

Fall / Winter 2017 **PANDA PRESS** PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Message from your PTO Co-Chairs, Leslie Atabelo & Cindy Scott

Greetings Parkview Community!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for an amazing start to the 2017-2018 school year at Parkview. As you have probably noticed, we got started right away with our two biggest fundraisers, a school directory, after school enrichment, and more!

Each and every one of you is integral to the success of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) mission and activities, working to foster student learning, support the staff and build community at our neighborhood school. One of the goals of the PTO board is to make the PTO approachable and inclusive. We do not collect dues and there is no other requirement for membership other than being a parent or staff member at Parkview. We want everyone to feel welcome and encouraged to share ideas.

We have some ongoing fundraising campaigns such as Panda Wear and SCRIP but PTO events from here on out will mostly focus on bringing together families and staff to strengthen our Parkview community.

Thank you for your time, energy and contributions to help make a difference and enrich the educational experience of each of our children. If you are

wondering how you can get involved or don't quite know how to start, please contact us. Every volunteer role matters, great or small, and we all have a gift to share, it truly takes a village!

We look forward to getting to know you!

--Leslie and Cindy



Jog-a-Thon and Auction Success!

A BIG HUGE thank you to EVERYONE who contributed to the success of our two largest fundraisers. It's incredible what we can do as members of an amazing community to support our students and staff. Your contributions for jog-a-thon raised \$29,292 - WOW! and for auction raised \$4,522. Another awesome number to note is that the students ran a total of 5,098 laps!!

(Jogathon/Auction, cont.)

So what exactly do these fundraisers help with? In the very busy, but short 3.5 months since school started, the PTO has coordinated and funded a huge variety of events and activities:

- Kindergarten field trip to Bellewood Acres
- Funded a portion of Parkview's garden educator and the garden/cooking classes
- Several grades have seen a show at Mount Baker Theater
- Coordinated an amazing slate of fall after school enrichment activities
- Partially funded animal therapy for a group of students
- The Parkview garden got a facelift and the entire staff got a sweet little lunch area
- All students are getting Scholastic News to read in the classroom and bring home
- Produced the school directory and distributed to all families
- Hosted a couple of staff appreciation lunches with more to come
- Purchased sensory tools and supplies for students and staff to utilize in the classroom



Panda Wear

One of the things Parkview prides itself on is school spirit! Whether you are a Panda Alum or a current student, school spirit runs high in the Parkview community! We are so lucky to work with Bellingham based, Red Boots Design, to have all our Panda Wear screen-printed by hand on high quality clothing. Our goal is to keep prices affordable for all families.

www.parkviewpto.org * www.facebook.com/groups/ParkviewBellingham/ * contact@parkviewpto.org

We all know kids grow fast! So if you have some gently used Panda Wear at home that doesn't fit anymore, please consider donating it back to the PTO so we can pass it on. Keep your eyes peeled for Spirit Friday each month to show off your Panda pride! Panda Wear sales will be open January 8th-19th, 2018. You can shop at www.parkviewpto.org. Estimated delivery will be on February 5, 2018.

Message from the Principal

Dear Parkview Families,

I hope that Autumn is finding you in good spirits and ready to tackle another (predicted) cold winter. I, for one, can't wait to get into the snowy mountains. And who knows, maybe we will get more lowland snow like last year--though I am requesting that snow only fall on weekends or connected to holidays.



Winter is a time for reflection and as my thoughts turn to snow I find myself reflecting on the first part of our year and taking stock of the changes we've adapted to this year at our school. Students and faculty have adapted admirably to the different start and end times initiated this year at the district level. At Parkview, we've happily accommodated many new families allowing us to bring on excellent additional teaching staff. It has been my pleasure to witness relatively seamless adjustments to classroom locations, and modified lunch and recess schedules.

In many ways, the changes that have occurred have and will continue to prepare our school community for a larger future change: the construction of a new facility.

In the spring of 2017, Parkview, along with Sunnyland and Alderwood Elementary Schools, was selected for inclusion on an upcoming capitol bond. A vote on the bond will occur in February of 2018--you can learn more about the bond and the proposed improvements to our facilities by heading to bellingshamschools.org and entering the search term "2018 bond".

(Message from the Principal, cont.)

From my perspective, our school is flexible and adaptive. We have made a variety of changes and yet continue to function at a very high level. Thank you to those of you who have reached out with feedback. It is helpful to hear from a variety of different voices on how things are going around our school, I am grateful for your perspective; please continue to reach out if you have any thoughts on our Parkview community as it evolves, adapts and grows--just like our students.

Sincerely,
Principal Mylo Allen

A Note from Parkview's Garden

Many years ago when I was in elementary school, I had my own garden. It was probably more weeds than vegetables, but I remember one day wading through the sea of green tangles to find a giant cucumber. Even though it was a little bitter and I was a self-declared cucumber hater, I remember eating that cucumber and enjoying it because I had put months of work into growing it.

