



# ELK PLAIN K-8 PTA NEWSLETTER

## 2018/2019 PTA OFFICERS:

**PRESIDENT:**  
Christine Link, [christinelink@yahoo.com](mailto:christinelink@yahoo.com)

**VICE PRESIDENT:**  
Crystal Green, [cowgirl\\_73@msn.com](mailto:cowgirl_73@msn.com)

**TREASURER:**  
Jessica Mays, [jessicacaddell@yahoo.com](mailto:jessicacaddell@yahoo.com)

**SECRETARY:**  
Michelle Davis, [closer919@msn.com](mailto:closer919@msn.com)

NEWSLETTER ENTRIES: [judymonhollen@gmail.com](mailto:judymonhollen@gmail.com)



## from the President CHRISTINE LINK

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

Happy New Year! Thanks to everyone who helped make 2018 a great one! As we anticipate what 2019 will bring us, I'd like to reflect on how grateful I am for the fun and professional people I get to work with in our PTA.

The PTA's success is a reflection of having a strong board and every year it goes through leadership transitions. The 19/20 school year is no different. We are looking for new people to head committees that have been a part of Elk Plain's history for a long time: Read & Lead, Holiday Shop, BINGO, and Fall Carnival. Each of these committees have binders filled with information and contacts so the event can simply be repeated instead of reinvented. Read & Lead and BINGO are both coming up in the second half of this year. Now is the time to shadow current chairpeople if you are considering helping more with these events. Most parents believe they do not have enough time to chair a committee, but with some careful planning, proper delegation, and support from the rest of the board, it is possible to pull off a successful event. You are never working alone, and there's no better feeling than knowing you've made a positive impact on so many people!

Sincerely,  
*Christine Link*

President, Elk Plain PTA



## SCIENCE FAIR (STEM Showcase) FAMILY INFORMATION NIGHT IS THURSDAY, JAN. 17TH

in the gym 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.



If you have questions about the STEM Engineering showcase for your student or are interested in ideas for engineering projects, this night's for you!

There will be a short presentation about ideas and requirements for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders, dates when each grade level is due, and information about the STEM Engineering Showcase Family night on Thursday, March 7, 2019, from 5:30-7:00. If you can't attend and/or still have questions, contact Mrs. Park at [gpark@bethelsd.org](mailto:gpark@bethelsd.org).

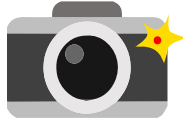
# School Construction BOND 2019 *February*

Time to vote again! We doubled the number of parents who voted in the last election. Unfortunately, that's still only 34% of parents registered to vote who actually voted. Additionally, there were double the number of NO votes this time. When the bond runs again in February, we need that same 34% to vote again AND the other 64%. It's possible to do! The ballot comes to our homes, does not require a stamp, and the bond will be one of only a few items on the ballot, so it should be easy to complete. This is the absolute LAST chance to avoid year-round schools or some other complicated schooling system.



Thank you to everyone who clipped Box Tops! We raised \$722 for the fall! The next submission deadline is **February 12**. Please check out the Box Tops website and download the app to earn more money!

[www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com)



## Please send us your EPSOC EVENT PHOTOS!

(Fall Carnival, Theater Performances, Bethel Rec Sports, Field Trips, etc!)

Email to: [epsocyearbook@outlook.com](mailto:epsocyearbook@outlook.com)

Photos will be for Yearbook use only, they will not be shared on social media. Photos must be high resolution/good quality to be considered for the yearbook. Please label with date and event name. Not all photos are guaranteed to make it into the yearbook.

## 2018/2019 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 Memberships:  PTA Website Ad: \$25  
 Website & Monthly PTA Facebook Ad: \$50

Total Submitted:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

VH = Opportunity for Volunteer Hours ♻️ = Recycling Available

## JAN/FEB EVENTS

- » **READ and LEAD** VH  
January 8th-March 18th
- » **PTA Board Meeting**  
Wednesday, January 9th, 2:45pm  
Elk Plain Library
- » **PTA Membership Meeting** VH  
Wednesday, January 16th, 2:45pm  
Elk Plain Library
- » **STEM Fair Info Night**  
Thursday, January 17th, 5:30pm  
Elk Plain Gym
- » **Annual Clothing Drive** VH  
January 22nd-February 8th  
Angie Strub, [jsaj8103@yahoo.com](mailto:jsaj8103@yahoo.com)
- » **PTA Board Meeting**  
Wednesday, February 13th, 2:45pm  
Elk Plain Library

