



September 12th, 2014
2014-2015 School Year
Issue 2

Cub News

Upcoming Events

September 12th
Coffee Talk with Rich Mellish
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM in the
Commons

September 15th
First General PTSA Meeting
7:00 PM in the Commons

September 16th
Spirit Wear Order Deadline

Curriculum Night
1st & 2nd Grades
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
(Principal's session 6:30 PM)

September 18th
Curriculum Night
3rd - 5th Grades
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
(Principal's session 6:30 PM)

5th Grade Camp Meeting
(After Principal's session at
7:00 PM)

Picture Day

September 26th
Deadline for Inclusion in the
Student Directory

October 10th
Coffee Talk with Rich Mellish
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM in the
Commons

October 13th
Teacher Work Day
NO SCHOOL

October 24th
Newcastle Elementary
Costume Carnival
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM in the
Commons

President's Note

Welcome! I trust that the summer brought many adventures for your family and that you are getting back in the school routine. I am excited and honored to be embarking on my inaugural year as the PTSA President. I've been on a steep learning curve with tremendous support along the way and am looking forward to a fantastic year serving our school and our students!

One of my goals this year is to have 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 and utilize the "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 - Family contact information and kids' homeroom teachers must be entered by **September 26th**. This is the **ONLY** way to get your family's information into the Student Directory as we no longer receive this information from the school!
- PTSA Membership - By joining the PTSA, you give a voice for every child and get a vote to affect the decisions made by the PTSA regarding programs at Newcastle Elementary. Family Memberships include two adult members and can include extended family members. Our local PTSA and the Washington State PTA act as powerful voices for the children whose interests we represent. Please, consider joining to increase the positive impact for our students.
- Volunteering Opportunities
- Donations for Staff PTSA memberships/auction tickets
- Donations for Gift-a-Book to support our school library
- Purchase your student's yearbook

Many thanks to all those who have already registered with the PTSA website www.newcastleptsa.org. The goal of 100% participation aids us in communicating directly with families throughout the 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. Look for weekly What's Happening e-blasts, our monthly Cub News, and the once-a-trimester printed newsletter that will highlight past events and give a snapshot of upcoming happenings.

**President's Note Continued
on the Next Page...**

Save the Date for the Annual Costume Carnival!



"Save the Date" for a night of spooky cool fall family fun on Friday, **October 24th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM** 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 is welcome - parents, grandparents, students, siblings and friends.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the event, or have any questions, please contact Michelle Riley (mmriley628@hotmail.com) or JuliAnne Diesch (jpdiesch@yahoo.com).

Hope to see you all there for some scary fun. Boo!

The 2014-2015 school year has started well at Newcastle. The weather held for our Back-to-School Family Event on September 2nd. Under the leadership of the new principal Rich Mellish and dean of students Trent Neugebauer, the changes to the procedures and schedules have been well-received and well-executed. To all the volunteers who have already stepped up to ensure a great year for all, I extend my gratitude. I am confident that the commitment to Community & Service will continue throughout the year, and am growing more excited daily for the Inspire Greatness Auction on March 14, 2015. Before that night, there is much to be done. I am ready to work with you to accomplish the tasks, and hope to see you at our September 15th PTSA General Membership meeting in the Commons at 7:00 PM.

Please, let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Warmly,
JuliAnne Diesch
jpdiesch@yahoo.com
PTSA President

Yearbook Orders

The time to order your yearbook is NOW!! All yearbooks orders will be done on-line this year! No paper order forms will be sent home. You can order your yearbook with your free online PTSA registration!! Here is how to order:

1. Go to www.newcastleptsa.org
2. Click on "sign in" in the top right corner: If you don't have an account, you will be able to set one up
3. Log in to your account (if you forgot your password, you can retrieve it here)
4. Click on the Back to School Sign Up on the left hand side of the page. Follow the prompts to register with or join the PTSA and to order your yearbook!

If you have questions, please contact Lana Miller at chrisandlana@yahoo.com

Get Ready for Picture Day: September 18th



It's time to capture that back-to-school picture of your kids! Mark your calendar for **Thursday, September 18th**, when Dorian Photography will be on site to take individual photographs. Check your child's kid mail for order forms and turn in the completed form with payment on or before picture day.

Questions? Contact Tiffany Ryan at trryan@comcast.net.

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. From social emotional struggles to academics and perseverance and anything in between; please do not hesitate to reach out to me! I am at Newcastle on Tuesdays, Fridays and alternate Wednesdays, and I can be reached at meserolel@issaquah.wednet.edu or [425-837-5817](tel:425-837-5817). I'll also be attending PTSA meetings this year, so feel free to grab me then as well. I look forward to meeting you soon!

Laura Meserole
School Counselor

First Two Weeks of School



"Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something." ~Author Unknown

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to help get the 2014-2015 school year off on the right foot by helping with **Drop-Off, Pick-Up, and Kinder Lunches**. As you are aware, there have been several changes to drop-off and pick-up procedures along with changes happening in the lunchroom. However, with the coordinated help of teachers, staff, and our amazing volunteers, the school is off to a good start with these new modifications. Children are getting to where they need to be with relative ease, kinders are learning the start- and end-of-day ropes, and intermediate grades are showing great leadership in the lunchroom with the primary grades.

Because it takes a village, we'd like to give a shout out to the following volunteers: Marci Beppu, Marie Birve, Elaine Brabant, Melissa Burdick, Atoya Burleson, Kerwin Burton, Leanne Cole, Susan Crow, Khanh Dang, Connie Gaidjergis, Luisa Gass, Christy Grabowski, Dana Harbert, Meri Hartman, Molly Hegenderfer, Yuko Hume, Mikiko Imai, Ruthie Keyes, Therese Kosar, Caroline Lilley, Stephanie Pak, Edana Peacock, Christie Pitts, Julie Pedraza, Michelle Riley, Eileen Rubenstein, Tiffany Ryan, Faye Till, Allison Sweeney, and Nikki Wiebe.



