



## Your 2013/2014 PTA Officers

### Co-Presidents

Melissa Pate  
253-861-5226  
mpatenkl@gmail.com

Christina Gries  
253-221-3263  
gncgries@gmail.com

### Vice President

Kendra Williamson  
253-847-4297  
kand3bees@hotmail.com

### Financial Officer

Naoko Geforos  
253-846-1044  
witnit@msn.com

### Secretary

Michelle Davis  
253-537-3216  
closer919@msn.com

### Newsletter Entries

Christine Link  
christinelink@yahoo.com

## CO-PRESIDENTS

Melissa Pate + Christina Gries

As the final leg of Read and Lead 2014 begins, we would like to thank Tamara Stahancyk and her team for all of their hours of hard work. From tracking and filling out prizes to the designing the Read and Lead board, the volunteers have done a fantastic job. THANK YOU! We also hope our EPSOC families have been enjoying the quality reading time and that you will continue to fit it into your busy schedules once the program has ended.



Monday, March 17th is the last turn in date for any Read and Lead sheets. Please remember as per the rules, all classes at 100% participation (each student has turned in at least ONE completed Read and Lead sheet) and all students who have turned



in TEN completed sheets will be eligible for the ice cream party on Friday, March 21st. If your student is NOT participating in Read and Lead this year, please complete and return an Opt Out form to school. The ice cream party is a big deal for the kids because even students who have not completed the ten sheets required for a medal can celebrate and receive a prize for their efforts as long as their whole class participates. If you have any questions concerning Read and Lead, please do not hesitate to contact Tamara Stahancyk at stahancyktl@gmail.com or Melissa Pate at mpatenkl@gmail.com.

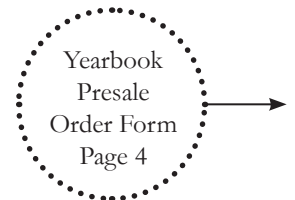
Thank you also to Gina Sawyer and her team at the Student Store! We are still looking for volunteers on Thursdays from 10:30 to 12:30ish to assist with the store. The Student Store is very popular with the students and more volunteers would mean less time the kids spend in line and a rotating schedule for our current volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please contact Gina Sawyer at ginasawyer@comcast.net.

McTeacher Night was a huge success and we want to extend a big THANK YOU to our fabulous teachers, staff and to all of you who came to support Elk Plain PTA. Total proceeds from the night were \$679 (in two hours)!



Please mark your calendars for the General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, March 11th at 2pm in the EPSOC library. Nominees for the EPSOC PTA 2014-2015 Executive Board will be announced with elections held at the April 15th meeting. Look for more information soon on this important PTA event.

Regards,  
Melissa Pate  
Christina Gries

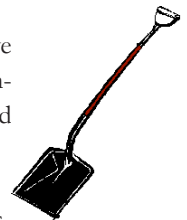


## DAFFODIL DIG TOMORROW MARCH 1ST

LET'S GET DIGGING AT 9:00AM!

The hour of Elk Plain School of Choice renovations is rapidly approaching and we need your help! The island area in the parking lot will be removed as our lot is reconfigured to enhance traffic flow during peak times. There are hundreds of daffodil and crocus bulbs to be salvaged for our new islands and garden area.

Please consider joining the Beautification team on March 1st and March 8th (if necessary) from 9 a.m. to noon to recover these bulbs that past and present Elk Plain students have planted over the years. This is a great way to fulfill your volunteer hours and contribute to the future beauty of our campus.



For more information please email or call Debbie Townsend-Schmidt at rockola@q.com or 253/843-0747.

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Music • Dance • Art • Drama • Computers • Science



**2014 FIELD DAY**

**SURVIVOR**

*Help! Calling all volunteers!*

It's that time of year when we must start planning our year end activities. Field Day is a major event that is highly anticipated by students. In order to be successful on Field Day we will need several volunteers!

Please contact Lisa Beck if you are willing to help with the planning or preparation of Field Day. We will plan a meeting in the next few weeks.

Thank you! Lisa Beck  
Epsocfieldday@comcast.net



**YEARBOOK PICS**

Sports (Bethel Rec team pics) and Performance photos needed for yearbook ASAP!

If your child has been in an Elk Plain performance this year, and you have pictures, please forward them to Kendra at kand3bees@hotmail.com.

