



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



SPRING BEGINS MARCH 20TH



PTA Meeting Minutes

Elk Plain PTA General Meeting
December 13, 2016 • 2:15pm

Call to order: 2:17pm

Grant Request: Brenda Pattee presents a grant request for \$2018.10 to renew the Accelerated Reader (A/R) license for 2017. Marilyn Fangman motions to approve the grant request and Jaime Christian-son seconds. Discussion ensues. The \$2018.10 will cover seven classrooms that are actively using the A/R program in their classrooms and 70 additional "reservations" for students who wish to participate in the annual A/R after school program. Votes are taken, all approve, and the motion is passed.

Minutes: Minutes from the November General Membership Meeting are reviewed and filed.

Treasurer's Report: November 2016 Treasurer's Report is reviewed and filed.

Committee Reports:

• Sustainability – Christine Link reports that 30,000 TerraCycle items have been turned in so far this year. Of those items, 16,000 are chip bags. Michelle Davis has figured out a more cost effective way to ship TerraCycle items. With the help of Angie Strub, Christine was able to shorten her letter to the Seahawks about our recycling success and efforts. The letter was emailed to Washington Green Schools and sent to the Seahawks from there. We will not be collecting drink pouches or bottle caps after winter break. A flier with Sustainability updates will be going home to parents.

• Bingo – Heather Bahrt reports that Bingo donations and auction items have begun to come in. Items have included a bowling party, passes to comedy clubs, and passes to the Museum of Flight.

• Read and Lead – Crystal Green and Melissa Pate report that Read and Lead planning is going well and there is a full prize schedule. Volunteers will be contacted soon.

• Science Night – Georgina Park reports that there is a parent information night scheduled for January 12th at 5:30 for the STEM project. The STEM showcase is scheduled for February 23rd at 5:30pm. Bev Rarey is lining up visitors for Science Night that will not include an animal. Georgina and Chris Clark have streamlined the STEM packet to four pages.

Upcoming Events:

- Read and Lead 1/9 – 3/20
- K/1st grade Reading Night with Miss Scott/Read and Lead info night 1/10 5:30pm
- STEM Parent Information Night 1/12 5:30pm
- General Membership Meeting 1/17 6:30pm

New Business

• There is a \$1000 Cherrydale voucher to use. This has been used in the past for Bingo prizes but could it be used for other committees? Heather Bahrt is involved in all committees that could benefit from this voucher.

• We are still in need of volunteers for the Nominating Committee. Christine Link and Mara Areglo volunteer to take this on.

• Georgina Park motions to approve reimbursement for Michelle Davis' Sustainability receipts that are over the 60 day reimbursement deadline. Gina Sawyer seconds. Votes are taken, all approve, and motion passes.

• We are 87% of our 100% staff membership goal. There are four staff that have not joined PTA.

Meeting is adjourned at 2:53pm.



from the President

Crystal Green

cowgirl_73@msn.com

Whew, I am glad we all made it through the big snow of 2017! We have had some great activities the last few months. We began our long standing Read and Lead program, which I will discuss more later. We held another amazing clothing drive to help our community. We had our STEM engineering night where our amazing students were able to present their engineering projects. We also had another successful Family Fun Night.

The next few months we have a lot of great volunteer opportunities for anyone that is looking to fulfill some of their required volunteer time. We have our Read & Lead Ice Cream Party, Read & Lead Medal Assembly, Scholastic Book Fair, Muffins with Mom and Bingo Night. If you are interested in joining in on the fun please contact one of our amazing committee chairs or someone from the Board to find out how you can help with these events.

One of the most exciting events we are in the midst of is our 20th Year celebration of Read and Lead. This long standing tradition is one that is near and dear to my heart having helped in some way since my son started here 9 years ago. Research shows that one simple activity--reading aloud--is the best way to prepare children for learning to read and to keep them reading as they learn and grow. When children become good readers in the early grades, they are more likely to become better learners throughout their school years. Our hope with this program that along with the benefit it brings your child in their reading development we also hope it helps you enjoy some quality family time that benefits both the student and their family members. We are striving for 100% participation this year and we look forward to serving ice cream to all 603 students!

A huge thank you again to all of our amazing volunteers that make all of these great events happen! We always welcome new faces!

