



May 22nd, 2015
2014-2015 School Year
Issue 10

Cub News

Upcoming Events

May 25th
NO SCHOOL
Memorial Day

May 26th - June 5th
Hygiene Drive for Tiger
Mountain Community
High School
Lobby

June 4th
Kindergarten Concert
6:30 PM
Commons

June 5th
Amazing Race
Commons

June 8th
PTSA General Meeting
7:00 PM
Commons

June 17th
5th Grade Promotion
10:00 AM
Commons

June 18th
Last Day of School
Released at 11:45 AM

**Note: The last day of school has been changed due to IEA teacher walk-out. The 5th Grade promotion date is not impacted.*

President's Note

At the April 20th PTSA General Membership meeting, most members of the 2015-2016 Executive Committee were elected. I'd like to take this time to thank all who made nominations and our incredible Nominating Committee of Katie Blechmann, Evelyn James and Denelle Wolff, and to welcome (or welcome back) our leadership team for the coming school year:

Co-Presidents - Chris Longfellow & JuliAnne Diesch
Co-Secretaries - Therese Kosar & Eileen Rubenstein
Treasurer - Angela Ursino
VP of Volunteers - Julie Pedraza
VP of Programs - Michelle Riley
VP of Outreach - Nancy Ko

In the days that followed our last meeting, the tireless Nominating Committee confirmed that Eva Downs and Kate Lonning accepted the nominations for Co-VPs of Ways & Means, and we anticipate the PTSA members will elect them officially at the June 8th General Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Commons.

We have had so much happening in May - a great week showing our Teacher Appreciation (under the creative leadership of Becky Butler and Yvette Blauvelt); another successful Book Fair (thanks to Eva Downs, Laura Berry, and the community for supporting this); a fruitful 5th Grade Camp Textile Drive Fundraiser (thanks to Kathy Keegan, Edana Peacock, the 4th grade "muscle", and all those who cleaned out their closets to donate); a powerful Superhero Training Family Night (organized by proven event planners Nancy Ko and Julie Pedraza). The theme of "Community & Service" has certainly been demonstrated; I thank you all for your time and talents to make this an a-May-zing month!

Warmly,
JuliAnne

Order Your 2015/16 School Supply Packs Now!



School Supply Packs are now available to order online until June 18th. It's easy, saves time, and avoids shopping hassles in August! Supplies will be waiting in your child's classroom at the Meet Your Teacher event before school starts. All supplies are teacher-approved and custom-packed for each student. Make sure you order for the grade your child will be in next year. Go to www.epipacks.com, and enter our school ID - NEW040.

Contact Brittany Frank at brittanyhfrank@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Claim your items from lost and found by June 3rd!!!

Please come in or have your child check out the lost and found outside the Commons as soon as possible. On June 3rd all items will be picked up and sorted. Labeled items will be returned to the child's class and all unlabeled items will be donated to charity. Any questions please contact Leanne Cole at weezypt@comcast.net.

PTSA and Needs you! (Open Positions)

With the leadership team established for 2015-2016, we still have opportunities for family involvement in many different areas. The PTSA is an all-volunteer organization that is dedicated to providing experiences that enrich the lives of every student at Newcastle Elementary. We cannot rely on only a handful of volunteers to make everything happen throughout the school year. When we lack family members to serve in leadership roles, we will be forced to forego great programs that enrich our students' lives and educational experience. Key positions that need to be filled immediately (for transition of duties) include the following:

Website/E-Communications Chair This person works with the Communications Director and the Co-Presidents to send all electronic communications to the PTSA membership throughout the year. Website is maintained by this volunteer. This is a role that can be completed entirely from home by a person with some technological savvy. If you love to be in the loop and want to help keep others informed, this is an excellent position for you! Sangeet Kindra, currently in the position, is willing to train the incoming volunteer - and would love to do so for the final Cub News and What's Happening e-blasts!

Issaquah Schools Foundation [ISF] Liaison This person receives information from the ISF for distribution among our PTSA members. This is a terrific position for family members with students at multiple schools (at Newcastle and perhaps already at Maywood, for instance), as the ISF impacts all schools in the District. Wouldn't it be great to do the work once but help multiple schools?

Reflections Chair (or Co-Chairs) Our PTSA Council District-wide offers terrific support and training for this role, which begins early in the school year. Reflections is a program sponsored by the National PTA, with the theme and regulations determined at that level. This role entails sharing information, collecting submissions from students, finding individuals to judge entries at the school level, and following up with celebrations for entries that progress to the district, regional, state, or national level. This position includes some commitment into January.

We have other important positions that need the talent and time of our Newcastle family community. [Click here](#) to check the current Organizational Chart to see openings, and find the descriptions of these positions [here](#). Thanks in advance for your commitment to the students of Newcastle Elementary!

Newcastle is filled with Superheroes!



Superhero Training Camp co-chairs Nancy Ko and Julie Pedraza would like to thank all the SUPER volunteers for making the 2015 Spring Family Night a success! From crime-fighting KidsQuest cars to remarkable robots, it was all made possible thanks to the following people...YOU are the true Superheroes! (Apologies if we omitted anyone!)

