



THE FREQUENT FLYER

MEEKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

Puyallup, WA
PTA Unit 5.7.30

May 2014

Upcoming Events

MAY

- 5th-9th: Staff Appreciation Week
- 6th: Meeker PTA Board Mtg @ Meeker library (7:00 pm)
- 9th: Muffins for Mom @ Meeker gym (8:00 am)
- 19th—23rd: Book Fair @ Meeker, room 104
- 20th: Family Art Night @ Meeker (6:30—8:00 pm)
- 23rd: Spirit Day (trait: friendship; dress-up: Hawaiian) assembly 2:00 pm
- 26th-27th: No school (Memorial Day Weekend)
- 28th: Threads for Life Fashion Show @ Meeker gym (6:00 pm)
- 29th: Puyallup PTA Council Annual Awards Night @ Carson Elementary (6:30 pm)
- 30th: 6th Grade Celebration

JUNE

- 3rd: Meeker PTA General Membership & Board Mtgs @ Meeker library (7:00 pm)
- 6th: Field Day @ Sparks Stadium (9:00 am)
- 13th: Donuts With Dad @ Meeker gym (8:00 am)
- 13th: 5th/6th Grade JA Biztown Experience.

Meeker Elementary PTA Named the State's Outstanding Local Unit



Meeker Eagles SOAR! This was certainly the case at the annual Washington State PTA Convention held in Bellevue at the end of April. Your Meeker Elementary PTA was named the 2014 Outstanding Local Unit for the state of Washington. This is the highest honor that a

PTA can receive - sort of like the "Oscar" or "Grammy" of PTAs. It is awarded to only one elementary school PTA in the entire state (out of more than 900 PTAs) and signifies that the winning PTA is, in essence, "the best." As a result, the Washington State PTA is sending your Meeker PTA board of directors to the National PTA Convention in Austin, Texas in June. This will be a great opportunity to get new ideas from all over the country that we can bring to Meeker Elementary next year.

Ok, What Exactly Did We Win?

In addition to winning the Outstanding Local Unit award, Meeker Elementary PTA received the following designations:

100% Membership (second consecutive year): Meeker was one of only 14 PTAs (out of more than 900 in the state) to achieve 100% PTA membership this year. Not only that, Meeker was THE ONLY PTA OUTSIDE OF BELLEVUE to earn the distinction. (Insert "oohs" and "ahhs" here...)

Standards of Excellence - Gold: This award recognizes the use of best practices of PTA management. Local units can achieve Bronze, Silver, or Gold status. Meeker PTA earned a perfect score. (Insert collective gasps of awe here...)

Honor Unit - Gold: According to the Washington State PTA website, this award "recognizes PTAs that have gone significantly beyond the attainment of excellence

and have demonstrated exceptional qualities that merit replication by others." The eight-page application for this award contains 111 specific criteria. Again, PTAs were awarded Bronze, Silver, or Gold status. Not only did Meeker PTA earn Gold status, one judge commented, "Wow! They blew me away!"

Not Applicable to Me

Think this doesn't apply to you? Think again. These awards are bragging rights not only for your PTA, but for every parent, teacher and student at our school - whether you belong to PTA or not. It increases the reputation of our entire school among all elementary schools in the Puyallup School District (and beyond).

Still not convinced this has anything to do with you? Let me ask you this...did you attend Freaky Friday? Did you fill out a postcard to send to our legislators at Skate Night? How about buying a book at the book fair? Being in "Rapunzel" or coming to watch it? Liking our Facebook page? Buying popcorn at Meeker Munchies? All of these events and programs were part of the reason your PTA was chosen at the Outstanding Local Unit. Thank you to everyone at Meeker Elementary for your participation, your enthusiasm, and your passion for ensuring the success of our children!

Megan Klein
President, Meeker PTA



Above, Meeker PTA board members with National PTA President Otha Thornton (far left) and Washington State PTA President Heather Gillette (far right)

Staff Appreciation Week

Staff Appreciation Week is an annual celebration to thank our teachers and staff for all their hard work. This is a National PTA event as well as a tradition at Meeker Elementary PTA.

We are celebrating this year during the week of May 5th - 9th. Parents and students are encouraged to reach out to their teachers personally to thank them for their dedication. Many staff members have said that a personal note of appreciation is the most powerful way for families to express their thanks.

Meeker PTA is coordinating some special school-wide surprises. Many volunteers already answered the call for help on the Meeker PTA Facebook page and came out to help execute an



“extreme makeover” on the staff workroom this weekend. On Monday morning, Meeker staff members were treated to a big “reveal” and tour of their new workroom, and they were thrilled!

