



THE FREQUENT FLYER

MEEKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

Puyallup, WA
PTA Unit 5.7.30

March 2014

Upcoming Events

March

- 4th-6th: Early Release Conferences
- 4th: Meeker PTA General Membership / Board Mtgs 7pm @ Library
- 25th: Early Release Day
- 28th: Spirit Assembly—Honesty Trait / Book Character Sprit Theme 2pm @ Meeker Gym
- 31st: Spring Break

April

- 1st-4th: Spring Break
- 8th: Meeker PTA Board Mtg 7pm @ Meeker Library
- 10th-13th: Puyallup Spring Fair
- 16th: Skate Night 6pm-8pm @ Tiffany's Skate Inn
- 17th: Puyallup PTA Council Mtg
- 18th: School Out
- 25th: Spirit Assembly – Kindness Trait / Career Day Theme 10am
- 25th-27th: Washington State PTA Convention @ Bellevue Hyatt
- 28th: Smarter Balance Testing

May

- 6th: Meeker PTA General Membership / Board Mtgs 7pm @ Library
- 5th-9th: Staff Appreciation Week
- 9th: Muffins For Moms
- 20th: Art Walk 7pm @ Meeker
- 30th: 6th Gr Year End Celebration

June

- 6th: Field Day 9am
- 13th: 5th/6th Grade JA Biztown

All events and dates are subject to change..

Freaky Friday is a hit! The Reviews Are In From Everyone!

On Friday, February 21st, Meeker PTA sponsored its first-ever Freaky Friday, a parents-as-students event held in conjunction with National PTA's "Take Your Family to School Week." Thanks to dedicated staff members who volunteered their time, PTA members who worked tirelessly for weeks in advance, and families who registered in droves, the inaugural event was a huge success!

It all started when second grade teacher **Ms. Sharon Yanasak** was discussing with Meeker PTA President **Megan Klein** the need for parents to take a more active role in their student's education. What better way to engage parents than to have them spend a day in their students' shoes? And Freaky Friday was born.

Ms. Yanasak was soon joined by 4th grade teacher **Mrs. Cindy Jones** in planning meetings working alongside Megan and Meeker principal **Dr. Andrea Drake** to design an event that provided a balance of education and entertainment. As the event slowly evolved from a "pie in the sky" idea to an event that just might work, more Meeker teachers and PTA volunteers joined in to help pull off the program. Volunteer **Yvonne Shindle** spent hours putting together all of the registration packets, and volunteer **David Klein** stayed up until 2:00 am one night assigning classes. Hours were spent refining the activities and adjusting the schedules.

On the day of the event, staff members, PTA volunteers, and an army of Puyallup High School student volunteers led more than 350 people through an evening packed with activities. Before the event, volunteers **Annie Starwich Claeys** and Yvonne Shindle made and set up the event's props and signs. As families arrived, they were greeted by Meeker safety patrol members on duty at the crosswalks led by Meeker's **Kelli Hanis**. Just as our students do each morning, families were asked to line up in the covered area of the playground before "school"

started. Each family received a registration packet in a report card envelope, along with backwards nametags (parents were called by their first names, and students were referred to as "Mr." and "Ms.") and color-coded "hot lunch cards" (just as our students do) indicating their pre-selected dinner choices.

Thanks to a \$1,000 grant from the Puyallup Walmart, Meeker PTA was able to provide a full dinner to families in attendance. After a greeting by the principal, families were led into the gym and served their dinner "cafeteria style" by our Meeker lunch ladies **Maxine Russell** and **Tami Jensen** (assisted by Meeker staff members, including **Ms. Gail Miller**, **Mrs. Sheila Whittingslow**, and **Ms. Liz Latsas**, as well as PHS volunteers).

After dinner and announcements, families were asked to help clear the gym of tables and chairs (just as students do after lunch) and then dismissed to their class assignments. Families traveled together between three pre-assigned class sessions.

After the invaluable class sessions, families were led back into the gym for a "mini" Spirit Assembly, complete with **Blazer** giving out high-fives and Spirit Team leaders **Mr. Kurt Kreuger** and Ms. Yanasak leading the crowd in school cheers. Families turned in "Gotcha" slips they had received during the event when they were caught behaving well by a teacher, and homework (aka event feedback forms) was assigned.

The reviews have been overwhelmingly positive! Parents commented on how much they learned about their child's school day. Based on this feedback, Meeker PTA hopes to hold an event like "Freaky Friday" again in the future. If you are interested in assisting and serving on the Freaky Friday Committee, please send an email to:

ptameeker@yahoo.com

February Volunteer of the Month



For February Meeker PTA would like to recognize Lorrie Hodge as Volunteer of the Month. She was nominated by a teacher for her consistent volunteering in the classroom. She helps the students that are struggling in math and writing. She also is the volunteer tester for the DIBELS reading program for their entire class. She is appreciated by students and especially the teacher.

Meeker Elementary PTA is volunteer-driven. Without the dedication of the volunteers who help out at our great school, your PTA couldn't accomplish anything. Each month, we recognize volunteer (s) as our "Volunteer Of The Month." Volunteers of the Month have gone above and beyond in their commitment to our school.

