



# 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)  
Tawnya Paquette, [tawnyapaquette@gmail.com](mailto:tawnyapaquette@gmail.com)



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

it's almost **summer time!!!**

## Beautification

We had an amazing Earth Day at EPSOC planting cosmos, pansies, alyssum, marigolds, lobelia, and snapdragon plants, as well as wildflower, sunflower, and columbine seeds. Many weeds and scotch broom plants were pulled to add to our students' gardening experience. The weather even cooperated, giving us a sunshine-filled morning and an afternoon with light clouds... just perfect!

Thanks to the following EPSOC families for contributing to our Earth Day success: the Cook family (gardening trowels and wildflower seeds); the Strub family (cosmos seedlings for 3rd grade and gardening trowels) and the Suelflow family (snapdragons and red lobelia for kindergarten). Your donations are truly appreciated! Special thanks to Mrs. Park for her coordinating of the Earth Day planting times for our students and her expert commentary on the history of this event.

 Our final beautification event of the 2017/18 school year is slated for **Sunday, May 20, from 10:00 a.m. to noon** and is a great weekend volunteer opportunity. We will be pulling our never-ending supply of weeds in front of the EPSOC campus. Gloves, trowels, bags and weeds are provided. :) We hope to see you there! 



## from the President

MELISSA PATE

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

Dear Elk Plain Families,

It's hard to believe that another school year is coming to a close. The Elk Plain PTA Executive Board and Committee Chairpeople are already hard at work assessing the budget and planning programs and events for next year. **Please congratulate and thank the following elected officers of the 2018-2019**

**Executive Board:** President – Christine Link  
Vice President – Crystal Green  
Treasurer – Jessica Mays  
Secretary – Michelle Davis



With the year winding down, two of the major events left for the year are the K-5 Field Day on Monday, June 18th and the Middle School Fun Day on Tuesday, June 19th. We apologize for these events having to be rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances. This year's K-5 Field Day theme is The Olympics and Elk Plain PTA is excited to be working in conjunction with the Sky Warriors Family Program for this event. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Melissa Pate at [mpatenkl@gmail.com](mailto:mpatenkl@gmail.com) or Marie Reed at [marienot@comcast.net](mailto:marienot@comcast.net). As with our other PTA sponsored events, we must submit a list of volunteers to the school to ensure everyone has a current volunteer application on file with the Bethel School District. Only volunteers on the approved list will be able to volunteer. You can check your volunteer status at [bethelsd.org](http://bethelsd.org).

Please look for an Elk Plain Family Survey to be coming home soon with your student. Please take a few minutes to complete and return this form. We will be asking for your input on topics like fundraising, PTA events, and our newsletter. We want your feedback and to know what you feel is working and where are there opportunities for improvement.

Elk Plain PTA would like to thank all of the families and staff for your constant support this year. From providing food and clothes for Families in Need to reading with your students for Read and Lead to earn prizes, ice cream, or even a medal(!), you have shown your support for PTA and we truly appreciate it.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Pate  
Elk Plain PTA President

many 😊  
thanks

VH = Opportunity for Volunteer Hours ♻️ = Recycling Available

## MAY/JUNE EVENTS

- » **PTA Board Meeting** VH  
Thursday, May 10th, 2:15pm  
Elk Plain Library
- » **PTA Membership Meeting** VH  
Thursday, March 17th, 2:15pm  
Elk Plain Library
- » **Donuts with Dad** VH ♻️  
Friday, May 18th, 7:00am
- » **EPSOC Beautification** VH  
Sunday, May 20th, 10am-Noon  
Debbie Townsend-Schmidt, [dtownsend@bethelsd.org](mailto:dtownsend@bethelsd.org)
- » **End of Year Board Meeting** VH  
Thursday, June 7th, 5:30pm  
Elk Plain Library
- » **FIELD DAY** VH  
Monday, June 18th
- » **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL** VH  
Wednesday, June 20th



## DONUTS with DAD!

**Friday, May 18th 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 please let us know.

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

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

## Congratulations Marisa Courson!

Marisa earned the Elk Plain Volunteer of the Year Award which is chosen by staff.



