



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

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CO-PRESIDENTS

Melissa Pate + Christina Gries

“I’m not a PTA kind of person.” Does that sound like something you would say? We have heard this phrase enough to make us wonder what exactly *is* a “PTA type of person”?

Let’s be honest, there can be a stigma attached to PTA and “PTA Moms” (aka mean girls...just older). Yes, we’ve had a laugh or two from TV personas crazily depicting “those people”. We can even recall conversations a few years ago where we said neither of us were interested in PTA. *So what happened???*

It began with why our children attend Elk Plain School of Choice rather than our neighborhood school: we want the very best for our children’s education and this is where we hoped to find it. Like many families, we began volunteering our pledged hours in the classroom sharpening pencils, stuffing Friday folders, etc. It didn’t take long to realize how much the PTA, and everyone who is a part of it (teachers included), impacts our children’s school year.

PTA contributes directly with activities such as weekly student store and popcorn, along with the periodic events such as Book Fairs, Fall Carnival, Holiday Shop, Field Day, etc. PTA also contributes indirectly with teacher grants for classroom resources, Families in Need food drive, the BEST Scholarship, Box Tops for Education, emergency preparedness, etc. *PTA does it all!*

Well, we didn’t necessarily want to ‘do it all’, but volunteered little by little for com-

mittees led by parents who were more than willing to share their PTA knowledge. We were appreciated and felt like our little contribution was making a real difference.

In the end, we realized that PTA makes *so* many positive contributions to the school and without all the members and volunteers, how would these programs run? How would this affect the kids? Could we just do without? No, we want too much for our children.

When it comes down to it, we are part of a group that wants school to be as enjoyable as possible for our kids. We want to feel welcome and have some opportunities to meet new people. We want to make worthwhile contributions and feel our time is appreciated. We want to be a part of giving our teachers all they need in order to provide our kids with the best education available. That is what EPSOC PTA is all about.

We are willing to bet that you want all of those things for your kids as well. So then, believe it or not, YOU are quite possibly a “PTA kind of person” after all!

Grandparent’s Tea

Thursday,
September 26th
7-7:35am



● DIVERSIONS *from Mrs. Park*

A visit to the Museum ~ if it kills us!

As I looked back a very large, very yellow, very hummer-like Hummer grew in our rear view mirror and I realized it better be stopping since our vehicle was motionless, filling the middle lane of I-5. Well, I thought, that Hummer's brakes better be in good repair because

I have nowhere to go to get out of the way given the car accident in front of us. Unlike the movies, my whole life didn't flash before my eyes, just that day.

It had seemed like such a good idea, taking advantage of the yearly free Museum Saturday sponsored by the Smithsonian and embraced by our local museums. That is what the day was supposed to be about – seeing something new, seeing something inspiring, seeing something creative. Not seeing a Hummer barreling at us in my rear view mirror!

Each year, the last Saturday of September, participating museums open their doors freely to individuals who sign-up and download two tickets. Several Tacoma museums take part including the Children's Museum, Museum of Glass, Washington State History Museum, and the Tacoma Art Museum. It had become an annual event for my daughter and me to take advantage of the opportunity for a new experience.

Even before the accident it was already late that day when the two of us ventured forth, having already been sidetracked by a soccer game. Thankfully, the Hummer's brakes did function properly and after stopping to give our information to the accidentees we