Bethel Rec pics can either be scanned and emailed, or originals sent to school marked with your name and phone number, and child's name and teacher. They will be returned. Any questions, please call Kendra at (253)847-4297.

**CREATIVE KIDS at the Spring Fair**

April 10-13th

Countdown to the Creative Kids Exhibit!  
Submissions due March 21st



The cold and damp days of our Pacific Northwest winter have set in...what better time to be dreaming about the Spring Fair in Puyallup! Elk Plain Friends of the Arts will be making the annual pilgrimage to deliver our very talented student projects to the Creative Kids Exhibit at the Spring Fair. Many works of art and writing from our students are submitted by Mrs. Lee or classroom teachers, but families are encouraged to submit projects completed at home as well. This is a great way to boost your student's creative confidence!

We are accepting projects in the following categories: Art (painting, drawing, sculpture, mixed media, wood media, computer art), Creative Writing (prose & essays and poetry), Photography, and Paper Crafts & Scrapbooking. Work should be submitted to Mrs. Lee or the office no later than March 21. A complete list of rules and regulations are posted on the Fair's website at: www.thefair.com. Keep in mind, artists must be at least 6 years old to submit work.

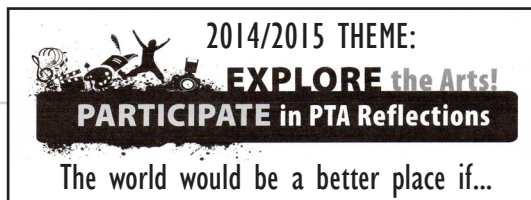
All participants will receive a free gate admission ticket to the Spring Fair! Entries will be displayed for the 4-day run of the Fair from April 10-13 and artwork and awards are also showcased in the entry hall at EPSOC upon their return from the Fair. We hope many of you are able to participate and are excited about the wide variety of unique projects we will see! If you have any questions please email or call Debbie Townsend-Schmidt at rockola@q.com or 253/843-0747.

**REFLECTIONS WINNERS Go to State**

The Elk Plain School of Choice PTA is very excited to announce that all of our Reflections winners at the Bethel School District level have advanced to the Washington state level of the competition. Congratulations to:

- Ysabela Hirling for advancing in the Dance Choreography category
- Taylor Babbel and Frances Link for moving up in the Visual Arts category
- Emmaline Schmidt for advancing in the Photography category

We are so proud of you and thank you for representing Elk Plain School of Choice so well with your artistic talents. Best wishes for advancing to the national level!



Next year's theme is: The world would be a better place if...  
Plan ahead for a November 2014 deadline!  
Contact Debbie Townsend-Schmidt with any questions:  
rockola@q.com or 253/843-0747

## MARCH Events

### PTA BOARD Meeting

Wednesday, March 5th, 2pm

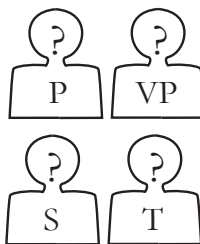
### PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP Meeting Tues, March 11th, 2pm

#### 14/15 PTA Board Nominations Accepted

We hope you had a chance to fill out and return the nomination form that went home in mid-February. We will start calling nominees the first week in March but can accept new nominations all the way up to the meeting on the 11th.

If you lost your form, feel free to email us or send a note in with your child. You may add your name or you can nominate anonymously. We would also love to hear your reasons for nominating this person. Members of the executive board are organized, involved, and work well with people. They are also moms, dads, and grandmas!

christinelink@yahoo.com or cowgirl\_73@msn.com



## ...Upcoming

APRIL

PTA Board Meeting 9th

PTA Membership Meeting/Elections 15th

Muffins with Mom 24th

### Where to Earn

#### Volunteer Hours in March

- help at Bingo Night
- count minutes and move race cars for R & L Monday mornings
- help label and distribute R & L prizes on Wednesdays
- help with R & L Ice Cream Party
- help with Book Fair and setup
- contribute food or help with Staff Appreciation Lunch
- help at A/R club Mondays after school
- Field Day Planning  
(epsocfieldday@comcast.net)
- help with student store on Thursdays  
(ginasawyer@comcast.net)
- assist arts team with productions  
(mgilmour@bethelsd.org)
- attend PTA meetings

### B-I-N-G-O N-I-G-H-T!

March 7th, 6-8:30pm

Enjoy an inexpensive yet extremely fun family night out at Bingo! Proceeds from Bingo night help to fund PTA events, programs and educational support within Elk Plain School of Choice. There will be food available for purchase, a dessert and basket silent auction, and lots of prizes! Bingo cards are \$3 each, or 3 for \$5, or 5 cards for \$10 (cards to be picked up on Bingo night).