Crystal Green

EPSOC PTA President



READ & LEAD 2017

January 9th - March 20th



VH

EPSOC PTA's annual reading program is in full swing! Here are a few Read and Lead reminders:

→ If your student is not participating yet, it is not too late! We will be accepting completed Read and Lead sheets until March 20th.

→ To be eligible for the ice cream party, your student's class must be at 100 % participation (each student has turned in at least one completed tracking sheet) or your student must have turned in 10 completed sheets.

→ The last turn in date for completed Read and Lead sheets is Monday, March 20th.

→ If you do not want your student to participate in this program, you may request an Opt Out form (contact email addresses below and a form will be sent home with your student).

We hope that this program serves its purpose of creating quality family time and challenging your student to read every day. ☺ EPSOC PTA appreciates your support and dedication to your student(s)!



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



Muffins with Moms

VH

Muffins with moms is April 14th at 7:00 am.

Volunteers are needed before and during the event. Donations of donuts, muffins and juice are greatly appreciated. Baked goods can be dropped off in the office the day before the event or brought in the morning of the event.

Please contact Jessica Young at young.jess.m@gmail.com or Teresa Lewis at lewitere@aol.com if you have questions or are interested in helping out!



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

MARCH/APRIL EVENTS

- >> **PTA Board Meeting**
Tuesday, March 7th, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library
- >> **PTA Membership Meeting** VH
Tuesday, March 14th, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library
- >> **Beautification** VH
Saturday, March 18th, 10am-12noon
Debbie Townsend-Schmidt, downtsends@bethelsd.org
- >> **Read & Lead Ends**
March 20th
- >> **Read & Lead Ice Cream Party** VH
Thursday, March 22nd
- >> **SCHOLASTIC Book Fair** VH
March 27th - 31st
Sheila Portuge, portugue.s@icloud.com
Shaunna Ruda, shaunnaruda@gmail.com
- >> **Staff Appreciation Luncheon** VH
Tuesday, March 28th
Tawnya Paquette, tawnyapaquette@gmail.com
- >> **Read & Lead Assembly** VH
Friday, March 31st
Melissa Pate, mpatenkl@gmail.com
Crystal Green, cowgirl_73@msn.com
- >> **PTA Board Meeting**
Tuesday, April 11th, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library
- >> **Spring Picture Day (groups)**
Wednesday, March 8th
- >> **Muffins with Moms** VH
Friday, April 14th, 7:00am
Jessica Young, young.jess.m@gmail.com
Teresa Lewis, lewitere@aol.com
- >> **PTA Membership Meeting** VH
Tuesday, April 18th, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library
- >> **Beautification** VH
Sunday, April 23rd, 10am-12noon
Debbie Townsend-Schmidt, downtsends@bethelsd.org
- >> **BINGO Night** VH
Friday, April 28th
Heather Bahrt, heatherg81@hotmail.com
Angela Mills, mrjasonmills@hotmail.com

early MAY EVENTS

- >> **PTA Board Meeting**
Tuesday, May 2nd, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library
- >> **PTA Membership Meeting** VH
Tuesday, May 9th, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library



BINGO NIGHT
is coming up on
Friday, April 28th!
(changed from April 21st)

We have some fun prizes for Bingo and some great items for the silent auction. Here are just a few: **Bowling party at Narrows Plaza Bowling • Birthday Party at Odyssey 1 • Party at the Tacoma Comedy Club • Rainiers Baseball Tickets • University of Washington Football Tickets** We also have a variety of baskets and donations from families at Elk Plain. There's something for everyone! Get ready to have some fun and raise money for the school!

Please contact Heather Bahrt at 253-970-8325 or heatherg81@hotmail.com if you have something you would like to donate, or if you would like to volunteer that evening.



Golden Acorn

Golden Acorn is an award presented by local PTAs to an outstanding PTA member who has consistently gone above and beyond for students at Elk Plain. The recipient(s) participates in multiple activities and is dedicated to the well-being and growth of all Elk Plain children.

EPSOC PTA is now accepting nominations to honor one or more deserving members(s). Forms will be available outside the PTA office soon. Completed slips can be put in the PTA box in the office or emailed to Christine Link or Gina Sawyer (christinelink@yahoo.com, ginasawyer@comcast.net). Winners are presented with their award during the Volunteer Appreciation assembly. The deadline for submissions is Friday, April 7th.

