



ELK PLAIN K-8 PTA NEWSLETTER

2016/2017 PTA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:

Crystal Green, cowgirl_73@msn.com

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS:

Chrissy Gries, gncgries@gmail.com
Christine Link, christinelink@yahoo.com

TREASURER:

Christie McMahill, christiemcmahill@gmail.com

SECRETARY:

Melissa Pate, mpatenkl@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER ENTRIES: christinelink@yahoo.com



PTA Meeting Minutes

Elk Plain PTA General Meeting
November 8th, 2016 • 2:15pm

Call to order: 2:18pm

Minutes: October General Membership Meeting minutes are reviewed and filed.

Treasurer's Report: October is reviewed and filed.

Committee Reports:

• **Membership** – There are currently 151 paid members. We have attained 79% of our 100% teacher participation goal. That is 6 teachers who are not paid members.

• **Student Store** – Jessica Caddell needs volunteers especially from 10:00 to 11:00 to help with kindergarten/1st grade recess.

• **Labels for Education/Box Tops** – Stacy Legg reports that label points are being accumulated. Mrs. Epperson's class won the contest for most box tops turned in and will be having an ice cream party on 11/22.

• **Popcorn** – Sally Duran would like to purchase a table for the popcorn committee.

• **Family Fun Night** – Georgina Park reports that Friday, December 2nd, will be family game night. Families will be asked to bring board games to play with other families. Chess Club will have a chess table set up. Popcorn, pretzels, and water will be served. Fliers are being worked on.

• **Yearbook** – Krystal Ripka reports that Bethel Rec team pictures are needed for the yearbook. Also, picture retakes will be on November 16th.

• **Bingo** – Angela Mills reports that donation letters have been sent out and donations for prizes are being taken. She inquires if the overhead projector in the gym will be available for use on Bingo night.

• **Holiday Shop** – Angela Mills reports that volunteers will be called. Teachers have signed for class shopping visits. Middle schoolers will be coming during open blocks. Holiday Shop is on budget.

• **Sustainability** – Christine Link reports that more TerraCycle items are coming in from home and from the middle school portables. Drink pouches will be collected up until winter break. Jessica Caddell and Christine would like to make Caprisun wallets to sell at Student Store.

• **Fundraising** – Christina Gries reports that grossed \$31,703. Fall Fundraiser goal of \$28,000 was met but yearly goal was not met. A big catalog fundraiser will not be needed in the spring. Maybe a glow dance or family restaurant night will bring in enough to meet the yearly goal. Thirty two percent of the entire student body participated in the fundraiser. Delivery date is set for 11/30.

• **Read and Lead** – Crystal Green and Melissa Pate report that the Read and Lead dates are January 9th through March 20th.

Upcoming Events:

Holiday Shop – 11/28 – 12/02

Family Fun Night – 12/02 5:30 – 7:30

Elk Plain PTA Board Meeting – 12/06 Tonalá 6:30pm

Elk Plain PTA General Membership Meeting 12/13 2:15pm

New Business:

• Melissa Pate presents an amended Grant Request form (see attached). Stacy Legg motions to approve the amended form. Christine Link seconds. Votes are taken, all approve, and motion passes.

• Crystal Green presents updated Standing Rules with the amendments to the Grant Request form added to Financial section (see attached). Christina Gries motions to approve amended Standing Rules. Georgina Park seconds the motion. Votes are taken, all approve, and motion passes.

Open Floor: Jamie with the Tacoma Stars presents fundraising opportunities for Elk Plain. Some opportunities are discounted ticket sales and band or choir could perform the National Anthem. PTA would have to commit to a certain amount of tickets purchased at \$11 apiece. PTA could sell them for more to fundraise. Georgina Park suggests that a committee be formed for dealings with the Tacoma Stars. Stacy Legg volunteers to head up committee.

Meeting is adjourned at 3:14pm.



from the President

Crystal Green

cowgirl_73@msn.com



I hope everyone had a wonderful break and were able to spend time with family and friends. We have some fun things to look forward to in 2017!

The PTA Board and committee chairs have been busy planning events and activities for the rest of the school year that will be full of fun and engaging volunteer opportunities! Please be on the lookout for information to help with Read and Lead, Science Night, the Clothing Drive, and Movie Night.