## early MARCH EVENTS

- » **Family Fun Night: GLOW DANCE** VH  
TBA
- » **STEM Night** VH  
Thursday, March 7th, 5:30-6:30pm  
Elk Plain Gym
- » **PTA Board Meeting**  
Wednesday, March 13th, 2:45pm  
Elk Plain Library
- » **READ and LEAD Ice Cream Party** VH  
Wednesday, March 20th



## READ & LEAD 2019

January 8th – March 18th

The theme this year is Star Wars:

**"READ YOU MUST...LEAD YOU WILL!"**

EPSOC PTA's annual reading program kicked off on Tuesday, January 8th (due to Monday being a holiday). Our students are off and reading! The first turn in date for the first sheet is **Monday, January 14th**.

**THANK YOU** to all who have helped with the preparation of Read and Lead 2019! We are off to a great start! We are very grateful for our returning and new volunteers who have signed up to track weekly progress and help with filling out prizes. There are still many volunteer opportunities available within this program!

Our goal is 100% staff and student participation. Please support and encourage your child's love of reading and help us achieve this goal!

**MAY THE READING FORCE BE WITH YOU!**

If you have any questions regarding the program or would like to volunteer, please contact:

Marisa Courson at  
[gohawks12thman@yahoo.com](mailto:gohawks12thman@yahoo.com)



Hey, It's Dark Out There!

It's that time of year. No, not the holidays; they're past. Not tax season - although I suppose it's always tax season; but the time of year you may hear this type of conversation:

- 'What's it like outside?'
'I don't know, it's dark.'
'Is it raining?'
'Too dark to tell.'
'When will you be home?'
'When it's dark!'

That's right...it is the 'dark' time of year! For those of us affected by the lack of daylight, it is a tough time. It isn't the after effects of the holidays that make January and February so long and depressing, it is the lack of length of day. We get up in the dark, go to work or school in the dark, come home in the dark, spend the weekend in the dark - dark, dark, dark, dark, dark!

Maybe I should just take a page from nature and skip this particular three-month period. December through February would do it. The bears and turtles have the right idea; just hunker down in a cave (since it's dark anyways, why not a cave?) and sleep the dark times away. I would almost consider digging into the mud like a turtle. Even bats hibernate during these short days, for goodness sake. And they normally spend their waking lives in the gloom and darkness, so how do we expect to make it through? While I doubt I would survive hanging upside down for all that time in a huddled mass of battiness (Who said I'm batty? The lack of light will do that, you know - make you delusional.), the idea of not dealing with all the inky surroundings sounds nice. Anything to kill the time until daylight takes over my waking hours again, as it should in any normal world.

If I were going to forgo regular life in the winter, there are things to consider. I should have been eating large quantities of fish, berries, and vegetation in preparation for the long sleep. (Bats devour insects on the wing, which I think I'll pass on - blech!) I did eat quite a heap of sweets around the holidays, so maybe that would hold me. It sure feels and looks like I put on the weight of a bear. I would have to consider missing the holidays, but I bet my presents would still be there when I wake up. No one else really wants all my crazy birding gifts. I would need someone to take care of the household while I'm asleep, though. If the cat's food is on one of those timed feeding machines, I think the cat would do the job for me. The cat would love the alone time. Dark doesn't bother him!

There are those that I'm sure are saying what a lovely time of year the winter season is. They love all the outdoor sports, shushing down the snow-covered mountainsides, drinking craft beers with friends at a local tavern, playing games around the table to while away the hours, reading good books they never have

time to read when the sun is shining...blah, blah, blah. Been there, tried that. I'm ready to try something new, and that would be just skipping the whole season for a warm, comfy hibernation bed. Definitely on the table for consideration. When those days shorten, and the aspect of dismal, gloomy periods approach, I could just roll over and say, 'See you in the Spring!' Anyone else want to join me?

Hibernatingly yours, Georgina Gryc Park (geoginapark@hotmail.com)



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 a free clothing bank in Spanaway.

Thank you for your donations!!

Questions? want to help?

