



OFFICERS 2017/2018

President	Melissa Pate.....mpatenkl@gmail.com
Co-Vice President	Crystal Green.....cowgirl_73@msn.com
Co-Vice President	Christine Link.....christinelink@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Christie McMahill.....christiemcmahill@outlook.com
Co-Secretary	Heather Bahrt.....heatherg81@hotmail.com
Co-Secretary	Tawnya Paquette.....Tawnyapaquette@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Beautification	Debbie Townsend-Schmidt.....dtownsendsbethelsd.org
Bingo Night	Heather Bahrt.....heatherg81@hotmail.com
	*Angela Mills.....mrjasonmills@hotmail.com
Book Fair	Shaunna Ruda.....shaunnaruda@gmail.com
Box Tops	Teresa Lewis.....lewitere@aol.com
	*Melissa Pate.....mpatenkl@gmail.com
Communication	Christine Link.....christinelink@yahoo.com
	*Angie Strub.....jsaj8103@yahoo.com
	*Crystal Green.....cowgirl_73@msn.com
Fall Carnival	Michelle Davis.....closer919@msn.com
Families in Need	Angie Strub.....jsaj8103@yahoo.com
	*Tawnya Paquette.....Tawnyapaquette@gmail.com
Family Fun Nights	Kristi Bodnar.....kristibodnar@yahoo.com
	*Danielle Olson.....danielle.e.olson@icloud.com
K-5 Field Day	Marie Reed.....marienot@comcast.net
MS Field Day	OPEN
Fundraising	Christina Gries.....gncgries@gmail.com
Golden Acorn	Crystal Green.....cowgirl_73@msn.com
Holiday Shop	Angela Mills.....mrjasonmills@hotmail.com
	*Heather Bahrt.....heatherg81@hotmail.com
Hospitality/Sunshine	Jessica Young.....young.jess.m@gmail.com
Laminating	Sunny Fievez.....sfievez@yahoo.com
Legislation	OPEN
Membership	Kirsten Bowie.....kirsten_bowie@yahoo.com
Popcorn	Sally Duran.....dstone99@hotmail.com
Programs/Assemblies	Georgina Park.....gpark@bethelsd.org
Read & Lead	David Bahrt.....bahrtman@hotmail.com
	*Marisa Courson.....gohawks12thman@yahoo.com
Sustainability	Christine Link.....christinelink@yahoo.com
Reflections	OPEN
	*Amy Solis.....javieamy@comcast.net
Safety Committee	Eugene Gries.....gncgries@gmail.com
	*Mike Pate.....mpatenkl@gmail.com
School Pictures	Christie McMahill.....christiemcmahill@outlook.com
	*Krystal Ripka.....kmripka@hotmail.com
Science Night	Bev Rarey.....bjrgrandma@aol.coM
	*Georgina Park.....gpark@bethesd.org
Staff Appreciation	Tawnya Paquette.....Tawnyapaquette@gmail.com
	*Angie Strub.....jsaj8103@yahoo.com
Student Store	Jessica Mays.....jessicacaddell@yahoo.com
T-Shirts & Logo Wear	Jennifer Grant.....grantsrnj@msn.com
Yearbook	Christie McMahill.....christiemcmahill@outlook.com
	*Krystal Ripka.....kmripka@hotmail.com

2017/2018 PTA OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:
Melissa Pate, mpatenkl@gmail.com

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS:
Crystal Green, cowgirl-73@msn.com
Christine Link, christinelink@yahoo.com

TREASURER:
Christie McMahill, christiemcmahill@gmail.com

SECRETARY:
Heather Bahrt, heather@gmail.com
Tawnya Paquette, tawnyapaquette@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER ENTRIES: christinelink@yahoo.com

Welcome back to school

Membership Drive

KIRSTEN BOWIE, kirsten_bowie@yahoo.com

Now through October 20th only, the PTA is offering a membership bundle which includes a yearbook again! You can still pre-order yearbooks later in the year, but this is your only chance to get your yearbook at cost. Also, waiting until the end of the year to buy one is risky because they are sold on a first come, first served basis.

Cut out the order form below and return it in your child's classroom folder or to the office with a check made out to EPSOC PTA. We are looking forward to a great membership year!