PTA Members Get Involved at Meeker

Meeker PTA has many active volunteers but we are happy to announce some new involvement to connect our parents to things going on at Meeker.

Meeker PTA will have members attend staff committee meetings that exist for important topics. These committees are important to our students and our representatives will report back to us what they observe.

Three committees have been targeted for having Meeker PTA involvement and they are the Safety Committee, The Diversity Committee and the CSIP Committee (Continuous School Improvement Plan Committee).

Our reps for these committees are Roxane Loera for the Safety Committee, Annie Starwich Claeys for the Diversity Committee and Jill Goodrich for the CSIP Committee.

Reflections Program Has A Winner From Meeker!



Congratulations to our very own Meeker student Jaxon Kerrzie! The Washington State PTA awarded him with an "Award of Merit" for his project entitled 'Little Bug, Big Wall.' Winners will have their art on display at the Washington State PTA Convention and will compete to move onto the National PTA level. Congratulations!

Be thinking of your art projects for next year! The theme next year is.. The World Would Be A Better Place If...

This theme was created by our own Meeker student, Mercedes Messier, and it was chosen by the National PTA Reflections Program as the winner. If you have questions or want to help with Reflections contact our Chairperson Kristina Allums at 253-241-9484.

Arts in Education

National PTA believes EVERY child deserves a QUALITY arts education. Participation in the arts...

- Levels the playing field for underserved students.
- Develops the whole-child.
- Nurtures creativity and teamwork.
- Connects families and schools to one another and to their communities.



Watch DOGS Needs You!

Hey Dads! We need you to sign up as a WatchDOG at Meeker. It's easy, fun and makes a huge impression on your student. Just ask any of these men who have served as WatchDOGS already this year:

Josh Adams

Matt Fuqua

Nick Hedman

David Klein

Jonathan Phillips

Chad Lance

Richard Arneberg

Kevin Hanis

Tom Jensen

Chris Marcoe

Ryan Seaburg

Scott Claeys

Michael Cady

Edward Hayes

Corey Jones

Ethan Offenbecher

Danny Stammen

To sign up we need two completed forms turned in: 1) Watch DOGS application form 2) Puyallup School District Volunteer Form. These are available at the office and soon on our Meekerpta.com website so check for it under the 'Resources' tab. If you filled out the WatchDOGS application at the beginning of the school year, but haven't yet spent a day at Meeker, please look at your calendar and schedule a day soon by calling the Meeker front office at 253-841-8738. We especially need dads this spring so step up today and be a hero to your student tomorrow!

Order Your Yearbooks!

The incredible Meeker yearbooks are on sale now. The information went home recently. Be sure to order yours before the deadline to assure you receive one! And, if you have any photos you would like us to include in the yearbook, please email them to meekerptavolunteer@yahoo.com. Any questions? Contact Kristina Allums at 253-241-9484.

Also, our sixth grade classes are hard at work entering their artwork for the cover photo contest. Questions? Contact our Yearbook Chairperson, Kristina Allums at kristinaallums@yahoo.com.



Meeker's New Elected Officers

At our General Membership Meeting on March 4th the following officers were elected in as presented by our Nominating Committee. Looking forward to a great new year!

President: Megan Klein

Treasurer: Camila Anderson

Secretary: Kelly Wivell

Co-Vice President Programs: Sue Foster

Co-Vice President Programs: Corey Liebl

Vice President Events: Yvonne Shindle

Co-Vice President Membership: Kelli Hanis

Co-Vice President Membership: Kristina Allums

Meeker PTA Membership Super Heroes

This year we have seen many Super Heroes signing up as members of Meeker PTA. We are coming to a close for this membership year and Class Parties for 100% Participation will be ending soon. The deadline for Class Party Memberships is April 30, 2014

The following classes earned parties for 100% Membership this year:

Mrs. Franks' Class
Ms. Erickson's Class
Mrs. Beck's Class
Mrs. Apostle's Class
Mrs. Kindle's Class
Mrs. Perrin's Class

Congratulations Super Heroes!



Art Walk Coming Soon

Your Art Docents have been working with our students to educate about art and have created some great art projects.

These art projects will be on display for all to see at our Annual Art Walk and this year it will be held on May 20th.

We need volunteers to help and have jobs such as hanging wall art, sending out flyers and we would appreciate even having an Art Walk Chairperson. If you would like to volunteer or have questions please contact our VP Programs Annie Starwich Claeys, 253.435.1572 or email astarwich@yahoo.com.



Legislative News

February Levy Election Followup - The Puyallup School District had two levy propositions up for a vote on February 11, 2014 and they both passed! This is a win for our Meeker students and the entire Puyallup School District.

Proposition 1 is an Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy. This levy is not a new tax. It will replace the levy approved by voters in 2010. Levies must be renewed by voters every four years and the existing levy will expire at the end of the 2014. Funds from the Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy comprise about 24% of the District budget and are used to cover daily operations in every one of the District's schools.

Proposition 2 is a School Facility Improvements and Technology Upgrades Levy. Funds from this levy will be used to enhance existing facilities, including improvements in building safety and security, as well as modifications needed to accommodate full-time kindergarten classrooms at each of the District's elementary schools.

