



ELK PLAIN K-8 PTA NEWSLETTER

2016/2017 PTA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:

Crystal Green, cowgirl-73@msn.com

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS:

Chrissy Gries, gncgries@gmail.com
Christine Link, christinelink@yahoo.com

TREASURER:

Christie McMahill, christiemcmahill@gmail.com

SECRETARY:

Melissa Pate, mpatenkl@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER ENTRIES: christinelink@yahoo.com



PTA Meeting Minutes

Elk Plain PTA General Meeting
September 13, 2016 • 2:15pm

Call to order: 2:17pm - **Quorum:** Yes

Minutes: Minutes from June 2016 General Membership Meeting are reviewed approved for filing.

Treasurer's Report: August 2016 Budget Report is reviewed and approved for filing.

Grant Requests:

- Pam Gendreau requests \$300 for PBIS (Positive Behaviors Interventions & Supports) incentives for students. There are weekly drawings for students who turn in S.O.A.R. tickets and more incentives aimed towards middle school students will be added this year. Michelle Davis motions to approve requested funds, Mara Areglo seconds, votes are taken, and request is approved.
- Crystal Green (presenting for Karla Moriarty) requests \$75 for a pizza party for the first class to turn in 100% of their Federal Forms. Christine Link motions to approve funds, Krystal Ripka seconds, votes are taken, and request is approved.
- Monica Hemenway requests \$208 for the purchase of 32 piano books to replace worn out ones. They are currently 20% off at Sheet Music Plus. Heather Bahrt motions to approve funds, Gina Sawyer seconds, votes are taken, and funds are approved.

Committee Reports:

- **Hospitality:** Jessica Young reports that at least seven more volunteers are needed for Goodies with Grandparents. Donations of juice, coffee, tea, and baked goods are also needed. Jessica is looking into donations of goods from businesses.
- **Fundraising:** Christina Gries reports that the Fundraising goal for the year is \$38000 gross income with \$15200 net income. We are working with Cherrydale Farms for the Fall Fundraiser and sample products are displayed for everyone to look at. These products will be used for door prizes at the end of the meeting. There is a sign up sheet to help with the daily/weekly prizes and delivery of products. There will be a big school wide prize if our fundraising goal is met. This prize has yet to be determined.
- **Spirit Wear:** Gina Sawyer reports that the Spirit Wear expense budget of \$1800 was overspent by \$1106.70 for a total of \$2907.60. More than this amount has already come in for income from Spirit Wear sales. She is requesting that the overage be retroactively approved. Monica Hemenway motions for the funds to be approved, Stacy Legg seconds, votes are taken, and funds are approved. Gina requests to raise her expense budget to \$4500 (an additional \$1593.30) to accommodate Spirit Wear orders that have come in. Georgina Park motions to approve the funds, Christina Gries seconds, votes are taken, and funds are approved.

Upcoming Events:

- Goodies with Grandparents – 9/23/16 7:00am
- Fundraising Assembly – 10/04/16 1:15pm
- Miss Scott reports on her event Read Aloud Night. This event for Kindergarteners and 1st graders will take place on 10/4 at 6pm. A librarian from the Pierce County Library will come and read with students with Miss Scott. Future events will be planned. Miss Scott would like to work with Read and Lead to plan an evening reading event in January.

PTA Goal: Ballots with three goal options and a write in space are presented to the membership. See ballot attached. With seven votes, the goal for EPSOC PTA for the 2016-2017 school year is: "All Elk Plain teachers will join PTA for the 2016-2017 school year". This goal will be posted and progress will be tracked outside of the PTA room.

Standing Rules: The amended Standing Rules are presented. See attached amended rules for changes. Stacy Legg motions to approve the 2016-2017 Standing Rules as amended. Michelle Davis seconds, votes are taken, and amended rules are approved.

Open Floor: Clayton Moore from Narrows Plaza Bowl presented a check for Elk Plain PTA for \$170 from the \$1 game and \$1 donation special that ended 8/31/16.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05pm.



from the President

Crystal Green

cowgirl_73@msn.com

Hello Elk Plain Families,

Volunteering has been on my mind a lot lately. And with that on my mind the question was asked "Why join PTA?" As I was mulling that over I came across a great resource from National PTA and it is best quoted directly:

"What is PTA? Why join PTA? The number one reason to join the Parent Teacher Association is to benefit your child. In doing so, you also help your school. But there are many more PTA advantages:

