



GARFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Garfield PTA's Quarterly Spot

October 10,
2013

Our Adventure Begins

This newsletter is a new undertaking for our PTA. Our great hope is that it serves as a useful source of information for the Garfield Community.

We plan on writing three newsletters per year (October, January and April) and filling it with information about all our events, fundraising efforts, and news. We would appreciate any feedback you have on content and form, as well as story ideas. You can e-mail them to us at olygarfieldpta@gmail.com.

In this issue you'll find a request for you to join PTA, plus information on our Fall Fling, Book Fair, Movie Nights, Cougar Mountain Cookie Dough Fundraiser, Holiday Spirit Program and Bingo/Children's Store Event. We hope you find it informative.

-Brooke, Kim, Nikki, Kylie and Carol

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Check Out Our 5-minute Fundraisers!

Why do we call them that? Because it only takes a couple of minutes for you to make a big difference. See our info box or website for more details.



Do you use a Bayview and Ralph's Thriftway ThrifteCard? Register it by calling 596-0110 and requesting Garfield PTA #1076 as your organization.

Students who collect 25 non-expired box-tops get a free pop-corn on Fridays



Do you have a Top Food's Connection Card? Register it with them and earn returns for Garfield PTA.



Do you have a Safeway Club card? If you register it with the eScript program, Garfield PTA will earn a percent of your purchase.



Register your **Target REDCard** with Target's Take Charge of Education for rewards for Garfield.



Your PTA Leadership

From left to right
Kylie Phillips, Secretary
Brooke LaFave, Co-President
Carol O'Sullivan, Bookkeeper
Kim Cader, Co-President
Nikki Spaulding, Treasurer

Why Join PTA?

This is a question we get asked from time to time. It may even be a question that you've asked yourself.

The PTA works quietly behind the scenes to support the Garfield Community. You wouldn't be the first if you thought that the many events we pay for, organize, and run were actually school-sponsored events.

In the past we've helped make major equipment purchases for the school like the climbing wall in the gym and the bounce house that you see at many of the PTA events.

We also help the school pay for their performing art assemblies. Last year we even sponsored the Pacific Science Center's Science on Wheels – A Space Odyssey. They gave a great presentation plus some hands on learning about outer space, which the children really enjoyed. We hope to sponsor them again this year.

Another thing the PTA does is provide teachers with funds at the beginning of the year for supplies. Just like you, the PTA knows how important a vibrant and engaging classroom is for student learning.

Where do the funds come from for all these major events and equipment purchases? Most funds come from our fundraisers like Cougar Mountain Cookie Dough and Read-A-Thon. Funds are also raised through memberships in the PTA.

We could really use you as a member of the PTA, if you are not already. Memberships are \$12 for an individual and \$22 per family (which includes two adults per household). Your membership will help us continue to provide fun and exciting events, new equipment, and teaching supplies. You can fill out and return the included membership envelope with your dues to your student's teacher. Thank you in advance.

Come one, Come all to the Scholastic Book Fair

Our fall book fair is scheduled for Oct. 22-25 this year. Parents and students are invited to the library to shop for everything from bookmarks to best sellers. "It's a great way to get kids excited about reading," Katie, mom to a 4th grader, said.

We agree, it is a great way to get kids excited about reading, that's why we give away up to 30 free books each year to students who have been chosen by their teachers and/or Principal Hodges.

"I really like the variety. I love that my wife and I can go in with our preschooler and our 2nd grader and we can ALL come out with new reading material. And the prices—they can't be beat!" says Bill, father to a 2nd grader.

"As a working mom, I'm not able to volunteer in my child's classroom as often as I'd like. I love that

See Bookfair, Pg 3

It's All Fun and Games at the Fall Fling

October 25th is all about fun. The PTA will be hosting our annual Fall Fling from 6:30 until 8:30 that Friday night.

Students and their families are welcome to come in costume (please no masks or weapons). This year we'll have our bounce house, the cupcake walk, face painting, and some great new minute-to-win-it games as well as some of our ever-popular games. Of course, we'll have concessions and Garfield apparel for sale as well. As an added bonus, we'll keep the Book Fair open in case you missed it during the week.

This event is a fundraiser for the PTA. Wristbands will be sold at the door for \$5.00. Parents are required to attend with their children, as this is not a drop-off event. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit our website or e-mail us.

Garfield Track Stars Go The Extra Mile

Garfield Track Stars (GTS) is a program available during morning recess for all 1st through 5th grade students. Our students earn charms by running around the school track located on the large field. For every 3 miles completed your child earns a foot charm they get to wear on a chain. The goal for students is to run enough miles to earn a Marathon (26.2 miles). When they earn this marathon they receive a special marathon charm, a certificate, and recognition by Principal Hodges at one of Garfield's monthly assemblies!

In 2012 GTS was the recipient of a \$500 grant from the Road Runners Club of America! This grant paid for all the materials needed to run the program for the 2012-2013 school year. We hope to receive a similar grant this year.

During the 2011-2012 school year Garfield students ran 2,904 miles. Last year our students increased that amount dramatically by running 5,283 miles! That is like running from Olympia to Boston and back across the country to Billings, MT. Let's encourage our kids to get out there and run this year. Wouldn't it be great if they can run enough miles to make it all the way back to Olympia this year?

GTS can always use volunteers during first recess. If interested, please contact Carol O'Sullivan at osullivan811@hotmail.com.

One of the most rewarding things we do as a PTA is our Holiday Spirit program. We love being able to help our Garfield community.

Our Holiday Spirit program gives community members an opportunity to supply one toy and/or one article of clothing under \$25 for a child in a Garfield family who might not otherwise receive a gift over the holidays.

