



The Pony Express

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Meet the 2011-2012 MTE PTA Committee



Silja Shjarback, President



Catherine Houck, Vice President



Polly Dubbel, Secretary



Jennifer Aggergaard



Gina Thomas

Co-Treasurers

From the Communication Chair

Welcome to the first 2011-2012 Pony Express, Mt. Erie PTA's monthly newsletter. Although this first newsletter is printed, all future newsletters will be sent out electronically via the school's email list. If you do not have an email address or would prefer to have a hard copy, please contact Kathleen Horr at kathandruss@msn.com or 588-9640. Newsletters will include all PTA contact info on the left-hand side of the first page and if you would like to get more information about a committee or a project, please use this to contact individual committee leaders. Newsletters will come out around the first of each month and if you would like to

have your school-related information in the newsletter, please submit your written articles to Kathleen via email by the 25th of the month or put a hard copy in the PTA mailbox at school.

We will also have mid-month e-blasts that will be emailed out via the PTA member email list. E-blasts are informational emails with school reminders, upcoming school or related city events, and volunteer requests. If you would like to place something in an e-blast, please have your articles in by the 10th of the month to Susan Butler at sjb1992@gmail.com or put a hard copy in the PTA mailbox at school.

In addition, the PTA's web-

site, www.mtepta.com, has all latest changes to newsletter and e-blast info. PTA contact information can also be found on the website and if you need to contact someone but don't know who it is or just need to contact the PTA in general, the PTA's email address is mtepta@gmail.com.

Last but not least, we now have a portable reader board located near the front entrance. Please keep an eye on it for up-to-date information about activities when you stop by the school.

We are always looking for ways to improve communications so if you have any suggestions, let us know and keep your eyes peeled for lots of great Mustang News!

New Logo

Did you notice? We have a Mt. Erie PTA logo! Thank you very much to the creative talents of 6th grader Ophelia Riddell, who drew the mustang, and Eric Paul of Audacious Design and parent of 3rd grader Isaac and 5th grader Megan who generously volunteered his time to create the logo. When you see the logo, you'll know it's a PTA sponsored activity! Thank you so much Eric and Ophelia!!

Mark Your Calendars

Mark your calendars for the "Halloween Spooktacular Auction"

Date: Saturday, October 22, 2011

Time: Doors open at 5:30p; silent auction/dinner is 6 – 7:30p. Live auction 7:30-8:30p, and music/dancing with The Pop Offs, a classic pop/rock band will follow

Location: Skyline Beach Club (address: 6041 Sands Way Anacortes WA 98221)

Cost: \$25 per person includes dinner and one drink ticket (21 and older only, please)

Theme: Halloween (*please come in costume*)

If you can make a donation or want to volunteer, please contact Suzy Gilbert at suzygilbert@gmail.com or 588-8380.

Calling All Parents, Aunts, Uncles, etc...

Volunteers are a vital part of enriching our children's school experiences and assisting the teachers in educating our children. Children's safety is equally important which is why the school district requires all volunteers to complete the district volunteer form and background check. If you think that you or a grandparent or an aunt, uncle, or someone you know may volunteer this school year, please complete the volunteer form as soon as possible and turn it in. There will be increased tracking of

this step to ensure our children's safety. Contact Susan Butler, the Volunteer Coordinator, at sjb1992@gmail.com or 588-0872 for more info. The form is also available on the district website at <http://www.asd103.org/images/stories/pdf/volunteerApp.pdf>

New this year: Room Parents! There will be a position in each classroom for a parent (or two) to volunteer to assist the teacher with various activities. Duties will include assisting teacher to plan parties or activities, acting as a commu-

nication liaison between the class parents and the teacher/PTA/Administration, coordinating with other classroom volunteers under the guidance of the classroom teacher, assisting the teacher with other parent assistance needs, and assisting the teacher and administration in ensuring that all volunteers receive and complete the required volunteer form and background check.

You don't need to be a PTA member to be a volunteer although it is highly encouraged. If you would like to vol-

unteer, please contact Susan.

Other volunteer openings this year include:

- Assisting in the classroom
- Shelving books in the library
- Assisting with the book fair
- Help in Science Class with dissections
- Before school and after school activities
- Helping with the fundraising auction and cruise

More information will be coming in future newsletters and be sure to contact the Volunteer Coordinator to volunteer today!

Mountain School Welcomes Mt. Erie 5th Graders!

Do your children wish that summer would never end? Mt. Erie fifth graders are in luck. They will have one more outdoor experience before the end of the year.

