



April 17th, 2015  
2014-2015 School Year  
Issue 9

## Cub News

### Upcoming Events

**April 20<sup>th</sup>**  
PTSA General Meeting  
7:00 PM  
Commons

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Concert  
6:30 PM  
Commons

**April 30<sup>th</sup>**  
Community Connections &  
Safety Information Night  
7:00 PM  
Commons

**May 8<sup>th</sup>**  
Coffee Talk with  
Rick Mellish  
9:30 AM  
Commons

**May 11<sup>th</sup> - May 15<sup>th</sup>**  
UBS Spring Book Fair

**May 14<sup>th</sup>**  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert  
6:30 PM  
Commons

**May 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Spring Family Night  
6:00 PM  
Commons

Last Day to Donate  
[Clothes for the Cause](#)

**May 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Chorus Performance:  
"Music Alive"  
5:30 PM  
Liberty High School

### President's Note

After a relatively sunny Spring Break, I welcome you back to the final stretch of the school year! The work of the PTSA continues and on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, the General Membership will elect our 2015-2016 Executive Committee. I hope to see you there - helping to shape the future of our PTSA, learning how our collective monies have been spent so far this year, and getting a clearer picture of what funds were raised through our concentrated efforts for the *Inspire Greatness Auction*. One thing is certain: we have an active community of families who value education and want to create the best environment possible at Newcastle Elementary!

Your involvement at every level helps to make Newcastle Elementary the incredible school it is. If you are wondering about additional ways you can help this school year, consider these options:

- Send in the Box Tops from items you have purchased with your child during the month of April. The class with the greatest number of Box Tops wins a pizza party, and all children benefit from the items we purchase with the Box Tops money (10 cents for every Box Top really adds up)!
- Attend the Community Information & Safety Night on April 30<sup>th</sup> to learn more about keeping our community safe.
- Purchase books at the PTSA Spring Book Fair (May 11<sup>th</sup>-May 15<sup>th</sup>) to stock up on summer reading for the whole family and benefit our Newcastle Elementary library at the same time.
- Join me for the Issaquah Schools Foundation's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Nourish Every Mind Benefit Luncheon on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM at the Issaquah Community Center. Send me an email at [jpdiesch@yahoo.com](mailto:jpdiesch@yahoo.com) to reserve your seat for this event.
- Come to the "Superhero Training" Family Fun Night on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM and bring your donations for the Clothes for the Cause to benefit the 2016 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp while having a great time with your family!

Warmly,  
JuliAnne

## Box Tops Contest Taking Place NOW!

The Newcastle PTSA is holding a school-wide contest this **APRIL** to collect Box Tops. Now is the time to send in all of the Box Tops you have saved over the year. Your student can deliver them to the marked bag in their classroom anytime during the month of April. The Box Tops will be counted during the first week of May and the classroom with the most tops will be awarded a lunch-time pizza party!

## Congratulations to our 5th Grade Math Olympians!

Our 5th Grade Math Olympiad students participated in a challenging competition in mid-March. Newcastle had 6 teams compete against top mathematicians in our state. The competitors took 6 tests including individual exams, mental math, probability/statistics, algebra, geometry, and a potpourri category. After hours of crunching numbers, analyzing statistics, and measuring angles, our top team placed 12th out of over 100 teams! The students demonstrated their tenacity and teamwork. We are proud of them and are thankful for the dedication of Liza Rickey and Trent Negeubauer for the hours spent coaching these Olympians!

## Honoring Our Staff During National Staff Appreciation Week

It's that time of year again! May 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> is Staff Appreciation Week. As is our tradition at Newcastle, we will honor all of our wonderful staff members with treats all week long... including mailbox goodies, a pair of movie tickets for each staff member, breakfast buffet, luncheon, and car wash!

### *How can you help?*

Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> - Breakfast Buffet of pastries, fruit, juice and coffee in staff lounge provided by PTSA. If you can help with food or set-up, please contact Becky Butler at [beebutler@comcast.net](mailto:beebutler@comcast.net)

Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> - "Cinco de Mayo" Luncheon provided by K-1 families. Kindergarten and first grade families will receive information via room parents to contribute to the luncheon.



Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> - Thank you note day Thank you notes written by students or families can recognize a couple of individuals at Newcastle who contribute to their school day ~ classroom teacher, P.E. teacher, librarian, music teachers, educational assistants, office staff, custodian, lunch staff, etc! Staff can be thanked with a handwritten note, drawing, flower or treat!



## Parent Education Opportunities Around the District



On **Tuesday April 28th**, at 7:00 PM in the Pine Lake Middle School Commons, Jennifer Kennett, founder and owner of Eastside Family Counseling in Bellevue, WA will discuss new research regarding the tween and teenage brain, its differences from the adult brain, and offer suggestions as to what you as a parent can do to improve your communication with this "still under construction" brain. For more detailed information, please [click here](#) for the flyer.

Also on **Tuesday April 28th**, Beaver Lake Middle School will host Sivie Suckerman, Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Certified Mindful Schools Instructor, who will present techniques and strategies for mindfulness at home and in the classroom. This presentation will include both the science and research behind mindfulness as well as basic practices and tools. [Click here](#) for more information.