I cannot emphasize enough the amazing support team PTA has in its members, chairpersons, and teachers. Events and programs run so smoothly when a group comes together to each do a small portion of a job. Everything is done for our children and it shows how much the EPSOC community is focused on family. It is truly heartwarming to be part of such a kind and wonderful group of people. So, thank you all for extending a helping hand, taking on a project, suggesting ideas, and showing up. It all matters.

Should you have any questions about PTA, volunteer opportunities, ideas for new activities, etc. please feel free to contact us. Please know your questions and suggestions are always welcome.

Sincerely,

Crystal Green
EPSOC PTA President



READ & LEAD 2017

January 9th - March 20th



We are so excited to be celebrating
20 years of Read and Lead!

The theme this year is
"Keep the Torch Alive for Reading!"

Reading begins January 9th. The first turn in date for the first sheet is Tuesday, January 17th (due to Monday being a holiday). We are grateful for our returning and new volunteers and there are still volunteer opportunities available.

We could always use more weekly prizes, so if you have connections that may be willing to donate small items for our students, we would greatly appreciate it.

We are also looking for some fun medal presenters. If you know someone that the kids would enjoy receiving their medal from, please contact us.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact us: Melissa Pate at mpatenkl@gmail.com or Crystal Green at cowgirl_73@msn.com

HELP WANTED!

POPCORN FRIDAYS & STUDENT STORE
TUESDAYS NEED YOUR HELP!

The Popcorn Committee needs volunteers
Fridays from 9:30am to 12:30pm. **VH**

Two volunteers are needed every Friday.

Please contact: Sally Duran at dstone99@hotmail.com

Student Store Committee needs volunteers
Tuesdays from 9:30am-12:00pm **VH**

(or any portion of that time).

Please contact: Jessica Mays at jessicacaddell@yahoo.com



2016/17 EPSOC PTA MEMBERSHIP 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 Business Card Ad: \$25 1/4 page Business Ad \$50

VH = Opportunity for Volunteer Hours = Recycling Available

JAN/FEB EVENTS

>> **Read & Lead Begins** **VH**
January 9th - March 20th
Melissa Pate, mpatenkl@gmail.com
Crystal Green, cowgirl_73@msn.com

>> **PTA Board Meeting** **VH**
Tuesday, January 10th, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library

>> **STEM Fair Info Night**
Thursday, January 12th
Elk Plain Library

>> **PTA Membership Meeting** **VH**
Tuesday, January 17th, **6:30pm**
Elk Plain Library

>> **Clothing Drive 2017** **VH**
January 17th - February 3rd
Suzette Ebbinga, smebbinga@gmail.com
Angie Strub, jsaj8103@yahoo.com

>> **PTA Board Meeting** **VH**
Tuesday, February 7th, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library

>> **STEM Fair Night** **VH**
Thursday, February 23rd, 5:30pm
Elk Plain Gym

>> **Family FUN Night** **VH**
Friday, February 24th
More information coming soon!
Elk Plain Gym

early MARCH EVENTS

>> **PTA Board Meeting** **VH**
Tuesday, March 7th, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library

>> **PTA Membership Meeting** **VH**
Tuesday, March 14th, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library

>> **Read & Lead Ice Cream Party** **VH**
Thursday, March 23rd
Melissa Pate, mpatenkl@gmail.com
Crystal Green, cowgirl_73@msn.com



Tuesday, January 17th

(no school Jan. 16th)

through Friday, February 3rd

This is a great opportunity to clean out your closets and help local families in our community! Gently used, freshly washed clothing and shoes will be collected in your child's classroom. All donations will go to Wear It Out Clothing Bank.

We will need volunteers to help us gather donations from classrooms Friday mornings: Jan. 20th, Jan. 27th and Feb. 3rd.

Please contact Suzette at smebbinga@gmail.com or Angie at jsaj8103@yahoo.com for more information.

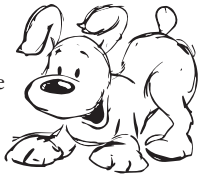


Dogged Resolutions - 2017

"I resolve to do a better job during next year's holiday season and not overindulge like this year."

The reason we have New Year's resolutions isn't because we feel a sense of revitalization with the coming of Jan. 1. It's also not that the beckoning of a new year brings out the "best of intentions" but rather because we just ended a season of overindulgence & sloth, and we feel guilty! Quick, resolve to do better and we can feel all right with our recent actions.