- > Individual Membership = \$10
- > Couple Membership = \$18
- > Individual + Yearbook = \$29
- > Couple + Yearbook = \$37



from the President MELISSA PATE mpatenkl@gmail.com

WELCOME! Thank you to all of the families who came down to the gym to visit the Elk Plain PTA at the Open Houses. It was great to catch up with old friends and meet new parents and families who were truly interested in what PTA does at our school. What a great kick off to the new school year!

The PTA committee chairs have spent part of their summer planning events and tweaking programs to ensure a successful school year for the students, staff, and families at Elk Plain. Volunteers are a vital part of that success. Be on the lookout for the Calling All Volunteers form to come home with your student. Please take a few moments to fill out this sheet and return it to the school with your student. If you have a question about any specific committee, you can visit our website at www.epsocpta.org for a detailed description. You may also contact any committee chairperson directly or message us on Facebook. We are accessible! We want our membership and our committee teams to grow!

Information will be coming home shortly about our upcoming APEX Fun Run Fall Fundraiser. Please take the time to peruse this information. You will see some of the items listed that PTA funds are used for. We ask that families and extended families support PTA fundraisers to keep the cost of our events at a minimum and to fund programs that don't bring in any income. We are so excited for this Fun Run as it is new to Elk Plain. The run itself is on Wednesday, Oct. 4th and volunteers are needed. Please contact Christina Gries at gncgries@gmail.com if you have questions or want to help!

Please plan to attend a PTA meeting this school year. All meetings will be held on Thursdays. Refer to the PTA calendar on our website for specific dates and emails reminders will go out also. Come and see what we are all about!

Sincerely,
Melissa Pate
Elk Plain PTA President



VH = Opportunity for Volunteer Hours = Recycling Available

SEPT/OCT EVENTS

- » **Tea & Tissues** (Elk Plain Gym) **VH**
Tuesday, Sept. 12th, 7:45am
Jessica Young, young.jess.m@gmail.com
Teresa Lewis, lewitere@aol.com
- » **PTA Board Meeting** **VH**
Thursday, Sept. 14th, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library
- » **PTA Membership Meeting** **VH**
Thursday, Sept. 21st, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library
- » **APEX Fundraiser Begins** **VH**
Monday, Sept. 25th
- » **Goodies with Grandparents** **VH**
Friday, Sept. 29th, 7:00am
Jessica Young, young.jess.m@gmail.com
- » **APEX FUN RUN** **VH**
Wednesday, October 4th
- » **Fall Picture Day** **VH**
Thursday, October 12th
Christie McMahill, christiemcmahill@outlook.com
Krystal Ripka, kmripka@hotmail.com
- » **PTA Board Meeting** **VH**
Thursday, October 12th, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library
- » **Beautification** **VH**
Saturday, Oct. 14th, 10am - 12pm
Debbie Townsend-Schmidt, dtownsendsbethelsd.org
- » **PTA Membership Meeting** **VH**
Thursday, October 19th, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library
- » **Fall Carnival** **VH**
Friday, Oct. 27th, 4:30-7:30pm
Michelle Davis, closer919@msn.com
- » **SCHOLASTIC Book Fair!** **VH**
October 30th- November 3rd
Shaunna Ruda, shaunnaruda@gmail.com
Sheila Portuguese, portugue.s@icloud.com

- » **Annual Food Drive** **VH**
October 30th - November 17th
Angie Strub, jsaj8103@yahoo.com
- » **Staff Appreciation Luncheon** **VH**
Monday, October 30th
Tawnya Paquette, tawnyapaquette@gmail.com

early NOVEMBER EVENTS

- » **PTA Board Meeting** **VH**
Tuesday, November 7th, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library
- » **Zero-Waste Lunch Day** **VH**
Wednesday, November 8th
More details coming soon!
- » **Picture Retake Day** **VH**
Thursday, November 16th

2017/2018 EPSOC PTA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FORM

To become a member please complete this form, choose your membership level, and return to your child's teacher with check made out to EPSOC PTA.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Child(ren)/Teacher(s): _____

