



# 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)

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## from the President

CHRISTINE LINK

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

*As PTA president, I've been asking myself new questions that I didn't as a member or a chairperson. One of the biggest questions I had about why having a large membership is so important remained unanswered until I read an article from the Washington State PTA membership coordinator last month. Because I couldn't say it any better, I have consolidated it here.*

As a member of the EPSOC PTA, you also belong to National PTA, the oldest and largest child advocacy organization in the country. Since it was founded in 1897, National PTA has been responsible for the establishment of programs and the passage of legislation for many things we all take for granted today, such as public kindergarten, child labor laws, the public health service, juvenile justice system, hot lunches in schools, mandatory immunizations, and school bus safety regulations. And many people don't realize that "Teacher Appreciation Week" is actually a National PTA program started back in 1984!

EPSOC PTA members are all part of Washington State PTA (WSPTA), which was also founded more than one hundred years ago. And what impact has it made on our lives? WSPTA coined the term, "preschool," more than 60 years ago. During World War II, WSPTA arranged care for children while mothers went to work in factories and first organized kindergarten co-ops.

Today, WSPTA remains a powerful advocate for all children. In recent years, they were instrumental in the passage of the "simple majority" amendment for levies. This past legislative session, "Breakfast After the Bell," a culmination of several years of PTA advocacy and testimony, was signed into law.

When you join EPSOC PTA, you are demonstrating your support for the work we do locally and nationally. The more members we have, the louder our collective voice, and the more likely our PTA is to get a "seat at the table." In our state, city, school district, and school building, there are complicated issues that need solving. A PTA with a strong collective voice can be part of the decision-making process. That is PTA Power.

*It is EPSOC PTA's collective membership voice that is helping to make it clear that taking the time to vote and voting yes on the bond is one of the most important votes we will cast for our kids' collective futures.*

Sincerely,

*Christine Link*

President, Elk Plain PTA



**READ & LEAD 2018 IS ALMOST HERE!**

**JANUARY 8TH - MARCH 18TH**

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 Star Wars: "Read You Must...Lead You Will!" Students are rewarded with weekly prizes, an ice cream party, and a medal presentation ceremony.

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

As with any successful EPSOC PTA event, many volunteers are needed! Here are a couple of ways to earn your volunteer hours:

- » Weekly Tracking of Read & Lead minutes (8am Monday Mornings)
- » Weekly Prize Tracking (8am Tuesday Mornings)

Please contact Marisa Courson at:

[gohawks12thman@yahoo.com](mailto:gohawks12thman@yahoo.com) with any questions or if you would like to help! **THANK YOU!**

## 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

## NOV/DEC EVENTS

- » **PTA Board Meeting** VH  
Wednesday, November 14th, 2:15pm  
Elk Plain Library
- » **Annual Food Drive Ends** VH  
Friday, November 16th  
Angie Strub, [jsaj8103@yahoo.com](mailto:jsaj8103@yahoo.com)
- » **Holiday Shop Begins** VH  
November 26th - November 30th  
Heather Bahrt, [heatherberg81@hotmail.com](mailto:heatherberg81@hotmail.com)
- » **PTA Membership Meeting** VH  
Wednesday, November 28th, 2:15pm  
Elk Plain Library
- » **Fall Picture Retakes** VH  
Thursday, November 29th
- » **Family Fun Night—Restaurant Takeover**  
Thursday, November 29th, All Day  
Kristi Bodnar, [kristibodnar@yahoo.com](mailto:kristibodnar@yahoo.com)  
Shannon Severson Minihan, [shannon.mini@hotmail.com](mailto:shannon.mini@hotmail.com)
- » **PTA Board Meeting** VH  
Wednesday, December 12th, 2:15pm  
Elk Plain Library

## JANUARY EVENTS

- » **READ and LEAD** VH  
January 8th - March 18th
- » **PTA Board Meeting** VH  
Wednesday, January 9th, 2:15pm  
Elk Plain Library
- » **PTA Membership Meeting** VH  
Wednesday, January 16th, 2:15pm  
Elk Plain Library
- » **STEM Fair Info Night**  
Thursday, January 17th, 5:30pm
- » **Annual Clothing Drive** VH  
January 22nd - February 8th  
Angie Strub, [jsaj8103@yahoo.com](mailto:jsaj8103@yahoo.com)



**Student Store**

Every Tuesday  
during lunch recess!

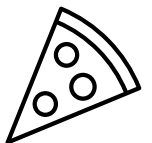
## FAMILY FUN NIGHT: RESTAURANT TAKEOVER

Mod Pizza Puyallup

Thursday, November 29th, All Day

10301 156th Street East (Sunrise Shopping Center)

Present our fundraising flyer (either paper or electronic) at the time of purchase any time during business hours, and EPSOC Family Fun Nights will receive a percentage of each sale. Flyers will be going home in Friday folders soon!





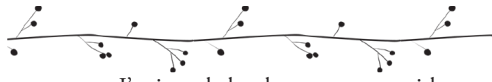
Ask the Advice Lady

The holidays are right around the corner, and that seems like the perfect time to launch my new advice column. I've decided I'm old enough that I should start an advice column because once you are old, you know everything.

