



ELK PLAIN K-8 PTA NEWSLETTER

2018/2019 PTA OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:

Christine Link, christinelink@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

Crystal Green, cowgirl_73@msn.com

TREASURER:

Jessica Mays, jessicacaddell@yahoo.com

SECRETARY:

Michelle Davis, closer919@msn.com

NEWSLETTER ENTRIES: judymonhollen@gmail.com

Welcome back to school

Bond Info Night

Friday, October 26th, 4:30-7:30pm
Elk Plain Library
(during Fall Carnival)



Membership Drive

KIRSTEN BOWIE, kirsten_bowie@yahoo.com

Now through October 19th only, the PTA is offering a membership bundle which includes a yearbook again! You can still pre-order yearbooks later in the year, but this is your only chance to get your yearbook at cost. Also, waiting until the end of the year to buy one is risky because they are sold on a first come, first served basis.

Cut out the order form below and return it in your child's classroom folder or to the office with a check made out to EPSOC PTA. We are looking forward to a great membership year!



Take the time to vote
YES for the bond!

Only 20% of parents who are registered to vote, voted last year. This is why our PTA is taking a particularly strong stance this year. We know sign-waving, texts and email haven't worked up to this point, but mobilizing parents and their neighbors to vote will.

Bonds have to pass with a 60% yes vote, not a simple majority (51%). Last year, we got to 54%. Even though it's only a 6% gap, it's a lot more individual votes.

Here are some reasons to vote yes and to encourage your neighbors to vote yes!

- **If the bond passes**, the portion of property taxes that fund education will actually go down. This will not be the case the next time the district tries to pass a bond.
- **If the bond passes**, Elk Plain will remain a K-8 School of Choice with an emphasis in the Arts & Sciences. We will also get a new multi-purpose building where the historical building now sits. This building would house classrooms and shared spaces for our ever-growing K-8 program. A shining example of what a bond can do for Elk Plain is the addition that was built a few years ago, which included the multi-purpose room, the stage/theater classroom, the state-of-the-art audio system, and the music room. It also funded our redesigned parking lot, bus loop and play shed. **If the bond does not pass**, there is a chance Elk Plain will revert back to a K-5 neighborhood school. This means potentially no more arts and science emphasis and no more School of Choice. There has been a school on this site since 1892, and it has always changed for the better throughout history. Let's not let it take a step backwards on our watch!
- A track system, year-round school is not a good idea. Bethel's year-round schools would be very different than the year-round school system

used in California. It would be a 9 weeks on/3 weeks off schedule with no guarantee that siblings will be on the same track. Teachers would have to share rooms with other teachers and return to a different room after the 3-week break. This system would have significant, negative effects on student learning and competitive sports.

It is our sincere hope that every parent or guardian at Elk Plain will vote in the upcoming election. There is still time to register if you need to. **The last day to register online is October 8th.** Visit www.yesbethelkids.com for the voter registration website. **The last day to register to vote in person is October 29th.**

Ballots should arrive in mailboxes by October 25th. **All ballots need to be postmarked by November 6th.** Please visit the Bond 2018 page at bethelsd.org for more bond related facts and videos.

If you are interested in posting this article on an HOA, church or community Facebook page please contact EPSOC PTA at epsocpta1@gmail.com.

VH = Opportunity for Volunteer Hours ♻️ = Recycling Available

OCTOBER EVENTS

- » **APEX FUN RUN** VH
Thursday, October 4th
- » **Beautification** VH
Sunday, Oct. 7th, 10am - 12pm
Debbie Townsend-Schmidt, dtownsend@bethelsd.org
- » **PTA Board Meeting** VH
Wednesday, October 10th, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library
- » **Fall Picture Day** VH
Thursday, October 18th
Christie McMahill, christiemcmahill@outlook.com
Krystal Ripka, kmripka@hotmail.com
- » **Fall Carnival** VH ♻️
Friday, Oct. 26th, 4:30-7:30pm
Michelle Davis, closer919@msn.com
- » **SCHOLASTIC Book Fair!** VH
October 29th- November 2nd
Shaunna Ruda, shaunmaruda@gmail.com
- » **Annual Food Drive** VH
October 29th - November 16th
Angie Strub, jsaj8103@yahoo.com
- » **Staff Appreciation Luncheon** VH
Monday, October 30th
Tawnya Paquette, tawnyapaquette@gmail.com

early NOVEMBER EVENTS

- » **Family Fun Night—Restaurant Takeover** VH
Wednesday, November 14th
- » **PTA Board Meeting**
Wednesday, November 14th, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library

2018/2019 EPSOC PTA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 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

Check here if you are interested in becoming a PTA business member. *Online ads available soon!*

Membership Bundle Prices through October 19th

Individual + Yearbook Preorder = \$30 Couple + Yearbook Preorder = \$38

I would also like _____ additional yearbooks at \$20 each



Can You Guess Who This Is?

