



### PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Custodio  
er\_custodio@hotmail.com

Welcome back to a new school year everyone and congratulations on making it through our first few days! Even though there are so many changes around us to grow accustomed to this year, its business as usual in EPSOC's PTA. There are a lot of great programs and events for the kids and support for our teachers and staff. We cannot do any of it without the help of our wonderful VOLUNTEERS!! There will be a message board by the PTA room with volunteer sign up sheets so if you need hours we can help you get started.



We have our newly named GOODIES with GRANDPARENTS (GWG) on Friday, Sept 26th, 2014 at 7 AM. As well as our 3rd annual PTA membership potluck that evening at 6pm. There you will meet some committee chairs to see what you can do to help support our school and make all our events here ROCK!! This is also a great opportunity to meet new families and connect with old friends. Come support your PTA and JOIN today. Let's make this year spectacular! Hope to see you all there!

### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Melissa Pate  
mpatenkl@gmail.com

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. To join the PTA, please cut out and return the order form below and return it in your child's classroom folder with a check made out to EPSOC PTA. Looking forward to a great membership year!

Individual Membership = \$10 Couple Membership = \$18  
Individual + Yearbook = \$28 Couple + Yearbook = \$36

### SEPT/OCT Events

#### GOODIES with GRANDPARENTS

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

Mara Areglo, cmareglo@yahoo.com

Students invite grandparents to share goodies with them before school. It's great fun!

#### PTA WELCOME POTLUCK

Friday, September 26th, 6pm

#### BOX TOPS/LABELS COLLECTION:

October Date to be determined

Dione Savage, dionesavage@gmail.com

Please separate Box Tops from Labels For Education.



#### PTA FUNDRAISER : Cherrydale Catalogs

October 3rd-20th

Christina Gries, gncgries@gmail.com

#### STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Tuesday, October 21st

Bev Rarey, bjrgrandma@aol.com

Parents and volunteers bring pre-bought or home made lunch dishes for teachers on the full day of conferences!

#### SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR:

October 20-24th during parent-teacher conferences

Kirsten Bowie, kirsten\_bowie@yahoo.com

#### FALL CARNIVAL: Friday, October 24th

Michelle Davis, closer919@msn.com

Alina Purdue, alinapurdue@msn.com

### VOLUNTEER Hours

- Help with Goodies with Grandparents Sept. 26th: cmareglo@yahoo.com
- Help with fundraising: Christina Gries, gncgries@gmail.com
- Help with Book Fair setup and during the fair, kirsten\_bowie@yahoo.com
- Contribute food or help setup Staff Appreciation Luncheon in morning: Bev Rarey, bjrgrandma@aol.com
- Help at Fall Carnival, October 24th: Michelle Davis, closer919@msn.com or Alina Purdue, alinapurdue@msn.com
- Help Arts Team with productions: Mary Ellen Gilmour (Theater Specialist), mgilmour@bethelsd.org
- Attend PTA Membership Meetings

### Your 2014/2015 PTA Officers

#### President:

Elizabeth Custodio, 253-330-6582  
er\_custodio@hotmail.com

#### Co-Vice Presidents

Christie McMahill, christiemcmahill@gmail.com  
Jennifer Rivard, jennifer\_rivard@yahoo.com

#### Financial Officer:

Sarah Hinsverk, hinsverk@comcast.net

#### Secretary:

Dawn Calkins, dawncalkins@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Entries: christinelink@yahoo.com

### PTA Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2014

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Called to order: 2:12pm

Quorum: Yes

February's Minutes were reviewed. Kendra Williamson motioned to approve them, Crystal Green seconded. Minutes were approved and filed.

Financial Report was reviewed and filed.

Dance Ensemble Performance

**Principals Report:** Mr. Merrin shared some of the construction plan drawings for the schools upgrades. We will be a K-6 school next year.

#### New Business:

- We spoke about the possibility of requesting to change our school colors.
- Corie Jones made a grant request of \$150 to buy 10 books for the library including those by author Michelle Nelson-Schmidt and "The Illustrated History of the Bethel School District". Christine Link made a motion to approve the grant, Georgina Park seconded. Motion was approved.
- Monica Hemenway made a grant request for \$750 to buy three refurbished I-POD touches for Music, Theater and Dance. Staci Sherrod made a motion to approve the grant, Christine Link seconded. Motion was passed.

#### Committee Reports:

- Nomination Committee: Crystal Green and Christine Link handed out current nominee lists for next year's PTA board. The official list of nominees will be posted 2-28.
- Read & Lead: Classrooms are being audited so students will know how many minutes they have read. Mrs. Colyer's and Mrs. Sherrods classes are at 100% participation. The Ice Cream Party will be the 21st and the Awards Assembly will be the 28th at 8am.
- Popcorn: The popcorn machine is out of commission and is being looked at for repairs. If repairs are affordable they will be made as well as a maintenance cleaning of the machine. Licorice sales totaled \$68 last Friday.
- Field Day will have to be offsite due to construction. We will discuss potential venues.
- Clothing Drive: Approximately 1072 items were donated!
- Bingo Night: Made a profit of \$862.41.
- Staff Appreciation Luncheon is on March 25th.
- Yearbook: April 4th is the deadline for picture entries. We would like pictures from Sports, Choir, Orchestra and Thespian Club.
- Book Fair set up will be right after the Ice Cream Party finishes on March 21st. Any help would be appreciated. Book Fair will run the 24th-28th.