So, our first question comes from a fan asking, "How did you learn to hold a Thanksgiving dinner?" Good question. It's not like someone teaches a class on how to hold a family meal event fraught with potential pitfalls or dripping with familial angst. Although there are countless books dealing with the ins and outs of hosting groups of attached and unattached individuals during the holidays, what we are looking for here is a down and dirty how-to about the festive day of indulgence with people we may or may not spend that much time with any other time of the year.

- 1. Make sure you get the turkey in before the last hour before the meal is supposed to be served. Twenty-pound turkeys are not meant to be cooked at the last minute, and no, they don't fit in the microwave in a vain attempt to hasten the process. AND...make sure you defrost the little bugger days before you need it. A frozen turkey takes a looong time to defrost. Lesson learned the hard way. Lasagna can be made to look a little like a turkey if needed ~ ask me for the directions.
2. If you are going to stuff the turkey, make sure to take out that silly bag of giblets in the turkey's, you know, innards. Roasted paper isn't pleasant to serve at a formal table.
3. Forgot a centerpiece? Have the kids present go outside and grab some vegetation to throw artistically in the center of the table. If people ask about the accompanying bugs crawling around, tell them it's to lend a realistic element to the Thanksgiving celebration. Just like in the Pilgrims' times!
4. Do have something for people to do, particularly if some of them don't know each other well (or aren't talking to each other at the moment). Puzzles, a word game, a "short" movie (maybe Charlie Brown Thanksgiving, which everyone should enjoy except those dumb people who don't like animated things... really? Who invited them!), or a board game that everyone feels a part of. Don't play a sports game when there are those present who hate all sports (even though it's Thanksgiving, and somehow, it has become a football holiday).
5. Keep talk neutral and away from upsetting family topics. Now is not the time to ask cousin Susie when the baby is due if no one has said she's pregnant because in all actuality, she might have just gained a few pounds (☹ this happened to me). It is not the time to bring up, "Remember when you took my birthday present and broke it," and definitely not the time to talk politics.
6. Do have a children's table available for the younger set. The main purpose is to have a fall back location when the adult table becomes too "childish."

The truth is, I really enjoy Thanksgiving now. With age came some wisdom and also sheer exhaustion. I no longer worry if the house is all clean, if the menu is perfect, or even if the "traditional" dishes



are present. I'm just glad to have everyone with me, that we are all relatively sane and healthy, and there is at least one pie. Give me pie, and all is right with the world.

Thankfully yours - A wiser, old lady,

Georgina Gryc Park
gpark@bethelsd.org

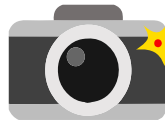


HOLIDAY SHOP!
November 26th - November 30th

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 with the student shop. This is a really fun event to volunteer. Shopping hours are 7:15-2:15. We can use help any time during those hours, especially Tuesday-Thursday. We could also use a few people to help with set up on November 26th.

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



Please send us your EPSOC EVENT PHOTOS!

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

Email to: epsocyearbook@outlook.com

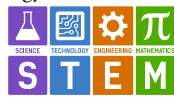
Photos will be for Yearbook use only, they will not be shared on social media. Photos must be high resolution/good quality to be considered for the yearbook. Please label with date and event name. Not all photos are guaranteed to make it into the yearbook.

FALL CARNIVAL



Thank you EPSOC families for coming to the PTA's annual Fall Carnival. Congratulations to all the costume contest winners, though everyone looked fantastic dressed in whimsy and imagination! A very heartfelt thank you to the many volunteers that made this event happen, including all of the generous Cakewalk bakers! You are all superheroes!

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.



GREEN TEAMS ARE IN PLACE, and the team names are so fun! Thank you to the Earthworms (Madeline and Gabe), the Green Earth Team (Izzy and Penelope), the Evergreen Team (Nicholas, Kinard, Nathan and Ethan), and 5th graders Ethan S., Gracie, Braylon and Owen.

Spring teams will be:

- » 3rd grade: Tyler, Gabe L., Lovlynn and Teaghan
» 4th grade: Gemma, Ruby, Lauren and Emmalee
» 5th grade: Brenna, Anai, Rylee and Bella.

These teams start February 4th.

Thanks to the PTA, we will be continuing our curbside composting service for the remainder of the year! This will allow us to pull over 2,000 pounds of produce scraps from the waste stream reducing harmful methane emissions from the landfill. We can all pat ourselves on the back for that!

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!

EP-K8 FOOD DRIVE

MONDAY, OCT. 29TH - FRIDAY, NOV. 16TH

IT'S A CONTEST! Each week, volunteers will be collecting donations from students' classrooms. We will be weighing the items within the categories below. The class with the most weight each week will win a prize!

- CANNED FOOD - fruit, vegetables, soups, chili, etc.
HEALTH & BEAUTY - toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, laundry detergent, etc.
PROTEIN - peanut or almond butter, canned tuna, chicken, etc.
SNACKS - granola bars, applesauce or fruit pouches, fruit snacks, crackers, cookies, etc.

While we are focusing on the most needed items within our categories, we will gladly accept any donations you have for us! This is all about helping our community in the spirit of giving. Please note, we cannot accept perishable or expired food. Students drop off their donations in their classrooms. Middle school students drop off donations in their advisory classrooms.