Daisy Troop 45373, Katie Burris, Elaine Brabant, Leanne Cole, Weene & Jeff & Natalie Crouse, JuliAnne Diesch, Laura & Zach Derwin, Brittany Frank, Eva & Meri Hartman, Cameron & Taylor Kaszycki, Casey & Molly Keegan, Renee Klein, Dathan Le, Anne Lehr, Chris & Hunter Longfellow, Soraya Marashi, Abigail Peacock, Peter Pedraza, Maggie Peloquin, Michelle Riley, Matthew Rubenstein, Elise So, Allison Sweeney, Jennifer Tasaka, Joell Teal, Faye Till, Ally & TJ & Stacy Tribble, Brooke Ury, Andre & Lissa Wax

Action Alert! Communicate with your legislator NOW!

The time is now for us to tell our legislators to fulfill the constitutional mandate of fully funding basic education. Despite the increases offered by the House and Senate, it is still not enough. The current budgets proposed fall far short of the need. [Click here to take action today!](#)

The Supreme Court has held the State in contempt for failing to meet the mandates of the McCleary decision. Our state needs to step up to the plate and fully fund basic education like they promised and stop shifting the burden onto local property owners. Simply taking local levy funding (originally meant to supplement basic education, not PAY for basic education) and spreading it across the state does not provide the basic funding needed. The court has been clear. The State is not funding the BASICS of public education. The legislature needs to fix our unfair and insufficient revenue structure and fully fund education without cutting needed services like health and human services, early learning or higher education. We need for everyone to pay their fair share. We need fair revenue. Please [click here](#) to send a letter to your legislator and the Governor today.

Many Thanks for a Week Full of Appreciation!

Thank you to all the families who sent notes, treats and flowers to individual teachers during Staff Appreciation Week! Many parents pitched in to support PTSA events of the week.

Thank you to Becky Butler, Anne Lehr, and Danielle Dixon for setting up the Staff Breakfast. Thank you to Yvette Blauvelt and JuliAnne Diesch for organizing a "Sweet Shoppe" of cupcakes, cookies, and candies in the staff room.

Thank you to Lani Pedersen and the car wash crew of Tori Broughton, Brittany Frank, Lance Gyotoku, Edana Peacock, Michelle Riley, Katie Ringwood, Casey Smith, Rachel Smith, and Stacy Tribble for washing nearly 30 cars in the school parking lot!

And finally, Thank you to the kindergarten and first grade families who contributed to the very successful "Cinco de Mayo" Luncheon: Jessica Anderson, Michelle Arney, Vivian Bastron, Marci Beppu, Yvette Blauvelt, Katie Blechman, Ali Bligh, Elaine Brabant, Elizabeth Brecht, Katie Burris, Liting Chuang, Melia Cossette, JuliAnne Diesch, Alison Handlin, Nishy Kaur Hayre, Whitney Johnson, Ruthie Keyes, Chuck Kim, Jeana Kim, Sangeet Kindra, Renee Klein, Caroline Lilley, Lyanne Ma, Cindy Nelson, Midori Nichols, Julie Pedraza, Elysa Piha, Huyen Sewell, Zornitza Shomev, Vicky Svidenko, and Dan Wu. An extra thanks to the set-up and clean-up crew of Yvette Blauvelt, Becky Butler, and Gergina Dukendjieva.

**2014-2015 PTSA
Executive Committee**

President

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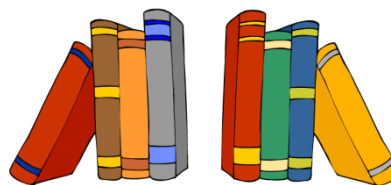
Community Outreach: Spring Toiletries Drive for Tiger Mountain Community High School Students - May 26th - June 5th

The spring toiletries drive is an opportunity for Newcastle families to contribute and make a difference for local students in need. The Newcastle Elementary PTSA and 4th grade students volunteering for the Amazing Race are joining together to collect toiletries to benefit students at Tiger Mountain Community High School, the only alternative high school in our school district. The students at Tiger Mountain face many challenges, including homelessness for some.

We are collecting personal toiletry items that these high school students can use to make their lives easier. Some suggested donations include: shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, shaving cream, toothpaste & toothbrushes, laundry detergent (small sizes), dryer sheets, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products and hair products. Travel sizes and individually packaged items are particularly welcome! No razors, please.

Donation bins will be located outside the main office at Newcastle Elementary. Thank you in advance for your generosity in supporting the greater Newcastle community. If you have questions, please contact Danielle Dixon (danielle_dixon@comcast.net) or Stina Fluegge (stinafluegge@gmail.com).

Thanks for supporting our Newcastle Elementary Library!



Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to ensure last week's Book Fair was huge success! A special thank you to Eva Downs for her lead role and our fabulous librarian Laura Berry for overseeing the operation. The final numbers are still being tabulated, but so far it looks like our school generated over \$11,000 in sales!

Thank you for supporting enthusiastic student readers!