Contact Angie Strub at: jsaj8103@yahoo.com



THANKS TO THE HARD WORK of our student-led Green Teams and Sustainability co-chair RaeAnn O'Neil we continue to reduce our environmental impact at Elk Plain. Since we started composting again we have pulled over 200+ gallons (which is around 300+ pounds) of produce scraps from the waste stream! We have also collected almost 5 pounds of granola bar wrappers which will provide about a dozen people with clean water for a year through Charity:Water. The rest of our TerraCycle items we collect have earned the PTA about \$40 since the end of last school year. Not bad considering all that money comes from what could have become trash AND was recycled.

In early February, the Earthworms, the Evergreen Team, the Green Earth Team and the Recycle Champs will be finished working and the second semester teams will start. 8th graders Jayli O., Melena M., and Kyleigh S. have shown true dedication to the cause by setting up the recycle station every day since the start of school. In February they will also pass that responsibility on to a new Leadership group. Special thanks to 7th grader Olivia Ellison and 8th grader Syda Stirret-Jones for prodding us to bring compost back. They continue to work every day during their lunch to make sure no piece of recycle or compost is thrown away.

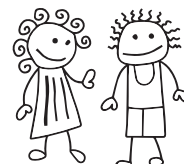
Terracycle items for the 2018/19 School Year:

- 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!



Student Store

Every Tuesday during lunch recess!

EPSOC PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes 9-19-2018

Called to order: 2:14pm

May minutes were reviewed and filed with no changes

Financial report was reviewed and filed with no changes

Reviewed 2018-19 Standing Rules. Byron Smith made a motion to approve the standing rules with highlighted changes. Shaunna Ruda seconded. Motion was passed with no abstentions or nays.

New Business:

Christine Link made introductions and described what the PTA's role in the school is.

Mrs. Scott spoke about Digital Citizenship: how to keep our kids safe on the internet and balancing safety, time and learning. She is available for IPAD and library questions.

Sandy Williamson with Bethel Citizens Community spoke about the bond up for election in Nov. It needs a 60% majority to pass. Only 20% of Bethel parents voted in the last election. Discussed possible changes to the school district should the bond fail to pass. Monica Hemenway made a motion to support the bond as a PTA, Ayme Bergamot seconded. There was discussion on the ramifications of the bond not passing and what other options were available. Motion was passed with no nays.

\*Sandy will be returning during the Fall Carnival to be available for information and questions from Elk Plain families.

\*There will be sign wavers at school during parent pick up/drop off. 'Yes, to Bethel Kids'

Introductions of all attendees were made

New volunteer procedures were discussed: Teachers must have names on an office list in advance in order to volunteer. This is a security measure.

Anyone interested in committee information or other PTA activities can find resources via The PTA website, Facebook or in the Newsletter (sent home bi-monthly) There will only be 5 General Meeting this school year.

Committee Reports:

Fundraising: APEX Fun Run- Kick off assembly is Sept. 25th. The run will take place Oct. 4th (there will be 4 runs). This year's theme is STRONG. Information will be sent home this week. In addition to the approved volunteers needed to mark laps and help at the water station, there will be a spectator area.

Goodies with Grandparents: Enough goodie donations have been made but they still need at least 3 volunteers from 6:30-7:45am.

Box Tops: due Oct. 11th. One box top is worth 10 cents.

Fall Pictures: Oct. 18th

Membership: Membership/Yearbook bundles are due Oct. 19th

Fall Carnival: Oct. 26th 4:40-7:30pm A good number of

people are volunteering and several Cakewalk donations have been promised. There will be a bouncy obstacle course. Admission is \$5 per participating child.

Book Fair: Begins Oct 29.-Nov. 2nd. There will be all Lollipop pull with proceeds going to the 'All for Books' program. Volunteers are needed especially during school hours to help with wish lists etc. On Tuesday the Book Fair will be opened until 7:30pm.

Food Drive: Oct 29-Nov.16th. Students in need will be served first and the rest will go to local food banks. Protein, canned food, health and beauty and snacks are the area of greatest need. Items from these categories will be weighed and recorded as part of a class competition to get the most donations. The winning class will get a party.

Staff Appreciation: Staff luncheon will be Oct. 30th

Family Fun Nights: Restaurant take over Nov. 14th. A possible game night may happen in the future and there will be a Glow Dance in February.

Holiday Shop: Ready to go and will be Nov. 26th-30th. Volunteers are needed. Setup will be during the day on the 25th.

Student Store: Opens next Tuesday Sept. 25th

Next General Meeting will be Nov. 28th at 2:15pm

Open Floor: No discussion

Meeting adjourned: 3:25pm