



# ELK PLAIN K-8 PTA NEWSLETTER

## 2016/2017 PTA OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT:

Crystal Green, [cowgirl-73@msn.com](mailto:cowgirl-73@msn.com)

### CO-VICE PRESIDENTS:

Chrissy Gries, [gncgries@gmail.com](mailto:gncgries@gmail.com)  
Christine Link, [christinelink@yahoo.com](mailto:christinelink@yahoo.com)

### TREASURER:

Christie McMahill, [christiemcmahill@gmail.com](mailto:christiemcmahill@gmail.com)

### SECRETARY:

Melissa Pate, [mpatenkl@gmail.com](mailto:mpatenkl@gmail.com)

NEWSLETTER ENTRIES: [christinelink@yahoo.com](mailto:christinelink@yahoo.com)



SUMMER BEGINS JUNE 20TH



## PTA Meeting Minutes

Elk Plain PTA General Meeting  
March 14th, 2017 • 2:15pm

Call to Order: 2:17pm

Quorum: Yes

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

Treasurer's Report: Report is reviewed and filed.

### Committee Reports:

• Golden Acorn – Christine Link reports that nominations are due April 7th. She encourages everyone to submit a nomination.

• Sustainability – There will be an Earth Day styrofoam drive that ends April 21st. To celebrate Earth Day, Doug Boyles will be record the time capsule being dug up. Mrs. Park and Debbie Townsend-Schmidt will be planting seedlings and starters. Donations for these items from parents will be solicited through Facebook. Planting will occur all day.

• Fundraising – Christina Gries reports that the deposit to APEX has been made for the upcoming Fun Run. There is a meeting with the APEX representative on 2/15 to solidify details. The Fun Run campaign will start 4/24. The actual run is on 5/03.

• Book Fair – Shauna Ruda reports that the book fair will be in the library this time. Volunteers are still needed. Email Sheila Portuguese to volunteer.

• Read and Lead – Crystal Green reports that we are at 98% student participation. We are missing 13 participants with one student who has opted out. The ice cream party is 3/22 and the medal presentation assembly is 3/31 at 8am.

• Staff Appreciation – Tawnya Paquette reports that donations are still needed for the Staff Luncheon on 3/28 and the Bethel School Board meeting on 3/28 at 7pm. Recycle bins will be put out for water bottles at the board meeting. Volunteers are needed to manage the food for the luncheon.

• Newsletter – Christine Link suggests that the Newsletter Committee become the Communications Committee starting next school year.

### New Business:

2017 – 2018 Executive Board Election - In accordance with regulations and by-laws, all four positions were open for election. Ballots are distributed, voting occurs, and ballots are collected and tallied. The election results are as follows:

- President – Melissa Pate
- Co-Vice Presidents – Christine Link and Crystal Green
- Treasurer – Christie McMahill
- Co-Secretaries – Heather Bahrt and Tawnya Paquette

Meeting is adjourned at 2:54pm.



## from the President

Crystal Green

[cowgirl\\_73@msn.com](mailto:cowgirl_73@msn.com)

Hello Elk Plain Families,

My kids keep commenting on how quickly this year has flown by and I would have to agree with them. These past few months have been very busy. We had our 20th Anniversary Celebration for our Read & Lead program, a successful Book Fair, tasty treats at our Muffins with Mom, a productive Earth Day & Styrofoam Drive (We filled a large Uhaul truck!) and most recently a fun filled Bingo night. We have Donuts with Dad to look forward to and our always anticipated Field Day!

As my time as PTA President winds down, I have thought back as to why I have volunteered my time as President. I came to the conclusion that I volunteer because my kids enjoy having me involved with their school. I volunteer at different PTA activities because I enjoy working with our students. I volunteered to be President because I enjoyed seeing committee members excited about the programs they are in charge of and because I wanted to make a difference. I hope as you read this you can think of what volunteering in PTA means to you and I hope you can help out next year.

