



The Pony Express

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PTA Openings

We're looking for volunteers! There are still a few open positions available for those who are interested: Fundraising Chair, Volunteer Coordinator, Yearbook Chair, Escrip Chair, and Legislative Chair. If this sounds like you, please contact Silja Silja Shjarback at shjaresa@fidalgo.net for more information.

From the Principal, Mr. Steve Bruland

Hello. My name is Mr. Steve Bruland and I will be your Principal for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year. I am thrilled to be a part of your educational community and look forward to meeting parents and students once school begins. The first opportunity for me to interact will be at the *Meet and Greet* on September 7th from 3:00 - 5:00 P.M.

I am coming to your building with many years experience as an educator. I have taught Second grade, Fifth grade, and Sixth grade. I spent the first fifteen years of my career in the classroom. I served as the assistant principal of LaVenture middle school for two years and the remaining years served as the principal of Jefferson Elementary in Mount Vernon. I was the principal of Little Mountain Elementary for six months and I also served as the principal of LaVenture middle school, both in Mount Vernon. Most recently I was the principal of Concrete Elementary for one year. I am pleased to be with the Anacortes community and look forward to meeting you all.

Membership

Don't forget to join Mt. Erie PTA! When you renew your membership or join Mt. Erie PTA, you help make the 2010-2011 school year another wonderful year for our students. PTA is instrumental in our children's education and provides extracurricular opportunities like Missoula Children's Theater, Science Detectives, Book Bingo and RIF reading programs, and Reflections National Art Competition. In addition, a portion of your dues goes toward supporting the staff by providing grants for field trips and supplemental supplies or simply to express teacher appreciation.

As parents, you benefit from the PTA communications via our newsletters and web site (www.mteriepta.org) as well as member directory. Our children learn to give by example when PTA supports the local levy, donates to clothing drives, and gives to causes such as the Tommy Thompson Trestle or the Tesoro Family fund. PTA members grace the halls of Mt. Erie daily, volunteering in classrooms, the library, and for special events and activities.

Studies have shown that when parents are involved with their children's education, students perform better in school with higher grades and better attendance. They are more likely to graduate from high school and pursue post-secondary education. Children whose parents get involved also exhibit increased motivation, better self-esteem, and less drug and alcohol use. Those great benefits come from parent involvement, a major focus of PTA.

We hope you'll take a few minutes to learn about how PTA impacts your kids and how you can get involved as much or as little as you like. We welcome you! Representatives from Mt. Erie PTA will be available before and after school during the first week to answer any questions you may have. Dues are just \$10 annually for an individual membership and \$16 for family/dual. Don't forget: not only can parents join PTA but so can grandparents, aunts and uncles, or anyone who wants to show support for kids. We encourage you to invite your relatives to join Mt. Erie PTA!

As a special thank-you gift for joining or renewing, each member will receive a coupon book (one per family) to use at local Anacortes retailers. Find great deals in town such as \$5 off at Read Me A Story and \$5 off at Ace Hardware.

For more information or to join Mt. Erie PTA, contact Kristen Murphy at 299-9050 or Emily Hylton at 293-7097.

Beach Party!

Mark your calendars for the Dinner Cruise / Auction Fundraiser, September 25th from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Mt. Erie Elementary PTA is presenting a Beach Party Sunset Cruise & Auction Fundraiser aboard the *Island Explorer 3*. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails from *Cameron's Living Room Dining* while bidding on fantastic auction items. See our Mt. Erie Facebook page, or go to www.mteriepta.org to preview select items up for auction.

Tickets are \$75 per person and can be purchased at Mt. Erie School beginning September 8th at 8:45a.m. Price includes food, two drinks, boat cruise, door prizes, and an evening to remember. Space is limited, so purchase your tickets early!

There are also special prizes and a Prize for Best Beach Wear so dress to the gills! Bring a bottle of wine for the Instant Wine Cellar which will be up for auction during the evening as well. One hundred percent of the proceeds support valuable educational and enrichment programs at Mt. Erie Elementary.

The event is sponsored by Island Adventures and Fidalgo Care Center. Boarding begins at 4 p.m. and the ship will be underway at 4:30 p.m. Parking is available at the "A" dock located on Seafarer's Way and "Q" Ave.

For more information, please contact Suzy Gilbert at 588-8380 or Island Adventures at 293-2428. See you there!

Mark Your Calendars!

September

Tues, Sep 7th - Meet and Greet, 3-5pm
Wed, Sep 8th - School Starts! Cheers and Tears Social, 9am in the Library
Fri, Sep 10th - Note--NO picnic; all-school "welcoming" event to be held later
Mon, Sep 13th - PTA Board of Directors Meeting, 2:15-3:30pm in PTA room
Tue, Sep 14th - PTA General Membership Mtg, 6:30pm social, 7-8pm business meeting (see note below)
Sat, Sep 25th - Fundraiser cruise/auction 4:30-7:30pm

October

Fri, Oct 1st - Family Night, Movie: TBD

For General Membership Meetings, new, old, and prospective members are welcome. Come enjoy coffee and treats, meet our new principal, and learn what your PTA has in store for the year. Childcare provided in the gym and adjoining music room by the sixth grade service club and adult supervisors.



