The Gator Gazette

Decatur PTA Newsletter

October 27, 2026

A Note From Our PTA President

Dear Families,

I would like to take a moment to share some important information from the district that impacts our community. Superintendent Schuldiner recently informed district leaders about a school merger proposal between Decatur and View Ridge Elementary Schools. This proposal includes closing our current building and moving our students to View Ridge, a little less than a mile away. **It does *not* include removing Highly Capable services**, although we have limited information about how services may be provided within this context.

I understand that this information may come as a surprise to many families, and it may also feel familiar to those of us who have been through threats of school closure in the past. I want to emphasize that this proposal is in phase one, which means **no decision has been made**, and the district is actively collecting feedback from the community.

The most important thing we can do right now is take advantage of all opportunities to speak up and be heard.

There are multiple levels of advocacy that we are preparing for as a PTA. Our first priority is of course to keep Decatur open to serve our students for as long as possible. It is also important to understand that closure is a real possibility, and to have a cohesive vision and concrete asks ready that will help preserve the Decatur cohort experience. To that end, the PTA is offering a family survey to collect information about additional community priorities and questions. We also plan to hold a meeting in November, open to all, to share survey results and discuss next steps.

Additionally, families should have received an email from Principals Baisden and Geoghagan inviting both the Decatur and View Ridge communities to attend a **Family Conversation on Thursday, December 10 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at View Ridge Elementary**. Superintendent Schuldiner will be in attendance. I urge everyone to consider making arrangements to attend this meeting. Our voices are stronger in numbers.

This proposal is still in the early stages, and there is plenty of opportunity in the weeks ahead to affect the outcome. The PTA is still gathering information and considering advocacy strategies and will continue to update you all as this process unfolds. I would also like to note that we just concluded our annual campaign fundraiser, and that raises questions about what will happen to these funds in the event of a merger. It is the PTA's intent that all funds raised for Decatur will follow our students and be used to maintain our programs and resources, regardless of the building location.

Please feel free to reach out to the PTA board. We have shared what limited information we have but are still happy to try and answer any questions or direct

you to the relevant district leaders.

Thank you,
Carrie Drake

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

Upcoming Events

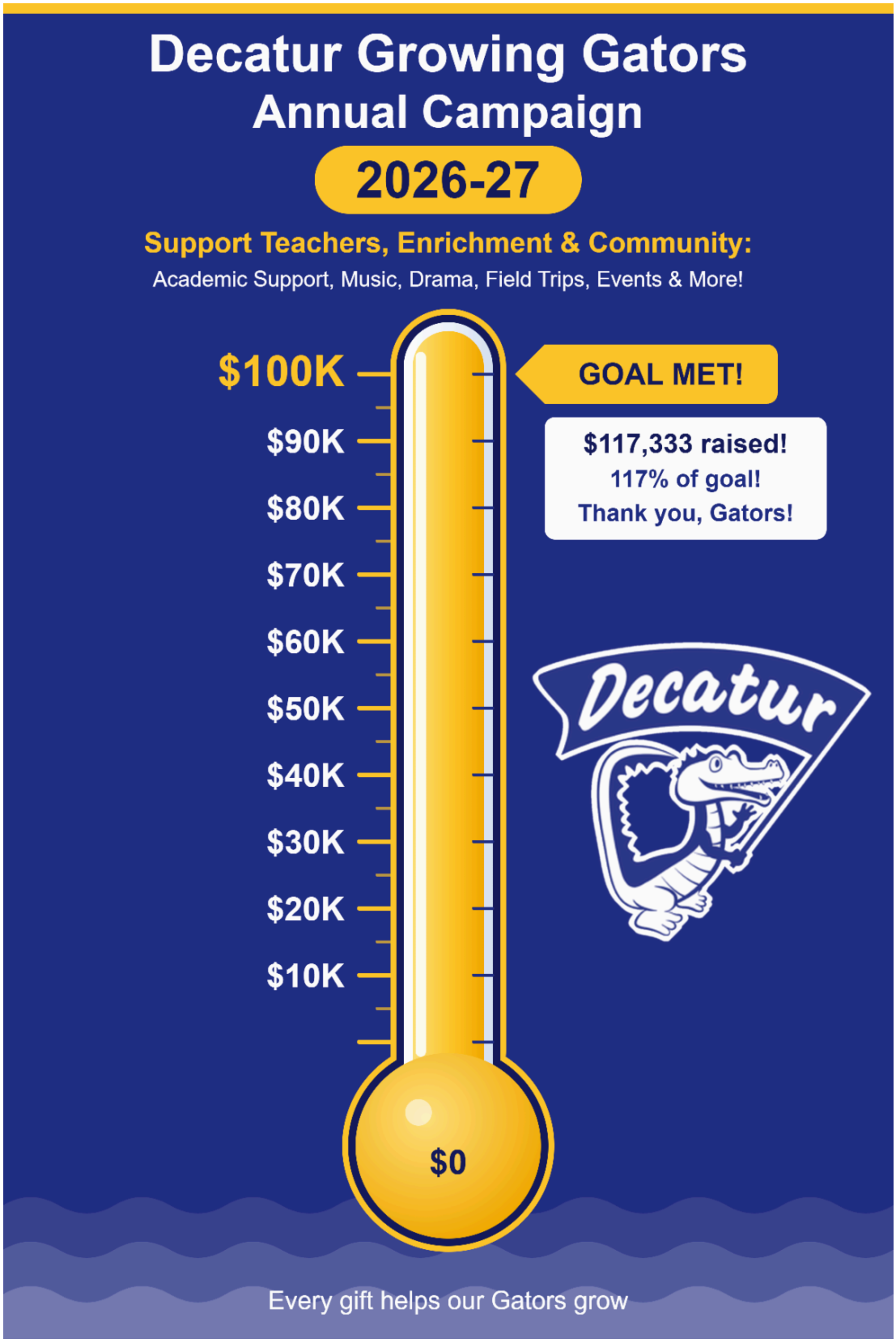
11/1 Gx Player Ultimate Frisbee Event
2-3:30pm