See if you can guess what these 5th graders are describing:

I am a long rectangle. I am gray with a name written on me. I have a hump, but am very handy. I have a button on my bottom to open me up. You put papers under my head. I go click, and the papers become one.

What Am I? _____

I am a long cylinder shape. People treat me like I'm nothing much. They pop my head off and twist my head back on. I wear germs 24/7. People are always filling me up when I finally get empty. I feel like I'm being used!

What Am I? _____

Every day, we all describe items in our lives that we use, see, and interact with, but when we come to telling about ourselves, we often struggle. Our self-awareness is usually limited to how we are defined by our family or our job. How would you share quickly who you are if you didn't include these things? Here's my effort:

I am not too tall and not too short, definitely rounder rather than thinner.

I'm someone who likes to smile on the outside because it helps me smile on the inside, even when things are sad.

There are a bunch of unruly hairs on my head that all seem to be different colors but heading to gray, and I'm someone who is okay with that happening.

I believe people are more important than things and doing is more important than being done.

I would rather talk than write, unless I am communicating about myself - then I'd rather write.

Linear thoughts are not easy for me. I think in a circle or as a big mish-mash of ideas whose details eventually arrive.

Sometimes I feel like a puzzle with no edges, as if there is a core picture that has ever-changing sides.

I reside in the warmth of a spirit that was nurtured by good people and good times.

I feel stronger when I'm outdoors part of the day, wiser when I remember I'm not in this alone, and a better person when I acknowledge I'm affecting everything around me.

That may not be all of it, but there's a little of who I am. Now the question is **Who Are You?**

Definitionally yours,

Georgina Gryc Park
geoginapark@hotmail.com

(And those descriptions by the long ago 5th graders? If you weren't sure - a stapler and a water bottle.)



Welcome back to school, Sky Warriors! My name is Christine Link, and I am this year's PTA president. I have a 7th grader and a 4th grader and have been involved in the PTA for many years as vice president, newsletter editor, website manager, and Sustainability chairperson. Serving on the PTA over the past 6 years has been a great pleasure. I have made many great friends, professional contacts and parenting allies. It is truly a well-oiled machine thanks to the hard work and dedication of current board members and those who came before us.

My first position as a board member was actually 10 years ago when my oldest daughter was in cooperative preschool. It was her second year, and when school adjourned in June, the only board position left to be filled was treasurer. I had zero experience being on a board, not to mention as a treasurer, yet I suspected I might be asked if August rolled around with the position still open. I waited and watched over the summer for a more experienced person to volunteer until finally, I was asked. I was apprehensive at first but ultimately accepted the position. What I found was that I completely surprised myself! Turns out, not only was there a "numbers person" inside me, but there was a leader, too.

I tell this story not because the PTA needs a treasurer but in hopes that you will consider taking the same leap I did and join a committee or take on a board position you are curious about—or is vacant. See where it takes you! Being a part of a team that works well together and shares a common goal to help all Sky Warriors reach their full potential is extremely gratifying. There is always a tremendous amount of support at the school, regional and state level for beginning PTA board members. Take the leap! You may surprise yourself!

Sincerely,
Christine Link
Elk Plain PTA President



apex fun run

Thursday, October 4th

Look for the race schedule to be posted soon!



FALL CARNIVAL

Friday, October 26th
from 4:30 - 7:30 pm

If you are interested in volunteering or making goodie donations, please contact:

Michelle Davis at closer919@msn.com



JENNIFER GRANT
grantsrnj@msn.com

Order your Spirit Wear online!
<https://epsoc.itemorder.com/sale>



Elk Plain is starting our 4th year as a Washington Green School! I also want to welcome Raeann O'Neil to the Sustainability Committee. She has been enthusiastically helping in the lunchroom, planning and daydreaming with me about what else we can do for the earth. Thank you, Raeann! Leadership continues to collect from classrooms and spread the word about proper recycling habits. 6-8th grade students who take the debate elective with Ms. Larsen are also learning about the detrimental effects plastics have on the environment.

In 2017/18:

- We collected over 35,000 pieces of TerraCycle and other food packaging.
- Composted over a ton of produce scraps from the lunchroom.
- Reduced the amount of trash we put in the dumpster dramatically.
- A water bottle filling station was donated to the school from the Pierce County Solid Waste Department.

Our 2018/2019 Goals are:

1. **Continue to reduce** the number of single-use water/beverage bottles used on campus.
2. **Collect 36,000 pieces** of TerraCycle and other food packaging (an increase of 1,000 pieces).
3. **Compost all the fruits and veggies scraps** from the 6th-8th grade lunch shift.
4. **Encourage zero-waste lunches** with incentives and prizes (more about that to come).

Let's Go Greener, Sky Warriors!

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!

{upcoming}

Beautification DATE

Please join us as we help keep Elk Plain's campus neat and tidy! Students needing to fulfill community service hours are also welcome.

Sunday, October 7th - 10 am to Noon

Contact Debbie Townsend-Schmidt
at dtownsend@bethelsd.org with any questions.