Get Involved - Sign up for WSPTA Action Alerts <http://capwiz.com/wastatepta/home/>

Questions or Info about Legislative Issues contact our Legislative Chairperson David Berg at dbberg@gmail.com.

Meeker PTA Needs Your Help!

We have some Job Openings that we need some Super Heroes for! Remember you can co-lead these jobs and make it more fun!

Staff Appreciation Week Chairperson, Muffins For Mom Chairperson, Donuts For Dad Chairperson, Family Fun Nights Chairperson (Skate Night, Swim Night, Movie Night), Field Day Chairperson, Art Docent Chairperson, Reflections Chairperson

Help Meeker Earn Extra Money

Questions? Email ptameeker@yahoo.com.

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March 28th is Book Character Day

Our March 28th spirit day features an exciting new dress-up theme: Book Character Day! For those of you who may need a little push to get your juices flowing, here are some ideas to get your started:

- Cat in the Hat
- Fly Guy
- Greg Heffley (from the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series)
- Waldo
- Junie B. Jones
- Geronimo Stilton
- Characters from popular series such as *Harry Potter*, *The Hunger Games*, *The Hobbit*
- Captain Underpants
- Mickey Mouse
- Roscoe Riley
- Jack and Annie from *The Magic Tree House* series
- An Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly
- Ms. Frizzle
- Nancy Drew
- Old McDonald
- Charlie Joe Jackson

If you think about it, almost every popular movie character and cartoon character originated from a book, so the possibilities are endless. Plus, you don't need to spend any money to have a fun costume. For example, all you need is a purple crayon to be from "Harold and the Purple Crayon" or just wear pink and you are from "Pinkalicious." Open up your mind, open up a book, and we'll see you at Book Character Day on March 28th!

Thank You Volunteers!

Thank you to the many volunteers who have made Meeker and its PTA run smoothly in February. Special thanks to:

- **Mrs. Yanasak, Mrs. Jones and Megan Klein** for coordinating Freaky Friday! What a huge success!
- **Yvonne Shindle and David Klein** for their work on the Freaky Friday committee. This event could not have happened without all their work!
- **Annie Starwich Claey**s and **Yvonne Shindle** for creating and setting up the event decorations for Freaky Friday
- **Kelli Hanis** for coordinating the Patrol students to help with our Freaky Friday event providing safety for our families
- **Meeker Patrol Students** for volunteering to help families arrive at Meeker for our Freaky Friday event
- **Walmart Puyallup** for their general grant to Meeker PTA to provide a free dinner to all families that participated in the Freaky Friday event
- **Maxie Russell, Tami Jensen, Gail Miller, Sheila Whittingslow, and Liz Latsas** for serving dinner to our families at the Freaky Friday event
- **Mr. Gimenez** for leading PE classes, **Mrs. Ethier** for leading Music classes, **Mrs. Loucks** and **Mrs. Yanasak** for leading the Meeker Lingo classes, **Mrs. Picha** and **Mrs. Field** for leading library A/R Test classes and **Mr. Keen** for leading Math IXL classes at our Freaky Friday event.
- **Blazer, Mr. Kreuger and Mrs. Yanasak** for leading the Sprit Assembly at our Freaky Friday Event
- **Mrs. Field and Mrs. Apostle** for heading up the Meeker Science Fair, and **Kirsten Holmquist** for coordinating the sale of science fair boards.
- **Amy Schweim** for arranging our Swim Night.
- **Yvonne Shindle, Kelli Hanis, Sharon Yanasak** for serving on the Nominating Committee to help find great leaders for Meeker PTA!
- **Angie Beardsley, Kelly Wivell and Jennifer Schaapveld** for volunteering on the Financial Review Committee to keep our Meeker PTA in good standing as a compliant and trustworthy organization!
- **Meeker Grandparents** for attending Grandparents Day supporting our super Meeker Eagles!

Meeker PTA Executive Committee Members

Your Meeker PTA Executive Committee is always available to answer questions or listen to ideas..

President: Megan Klein (ptameeker@yahoo.com, 952.270.1685)

Treasurer: Yvonne Shindle (yvonne.321@comcast.net, 206.679.8035)

Secretary: Sue Foster (fabulousfosters@hotmail.com, 253.297.3535)

Vice President Programs: Annie Starwich-Claeys (astarwich@yahoo.com, 253.435.1572)

Vice President Events: Amy Schweim (alschweim@aol.com, 253.848.7496)

Co-Vice President Membership: Roxane Loera (loera731@comcast.net, 206.271.1911)

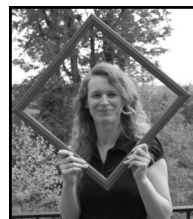
Co-Vice President Membership: Kristina Allums (kristinaallums@yahoo.com, 253.241.9484)



Megan



Yvonne



Sue



Annie



Amy



Roxane



Kristina

The Meeker PTA newsletter is published September—June to keep members up-to-date with what is happening at Meeker Elementary. If you would like to contribute an article or have any comments, please contact Sue Foster at fabulousfosters@hotmail.com or 253-297-3535.