One of the sweetest, most rewarding aspects of being the Common Threads Food Educator at Parkview is demonstrating the link between gardening and the food we eat. This week was the culmination of fall gardening classes before we transition into winter cooking classes.

Growing food is not easy. I arrived during the harvest season and got to see the end products of several months of care by Parkview kids and garden angels. Kids planted, watered, and weeded. Then they did it again and again. And finally, months later, it was time to harvest. I believe that there is an elevated level of enjoyment to food that you grow yourself. I was repeatedly surprised by classes where kids were thrilled to taste kale or beets and clamored for seconds and thirds. Once I had to alert a kid so engrossed in kale sampling that their class had already left the garden.

It sounds silly, but I find it easy to forget that food takes work to produce and doesn't just materialize on grocery shelves. I was reminded of this as we harvested beets. Kids would exclaim with delight when they found a beet bigger than their last. There were a few beets I left out of the harvesting bucket because they were too small, but concerned kids brought them to me wondering why they were not included; even the smallest ones mattered to them. I wonder how the world would be different if we could all grow our own food?

Paul Cézanne was perhaps correct in more ways than he realized when he stated: "the day is coming when a single carrot, freshly observed, will set off a revolution." In a world where kids are stereotyped as vegetable-haters and we value speed over quality, the garden at Parkview Elementary is a space where I see this revolution slowly growing.

-Amy Blom, Common Threads Food Educator for Parkview Elementary



Fairhaven Night Out!

A big old Panda Thank You to everyone who participated in Fairhaven Night Out! Besides a good time had by all, we also raised \$107 for the PTO by eating all sorts of pizza and another \$144 to spend on library books for our ravenous readers. Gratitude for being a part of this generous, gracious community.

Happy Reading!



Coffee with the Principal

Enjoy conversation with Principal Allen and fellow parents in this series of casual coffee chats. Morning sessions held in Mr. Allen's office, evening sessions held in the library.

Jan 9th, 8:00-8:45am

Feb 6th, 8:00-8:45am

Mar 13th, 5:45-6:30pm

Apr 17th, 8:00-8:45am

May 15th, 8:00-8:45am



After School Enrichment - 4 years strong!

This is Parkview's fourth year offering consistent After School Enrichment (ASE) activities. ASE gives our Pandas an opportunity to experience school in the "off hours" by participating in a class that is interesting, engaging, and, quite possibly, a different kind of experience than they might have during the regular school day. As we plan and

create our ASE calendar, we are always trying to have a good balance of physical activity, music, art, and other experiential opportunities.

Some of our best classes come out of the genius of our own Parkview community; parents that have a keen idea and make it a reality. Last year we offered a fantastic Nature Art class by Kirstin Curtis and Julie Peterson; Katie Davidson consistently offers Yoga; and Alisson Bonner will be offering Volleyball Club this Spring. And let's not forget our amazing Parkview staff who offer their time after a long day of teaching; past classes have been taught by Ms. Knudsen with Game Club, Mr. Hayden with Coding and Chess, Mr. Allen offering Basketball, Mrs. Ledray with Choir and Recorder Club, and Mr. Castona offering Gymnastics and Badminton. We are so grateful! Although we rely heavily on outside programs, we relish the opportunity for parents and staff to engage in ASE. Have an idea? Send it our way!

If you are interested in helping out with ASE in a planning capacity we are definitely looking for volunteers! It's a fun way to be involved in our Parkview community in a behind-the-scenes way. The time commitment is consistent but not overwhelming. We'd love to hear from you! contact@parkviewpto.org

Our next session will run from January 16th - March 23rd, with registration opening before Winter break (think: great gifts from grandparents!).

--ASE Co-Chairs, Angela Taylor and Shannon Epps

Student Spotlight

Solveig Peterson

Grade: 5th Grade

Teacher: Ms. Mills

Solveig loves to dance, read, do art, and play the violin.

Ms. Mills says "Solveig is one of the hardest working students I know! She has a persistent attitude that never gives up, even when things get challenging. She has a kind heart and a friendly smile and I love having her in my class!"



PTO's Whole Child Program

The Whole Child Experience program was the brainstorm of two Parkview parents who wanted to develop and support educational, engaging, and fun activities outside the classroom, like the 5th grade Mountain School experience, but for each Parkview grade. Our proactive PTO wanted more experiential learning to happen for our kids. Each grade expands on the existing curriculum for the experience with a focus on science, social studies or art.

The whole child program is unique to Parkview. The program kicked off in the 2013/14 school year and has continued to be a huge success for our little school. Whole child experiences are funded by YOU...largely from donations raised from the Parkview jog-a-thon, PTO Social/Auction and Hammerhead Coffee sales. Most experiences will be repeated year after year, assuming no major roadblocks occur. Parents are an important part of this experiential learning as volunteer chaperones on the trips, helping to coordinate the experience or helping each class to present their experience to the Parkview community.