A big thank you goes out to our Executive Board and Committee Chairs. You are phenomenal people and I have been so lucky to have you on this PTA team. You have achieved great things and made a big difference in the lives of not only the students in our school, but our staff, families and community. You are all gifted, giving, thoughtful, and dedicated and without you, this year would not have been the great one it has been. A big thank you also goes out to all of our parent volunteers. We are lucky to have a parent community that is supportive. Thank you to all our PTA members for showing your commitment to Elk Plain PTA. I would also like to thank our administrators, teachers and school staff for always being willing to collaborate with us for the benefit of the children.

Being President of the Elk Plain School of Choice PTA has been a special time for me. For everyone who has helped me throughout the year, I thank you for your support, confidence, and friendship.

*"Nothing you do for children is ever wasted."*  
Garrison Keillor, American Author

Have a fantastic end of school year!

Crystal Green  
EPSOC PTA President

(We ♥ Crystal!)

Family Fun  
MOVIE NIGHT:

# SING

VH

**TONIGHT!!! FRIDAY, MAY 5TH!**

**Doors open at 6pm movie starts at 6:30pm**

Admission is FREE! There will be concessions for sale [cash or check] with all proceeds going to the PTA. Bring chairs or blankets to sit on!

Questions? Want to help out?

Please contact: Kristi Bodnar at [kristibodnar@yahoo.com](mailto:kristibodnar@yahoo.com) or Danielle Olson @ [danielle.e.olson@icloud.com](mailto:danielle.e.olson@icloud.com).



## NEWSLETTER UPDATE:

In the interest of being green and up-to-date with technology... next year's newsletter will be reduced in size. We will still keep you updated on events and other important PTA news, but more details will be posted on our website and PTA Facebook page.

Please bookmark these important online resources:

[www.EPSOCPTA.org](http://www.EPSOCPTA.org)  
AND  
[www.facebook.com/EPSOCPTA/](http://www.facebook.com/EPSOCPTA/)



## 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

## MAY/JUNE EVENTS

- >> **PTA Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, May 2nd, 2:15pm  
Elk Plain Library
- >> **Family FUN Movie Night - SING!** VH   
Friday, May 5th, 6pm  
Kristi Houglund, [kristibodnar@yahoo.com](mailto:kristibodnar@yahoo.com)  
Danielle Olson, [danielle.e.olson@icloud.com](mailto:danielle.e.olson@icloud.com)
- >> **PTA Membership Meeting** VH  
Tuesday, May 9th, 2:15pm  
Elk Plain Library
- >> **Donuts with Dads** VH   
Friday, May 19th, 7:00am  
Jessica Young, [young.jess.m@gmail.com](mailto:young.jess.m@gmail.com)  
Teresa Lewis, [lewitere@aol.com](mailto:lewitere@aol.com)
- >> **Beautification** VH  
Saturday, May 20th, 10am - 12noon  
Debbie Townsend-Schmidt, [dtownsend@bethelsd.org](mailto:dtownsend@bethelsd.org)
- >> **PTA Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, June 6th, 2:15pm  
Elk Plain Library
- >> **Middle School FIELD DAY!** VH  
Thursday, June 8th  
Heather Bahrt, [heatherg81@hotmail.com](mailto:heatherg81@hotmail.com)
- >> **Elementary FIELD DAY!** VH  
Friday, June 9th  
Heather Bahrt, [heatherg81@hotmail.com](mailto:heatherg81@hotmail.com)
- >> **LAST DAY of SCHOOL**  
Friday, June 16th

## FIELD DAY IS COMING!

VH

The theme this year is:  
**"THE WILD WEST"**

This year will be a little different:

**Middle School Field Day is:**  
Thursday, June 8

**Elementary Field Day is:**  
Friday, June 9

More details to come!

If you are interested in volunteering for one or both days, please contact Heather at [heatherg81@hotmail.com](mailto:heatherg81@hotmail.com).



## POPCORN COMMITTEE HELP WANTED

We are in need of volunteers to do popcorn on both Field Days:

**Thursday, June 8th (6-8) and Friday, June 9th (K-5).**  
We are also looking for help on Popcorn Fridays.

**There are only 3 "Popcorn" Fridays left:**  
May 12th, 19th and 26!

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Sally Duran @ [dstone99@hotmail.com](mailto:dstone99@hotmail.com).

