



# ELK PLAIN K-8 PTA NEWSLETTER

## 2017/2018 PTA OFFICERS:

### PRESIDENT:

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

### VICE PRESIDENT:

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

### CO-TREASURERS:

Christie McMahill, [christiemcmahill@gmail.com](mailto:christiemcmahill@gmail.com)  
Christine Link, [christinelink@yahoo.com](mailto:christinelink@yahoo.com)

### CO-SECRETARIES:

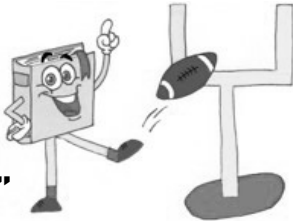
Heather Barht, [heatherg81@hotmail.com](mailto:heatherg81@hotmail.com)  
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NEWSLETTER ENTRIES: [christinelink@yahoo.com](mailto:christinelink@yahoo.com)

## READ & LEAD 2018 January 8th - March 19th

The theme this year is:

### "KICK OFF THE YEAR WITH A GOOD BOOK!"



EPSOC PTA's annual reading program kicked off Monday, January 8th and our students are off and reading! The first turn in date for the first sheet is Tuesday, January 16th (due to Monday being a holiday).

We are very 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.

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

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).

## 2017/2018 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:** o Individual: \$10 o Couple: \$18

**Business Memberships:** o PTA Website Ad: \$25  
o Website & Monthly PTA Facebook Ad: \$50

Total Submitted:

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



from the President MELISSA PATE

[mpatenkl@gmail.com](mailto:mpatenkl@gmail.com)

## Happy New Year

from Elk Plain PTA! With winter break behind us, we move into a busy twelve weeks until spring break. Look for flyers to come home about Read and Lead, the Clothing Drive, the Giving Tree, and the Family Fun Night Glow Dance just to name a few PTA events happening in the coming months. Of course, many volunteers are needed to ensure the success of these events and to provide our students and families with a memorable experience. Please contact our committee chairpersons if you are interested in helping!

Sincerely,  
Melissa Pate  
Elk Plain PTA President



### FAMILY FUN NIGHT!!

## GLOW DANCE PARTY

Friday, February 9th • 6:30-8:30pm

Free admission!

Concessions and glow items for sale at the event.

Please contact Kristi Houglund at [kristibodnar@yahoo.com](mailto:kristibodnar@yahoo.com) with any questions or if you'd like to volunteer to help!



Tuesday, January 22nd  
through Friday, February 9th

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. 26th, Feb. 2nd and Feb. 9th.**

Please contact Angie at [jsaj8103@yahoo.com](mailto:jsaj8103@yahoo.com) for more information.



VH= Opportunity for Volunteer Hours ♻️= Recycling Available

## JAN/FEB EVENTS

- » **READ and LEAD** VH  
January 8 - March 19th
- » **PTA Board Meeting**  
Thursday, January 11th, 2:15pm  
Elk Plain Library
- » **STEM Fair Info Night**  
Thursday, January 11th, 5:30pm
- » **PTA Membership Meeting** VH  
Thursday, January 18th, 6:30pm  
Elk Plain Library
- » **Annual Clothing Drive** VH  
January 22nd - February 9th  
Angie Strub, [jsaj8103@yahoo.com](mailto:jsaj8103@yahoo.com)
- » **Family FUN Night: GLOW DANCE** VH  
Friday, February 2nd  
Kristi Houglund, [kristibodnar@yahoo.com](mailto:kristibodnar@yahoo.com)
- » **PTA Board Meeting**  
Thursday, February 8th, 2:15pm  
Elk Plain Library
- » **PTA Membership Meeting** VH  
Thursday, February 15th, 2:15pm  
Elk Plain Library
- » **STEM Fair Night** VH  
Thursday, February 22nd, 5:30pm  
Elk Plain Gym

## early MARCH EVENTS

- » **PTA Board Meeting**  
Thursday, March 8th, 2:15pm  
Elk Plain Library
- » **PTA Membership Meeting** VH  
Thursday, March 15th, 2:15pm  
Elk Plain Library
- » **Read & Lead Ice Cream Party** VH  
Wednesday, March 21st

## 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.



**Styrofoam Reminder:** Please save all of your styrofoam for our Styrofoam Drive in April (on Earth Day) or take it the Tacoma Recycle Center in Fircrest.





Goats to You New Year!

Hope comes in all sizes. 2017 was a challenging year so as 2018 enters I've been looking any pint-sized signs of hope. And I think I've found my modest encouragement... and it's goats!

Two goat stories have brought me my hope on a shimmering platter. In both instances goats provide useful resolutions to human problems ~ and a lightness to my heart. In the first goat story a community in the Midwest not only recycles your Christmas trees but puts them to good use ~ goat use. If you bring your tree to a community location goats will dispose of it by mulching them right back to fertilizer. The goats will eat your tree for free! The face of sustainability in the future you may ask? Goat faces.

The second story just brings a smile to my world-weary countenance. Goats in the Vancouver area are not only delivering flower bouquets to people but also eating them for the recipients as part of the festive package. Think of someone in your life that loves goats, enjoys goat videos, or needs a happy moment along with a hardy laugh. Send them a goat bouquet and lift their spirits for the day, or the week, or the month.

I've found my silver lining in the doldrums of winter and it is formed by goats. Goats as medicine for the tough times. Goats as antidotes for sadness. Goats that inspire. Goats, goats, goats, goats - lots of goats to a fill a boatload of days in 2018!

