



# ELK PLAIN School of Choice

PTA Newsletter

www.epsocpta.org



Nov/Dec 2013

## 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

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reflections	2
Nov/Dec Events	3
Read and Lead, Box Tops, eScrip How-To	4
Diversions	5
Honor Flight Information	6
General Meeting Minutes	7
Nov/Dec Calendar	8

## CO-PRESIDENTS

Melissa Pate + Christina Gries

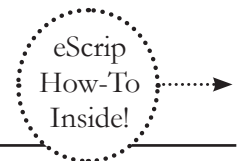
Thank you to all of our families for a great start to the school year. It has been an eventful year so far! With Fundraiser, Fall Carnival, and Book Fair behind us, we embark on events that keep our Families In Need committee very busy and are near and dear to our hearts. November's annual Food Drive and January's clothing drive give us the chance to give back to the community and hopefully make a difference in the lives of others.

EPSOC PTA's "Fill the Bag" themed food drive runs from Friday, November 1st through Friday, November 22nd. This year's goal is to collect 3500 nonperishable items school wide to be donated to FISH Food Bank of Pierce County. FISH is an organization almost completely operated by volunteers and serves the Graham, Spanaway, and Parkland communities among many others. Collecting food for the needy is a significant opportunity for our children to practice selflessness and charity while supporting those in their own neighborhood and school.

In January, EPSOC PTA will hold its second ever Clothing Drive. Gently used adult and children's clothing is collected and donated to Wear It Out, a free clothing bank located right here in Spanaway that benefits all Bethel families. Last year, we donated over 3000 articles of clothing and shoes! Of course, we will beat that total this time around! More information about the Clothing Drive will be in our January newsletter.

With the holidays right around the corner, we would like to give thanks for our wonderful committee chairpersons, volunteers, and families. Your dedication and involvement in EPSOC PTA are so appreciated. In the immortal words of Dr. Seuss, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." You are priceless.

Warmest wishes,  
Melissa Pate and Christina Gries  
EPSOC PTA Co-Presidents



## SCHOOL Beautification



Thanks to those Elk Plain School of Choice families who have volunteered to help beautify our campus. This is an exciting year to take part in beautification, as many improvements and additions will be made to our parking and garden areas during the summer of 2014.

Tentative plans include digging up our perennials that will be affected by the summer renovations during Earth Week, April 21-25. This will be accomplished during school hours with the help of our

students, teachers and volunteer families.

The hundreds of daffodils in the main planter bed need to stay in the ground as long as possible after they bloom next spring. We will host a "Daffodil Digging Days" event over a weekend as we approach the close of the school year.

Current volunteer opportunities include pulling weeds and raking leaves in our parking area at your convenience.

Contact Debbie Townsend-Schmidt:  
rockola@q.com or 253/843-0747

Music • Dance • Art • Drama • Computers • Science



# **EXPLORE** the Arts! **PARTICIPATE** in PTA Reflections

## **Theme: "Believe, Dream, Inspire"**

*Reflect on the theme. Create an original work. Be recognized.*

### **ART CATEGORIES:**



**Dance Choreography**



**Music Composition**



**Film Production**



**Photography**



**Literature**



**Visual Arts**

**Deadline for entries:** **November 18, 2013**

**For details, contact:** Debbie Townsend-Schmidt  
253-843-0747  
rockola@q.com

Rules, guidelines and entry forms are located outside the PTA office and can also be found at [www.wastatepta.org](http://www.wastatepta.org) under Programs→Reflections.

**Elk Plain School of Choice PTA**

**National  
PTA**

everychild.one voice.®



**PTA.org/Reflections**

# NOVEMBER and DECEMBER Events

● **NOVEMBER PTA BOARD Meeting** *Wednesday, November 13th, 2pm*

● **NOV. PTA MEMBERSHIP Meeting** *Tuesday, November 26th, 6:30pm*

Evening Meeting at 6:30pm

● **DECEMBER PTA BOARD Meeting** *Wednesday, December 11th 6:00pm*

Evening Meeting at 6:00pm

● **ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE** *November 1st- 22nd*

**1 in 5 American children struggle with hunger.**

**Let's help reduce that by starting in our own community.**

EPSOC's annual food drive is from  
**November 1st-22nd**  
supporting local FISH Food Banks.



If you would like to volunteer please email  
Crystal Green at [cowgirl\\_73@msn.com](mailto:cowgirl_73@msn.com)

Spirit Wear  
Orders Due  
Nov. 4th

## ...Upcoming

JANUARY

Read and Lead begins: 1/6

Clothing Drive: 1/24-2/24

FEBRUARY

Spring Fundraiser: 2/7-2/24

Levy Vote!