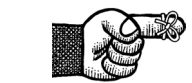
- **Get Connected.** There's no better way to know what's happening in your school.
- **Discover Great Resources.** The PTA offers a variety of programs designed for parents as well as students.
- **Tap into a Network.** PTA functions are opportunities to meet other parents and teachers, building rapport and discussing issues that are on your mind. You can share ideas, concerns, and experiences.
- **Watch Yourself Grow.** By volunteering with your PTA, you put your skills and hobbies to use for a noble cause—your child and all children in the community.
- **Speak Up.** PTA can be a way for you to more effectively suggest change at your child's school.
- **Witness Improvement.** By getting involved at your child's school you'll be part of the solution, helping make positive changes. Local PTAs play an important role by supporting building improvements through advocacy and play an important role in fundraising for curriculum based programs and social events.
- **Be a Role Model.** By becoming a PTA member, you'll be demonstrating to your child the importance you place on education.
- **Enjoy Substantial Benefits.** Individuals and local units can take advantage of a host of benefits from PTA membership including discounts and offers from member benefits providers and sponsors, magazine subscriptions, leadership training, e-newsletters and much more.

For less than 3 cents a day, you can become a PTA member, joining more than 4 million other people who share your interest in issues affecting children. Everyone—parents, educators, students and other citizens active in their schools and communities—is invited to join our not-for-profit parent association."

Thank you to all of the volunteers who dedicate their time and resources to support the PTA. Another warm welcome to all new members, and I look forward to meeting and working with you! And if you are not a member already please join, it's never too late!

If you ever have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at cowgirl_73@msn.com. Thank you!

Crystal Green
EPSOC PTA President



REMINDERS:

- Tuesdays** = Student Store Day!
- Wednesdays** = School Spirit Day!
- Fridays** = Popcorn Day! {25¢/bag} AND BLUE Friday!

{November}

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. **VH**

Sunday, November 6th • 10am - Noon

March, April and May dates will be posted in January 2016.

Contact Debbie Townsend-Schmidt at rockola@q.com with any questions.



2016/17 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 Card Ad: \$25
- 1/4 page Business Ad \$50

VH = Opportunity for Volunteer Hours = Recycling Available

NOV/DEC EVENTS

- >> **Annual Food Drive** **VH**
Monday, Oct. 31 - Friday, Nov. 18th
Suzette Ebbinga, smebbinga@gmail.com
- >> **Staff Appreciation Giving Tree** **VH**
November 1st - 30th
Tawnya Paquette, tawnyapaquette@gmail.com
- >> **PTA Board Meeting** **VH**
Tuesday, November 1st, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library
- >> **Beautification** **VH**
Sunday, Nov. 6th, 10am - 12pm
Debbie Townsend-Schmidt, rockola@q.com
- >> **PTA Membership Meeting** **VH**
Tuesday, November 8th, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library
- >> **Fall Picture RETAKE Day**
Wednesday, November 16th
- >> **Holiday Shop** **VH**
November 28th - December 2nd
Angela Mills, mrjasonmills@hotmail.com
- >> **Family Fun GAME Night** **VH**
Friday, December 2nd
Kristi Bodnar, kristibodnar@yahoo.com
Danielle Olson, danielle.e.olson@icloud.com
- >> **PTA Board Meeting** **VH**
Tuesday, December 6th, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library
- >> **Chocolate, Chimes & Cheer** **VH**
Friday, December 9th
Debbie Townsend-Schmidt, rockola@q.com
- >> **PTA Membership Meeting** **VH**
Tuesday, December 13th, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library

early JANUARY EVENTS

- >> **READ and LEAD** **VH**
January 9th - March 20th
- >> **PTA Board Meeting** **VH**
Tuesday, January 10th, 2:15pm
Elk Plain Library
- >> **STEM Fair Info Night**
Monday, December 12th, 5:30pm
- >> **PTA Membership Meeting** **VH**
Tuesday, January 17th, **6:30pm**
Elk Plain Library
- >> **Clothing Drive Begins** **VH**
January - TBD
Suzette Ebbinga, smebbinga@gmail.com



HOLIDAY SHOP!

Holiday Shop Runs: **VH**
Nov. 28th - Dec. 2nd

We have something for everyone! Prices range from 2/\$1 to \$7 with most items under \$5. This is a great opportunity for our students to experience the joy of giving to others which also makes it a really fun volunteer experience for parents.

Shopping hours are: 7:15am - 2:05pm. We can use help anytime during those hours, especially Tuesday-Thursday.

Please contact Angie at 509-869-9122 if you would like to help.

Staff Appreciation GIVING TREE

Tawnya Paquette
tawnyapaquette@gmail.com

During the month of November, we would like to show our appreciation to the teachers and staff of EPSOC by doing a "Giving Tree". We will have a tree in the main hall near the PTA Office. There will be three leaves for each teacher and staff member, showing their name, room number, and desired item for either themselves or the classroom.

We are asking either the parents or students to please take one of these leaves from the tree and provide the item. The item can be given to the teacher/staff member, or to the office for delivery.