Join the Championship Fathering team!

WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) is the father involvement initiative of the National Center for Fathering (www.fathers.com) that organizes fathers and father figures in order to provide positive male role models for the students and to enhance school security.

Who are WatchDOGS? Fathers, grandfathers, step-fathers, uncles, and other father figures who volunteer to serve at least one day each year in a variety of school activities as assigned by the school principal or other administrator.

WATCH D.O.G.S.® is a founding member of the National PTA's M.O.R.E. Coalition (Men Organized to Raise Engagement). School administrators and dads both agree WATCH D.O.G.S.® is a winner! Get involved with your child's school.

Contact Bob Linder about signing up today at islandtug@hotmail.com or 360 708-8736.

ESCRIP*ESCRIP*ESCRIP

What is Escript? Escript is a program that allows participating merchants to contribute a percentage of your grocery (Safeway) loyalty and debit/credit card purchases to the school of your choice...Mt. Erie!

How does Escript work? Supporters Register any or all of their existing grocery loyalty, debit and credit cards for use in the program. All information provided is secure and is not passed on to third party vendors. By using the registered cards at the participating merchants, supporters generate donations based on a percentage of their purchases.

How do I register my cards? There are two ways to register. One is to go to www.escrip.com and enter Mt. Erie School ID #8564934. Next, register any grocery, debit or credit card numbers. The second way to call Kristen Murphy, Mt. Erie Escript Coordinator, at 299-9050 and she will assist you in getting registered. All that is left to do next is...shop!

Escript is a fast and easy way to earn money for a variety of Mt. Erie programs and the students of our school. Please consider registering with Escript and support our Mustangs!

Keep collecting those Box Tops! We will have a contest right after school starts! Watch for more info soon!

Letter from Mr. Donaldson

My name is Peter Donaldson and I'd like to take this opportunity to tell the Mt. Erie families about my unusual role in the building this year. I have been a full-time 6th grade teacher for the past five years and a teacher at Mt. Erie since 1995. Although I will continue to teach 6th grade this year, I will be teaching half time only and will spend the rest of my time on two projects:

First, I am currently pursuing my principal's certificate through Western Washington University and will use this year to complete my required internship.

Second, I will also be working closely with teachers and other staff to facilitate a teacher and principal evaluation pilot program the district received in the spring.

Both of these opportunities will provide me with plenty of challenges and responsibilities. What this means to most of you is that you may see me more of me in the hallways, in other classrooms, at PTA meetings, etc. I will also share the principal's office with our new principal, Mr. Steve Bruland. He and I will work together on several school projects and other tasks around the school.

I'm always available if you have concerns or questions about the school. Please feel free to call or e-mail if you need to speak about something or set up an appointment. I look forward to an exceptional year at Mt. Erie and hope to continue to create a unique and exciting place for all our families.

Where are the Mustang Points?

For those of you who were here the last two years, you might be wondering about Mustang Points. Kids were able to turn in the WOW cards they earned from the para-educator support staff and parents earned points for volunteering. Top classes earned prizes throughout the year.

This program is run under our Volunteer Coordinator, which at this point is an unfilled position, therefore the Mustang Point program will not be run until this position is filled. Parents: are you interested in getting more involved in the PTA? Perhaps have a child that loved Mustang Points and would consider this position? We'd love to have you "on board"! Contact Silja Shjarback at shjaresa@fidalgo.net or 588-0866 (or any board member) if you would like more information.

PTA MEMBERSHIP 2010-2011

Goals for September: 225 PTA members and 100% of the faculty.

Family Nights at Mt. Erie Are BACK!!

Last Spring, we conducted a survey and your words rang out loud and clear! MORE FAMILY NIGHTS! This year, we are plan-ning monthly family nights and are moving them to Friday just in case they run a little late (we don't want to interfere with bedtime routines!)

We've got some exciting family activities planned for 2010-2011 and hope that you will come and enjoy it all. As always, Family Nights are free and fun for the whole family!

PTA General Membership Meetings for 2010-2011

Sep. 14, 2010 Mar. 15, 2011
Nov. 16, 2010 May 17, 2011
Jan. 18, 2011

Meeting are from 7-8pm (6:30p on September 14 for social)

Mustangs T-Shirts

Your official Mt. Erie Mustang T-shirts and Sweatshirts will be available for ordering in September. We will have new styles and helpful size descriptions this year. Please watch the bulletin boards and displays in the school entrance for samples and ordering forms. Go Mustangs!"