



The Gator Gazette

Decatur PTA Newsletter

September 22, 2026

Upcoming Events

9/29 School Pictures

10/1 Curriculum Night
6-7:05pm

10/8 Bingo Night
6:30-8:30pm

10/12 Author Visit to Decatur

View the full PTA events calendar [here](#).

Announcements

Curriculum Night

October 1

6-6:30pm for 4th & 5th Grade Parents

6:35-7:05pm for 2nd & 3rd Grade Parents

Come meet your children's teachers and learn what they'll be learning! This event is intended for parents, and no childcare is provided. If you do need to bring your student, please bring something quiet for them to do in the hall outside the classroom.

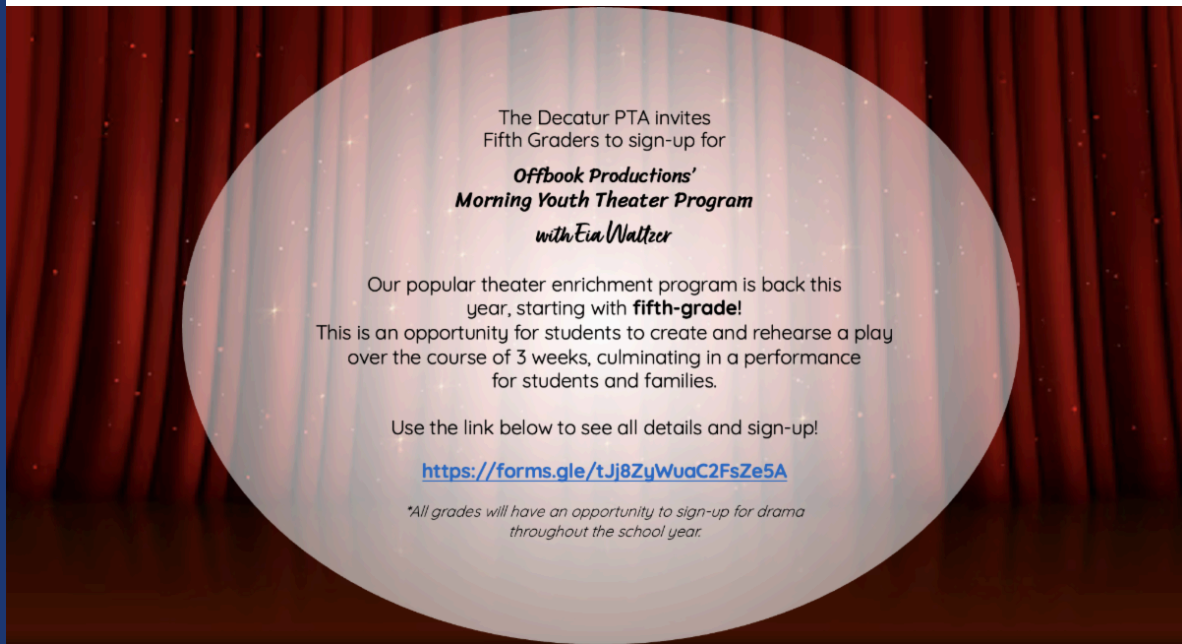


BINGO NIGHT

Thursday, Oct 8th
6:30 - 8:00pm
Decatur Cafeteria

***Awesome
Prizes!***

All are invited to BINGO Night, a fun Decatur tradition. Please [sign up](#) for a volunteer shift to help the evening run smoothly.



Volunteer Opportunities

Please consider helping with **Picture Day, 9/29**, from approximately 9:00 am - 12:30 pm. We need just one parent volunteer to make sure classes are on time for pictures and move in an orderly fashion. Please reach out to volunteer@decaturpta.org if you are able to help.

Our librarian, Ms. Purcell, would appreciate some **parent volunteers to help check in and shelve returned books**. See info below (under "Reminders") about how to register to volunteer with SPS.

[Sign up for an hour long shift here.](#)

The Decatur Yearbook needs a new steward.

Our longtime parent Yearbook Editor volunteer has moved on from Decatur, so we're in need of a new yearbook lead. No prior yearbook experience is necessary, and most of the work can be done from home on your own schedule.

Main Responsibilities

- **TreeRing setup — <30 min**
- **Class photo layouts — ~3 hrs (February, or when class photos are taken)**
- **Monthly photo requests — ~10 min/month**
- **Principal letter + 5th-grade baby photos — ~1 hr**
- **Candid + special pages — a few hrs (April/May)**
- **Order extra yearbooks — quick final task**

This is a flexible, manageable volunteer role with most of the work concentrated in February and April/May, and results in a keepsake for our students and families to cherish for years! Please contact volunteer@decaturpta.org to sign up. We are hoping for a volunteer on the sooner end to begin photo collection before key school events.

Volunteer paperwork must be submitted in order to volunteer in any capacity. Please allow a few days for this process to go through. Click the link to "update your volunteer paperwork"

here: <https://www.seattleschools.org/departments/volunteer/>. Make sure Decatur Elementary is on your list of approved schools.



