



ELK PLAIN K-8 PTA NEWSLETTER

COVID-19 EDITION

2019/2020 PTA OFFICERS

CO-PRESIDENTS:

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VICE PRESIDENT:

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from the Presidents

SHAUNNA RUDA, shaunnaruda@gmail.com
CRYSTAL GREEN, cowgirl_73@msn.com

Hello EPSOC Families,

This school year is almost over, and we wanted one last chance to say thank you to all of our families. We truly appreciate your support of the PTA. We wouldn't be successful without all of you. We have missed seeing and being able to interact with our families these last few months. Here's hoping for some normalcy next school year.

We would like to introduce you to our new Executive PTA board for the 2020-2021 school year:

Co-Presidents-Crystal Green and Shaunna Ruda

Vice President-Jessica Mays

Treasurer-Roslyn James

Secretary-Diana Tomlinson

We are hoping the next school year lets us get back to normal. We have missed a lot of the fun events we like to share with you. Our chair people are already busy working on plans for next year. Follow us on Facebook or on our webpage to keep updated on all of our news and upcoming events.

Stay safe and enjoy your summer,

Shaunna Ruda and Crystal Green

Co-Presidents, EPSOC PTA

Every year at the Volunteer breakfast, the Golden Acorn award is presented to a person or persons that has exemplified commitment as a community volunteer in recognition of her or his dedication and service to children voted on by staff and PTA members. This year, along with the Golden Acorn, we decided to give an award for Lifetime Achievement for a volunteer of many years, who has set the example of what a volunteer should look like at Elk Plain. The person that we chose has been a mentor to most, if not all, of us on the current PTA Board, and we wanted to recognize her as this is her last year with a student at Elk Plain. As you are fully aware, this year at school ended abruptly, and the Volunteer breakfast didn't occur. We have decided to forgo the Golden Acorn this year, but we wanted to make sure that the person we had planned to give the Lifetime Achievement award was still recognized.

So, the idea was hatched that we would reach out to teachers and staff and find out from them why this person was such an amazing example of what a volunteer at Elk Plain should be.

I would like to start by introducing who this person is, and why we will miss her dedication, mentoring, and her unwavering example of selfless service. Our Lifetime Achievement Volunteer is Melissa Pate. She has had 3 students that have gone through Elk Plain, with over 14 years of volunteer service under her belt. She has served in every Executive Board position and some of them multiple times. She has also headed most, if not all, Committees at some point. She has always set a precedent of hard work. She inspired others to step forward and encouraged others to keep up the good work. She has a love for the children that motivates others to emulate her example. We will miss seeing her at the school as a volunteer but know that the mark that she left will be long lasting.

The following accounts are from staff and teachers:

I don't know where to begin when trying to describe or thank Melissa Pate for her countless years of service to EPSOC. There aren't adequate words that's for sure!

I think Melissa Pate has chaired every committee and held every office that there is to hold as a PTA member. She is tireless, caring, funny, friendly, AMAZING, and so very many things that make her such a huge part of the EPSOC family. She was always very patient with me when I first came back to Elk Plain in a work capacity. I was so thankful then that her name was Melissa and not one of the many others that were one form of Chris or another. I was grateful to be able to remember her name! I will always remember her.

I hope that she had as much fun with us as I did with her. We will miss her terribly, and I wish her every happiness and hope she stays as busy as she wants to. Take care Melissa, the door is always open!

Peggy Brayton
Secretary to the Principal
Elk Plain School of Choice K-8

Why is she leaving? Doesn't she know that she is here for life? ;-)

Staci :-)

Thank you, Melissa, for all of your support for our band program over the years, both as a parent and with the PTA!

Brett M. Johnson
Band Director
Elk Plain K-8, Evergreen ES, Naches Trail ES

Dear Melissa:

Thank you for giving your treasured time and talents. Your contributions & time are so appreciated. You bring incredible added value to EPSOC, and I hope you are reminded often of how special and highly regarded you are!



READ AND LEAD 2020

Thank you EPSOC families for your support during Read and Lead. All prizes and medals were distributed to teachers to be picked up at your classes final pick up.

