



December 12th, 2014
2014-2015 School Year
Issue 5

Cub News

Upcoming Events

December 12th
Math Olympiad
8:00 AM
Portables

December 16th
Video Club
8:00 AM

December 18th
Chorus
8:00 AM

December 19th
Math Olympiad
8:00 AM
Portables

December 22nd -
January 2nd
NO SCHOOL
First Winter Break

January 16th
Coffee Talk with
Rich Mellish
9:30 AM

January 19th
NO SCHOOL
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Focus Day in Olympia

January 26th
PTSA General Membership
Meeting
7:00 PM

President's Note

Happy holidays to all Newcastle Lions and families! In this last Cub News of 2014, I want to take a moment to reflect on what a successful year it has been so far. Our community has rallied to the call to service, and I am grateful for the collective efforts of such kind, generous students and family members. Whether reaching out to aid those in the community through the Food Drive and Polar Express, enriching the lives of current students by being an Art Docent or supporting the Gift-A-Book program, or raising funds for the future students by buying tickets for the recent Raffle or bidding on items in the Holiday Online Auction, you make a difference.

Please mark your calendars for our General Membership meeting on January 26th, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Commons. I welcome your input and your votes. **Let your voice be heard** as the PTSA discusses regular business, elects the nominating committee, and makes decisions about how monies raised will be spent!

May your winter break be safe and enjoyable. I look forward to seeing you in 2015!

Warmly,

JuliAnne Diesch

PTSA Nominating Committee Applications



The PTSA Nominating Committee is responsible for putting together our team of PTSA leaders for the 2015-2016 school year. Having qualified people step into leadership positions at Newcastle will ensure success for many years to come. The work of this committee is paramount to fulfilling our mission as a PTSA. We're so excited to have new faces and new energy to add to our organization!

Please contact JuliAnne Diesch (jpdiesch@yahoo.com) for more information or if you know someone who wants to get more involved.



NEWCASTLE PTSA AUCTION NEWS & UPDATES

The auction is the biggest fundraiser for our school. This year we have a profit goal of \$130K, 100% of which will go directly towards supporting math, science and arts curriculum as well as fund technology for our kids. Reaching this goal depends entirely on the involvement and generosity of Newcastle families, community members and local businesses. Thank you in advance for your support!

- **Donations Still Needed for Auction Night and the Spring Online Auction.** We ask that each Newcastle family consider donating 1-2 items to the Auction. Some specific needs include:
 - **Hosted Parties:** Themed parties or even a gourmet dinner for a group make for very memorable experiences and a great way to form connections within our Newcastle community. Ideas include Poker Night, Cinco de Mayo Party or Wine and Cheese Tasting.
 - **Wine!** Please consider donating a premium bottle for the Auction. We'd appreciate premium wines or perhaps a unique bottle from your private collection.
 - Our wish list and procurement form can be found here:
<http://newcastleptsa.org/Page/Auction/auction>
- **Premium Wine Coordinator Needed:** We're seeking 1-2 volunteers to identify optimum quantity and range of wines for the Premium Wine Table at Auction night as well as to determine pricing and write up accolades. Contact Luisa (L_vacca@hotmail.com) or Elysa (empiha@gmail.com) for more details.
- **THANK YOU Newcastle Elementary families for your participation in the Holiday Online Auction and for entering your child into the Mr. Miller Haircut Raffle!** Your support and generous donations are bringing us closer to meeting our fundraising goal! Your generous support in these two initiatives has resulted in \$7,000 towards our 2015 PTSA Auction fundraising goal - 100% of which will directly benefit our Newcastle students.

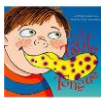
Keep Reading During Winter Break!



Looking for fun project ideas, activities and engaging literature?

MackinVIA has books and databases to keep our Newcastle Lions reading during the two weeks away from school! [Click here](#) for more information about all that MackinVIA has to offer.

December Counseling Update from Ms. Mez



Important discussions will be occurring in all classrooms this month as Ms. Meserole, our school counselor, visits with each class. She will be discussing a wide variety of topics ranging from bullying to respect to blocking rumors depending on the grade. Please visit her [website](#) or her [monthly newsletter](#) for more information.

4th Annual Newcastle Elementary Geography Bee



Classroom Bees for 4th and 5th graders to determine the ten finalists for our school geography bee will take place on Wednesday, December 17th. The ten students who qualify will share their geography knowledge during the school bee on January 23rd beginning at 2:45 PM. Parents are welcome to attend on the 23rd and support our finalists during this fun and challenging PTSA sponsored event!

Wondering how to prepare for the geography bee? [The National Geographic](#) website is a great resource. You may also want to use atlases and Bee study books to strengthen your geography knowledge, download the Geo Bee App for practice quizzes and continue to explore more about the world that you live in! A big thank you to Mrs. Rickey for once again volunteering to be the teacher coordinator for this fun and challenging PTSA-sponsored event!

Practice online each day with ten new questions from the [Geo Bee Quiz](#).

You can also practice at the [Seterra Free Online Map Quizzes](#).