## CHOCOLATE

*Chimes and Cheers*



Join us Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, for  
Chocolate, Chimes & Cheer,  
the social event of the year!

Sponsored by Elk Plain Friends of the Arts the evening will include performances from various classes and groups, a silent auction of arts and crafts, and lots of chocolate!

Doors will open at 4:45 p.m. and the first part of the evening belongs to the Kindergarten classes. Come enjoy the sounds of the season, nibble chocolate and bid on awesome items.

After a break at 6:00 p.m. the second half of the evening will feature the 4th and 5th graders and special performances by Dance Ensemble, band, choir, and chimers.

All proceeds from the evening from donations and silent auction bids are used directly for the benefit of all the arts programs at Elk Plain School of Choice. Past support has included purchase of choir chimes, microphones for plays, support of Dance Ensemble, field trips for classrooms, supplies for the visual arts. Look to your purple folders for more upcoming information and exact performance times.



## Holiday Shoppe *December 10- December 13th*

**This is a fun time for the kids  
to shop for the special people and  
pets in their lives!**

Tuesday, December 10th - Friday, December 13th

7:15am - 2:00pm

Price range: \$0.25 to \$10.00

- Kids will be shopping by classes, and may also shop at recess.
- No adult purchases until all classes have had a chance to shop.
- Cash or checks accepted .
- More info and a blank shopping list will be sent home at a later date.



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR

Set-up on the evening of Monday 12/9 and during school hours 12/10-12/13.

Please email Kendra at [kand3bees@hotmail.com](mailto:kand3bees@hotmail.com)

or call (253)847-4297 if you're able to help.





## eSCRIP, TARGET, and Holiday Shopping



Last year we raised over \$500 from eScrip rebates and Target's Take Charge of Education REDcard rebate program! With a little effort on our part this year I'm sure we can at least double that number especially with the holiday shopping season right around the corner. Take a few minutes to read the instructions below and register your cards so that as you shop EPSOC PTA gets the rewards!

eScrip: \$366  
Target: \$157

### Target

To get Target rebates simply **register your REDcard at Target's Take Charge of Education page** in the REDcard section of the Target website. Select Elk Plain School of Choice as your school and the PTA will receive up to 1% on all REDcard purchases.

### eScrip

There are 2 ways to earn funds through eScrip. The first is by simply **using your registered cards** when making purchases. The second is actually **shopping online through the eScrip website** from hundreds of retailers including Amazon.com (2.4%), Target (2.4%), REI (3%) Macy's (3%), PetSmart (4.8%), Home Depot (3.6%), Toys R Us (1.2%), Crate and Barrel, Office Depot, LEGO--the list and fundraising potential goes on and on!

**1:** Register your Safeway, credit and debit cards at eScrip.com

- Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)
- Click on "my eScrip", create an account or login if you already have one
- Click on "Add Cards Now!" Add as many cards as you like.
- Search for and choose Elk Plain School of Choice to receive the contributions. Now when you use those cards EPSOC PTA receives a percentage--and a little bit adds up just like Box Tops and Labels for Education.

**2:** Shop at eScrip Online Mall.

- The key to this benefit is starting your shopping session from the eScrip website. *Think eScrip before you buy!*
- Once you are signed into eScrip.com, click on "Online Mall" at the top right
- Find the retailer of your choice (or click on All Stores) and click on the retailer's name. You'll be taken to their website from eScrip.
- Start shopping and a percentage of your total purchase comes back to Elk Plain. It's that easy!

Think eScrip  
before  
you buy!



## READ and LEAD



Read and Lead is an annual EPSOC PTA program designed to help improve our students reading skills and promote quality family time. Our goal this year is 100% school wide participation.

There are many volunteer opportunities within this program! We are looking for organized people to assist now in the preparations for one of the biggest programs of the school year. If you are interested in helping with the success of Read and Lead 2013, please contact:

Tamara Stahancyk at  
[stahancyktl@gmail.com](mailto:stahancyktl@gmail.com)

Thank you!

## BOX TOPS and LABELS



Not to be outdone by eScrip, Box Tops and Labels for Education rebates contributed over \$1600 to the EPSOC PTA last year. Keep saving those little bits of paper. Every dime and point makes a difference!

Register your Fred Meyer and Safeway card at [labelsforeducation.com](http://labelsforeducation.com) (different from eScrip) for additional contributions.