# Staff Appreciation

**First of all,** thank you to all the students and volunteers that helped put together our Butterfly Project for Teacher Appreciation Week! (May 1-5) We really appreciate your time and creative skills that helped us show our Elk Plain teachers how much they are appreciated.



**Secondly...**

Our school year is coming to an end and we would like to SURPRISE our office staff with a big THANK YOU for another great year!

**PLEASE BRING ONE FLOWER TO THE OFFICE THE MORNING OF FRIDAY JUNE 2ND**

If every student brings one flower, we will be able to make beautiful HUGE bouquets that will fill the office!

Remember this is a VERY SPECIAL SURPRISE!!! Staff Appreciation PTA Committee will have vases and water ready for all your beautiful flowers!!! Flyers will be coming home soon in purple folders.

To sign up for PTA reminds please go to the following link:  
[www.remind.com/join/elkplai](http://www.remind.com/join/elkplai)

## Diversions from Mrs. Park

### Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head

I've been thinking about water. And, I would just like to say this - ENOUGH! All of us in Western Washington are feeling similarly, enough rain already. I feel as if absolutely everything is wet. Wait... is my patio furniture wet? Let's think... Why no, BECAUSE IT'S NOT OUT, BECAUSE IT'S TOO WET!

Usually, I would be more gentle and calm. I might say, "Thanks anyway, but I think I'll pass today... on the rain. You see, I think I've had enough." Usual, this is not. I try to hang on to my composure but it appears to have been swept away in a torrent of water.

There is lots of evidence just in my neighborhood of the excessive amounts of rain that have fallen. The outside cats that live on my street have started growing mushrooms on their fur. The housing development down the road, with the low spot, has a new fishing pond. My umbrella is shredding at the ribs from over use. When I go out at night I routinely find tree frogs hanging on to my front door. No, this is not a place to pick up frog girls, THIS IS MY FRONT DOOR! Sorry, I'm a little testy.

I feel a touch the same as one of the those potted plants that you place in the shower to give them a nice bath, maybe wash off the dust from their leaves - AND THEN SOMEONE FORGOT ABOUT ME AND I'M STILL IN HERE WET!

We do, by all accounts, live in what is generally a wetter location than most of the United States. It's true, but this is a little much. In February and March 15.56 inches of rain fell on us. REALLY? And, it was colder than normal. I no longer wake up and check the weather report because I know what it will be... WET, with maybe some sun breaks, AND INTERMITTENT SHOWERS, with partially cloudy skies, AND RAIN OVERNIGHT. Long term forecast? RAIN.

The good news is that May and June are around the corner. Which means we are headed for the next season - summer (unless someone has decided to change that without telling me). Often in April I feel like I'm rushing towards summer but this year it's a definite swimming feeling heading to the sunnier months. Give me my floaty ring I'm ready to swim in the sun! At least I know there will be lots of water to splash in :-). Excuse me while I go get a towel to dry off.

Damply yours,  
 Georgina Gryc Park  
[georginapark@hotmail.com](mailto:georginapark@hotmail.com)



### SPRINGTIME WORD SEARCH:

APRIL	W	P	P	M	S	M	O	S	S	O	L	B	S	S
BASEBALL	S	O	U	I	S	P	R	I	N	G	S	E	H	J
BLOSSOMS	V	R	B	D	L	Y	D	A	Q	D	A	O	A	G
CROCUS	L	D	E	N	D	U	W	V	U	S	W	C	A	E
DAFFODIL	I	N	N	W	I	L	T	B	O	E	K	R	R	N
FLOWERS	D	E	I	U	O	A	E	N	R	E	D	O	A	I
GARDENING	O	S	J	O	D	L	R	S	T	E	P	U	I	H
GOLF	F	T	G	D	Y	R	F	S	N	D	N	O	N	S
GREEN	F	K	Z	E	R	S	G	I	S	L	F	B	G	N
JACKETS	A	T	N	O	C	G	N	Y	H	U	I	L	F	U
JUNE	D	U	B	A	R	G	P	P	A	C	C	R	O	S
LILACS	J	I	L	E	M	A	Y	Y	K	L	R	O	P	G
MARCH	N	I	E	R	E	H	T	A	E	W	P	A	R	A
MAY	L	N	B	A	S	E	B	A	L	L	C	D	M	C
NEST														
PLAYGROUND														
PUDDLE														
RAIN														
RAINBOW														
ROBIN														
SEASON														
SHOWERS														
SPRING														
SUNSHINE														
TULIP														
WEATHER														

## Golden Acorn

Elk Plain PTA is proud to announce this year's Golden Acorn winner:  
**CRYSTAL GREEN!**  
 Congratulations Crystal!!