## 2015 Spring Family Event: Superhero Training Camp!



Do you have what it takes to be a SUPERHERO? Join us on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the Newcastle Elementary Commons and develop your superhero skills! This free event for Newcastle families will feature self-defense demonstrations from Kim's Tae Kwon Do, parkour presentations from Move Free Academy and hands-on activities from KidsQuest Children's Museum. Pizza and drinks will be available for purchase in support of the 2016 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp. If you are interested in volunteering for this event please contact Julie Pedraza at [juliepedraza1@yahoo.com](mailto:juliepedraza1@yahoo.com)

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

## Community Connections and Safety Information Night: April 30<sup>th</sup>

The Newcastle PTSA is sponsoring a Neighborhood Block Watch informational meeting on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM in the Commons. Representatives from the Newcastle Police Department and City of Newcastle will share safety tips concerning burglary prevention, provide information about neighborhood block watch procedures, and answer questions. Time permitting, neighborhood groups can gather and exchange information if they would like to begin the process of organizing a block watch.

All Newcastle residents are welcome to attend! This is a great opportunity to focus on ways to keep our town and kids safe, and we need your help spreading the word about this event to your Newcastle friends and neighbors. You can download and distribute a copy of the event flyer ([www.newcastleptsa.org](http://www.newcastleptsa.org)), or simply point people to the PTSA website for more information.

## PTSA Honors Three Outstanding Members as Volunteers of the Year

Congratulations to JuliAnne Diesch, Sangeet Kindra and Stefanie Williamson for winning the 2014-2015 Golden Acorn Award, presented at the Inspire Greatness Auction on March 14, 2015. The Golden Acorn Award is given by local PTSAs throughout Washington State to honor outstanding volunteers for their dedication and service. Each recipient has spent innumerable hours serving the students of Newcastle Elementary and their communities. Thank you to all that you do to support our kids!

### JuliAnne Diesch

JuliAnne is a proven leader for the PTSA. Last spring she took on the PTSA role of President that at one point seemed like it was going to go unfilled. She has spent countless hours preparing and training with the others in the position before her so that she could do her job adequately and to ensure that the families and students at Newcastle were well represented. JuliAnne welcomes new ideas and brings a fresh perspective to our school. She also brings positivity and a sense of humor as she takes on each new challenge with her role. As if being the PTSA President isn't enough, she also gives her time for various school activities including, but not limited to, classroom volunteering, the Art Docent program, Family Nights, and most recently the Inspire Greatness auction. Outside of Newcastle, she teaches Sunday school and actively participates in both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts with her kids.



### Sangeet Kindra

Sangeet is the Chair of the PTSA Website/E-communications and she truly is the Silent Hero of our PTSA programs. Sangeet has spent the past two years as the PTSA webmaster, a demanding role that includes managing and formatting the website, enrolling membership, responding to inquiries and managing the PTSA calendar. In addition, she formats and publishes the weekly "What's Happening" e-blast and CUB News. To support the 2015 (and 2013) auction, she built the main auction website and ran all three online auctions. She is invaluable to the entire communications objective of the PSTA and she does it all with a calm demeanor and warm smile. Outside of the PTSA, Sangeet is a classroom volunteer to both her children's classrooms, teaches Punjabi to children at her temple, and tutors math and reading to children in the Newcastle community.



### Stefanie Williamson

Stefanie has put countless hours into Newcastle not just this past year, but for the last 5 years, donating her time whenever and wherever help is needed. Stefanie's artistic and creative side shows in the support she provides to the school's art programs. She's responsible for designing two classroom auction art projects, is currently an Art Docent for both of her daughters' classes, the Art Docent 3rd grade Lead and she shares the LionArt Docent Program Co-Chair duties with Chris Longfellow. Stefanie, along with Michele Maresh, executed a multi-tiered fundraising model that had extraordinary success for the 5th grade camp fundraising and as a result, it was shared throughout the District. Stefanie is active in and out of Newcastle from volunteering in her kids' classrooms and with various school functions, to volunteering with her daughter's soccer team and dance and theatre performances. Her contributions have benefited all students at Newcastle as well as students in the district.



*A special thank you to Janet Cloud for the photographs!*



## 2014-2015 PTSA Executive Committee

### President

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

### VP Volunteers

Allison Sweeney  
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### 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  
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### 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)

## Springtime Means Book Fair Time!



Mark your calendars for the PTSA Book Fair on May 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>! Students will be able to browse and buy books in the library during their lunch and afternoon recesses. All proceeds go towards purchasing new materials for our school library. The Book Fair hours of operation are:

- Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM
- Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM
- Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 AM - 5:00 PM
- Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM
- Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM and 3:30 PM - 7:30 PM (PTSA Family Night)

Volunteers are needed during the hours of operation as well as for the set-up and tear-down. [Click here](#) to sign-up via VolunteerSpot. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

More information will also be sent home as the Book Fair approaches. If you have any questions, please contact Eva Downs at [e2downs@msn.com](mailto:e2downs@msn.com).

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp Director Seeks Dedicated Co-Director for Long-term Commitment

Are you a detail oriented person who is interested in volunteering in a role that will impact every 5<sup>th</sup> Grade student at Newcastle Elementary? Do you have multiple children at Newcastle (or in the ranks to come to Newcastle) who are now in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade or younger? Current 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp Director Shauna Cour is looking for a Co-Director who is willing to take the next two years to learn the many details of this position and then lead the helm as the Director for years to come.

Contact Shauna at [shaunacour@hotmail.com](mailto:shaunacour@hotmail.com) to begin the conversation about your fit as the fourth Camp Director in the history of Newcastle Elementary!