And if you need inspiration beyond goats read one of my favorite poems by one of my favorite poets - Robert Service.

Taking it one day at a time in this New Year ~ 2018,

Georgina Gryc Park georginapark@hotmail.com



Each Day A Life

I count each day a little life, With birth and death complete; I cloister it from care and strife And keep it sane and sweet.

With eager eyes I greet the morn, Exultant as a boy, Knowing that I am newly born To wonder and to joy.

And when the sunset splendours wane And ripe for rest am I, Knowing that I will live again, Exultantly I die.

O that all Life were but a Day Sunny and sweet and sane! And that at Even I might say: "I sleep to wake again."

Robert William Service



Elk Plain PTA General Meeting Minutes are now online!

Meeting minutes are available on the EPSOC PTA Website: www.epsocpta.org/accountability.html

STEM SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING MATHEMATICS Science Night is Thursday, Feb. 22 (Engineering STEM Showcase) Volunteers are needed during the day, Feb. 22nd. Contact either Mrs. Park at gpark@bethelsd.org or Bev Rarey at bjrgrandma@aol.com to volunteer.



Kindergarten/1st Grade Bigfoot PJ Story Night Wednesday, Feb. 7th

Elk Plain librarian Tanja Scott is hosting Bigfoot PJ Story Night for K/1 students in the library as part of Elk Plain's Read and Lead program. Students are invited to come in pjs and listen to fun stories about Big Foot. K/1 students can check out a book that night. Pierce County Library librarian Alex Byrne will amaze students with an animated story time.

Please e-mail Elk Plain librarian, Tanja Scott, with any questions, tscott@bethelsd.org. Students can accrue 30 minutes for Read and Lead that night.

staff appreciation Kindness Tree

For the month of February, we would like to show our appreciation to the teachers and staff of EPK8 with a Kindness Tree. Look for the tree on the bulletin board near the PTA office. We invite parents or students to take a heart from the tree and provide the item. The item can be given to the teacher/staff member, or brought to the office for delivery. Thank you for your participation!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE FALL CARNIVAL contest winners!!

Fall Carnival Costume Contest Winners:

- K-1: Lydia P. & Ally 2-3: Gemma L. & Elizabeth H. 4-5: Bella N. & Mason B. 6,7,8: Peyton S., Shaun B. & Kylie S.

Recycle Roundup Winners: Barht Family

Snack Drive Winners: Emily B. & Cooper S.

Thank you all for your participation!

Elk Plain K8 FOOD DRIVE

CLASS WINNERS:

- WEEK 1 = Mrs. Fangman WEEK 2 = Mrs. Hernandez WEEK 3 = Mrs. Harbert

Thank you to everyone that participated!



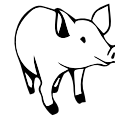
Our 2017/18 Goal is to:

REDUCE then RECYCLE

Goals/progress:

Students who have taken Chip Bag Challenge:

5 (goal is 60)



Pounds of compost saved from landfill: 1,000+lbs (goal is 2000lbs)

Pieces of TerraCycle + Lunchables: 12,000+ (goal is 35,000)

Tacoma Recycle Center Plastics:

7 sixty-gallon bags (rigid and stretchy plastic)

We are almost half way through our 3rd year as a Washington Green School! That's a big deal! I hope that what you and your kids learn and do at school has begun to change how you recycle at home whether you are a beginner or experienced. If you are curious about how your lifestyle effects the environment, there is a short environmental footprint quiz you can take on-line to help you gain perspective: www.footprintcalculator.org

If you are as surprised by the results as I was, consider choosing 1 new green action below as a new year's resolution. After trying it for a while maybe it will even become a green habit that you can build on! Life Skills students also took the quiz before the break and chose one thing to try (see asterisks). If you decide to participate, please share your 1 action and how it went on the PTA Facebook page. It's easier to create a new habit with support!

- Recycle all paper/cardboard\* Forgo 1 case of bottled water and use reusable water bottles for a month instead Recycle every beverage bottle you use (even if it means holding onto it until you find a recycle bin)\* Finish all your food at meals\* Put fresh fruits and veggie scraps (nothing canned) in your yard waste bin at home Eat 1 vegetarian meal per week for a month Take the Chip Bag Challenge one time (Translation: Only buy 10 ounce bags of chips or larger instead of single-serving bags. Pack chips in reusable containers.)\* See PTA website for details. Pour all leftover water found in cups or old water bottles around the house into a pitcher. Water plants, rinse recycle or pre-rinse dirty dishes or pots and pans with it. Carpool once a month\* Buy your next piece of clothing, purse, kitchen utensil or storage bin at a thrift store Turn off the water when washing hands, dishes or brushing your teeth—every time\* Turn of lights in empty rooms-every time\* Unplug power strips and computers when not in use. Keep a bin of G.O.O.S. (Good On One Side) paper handy for notes, lists, drawing or math homework. Buy a Tesla\* (yep, creative Life Skills student came up with that)



Thank you Walmart for continuing to fund shipping for chip bags we collect on campus! We encourage you to take the Chip Bag Challenge if you pack chips in your child's lunch frequently. Buying a 10 oz bag or larger and bringing chips to lunch in reusable containers can save 50-75% of the packaging and 50-75% of the carbon emissions it takes to ship them to New Jersey.



Student Store

Every Tuesday during lunch recess!