



# The Comet



## Meet the PTA:

### President:

Joji Siegel  
Shannon Karr

### Vice President:

Leslie Miniken  
Deneall Owens

### Co-Treasurers:

Kelly Azzarello  
Amy Tuvey

### Co-Secretaries:

Jennifer Christiansen  
Ellen Hunter

### Membership:

Wendy Castro  
Sandi Dong

### Volunteering:

Kari Ovena  
OPEN

### Community

#### Liaisons:

Wendy Carter  
Tanja Fontana

#### Hospitality:

Ingrid Amans  
Jen Good

#### Fundraising:

Maya Andreic  
Karen Moulton

PTA HOTLINE:  
425 837 5154

CHALLENGER PTA  
CHAPTER 2.6.6

info@  
challengerpta.org

## CHALLENGER NEWSLETTER ~ Sept. 2009

Challenger Elementary School \* 25200 Klahanie Blvd. SE, WA 98029 \* (425) 837-7550

**Principal's Message ~ WELCOME BACK!** The opening of school is always a fun and exciting time for students, parents, staff, and ME. It is by far my favorite time of the school year. The enthusiasm and eagerness on the faces of the children is an amazing sight. Thank you for sending such wonderful students, eager to be back in school and eager to learn.

As I walk around the school, visiting classrooms, playing at recess (yes, I did play Hopscotch and Four Square ☺) and greeting students and parents, there is an incredible feeling of community. It's true that I have only been principal here for a few short weeks, yet I already feel part of the family--what a welcome I have received. Challenger is definitely my new home and it is such a pleasure to be here.

I am looking forward to a wonderful and exciting year together as we continue the strong traditions here at Challenger where all members of the team – staff, students and families – strive daily to learn and improve everything that we do. Each school year brings new faces and ideas. Our school is thrilled to have these new teachers join us. Each of them comes to us with incredible passion for teaching and learning and a kids-first attitude.

Please join me in welcoming:

- \* Pat Barry, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher
- \* Jenny Alden, Speech and Language Pathologist
- \* Shelley Morassutti, Occupational Therapist
- \* Sandie Floyd, ELL Intervention Specialist/GLAD Coach
- \* Carly Seabaugh, Music teacher

In addition to these new staff, we are welcoming back many of our teachers whose status was uncertain at the end of the last school year due to budget cuts. A few teachers have also switched grade levels or positions. For a full staff list of teachers at each grade level, please refer to our website

<http://www.challenger.issaquah.wednet.edu/class/classroom.htm>

Before I go any further, I must stop and say, **“Thank you, thank you, thank you!”**

**Thank you** to our enthusiastic, energetic and eager Challenger staff committed to providing a caring environment focused on student learning. They are ready to partner with you, our incredible group of parents and community volunteers as we work together to meet the diverse needs of our students. This not only includes our teachers, but also all of our support staff working in the office, on the

This newsletter is available online at: [www.challenger.issaquah.wednet.edu/about/aboutschool.htm](http://www.challenger.issaquah.wednet.edu/about/aboutschool.htm). Click on Comet News under the Newsletter tab, or sign up to receive this electronically in your inbox at: <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/news/ENews/Challenger.aspx>. Hardcopies are available upon request.

playground, in the lunchroom, inside and outside the school organizing, cleaning, and making preparations day after day.

**Thank you** to the many, many PTA and Site Council volunteers that gave their time to ensure that the first weeks of school were a great success! Those extra sets of hands in the lunchroom, at recess, in the parking lot, at the kindergarten buses, and out and about the school provided a feeling of comfort and safety for children and parents, alike. Also, as I look at the calendar of events planned for the year, thank you for creating a community where everyone is valued and supported, where we can have fun and learn together.

**Thank you** to our supportive parents who have taken time to work with your children at home preparing for the start of a new school year and for caring about their success at school each and every day of the year.

**Thank you** to our wonderful Challenger students who openly welcome new classmates and teachers (and a new principal ☺), who demonstrate respectful and responsible behavior each day, and who strive to learn and grow together.