Check out the plaque in the office for past recipients names!!



Staff Appreciation

VH

PTA Staff Appreciation Committee will be hosting a luncheon for the teachers and staff on **Tuesday March 28th.**

(The day that teachers stay into the evening hours to accommodate parent's schedules during conference week.)

This is our way of showing how much we appreciate their hard work and dedication to their students. We will be serving barbecue pulled pork sandwiches. If you would like to donate a salad, dessert, or even your time please contact Tawnya Paquette. We will need a group to help set up, clean up and host during the event.

Please email or call Tawya with any questions or if you'd like to donate or volunteer:
tawnyapaquette@gmail.com, 253-310-1162.

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

www.remind.com/join/elkplai



Diversions from Mrs. Park

Ruminating Between Times

The recent three days off due to our beautiful snowfall left me with time to think about many things. Cozily ensconced in my house surrounded by deep quieting snow with not much to do I had the luxury of merely contemplating life. Which led me to ruminating about the "between" times of my world.

Why do my favorite moments seem to be between main events? I heard a music teacher once say, "Music happens between the notes." Guess that is how I feel. The journey takes many forms and the enjoyment along the way, for me, is in the moments getting there. And my favorite moments seem to be those that come "between"

- The time between after jumping and before you hit the water as the cold lake rushes closer and you realize... this is going to be really cold!

- The perennial between times many people enjoy - just before sunrise and just after sunset. For me, just after sunset is that special time for bats and the preamble to stars.

- I love the time between winter and spring. That moment which is no longer winter but not yet spring. That is why I love the skunk cabbage because it blooms in the moment between - being a flower of neither. It rises from the damp places, not true ponds nor dry land, land between. Often in the borrow pit next to the road the skunk cabbage is a lowly, beautiful bloom of the moment between seasons.

- My father's sneezing every Sunday morning came between being asleep and not yet being fully awake. His morning blows coming between my unconscious and fully conscious state. A lovely way to awake, knowing someone who cares about you is up and about.

- That moment when you know you are going to tell a secret and between when you really tell it. The anticipation of happiness is often sweeter than the reality.

- The between time when climbing through the krummholz, where the trees are distorted and look like little hunched men. The area between the trees on the mountainside and the pika filled treeless zone you are climbing into.

- The summer sky that comes between the sunny calm and the inevitable storm. The sky alters from bright sun to dark clouds but it is the foreboding change in light between the sun and the dark that I love. The shift in the sky that alerts you to the coming onslaught that makes me stand on a dock or hillside until the full force of the weather drives me in. I am happy then to leave because the between moment has been experienced and moved on. I too move on to the next between time, waiting for the storm to cease and provide a between time once again.

- The time between leaving home and getting to school to start work. The space is all mine without interference, time to ponder without the needs or wants of others intruding. The between time I use to think my own private thoughts. Not usually about the day but other things important to me - such as "How do cats extend their legs up over their backs and still look relaxed?"

Now maybe I am done ruminating... writing between day and night, half asleep and vividly awake. Done with thinking about between times.

Ruminatingly yours,
Georgina Gryc Park
georginapark@hotmail.com



{upcoming} Beautification Dates



It's almost time for Spring cleaning & planting at Elk Plain. **VH**

Spring cleaning days are slated for:
Saturday, March 18 - 10 am to 12 noon
Sunday, April 23 - 10 am to 12 noon
Saturday, May 20 - 10 am to 12 noon

We will be pulling weeds and tidying up our campus. Please join us and earn volunteer hours! Middle and high school students fulfilling community service hours are also welcome.



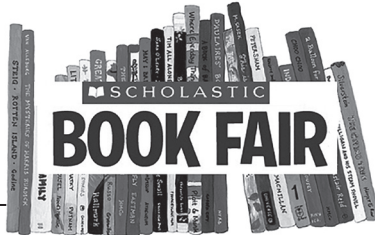
We are also in need of volunteers to assist students during our annual Earth Day planting and weed pulling which will be held during the school day on Friday, April 21st.

Plant and seed donations are welcome and very much appreciated!

For more information please contact

Debbie Townsend-Schmidt at dtownsend@bethelsd.org.

