



Parkwood Elementary

PTA Roar

Parkwood Elementary PTA Newsletter

Vol. 1, Issue 18, Sept. 2013

Next issue: December 2013
Submit articles to newsletter@parkwoodpta.org

SAVE THESE DATES

PTA Board Meetings
Wed, Oct 2, Nov 6, Dec 4

7 pm, Parent Center
Open to ALL Parkwood
parents & teachers

&

PTA 'Meet & Greet'
Tue, Sept 24

5:30-6:30 pm and
7:30-8:30 pm
(prior to & after
Curriculum Night)
Library

Curriculum Night
Tue, Sept 24

6:30-7:30 pm
Classrooms
Childcare provided in Gym

&

Watch D.O.G.S.
Pizza Party
Tue, Oct 1

6:30 pm, Gym

&

Reflections Art
Program 2013

Deadline: Oct 30

The PTA accepts entries
for visual arts, music com-
position, dance/
choreography, photog-
raphy, and literature.
See p. 2

&

All School Dance
Fri, Nov 15

6-8 pm, Gym

A Big Welcome All Around!

Dear Parkwood Families,

I hope everyone had a good first few weeks of school and is starting to settle into a routine.

It was great to see so many familiar faces this week, as well as meet some new families. I feel very fortunate to be part of such a welcoming and caring community.

Creating a strong community is one of the best ways to support our students and families at Parkwood. And building community is one our PTA's primary goals. We want to work with you and find a way for you to get involved, in a way that works for you. It can be overwhelming just thinking about being part of the PTA or volunteering in the classroom but there are so many other ways that people can be involved.

This year during Curriculum Night on September 24 the PTA will be hosting a 'Meet & Greet' that will showcase the different events and programs the PTA

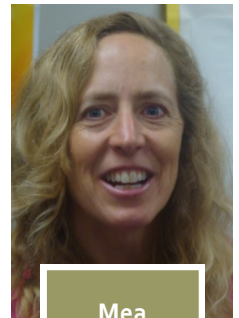
sponsors and several of the volunteers opportunities available.

Please take a moment to stop by before and/or after your classroom talk. We will be there starting at 5:30pm and after the classroom talks until 8:30pm or so. There will also be a General Membership PTA meeting where the budget will be presented and where we will talk more about our goals for this year.

The first PTA meeting will be held on Wednesday October 2nd at 7pm in the Parent Center and everyone is invited.

I look forward to getting to know more of the Parkwood Community throughout the year. Please feel to contact me if you have any questions.

Mea Fischelis
PTA President
president@parkwoodpta.org



Mea

When Parents Connect, Kids Benefit

Have you ever thought of your child's school as YOUR community? Or as part of the village that helps your child (and ultimately your family) thrive?

Well, it is! Your child will spend a good part of the day at school, and that's why, at Parkwood, we are

welcoming everyone in the school, not just your child(ren).

Our vision is of a school community where all parents feel welcomed, connected and supported. Because we know that when parents are connected, our children benefit.



PW parents connecting at first day of school

'Believe, Dream, Inspire' - Reflections Art Program Deadline on Oct 30

Reflections is an arts recognition and achievement program hosted by the National PTA. National PTA believes all children deserve a quality arts education and encourages students to pursue artistic expression through participation in its annual Reflections Program. The program offers students the opportunity to create and submit works of art in six areas:

- * Dance/Choreography
- * Film Production
- * Literature
- * Musical Composition
- * Photography
- * Visual Arts (includes art forms such as drawing, painting, print making and collage)

This year's theme is **Believe, Dream, Inspire**.

Artwork can be created in the classroom or at home. It must meet the following criteria:

- It must relate to the theme: **Believe, Dream, Inspire**
- It must show creative ability.
- It must be the individual work of ONE student.

Students should have their projects completed and turned into the Reflections collection box in the Parkwood school office by the end of day on Wednesday, October 30. Please make sure that every piece is accompanied by a registration form and is well identified.

Several pieces will be selected from the entries received at Parkwood to go on to competition at the District level.

Questions? Please contact Debbie Olhoeft, PTA Secretary and Parkwood Reflections Chair, secretary@parkwoodpta.org.



Parkwood is looking for ARTISTS!

In an effort to enhance the visual arts program at Parkwood Elementary, the PTA is looking to create after school art classes. The school actually owns a kiln but we need parents who know how to use it.

Also, if you draw, paint, color, sew, stone carve, wood carve or any other kind of visual art, we could use your input. We are just starting to collect ideas.

If interested, please contact Debbie Olhoeft at debbie@ducharme.cc.

Like us on 

Check out our Parkwood Facebook page, like us and learn about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, ways to help raise \$ for Parkwood, family friendly things to do locally, and lots more. Feel free to add to the wall with fun facts or things you would like to see communicated regarding our school.

- ◆ Follow us on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/parkwoodpta>
- ◆ Visit our Parkwood PTA website: <http://www.parkwoodpta.org>

Pizza with Dad on October 1

Parkwood families, this is a reminder that we are launching our 2nd year of the successful Watch D.O.G.S. program. We hope dads and/or father figures will join their Parkwood student for pizza and a chance to hear more about this program that encourages father figures to be more involved in the school.

