



The Orca Wave

- A Monthly Publication of the Orca K-8 PTSA -

2015-2016 School Year, Issue 3

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From the President's Desk

By Tiffany Crosby, Orca PTSA President

The first PTSA morning meeting was held this month and was well attended, with active and positive discussions. We will continue to have evening and morning meetings throughout the rest of the school year to ensure that we are accommodating a variety of schedules. Parent involvement is the key to

to supporting our children and their school. The Mission and Vision for Orca K-8 continues to be a topic at the meetings and we will work to support activities that embrace the Mission and Vision.

Other exciting Orca news: a rainy day recess cart that will have supplies that can be utilized to entertain students inside; a potential K-3 music/performing art teacher to support teachers with a 6 week program; students from the We.App (Young Artist Academy) presenting at the PTSA meeting, as well as a couple students on Q13Fox doing the weather. Look for another performance from students at our next PTSA meeting, being held on Thursday, January 14th at 7pm.

As you know, Principal Talbert is home taking care of herself, and Ms. Manuel has stepped into the acting principal position. We will be working on a community card to send to Tonie during the MLK assembly, and hope that parents and students will all be able to participate and show their support. We also have the opportunity to welcome back Dr. Beverly Lester to support our school during Tonie's absence. I am pleased that we have such a caring and supportive administrative team that will help our students through this time of transition.

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Upcoming Events Calendar

Don't miss these upcoming Orca and Orca PTSA events:

- Thursday, January 14th..... PTSA Middle School Meeting, 6:00-7:00pm (Orca Library)
- Thursday, January 14th..... PTSA General Membership Meeting, 7:00-8:30pm (Orca Cafeteria)
- Friday, January 15th..... MLK March, 9:30-11:30am (Orca Playground)
- Wednesday, January 20th..... Race Forum, 6-8:00pm (Orca Library)
- Wednesday, February 3rd..... 2016 Legislative Focus Day, 8:00am-3:00pm (Columbia Room, Olympia)

View and subscribe to the entire calendar at: <http://orcaptsa.wordpress.com/events/>

From the President's Desk, continued . . .

Finally, it's time again for the school levy. The PTSA has endorsed the levy and Orca K-8 will benefit from a significant piece of this current levy, so make sure you do what you can to get voters out this next year and approve the school levy.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Crosby

PTSA President

(Mother of Alexa and Corren)

President.orca.ptsa@gmail.com

Library News

By Tracy Appleyard, Orca Teacher-Librarian

This has been another exciting month in the Orca library!

Donni McCray (mom to Nova and Sid) came to the library to help the Kindergarten-3rd graders participate in the Hour of Code. The Hour of Code is a global movement to expose students to the basic concepts of coding. Donni and I had the younger grades start on Candy Quest, in the Tynker section of the website. (Thanks to **Jennifer Kaupert** and **Elizabeth Nettles** for helping us support the kindergartners!)

Check out the website (<https://www.tynker.com/hour-of-code/>) if you want your children to show off their basic coding skills. The 4th and 5th graders also participated in the Hour of Code during their library time. They learned some basic coding on a Minecraft game found on the site: <https://code.org/mc>. The coding games are really a lot of fun, and do teach the basics in a safe and familiar way. I'm hoping I'll get the middle school students into the library to try soon!

Another Orca parent, **Jennifer Cooper** (mom to Nash) shared her talents with our K-3 students. She presented some Shel Silverstein poems and was able to integrate elements of poetry, singing, movement and even math into her lesson. We have a lot of talented parents here at Orca and I appreciate you sharing your gifts with our students!

Speaking of talented parents...Thanks so much, **Larry Liechty**, **Laura Silver**, **Anna Harris**, **Marsha Malkin**, **Hannah Morgan**, and **Stefanie Robbins** for your continued efforts in keeping our library organized. If you are interested in volunteering in the library, I would love to have you. I especially need help on Friday mornings during check-out time and on Technology Tuesdays and Thursdays with the younger grades.

I'm also open to you sharing other talents in our library as well! Contact me at tmappleyard@seattleschools.org or come and visit me in the beautiful Orca library.

Happy holidays!

Volunteering News

By Joanne Davis, Orca Volunteer Coordinator

Thank you for all the ways you participate at Orca. Delivering food from the Food Bank to house-bound residents with 2nd graders, playing your guitar to bring music enrichment to library time, escorting kids to class when a teacher is out, making science kits, reading with students, sharpening pencils, organizing the lost-and-found bin, bringing in snack, and opening containers at lunch time. These are just a few of the many ways volunteers make Orca a vibrant, safe, and enriching place for our all students. Thank you for all the ways big and small that you are involved.