I firmly believe great schools come about when all the members of the community work together for the benefit of our children and that is what I see happening here.

Challenger is an extraordinary place for both children and adults and what a privilege it is to be your principal---the best job in the world!

As we embark on the 2009-2010 school year, I am committed to working closely with all of you. Working together as a learning community we can make this a very exciting and successful year. So here's to another great school year and don't forget to stop and introduce yourself. I love to meet and greet my new Challenger family ☺.

Fondly,  
Sue McPeak

### Issaquah School District Assessment Calendar for 2008-2009

DATES	GRADE	TEST	REQUIRED BY:
Sept 23 – Oct 21	2	Developmental Reading assessment	State
February 1 - 12	K - 9	Stanford 10 Achievement	District
February 8 – March 5	K- 12	Washington Language Proficiency	State
March 10 - 24	2	Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)	District
May 19 – June 4	2	Developmental Reading assessment	State

**Please keep these dates in mind when planning your family vacations!**

**WHAT'S FOR LUNCH? Check out:**

<http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/family/lunch.aspx>



**Speaking of food:** PTA Hospitality wants to thank all the volunteers that provided food and goodies for the Staff Lunch and for Coffee & Kleenex. We truly appreciated your help during the crazy first week of school. Both events were a great success & couldn't have happened without you!

Ingrid Amans & Jen Good Hospitality Co-Chairs

# Don't miss Curriculum Night!

Coming up on Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-8:00 p.m., (see schedule below) Challenger will be presenting our 2009-2010 Curriculum Night. This will be your opportunity to meet the school specialists (P.E., Music, library teachers), the PTA board and of course the regular Challenger teaching staff. Please join us for this informative evening!

## Curriculum Night Schedule:

5:30 - 6:00	Specialists – Meet and Greet in the Atrium (no formal presentation)
6:00 - 6:45	AM Kindergarten, 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> grade: In your Student's Classroom
6:45 - 7:15	PTA and Staff Introduction – All parents are invited to this meeting in the Multi-Purpose Room/Gym
7:15 – 8:00	PM & Full Day Kindergarten, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade: In your Student's classroom



## **Counselor's Corner: LIFESKILLS FOR THE YEAR**

### **September: Responsibility and Civility**

(Becoming aware of rules, self control, and respecting rights of others)

### **October: Cooperation**

(Working together with others)

### **November: Goal Setting**

(Initiative, diligence, resourcefulness)

### **December: Generosity and Gratitude**

(Kindness, service, being thankful)

### **January: Respect**

(Justice – respecting rights of others, tolerance)

### **February: Friendship**

### **March: Decision Making**

(Fortitude – doing the right in face of difficulty, courage, patience)

### **April: Positive Attitude and Hard Work**

(Humor, Perseverance...can't achieve greatness w/out hard work)

### **May: Empathy and Compassion**

(Caring for others)

### **June: Integrity and Honesty**

(Being honest to ourselves and others)



## MUSICAL NOTES

Dear Challenger Families,

Thank you for such a warm welcome! For those I have yet to meet, my name is Carly Seabaugh and I'm the new music teacher. I'm so happy to be a part of this close-knit community. I've taught music in the Issaquah School District for the past two years as the overload teacher at Grand Ridge, Newcastle, and Apollo Elementary Schools. This year, I look forward to meeting each of you and working together at Challenger to spread passion for music!

**Concert Dates:** The following is a list of concert dates for the 2009-2010 school year. Most musical selections are TBD.

November 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and 7pm: 2nd Grade Musical "*Once Upon a Lily Pad*"

December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm and 7pm: Honors Chorus Concert

March 23<sup>rd</sup>: Third Grade Musical

April 27<sup>th</sup>: Fourth Grade Musical

May 6<sup>th</sup>: Fifth Grade Musical

May 25<sup>th</sup>: Honors Chorus Concert

June 15<sup>th</sup>: Full Day Kindergarten Musical



**\*Half-Day Kindergarten and First Grade Musical Dates are TBD**

**Honors Chorus:** Attention fourth and fifth grade parents! Does your student love to sing? If so, they should consider joining Challenger's Honors Chorus. The chorus will be meeting every Thursday morning starting October 8<sup>th</sup> until December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7:40 am to 8:20 am. Keep a look out for permission slips going home.