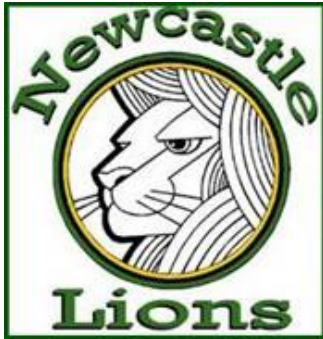
Mark Your Calendars! Tapatio/Zoe Fundraiser on Tuesday, September 30th!

Newcastle families mark your calendars and get ready for another great community building event! Our friends at Tapatio will be supporting the 5th Grade class effort to raise money for Camp Seymour again this year. On **Tuesday, September 30th**, they will generously donate a portion of all receipts for the entire day - lunch and dinner! So, plan lunch with co-workers or friends and definitely take the night off from cooking and then bring in the whole family. Let's show Tapatio our gratitude for their amazing support in Newcastle style! Want to maximize the fundraising? Cash sales get a larger percentage donation.

And...once you've had your fill of delicious food, walk on down to Zoe Yogurt to top it off with dessert! That's right, Zoe Yogurt is participating in the effort to raise money for camp again this year, too! So, load up that cup with lots of frozen goodness and sweet toppings. Or, grab a pre-filled pint or two to take home. Either way, you're making a difference!

Whether you have a child in fifth grade this year or one coming up the pike, this is a great opportunity to spend time with friends old and new! So come on out and show your Newcastle Pride to our generous community. We'll see you there!

Spirit Wear for the Whole Family!



It's time to purchase your Newcastle Spirit Wear! We have several new items we are offering this year as well as past favorites! This year we are also offering online ordering, though a 5% service fee is added for these transactions.

Click on the [link](#) to go directly to the online store. This link can also be found on the Newcastle PTSA website. Manual order forms went home last week.

The deadline for all orders is **Tuesday, September 16th**.

Please note: There are No REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES - whether you order online or via the manual order form!!

Show your Lion Pride with Spirit Wear!

Please contact Lana Miller at chrisandlana@yahoo.com

for any questions or additional order forms.

Calling All Student Artists!



Does your student like to draw or paint? Author her own stories? Or would he 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:

The World Would Be A Better Place If....

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>.

For additional questions, please contact Janet Cloud (robjanetcloud@yahoo.com or Yvette Blauvelt (ykblauvelt@gmail.com) for more information.

Growing Excitement for the 2015 PTSA Auction!

Announcing...

We are pleased to unveil *Inspire Greatness* as the theme of the March 14th, 2015 event, and preceding online auctions. The theme and visual symbolize Newcastle Elementary school spirit and the aim to inspire greatness in our kids!



About the auction

The PTSA Auction is our biggest fundraiser and a priority, as it helps bridge the gap left by decreases in state funding. We have a profit goal of \$130K, 100% of which will go directly towards supporting math, science and arts curriculum as well as funding technology for our kids. That's a fantastic return on our investment!

Additional details can be found [here](#). Also, remember to attend the upcoming September 15th PTSA General Meeting for info on specific monetary goals and other insights!

We need your support!

We're in need of both volunteers and donations to ensure its success. Here's how you can get involved:

- ✓ **Procurement Blitz.**
 - Please ask your favorite businesses to donate an item for our 2015 auction. Donating is a *win* for them as it exposes their business to new customers. Ideas include restaurant/retail gift cards and activities/entertainment for kids and families.
 - Families, please consider utilizing your season tickets for cultural or sporting events, club memberships, or vacation properties to offer a donation. You might also consider hosting an experience or event, such as an auction after party, poker party, dinner party for 8, etc. All donations are appreciated!
 - Please click here for [Donation tips](#) and the [procurement form](#).
- ✓ **Join the Auction Team.** Many leadership and support opportunities are still available to include catalog manager, procurement, event planning roles, as well as premium wine table coordinator! Contact co-chairs Elysa Piha (Empiha@gmail.com) and Luisa Gass (L_vacca@hotmail.com) to find out how you can help.

Lastly, we'd like to extend a special thank you to Stefanie Williamson for designing our auction logo and to the fabulous auction team for their efforts so far!

2014-2015 PTSA Executive Committee

President

JuliAnne Diesch
jpdiesch@yahoo.com

VP Volunteers

Allison Sweeney
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Co-VPs Outreach

Danielle Dixon/Stina Fluegge
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Treasurer

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Officer-at-Large

Edana Peacock
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MackinVIA Resource for All



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. Your child's user name is their 7-digit District ID which can be found on Family Access. It begins with either 08 or 18. Your child's last name is their password. (This is the standard format for accessing all Issaquah School District accounts.) Using "My Profile" you can adjust their password and add your email to get updates.

This handy portal allows your child access to eBooks and all of our subscription databases with one user ID and one password! Your child can learn about people and places (by visiting CultureGrams and World Book Online), read eBooks (Tumblebooks), discover fun facts (BrainPop, World Almanac for Kids & Zoobooks) and even create bibliographies (Easy Bib)!

It's very user-friendly and available on many platforms. It's pretty cool!

Using the "Advanced Search" feature, you can search for eBooks by Reading Level and Fountas & Pinnell levels. Using "Groups" you can find eBooks that supplement each grade level's curriculum.

Anything you add to your favorites will be saved in your backpack and can be accessed via a Reader App when not online. All of the books are unlimited access so there is no need to check out or return them.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Laura Berry
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