You do not need to lead a committee or volunteer every week to have an impact. Every little bit makes a difference. Consider the 20 hours we ask each family to volunteer each year. That is a little more than 2 hours a month. There are opportunities in the evenings and the weekends to help out. Think about what is interesting to you and would give you the most joy. If you're not sure, reach out and I can help get you started: jcdavis@seattleschools.org.

In the months ahead, there are a few fundraising events that will also be fun and engaging for our students. January 30th is the Band Play-A-Thon. Band students will play for 3 hours straight to raise money for the band and other PTSA programs. Local musicians will be on hand to offer workshops and support to our students. Let me know if want to be part of this musical extravaganza!

February 26th is the Orca Walk-A-Thon. We're excited to bring this back to school grounds this year as we want to include all Orca students while celebrating our new playground. We will need lots of help the day of the event; a sign-up will go out soon.

The Orca Auction is March 19th at the Renton Pavilion. The auction committee is a fun, hard working group of volunteers, and they would love to have you join their team. Contact Carrie Siahpush, at carrie.siahpush@gmail.com, if you are interested in being part of Orca's biggest party of the year. Have ideas about how to improve events or how you would like to support an event? Let me know at jcdavis@seattleschools.org or stop by PTSA office on Monday and Tuesday mornings, Room 207A, on the 2nd floor.

Legislative Advocacy

By Justin Kalm, Orca PTSA Assistant Secretary and Legislative Chair

We've been struggling for a long time now. As an advocate, it's easy to become weary, and wonder how we can ever effect the changes that we want to see in our state's education system.

In the past several years, this struggle has been focused on the McCleary Decision, which arose out of a lawsuit filed in 2007, by the Network for Excellence in Washington Schools (NEWS), on behalf of Matthew and Stephen McCleary, and their two children, against the State of Washington. NEWS rightly accused the state of failing to fulfill its paramount duty under the state constitution — to make ample provision for the education of all children in our state.

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The case eventually reached the Washington State Supreme Court, which found for the McClearys in January of 2012, and ordered the legislature to fulfill its paramount duty.

Almost four years later, the legislature has made negligible progress, and thousands of children have missed the opportunity to have the education system they deserve. A contempt finding and a token \$100,000.00 per day fine notwithstanding, the legislature does not seem poised to do much of anything to truly abide by the McCleary decision.

In a way, I don't blame the legislature. The voters have certainly sent the legislators some mixed messages. We readily pass pro-education initiatives that mandate reduced class sizes, but we just can't resist a Tim Eyman anti-tax initiative. Our votes seem to indicate that we only value education if nobody has to pay for it. I don't think that's true. I think that if voters were given the chance to weigh the trade-offs between higher taxes and better funded education, they would prefer a solution that involves higher taxes.

It's this thought that keeps me going. It also helps to know that even when a cause seems to be going nowhere, the winds can change.

I volunteered and organized for the effort to defeat Proposition 8, in California. It was a terrible blow when the voters of California approved Prop. 8, and stripped equal marriage rights from same-sex couples; in the same election when they granted greater rights to chickens, no less. I could not have anticipated at the time, that a few short years later, I would be able to volunteer for the winning Referendum 74 fight, here in Washington, and that soon after, same-sex marriage would be legally recognized by the Supreme Court.

I learned that I can't give up, because I can never know when the world will be ready to change. What if I am silent when the world is finally ready to listen?

So in the new year, please join me in redoubling our efforts to change the way we fund education in our state. Legislative Focus Day is on a school day, February 3rd, this year, so participation is expected to be down. But what if it isn't? Let me know if you can join me there (asst.secretary.orca.ptsa@gmail.com). Also, one day of action is no substitute for sustained advocacy. Please visit our legislative advocacy page at the Orca PTSA website: <https://orcaptsa.wordpress.com/legislative-advocacy/> to learn how you can help.

Math Tutoring

By Michelle Herrmann, Orca Math Support Specialist

Orca is offering support for students in math at the times listed below. Students may just drop in. In the morning, the front door should be unlocked. If not, they should ring the front doorbell to gain entry – students should say they are here for math help.

We could use even more support! If there are parents able to volunteer services during these times, we'd be able to support more kids! Contact me at MLHerrmann@seattleschools.org to learn more.

Tutoring Times and Locations			
Mon, Wed, Fri	8:30-9:30 a.m.	Room 308	Richey Shipley
Tues, Thurs	4:00-5:00 p.m.	Room 305	Aimee Hall