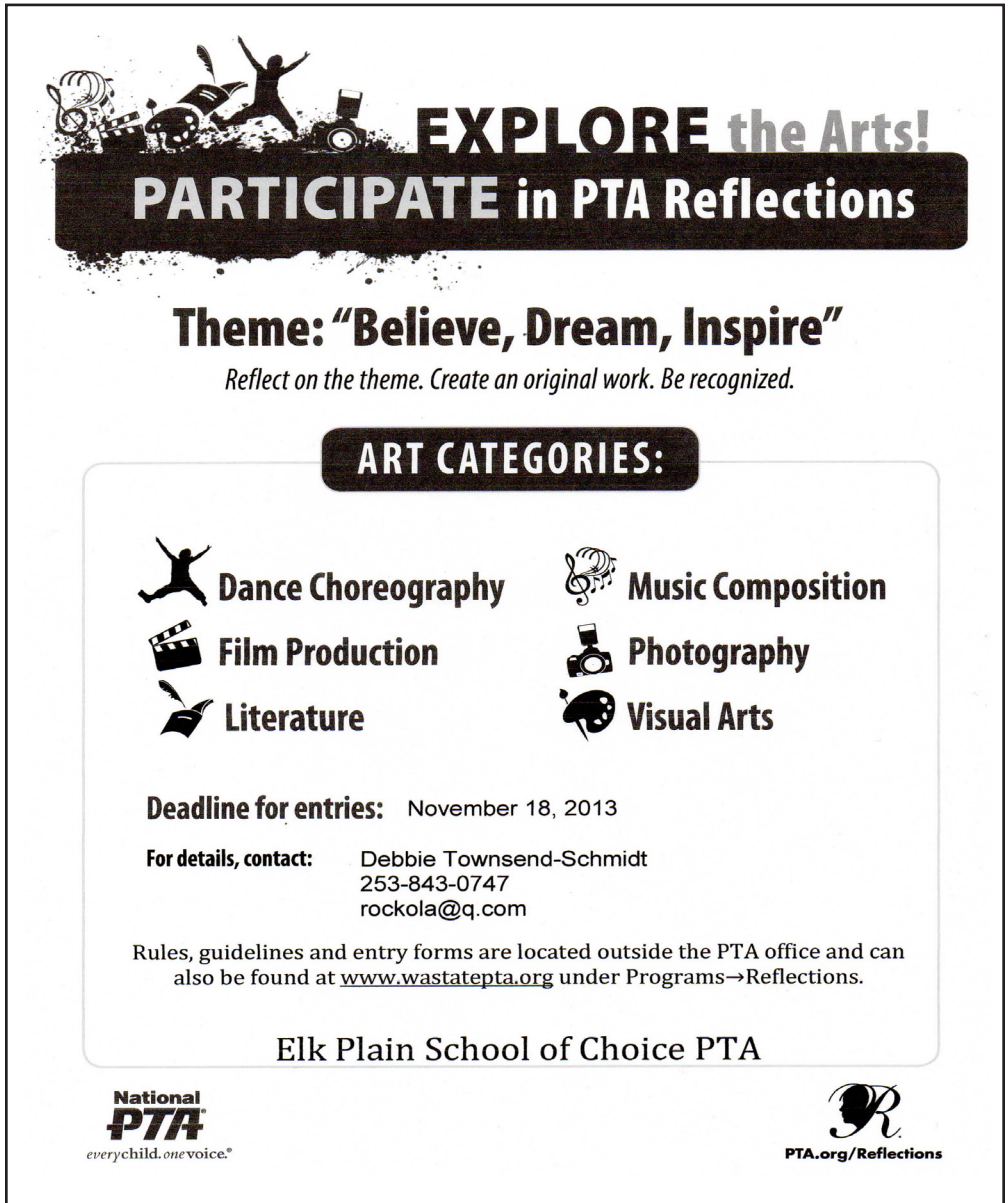
contemplated our next move. Not to be stymied by our near death experience we took a deep breath and continued on our determined path to greater enlightenment. We were going to see everything to be seen in that Tacoma Art Museum, by golly, and be

better people because of it! Tacoma has encouraged a plethora of cultural opportunities in the past 20 years I've lived here, and I will not be deterred from enjoying them by the vagaries of careless drivers!

The Art Museum was open another
can't page 5

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

 **National PTA**
everychild.onevoice.®

 **PTA.org/Reflections**

SEPTEMBER *events*

PTA BOARD MEETING *Tuesday, September 17th, 2pm*

HOSPITALITY + BAKING *September 26th*

CALLING ALL GRANDPARENTS!!

Grandparents Tea is coming!

Thursday, September 26th, 7-7:35 am

The students love to have their Grandpas and Grandmas come to the school for this event.

Hope you can be there!



PTA WELCOME Potluck *September 27th*

You're Invited
Friday, September 27th
6:00pm

Please join us for our
2nd Annual PTA Potluck

- Learn what PTA is all about
 - Order spirit wear
- Plan your year with the events calendar
- Members will participate in the first PTA business of the year

We will provide the main dish,
please bring a side dish to share.

...Upcoming

OCTOBER

10/4-10/21: Fall Fundraiser

10/21-10/25: Book Fair

10/25: Fall Carnival

NOVEMBER

11/1-11/22: Food Drive

11/18: Reflections entries due

MEMBERSHIP *Drive*

For the month of *September only*, PTA is offering a membership bundle which includes a yearbook! You will still have a chance to 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. The bundle offer expires September 30th.