Here is a sample of what your kids will get to experience moving forward:

- 4th grade has been fortunate to have a local organization that coordinates a ferry boat ride to and from Orcas Island, to learn and see whales from Lime Kiln Point. This is a whole day adventure that they prepare for weeks in advance, learning about oceans and orca whales. Our kids learn to be stewards of our oceans after this trip.
- 1st grade has taken a full day trip to the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle. They spend time learning about animals, habitats, etc. throughout the year prior to their trip. Many kids on this trip have never been to the zoo!
- 5th grade has gone to the Pacific Science Center in Seattle for a day. 5th graders are more involved with the Parkview Science Fair, learning about the scientific process, testing theories/results and choosing an area of science they enjoy.
- 2nd grade has focused on art with clay and a local artist

Parkview Welcomes Three New Teachers!

Ms. Chunyk's favorite things

Color: Sparkles!

Food: Pierogies (a Ukrainian dish my babushka used to make)

Animal: Fennec Fox

Movie: The Sound of Music

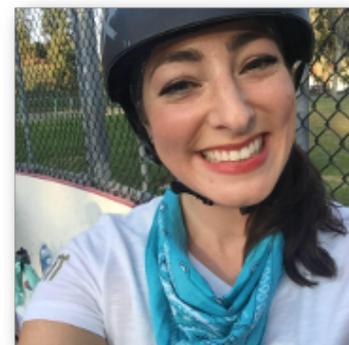
Sport: Besides roller derby? Ice Hockey!

Book: The One & Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate

Quote: "If the good Lord had intended us to walk, he wouldn't have invented roller skates." –Willy Wonka

My other interests are: roller derby, running, reading, organizing and decorating, traveling (especially on cruise ships!) and cuddling with my chihuahuas, Gomez & Greta.

One thing I love about Parkview are my fourth graders! I've never met such an inquisitive, unique, and enthusiastic group of students. They are all so eager to learn and READ. It's a teacher's dream come true!



Mr. Davis



I love backpacking, hiking, and gardening. I am also a soccer fan (go Timbers!) but my playing days are over for now. I am excited to move my family to Bellingham and get more settled into our yard so I can get chickens and ducks soon. I have two young daughters and we are excited to set up a new, bigger aquarium at our house too. And -- no small thing -- I am very excited that I can ride my bike to work again!

(3 New Teachers--Mr. Davis, cont.)

One thing I am super impressed with at Parkview (in Bellingham schools in general) is the way the Promise is seen and felt in the children's lives on a daily basis- the focus on whole child development, loving the kids, and helping them flourish in all ways- not just academic.

Ms. Henehan



Hi! I am the new "kid" on the block, the new kindergarten teacher here at Parkview. I have been so happy to become part of the Parkview Panda community. Everyone here is so kind and welcoming; they all work very hard for the kids, but they also know how to have fun!

In my spare time, I really enjoy hanging out with my husband Alan* and my adult son Liam (pictured with me in the photo). We like to hike, ride bikes, go to movies, and play games. When I was younger I used to do drama and I always tell myself I should try out for a play or try improv. I haven't gotten the nerve up to take the plunge yet, but maybe someday you will see me on stage. Until then, you will just see me in the halls or on the playground, playing the role of the mild-mannered kindergarten teacher.

* You might have met Alan if you've gone into Dakota Art Store downtown

Outreach & Support

Our Parkview community is committed to supporting our families and giving back to our community. Thanks to a collaboration with the Bellingham Food Bank and Lettered Streets Covenant Church, 22 families received turkey and all the trimmings - including a board game for their family to enjoy for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Winter Wishes is a fairly new program designed to support Parkview families with holiday gifts and cheer. Thank you to everyone who came together to serve 33 families which equals a total of 77 kids! Every family received gifts for all kids living in the home, and a handmade quilt donated by Zion Lutheran Church in Ferndale.

Upcoming Events

There are lots of events and activities to look forward to!

January 9 - PTO Meeting 6:30 pm

January 16 - Pacific Science Center - Science on Wheels

January 30 - Science Fair 6:30 pm

February 8 - Family Movie Night

February 13 - PTO Meeting 6:30 pm

March 8 - Carnival

March 13 - PTO Meeting 6:30 pm

Get Involved!

Our Parkview community needs YOU! There are a variety of ways to get involved. We are always looking for volunteers to contribute to the success of the PTO programs and activities at Parkview.

You can fill out volunteer information form online at parkviewpto.org/volunteer

School Carnival - March 8th

This is our largest attended and fun family night out! Planning is already underway and we are looking for people to step up and help plan this event. There are jobs big and small and everything in between! If you're interested in helping plan and prepare, our next planning meeting is on January 11 at 7:00 PM, contact Che Acord via email che.acord@gmail.com for the address and more details.