“extreme makeover” on the staff workroom this weekend. On Monday morning,

Meeker Science Fair

We had over 150 entries in Meeker's Science Fair on February 26, 2014. We had many scientific process projects (including a number of class projects), inventions, and technology entries. A very limited number of projects could be selected to represent Meeker at the District STEM Showcase. The selection process was VERY difficult and there were many worthy projects to choose from. We were emphasizing the importance of the scientific process and not competition. Everyone at Meeker should be very proud!

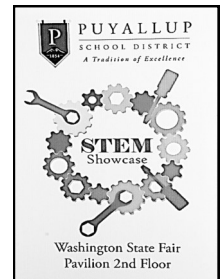
The following students were sent to the STEM Showcase at the Spring Fair:

Annaliese Anderson-Caffee (2nd)	Samantha Goodrich (3rd)	Shae Looker (3rd)
Kate Beardsley (5th)	Jaiden Grimsley (3rd)	Logan Oyama (6th)
Carson Braddock (6th)	Patrick Hopkins (2nd)	Orien Taute (5th)
Jake Connaway (K)	Sophia Johnston (4th)	Federico Vargas-Penalver (4th)
Alex Frazier (6th)	Kyra Kehm-Goins (3rd)	
Coleyn Frazier (4th)	Jaxon Kerzie (1st)	
	Molly Klein (3rd)	

Special thanks to all of our community presenters:

- Entomologist: Jon Turmel
- TAS (Tacoma Astronomical Society): Ken Slavens and others
- Air Products (Liquid Nitrogen Demonstration): Randy Clancy and Family
- Pierce County Educational Services (Microbiologists and Environmental Scientists--Compost Critters): Ryan Misely
- Tower Building (Engineering): Elliott Beck helped supervise

Article Submitted by Mrs. Field and Mrs. Beck



Volunteers of the Month

For March, Meeker PTA would like to recognize **Jessica Connaway** and **Danle Salguero** as our Volunteers of the Month. We appreciate all of their hard work and dedication to our Meeker Eagles!

Jessica and Danle were nominated by Mrs. Field for their enthusiastic volunteering of countless hours in the kindergarten class and for their kindness to the students. They have stepped up to help and it is appreciated!



For April, our Volunteer of the Month is Jen Lane. She was nominated for her work as our Book Fair Chairperson, our Spirit Wear Chairperson and as a classroom volunteer. Thank you, Jen!

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 and we appreciate them!

Watch DOGS Needs You!

Dads, Grandpas, Uncles we need you to be a Super Hero for just one hour at Meeker! Spend a little time helping and get a big THANK YOU from your student!



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 on our Meekerpta.com website so check for it under the 'Resources' tab.

To schedule an hour or a day to volunteer call the Meeker front office at 253-841-8738 ask for Elizabeth or email ptameeker@yahoo.com.

PTA Legislative News

Take one small step today to give your child a brighter tomorrow! Sign up for WSPTA Action Alerts at <http://capwiz.com/wastatepta/home/> to learn what education issues are being followed in Olympia.

Questions? Contact our Legislative Chairperson David Berg at dbberg@gmail.com.





Meeker PTA Membership Superheroes

As the school year winds down, so does our push to get more great PTA members for this year. Our classroom party 100% membership contests have ended for this year and take a look again at this list of classes who were able to support their students and Meeker by joining the PTA and going the extra step. We're looking forward to a new year of members next year!

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

Mrs. Apostle's class
Mrs. Beck's class
Ms. Erickson's class
Mrs. Franks' class
Mrs. Jones' class - newly earned
Mrs. Kindle's class
Mrs. Loucks' class - newly earned
Mrs. Perrin's class



Your art docents have been hard at work all year educating students about art through interactive lessons featuring a variety of methods and media.

These art projects will be on display for all to see at our Annual Family Art Night that is set to be held on May 20th but that date may change.

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 please contact our VP Programs Annie Starwich Claeys, 253.435.1572 or email astarwich@yahoo.com.

Muffins With Mom This Friday!



Mark your calendars now! Muffins for Mom is this Friday, May 9th at 8:00 am in the Meeker gym. Your PTA heard that you wanted this event to be free, and we're happy to report that this year's

MUFFINS FOR MOM IS A FREE EVENT!

However, in order to accommodate the many parents Meeker has come to know and love, we must ask that everyone return the RSVP card that was sent home last week. If you do not return the RSVP, we can not guarantee that there will be enough muffins and juice for everyone.

In the past, the admission charge was in place to recoup the cost of the muffins, coffee and juice that is provided. This was never a fundraising event. Now that our PTA will be covering the cost of the food, there will be a donation jar available at the event if you would like to help your PTA cover some of this expense.

