



# WEDGWOOD

## The Weekly

By The Wedgwood Elementary PTA: *JOIN IN!*

Volume XI, Number 1, Sept. 3, 2008

### CALENDAR



#### SEPTEMBER

K Curriculum Night  
Thursday, Sept. 4  
7:00 pm

PTA Board Meeting  
Wednesday, Sept. 10  
7:00 pm

Childcare available – Please  
RSVP to Jennifer Bucher at  
jmlbucher@comcast.net

Stay 'n Play  
Friday, Sept. 12  
3:05 pm

Anti-Bullying Assembly  
Tuesday, Sept. 16

Curriculum Night Grades  
1-5 & PTA General  
Membership Meeting  
Thursday, Sept. 18  
Grades 1-3: 6:15 pm  
PTA Mtg: 6:45 pm  
Grades 4-5: 7:15 pm

Kindergarten Pizza  
Lunch Bunch  
Thursday, Sept. 25  
11:30 am – 12:05 pm

Fall Square Dance  
Friday, September 26  
6:30 – 8:30 pm



### A Message From Your Principal

Hello Wedgwood Families!

Welcome to the 2008-09 school year. We have been busy this summer getting ready for the start of the year. We have new classrooms, new teachers, two new PTA presidents, and a new principal! All of these additions have brought a renewed energy and excitement to our community.

In order to welcome more students, the district and our teachers have been hard at work to ready two new and exciting learning environments for our incoming first grade classes. Ms. Denney will be in Portable 3 and one of our new teachers-Ms. Wolfe, will be in Portable 1.

I would also like to welcome Ms. Rudisill our new Kindergarten teacher, Ms. Cox, our new 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Ms. Sokolow our new enrichment teacher, Mr. Cooper our new special education teacher, Ms Harmeling who will be with us while Ms Tice is on maternity leave and Ms. Amar-Strugo our counselor. Our new teachers bring a wealth of knowledge and a passion for teaching, learning and our students.

We know that enhancing teacher learning positively impacts the learning that goes on in our classrooms. Thanks to the generosity of the PTA and the generous monetary support that our families provide to Wedgwood, our teachers were able to have an educationally enriching summer filled with learning and professional growth. For example, a cohort of 4 Wedgwood teachers were able to attend professional development on literacy instruction and had the opportunity to collaborate with each other about extending the literacy practice in and across their classrooms. Another teacher went to New York to study writing instruction at Columbia Teachers College, which is one of the nations leading institutions for the study of writing instruction. Another teacher received a full scholarship to attend the University of Washington for a summer science institute. Other teachers took classes on integrating theater and the arts into classroom, integrating yoga techniques to assist with focus, and one of our teachers spent time learning about how integrating Chess into the curriculum can extend instruction around literacy, math and critical thinking, as well as social skills and sportsmanship.

Our teachers are refreshed, renewed and ready to begin this year of learning with our children. Through PTA support the staff was able to go to the Center for Wooden Boats to learn about enhancing our curriculum and instruction to encompass environmental and experiential education. This week we worked intensely to strengthen our programs to focus on supporting the learning necessary to produce **high academic achievement** as well as rigorous instruction that will prepare our students to be **global citizens**. Our growing population means that we have the opportunity to meet and learn from a larger group of people. We know that this increase will have its logistic adjustments, but we teachers, students, staff and families will be working together as community to ensure that **each and every child continues to have the high quality education that a Wedgwood student has always had**. We know that all of this would not be possible if not for the generosity of the PTA and we are extremely grateful for such supportive families.

I would like to invite each of you to learn more about what is going on at Wedgwood by attending our monthly “Mocha Mondays.” The first dates of these informal, once a month meetings, to “talk story” with the principal will be on September 3rd and then on October 6th. I am looking forward to meeting each of you soon!

Denise Espania  
Principal of Wedgwood Elementary

## Wedgwood Elementary

www.wedgwoodpta.org

2720 NE 85th Street  
(206) 252-5670

### JOIN IN!

Do you have great ideas or skills to share?

Contact VP Volunteers

### Wedgwood PTA Officers 2008-2009

#### Presidents

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#### Have Some News to Share?

Send it to *The Weekly* Editor  
Jill Biondillo  
wedgwoodnews@yahoo.com  
Deadline: Fridays at noon

## Welcome from the PTA

It's a new year at Wedgwood, and there is a lot of new at Wedgwood. Starting with us, you have two new PTA Co-Presidents. We join the community in welcoming out new Principal, Denise Espania, and new staff members Jennifer Rudisill, Stephanie Wolfe, Ashley Cox, Becky Sokolov, Jeremy Cooper, Lily Amar-Strugo and Marlene Harmeling. We even have a lot of new students as our cluster expands. But while "new" can accompany feelings of apprehensiveness, instead, we find "renewal." After all, new brings new ideas, new perspectives and new energy. As your PTA, we hope to tap into this new enthusiasm and put it to good use supporting our students, families and staff the best we can.

It is with this spirit that we directly ask you to **JOIN IN!** at Wedgwood. We have a lot of family events and programs, which are instrumental in building our community and enriching the experiences of our children, but none of them can happen without your support. This is not a new message, but think about how much we can accomplish together if we all took part and **JOINED IN!**



Looking forward to working together,

Emily Maher and Rachael Weissman  
2008-09 PTA Co-Presidents

## BBQ Thanks

A big thanks goes out to all the volunteers who helped make the barbeque last night such a success. It was great to see so many new and returning families at this annual event.

## 2008 - 09 Bell Schedule

Breakfast / Supervision on the Playground begins at 8:40 am  
DO NOT DROP OFF KIDS PRIOR TO THIS TIME

#### First Bell - 8:55 am

Students will form a line on the playground by their classroom number where their teacher will meet them and lead them into the building.

#### Tardy Bell - 9:00am

Students arriving after this bell must check in at the office before proceeding to their classroom.

#### Dismissal Bell - 3:05 pm

If you will be picking up your student, please meet them on the playground or outside the building. If you will be late, call the office so your child can be informed.

#### Safety and Pick-Up Procedures

Family members picking up Wedgwood students: In order to ensure the safety of all of our students at Wedgwood we ask for your cooperation in **not entering the building until after the dismissal bell at 3:05pm**. We also ask that you help us keep walkways clear so that all exits are accessible. Remember this is for the safety of ALL of our children. Adults or even younger siblings wandering in the halls before the bell is not only distracting and disturbing to classes, it becomes a safety concern when we cannot identify who is safe to be in the building and who is not. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all of our children safe and for supporting a strong learning environment from the start to the end of each day.



## Curriculum Night & PTA Meeting



Kindergarten: Thursday, Sept. 4 at 7:00 pm

Grades 1-5: Thursday, Sept. 18

Grades 1-3 6:15-6:45, PTA Meeting 6:45-7:15, Grades 4-5 7:15-7:45

Parents and/or Guardians are asked to attend curriculum night. This is your chance to learn about the individual classroom curriculum and expectations for the school year. These evenings are for adults only. If childcare is an issue, it is acceptable for one parent/guardian to attend.

## Cafeteria Price Increase

Just a reminder, the School Board approved a \$.50 increase in meal prices. The prices are now as follows; Breakfast - \$1.25, Lunch - \$2.25, Milk - \$.50