It's time for

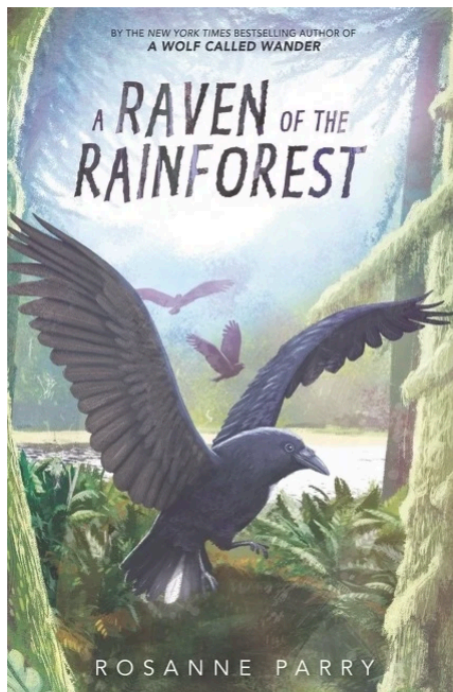
GATOR GEAR!

Fall 2026



ORDERS DUE BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

<https://forms.gle/YwYDjgofAYoGGn5SA>



Author Rosanne Parry Will Visit Decatur 4th & 5th Grades

Rosanne Parry is the author of the bestselling novels *A Wolf Called Wander*, *A Whale of the Wild*, *A Horse Named Sky*, and *A Wolf Called Fire* and the new book *A Raven of the Rainforest*. She will be visiting Decatur on **October 12** to talk with the 4th and 5th grade classes.

If you would like to order one of her signed books for your student to receive at the event, please use [this link](#) to order from Third Place books. Orders must be placed by October 11.

We'd also love to have a few copies of Rosanne's book's for the Decatur library. if you'd be willing to purchase and donate one, please check in with communications@decaturpta.org before you order, so we can coordinate getting copies of different books. Thank you!

Community Engagement Meetings

The Superintendent will be hosting Community Engagement meetings this year with a rotating list of topics and locations.

The meeting **NEXT TUESDAY** September 29 will include discussion about Academic Rigor in SPS and School Design (including HC schools). Please attend to share your support for HC services and increased academic rigor throughout the district.

To make participation as accessible as possible, all meetings will include:

- Language interpretation (Amharic, Chinese, Somali, Spanish, Vietnamese) and ASL services
- Light refreshments

- Activities for children

Upcoming Community Engagement Meetings (All meetings will be held on Tuesdays and run 6:30-8 p.m.):

- **Sept. 29 at Thornton Creek** Elementary School (7712 40th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115)
- Oct. 27 at Eagle Staff Middle School (1330 N 90th St., Seattle, WA 98103)
- Nov. 17 on Zoom (Virtual)
- Dec. 15 at Chief Sealth Intl. HS / Denny MS (2600 SW Thistle St., Seattle, WA 98126)
- Jan. 12, 2027, at Coe Elementary School (2424 7th Ave. W, Seattle, WA 98119)
- Feb. 9, 2027, on Zoom (Virtual)
- March 23, 2027, at Garfield High School (400 23rd Ave., Seattle, WA 98122)
- April 6, 2027, at South Shore K-8 (4800 S Henderson St., Seattle, WA 98118)
- May 18, 2027, at Ballard High School (1418 NW 65th St., Seattle, WA 98117)

Welcome Back, Decatur Chess Players!

The Decatur Chess Club welcomes players of all levels to join our club activities! Our After-School Chess Club will resume on **Friday, October 2nd, from 3:30-4:30 pm** in the Library. The Club will also meet at the same time on Fridays, October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 13, 20, December 4, 11. Orlov Academy coach David Roper, National Master, will lead the sessions. Please sign up for the club here:

<https://chessmates.org/bravo/registration.php?school=1000034>

Knowledge of basic chess moves recommended (ChessKid.com offers helpful beginner video courses). Please sign up as soon as you can as there is limited space. We plan to finalize the roster by **Friday, September 25**. The club cost is \$171 for 9 classes in the Fall session.

To run our chess club smoothly, we need parent volunteers for each session to help with sign-in and sign-out. If your children are participating in the after-school club please consider volunteering at least once. Sign up to volunteer here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1snpvhpTtxgh8xMmroqt5gQLHAifQGsrT_x4tb_OpGek/edit?usp=sharing

If you would like to join our Chess Club mailing list or have any questions, please contact Jeff Creighton at decaturchessclub@gmail.com.

Decatur Morning STEAM/Chess Club

Decatur Morning **STEAM**/Chess Club will be starting in mid-October and has room for more! This is a community for new and experienced chess students to learn and grow together. We will cover chess endgame skills, tactics, openings, and positional chess concepts in addition to **STEAM** topics, such as geology, biology, atmospheric sciences, chemistry, astronomy, and physics. The club will meet Tuesdays & Thursdays from 7:40-8:40 AM. For more info or to sign up, please reach out to Megan Brady at megybrady@gmail.com.

Helpful Links

[PTA Full Calendar](#)

[District Calendar](#)

[School Directory](#)

School Newsletter

District News

Gazette Submissions

Community Shares

Enrichment Classes at UW Robinson Center

The UW Robinson Center for Young Scholars offers Saturday K-8 enrichment classes every quarter for intellectually curious students, focusing on exploring topics beyond the standard curriculum in a supportive, collaborative environment. Scholarships are available for students eligible for free/reduced lunch. [Click for more info.](#)

SQUIRRELLY WORKSHOP: After-school Art Classes

Add some sunshine to your child's week this fall, and send your kiddos over to Squirrely for bountiful creative fun and adventure.

UW Recruiting Participants for Study on Obesity

The BRIGHT Study focuses on the health and development of young girls in the Seattle area, and is an opportunity for underserved families in the Seattle area to receive treatment for childhood obesity.

Decatur PTA | 7711 43rd Ave NE | Seattle, WA 98115 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!