Did you know that most of the tables used at Meeker events (and by the students at lunch) were purchased for the school by the PTA? At this point, our little gym can not fit any more tables. Therefore, we ask for your patience and consideration at our Muffins for Mom and Donuts for Dad events as we anticipate record attendance this year.

Finally, we need available dads to come help us at this event! Have you ever noticed that most of the volunteers working this event are also moms? Give them the opportunity to sit down and enjoy a muffin! They'll return the favor at Donuts with Dad. (Mark your calendar for the newly FREE Donuts for Dad event on Friday, June 13th at 8:00 am in the Meeker gym.)

Urgent! Calling All Meeker Parents

We are looking to fill many key positions next year. **If we can not find volunteers to chair these events and programs, we will be forced to cancel them!** In order to maintain a strong and sustainable PTA that best supports our school, there must be enough volunteers to support our events and programs. If we can not find enough volunteers, we will have to scale back the programming. If even half of the parents at our school would commit to one small volunteer job, we could triple our available programs. Imagine the possibilities. Chess club? No problem. Football team? Got it covered. Student council? We've got someone for that.

Many of these open positions are not very time-consuming and provide a great way to get your feet wet in PTA. Even better, you are welcome to co-chair any position with a friend. For questions or to volunteer, please email ptameeker@yahoo.com.

Art Docent Chairperson—Assistant Fair Parking Chairperson—Book Fair Chairperson—Fall Fundraiser Chairperson—Field Day Chairperson—Reflections Chairperson—Freaky Friday Chairperson (tentative)—Watch DOGS Top Dog—Staff Appreciation Week Chair—Missoula Children's Theatre Week Chairperson (tentative)—Muffins for Mom/Donuts for Dad Chairperson—Sixth Grade Celebration Chairperson (2014-2015)—Family Fun Nights Chairs (Movie Night, Skate Night, Swim Night)

Meeker Artists Can Start Creating For Next Year's Reflections Program!

Now is the time to start thinking of new art projects for the Reflections program for next year. The theme for next year is,



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

This theme was created by our own Meeker student, Mercedes Messer, and it was chosen by the National PTA Reflections Program as the theme for every PTA Reflections program next year, from Florida to Maine.

Art can be entered into any of these six areas: Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts, Film/Video, Choreography/Dance. 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.

Thank You Volunteers!

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

- **Meeker families** for donating their used clothes to the USAGAIN bin. This earned Meeker fundraiser money but we also earned a certificate for recycling 3,337 pounds of textiles. Great job Meeker Eagles!
- **Angie Beardsley and all of the Meeker Munchies Volunteers** for making Fridays better with snacks!
- **Kirsten Homquist** for helping sell science Boards to students for our annual Science Fair
- **Meeker Volunteers and staff** for making our STEM Science Fair successful!
- **Roxane Loera** for getting Meeker PTA's 14 in 14 Membership Challenge paperwork in on time!
- **Tacoma Astronomical Society Volunteers** for presenting great things at the Science Fair
- **Randy Clancy and Family & Air Products Co.** for providing our great experiments at the Science Fair
- **Kirsten Holmquist, HollyLu Coon, Eileen Peacher and Annie Starwich Claeys** for creatively solving challenges and seemingly insurmountable obstacles to keep Art Night on the calendar!
- **Ryan Misely from Pierce County Education Services** for presenting environmental items at the Science Fair
- **Kristina Allums** for working long hours and late nights to put together what is sure to be a fantastic yearbook!
- **Carianne Kehm-Goins** for her work as the Awards Committee Chairperson
- **Meeker PTA and Meeker Families** for donating to our March Gladness project to support the La Mission Mexico Elementary School.
- **Yvonne Shindle** for taking on the HUGE task of performing an “extreme makeover” on the staff workroom in honor of Staff Appreciation Week. Thanks also to **David Berg, Ethan Berg, Ayden Berg, Cindy Jones, Megan Klein, Jessica Loyd, Amy Schweim, Chris Shindle, Ryan Shindle, Logan Shindle, Muriel Wohrle, and Sharon Yanasak** for volunteering their time over the weekend to get the job done!
- **Sue Foster, Kelli Hanis, Megan Klein, Corey Liebl and Yvonne Shindle** for devoting four days to representing Meeker PTA at the Washington State PTA Convention as representatives of Meeker PTA. Thanks also to the 12 children and their caretakers left behind!

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 (yvones.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: open position

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

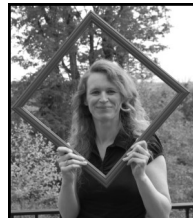
Co-Vice President Membership: Kristina Allums (kristinaallums@yahoo.com, 253.241.9484)



Megan



Yvonne



Sue



Annie



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.