**Second Grade Musical Parent Volunteer Meeting:** The second graders are about to begin rehearsing their musical "*Once Upon a Lily Pad*". Let's get together on Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1 pm in the music room to discuss sets, costumes, and props! If you can't make it but would like to help, please email me at [seabaughc@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:seabaughc@issaquah.wednet.edu).



Thanks from Carly



### **Sally Foster Sales will begin soon!**

This is a big fundraiser for the fifth grade as all proceeds go straight to the Camp Orkila fund. Camp Orkila is an amazing experience that all Challenger students will have the opportunity to enjoy in fifth grade. In years past, with the help of the entire Challenger community, Sally Foster sales have helped raise enough money to pay for a large portion of the fifth grade camp cost. Remember, this is not a PTA fundraiser, so any checks should be payable directly to Challenger Elementary (or you may purchase online at [www.sallyfoster.com](http://www.sallyfoster.com) using our school code of **291965**).

As always, we ask that there are no door to door sales because safety comes first. Sales begin October 2<sup>nd</sup> and continue through October 16<sup>th</sup>. You can expect products to be delivered before Thanksgiving. Thank you for your support! -The fifth grade team

## Spring 2009 WASL Results

WASL results from spring 2009 testing will be available in Family Access for students who tested in grades 3-12, beginning the afternoon of Friday, September 11. Families without internet access may request paper copies from their child's school. Forgotten log-in or password information for Family Access may be obtained from the school office, or by clicking on the "Forgot my logon or password" link on the Family Access Login screen.

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has created one-page summaries of learning expectations for students in grades K-10 called Your Child's Progress. These summaries may be viewed or downloaded at the following link on the OSPI website.

<http://www.k12.wa.us/resources/default.aspx>

Results from the August WASL testing will not be available until November or December. This year the Measures of Student Progress (MSP) will replace the WASL for grades 3-8 and the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) will replace the high school WASL.

## From the PE Department -



Mr. Mokin and Mr. Nakamichi want to welcome you back to PE – and if you are new to Challenger this year, we want you to know that PE is a class you can look forward to: No worries, no fear. All fun. Well, maybe not *all* fun. There will be some hard work as well.

PE has a website where you will find some valuable information, including the PE schedule for every class at Challenger and policies regarding attire and excuses. If you don't remember which days your son or daughter has PE, click on "PE Schedule". Students who are wearing inappropriate footwear to PE may not be able to participate. This is a safety issue. You'll find our website at [Challenger Comets Health and Fitness](http://www.challenger.comets.com/Health%20and%20Fitness).

<http://www.challenger.issaquah.wednet.edu/teachers/MokinB/>

Occasionally, students are given a writing assignment for PE. This does not happen often, but students and parents should know that grades are assigned for PE, and that these assignments are a critical assessment tool.

That's all for now. Have a great year everybody!

Challenger Elementary reminds all families that an emergency kit is required for each and every student. Contents of an emergency kit should include food items such as granola bars, applesauce, juice boxes or bags (e.g., Capri Sun), and/or fruit snacks. For convenience, families can purchase a share into the classroom emergency preparedness kit for \$6 per student. This is done through Challenger PTA. Simply send in a check payable to Challenger PTA, and include your student's and teacher's name in the memo line. If your student has food allergies, we recommend that you provide your student's own emergency kit to avoid any confusion as to what your student may or may not be able to have from the classroom kit. If you have any questions regarding emergency kits, please contact the school office, or the PTA Emergency Preparedness Chairperson, Cathy Bussey.