February Newcastle Elementary Parent Education Opportunity

How is your child going to deal with getting passed over for the top job if he can't handle sitting out the basketball game? Or not getting the part in the play? Will your child be able to bounce back after a tragedy? These are some of the questions that Linda Morgan will address at a Newcastle Elementary PTSA-sponsored parent education session during the evening of Thursday **February 26, 2015** in the Commons. The former managing editor of ParentMap and author of *Beyond Smart: Boosting Your Child's Social, Emotional, and Academic Potential*, Linda has appeared on television programs in California, Arizona and Oregon. She will be sharing her perspectives on why resiliency is important and what you can do to nurture this quality in your kids. Please mark your calendars now and save the date!

Newcastle Winter Family Fun Night - Save the Date!

Join the entire Newcastle community on Friday, February 6th in the Commons to learn some fun new dance moves at our DANCE PARTY from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. More information to come in January. Hope to see you there!

A Belated Yet Robust Thank You

A belated yet robust thank you to Roger and Yvette Blauvelt whose help was paramount to the success of our Halloween Carnival in October. Roger spent the entire evening making balloon creations for kids in a nonstop line, even staying an extra half hour to be sure every last youngster received a creation. Yvette made the slime that was used to "slime" Mr. Mellish and Mr. Neugebauer, transported the slime machine, and set it to slime. The evening would not have been the same without their participation! Thank you!

A Kind and Generous Newcastle Elementary Community!

Newcastle Elementary families generously donated nearly 200 toys, along with many articles of clothing and even a train set, during the PTSA-sponsored Polar Express Holiday Gift Drive! [Click here](#) to see a picture of the donations. There is no doubt that these contributions will help deliver smiles to children in our community. If you are interested in participating further, please contact Kristine Morgan (kristinemorgan@spconline.org) to volunteer at the Pickering Barn December 11th & 12th between 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM when families in need can shop for gifts. Thank you again to all who contributed and a special thank you to Michelle Ryberg for chairing our Polar Express drive this year!

Congratulations to our 12 PTSA REFLECTIONS FINALISTS



Congratulations to our twelve PTSA Reflections program finalists! Their projects were selected as best representing this year's theme The World Would Be a Better Place If... in a variety of categories, and will move forward to represent our school at the District level. We had a record number of submissions this year - thank you to everyone who participated!

The submissions from the 12 finalists will be displayed at the Winter Family Event on Friday, February 6, 2015.

The finalists are:

Elizabeth C. - Dance Choreography - 1st Grade
 Kara M. - Visual Arts - 2nd Grade
 Jacob F. - Visual Arts - 2nd Grade
 Nidhi A. - Visual Arts - 3rd Grade
 Lauren M. - Literature - 4th Grade
 Athena B. - Literature - 4th Grade
 Isabella F. - Music Composition - 5th Grade
 Rose M. - Film production - 5th Grade
 Jacob R. - Literature - 5th Grade
 McKenzie M. - Visual Arts - 5th Grade
 Anna S. - Visual Arts - 5th Grade
 Paige G. - Visual Arts - 5th Grade

2014-2015 PTSA Executive Committee

President

JuliAnne Diesch
jpdiesch@yahoo.com

VP Volunteers

Allison Sweeney
aewsweeney@gmail.com

Co-VPs Outreach

Danielle Dixon/Stina Fluegge
danielle_dixon@comcast.net
stinafluegge@gmail.com

Co-VPs Ways & Means

Georgia Forchuk/Angela Oster
gforchuk@msn.com
angelaoster@gmail.com

VP Program Enrichment

Michelle Riley
mmriley628@hotmail.com

Secretary

Eileen Rubenstein
edrubenstein@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Angela Ursino
angelaursino@comcast.net

Officer-at-Large

Edana Peacock
edanatish@aol.com

Final Call for Fall Term Lost & Found



If your child is missing anything (we have plenty of jackets, sweaters, hats, water bottles... even a baseball glove?!), the Lost & Found is almost at capacity with over 80 items. If your child is missing anything, PLEASE have them check the Lost & Found or come in during school hours to check. The Lost & Found is located outside the Commons in the hallway facing the playground. **NOTE:** ALL of the items that are unclaimed just before Winter Break will be donated to the Issaquah Clothing Bank on December 19th. Remember to label your items. Items clearly labeled will be delivered to your child's classroom. **Questions?** Contact Leanne Cole at weezypt@comcast.net.

Washington State PTA Legislative News

Focus Day is Monday, January 19, 2015 and provides members of Washington State PTA, the largest child advocacy organization in Washington State, the opportunity to **Stand Up, Speak Up and Show Up** because *your voice matters* for the 1.58 million children of Washington State. Please plan to join us in Olympia on Focus Day to meet with your legislators to tell them why our Top 5 and supported issues are important for your child, the children in your community and all children across our state. Together we can make a difference for all children.

At Legislative Assembly in October, the State PTA determined our legislative platform and had the opportunity to get video input from leaders around the state telling why PTA members need to show up in Olympia. Please [click here](#) to watch the video.

Issaquah Schools Foundation Update



The Issaquah Schools Foundation (ISF) wants you to know how you can shop and give back to the ISF this month! [Click here](#) for the "411" on ways to support School District 411.