Individual Membership = \$10

Individual + Yearbook = \$28

Family Membership = \$18

Family + Yearbook = \$36



EPSOC PTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Children: _____

Teacher: _____

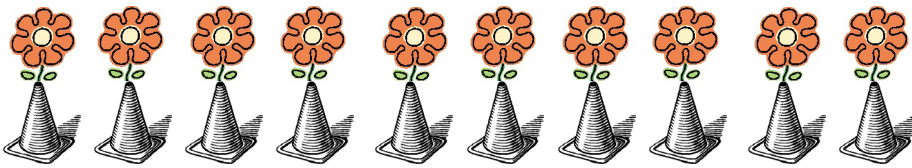
Individual: \$10 Couple: \$18 Business: (card \$25) (1/4 page \$50) (1/2 page \$100)

**September
Only
Bundles**

Individual + Yearbook Preorder = \$28

Couple + Yearbook Preorder = \$36

Additional bundled yearbooks add \$18 each _____ x 18=_____



● SCHOOL *beautification*

Do you like to play in the dirt? Many Elk Plain School of Choice 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 at rockola@q.com or 253/843-0747 if you can help or if you have any questions.

● NEWSLETTER *and sky warrior logo*

It is truly my pleasure to contribute to the Elk Plain PTA as the newsletter chair. As you can see, I made some changes. In fact, nothing was safe when I got my hands on it--not even the Sky Warrior logo.

It was important to me to inspire parents and students to read the issues throughout the year and I thought a great way to start was to create an EPSOC PTA logo. I took inspiration from the Sky Warrior crest that is used frequently around the school and from the wonderful story of the Sky Warrior printed in the handbook.

In the story, a little bird wants to become a Sky Warrior. In order to do that he must deliver 3 feathers to the Great Sky Warrior at the top of the mountain. One feather signifies

strength, another cour-
age, and the final one
wisdom.



On his way he meets 3 needy strangers who he ultimately gives the feathers to. When the little bird finally reaches the Sky Warrrior he fears he will be disappointed that he has nothing to offer him.

However, this is exactly what the Sky Warrior was looking for--a generous and compassionate bird. He immediately transforms the little bird into a Sky Warrior and grants him strength, courage, and wisdom in abundance.

What wonderful characteristics for our kids to aspire to as they make their way through elementary school!

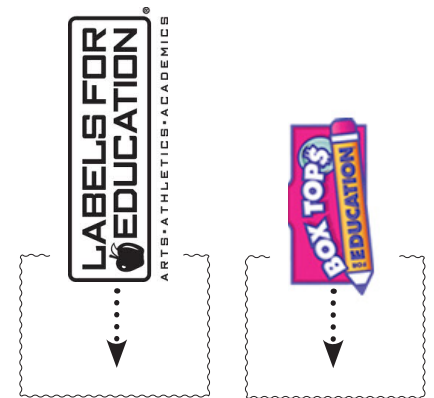
● *Box tops and Labels*

Box Tops and Labels for Education are counted twice a year, and the next count will be **October 18th**.

- Last year EPSOC PTA earned over \$1600 in Box Tops and Labels for Education! That's over 16,000 little tabs collected and counted!
- This year **our goal is \$2500!** So along with any new ones send in what you've collected over the summer and any leftover from last year.

Over 16,000 box
tops collected
last year!

- *Please separate Box Tops from Labels for Education and turn into your child's teacher*



- *Don't forget to register your Fred Meyer or Safeway rewards card at elabelsforeducation.com*

**NEXT COUNT
OCTOBER 18TH**

TRIP TO THE MUSEUM (con't from page 2)

er two hours when we clocked in so there was still time to wander our way through the exhibits. My daughter was particularly enthralled, and irritated, by variously sized glass balls randomly occupying a courtyard near the front. She is a counter ~ like her mother. We like to count things we see. Unlike her mother it bothers Casey if she cannot be exact. The glass balls were placed such that you really couldn't get an accurate number, which drove Casey nuts! We tried peering from different sides, disparate angles, and even stared down from the floor above, to no avail. So, we asked. Guess what? They didn't know exactly how many glass balls there were either! We were told curators moved them around and a glass ball occasionally broke. I'm imagining the museum might even liked not having a determined amount, causing

patrons to search for the unattainable. My daughter was distraught, frustrated, and finally, resigned.

We ended our day having found the enlightenment we were looking for ~ sometimes life isn't quantifiable, there

isn't an answer ~ only a search, with free museum days along the way.

Unquantifiably yours,
Georgina Gryc Park

MUSEUM DAY LIVE! SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

An annual event hosted by Smithsonian Magazine in which participating museums across the country open their doors to anyone presenting a Museum Day Ticket for free!