Join us Tuesday, Oct 1, 6:30 to 7:30pm in the school gym to learn more and be part of this

exciting program. If you have not registered yet, just email Jeff Lovelace at parkwoodtopdog@gmail.com so we know how many to expect and have enough pizza!

Questions? Email Jeff at parkwoodtopdog@gmail.com.

Learn more at: <http://fathers.com/>



Thank you, Watch D.O.G.S. (stands for: Dads of Great Students), for cooking over 500 hot dogs during the Back to School BBQ!

Building Classroom Communities

Creating a strong community is one of the best ways to support our students and families at Parkwood. Building community is one our PTA's primary goals. And it all starts in the classroom. That's where community is felt and needed most, and from there it radiates into the broader school community.

We encourage you to consider building a community in your classroom and suggest the following steps:

Step 1: Connect with your classroom teacher

- Share your vision for a classroom community
- Discuss teacher needs
- Find out how parents can be supportive

Step 2: Gather contact information

- Check with the PTA (newsletter@parkwoodpta.org) to get the current list for your classroom
- Update this classroom contact list by connecting with the parents
- Share it with your classroom community

Step 3: Build a Core Team

- Don't do it alone. Get others in-

involved

- Be as inclusive as possible

Step 4: Organize a Classroom Parent Meeting

- Make it a potluck at school and invite the entire family
- Organize childcare so that you can connect with the other parents
- Make introductions and get to know each other
- Talk about how you envision your classroom community
- Discuss next steps.

As each classroom community consists of many different families, there is no 'one size fits all approach' to building each individual classroom community. Every classroom community will look different. Enjoy creating yours!

For more information, if you are interested in being the parent liaison for your classroom or if you would like to know what has worked in the past, please contact:

- ◆ Sarah Glasser, PTA Chair Classroom Communities, sarahh614@gmail.com
- ◆ Marion Mohrlök, PTA Communications, mmohrlök@hotmail.com.

Parkwood's Vision of Classroom Communities

- ☞ Parents know each other and the students in the class
- ☞ Parents support each other and feel encouraged to connect with one another
- ☞ Parents feel safe to ask questions
- ☞ Parents feel some ownership of the broader school community
- ☞ Parents and teachers work hand in hand with one another to create a best possible learning environment for the students
- ☞ A culture of respect, acceptance, inclusivity and involvement is fostered.

Yes, Parkwood has a Yearbook!

A group of dedicated parents are working hard each year to produce a year book gathering the photographic memories from the school year. The yearbook is available for purchase toward the end of the school year in May/June and more likely than not your student will want to get a copy.

If you take pictures throughout the year, we encourage you to send some to Parkwood Yearbook coordinator Michelle Morgan at mrsnichelle.morgan@gmail.com.

Turned in your Parkwood PTA membership form and fee yet?

It's affordable * It's meaningful * It's what Parkwood parents do!

Membership envelopes are available in the office.

Questions?

Contact PTA membership coordinator Heather Cimuchowski at heathercim@gmail.com.

Parkwood Kudos

A BIG THANK YOU

goes to everyone within our Parkwood School Community who has helped make the Back to School BBQ happen. Thanks for sharing your talents and time!

We would like to give a special thank you to all of the local businesses and sponsors who so graciously donated products for the BBQ: Frito Lay, Shoreline Central Market, Sam's Club, Costco, Safeway, The Home Depot, and The Grocery Outlet. With their generous donations we were able to make this event a huge success. We greatly appreciate their support of our community.



Thank you CleanScapes!

Our Parkwood playground will be seeing two new pieces of equipment thanks to the neighborhood for reducing their waste and to CleanScapes for offering a community grant. Parkwood received a grant for \$5,000 and we were able to purchase two new spinners. We hope they will be installed on September 30th on a teacher work day. Thank you in advance.



Printing of this newsletter is generously donated by Pacific Office Automation! Thank you!



Wednesdays Cut & Chat

Are you interested in getting to know other parents at Parkwood? Can you cut, assemble, copy, color, copy, glue, staple & trace for teachers? Would you like to lighten the load of some of our amazing PW teachers? Would you like to have a cup of coffee/tea & a tasty treat while you chat, cut and help?

Then you will love Cut & Chat! We, a cool group of parents, meet on

Wednesday mornings from 8:30am-10:30am in the Parkwood School Parent Center.

Come when you can and for as long as you can. We always need more helpers & friends.

For more information, call or email Rebecca Brittle at 206-779-8997 or rebecca@rebeccabrittle.com.

A Warm Welcome...

... to our new principal, Mrs. Ann Torres, our new Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Melton, first grade teacher Mrs. Kaplan and ELL teacher Mrs. Newhouse. We are glad you are here!



Mrs. Kaplan



Mrs. Torres

Congrats to Mrs. Pembroke...

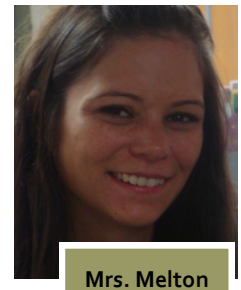
...our famous 5th grade teacher, who enters her 30th year of teaching this school year. Wow—she sure has inspired many students in her life. And best of all: She still loves her job! So good to have you in our school!



Mrs. Pembroke



Mrs. Newhouse



Mrs. Melton

New and returning Parkwood parents meet & mingle during our traditional Tea & Tissues at the beginning of the school year. Welcome to all—we look forward to meeting you throughout the school year.