This year one member of my family was particularly excessive in her holiday activities. She lounged around the couches in the living room, went to bed late & got up even later, partook in slumber parties, satiated herself with unusual foods, and made herself sick on sweets (specifically chocolate)! And all at a ripe old age of 15 - that's 105 in dog years! Yes, I'm talking about our dog, Libby (the 9+ lb. Jack Russell Terrier that lives with us).



With the passage of years, the kids growing up and moving out, Libby's life has become much quieter and sedate. So, when the chance comes to relive her youth when everyone is home for the holidays she takes total advantage. Like most of us Libby is anxious to catch up with her best friend ~ in this case, my daughter, Casey. Wrapped up in multiple blankets and happily hiding on the leather furniture the two of them commiserate about their past few months and share stories from their time apart. Libby may not have as much to share but there are the stories of meetings with the neighborhood cats, surprise encounters with deer along the road, the new young ladies who live next door, and that particularly unpleasant visit with the doctor for her "old lady" dog check-up. Casey is equally excited to hear and tell stories from the months apart. They hold slumber parties on Casey's bed and I can hear them whispering late into the night. Maybe your family pets had similar experiences and moments from the recent winter's break?

Libby indulged and is now ready to resolve. So here, listed, are some of Libby's resolutions for the year in the hopes your dog might also benefit from her suggestions:

"I, Libby, resolve not to jump on the table via the chair to finish the last donut on the plate (although, someone did leave it there which might mean it is mine?)."

"I, Libby, resolve to be nicer to the neighbor's cat when we meet (although, it does come into my yard and piddle in the dirt!)."

"I, Libby, resolve not to poop in the next-door driveway when my owner stops to chat for a few minutes (although, I did think this was a walk for me because I had to go out, not a chance for them to visit ☺)."

"I, Libby, resolve not to eat weird things I find and then throw-up on the furniture when my family isn't home (although, how was I supposed to know that the cherry smelling chapstick wasn't edible?)."

"I, Libby, resolve to do a better job during next year's holiday season and not overindulge like this year."

Woof!"

The cat would also add his resolutions except ... he can't be bothered right now, he has to lick something ~ and, besides ... he can't be bothered ever.

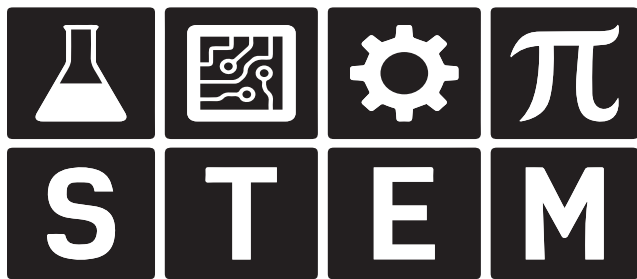
Here's to 2017, whatever it brings Libby is ready!

Resolutely yours,
Libby (& Georgina) Gryc Park
georginapark@hotmail.com



To sign up for PTA reminds please go to the following link:

www.remind.com/join/elkplai



Please join us on

Thursday, February 23rd • 5:30 - 7:00pm
at Elk Plain K-8 for the Annual

STEM Engineering Showcase & PTA Science Night

This evening is the culmination of student work on individual engineering projects that are due Thursday Feb. 23 in the morning (7:35 am). Projects done by all 4th - 6th graders, and interested students in other grades, will be on display in the gym. Activities and engineering displays from community groups will be located in the main building Science Room and in the hallways. Students who are interested will be giving short talks about their projects in the library (contact Ms. Scott to sign up). Those students with projects are able to take their boards home that evening or project boards will be sent home Friday, Feb. 24. Students have worked hard on interesting engineering ideas. We appreciate your help and interest in their activities.

For more information about STEM Engineering requirements contact:

Mrs. Park at gpark@bethelsd.org
or Mr. Clark at cclark@bethelsd.org

[All 4th - 6th graders are required to do an engineering project for their science grade.]



Volunteer Valentines:

To: Mrs. Park

Thanks for "face time" with your science students and helping to stretch our green possibilities. From: Mrs. Link

To: The special families of our wonderful PTA volunteer leaders, Melissa Pate & Crystal Green.