If you are interested in attending a museum for free, with one guest, go to <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday> or, go to the Smithsonian Magazine webpage.

Participating Tacoma Museums include: Tacoma Art Museum, Museum of Glass, Washington History Museum, and the Tacoma Children's Museum. See the complete list for all area participating museums at the Smithsonian website.

SAFETY PTA Helps You Prepare for the Unexpected

Are you ready for the unexpected? As part of the Elk Plain School of Choice Disaster Readiness Plan, we ask that the children have an Emergency Kits at school.



Kits are available for purchase at cost (not a fundraiser) from the PTA. 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.

The kits are stored in your child's classroom, and moved to their new class at the end of the school year or sent home upon transfer or if the kit expires.* If you are purchasing this for home/car use, please indicate that on the order form and it will be sent home with your child.

To purchase, please fill out the information below and send either a check

or money order made out to EPSOC PTA. At \$10.50 (\$2.10 per year!), the kit is an economical way to assure your child's readiness.

Thank you,
EPSOC PTA

*Once the kit is delivered to your child's classroom, it will be taken care of by each classroom. If you have any questions about your kit from a previous year, please contact your child's teacher.

Elk Plain School of Choice Emergency Kit

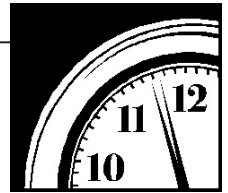
CHILD'S NAME: _____

TEACHER: _____

Quantities×\$10.50 (Expires Sept. 2018): _____

Please note if you are purchasing an extra kit to be sent home: _____

PTA meeting minutes



ESPOC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MAY 28TH, 2013

Meeting called to order at 2:10pm

Quorum: yes

Review of minutes:

- Minutes from April 16th were reviewed. Kendra Williamson voted to approve minutes. Melissa Pate seconded the motion. Minutes were voted on, approved and filed.

Financial Report:

- Financial report was reviewed and filed.

Principals Report:

- We are done with MSP testing.
- Next year there will be 2 Kindergarten classes, 3- 1st grade, 3- 2nd grade, 3- 3rd, and 2 ½ - 4/5 split classes. Teachers to still be assigned.

New Business:

- 2013-2014 proposed budget was reviewed. Staci Sherrod motioned to approve budget. Kendra Williamson seconded. Motion was voted on and approved.
- Stacy Legg requested a grant for \$300 to stock up on Spirit items for the beginning of the next school year. Georgina Park motioned to reallocate \$300 to Spirit fund. Michelle Davis seconded. Motioned was voted on and approved.

Committee Reports:

- Field day planning is going great. T shirt orders should be delivered to classrooms by this Thursday or Friday. We had almost 400 pre-orders!

Open Floor:

- We are short on our enrollment waiting lists. Please spread the word on our school!

Meeting adjourned at 2:42pm

ELK PLAIN *School of Choice* PTA

OFFICERS 2013-2014

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			
Book Fairs	Kirsten Bowie	(253)875-9721	kirsten_bowie@yahoo.com
Box Tops	Dione Savage/Carrie Hughes	(253)375-7579	dionesavage@gmail.com
Campbell's Soup Labels	Dione Savage/Carrie Hughes	(253)312-9133	
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
Holiday Shop	Kendra Williamson Bev Rarey	(253)847-4297	kand3bees@hotmail.com bjrgrandma@aol.com
Laminating			
Legislation			
Membership	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			
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		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		ginasawyer@comcast.net
T-Shirts & Logo Wear	Stacy Legg	(858)204-8049	stacylynn12925@yahoo.com
Yearbook	Kendra Williamson Krystal Ripka	(253)847-4297 (253)651-9925	kand3bees@hotmail.com kmripka@hotmail.com



ELK PLAIN PTA SEPTEMBER 2013

Events Calendar

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
September	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3rd- OPEN HOUSE 5:30-6:30pm			Open House	Welcome Back to School!!			
4th- <i>First Day of School!</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13th- Waiver Day- No School						NO SCHOOL	
17th- Board Member Meeting	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18th- Late Arrival @ 9:35am			Board Member Meeting at 2:00pm	LATE START			
26th- Grandparents Tea 7am-7:35am	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27- PTA Welcome					Grandparents Tea	PTA Meeting; Welcome Potluck	
Potluck and Meeting 6:00pm							
October	29	30	October 1	2	3	4	
4th- Fundraiser be- gins! 'SaveAround Cou- pon Book'						SaveAround Fundraiser Begins	