In mid- to late-November we'll post tags shaped like snowmen on the PTA Bulletin board (located in the main entry way along the south wall). Each snowman will have a child's wished for item on it.

Whether you chose to take one tag or multiple, a few things are very important. One, keep track of your tag – you'll need to return it with your wrapped gift so we know which child receives it. Two, write your tag number, name, and phone number in the Holiday Spirit notebook (placed near the tags). Each tag has a unique alphanumeric code on it which helps us pair gifts with children. Three, return your wrapped gift(s) no later than December . We need a few days to organize gifts.

Holiday Spirit is also combined with a food and personal care item drive. We'll ask families who can, to bring in non-perishable food items and personal care items like toothpaste, shampoo, etc.

If you are interested in getting involved with our Holiday Spirit program, please e-mail Nikki at olygarfieldpta@gmail.com.

GARFIELD GETS IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Bookfair Cont., Pg 3

the teachers put together a wish list of books they'd like to have for their classroom. It's the perfect way for me to help my kid's classrooms with my busy schedule" explains Amanda, mother to 3rd and 5th graders.

The book fair will be open during conference week's extended morning recess from 10:15-10:50 and then again after school from 11:45-3:30. We also have special evening hours during the PTA-sponsored Fall Fling that will run from 6:30-8:30 on Friday evening.

On December 13th, we'll offer our Children's Store/Bingo Night. This is an opportunity for the family to play some bingo and enjoy time together. Garfield Students will also be given the opportunity to go "shopping" for free gifts for members of their family.

Gifts consist of small items and crafts donated by the PTA and members of the community. Children will have a volunteer helper to guide them through the process and will even get their gift wrapped at the end. This is a great event and it is so touching to see the joy on the kids' faces as they pick out items for loved ones.

The PTA can always use donated crafts for this event. If you are crafty, and would like to help, please contact us.

Children's Store and Bingo Night

Cougar Mountain Cookie Dough – A Delicious Way to Fundraise

Our major fall fundraiser has begun! We are selling Cougar Mountain Cookie dough in 3 lbs tubs for \$16 each. They are made with all-natural, wholesome, recognizable ingredients and come in 8 great flavors (see below). They are also refrigerator safe for 3 months and keep in the freezer for a year. The best part? Garfield PTA gets to keep \$8 for every tub sold! All orders and monies are due no later than October 25th. For more info, check our website.

Original Chocolate Chunk – Oatmeal Raisin Cinnamon – Classic Peanut Butter – Spiced Molasses Ginger – Lemon Cheesecake with White Chocolate – Double Chocolate Oregon Hazelnut – All-Butter Rolled Sugar – Pumpkin Cookie Dough

Garfield PTA loves Volunteers!

One of the only ways the PTA can put on all of our events for the Garfield community is with volunteer help. To that end, we are creating a volunteer list, which will allow us to contact you when we are in need of volunteers. If you would like to join our e-mail list and be able to sign-up to volunteer on-line, please visit our website or e-mail us directly. Thank you for giving time to Garfield PTA. And please remember to complete your mandatory OSD background check – forms are available on our website and from Linda Z. in the Garfield Main Office.



Presenting the All-student Garfield Play

Apple Tree Productions and Garfield Elementary will be partnering up to perform an all-student play of *Snow White goes West*, a fun musical comedy, on November 22nd. This is a no experience is necessary, free of cost to participate event. All students who participate will receive a role. All they need is a good attitude and a willingness to try something new and fun!

Apple Tree Productions is a local company devoted solely to providing excellent after-school dramatic instruction for students and is run by Heidi Fredricks. Heidi has an extensive background in theater as well as being a drama teacher at Tumwater High School and the Artistic Director of Capital Playhouse's Kids At Play program. All costs associated with this program have been covered through the PTA, the school, and Amanda Beers of Sweet Charley B's Cupcakery.

Any second through fifth grader who is interested needs to fill out a registration form that can be picked up in the Main Office or downloaded at our website. Be sure to mark your calendars to attend all rehearsals beginning with our first on October 28th at 3:05. Practices will run everyday, Monday through Friday, from 3:05 until 5:05 October 28th through November 22nd. Parents will need to provide transportation for children staying until 5:05. There is also the option of some smaller roles and that will allow kids to participate and follow the Garfield MORE schedule (Tuesday through Thursday from 3:05 to 3:50), which will include bus transportation.

Two performances will occur on November 22nd. One will be during the day - a free all-school performance, which families will be welcome to attend. The other will be in the evening and be a low-cost ticketed performance.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Brooke LaFave at 528-1114.

Movie Nights Return With a New Format

We are pleased to announce that PTA movie night will return again this year.

We've revamped the program to include two options at each movie showing. We'll offer the ever-popular Parent's Night Out option for \$10 per child. With this option you can drop your child off and we'll supply them with snacks and you with childcare for 2 hours while they watch the movie.

Or, you can bring the entire family and watch the movie for free (donations accepted). We'll have snacks available for purchase. Our next movie will be *The Crood's* (rated PG) and we'll be showing it on Friday, November 15th at 6:30.

PTA Meeting Schedule

(Meetings are held in the staff lounge)

October 7 at 6:30pm
 November 4 at 6:30pm
 December 2 at 6:30pm
 January 6 at 6:30pm

To Contact the PTA:
 E-mail us directly at olygarfieldpta@gmail.com
 OR

Leave us your contact information with Linda Z. in the Main Office and we'll contact you.



Did you know Garfield PTA is on Facebook? "Like" OlyGarfieldPTA and stay current on Garfield PTA events and news.

Garfield PTA is also on the web:

www.garfieldpta.weebly.com