The Gator Gazette

Decatur PTA Newsletter

November 3, 2026

A Note From Our PTA President

The Decatur PTA invites you to join us for a virtual Decatur family meeting to discuss the district's proposed school merger and how it may impact our community. We plan to share survey results and give time for questions and discussion.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, November 12 from 6:30-8:00pm. We hope to see you there! A meeting link will be sent out in next week's Gazette.

If you haven't yet filled out our family survey regarding the proposed merger with View Ridge Elementary, you can access it here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdqtysWEPR3k9pYE1JrkJa7mSK_SPL01feDjJJzMc6wNShtKg/viewform?usp=header

Upcoming Events

11/5 Diwali Night
6:30-8:00pm

11/12 Decatur Community Meeting to Discuss School Merger
6:30-8:00pm, virtual

12/10 Superintendent Meeting to Discuss School Merger
6:30-8:00pm, View Ridge Elementary

View the full PTA events calendar **here**.

Announcements

Yearbook Order Form Available Now!

You can place your order for the 2026-2027 Decatur Yearbook at this link.

Don't Be Slooooooooooooooo oooooooooow.



Hurry and Purchase the Decatur Elementary Yearbook



Diwali Crafts! Diwali Treats! And fun performances, including UW's competitive Bollywood dance team!

VOLUNTEERS AND PERFORMERS NEEDED FOR DIWALI NIGHT

Decatur Diwali is coming up on Thursday, Nov 5th, and we need your help to make it a success:

Volunteers: Sign up to help set up, monitor hallways, and clean up.

Performers: We're also looking for Decatur student (and family) performers to perform at Diwali Night!. Dance, music, poetry, puppetry - bring it all! Sign up to perform.

Please email Jane Curtis (PTA Events Chair) at events@decaturpta.org or Anjana Prasad (Diwali Event Lead) at prasad.anjana@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you for supporting Decatur Diwali!

Pilot Program for Decatur Math Focus Group/ Club

A small group of parent volunteers is leading the effort to form small student groups to practice for a few different math competitions for the 2026-2027 season. If your kid is interested, please fill out the online google form https://forms.gle/XqXSCRrkn5FYUtPK7 to get further information.

Wordmasters Challenge

This year Decatur is taking part in the WordMasters Challenge. It's a fun way for kids to stretch their vocabulary and relational thinking skills, while competing against other schools. It is open to all 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. We will participate in three meets; the first will be in November.

Practices
When: Thursdays at lunch recess: October 22 and 29, November 5, and 12.
Where: Lunch Recess in the Library

This activity is parent-run. If you would like to help, please contact Sarah McBride sarahmcbr@gmail.com.

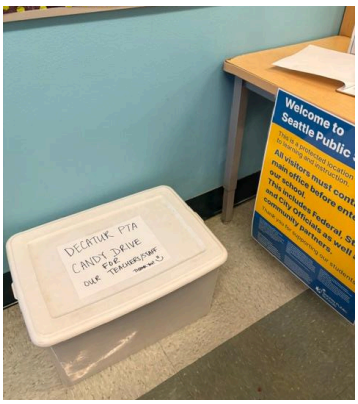
5th Grade Parents: Planning Survey for Middle School Info Night

The PTA plans to hold a parent-led info night for fifth grade families looking at middle school. It will focus on the decision/enrollment process and on the two SPS middle

schools that are options for most Decatur kids: Jane Addams and Eckstein.

Parents of 5th Graders: Please take this brief survey to help us plan the event: https://forms.gle/LKT4P4YWRAurNebB8

Donation Drive: Candy for Teachers



End up with leftover Halloween candy? Send it to school between now and Friday 11/6. The PTA has put out a collection bin to collect candy donations to stock an office treat drawer for teachers. (By popular demand!)

Reminders From Your Advocacy Chair

Refer Your Students for HC Identification by November 6

The HC eligibility referral form is live! Students in grades 2, 3, 5-11th can be referred for HC eligibility (1st and 4th grades will be universally screened and do not need referral). If your student was identified as HC for a single domain last year and you would like their data to be reviewed for dual domain eligibility, you need to submit the form. If your student is dual domain, you do not need to complete the form. Referral is very easy (name, school, student ID, your relationship to the student).

I strongly recommend you submit this referral regardless of whether your single domain student is already enrolled in the HC Cohort or is about to go to middle school. The HC program is undergoing rapid changes and single domain services are still in the pilot phase. Referring allows you to keep your student's options open.

Voting ends TONIGHT at 8pm! Initiatives related to students and education on the November ballot

Your November ballot contains three initiatives that will have state-wide impact on students and education funding. The WA State PTA board opposes these initiatives; it has adopted a "vote no" position on each one. The Decatur PTA has not adopted a position on these initiatives but encourages you to stay informed and vote (preferably early!). Remember that USPS postmark is no longer considered valid proof of voting on time; to vote today, you must drop your ballot off at a drop box.

To help educate our community, we are providing a link HERE explaining why the WA PTA opposes the following initiatives.
IL26-001 (concerns parental rights relating to their children in public schools)
IL26-638 (concerns participation in athletics at K-12 schools)
IP26-645 (concerns state and local taxes)

For additional information this Secretary of State page includes full explanations, fiscal impact, and pro/cons for each initiative.

-Jessica Chong, Advocacy Chair

Volunteer Opportunities

Have some time to spare and want to spend it helping out our specialists? Please consider signing up to volunteer in the art room or for PE! Our 5th grade classes are especially large this year and Ms. Munro and Ms. Bastasch could use an extra set of hands! You are welcome to stay longer and help out with other classes,

however these sign-ups are for the 5th grade slots specifically! Thank you for your willingness to help!

Art: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A084EAAAE2CA7F85-66480167-artroom

PE: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A084EAAAE2CA7F85-66480587-pevolunteer

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.

Decatur Morning STEAM/Chess Club

Decatur Morning STEAM/Chess Club runs Tuesdays & Thursdays from 7:40-8:40 AM during the Fall Session: October 20th to December 17th (except school holidays). It's not too late to join, and drop-ins will be accepted, but pre-registration is required. This community allows 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. For more info or to register, please reach out to Megan Brady at megybrady@gmail.com.

Helpful Links

PTA Full Calendar

District Calendar

School Directory

District News

Newsletter Archive

Gazette Submissions

Community Shares

Holiday Gift Making Is Back At Squirrelly!

Kids will spend six weeks creating beautiful, handmade surprises for family and friends-all wrapped and ready to give. So much creativity, joy, and holiday magic!
Sign up at squirrellyworkshop.com

Need Weekend Plans With the Kids?

takethe.kids keeps a free list of family events around Seattle, updated every day, with nothing to sign up for. Link here.

The Gator Gazette goes out each Tuesday and shares news that is of use and interest to the school community. To submit an item to the Gazette, please email comms@decaturpta.org by 9pm Monday.

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