

SEPTEMBER 2016

Meeker PTA News

A Message from the PTA President

Welcome back to school Meeker families!

All of us on your 2016/17 PTA Board hope you enjoyed your summer!

As we get started this new school year, be sure to take a look at your new PTA Board. It is one of the biggest we've had in many years! I'm very proud of all the positive energy and vast experiences each of them brings to Meeker PTA.

We are excited to bring a few new things to Meeker this year, and change up some other things we've done in the past. We met over the summer at our annual Board Retreat and planned out a ton of fun things for our students and you! We added a new fundraiser to replace fair parking, which will utilize our new walking trail. Our Programs and Events Vice Presidents came up with new Family Engagement events. Of course Movie, Skate and Swim nights are scheduled. There will be a bunch of amazing opportunities for all of us to get together and have fun over the year.

After the Board Retreat we focused on wrapping up a project that has been a long time in the making. If you were with Meeker back in 2010 you may remember a fundraiser to purchase engraved bricks for our playground. I am happy to announce that those bricks are finally in the ground and have added a gorgeous base to the Meeker Reader Board.

With all the fun comes some work and we would LOVE to have you join us! Please take a look at the list of opportunities where someone with your talent could make an impact at our school. We have all sorts of things you can do, from behind the scenes work to being front and center. Wherever you can help we greatly appreciate your support! Let us know when you have an interest and we can give you more information.

Last, I'd like to invite you to join us at our Membership Meeting on September 13th at 7:00pm in the Meeker Library. We have snacks and a drawing for a door prize for those in attendance. Kids are always welcome. Attending a PTA meeting is one of the best ways to find out what's happening! PTA Membership Meetings will be held the second Tuesday at 7pm in the Meeker Library during the months

Continued on page 2.

Save these Dates:

Welcome Back! We are looking forward to an amazing school year filled with lots of exciting events. As usual we are off to a busy start. We are including a list of events that cover the first few months of the school year. We would appreciate any help. Please contact Roxane at Loera731@comcast.net or 206-271-1911 to volunteer with these events!

September 13th

Membership & Board Meeting
7:00 pm • Meeker Library

September 30

Fall Fundraising Kick Off
Meeker Gym/Assembly 30 Min

October 11

WATCH D.O.G.S. Kick-Off
5:30 • Meeker Gym

October 21-28

Book Fair
Meeker Library

We look forward to making new memories with both new and familiar faces. We appreciate all your support! Thanks!

Roxane Loera & Kelli Hanis
Co-Vice Presidents of Events

Continued from page 1.

of September, November, January, March, and May. Please plan on attending and let your voice be heard.

I look forward to seeing you on the first day of school and at the Membership Meeting. Really, I'd be happy to see you anywhere!!

Yvonne Shindle, Meeker PTA President

WATCH D.O.G.S. Program

For the past five years, Meeker has had the great opportunity to have WATCH D.O.G.S. serve in our school. WATCH D.O.G.S. stands for Dads of Great Students, and is a program that seeks to engage fathers and father figures in the lives of their students.

Who are WATCH D.O.G.S.? WATCH D.O.G.S. are fathers, grandfathers, step-fathers, uncles and other father figures who volunteer to serve at least one day a year in a variety of school activities as assigned. WATCH D.O.G.S. can be found assisting students in their classrooms, volunteering in the lunch line, playing at recess and working at other duties as assigned. For more information about this program: www.fathers.com/watchdogs.

On Tuesday, October 11th at 5:30 PM we will have a kick-off pizza celebration in the Meeker gym. This is for all males interested in volunteering as WATCH D.O.G.S. You can anticipate being done by 6:30 PM, to walk away feeling equipped to serve as a WATCH D.O.G., and to be able to sign up for one (or more) shifts for this school year.

Amy Schweim, Vice President of Programs

Reflections Program

This is your Reflections Chair, Leslie Yake, and I am excited to announce the PTA Reflections Art Program Theme for the 2016-17 school year:

What Is Your Story?

I will be sending further information regarding dates in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please consider working with your child to ponder the theme and begin thinking about an original work of art that reflects this theme.