Needed: Volunteers • Donations for prizes • Donations for desserts

Contact Sheila Portugue • Text 253.381.6954 • Call 253.383.7838 daytime  
Call 253.846.3810 evening • portugue.s@ghc.org

### READ AND LEAD ENDS MONDAY, MARCH 17TH

I would like to thank all of the volunteers that have come out to help with Read and Lead every Monday and Wednesday.

Read and Lead will end March 17th. Please make sure all recording sheets are in for your students. -Tamara



### BOOK FAIR

March 24th-March 27th

Elk Plain Parents - It's that time again! The Spring Bookfair is coming up Monday, March 24th - Thursday, March 27th. We will need help throughout the week and on the Friday afternoon before the fair for set up. This is a great way to get volunteer hours!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:  
Afternoon of Friday, March 21st  
Mon, Wed, Thurs: 7:30am - 2pm  
Tuesday: 7:30am - 7:30pm

If you are interested please email Kirsten Bowie at [Kirsten\\_bowie@yahoo.com](mailto:Kirsten_bowie@yahoo.com).  
Thanks!

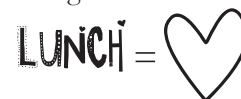
### CREATIVE KIDS

Creative Kids entries  
due March 21st.

### STAFF APPRECIATION Luncheon

Tuesday, March 25th

Calling all chefs, bakers, and grocery shoppers! The PTA sponsored staff appreciation lunch is on Tuesday, March 25th (the full day of conferences). Please let me know if you'd like to show your love for our amazing teachers by donating a dish to the buffet-style event. Contact Elizabeth Custudio at [er\\_custudio@hotmail.com](mailto:er_custudio@hotmail.com)



**DIVERSIONS** *From Mrs. Park*

**What's A Mother To Worry About?**

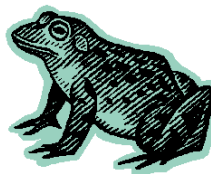
A bone chilling 10 degrees outside and my son was not wearing gloves! Put your gloves on, I rebuked! He insisted that his hands were fine in his pockets, although one finger did feel a touch numb. I reiterated my admonishment; always carry gloves when walking outside in the cold. Don't worry, mom, he responded. Don't worry! Don't worry? Not something a mother is apt to do, not worry. But a conversation texted by phone 2,500 miles across the country does not sustain the direness of a situation, as the proximity of an anxious, handwringing, frothing at the mouth mother is likely to produce.

As my children grow older I am struggling to let go of my prime parenting activity ~ worrying! The mainstay of my life, and the thing that often gets me up in the morning, the chance to worry about my three children. They will soon all be gone, full time, from home so now I am worried about what I will worry about.

Recently, however, I discovered a potentially new avenue for my worry. It happened this past January in two different venues like lightening striking you twice. Obviously, I didn't get the

first idea and needed to be hit in my ear, as it were, to understand the depth of need for my personal concern.

One night while taking the dog out I heard my newest worry in the dormant cut leaf maple by my front door. It was a wet January evening that happened to be unseasonable warm and a frog had decided it was time to do some "singing"? My mom mode went instantly into overdrive. Doesn't this frog know its taken to the night air in the wrong month? Who let this frog out without his tiny froggy gloves and hat? And where was his coat? I was cold so this frog must wear a coat! Really, this is not acceptable, and more importantly, dangerous to the frog's long-term health.



This is the perfect worry for me since frogs are already on my personal radar and are an important aspect of my life. Every spring I look forward to, and take special note of, the advent of chorus frog singing. I happily stand outside listening to the evening event serenading me from the neighboring wetlands filling the night air, sometimes deafeningly so, with frog song.