## DONUTS with DAD!

**Friday, May 19th at 7:00am** **VH**

Bring your Dad, Grandpa, Uncle!  
 Baked goods and juice will be provided.

**Volunteers Needed:** We are looking for volunteers to help with set up, during the event, and clean up after the event. If you can help part of the time or all of the time please let us know. All help is greatly appreciated!

**Donations Needed:** Pre-Cut/Pre-Washed Fruit, Baked Goods & Donuts

**Please contact:** Teresa Lewis at [lewitere@aol.com](mailto:lewitere@aol.com) or Jessica Young at [young.jess.m@gmail.com](mailto:young.jess.m@gmail.com) if you have questions or are interested in helping out!

{upcoming}

## Beautification Date

It's almost Summertime! Let's finish up this year with one last beautification date:  
**Saturday, May 20 - 10 am to 12 noon** **VH**

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.

Plant and seed donations are always welcome and very much appreciated! For more information please contact Debbie Townsend-Schmidt at [dtownsend@bethelsd.org](mailto:dtownsend@bethelsd.org).

## READ & LEAD 2017

[ update ]

**Congratulations Sky Warriors we had an amazing year with 100% student participation!!**

What an amazing way to celebrate our 20th Anniversary of Read and Lead!  
 Way to go!

Congratulations:  
 Gina Sawyer and Chrissy Gries!

These two awesome ladies earned the Elk Plain Volunteer of the Year Award which is chosen by staff.

## PET ADOPTIONS

at the student store

Dogs, cats, owls, tigers, zebras, flamingos and more!

For \$1.50 you will receive a **surprise** pet with an adoption form. Pet Adoptions are available at the Student Store on Tuesdays during first recess, while supplies last!

## BINGO NIGHT WAS awesome!!

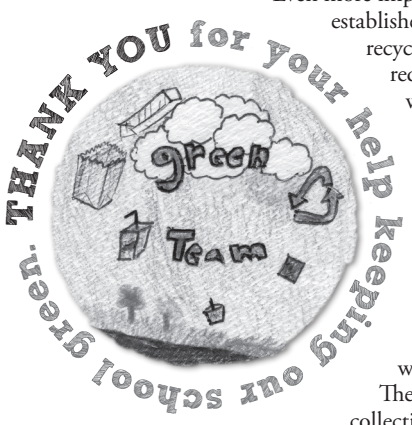
A big thank you to all the wonderful volunteers that came together to put together another great BINGO Night!

Thank you and congratulations to those that won the silent auction items!! We had a great time and hope you enjoyed this fun family event!

**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 72,000!**

I am thrilled to announce that we have collected 72,000 pieces of TerraCycle! That's 4,000 over our goal of 68,000 with 6 more weeks of school to go! I will contact the Seahawks soon and let them know! Thank you to everyone who has contributed from home and work and all the teachers and students who have made sure their snack wrappers make it into a TerraCycle box in the classroom.



Even more impressive is that we have all established a strong habit of recycling and maybe even reducing a bit. As a result, we have not had to increase our dumpster size or pickup days even though we have 75 more students this year. That's less trash going to the landfill which is great for the environment. Reaching our goal doesn't mean we stop recycling, though. The habit lives on so keep collecting!

**Terracycle 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.

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

## Attention Green-Minded Parents!

Next year Sustainability is looking for a few parents to help on a weekly basis (less than an hour per week) with;

1. Writing out SOAR tickets
2. Managing the small TerraCycle collection canister
3. Packing up plastic clamshells from the Green Team tote (every other week)
4. AND...If you work on JBLM and are interested in collecting compost occasionally (3 or 4 times throughout the year) to bring to the JBLM compost station, let's talk! The students are really eager to do this!

## 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](http://www.kidsfourstarfarm.com)