From www.pta.org/reflections: The PTA Reflections is a nationally acclaimed student recognition program to encourage artistic creativity in the classroom and at home. Students of all grades and abilities may participate and explore the arts based on the 2016-2017 theme: What Is Your Story?

Students may choose one or all of the available arts categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts.

The arts—and the National PTA Reflections program—support student success and serve as a valuable tool for building strong partnerships in your school community. Celebrate arts learning in your school community with Reflections.

I am in need of volunteers to assist with the program this year! I have broken down the responsibilities so volunteers can choose the extent of their commitments (ranging from making copies, judging art entries, decorating for the awards program, data entry from home, preparing the entries for submission, ordering ribbons, and more). Please contact me to be a part of this rewarding program!

Leslie Yake, Reflections Chair
503-970-4697 (text preferred), leslieyake@gmail.com

In Legislative News...

When last school year ended, the Washington State Legislature was in contempt of the State Supreme Court for failing to comply with the Court's orders in the McCleary lawsuit over the full funding of basic education. For each day they had not complied, the Legislature was subject to a largely symbolic fine of \$100,000 a day—now amounting to more than \$30 million. The Legislature had passed a plan to make a plan to fully fund basic education, and a committee of selected legislators held several hearings on the topic over the summer, but, as yet, no actual plan has been revealed.

As this school year begins, representatives of the State will again be appearing before the State Supreme Court to explain why they should no longer be held in contempt of Court, and to ask that no further sanctions be issued. Members of the PTA testified at those summer hearings, and will be present at the

Continued on page 3.

Continued from page 2.

next Court hearing. Full funding of basic education remains a top priority of the WSPTA and we will continue to be involved at every step of the process.

As we enter the election season, and candidates for State office ask you for your vote, ask them how they plan to fully fund basic education. It is their paramount duty.

David Berg, Legislative Representative

Membership

Welcome back Meeker families! This is an exciting year for membership. Our goal is to reach 100% membership for the 5th consecutive year. Exciting, because this has never happened in Puyallup, let alone Meeker!

Membership shows support of Meeker students and staff, but there are personal benefits too. Discounts at PTA sponsored school events, as well as member discounts for an array of goods and services offered at the state and national levels.

To encourage membership we will once again have class rewards for achieving 100% membership. Drawings will also be held every month, so the longer you are a member the more chances you have to win.

Please join us in our quest by supporting Meeker students and staff! Looking to a record breaking 2016-2017 school year!

Carianne Kehm-Goins,
Vice President of Membership

PTA BOARD 2016/2017

President: Yvonne Shindle

I am so excited to be your Meeker Elementary PTA President!! Before being elected President, I served as Vice President, Events, as the Treasurer, the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, and was on the Auction Committee. I hope to utilize my PTA experience and my professional experience, as an event manager, to help our PTA events run smoothly. I have two sons at Meeker, one in sixth grade and one in second grade. I love volunteering at school and being able to watch all of our kids grow in to amazing people. In my spare time, I craft, watch football, sub as a para educator and run a Tastefully Simple business.

Contact me at:
yvonne.321@comcast.net

Vice President, Membership: Carianne Kehm-Goins

I have served as a PTA board member for two different schools

and have been volunteering in the classroom since my daughter was a three-year-old at Mt. View Co-op Preschool. My husband and I have lived in Puyallup for 14 years and have been involved in this community long before we even lived here. My daughter is now a sixth grader, and I hope that the values of compassion, selflessness and self-worth that come from volunteering are instilled in her as she interacts with the many who volunteer in making Meeker Elementary rewarding, educational, and fun.

Contact me at:
ptameeker@yahoo.com

Vice President, Programs: Amy Schweim

I am no stranger to Meeker PTA and am happy to be back serving on the PTA board. I am mom to three amazing children – Casey (16 and a sophomore at Puyallup High School) and Jayson and Shelby who are both students

here at Meeker. As a family we are proud owners of four cats and enjoy spending time together taking road trips, going to Mariners and Seahawks games, hiking, and finding new places to eat. This will be my first time serving in the capacity of VP of Programs.