The second lightening strike was an article in the Tacoma News Triune

about some recently published frog research. It appears that frog scientists (more properly called herpetologists) discovered the singing of certain frogs triggered the sonar of bats who have evolved to eat said frogs! Like the tolling of a dinner bell the frog chorus calls the bats to their meal. This is outrageous! Not that I don't also like bats but, really, using the courting song of an animal to swoop down and eat him! What is a frog to do? If you don't sing, no lady frog date and no more baby frogs ~ if you do sing, possible death. Wow, the perfect worry for me because my ability to do anything to help is extremely limited. Which means, of course, I will have something to worry about for a very long time. An excellent diversion and one I think my children should be happy for since it means I will leave them alone, at least during the singing season.

February 13 ~ Evening stroll with the dog and off in the distance I can just make out ... frogs singing. Let the worrying begin!

Concerned, but contentedly so,  
Georgina Gryc Park ~  
Chief Frog Worrier

**YEAR BOOK PRESALE** *Until March 10th*



**YEAR BOOK PRESALE ORDER FORM - \$20 EACH**  
Presale ends March 10th

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Yearbooks: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please make checks payable to EPSOC PTA

Contact Kendra at kand3bees@hotmail.com or (253)847-4297 with questions.

**GOLDEN ACORN AWARD**

The Golden Acorn is an award presented by local PTAs to an outstanding PTA member(s) who has consistently gone above and beyond for students in the community. The recipient(s) participates in multiple activities and is dedicated to the well-being and growth of all children. The EPSOC Golden Acorn committee will be accepting nominations soon to honor a deserving PTA member(s), so please contemplate our many deserving volunteers and plan on making a nomination.



*The old pond,  
A frog jumps in:  
Plop!*

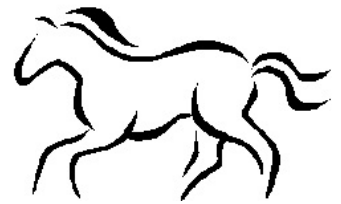
-Haiku by Zen Master Basho



**FOUR STAR FARM**

Graham, WA

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



www.kidsfsf.com

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 • Graham, WA  
253-847-0783 • 253-320-9591 cell

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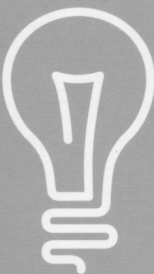
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Email: hinsverk@comcast.net



Chris Katzer  
Owner

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**Child Care and Learning Center**

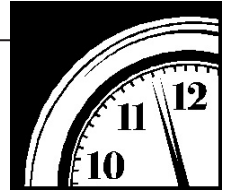
**Corrie Robbins  
Betty Goins**

17815 7th Ave Ct. E.  
Spanaway, WA 98387  
253-847-5796

**Ages: Infants - 12  
Hour: 6am - 5:30pm  
Monday-Friday**

## ● PTA General Meeting Minutes

ESPOC General Membership Meeting  
January 14th, 2014



Called to order: 2:04pm

Quorum: Yes

### Principal's Report:

- Mr. Merrin spoke about the upcoming Levies and the impacts they would have on our school. We also could use some volunteers to hold signs in the morning promoting voting for Bethel Schools. A sign-up sheet is available.
- MAPS testing has begun. Parents please ensure your students get plenty of rest and healthy meals.
- We will be breaking ground in April for various school renovations. Construction projects should be completed sometime in August.

### Committee Reports:

- Read & Lead: Off to a great start! We have had a great volunteer turn out. Thank you volunteers!
- Holiday Shop: Holiday Shop was very successful. We always hope to just break even in costs but did end up with a profit of \$731.07 which was \$31.45 more than expected. Thank you to all volunteers!
- Popcorn: We will be switching to the healthier option of Coconut Oil very soon.
- Yearbook: If anyone has any additional Bethel Sports Team pictures to add they would be appreciated.
- Clothing Drive: Begins January 24th. Please label bags with "Donation" and it would be greatly appreciated if clothes were pre-counted.
- Food Drive: Our donations were down 41% from last year but we were still able to help several families. Thank you to all who gave.
- Box Tops: Our first check of the school year was for \$985.10.
- Newsletter: Deadline for February entries is January 17th. Offering a digital copy of the Newsletter instead of paper was discussed.
- Nominating Committee: Flyers will be sent home to encourage nominations for new Board Members.

### New Business:

- Pam Korn, of Social Services, made a Grant Request for a \$240 budget increase. Christina Black made a motion to approve, Jim Warnke seconded. Motion was passed with two abstentions.
- Beverly Rarey made a Grant Request in the amount of \$128 for Science Night. This would support the cost of an animal rental from Point Defiance Zoo. Christina Black made a motion to approve, Michelle Davis seconded. Motion was passed.