Standard Membership Fees: Individual: \$10 Couple: \$18
 Check here if you are interested in becoming a PTA business member. *Online ads available soon!*

Membership Bundle Prices through October 20th
 Individual + Yearbook Preorder = \$29 Couple + Yearbook Preorder = \$37

I would also like _____ additional yearbooks at \$19 each Grand Total Submitted \$ _____

Fresh Starts ~ Last Chances

Beginning of the school year and for many of us it feels like the beginning of something:

- ...beginning of Kindergarten and a grand new adventure growing up
- ...beginning of the last year of elementary school, middle school, any school!
- ...beginning of a new set of life circumstances
- ...beginning of a new outlook on life, on love, on expectations

Growing up we couldn't wait to do all sorts of things... first chance to drive, drink, take a trip where we wanted, buy a car, get married, buy a house, run naked through the house! ...Oh, lots of things we were hoping to do for the first time.

But now I'm looking at the other end of life. Not that I'm planning on dying anytime soon (I hope ☺) it's just that I've done most of the these beginnings and first chances - although I have to admit I'm not big on running through the house naked - although I could... hmm...

And it started me thinking about last times we do things:

- ...last barbeque of summer
- ...last trip to the orthodontist to get those braces off
- ...last total eclipse likely to be able to see
- ...last time to make my kids' school lunch

And what last chances I might still want to take:

- ...last chance to run across the street to pick up a recyclable
- ...last chance for ice cream before you start your diet
- ...last chance to say I love you
- ...last chance to travel to the Galapagos Islands
- ...last chance to make a new friend
- ...last chance to say goodbye
- ...last chance to fall in love

Surely there are not just last chances but lots more first chances still to come.

I hope that for me there is ...

- ...still a chance to be a pirate
- ...still a chance to climb a mountain
- ...still a chance to be surprised
- ...still a chance to see family and friends happily married
- ...still a chance for new adventures in strange, exotic places
- ...still a chance to hold a grandchild, or spend time with my mother

And if it were my last chance ...

Always take advice from someone who never really grew up...

"Think of a happy thought and it'll happen."
-Peter Pan

Happily yours,
Georgina Gryc Park
georginapark@hotmail.com

The newsletter committee is now the communications committee offering 3 ways to stay informed about PTA events and updates.

1. Visit the Elk Plain School of Choice PTA website: www.epsocpta.org to learn what the entire year has in store, submit pledges for the APEX Fun Run, read event descriptions, find contact information, and stay current with our recycling program.

2. "Like" us on the Elk Plain School of Choice PTA Facebook page for up to the minute changes, reminders, and questions you have.

3. Last, but not least, keep our beautiful newsletters handy at home for a quick, non-electronic resource for upcoming events (see website for event descriptions), sustainability goals, and Mrs. Park's Diversions.

Spirit wear JENNIFER GRANT
grantsrnj@msn.com

Tshirts: \$12
Crewneck sweatshirt: \$18
Pull-over Hoodie: \$25
Full Zip-Up Sweatshirt: \$30
Sweatpants: \$22
Water bottle: \$4
Cinch Bag: \$3

Look for Spirit Wear order forms to print at home on the Forms page of our website!
www.epsocpta.org

GOODIES WITH GRANDPARENTS!

September 29, 2017
7:00 - 7:45am

Students get to celebrate their grandparents during this special event by having breakfast with them before heading off to class.

Donations and Volunteers needed for the event.

For questions or to volunteer please contact:
Jessica Young at young.jess.m@gmail.com

STUDENT STORE starts
Tuesday, September 26th!

{upcoming}
Beautification DATE

Please join us as we help keep Elk Plain's campus neat and tidy! Students needing to fulfill community service hours are also welcome.

Saturday, October 14th - 10 am to Noon

Contact Debbie Townsend-Schmidt at dtownsend@bethelsd.org with any questions.

Our 2017/18 Goal is to: REDUCE then RECYCLE

With a focus in these 3 areas:

1. **Single-serving chip bags.** Single-serving size chip bags use between 50%-75% more packaging than buying a large bag and bringing servings to lunch in reusable containers (not disposable ziplock bags). To encourage you to try this we have created the Chip Bag Challenge. More details will be coming home soon but each student and family who completes the challenge (brings chips to lunch from a family size chip bag or larger in a reusable container) will earn a Green Team spirit stick.