## Nurse News:

### Prevent Contagious Disease, including the H1N1 flu, (swine flu)

Students and staff with symptoms of contagious illnesses including the H1N1 flu, can spread the disease to others. The following are guidelines to help you determine when your child should stay home.

#### **Keep your child home if he/she has any of these symptoms:**

\***Appearance/Behavior**- unusually tired, pale, lack of appetite, difficult to wake, confused, irritable.

\***Sore throat**- especially if associated with fever or swollen glands

\***Fever**- over 100 degrees F. orally. Temperature should remain normal 24 hours before returning to school.

\***Diarrhea**- more than one episode in a 24 hour period

\***Vomiting**- within the past 24 hour period

\***Rash**- body rashes not associated with heat, or allergic reactions to medications

\***Drainage from the eye**- thick mucus draining from the eye or if the eye is crusted or difficult to open

\***Nasal discharge** (yellow or greenish)- Clear nasal discharge may signal a cold or it may indicate an allergic reaction especially if accompanied by watery eyes. However, if your child's nasal mucus has a color and is accompanied by a fever or other symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, drowsiness, and a general sign of not feeling well, your child may be contagious and should remain at home until the symptoms subside. Call your doctor if you have any concerns or questions.

**Teach your child to cover coughs and sneezes, dispose of used tissue right away...and remember: The most important thing you can do to prevent illness is for you and your child to wash your hands often!**

**Also, remember to keep the school office updated with new emergency and work numbers in case your child becomes ill at school!**

Before sending your child to school in the morning, ask yourself if they look healthy and ready to learn. Please be mindful that the H1N1 flu seems to spread fast as does many other illnesses. So please do not send your kids to school when they are ill.

#### **Medication at School**

Washington State Law and the Issaquah School District Policy require that schools have written authorization from a healthcare Provider and Parent on file yearly when a child needs to have medication administered during the school day. All medication must be in the original container if it is an over the counter medication, or in the original pharmacy container for prescription medications. Students are not allowed to carry drugs at school, so **all medication must be brought to the school office by the parent or guardian**. Medication forms are available in the office or on the Issaquah School District Web Site under student health.

#### **Parents of Students with Medical Concerns**

If you are a parent of a student with a major medical concern (including life threatening food allergies or bee stings) that need to be addressed at the beginning of the school year, please contact Sherrie Brewer, School Nurse at 425-837-5156.

#### **Medication for Emergency Planning – School Supply for 72 Hours**

In the event of a major disaster such as a severe earthquake, schools may be responsible for the care of their students for as long as 72 hours. Parents of students taking various medications (i.e. insulin, anticonvulsants, mood stabilizers, cardiac medication) needed on a daily basis at home, need to consider providing a 72 hour supply for their child at school. Please contact Sherrie Brewer, School Nurse at 425-837-5156 to obtain a 72 hours medication form for this medication.

If you have any medical questions or concerns feel free to contact our school nurse at Challenger: Sherrie Brewer, RN at 837-5156 or [brewers@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:brewers@issaquah.wednet.edu)



# Get Ready for **MATHBLASTERS!**

**MATHBLASTERS** is a new PTA program to Challenger that will run from **September 30<sup>th</sup> through October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009.**

**MATHBLASTERS** is a program where students are encouraged to track their time doing at-home math-related games and activities for a week. Both on-line games (with a limit of 2 hrs daily) and board or card games count towards a daily total. Homework and classroom activities do not count toward this program.

Students will bring home a **MATHBLASTERS** tally card starting **Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**. Each day an adult should initial the time the students have spent doing these activities outside of school. The tally cards will be returned to school each day. Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are encouraged to meet a daily minimum of 20 math minutes, while 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to meet a 30 minute minimum. But don't stop there because the class with the highest average minutes at each grade level will win a class pizza party! Activities can be done individually or in groups but they must have an adult's initials to count for prizes! All tally cards are due on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.