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

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

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

Announcements



Thank you, Decatur families and friends...

...for your generous support of our school community! Our Growing Gators Annual Campaign raised an estimated **$117,333, which is 17% past our $100,000 goal**, with over 53% of families participating. Go Gators!

If you missed the campaign but would still like to give, it's not too late. Our annual appeal runs for only two weeks, but we welcome gifts all year long.

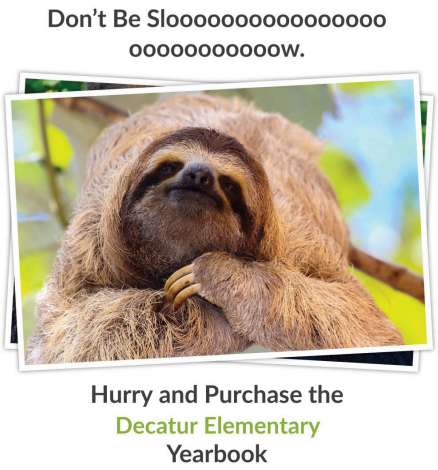
Ways to give:
Online by Credit Card: Donate on Givebacks

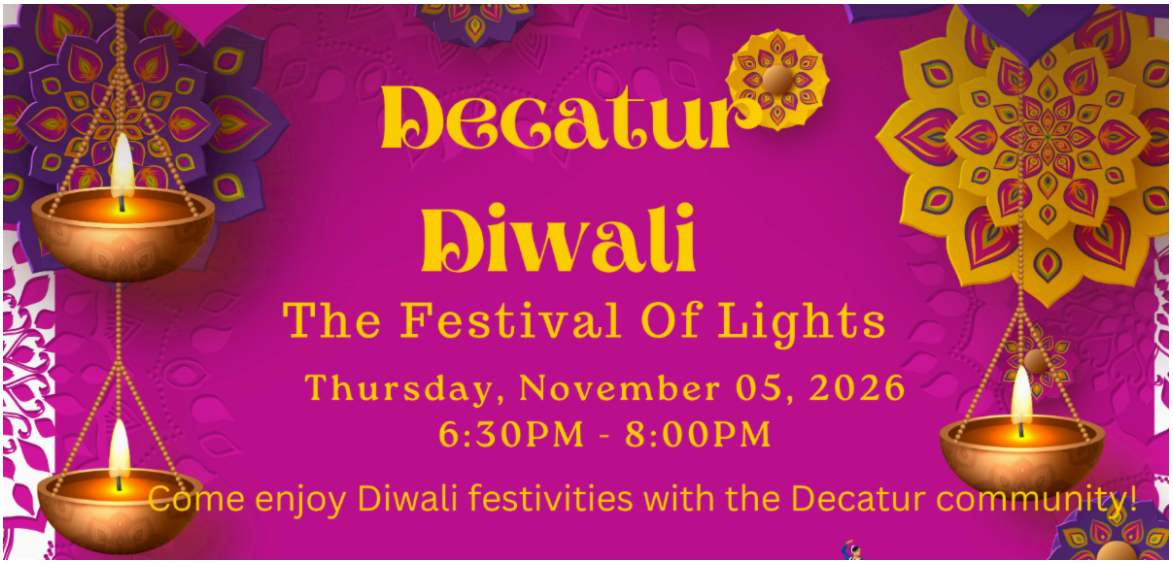
By Check (No Fees): Drop off at the PTA mailbox or mail it to our PO box (see website)
Company Match: Double or triple it (see website)
By ACH/Bank or Donate Stock: every.org/decaturpta

Questions? Contact us at fundraising@decaturpta.org.

Yearbook Order Form Available Now!

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





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!

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.