2. **Fruits/veggies scraps that are thrown away.** We have a few ways of composting some of our fruit and veggie scraps now! Your kids will be able to participate in this during lunch periodically throughout the year. If you have access to JBLM and want to help, let us know!

3. **Single-use beverage bottles.** The PTA is reducing these by offering a water dispenser and cups at some events this year. Consider sending drinks in your child's lunch in a reusable water bottle. Students in portables have water coolers so refilling bottles is very easy. For the main building, we hope to get a water bottle filling station soon!

Terracycle items for the 2017/18 School Year:

- Plastic Cereal Bags & Cereal Box Liners
- Applesauce/Yogurt Pouches & Caps
- Foil-Lined Energy Bar Wrappers
- All Clif Product Wrappers
- Toothbrushes and Toothpaste Tubes
- Deodorant Containers
- Floss Dispensers

Any brand of the above products will be accepted. All items can be stored and dropped off "mixed" except hygiene items. Please collect those in a separate bag.

All of these items earn the PTA money.
Over the last 2 years we've earned over \$500!

clip and save me!

FALL CARNIVAL

Friday, October 27th
from 4:30 - 7:30 pm

If you are interested in volunteering or making goodie donations please contact:

Michelle Davis at closer919@msn.com

To sign up for PTA reminders please go to the following link:
www.remind.com/join/elkplai

Calendar is a work in progress. Dates and times are subject to change.

Weekly events:
Tuesdays: Student Store
Fridays: Popcorn

AUGUST '17

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

5 - MS Open House 4-5:30pm
6 - K-5 Open House 4-5:30pm
7 - First Day of School
12 - Tea and Tissues
14 - Board Meeting 2:15pm
21 - General Meeting 2:15pm
25 - APEX Fundraiser begins
29 - Goodies with Grandparents 7am

SEPTEMBER '17

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

4 - APEX Fun Run
12 - School Pictures
12 - Board Meeting 2:15pm
13 - No School
19 - General Meeting 2:15pm
27 - Fall Carnival
30 - 11/3 - Book Fair
30 - Food Drive begins
30 - Staff Luncheon
31 - Halloween

OCTOBER '17

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

7 - Board Meeting 2pm
10 - No School
11 - Veteran's Day
16 - Picture Retakes
16 - General Meeting 2:15pm
17 - Food Drive ends
22 - 24 Thanksgiving Break
28 - Holiday Shop begins

NOVEMBER '17

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

1 - Holiday Shop ends
7 - Board Meeting Potluck 6pm
18 - 1/1 - Winter Break

DECEMBER '17

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

8 - Read and Lead begins
11 - Board Meeting 2:15pm
11 - STEM Info Night 5:30-6:30pm
16 - First R&L Sheet due
18 - General Meeting 6:30pm
22 - Clothing Drive begins

JANUARY '18

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY '18

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

2 - Family Fun Night
8 - Board Meeting 2:15pm
9 - Clothing Drive ends
15 - General Meeting 2:15pm (Nominations)
22 - STEM Night

Spring Fundraiser tentative

MARCH '18

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

8 - Board Meeting 2:15pm
15 - General Mtg 2:15pm (Election)
19 - Last R&L turn in date
21 - R&L Ice Cream Party
26-29 - Book Fair
27 - Staff Luncheon
3/30 - R&L Assembly

3/8 - tent. Spring Pictures

APRIL '18

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

12 - Board Meeting 2:15pm
13 - Muffins W/Mom 7am
19 - General Meeting 2:15pm
20 - Graduation Pictures
27 - Bingo Night 6-8pm (doors open at 5:30pm)

MAY '18

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

10 - Board Meeting 2:15pm (Budget Planning)
17 - General Meeting 2:15pm (Budget Approval)
18 - Donuts w/Dad 7am
31 - MS Field Day (tent)

Family Fun Night tent. (Restaurant Night?)

JUNE '18

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

1 - K-5 Field Day
7 - EOY Board Mtg 5:30pm

JULY '18

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

4 Independence Day