Contact me at:
alschweim@aol.com

Co-Vice President, Events: Kelli Hanis

In addition to serving as the Vice President, Events for Meeker Elementary PTA, I am the mother of four children (two of whom attend Meeker) and the grandmother of two (one of whom is at Meeker). My husband, Kevin, is the ninth grade football coach at Puyallup High School (Aylen, Kalles, and Edgemont) and a teacher at Mt. Tahoma High School in Tacoma. I am currently a stay at home mom, volunteer at Meeker and my

PTA BOARD 2016/2017 cont'd

church (well, I'm ever needed), and in my spare time, I sell the most amazing 3D Fiber Lash mascara on the planet.

Contact me at:
allknames@gmail.com

Co-Vice President, Events: Roxane Loera

I have had the pleasure of being involved with Meeker PTA since 2009. I have three amazing daughters who rule my world. Emma attends Meeker and is in 5th grade. My youngest is Sophia and she attends Preschool at All Saints. Our family enjoys traveling, volunteering at school & church, playing sports and having fun. I am a Business Manager by day and a chauffeur, cook, baby sitter, first aid nurse, fashion consultant and referee the rest of the time. I love being a mom, cooking and look forward to boring days with nothing to do, which hardly ever happen when you have three kids. We also enjoy watching football together. Go Hawks!

Contact me at:
loera731@Comcast.net

Co-Secretary: Leslie Yake

I love piña coladas and getting caught in the rain. Actually, neither of those are true, but it helps me in the writing process. I have four children, and three of them attend Meeker (Riley is in Mrs. Medina's class, Cooper is in Mrs. Beck's, Ainsley is in Mrs. Power's). The other one (Hadley) thinks she owns the place, and can often be heard terrorizing the students with her echoing screams in the halls, amusing adults and children alike with her eclectic fashion, and keeping the janitors busy with her well-placed spilled Starbucks cups. So I apologize for

the disruption while I volunteer at school, but we're a package deal. Unless anyone wants to babysit.... As part of my constant quest to find inner peace, I go to the gym where I often work out, but I also sometimes just sit in the spa and read a book. I love to stay busy, cheer on my kids' sports teams in between socializing with other parents, achieve the highest score in Glee Karaoke or Just Dance 4, and date nights with my handsome husband.

Contact me at:
leslieyake@gmail.com

Co-Secretary: Sarah Effrig

I am a Puyallup native with my family roots dating back to the 1930's. This is my second year as a volunteer at Meeker Elementary where I teach an after school program called Art Wizards. I have over a decade of experience in volunteering in the Puyallup community. I am part of the Tacoma Calligraphy Guild and love to write. My hobbies include exploring the sound with my husband of 11 years and my adorable son, sailing and teaching art to kids.

Contact me at:
mrs.effrig@gmail.com

Treasurer: Erin Neeley

This is my second year as a board member of the Meeker Elementary PTA. Before I was blessed to be a Stay at Home Mom, I was a Para Educator and also a Preschool teacher. I have two children that are attending Meeker. My son is in fourth grade and my daughter, my baby just started first grade this year. It was a tough transition but we have adjusted. My favorite thing to do is be present in their school for them and others. I love to

volunteer in their classes, working with my wonderful friends on the PTA and just be in the school. In my spare time, if I have any, I love to bake, do crafts with my family, and just be with my family in general.

Contact me at:
weeneeley@gmail.com

Legislative Chairperson: David Berg

I have been a PTA member for the last 10 years. I've served as the Legislative Chairperson for Meeker Elementary PTA, the Puyallup PTA Council, Washington State PTA Region 5, and have helped to shape the Washington State PTA state legislative agenda. I'm a regular visitor to Olympia during the legislative session, and often meet with legislators from across the state outside of session. My wife and I have three sons. My oldest is a senior at Puyallup High School. My middle son is a ninth grader in the PAGE program at Kalles Junior High. My youngest is a fifth grader at Meeker. I encourage everyone to be an advocate. Let your voice be heard.

Contact me at:
dbberg@gmail.com

Volunteer Coordinator: Sharon Hedman

I'm a junk-loving, coffee-drinking, God-fearing, sleep deprived mom of four kiddos.....loving this season of life where I get to be very involved in their lives....oh, and I have a pretty great hubby too. This is my second time serving on the Meeker PTA board of directors.

Contact me at:
sharonhedman@yahoo.com