## 2009 **MATHBLASTER** Prizes

- For each day you meet the minimum daily goal you earn a raffle ticket into a grade-level drawing for a cool prize!
- If you meet the minimum daily minutes for all 8 days of the program you will earn a Challenger Comets Water Bottle!
- The class at each grade level with the highest total average minutes per student will win a pizza party!

Each classroom will need a volunteer to tally math minutes each morning from October 1<sup>st</sup> through October 8<sup>th</sup>. Tallying will take place in the MPR or atrium and should take no more than 1 hour. If you are interested in tallying, please contact your child's teacher. There will be a training session for talliers on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm. If you have any questions please contact Erin Seminatore at [mseminatore@yahoo.com](mailto:mseminatore@yahoo.com), or Rituja Indapure at [ritujai@hotmail.com](mailto:ritujai@hotmail.com).

*Get ready for fun with Math!*



### **Brown Bear Car Wash Tickets - \$5:**

Start off the new school year with a clean car! Your child is undergoing so many stresses right now – new grade level, new class, new teacher, new friends... Don't make it worse by driving him or her around in a dirty car!

Especially when you can get a discount to keep it clean! Save about \$2 every time you wash your car by buying a Brown Bear Car Wash Ticket from Challenger. For just \$5, you get a professionally cleaned car. Just send your check (made out to "Challenger PTA") and email address to the school office. We'll let you know when your tickets are ready for pick-up. (Tickets are good for one year at any Brown Bear Car Wash location. Buy one or several!)

### **Challenger Canvas Bag - \$5:**

Hit the grocery store in style, and politically-correctly, with a re-usable canvas bag featuring our Challenger Comets logo. Eschew those plastic bags and proudly display your Challenger pride! Just \$5 each. Buy one or several. Just send your check (made out to "Challenger PTA") and email address to the school office. We'll let you know when your canvas bags are ready for pick-up.



# CHALLENGER PTA FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Our students benefit greatly from the money raised by Challenger PTA! This money funds some wonderful, fun and educational events during the school year – events that otherwise we could not afford. Thank you all for participating in our fundraisers! We know that you are asked daily to help this charity or that cause, and we can all only give so much – especially nowadays, when the economy is not exactly booming. So again – THANK YOU!

Two quick reminders:

- If you were planning to turn in the Pass the Hat form with donation and haven't gotten around to doing it – please do it as soon as you can! Also, if your employer matches employees' donations, please remember to fill out the appropriate form and turn it in with your Pass the Hat form & donation. **Pass the Hat is the PTA's only active fundraiser this school year!**
- Passive fundraisers are very important too, and most require no money and little or no effort. Some merchants give a percentage of customers' purchases to the school of the customers' choice. Office Depot is one of them – just remember to mention Challenger at the cash register. There are numerous other ways to help Challenger, either by shopping at some of the stores you probably already shop at (e.g. Albertsons, Target...), or by collecting Box Tops, Campbell's soup labels, and using Goodsearch.com search engine. Please take a moment and go to [www.challengerpta.org/fundraising.htm](http://www.challengerpta.org/fundraising.htm) for a detailed list of passive fundraisers. Below is just one example that you will hear more about this weekend.

**ON PACE!** Your student is bringing home information on PACE, one of our fundraising programs this year. As a PACE member, you save 20% at **hundreds** of local participating restaurants and our school earns 5% on every purchase you make.

PACE raised thousands of dollars for our school last year and many of our parents saved hundreds of dollars throughout the year. If you're new to PACE, the fundraiser couldn't be easier! There are no order forms to track, funds to collect, or door-to-door sales. However, you do need to register! With 400 participating businesses don't pass up this opportunity to save hundreds of dollars while helping Challenger raise thousands:

**SIGN UP, SAVE & SUPPORT!**

## **SAVE HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS**

- You save 20% on your first purchase at each and every PACE restaurant.
- You receive exclusive "Member Only" savings opportunities from PACE retailers throughout the year. Savings that can literally add up to hundreds of dollars.