Our teachers and staff do so much more for our kids than just the basics of their job, they build and encourage self-confidence and knowledge in our children. This is just one small way we can show how much they are appreciated by their Elk Plain families.

Sometimes providing these small things can bring a bright spot to someone's day by letting them know that we really do care! We hope you will all participate.

Thank you!

Chocolate, Chimes and Cheer

December 9th • 5pm - 8pm

Please join us for EPSOC Friends of the Arts 11th annual festive fundraiser event, *Chocolate, Chimes & Cheer!*

Our very talented kindergartners and middle schoolers will be providing holiday-themed entertainment while scrumptious treats of chocolate and other confections will be available to purchase for a nominal donation.

New this year: Celebration-of-the-Season Workshops for our students to create holiday handicrafts for a small fee.

Look for more details to be coming soon in your student's purple folder regarding this event and volunteer opportunities.

Diversions from Mrs. Park

Found: Superpowers!

The ability to leap tall buildings with a single bound; the strength to wield a mighty hammer for peace; the chance to bend people's will to your interests? What power would you pick if you were a superhero? It's a popular prompt for students in writing these days. Brought about, no doubt, by the gangs of fans for all things "super" in the movies, on TV, and in comic books. Who hasn't run around the house with a makeshift cape flowing behind us (not just as children ☺). Legions of kids, and adults, have pondered the question at various moments in their lives and when events in the world seem to cry out for some heroic intervention. Many feel that way every four years when we face the seemingly endless election season leading up to a vote for a new leader. So, I ask again - what power would you pick if you were a Superhero? The answer might say more than you think about who you are and what is important to you, not just which hero you like.

Stan Lee, the creative mind behind so many great comic book heroes (think Spiderman, The Avengers, & Dr. Strange) recently said he would pick luck as his Superpower. Given Lee's successful life and his ability to continue imagining characters that entrance us I wonder that he doesn't already think he has it - luck. And even though it seems a rather mundane superpower it shows a more human side to our superpower desires.

So what would I choose? Having super strength is pretty cool but, really, how often do you need to fight a global threat like Loki or Ronan the Accuser? X-ray vision helped Superman see through things but then falls short in the important areas like lead. And so it goes for me ... as I search for a superpower to embrace I run through the possibilities and just as quickly pass them by - strength, invisibility, healing, shooting magic arrows, speed? Through all my mental gyrations I keep coming back to Wonder Woman and her golden Lasso of Truth. Not that I am enamored with the stereotype of Wonder Woman but the idea of a Lasso of Truth rings true for me. (Although that whole flying superpower sounded sweet also!) During this fractious time listening to a stream of talking heads, political pundits, and candidates vying for my vote I would LOVE to have a Lasso of Truth to use to sort out the flotsam and jetsam of political rhetoric.

Like all Superpowers it comes with a dark side. In the case of the golden Lasso of Truth the problem becomes "Whose truth?" I am fully aware that it is our own perceptions of truth that we often believe, or shades of the truth, as we know it, that comes across in an answer. The Lasso of Truth would only reveal to us what an individual believes is the truth not necessarily the real truth.

I think I'll go back to the list and pick Mrs. Incredible's (Elastigirl to you) rubbery abilities since she is always able to stretch her limits and use them to protect her children. Because in the final analysis my vote almost always is swayed by whom I believe will do the most to protect my children and their future. And that is my truth!

Whoever wins I hope their superpower is flexibility because the truth is, as the newest Noble Winner in Literature Bob Dylan sings, "for the times they are a-changin'". Our world is globally reinventing itself as we speak. Maybe Stan Lee will even lend us a little bit of his luck.

Truthfully yours,
Georgina Gryc Park
georginapark@hotmail.com



EP-K8 FOOD DRIVE!



It's a contest!!

This year we are doing something new! Every week there will be a theme. The class that brings the most items within the theme will win a prize! **3 weeks = 3 chances to WIN!**

- WEEK 1 = Canned Fruit or Canned Veggies**
- WEEK 2 = Health & Beauty Items**
- WEEK 3 = Peanut/Almond Butter & Canned Meats**

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. Each class will have a box marked for the food drive.

Want to volunteer?

Contact Suzette at: smebbinga@gmail.com
or Angie at: jsaj8103@yahoo.com



Reflections

Linley Storm & Amy Solis

lstormb@outlook.com or javieamy@comcast.net

This year's theme is:



WHAT IS YOUR STORY?

Tell your story through dance, a short film, a poem or story, an original song, a photo or visual work of art. Pick up a PTA Reflections Entry form today from the front office or your art, music or dance teacher and tell us your story!

