
[stinafluegge@gmail.com](mailto:stinafluegge@gmail.com)

### Co-VPs Ways & Means

Georgia Forchuk/Angela Oster  
[gforchuk@msn.com](mailto:gforchuk@msn.com)  
[angelaoster@gmail.com](mailto:angelaoster@gmail.com)

### VP Program Enrichment

Michelle Riley  
[mmriley628@hotmail.com](mailto:mmriley628@hotmail.com)

### Co-Secretaries

Eileen Rubenstein/Therese Kosar  
[edrubenstein@hotmail.com](mailto:edrubenstein@hotmail.com)  
[theresekkosar@gmail.com](mailto:theresekkosar@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

Angela Ursino  
[angelaursino@comcast.net](mailto:angelaursino@comcast.net)

### Officer-at-Large

Edana Peacock  
[edanatish@aol.com](mailto:edanatish@aol.com)



## Bring the Happiest 5K on the Planet to Town

The Issaquah Schools Foundation has the opportunity to bring the Color Run to town this August. This untimed, fun-centric race douses participants with colors at each kilometer and ends with a music and dance festival. We think it would be a great way to kick-off the school year. If you agree, help us bring Color Run to town. The Issaquah Schools Foundation must assure organizers that we can attract at least 2,000 to a Color Run. We need your help.

1. Go to the Color Run website, <http://thecolorrun.com/vip-list/>.
2. Look for the 'JOIN VIP List' box on the right side of the page.
3. Add your name and email.
4. Select Issaquah as your first choice city.
5. Submit.

That's it. Color Run will tally the entries and let us know if we're approved for an event. Log on today. Our deadline is February 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

## Planting the Seed

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for the Annual *Nourish Every Mind Luncheon*, Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at Issaquah Community Center and/or *Nourish Every Mind Breakfast*, Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at Eastridge Church. The Breakfast and Luncheon are THE BEST ways to learn about the District/Foundation partnership and see how students directly benefit from your investments. Plus, both events are inspiring and fun!

If you'd like to join us as a Table Captain or event volunteer, please contact Audrey Clark, [Audrey@isfdn.org](mailto:Audrey@isfdn.org).

## Empty Closets = Full Tummies

**Value Village** is opening a store in Issaquah and has selected the Issaquah Schools Foundation as its local nonprofit partner. **All clothing and household goods donated at the Issaquah store February 17-21 will result in a cash donation to the Foundation. We'll direct the money to the Basic Student Needs program which provides food, health care, clothing and school supplies for students in need.**

Stop by 5530 E. Lake Sammamish Parkway with your donation, and thank Value Village for supporting our students.