### Upcoming Events:

- McTeacher Night will be January 30th from 5-7pm at the McDonalds located at the intersection of Military Road and Pacific Avenue. We have 10 staff member participating in the 5-6pm shift and 7 staff members for the 6-7pm shift.
- The next Board Meeting will be February 5th at 6pm.

-The next General Meeting will be February 11th at 6:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:11pm

## Elk Plain School of Choice PTA

### OFFICERS 2013-14

President	Melissa Pate	(253)861-5226	mpatenkl@gmail.com
President	Christina Gries	(253)221-3263	gncgries@gmail.com
Vice President	Kendra Williamson	(253)847-4297	kand3bees@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Naoko Geforos	(253)846-1044	witnit@msn.com
Secretary	Michelle Davis	(253)537-3216	closer919@msn.com

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Beautification	Debbie Townsend-Schmidt	(253)843-0747	rockola@q.com
Bingo Night	Sheila Portugue	(253)381-6954	portugue.s@ghc.org
Book Fairs	Kirsten Bowie	(253)254-2949	kirsten_bowie@yahoo.com
Box Tops <i>and</i>	Dione Savage &	(253)375-7579	dionesavage@gmail.com
Campbell's Soup Labels	Carrie Hughes	(253)312-9133	starcarebear@yahoo.com
Fall Carnival	Jennifer Grant	(253)380-7400	jgrant@bethelsd.org
Families in Need/ Drives	Crystal Green	(253)875-8657	cowgirl_73@msn.com
Family Fun Nights			
Field Day	Gina Sawyer & Lisa Beck	253-686-8368	ginasawyer@comcast.net
Fundraising	Stacy Legg	(858)204-8049	stacylynn12925@yahoo.com
Golden Acorn	Debbie Townsend-Schmidt	(252)843-0747	rockola@q.com
Holiday Shop	Kendra Williamson	(253)847-4297	kand3bees@hotmail.com
Laminating			
Legislation	Stacy Legg	(858)204-8049	stacylynn12925@yahoo.com
Membershp	Noreen Kim	(253)875-1405	kmakalanik@hotmail.com
Newsletter	Christine Link		christinelink@yahoo.com
Popcorn	Shannon Gregory	(253)227-1226	epic@qwiknet.com
Programs/Assemblies	Georgina Park	(253)683-7900	gpark@bethelsd.org
Proof Reading	Georgina Park	(253)683-7900	gpark@bethelsd.org
Read & Lead	Tamara Stahancyk	(253)376-8369	stahancyktl@gmail.com
Reflections	Debbie Townsend-Schmidt	(253)843-0747	rockola@q.com
Safety Committee	Naoko Geforos	(253)846-1044	witnit@msn.com
School Pictures	Johanna Clark	(253)846-2965	wannajd@live.com
Science Night	Bev Rarey		kand3bees@hotmail.com
Staff Appreciation	Elizabeth Custodio	(253)330-6582	er_custodio@hotmail.com
Hospitality/Baking	Becky Ortega	(253)843-2129	becca619@live.com
Student Store	Gina Sawyer	(253)686-8368	ginasawyer@comcast.net
T-Shirts & Logo Wear	Stacy Legg	(858)204-8049	stacylynn12925@yahoo.com
Yearbook	Kendra Wiliamson & Krystal Ripka	((253)847-4297 (253)651-9925	kand3bees@hotmail.com kmripka@hotmail.com



# ELK PLAIN PTA

Events Calendar



# MARCH 2014

Individual: \$10  Couple: \$18  Business: (card \$25)  (1/4 page \$50)  (1/2 page \$100)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Children/Teacher(s): \_\_\_\_\_

To become a member complete this form and return to your child's teacher with payment.

## EPSOC PTA Membership Form



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Week 9 of Read and Lead		Late Start PTA Board Meeting 2 pm		Bingo! 6-8:30pm	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Week 10 of Read and Lead	PTA Membership Meeting and Nominations 2pm				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Last Turn in date for Read and Lead				Book Fair Setup in afternoon	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Conferences Book Fair	Staff Appreciation Lunch				
30	31					
	Spring Break Begins through April 4th					