**Chris Katzer**  
Owner

ckatzer09@gmail.com  
www.cbkelectricalinc.com  
406 168th St S  
Spanaway, WA 98387  
206-679-5164

Lic:cbkelei888mp  
Ubi:603-189-557

**CBK ELECTRICAL INC**  
Commercial/Residential/Security Systems



**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**

● **DIVERSIONS** from Mrs. Park

**FACING FEARS | Ɔꞥꞥꞥ ꞥꞥꞥꞥ**

**H**ave you ever sat in a room full of people and been visited with the feeling that you are the only one that is completely clueless about what is going on? Everyone else seems to be taking notes, or nodding, and asking coherent questions. That has been me recently, mostly sitting and thinking, "WHAT?" My fears are met, I am totally lost, everyone else knows the answer and I don't seem to have grasped the question yet.

Some fears never change, such as the fear of not being prepared for a test. But others of my fears have drastically morphed since my 20's.

In my twenties my fears were more localized to self-doubt items: I was

afraid I wouldn't be good enough. I was afraid I didn't look good. I was afraid I would never amount to much. I was concerned about being a good parent. I was afraid I couldn't cook. And, leftover from my childhood, I was afraid of the dark.

In my thirties my fears were more centered on my new children: I was afraid my baby would stop breathing in the middle of the night, or some stranger would abduct them, or some obscure random disease might afflict them. I was afraid I couldn't do everything, including cook. I was afraid I'd never look good. And, I was afraid of the dark.

In my forties many of my fears were

at bay due to exhaustion: I was afraid my children would grow up too fast. I was afraid I didn't even know what everything was I needed to do! I was afraid I didn't have enough energy to look good ... or cook. And, I still might have been afraid of the dark but was too tired to care.

In my fifties my fears have transformed at a breathtaking pace: I am afraid I don't care anymore what others think I look like. I am afraid my children will never grow up. And leave me alone (they could still visit but live somewhere else). Unless they wanted to cook because I am afraid I'm tired of thinking what to make every night!

All this talk of fears may imply I live a fearful life. In reality, learning to face my fears has helped me live a more fulfilling life. I don't want to be immobilized by my fears but emboldened by them. Recognizing and facing my fears has allowed me to do things I never thought possible. Embracing the fear, and still moving on, I have learned is, for me, the only way forward. And after all these years ~ I am no longer afraid of the dark. But now earwigs ... they still give me the willies!

For my friend, Gina ~  
Georgina Gryc Park

**FOUR STAR FARM**

**Graham, WA**

After School Program

Riding Lessons

Day and Summer Camps

Group Programs

Field Trips

Birthday Parties



[www.kidsfsf.com](http://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





## EPSOC PTA HONORS VETERANS THIS NOVEMBER



Elk Plain School of Choice PTA honors veterans this November. Puget Sound Honor Flight “One Last Mission” is supported by EPSOC PTA. Consider writing a letter of thanks to a local WWII veteran hero or support the cause in other ways.



**HUSKIES, SEAHAWKS,  
AND HONOR FLIGHT**

*at Buffalo Wild Wings!*

**David Timney**  
 PO Box 434  
 Grapeview, WA 98546  
 253-303-1130  
 volunteer@pugetsoundhonorflight.org  
 www.PugetSoundHonorFlight.org



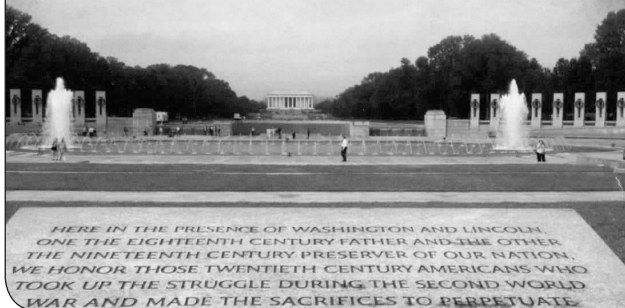
### ABOUT

#### Puget Sound Honor Flight

Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. Western Washington's hub, Puget Sound Honor Flight, was established in March of 2013 with one goal: to recognize the local veteran population living in Western Washington.

**OUR MISSION:** To transport our heroes on “One Last Mission” - a trip to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at the memorials built in their honor. This trip is free to the veteran, and made possible solely through individual donations and corporate support - NO Federal funds are allocated to this program. With the hard work and dedication of Honor Flight hubs throughout the U.S., and their communities, over 100,000 veterans have made this cathartic journey.

Since America felt it was important to build a memorial to honor the service and the ultimate sacrifice of her veterans, the Puget Sound Honor Flight believes it is equally important that they actually get to visit and experience their memorial.



HERE IN THE PRESENCE OF WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN, ONE THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY FATHER AND THE OTHER THE NINETEENTH CENTURY PRESERVER OF OUR NATION, WE HONOR THOSE TWENTIETH CENTURY AMERICANS WHO TOOK UP THE STRUGGLE DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND MADE THE SACRIFICES TO PERPETUATE



### GET INVOLVED

The time to act is now.

Each veteran's trip costs approximately \$1,000. Thanks to your donations, veterans pay *nothing*. There are many ways you can help:

- Make a personal donation.**
- Become a Corporate sponsor.**
- Organize a group to write thank you letters for these veterans, delivered in-flight for one final “mail call”.**
- Join in the send off and welcome home festivities for these quiet heroes.**
- Organize a penny drive in your local school district... every penny helps!**
- Arrange other unique fundraising efforts.**

Honor Flight relies on the tax-deductible donations from caring citizens and corporations to cover the cost for these trips. **Please consider donating** so that another veteran can share in this unique and impactful journey... now, before time runs out.

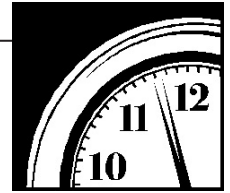


**WATCH FOOTBALL and SUPPORT HONOR FLIGHT at Buffalo Wild Wings!**  
 Come in for the Husky game on November 15th and the Seahawks Monday Night Football game on December 2nd. Mention Honor Flight when you order and Buffalo Wild Wings will donate a portion of the proceeds back to Honor Flight. Not a football fan? Offer is good all day!  
 13215 Meridian East, Puyallup, WA (next to Regal Cinemas 14) Contact David Timney for more information

Please do not send donations to the school. For information contact David Timney, an Elk Plain parent, at 425-244-9108.

# PTA General Meeting Minutes

## ESPOC General Membership Meeting Sept. 27th 2013



Called to order at 6:37pm  
Quorum: yes.

Door prizes were given. A brief history of the PTA was shared with the goal of striving to help give our kids the best education possible. Officers and Committee Chairs were introduced.

### Principals Report:

- We have 150 new families at our school this year with a total of 466 students!
- This is a levy year. This February we vote. If the levy passes we will receive funding in order to become a K-8 school in the near future.
- ESPOC officially purchased the land next to the school in June. We will have three new portables which will have their own designated restrooms.
- The school will be getting some updating including bleachers in the gym area, renovated bathrooms in one of the wings. Our parking lot will also be approximately tripled in size with 25 car slots for parent pick up. Busses will be in the back side of the school which will also cut down congestion before and after school.
- Please make any transportation changes for your student no later than 1:15pm.

Review of Minutes: Minutes were reviewed. Shannon Gregory motioned to approve them, Staci Sherrod seconded. Minutes were voted on, approved and filed

Financial Report: We just received our check from last May's Family Fun McTeacher Night. We received \$580.12 + tips! This money will be included in this year's budget. Budget was reviewed and filed.

### New Business: We have several upcoming events this month:

- Save Around Fundraiser starts 10/4 and will run until 10/21.
- The 6 week Parenting with Love and Logic class will be offered from 6:30-7:30 Tuesday nights beginning 10/8 and will end 11/19. Free child care will be available for those interested.
- The Fall Book Fair will run during conference week 10/21-10-25. This year it will be held in the Gym.
- The Fall Carnival will be 10/25. We are in need of volunteers and donations of cakes or cupcakes for the cake walk and individually wrapped candy for game prizes. Back by popular demand there will also be a costume contest. A flyer will be sent home with students with more information and presales of tickets will be available.
- The ESPOC website is up and running. Check it out at EPSPTA.org and be sure to "like" us on Facebook.

Open Floor: Shannon Gregory would appreciate Popcorn Friday help. Help is need between 9:30-12:30 on Fridays. If you can donate any time please contact Shannon at epic@qwiknet.com. This will count towards volunteer hours.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm



## EPSOC PTA Membership Form

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Children/Teacher(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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



# ELK PLAIN PTA *Events Calendar*

## NOVEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Food Drive Starts	2
3	4 T-shirt orders due	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 No School Veteran's Day	12	13 <u>Late Start</u> PTA Board Meeting 2pm	14	15	16
17	18 Reflections Due	19	20	21	22 Food Drive Ends	23
24	25	26 PTA General Membership Meeting 6:30pm	27 Early Dismissal	28 Thanksgiving Break	29	30

## DECEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Chocolate, Chimes, and Cheer	7
8	9	10 Holiday Shop	11 PTA Board Meeting 6:00pm	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Winter Break (12/23-1/3)	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Winter Break	31				