BOOK fair



[March 27-30] **VH**

The Spring Book Fair is right around the corner and a great chance to help support the PTA while getting some great new books. It will be held during conference week (March 27-30) in the lunchroom.

The hours are Monday 7am-2pm, Tuesday 7am-7:30pm, Wednesday 7am-2pm and Thursday 7am-1pm.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Sheila Portugue at portugue.s@icloud.com or Shaunna Ruda at shaunnaruda@gmail.com

CLOTHING DRIVE 2017 WAS A BIG SUCCESS!

Students, parents and staff worked together for 3 weeks and donated at total of **112 large bags of clothes** to Wear It Out Clothing Bank!

This is a huge accomplishment Sky Warriors! All those donations helped families in need right here in our community.

Thank you for making our community a better place, PTA Families in Need Committee.

8TH GRADE LEGACY PROJECT

8th grade parents! The PTA would love to commemorate the first graduating class of 8th graders this year with a permanent installation of a bottle cap mural they create.

We have a plan but it will require 12-15 volunteers to do everything from drilling bottle caps to helping the students work on it. We have plenty of caps, we just need some volunteers and supplies. Let me know if you are interested in making this happen. I think it has the potential to be great!

Email Christine Link if you are interested, christinelink@yahoo.com.



The Spring Fair is in the Air!

The Spring Fair is almost here, which means wonderful art projects created by Elk Plain students are being prepared by Friends of the Arts to travel to Puyallup for the Creative Kids Exhibit! Most of the pieces that were showcased at Bethel's Art & Tech Fair will be entered, as well as any additional pieces submitted by students.

Please review the rules at:

www.thefair.com/participate/exhibit-entries/

prior to submitting art and keep in mind that artists must be at least 6 years old. Projects need to be delivered to the EPSOC office by March 31. Each participant will receive a ticket for one free admission to the Spring Fair being held from April 20-23.

If you have any questions please contact Debbie Townsend-Schmidt at dtownsend@bethelsd.org.



DVDs Now Available from EPSOC Friends of the Arts

DVDs are available for our middle school productions of "Lion King Jr." and "The Diary of Anne Frank" for \$15 each. All proceeds support art programs at EPSOC!

Order forms are available from Ms. Browning or you may email dtownsend@bethelsd.org.

Pre-order forms for our spring musical, "Hairspray Jr.," will be available during the April 20-22 productions.



Sustainability

Christine Link
christinelink@yahoo.com

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 49,000!

The lunch room teams are coming up with some great names. Welcome aboard Recycle Rebels, The Green Thumbs and The Land Savers!

We are still right on schedule to meet our goal of 68,000 pieces of TerraCycle by the end of the year. Within a few weeks we will have collected enough to fill every seat in Safeco Field. Keep collecting!

A great feature of the TerraCycle program is that we can donate our points to their partnering non-profits. For example, for just 2 points (2 cents) we can preserve 36 square feet of wildlife land through the National Wildlife Federation. That's just 2 granola bar wrappers, 1 applesauce pouch or 1 cereal bag! 6 points provides a week's worth of clean water to one person, and 50 points provides one meal to a person in need. Green Team students voted on their favorite charity during the pizza party. At the end of the year, any leftover funds will be donated to those groups!



2¢ = 36 sq. ft.

Please Note: we only accept TerraCycle items from home. No plastics are accepted from home.

Terrecycle Items we collect from home:

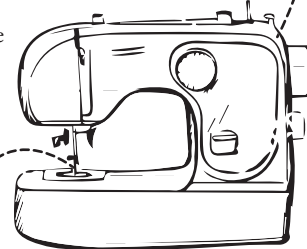
Cereal Bags, Chip/Popcorn/Pretzel/Cracker Bags, Granola/Energy Bar Wrappers, Applesauce/Yogurt Pouches with Lids, Clean Lunchable Trays, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste Tubes, Floss Boxes and Deodorant Containers.



We ♥ Capri Sun Wallets!

The Sustainability Committee is looking for parents who would like to make simple wallets from Capri Suns we collect during lunch (sewing machine needed). You can make as few or as many as you have time for. Even as few as 5 at a time is worthwhile. We then sell them at student store for \$2 each with all proceeds going to Sustainability to help fund incentives and projects for the Green Team.

Contact Christine Link if you are interested!
christinelink@yahoo.com




Four Star Farm

Graham, WA

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