All Mt. Erie fifth graders will have the opportunity to attend a three-day, two-night "Ecosystem Explorations Program" at the North Cascades Institute's Mountain School. Mountain School takes place at

NCI's Environmental Learning Center on the shores of Diablo Lake next to North Cascades National Park. Instructors from NCI also visit with the students before and after the Mountain School trip. The facilities at the Mountain School are well constructed, heated, "eco-lodge" type structures.

More information about Mountain School can be found on their website

www.ncascades.org. Select "Mountain School", then select "4th to 6th Grade Ecosystem Explorations".

Since the Anacortes School District does not pay for this type of extra-curricular activity, the PTA has spearheaded an effort to make this available to Mt. Erie 5th graders next year and in the years to come by offsetting a significant portion of the student cost as well as

help conduct fundraisers to pay for remaining expenses.

The fifth grade students, chaperones, and teachers will be heading off to Mountain School Nov 7-9, 2011. If you are interested in helping out by chaperoning, fundraising, or equipping students, please contact Catherine Houck, Silja Shjarback, or your fifth grade teacher. Happy Trails!



D.O.G.S.

Attention Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students): If you volunteered last year as a Watch DOG (t-shirt attained and background check completed), you may now sign up for a volunteer day on the large Watch DOG calendar posted in the PTA office just as you did last year. Drop by the PTA office during meet & greet, first day of school or

anytime to sign up! A calendar will also be posted on our PTA website for you to check dates.

Future Watch DOGS: Stay tuned for information on how to become a Watch DOG. Wondering what a Watch DOG is? Check out <http://mteriepta.org/category/watch-d-o-g-s/> for details.

Don't forget to join Mt. Erie PTA!

With your Mt. Erie PTA membership, you can help make 2011-12 another fantastic school year for our students. Why join Mt. Erie PTA?

- ♦ PTA is instrumental in our children's education and provides extracurricular opportunities like Missoula Children's Theater, Winter Reading, and Reading is Fundamental (RIF), Family Nights, and Reflections National Art Competition.
- ♦ PTA supports the staff at Mt. Erie providing grants for field trips and supplemental supplies as well as teacher ap-

preciation.

- ♦ As parents, you stay informed about events and activities at Mt. Erie through the PTA newsletters, e-mail, and website (www.mteriepta.org).
- ♦ Members vote for Mt. Erie PTA officers and decide how to spend our funds.
- ♦ PTA provides opportunities for you to be involved at Mt. Erie. PTA members grace the halls daily and volunteer in classrooms, the library, and for special events and activities such as Watch D.O.G.S., a program for fathers and father

figures.

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. Representatives from Mt. Erie PTA will be available before and after school during the first week to answer questions. Dues are just \$10 for an individual and \$16 for a family/dual membership annually.

Remember: 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!

For more information or to join Mt. Erie PTA, contact Emily Hylton at emilyhylton@comcast.net or Leslie Tysseling at casaverdegi@hotmail.com.

PTA MEMBERSHIP 2011-2012

Membership goal for the year	225
Staff participation goal	75%

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 <i>Meet and Greet! 1p to 2:30p</i>	7 <i>First Day of School for 1st to 6th Grade! Kindergarten Conferences</i>	8 <i>Kindergarten Conferences</i>	9 <i>Kindergarten Conferences</i>	10
11	12 <i>Kindergarten Starts! New Family Welcome 9a - Coffee in Library</i>	13 <i>PTA Board of Directors Meeting at 2:15p in the PTA room</i>	14 <i>Remember - Late start 9:40a</i>	15	16 <i>Back to School Picnic at 5:30p</i>	17
18	19	20	21 <i>Late start 9:40a</i>	22	23	24
25	26	27 <i>General PTA Membership Meeting, 6-7p in library Social, 7-7:30p</i>	28 <i>Late start 9:40a</i>	29	30	

School Year Events



- Oct 3 No School (Teacher/Staff Professional Development Day)
- Oct 11 **Board of Directors Meeting**, 6:30p location - TBD
- Oct 22 Auction Fundraiser at Skyline Beach Club, 5:30p
- Oct 31 Early Release (Teacher/Staff Professional Development Day)
- Nov 7-9 Mountain School Trip 5th graders
- Nov 8 **Board of Directors Meeting**, 2:15p PTA room
- Nov 11 No School (Veteran's Day)
- Nov 15 **General Membership Meeting**, 6:30p-7:30p in School Library
- Nov 1-4 Early Release-Conferences
- Nov 23 Early Release
- Nov 24-25 No School (Thanksgiving Break)