Due date for all submissions:
>> Tuesday, November 8th! <<



READ & LEAD 2017

January 9th - March 20th

Please join Elk Plain PTA in celebrating 20 years of Read and Lead! This long standing event is a PTA sponsored and executed 10 week program designed to strengthen reading skills and encourage quality family time. 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 (day of week TBD)
- planning and/or serving at the ice cream party in March
- medal presentation assembly

Please contact Melissa Pate at: mpatenkl@gmail.com
and Crystal Green at: cowgirl_73@msn.com with any questions
or if you would like to help! **THANK YOU!**

To sign up for PTA reminds please go to the following link:

www.remind.com/join/elkplai



FALL CARNIVAL SUCCESS!!!



Here's to another fun packed evening at Fall Carnival!
To all the wonderful volunteers that made this event happen:

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

It required many hands to run games, cakewalk and glow dance, serve food, refill candy containers, sell tickets, make or purchase goodies to donate, set up and take down. You all have my deepest gratitude and appreciation. Equally important were the families that came out to have fun. Thank you so much for your support. It was an absolute joy to see our Sky Warriors decked out in their costumes enjoying all of the activities. I would also like to thank our local Mountain Highway Walmart for awarding us a \$250 grant. We were able to apply that money towards the new Clown Knock down game which will be enjoyed for years to come.

Thank You
Walmart

Goodies with Grandparents!



A huge thank you to everyone that brought donations or volunteered their time for the Goodies with Grandparents event. All of your generosity and hard work helped to make the event a successful one and we know we would never have been able to pull it off without all of the support we received. Thank you again for helping to make EPSOC an amazing school and for supporting our PTA.



Sustainability

Christine Link

christinelink@yahoo.com

Our 2016/17 Goal is to collect 68,000 TerraCycle Pieces!
That's 1 item for every seat in Century Link Field!

Number of TerraCycle items recycled to date: 16,404!

Our recycling efforts are going very well! The lunchroom Green Team groups are in full swing helping setup the recycle station, run it, and close it down. With their help and with the participation of everyone at school we have collected over 16,000 items so far this year which is about 100 pounds!

We are collecting many more TerraCycle wrappers from our 6th-8th grade portables and soon middle school Leadership elective students will be collecting all types of recycle from classrooms.

Sunny Fievez who works at the REI Distribution Center in Sumner brought in 4 full trash bags of valuable TerraCycle packaging. Employees collected and donated 640 granola/energy bar wrappers, about 1500 chip/salty snack bags, 35 cereal bags, puree pouches and toothpaste tubes. Being able to recycle these things has brought their distribution center to a zero-waste facility. It's a win-win for sure!

Another great surprise has been receiving TerraCycle items from Thompson Elementary. Rosalba Soltero, Elk Plain parent and lunch supervisor at Thompson, brought in 800 pieces she collected from students in their lunchroom. She is a Green Team unto herself. The earth and Elk Plain are very grateful!

Beginning in January we will no longer recycle Capri Suns and other drink pouches. Please consider buying easily recyclable cans of apple juice (Tree Top makes these) or sending water or juice in plastic or reusable bottles.



On a more discouraging note, Kraft (the manufacturers of Capri Sun) has chosen to discontinue their long partnership with TerraCycle and will be closing the Capri Sun Juice Pouch Recycling

Brigade at the end of December. We will continue to collect and recycle them until winter break so gather as many as you can so we can make these last few weeks count.

This will definitely decrease our rate of collection towards our goal of 68,000 pieces but if we all do our best to collect every piece from classrooms, home, neighbors, grandparents and after school activities we may still reach it--and have a chance to be recognized at a game at Century Link Field or Safeco Field!

As we head into the holiday season remember to save all block packaging styrofoam from big ticket items. We will collect it on Earth Day to be recycled.



Thank you to students: Hayden Robinson, Gemma & Franny Link, Cooper Strub, Paul Tomcho, Robert Parthree, Samuel & Elysa Montgomery, Keira Ripka, Sean Simons-Eaton and Brailynn Pelland for bringing in items from home.

Four Star Farm

Graham, WA

After School Program
Drop-in Lessons
Day and Summer Camps
Group Programs
Field Trips
Birthday Parties

Four Star Farm is a small horse farm located in Graham, WA. Sharon Lulham's youth programs help children develop teamwork, responsibility, confidence, and communication skills in everyday life.

Riding instills balance, correct posture, focus, and confidence. Working with horses promotes trust, compassion and forgiveness. The end result: self esteem.

Based on Pony Club principles, activities include riding lessons, horse management and safety, stable management, grooming, games, and crafts.

All levels welcome!

Sharon Lulham, Owner
253-847-0783 • 253-320-9591 cell
www.kidsfourstarfarm.com