## FIELD DAY 2018:

**Monday, June 18th • 8:30am to 1:50pm**  
(set up at 6:30 am - cleanup immediately after)

Congratulations to Elizabeth Perry and Zoe Areglo for winning the Field Day T-shirt contest.

The theme is THE OLYMPICS! Kids will be participating in their Elk Plain Family Groups.  
**Volunteers needed for all or part of the day.**  
Please contact: Marie Reed at [marienot@comcast.net](mailto:marienot@comcast.net) or Melissa Pate at [mpatenkl@gmail.com](mailto:mpatenkl@gmail.com)



## MIDDLE SCHOOL FUN DAY

**Tuesday, June 19th • 11:00am to 1:30pm**

Volunteers needed to help with the barbeque, over seeing the Maze, quiet room and field activities.

**Volunteers needed for all or part of the day.**  
Contact Mara Areglo at [cmareglo@gmail.com](mailto:cmareglo@gmail.com) to volunteer and for any questions.

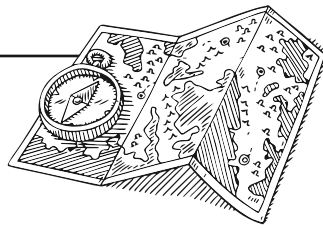




# Diversions from Mrs. Park

"The earliest maps were "story" maps. ...maps described both landscape and the events which had taken place within it, enabling travellers to plot a route as well as to experience a story."

-Rory MacLean



## Map Me A Life

Summer is almost here. For most people there are four seasons: Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer. For me, there is a fifth season - Map Season. Come Summertime I like to take to the road with a few things thrown in my car: my binoculars, maybe family, snacks, and lots of maps. Spring finds me thinking about maps of places I'd like to see, exploring lines on a flat piece of paper that draw me to named places. Plotting a course even through various spots whose terrain maybe rugged. Or observing placid maps that let me wander in my mind while I might still be rooted in one place.

As a young girl I loved looking at the maps that traced the paths my family took each year on our annual migration to the lake in Northern Minnesota: maps of each state, maps of National Parks, and, of course, the TripTiks made by the Automobile Association (AAA) for our personal journey. The TripTik held the magical, squiggly, bold red path we would tread that year.

When I was nine years old I put myself in charge as map director. Plotting our course each day, announcing the next town, and how many miles until we arrived at our daily destination. I would exclaim interesting facts along the way, how high the nearby pass or mountain was, the size of the town we were headed through, the rivers that intersected our route. The places we visited too numerous to list - famous (Yellowstone, Glacier, Mt. Rushmore) and not so famous (Wells, NV, Little America, WY, Glendive, MT). Maps gave us insights to all of them. Yellowstone National Park, the first national park with geysers, wildlife and exceptional scenery has extensive maps of its own. Glendive, Montana, not so much. With Makoshika State Park to recommend, and a tiny dot due to size, there might be a mark on the map where you can find Badlands and dinosaurs. I cherished them all.

Everyone has touchstone experiences in their lives that remind them of happy places, happy people, and happy experiences. For me, many of those special moments are wrapped up in a map. The map that guided my family to a close bond with not only each other but also the world around us. When I look at the map of my childhood I see the moments we had, not only the places we visited. Finally reaching the breathtaking views from Beartooth Pass, the tabletop of the world, after a hair-raising traverse of a mountainside two-lane road. A night spent with the six of us crammed in a hotel room with only my brother's dumb jokes and silly voices for entertainment. In eastern Nevada we used to throw water out the front window to hit our faces sticking out the back window because we had no air conditioning. Spots on the map both poignant and silly.

