



ELK PLAIN K-8 PTA NEWSLETTER

2017/2018 PTA OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:

Melissa Pate, mpatenkl@gmail.com

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS:

Crystal Green, cowgirl-73@msn.com

TREASURER:

Christie McMahill, christiemcmahill@gmail.com
Christine Link, christinelink@yahoo.com

SECRETARY:

Heather Barht, heatherg81@hotmail.com
Tawnya Paquette, tawnyapaquette@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER ENTRIES: christinelink@yahoo.com



READ & LEAD 2018 IS ALMOST HERE!

January 8th - March 19th

Elk Plain PTA is preparing for our annual Read and Lead Program. This long standing event is a PTA sponsored and executed 10 week reading challenge/program designed to strengthen reading skills and encourage quality family time. This year's theme is "Kick Off The Year With A Good Book!" Students are rewarded with weekly prizes, an ice cream party, and a medal presentation ceremony.

Help us achieve our goal of 100% school wide student and staff participation! Look for fliers and more information to come.

As with any successful EPSOC PTA event, many volunteers are needed! Just a few Read and Lead volunteer opportunities are:

- » Weekly Tracking of Read & Lead minutes (8am Monday Mornings)
- » Weekly Prize Tracking (8am Tuesday Mornings)
- » Planning and/or serving at the Ice Cream Party in March
- » Medal Presentation Assembly

Please contact Marisa Courson: gohawks12thman@yahoo.com or David Bahrt at: bahrtman@hotmail.com with any questions or if you would like to help! Thank you!



from the President

MELISSA PATE

mpatenkl@gmail.com

Thank you to all of the Elk Plain families, students, and staff who supported and participated in the APEX Fun Run! This was a new fundraising endeavor for Elk Plain PTA this year and has proven itself a success...the budgeted PTA fundraising goal for the year has been met! If you have comments, suggestions, or would like to see APEX back next school year, please don't hesitate to contact us.

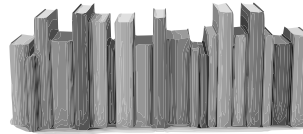
With Thanksgiving right around the corner, I want to take a moment to say that I am so grateful for the dedicated, resourceful, and talented Elk Plain PTA Committee Chairpersons. They selflessly volunteer their time daily to ensure that their committees are running smoothly, their budgets are adhered to, and that their volunteers are appreciated. Thank you!

If you have been an Elk Plain parent for a while like myself and so many others, you can't help but notice the amount of new students and families this school year! While there are committees, events, and programs that are self-explanatory like the Food Drive, Holiday Shop, and Student Store, there is a program that begins in January that is unique and takes a little bit of work and preparation on the part of the family. Read and Lead is Elk Plain PTA's annual reading program that begins in January and ends in March. Information about this worthwhile program will start coming home in December. Please take a few minutes to read over this information carefully to prepare your student and yourself. We are so excited to have Marisa Courson and David Bahrt as co-Chairpersons for Read and Lead 2018! They have been busy planning, purchasing prizes, and garnering donations for our readers. Look for more info to come home soon!

If you have an idea for a committee or an event, please contact us at epsocpta1@gmail.com. We appreciate new ideas and all suggestions are welcome.

Sincerely,

Melissa Pate
Elk Plain PTA
President



VH = Opportunity for Volunteer Hours ♻️ = Recycling Available

NOV/DEC EVENTS

- » **PTA Board Meeting** VH
Tuesday, November 7th, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library
- » **Fall Picture Re-Take Day**
Thursday, November 16th
Christie McMahill, christiemcmahill@gmail.com
Krystal Ripka, kmripka@hotmail.com
- » **PTA Membership Meeting** VH
Thursday, November 16th, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library
- » **Annual Food Drive Ends** VH
Friday, November 17th
Angie Strub, jsaj8103@yahoo.com
- » **Holiday Shop Begins** VH
November 28th - December 1st
Heather Barht, heatherg81@hotmail.com
- » **PTA Board Meeting**
Thursday, December 7th, 6pm
Elk Plain Library
- » **Chocolate, Chimes & Cheer** VH
Friday, December 1st
Debbie Townsend-Schmidt, dtownsend@bethelsd.org

early JANUARY 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

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: Individual: \$10 Couple: \$18

Business Memberships: PTA Website Ad: \$25

Website & Monthly PTA Facebook Ad: \$50

Total Submitted:

\$ _____

FANTASTIC NEWS!



As a Washington Green School, Elk Plain has been chosen to send 7 Green Team students between the ages of 12-17 to the 25 Legion of Youth rally at the Seahawks game this Sunday, November 5th! Only 25 students from the PNW have been invited and our Sky Warriors will be 7 of them. After the game, their photos and profile questions will be featured on the 25 Legion of Youth-Powered by Boeing website. Congratulations to our 7 Legion of Youth!

Syda S-J. Bethany V. Olivia E. Tate H.
Erick M. Ruby H. Jayden S.