If you have any questions, contact Shaunna Ruda shaunnaruda@gmail.com or Jessica Mays jessicacaddell@yahoo.com

The compassion you show is an inspiration for us all. Even in all the hustle and bustle, I've noticed how you treat everyone with respect and kindness. You've always been so helpful, thank you for being such an integral part of EPSOC.

Respectfully,

Karli McIver

When I arrived at Elk Plain, Melissa was the face of the PTA I met first. From the start, she impressed me with her professionalism and intelligence, but what outshone both was her passion and love of Elk Plain and wanting to always find ways to make it better. I am beyond grateful for the work and love she's put into our building far beyond the three years I was able to know her.

Tom Mitchell

Principal
Elk Plain K - 8

Thank you, Melissa, for so many years of dedication. It's parents like you that make Elk Plain such a success. You will be missed!

Julie A. Kangas

Assistant Principal
Elk Plain School of Choice

Melissa has been such a wonderful parent, volunteer, and PTA leader to work with over the years. When I first started at Elk Plain, she was one of the most supportive members of our Friends of the Arts organization and strong supporter of the theater program. She has always been so kind and welcoming, and I have loved seeing her smiling face whenever I would go past the PTA office or when she would be subbing in our building. I will miss her and her wonderful children tremendously!

Kasha Browning, M.Ed.

Theater Specialist
Elk Plain School of Choice

Of the many nice things I could say about Melissa - I'll choose a really small one that always makes me smile. One year (the year I had Luke, I think) she gave me some rolls that she had baked for the holidays - and apparently baked every year. They were awesome - and I told her so. Every year since then, I have received a package of rolls for the holidays. You just can't beat that kind of thoughtfulness!

Bryan Case

Melissa is the reason I joined the PTA and got heavily involved. She carried herself with such deep professionalism and compassion for the students and staff that I wanted to be associated with her. I wanted to help build her vision. She is the reason the PTA was rejuvenated and continues to be an influential force at Elk Plain. Thank you, Melissa!

Christine Link

A simple thank you is just not enough to say to Melissa for the dedication she has shown during her tenure with the EPSOC PTA. She always strove to do what was in the best interest of Elk Plain families and staff as a PTA board member and as a volunteer in the classrooms. This was most evident in her devotion to our Read and Lead program and the benefits she knew families gained from reading together. Melissa ensured that all students had the opportunity to read to an adult and be read to by an adult to fulfill Read and Lead minutes, even if that adult was her! So I give a HUMONGOUS thank you to Melissa Pate for all the hard work and sacrifices you made to make EPSOC a better place. I will truly miss seeing your smiling face on a regular basis!

Debra Townsend-Schmidt

Melissa was the first PTA member I met when I started at Elk Plain. Her smile was so welcoming that I found myself going out of my way

sometimes to "catch" her in the PTA office just to have a friendly conversation. Shortly after I started, I realized that kids would often mistake me for her, and I thought I was so lucky that they thought I was her. So they joked that she was my sister :-). I admire Melissa for being a dependable, personable, kind, and dedicated member of Elk Plain. I have learned a lot from her and am so glad that our paths crossed. I will miss you, Melissa!!! Come back and say hi.

Sam

It is hard to define how much Melissa Pate has meant to us over the years as she has been so many things. First and foremost, she is an excellent mother and a great example for all of us regarding unconditional love and support, enthusiasm for learning, and offering guidance rather than pressure. Melissa displayed these same characteristics to our classroom kids as she worked with small groups, individual children, and provided enrichment activities through PTA. She is now working for Bethel School District, so even more kids get to benefit from her expertise. We have watched her children come and go through the halls of Elk Plain; we are so sad to see Melissa follow Luke out the door but are also extremely grateful for her many, many years of service.

With love and gratitude,

Marjorie Colyer & Frances Cierley

Melissa is one of the main reasons I started to be more involved with PTA. She is always a great support and sounding board when I needed guidance. She is always generous with her time and has given the PTA at Elk Plain an amazing example to emulate and exemplify. I am eternally grateful to be able to have worked with her and to now call her my friend. Melissa, it's not goodbye, it's see you later.

Crystal