As a mom I also consistently threw my own kids in the car and took off. We mostly drove east through Washington, Idaho, to Montana, North Dakota, and Minnesota. Our memories are big with stops at the

National Parks - Glacier, Yellowstone, and Theodore Roosevelt. Our memories are small - CC's Café in Glendive, firework shopping in Bismarck, endless fields of sunflowers. Here is the hotel we left Casey's blanket at that we had to travel back to and fetch it. And the spot on the road I stopped to cry, heartsore, wondering if I had it in me to drive another day in the car alone with three small children. Our memories are about being stuck in the car for hours, and days; listening to Harry Potter books on tape, playing 20 questions, and eating stale snacks. Before GPS, smartphones, or online guidance, we searched for rest stops, the next town and landmarks on the map.

When I look at those maps I see all those precious memories. Good times and bad marked along the various lines - my private, unpublished map that traces a path through the world that is me. Surprises around every corner. If you're not sure, check the map. TripTiks available upon request.

Map season is upon us! And if ever I am not sure which way to go I always look to the sky and know... second star to the right, and straight on 'till morning.

Cartographically yours,  
Georgina Gryc Park  
georginapark@hotmail.com



## Staff Appreciation

**HUGE** thank you to everyone that participated and supported our Staff Appreciation committee all year! You've given your time and donations generously throughout all our events and we know our Elk Plain Staff really appreciate all your efforts.

**Reminder:** Teacher Appreciation Week is May 7th-11th.



**THERE'S A  
MINION REASONS  
TO READ!**

**Now that another year of  
Read & Lead** is in the books

Elk Plain PTA would like to thank all the students, families and staff who participated in Read & Lead 2018. With 95% participation, we came very close to achieving our goal of 100%. I would love to challenge everyone to keep reading :)

**Marisa Courson**  
Read & Lead Chairperson

**Thank you for all of your  
time and hardwork!!!**



## PTA Meeting Minutes

Elk Plain PTA General Meeting  
Minutes are now online!

Meeting minutes are available on the  
EPSOC PTA Website:  
[www.epsocpta.org/accountability.html](http://www.epsocpta.org/accountability.html)



## Sustainability

CHRISTINE LINK

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

**Our 2017/18 Goal is to:  
REDUCE then RECYCLE**

We are wrapping up another successful year of being a Washington Green School! I hope you enjoy seeing the flag on the front of the building as much as I do. Our most recent accomplishments are receiving a brand new water bottle filling station from Bob Dieckmann at Pierce County Public Works and saving almost a ton (1,900 pounds and counting) of produce scraps from going to the landfill.



However, our TerraCycle collection has dropped by half since this time last year! We have discontinued 2 of the items since then, but even items we continue to collect have dropped. If you have let a few of the following items slip into the trash at home please redouble your efforts to collect them and bring them to school. They really do add up for the earth and PTA!

**As of this newsletter we have collected the following items for a total of \$124...**

**Chip bags** (discontinued unless doing the Chip Bag Challenge): 20,000+

**Apple sauce pouches:**  
2000+ (\$40)

**Granola Bar Wrappers:**  
6,000+ (\$60)

**Cereal Bags:** 700+ (\$14)

**Toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes, deodorant containers, floss boxes:** 500+ (\$10)

**Don't forget  
to collect  
Terracycle over  
the summer!**

Next year we will continue to collect these Terracycle items, continue to reduce plastic beverage bottle usage on campus and increase the number of families participating in the Chip Bag Challenge. If you are looking for a way to get involved, I am looking for the following help:

1. A parent to help the Green Team students during lunch on late start Wednesdays. (2 volunteer hours each time)
2. A parent to wash the small compost buckets and mat in the custodian's closet every other week. (1 volunteer hour each time)
3. A parent to unload the Green Team tote every other Friday and take it to one of the teachers at school. If 2 people share this job then it goes down to once a month! (1 volunteer hour each time)



**Check out the Chip Bag Challenge** for school lunches on the Green Team web page: [www.epsocpta.org/green-team](http://www.epsocpta.org/green-team)

**Did you know?**

6 granola bar wrappers **or**  
3 cereal bags **or**  
3 apple sauce pouches = 1 week of clean water for 1 person through  
**charity: water** a Terracycle donation partner.

Thank you again  
to our awesome  
recycle sponsor:

