



Your 2013/2014 PTA Officers

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reflections	2
October Events	3
Diversions, Box Tops, & Food Drive	4
Spirit Wear, Student Store, Read and Lead	5
Beauty, Emergency Kits	6
PTA Contact Sheet	7
October Calendar	8



‘FUND’RAISING ‘FUN’DAMENTALS

We, being the responsible parents we are, rarely shy away from the opportunity to teach our kids the value of a dollar. Whether it is comparing the amount of books that can be purchased against one Monster High Doll or projecting how long it would take to save for (insert latest need-to-have-now-or-I-will-burst here), we are given ample opportunities to teach this important lesson. With the Fall Fundraiser right around the corner, we didn't want to miss this opportunity to talk about money...PTA money. Where do the raised funds go? How much is really needed to run the PTA programs and events?

You may be surprised to learn that the majority of EPSOC PTA sponsored events and programs generate little to no income. For example, Student Store items are sold at cost. This program is provided for kids to learn about handling money, not for the PTA to make money. The hospitality events are successful due to generous donations of treats from EPSOC families. Other PTA programs and events are offered at minimal cost and for a very specific reason: they provide fun opportunities to bring ALL of our families together and for each family to participate, enjoy quality family time, and meet new people.

The annual PTA budget is created with aspirations for remarkable programs, fun times for the kids, and supplies for classrooms and teachers. Field Day, Read and Lead, Teacher Grants, Assemblies, and Field Trips are several of the programs PTA is proud to fund each year. As a

result, PTA needs to generate income to cover the cost of the events and programs that produce zero income and are structured primarily for the benefit of the kids, their education, and instructional support at EPSOC. The challenge then becomes fulfilling those goals with proceeds... from fundraising.

Our Save Around coupon book fundraiser kicks off Friday, October 4th and runs through Monday, October 21st. These family friendly coupon books are designed around businesses in the South Puget Sound area. The cost for each book is \$20 and for every book sold, EPSOC PTA receives \$10! This is the ONLY Fall Fundraiser offered this year so we encourage you and your family to participate. If you do not wish to purchase the Save Around book sent home with your student, please return the book to school immediately.

Donations are a great alternative to fundraising. 100% of all donations made to EPSOC PTA go directly to funding programs and events. No amount is too much or too little and all is appreciated.

EPSOC PTA recognizes and appreciates all of the hard work our parents put into making our programs successful. Our kids are so fortunate.

Thanks for your support!
Melissa Pate and Christina Gries
EPSOC PTA Co-Presidents

p.s. If you have any questions or comments about PTA's budget or programs, we encourage you to come to the next PTA meeting. We'd love to see you!

REFLECTIONS IS HERE!
Submit your entries by November 18th, 2013



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 under Programs→Reflections.

Elk Plain School of Choice PTA

OCTOBER Events

- **PTA BOARD Meeting** *Tuesday, October 8th, 2pm*
- **PTA MEMBERSHIP Meeting** *Tuesday, October 15th, 2pm*
- **FALL Fundraiser** *October 4th-21st*

SAVE AROUND *Coupon Book*

Our Save Around coupon book fundraiser starts Friday, **October 4th and runs through Monday, October 21st**. These family friendly coupon books are designed around businesses in the South Puget Sound area. The cost for each book is \$20 and for every book sold, EPSOC PTA receives \$10! This is the **ONLY** Fall Fundraiser offered this year so we encourage you and your family to participate. If you do not wish to purchase the Save Around book sent home with your student, please return the book to school immediately.



OUT OF TOWN *Family and Friends*

Great American Fundraising is offering online product and magazine ordering throughout the entire school year, A portion of the proceeds from every order comes to the PTA! There are more than 1500 quality items to choose from with new items every season. It's simple to do:

1. Visit the website www.gaschoolstore.com
 2. Enter the school code #2784841
 3. Enter your student's name and start shopping.
- Credit Cards Are Accepted Online

DONATIONS *Welcome!*

Donations are a great alternative to fundraising. 100% of all donations made to EPSOC PTA go directly to funding programs and events. No amount is too much or too little and all is appreciated!

BOOK Fair *October 21-25th*



Book Fair is almost here!

The book fair is scheduled for **October 21-25th** and this year it will be held in the Gym! We would love to be open from

- 7:15am until 2:00pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday;
- 7:15am until 7:00pm on Tuesday and
- 7:15 until 11:00am on Friday,

however we need volunteers!! We would really like to have you come join us - it's a great way to get those volunteer hours in early! If you are interested please contact Kirsten Bowie at kirsten_bowie@yahoo.com.

We hope to see you there!



...Upcoming

NOVEMBER
 Food Drive: 11/1-11-22
 Spirit Wear Orders Due: 11/4
 Board Member Mtg: 11/12
 Reflections Due: 11/18
 General Membership Mtg: 11/19

DECEMBER
 Holiday Shop: 12/10-12/13
 Board Member Mtg: 12/17

FALL Carnival *October 25th*

It is that time of year again!

**Fall Carnival is
 Friday October, 25th
 4:30-7:30 pm**

Do you need volunteer hours? Do you like to bake? Then we need your help! We need lots of volunteers to help set-up, clean-up, and help with all the booths. Back this year is the costume contest and the haunted cake walk. If you would like to volunteer please contact Jennifer Grant at:

253-380-7400 or
jgrant@bethelsd.org
 Thank you!



FOOD Drive

1 in 5 American children struggle with hunger.

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

Elk Plain School of Choice will be having their Annual Food Drive from **November 1st-22nd.**

If you would like to help volunteer please email Crystal Green at cowgirl_73@msn.com.



BOX TOPS and LABELS FOR EDUCATION

Hello Parents, this year we are starting the collection of Box Tops and Campbell Soup Labels with a *BANG!*

There will be new containers in each classroom so each student and parent knows exactly where to put their tops and labels for collection. A flyer will go out in the Friday folder that will give you information about the program and what items to purchase that have a label or box top on them.

We are excited that we raised over \$1600 last school year! We are very optimistic this year and our goal is \$2500. We need everyone to help us reach this goal, parents, in-laws, grandparents, neighbors, and co-workers. You would be surprised how many box tops and labels go in the trash that we can profit from.

Example: As one of the co-coordinators I am get box tops from my

mother in law in Alabama mailed to me, my neighbor who has 2 toddlers gives me some, and my co-workers bring



Our new goal is \$2500 or 25,000 box tops and labels!

them to work for me. If I can do it, so can you. So get those labels and box tops coming in! We count them all year long but only

submit them on November 1st and March 1st. That is only twice per year, so bring them in now. Stay tuned for a class contest this year. You can help your child's class win a pizza party!

If you have any questions please call a coordinator at the numbers below.

Dione Savage 253-988-1576
Carrie Hughes 253-312-9133

**NEXT COUNT
OCTOBER 18TH**

DIVERSIONS from Mrs. Park

Fashion Beetle Wear and What It Teaches Us

The news is out ~ Dung Beetles have skills! Bugs are fascinating to most youngsters. Some of us never grew up and are still intrigued by the world of insects. My own son was enamored by the unique combination of a bug and potty humor ~ he was interested in Dung Beetles. So, it was with much excitement that I read this summer research published showing that Dung Beetles use the starry sky to navigate



their dung balls back home. I knew my now adult son would be astounded so I called to let him know the good news. After, I was sure, a stunned silence caused by amazement, he spoke, "Uh, okay. Yes, mom, that is interesting." I could then hear his true internal thoughts ~ "just humor the crazy woman who raised me." But, really, who isn't thrilled by research on dung beetles!

Scientists have known that insects, and other animals such as birds, use the sun and night sky to guide their travels. Dung beetles, in particu-

lar, do a little dance from the top of the poop heap once they've rolled their ball to get their bearings and then beat a straight path home. And now we have learned that the beetles can even navigate using the Milky Way on moonless nights. I assume the poop loving bugs have little star maps they pull out from under their beetle carapace to orient themselves. I imagine them thinking "from this pile of poop the Big Dipper is on my left so, I head south past Orion and straight on to home." A tiny internal GPS system embedded in their beetle brains with no need to stop at

EPSOC PTA SPIRIT WEAR *Order Form*

Here's your chance to order spirit wear for your 2013-2014 school year.

Circle the color and sizes below, and return form and payment. Orders will be going in November 4, 2013 and will be delivered approximately 2 weeks later.

There is room for up to two shirts/hoodies per order sheet. Want more? Just list them on the back of this form!

Please make all checks payable to EPSOC PTA.

Student Name: _____ **Grade and Teacher:** _____

Parent Name: _____ **Contact Info:** _____

SIZE: Youth S / M / L

SIZE: Youth S / M / L

Adult S / M / L / XL

Adult S / M / L / XL

COLOR: Black / Purple

COLOR: Black / Purple

STYLE: t-shirt (\$10)

STYLE: t-shirt (\$10)

hooded sweatshirt (\$25)

hooded sweatshirt (\$25)



STUDENT *Store*

Now open on Thursdays!



We will have lots of fun new items as well as school supplies for sale at discount prices! And now for the Big News...

4th and 5th grade students are able to volunteer at their lunch hour as my "Student Store VIP". This will be an exciting opportunity to take part in running the store as well as helping others.

Sign up in class or stop by any Thursday and put your name on the list. I will do a weekly drawing to determine the following weeks VIP's.

I am looking forward to a fun filled year with my new Student Store VIP's!!

READ *and* LEAD

Preparations Starting Now


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

Thank you!



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** *con't from Page 4*

the local oasis to check directions.

While this feat, in itself, is remarkable what is more unbelievable is how this knowledge was discovered. The research was achieved by scientists putting, essentially, card-



board hats with visors on the dung beetles. Since the sheathed insects look to the skies for direction with caps attached they all bumped into each other as they were rolling their balls of dung around the desert! Like a bunch of little kids playing soccer for the first time, the beetles randomly rushed around. When not encumbered by fashionable headgear dung beetles use their celestial mapping skills to make a beetle line back to their humble abode unerringly every time, thereby ensuring the survival of themselves and their dung beetley young. As I said, skills! But the dung buddies aren't the only ones with skills.

Some people use their time in astonishing ways. Think of those scientists sitting long enough in the desert just watching dung beetles push poop balls around to figure out the bugs always rolled them in a straight line and then wondering why? And then what, the scientists think, "I know, let's tape cardboard hats on the bugs to see what happens!" The researchers in this instance seem just as incredible as the talented dung beetle.

Which brings me back to being fascinated by bugs, and beetles in particular. Beetles are so common they make up almost 25% of all known types of ani-

● **SCHOOL Beautification**

Do You Like to Play in the Dirt?

Many EPSOC students have proven they do by making our campus more beautiful with flowering plants that they have planted in the ground as seeds, bulbs, perennials and shrubs.



Now, with parking lot changes in the works, we will need help salvaging our blooming treasures for the move to a new garden area.

Every effort will be made to include students in the process as we create a bigger and better Elk Plain, but we can also use volunteer help. Please let me know if you can assist during school hours or on a Saturday. Your volunteering truly makes a difference and is greatly appreciated!

Contact Debbie Townsend-Schmidt if you can help or if you have any questions.
rockola@q.com or 253-843-0747

● **EMERGENCY Kits**

Be Ready for the Unexpected

As part of the Elk Plain School of Choice Disaster Readiness Plan, we ask that the children have an Emergency Kit at school.

Kits are still available for purchase at cost (not a fundraiser) from the PTA for \$10.50. The kits have a 5-year shelf life and contain a 3-day minimum support of food, water, solar blanket, 12 hour light stick, hand wipes and a Red Cross emergency guide in a small bag. At only \$2.10 per year the kit is an economical way to assure your child's readiness.

To purchase: please fill out the order form that came home in your child's Friday folder or go to the PTA's new website

www.epsocpta.org

and look under the Committee tab for a downloadable order form (Safety Committee).

Checks or money orders can be made out to EPSOC PTA.

mal life forms. We have much to learn from such a successful life form. If nothing else, maybe we could learn that taking off our hats might help us to see our way more clearly. For my part, I continue to be in awe with the skills of the mighty beetle.

Fashionably (but hatlessly) yours,
Georgina Gryc Park



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@gna.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/Food Drive	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
	Kendra Williamson &		kand3bees@hotmail.com
Holiday Shop	Bev Rarey	(253)847-4297	bjrgrandma@aol.com
Laminating			
Legislation	Stacy Legg		stacylynn12925@yahoo.com
Membershsip	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-Schmid	(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		bjrgrandma@aol.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 &	(253)847-4297	kand3bees@hotmail.com
	Krystal Ripka	(253)651-9925	kmripka@hotmail.com



ELK PLAIN PTA OCTOBER 2013



Events Calendar

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

6	7	8 PTA Board Meeting, 2pm	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 PTA General Membership Meeting, 2pm	16 Late Start	17 Box Tops/Labels Due	18	19
20	21 Save Around Coupon Book fundraiser ends Conferences Book Fair	22 Staff Appreciation Lunch	23	24	25 Fall Carnival! 4:30-7:30pm	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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

Name: _____

Email: _____

Children/Teacher(s): _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

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