Donation Drive: Candy for Teachers



End up with leftover Halloween candy? Send it to school next week, Monday 11/2 through Friday 11/6. The PTA will 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.

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, so your best bet is to 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



Decatur Ultimate Frisbee Signup and Gx Event

This event is specifically for all Gx (girl identifying) players of all levels! We would love to increase participation among our Gx students and we hope this event will be a fun way to experience how awesome Ultimate Frisbee is.

When: Sunday 11/1 - 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Where: Decatur Playfield

If you are interested in this event and/or interested in staying up to date on Ultimate Frisbee news, please fill out this sign-up form and help spread the news! If you have any questions, please email decaturultimatefrisbee@gmail.com.

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!

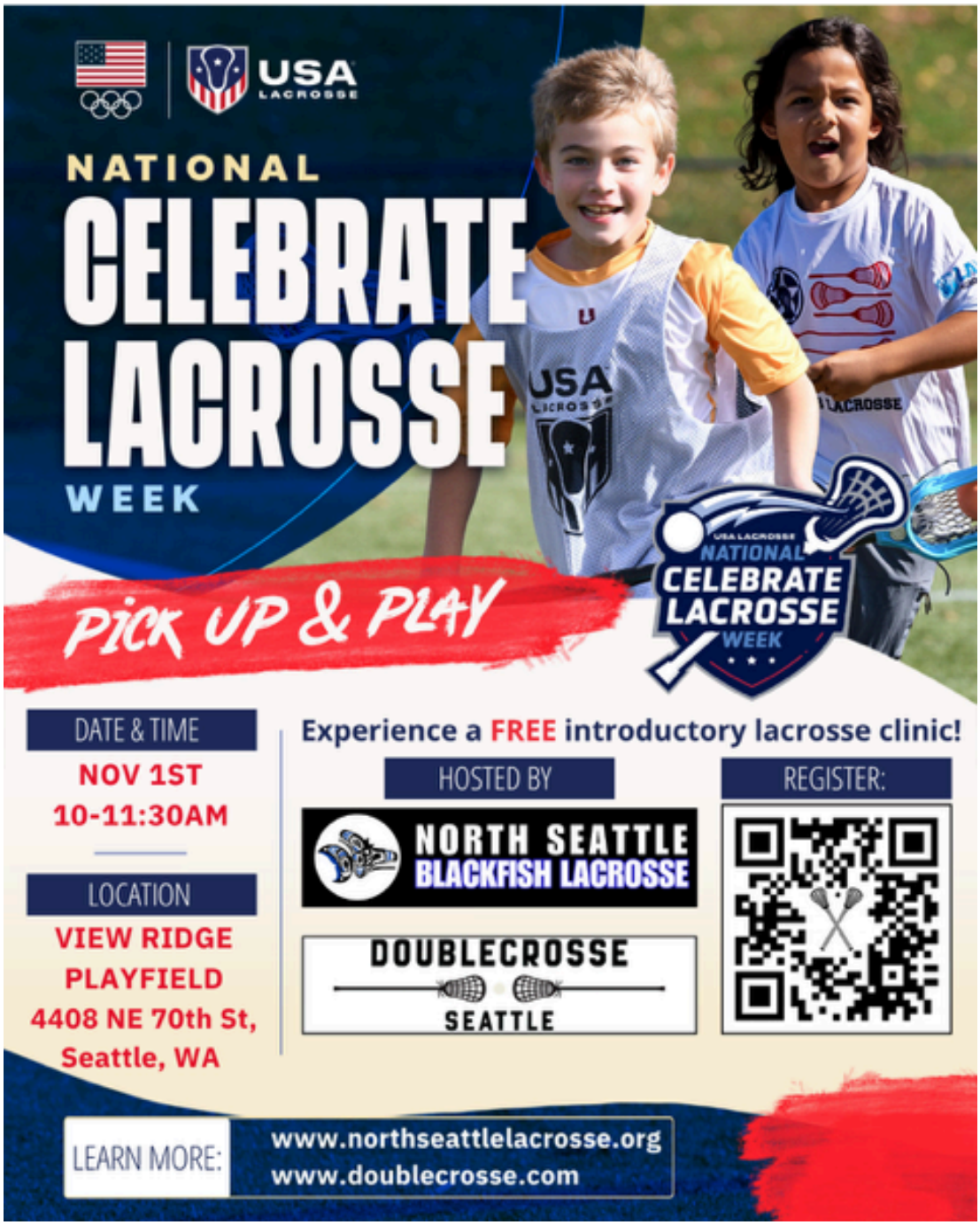
Art: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A084EAAAE2CA7F85-66480167-artroom

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.

From Our P.E. Teacher:

It's National Celebrate Lacrosse week and our students have the chance to register for a FREE Lacrosse clinic, November 1st, 10am-11:30 AM at the View Ridge Playfield. Beginners are encouraged; there will be activities for every skill level. For more details and to register, go to www.northseattlelacrosse.org



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

[redacted]

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.

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

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