## **OUR SCHOOL EARNS 5% ON EVERY PURCHASE**

- The more you shop and dine at PACE businesses, the more our school raises!

## **HOW TO JOIN**

- Register any Visa or MasterCard today at [www.4pace.com](http://www.4pace.com) or complete the registration form and mail in the envelope provided.
- Shop or dine at PACE businesses, pay your bill using the same registered credit card, and your member savings and school donations are automatic!
- Membership fee is \$25 - of which \$10 goes directly to support our school.

## **PRIZE PROGRAM**

Register today and all of the Challenger student(s) in your household automatically earn a HexBug - a micro robotic creature! Already a Member? Login to your account at [www.4pace.com](http://www.4pace.com) to verify your account information is up to date and enroll your student(s) in the prize program. With your renewal, they will receive a HexBug - a micro robotic creature!

That's all there is to it! Thank you in advance for taking the time to enroll in this great program. On behalf of Challenger PTA, thank you for all your support!

## Your PTA Dollars at Work ... for June '09

Income: \$9,306.13	Expenses: \$14,259.46
School Supplies: \$4,289.00 Book Fair: \$3,559.77 Roots and Shoots: \$500.00 Fifth Grade Graduation: \$583.00 Yearbook: \$270.00 Business Partnerships: \$10.20	Book Fair: \$3,389.77 Fall Grants: \$3000.00 Gift-a-Book: \$2,244.51 Eager Reader: \$1,592.83 Comet Cash: \$984.39 Science to Go: \$950.00



**ISSAQUAH  
SCHOOLS  
FOUNDATION**

**Welcome Back!** We're looking forward to a great year with a wonderful group of ISF/PTSA Liaisons. **What is an ISF/PTSA Liaison?** Your "go-to" guy or gal for all Issaquah Schools Foundation information. ISF/PTSA Representatives do a tremendous job of building bridges of understanding, support, and enthusiasm between our schools and the ISF. This year's ISF/PTSA Liaison at Challenger is: Leslie Miniken and she can be reached at 425 313-1628.

### **ISF Needs You...to Contribute to *Calling for Kids***

**Calling for Kids**— the Foundation's campaign to raise funds to help the District provide students with a comprehensive 21<sup>st</sup> Century education—is in full swing. Parents were mailed informational postcards over the summer and will receive personalized appeals by mid-September. **This year's campaign goal is 100% participation.** If every District family contributes, the Foundation can easily raise over 1.4 million for our schools. ISF is asking families to **join the campaign with a \$50 donation** or to **renew and, if possible, increase their previous *Calling for Kids* support.** High school students will call all families on October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. To avoid a call, log onto [www.issaquahschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.issaquahschoolsfoundation.org) to make a secure online donation or download a **Calling for Kids** flier. For more information, please check the ISF [website](#) or contact the ISF office, 425.416.2045.

### **Make ISF Your Facebook Friend!**

ISF is becoming social media savvy! Thanks to the volunteer efforts of Krista Mui , ISF has a Facebook page. Take a moment to join our family. You'll be privy to pictures, fun tidbits, and behind-the-scenes information. Find us at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).

### ***Nourish Every Mind***

It's not gone...we've just moved it to the Spring. Keep reading your PTSA newsletter and watch the ISF website for the date and location.

### **POPCORN FRIDAYS ARE BACK**

Starting September 18<sup>th</sup>, our friendly PTA will be selling popcorn in the atrium during morning and afternoon recesses.

If your child wishes to buy popcorn, please send them to school with a quarter or three boxtops on Fridays.

**PLEASE SEE THE COMMUNITY FLIERS WEBPAGE**

For announcements regarding community information, such as Scouts info, sport sign-ups, camp info...please see our Community fliers website: <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/family/fliers.aspx>



SEPTEMBER 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Welcome Back BBQ 5:30-7:30	12
13	14	15	16	17 Curriculum Night 5:30 to 8:00	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 MathBlasters Kick-Off			

**UPCOMING:** October 20<sup>th</sup> PTA General Meeting