Running With Sticks

Deep inside me there is a hidden personality that harkens back to my upbringing. I try to keep it under wraps but occasionally this hidden persona bursts forth unbidden. In the park, after walking, I sat watching children play. All of a sudden something happened and I snapped. It was the sight of a young person racing around brandishing... a stick! And then I heard myself shout, even though I tried to stop it, "Hey, kid. Don't run with that stick in your hand. You might poke an eye out." There it was... I had become the old bitty sitting in the park yelling at young folk spoiling their stick wielding fun.

As an extremely compliant child (that sound you hear is my mother making some sort of inappropriate noise) the first time or two I was yelled at demanding I drop the stick, or risk poking out various body parts, I actually listened and quit running with a stick in my hand. It's scary thinking you might have to wear an eye patch your whole life. And unless it's Halloween squishy eyeballs don't sound fun.

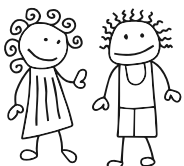
I was surprised as I grew up not to see more people sporting the pirate look. I assumed as an adult I would see any number of recalcitrant boys and girls who grew up to wear eye patches. I figured the dull responsible grown-up world would be cluttered with eye patch people who didn't listen to the wise women in their younger lives. But not once have I seen an eye patch on a likely candidate.

Why then do old people insist on deriding young people who are merely trying to have fun? Maybe it is because the grown-up world is the actual scary place. When we cross the line to adulthood we realize there are so many more frightening ways we can get hurt. But it is hard to warn kids about crazy governments, loss of loved ones, the heartache of missed opportunities, or time rushing by. So, we fall back - back on the concrete enemies easy to fix and protect children from - don't run with a stick in your hand because someone may lose an eye.

I don't want children to be afraid to embrace the world around them, sticks and all. Sometimes it is the kids who run with sticks who take on the tough issues and risk it all to make strides forward in our world.

Hey, there is a kid running backwards showing off! I should shout at him, "Don't run backwards. You might fall down and crack your head open... then they'll have to put a plate in your head." (Because I see so many adults with steel plates in their heads.) Nay, let em run.

Here's to a life full of sticks,
Georgina Gryc Park
georginapark@hotmail.com



Student Store

Every Tuesday
during lunch recess!



Elk Plain PTA General Meeting
Minutes are now online!

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



HOLIDAY SHOP!

November 28th -
December 1st

This is a great opportunity for our students to experience the joy of giving to others. Prices range from 2/\$1 to \$7 with most items under \$5. More information will be sent out the week before.

We also need volunteers to come and help the students shop. This is a really fun event to volunteer. Shopping hours are 7:15-2:15. We can use help anytime during those hours, especially Tuesday-Thursday. We could also use a few people to help with set up on November 27.

Please contact Heather at 253-970-8325
or heatherg81@hotmail.com.



Bethel Community,

Come and join us on a magical theatric adventure through Narnia. Enter through a wardrobe or through our house doors and meet the Pevensie siblings, White Witch, Aslan, the Beaver couple and Mr. Tumnus. Students have been working vigorously for the past three months under the direction of Kasha Browning on The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.

Our journey begins on Thursday, November 16 at 6:30pm and goes through Saturday, November 18.

Tickets are available at the door and are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students.

SCIENCE FAIR (STEM Showcase)
FAMILY INFORMATION NIGHT
IS THURSDAY, JAN. 11TH
in the gym 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Time to learn about the requirement for all 4th - 6th graders to do an Engineering Project, ideas for projects, examples of finished projects, examples of display boards, questions & answers.

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.



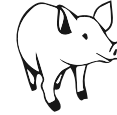
Our 2017/18 Goal is to:

REDUCE then RECYCLE

Green Teams and Leadership teams are running smoothly! Thank you to the Garbage Maniacs, Pathfinders, Green Apples, Recycle Winners, Hobos, Savage Green Turtles, and Carbon Footprints.

Goals/progress:

Students who have taken Chip Bag Challenge:
2 (goal is 60)



Pounds of compost saved
from landfill:
467+lbs (goal is 2000lbs)

Pieces of TerraCycle + Lunchables:
5,800+ (goal is 53,000)

The holidays + Styrofoam: If you find yourself with Styrofoam after the holidays, please keep it until our Styrofoam drive on Earth Day in April or take it to the Tacoma Recycle Center on Center street in Fircrest. Recycled Styrofoam is used in cellphone cases and other hard plastic products.



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.

All of these items earn the PTA money.
Over the last 2 years we've earned over \$500!

✂ clip and save me!

Elk Plain K8 FOOD DRIVE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30TH - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH

It's a contest! The class that donates the most themed items per week wins a special treat!



WEEK 1 = Canned Food
WEEK 2 = Health & Beauty
WEEK 3 = Protein Week

While we are focusing on the most needed items with our themes, we will gladly accept any donations you have for us! (We cannot accept perishable or expired food.) This is all about helping our community in the spirit of giving. Students can drop off their donations in their classrooms (Middle School drop off in their advisory classrooms). Each class will have a box marked for the food drive.