Their husbands and kids deserve special thanks for sharing their parents - enduring endlessly being dragged around & waiting while their mothers "talked" so we can all benefit from their efforts! From: Mrs. Park

To: Mrs. Browning

Your ownership of the Leadership recycling team is inspiring and lets me sleep easy at night. From: Mrs. Link

To: Bev Rarey

Valentine Hugs & Kisses to my Science Fair Co-chair, Bev Rarey! From: Mrs. Park

To: Christine Link

"Recycled" wishes to our Sustainability Chairwoman, Christine Link, who has changed so many of our everyday environmental habits. She has re-purposed herself, reused her energies, and recycled our efforts to forge a better world! From: Mrs. Park

To: Angie, Anne-Sophie and Michelle

You are the prettiest shade of GREEN I've ever seen! From: Mrs. Link

To: The Intrepid 8th Grade Class

You have shown courage and tremendous flexibility over the past few years. Thank you for blazing a trail for all those students who come after you. You have set the bar very high! From: Mrs. Link

To: Suzette Ebbinga, Tawnya Paquette, Tina Dunn, Michelle Davis, Rebecca Byers, Annette Cook and Crystal Green

Big HUGS to you all for your help with the Food Drive! I appreciate you and all the hours you've volunteered at Elk Plain! From: Angie

To: All Staff Appreciation Volunteers

Warm Valentine wishes to all the volunteers that spend their time baking, shopping and donating treats so that we can show the awesome Elk Plain Staff just how much they are appreciated each month!

To: All the volunteers, PTA or otherwise, who make our school such a special place for students.

Your simple, everyday efforts really do make a difference and we thank you!



BINGO NIGHT
is coming up on
Friday, April 21st!

We are looking for donations for bingo prizes and auction items. We already have some great auction items including Rainiers Tickets, a bowling party for 10, Tacoma Comedy Club for 12 and more. If you have a something homemade or would like to put together a basket as a donation, we would love to add it to the silent auction. Funds raised go right back to the PTA and the students of Elk Plain. We are also looking for smaller items as bingo prizes for all ages.

Please contact Heather Bahrt at heatherg81@hotmail.com if you would like to donate.



Our 2016/17 Goal is to collect 68,000 TerraCycle Pieces!
That's 1 item for every seat in Century Link Field!

Number of TerraCycle items recycled to date: OVER 35,000!

2017 is off to a great start! We have collected over 35,000 pieces of TerraCycle which puts us over half way to our goal of 68,000 by the end of school. Additionally, our campaign has gotten the attention of The Seahawks! Over the break we received a letter from Mike Flood (VP of Community Relations) recognizing what we have accomplished so far and challenging us to reach our goal of 68,000. Here is an excerpt from the letter:



"You have already accomplished a lot, but there is still more to do. As Coach Pete Carroll says, 'Can we do this better than it has ever been done before?'"

>> **Check out the entire letter on the Green Team website:**
www.epsocpta.org/green-team <<

What does this mean for your family? Is there a way to establish a new habit of recycling at home that maybe you have been putting off? Now is a great time to come up with a system for setting things aside and sending them in with your child so they can be counted and recycled. Once established, the habit will stay with you forever.

The Seahawks would like us to keep them updated throughout the year. I would love to report back that we have met our goal and will ask if we can be recognized on the big screen at a home game. The 2 easiest things to collect and bring in are plastic cereal bags (including the ones inside cereal boxes) and chip bags. Classroom teachers should know where they go at school.

Terrecycle Items we collect from home:

Cereal Bags, Chip/Popcorn/Pretzel/Cracker Bags, Granola/Energy Bar Wrappers, Applesauce/Yogurt Pouches with Lids, Clean Lunchable Trays, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste Tubes, Floss Boxes and Deodorant Containers.



Hospitality

With the new year comes planning for upcoming events. Hospitality is in need of disposable plastic cups, coffee cups, paper plates, napkins and table covers for our Muffins with Moms and Donuts with Dad's events.

If you are able to donate any of the following please contact:

Teresa Lewis at lewitere@aol.com
or Jessica Young at young.jess.m@gmail.com

Thank you for helping to make EPSOC a terrific school!



After School Program
Drop-in Lessons
Day and Summer Camps
Group Programs
Field Trips
Birthday Parties

Four Star Farm is a small horse farm located in Graham, WA. Sharon Lulham's youth programs help children develop teamwork, responsibility, confidence, and communication skills in everyday life.

Riding instills balance, correct posture, focus, and confidence. Working with horses promotes trust, compassion and forgiveness. The end result: self esteem.

Based on Pony Club principles, activities include riding lessons, horse management and safety, stable management, grooming, games, and crafts.

All levels welcome!

Sharon Lulham, Owner
253-847-0783 • 253-320-9591 cell
www.kidsfourstarfarm.com