Next General meeting will be April 15th at 2:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:42pm

*You're Invited*  
*Friday, September 26th, 6:00pm*

Please join us for our  
3rd Annual PTA Potluck

- Learn what PTA is all about
- Purchase 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.

### FUNDRAISING

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



This year's Fall fundraiser is with a company that has been product fundraising for over 100 years. They've really got the wrinkles ironed out! The products offered by Cherrydale Farms Fundraising and Otis Spunkmeyer are Quality Guaranteed and gift-worthy items you will be pleased to offer friends, family, neighbors, and more. Online ordering is available once again for anyone who lives out of town but still wants to support our school-their items will ship directly to them!

Fall Fundraiser: October 3rd thru October 20th  
Delivery Date Estimated: Week of November 17th  
(The exact date will be announced)

Online ordering continues all year long and Elk Plain School of Choice still earns money! Go to [www.cherrydale.com](http://www.cherrydale.com) and select Go Shopping. Call or email Christina Gries for information or to volunteer.

### EPSOC PTA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 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 ads:  card \$25  1/4 page \$50

#### September Only Bundle Prices

Individual + Yearbook Preorder = \$28  Couple + Yearbook Preorder = \$36

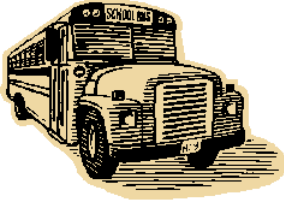
I would also like \_\_\_\_\_ additional yearbooks at \$18 each

Grand Total submitted \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**DIVERSIONS** *from Mrs. Park*

**Waiting at the Bus Stop**



Driving like a maniac, I fly down the road towards home. Do I take the right turn and potentially follow the bus home? Or do I go straight in the hopes of beating the bus... or worse, meet the bus after my children's stop? So went the argument in my head after shopping too long in Safeway. For years the autumn ritual of school starting has included the fall ritual of high blood pressure associated with meeting the children at the end of school. Whether you meet them at school, or your bus stop at home, time has a way of creeping up.

The first child wasn't too bad - even though it required meeting the Kindergarten bus in person so the bus driver would release their young charge. But by the time my third kindergartner rolled out I was in full blown busy Mommy mode and often failed to check the time as the bus lumbered on its route. That was the year of speeding tickets missed by the skin of my tires. Eventually the bus driver even recognized my vehicle after she spied me following her for so many days. I am not a stalker, just a harried Mom looking for wayward charges!

As the years have gone by, and my children have grown, I've become busier, and then working. With my changing children, and our changing lives, the bus stop ritual has morphed. Now, with school underway I think about the special events that happened in that enforced time of waiting at the bus stop. We found tadpoles in the water-filled borrow pit next to the stop one day. An opossum was spotted sauntering by one lazy afternoon. And we checked out a dead mole on the road for its funny looking nose one morning. In the winter there were the sounds of the great horned owl hooting and the stars still shining in the cold morning air. Always the time included talk - reminders mostly, but also time to chat with my children about mundane things that we otherwise never had time to say.

Now I realize the best part was the fact that everyday I was there to see my children's faces as they walked off the bus - there to hear their first impressions of how the day had been. Were they carrying a project lovingly made and crammed into a bag ready to tape on the fridge? Was there an upsetting moment they wanted to share and needed a hug to counteract? Had there been a chance that day for a new friend, or success with a math problem? I was given the gift of hearing their stories firsthand, fresh and unfiltered, their emotions tumbling out as we walked down the block.

They came off the bus with their personalities showing: the youngest, a girl, always indignant over some injustice, righteous in her anger; the oldest son holding on to all his coping skills until letting loose in the safety of his home; and my middle son ... he always came off the bus in a rush, full of smiles and bursting with happy words, no matter what the day had brought.

We still check in at the end of the day but, more often than not, it is now by text, or when possible phone call ... so I may hear their day in their voices. Meeting the bus stop all those years? At the time it felt like a burden. Now, I can't believe what a rich, rewarding experience it was for me and, I hope, my children.

Here's to a great year,  
Georgina Gryc Park  
*(This essay first appeared in October 2009  
but holds true to this day)*



**NEWSLETTER** Christine Link  
christinelink@yahoo.com

New school and new look for the newsletter! This year the PTA is streamlining the newsletter to make it faster for parents and staff to keep up with the many PTA events throughout the year. After it comes home it will also be posted on the website for your digital reference at

[epsocpta.org](http://epsocpta.org)

We encourage you to also connect with the PTA through our Facebook page and our blog found on the website.

A hard copy of the current 14/15 committee chair list is included in this issue but you can always find contact info in the "Committees" section of the website. Contact info will also be included in the newsletter under the events section. Have a great year!

**MUSEUM DAY LIVE!  
SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2014**

This is 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  
[www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday)  
or 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*

Ron Babbel  
[r\\_babbel@msn.com](mailto:r_babbel@msn.com)

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.

An order form will be coming home soon in your child's Friday Folder. To purchase a kit, please fill out the form and return it to school in your child's classroom folder with 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.

\*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.

**K-D TREE SERVICE AND STUMPGRINDING LLC**

---

**DOUG JOHNSON**

LICENSE BONDED AND INSURED  
LICENSE# KDSTUSG903KK

OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

GRAHAM, WA 98338 PHONE (253) 888-3185  
CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

**American Accounting**  
Sarah Hinsverk Accountant

IRS Registered  
National Directory of Registered Tax Return  
Preparers and Professionals LTD.

3804 294th street East Graham, WA 98338  
Phone: 253 326-4662 Fax 253 375-7910  
Email: [hinsverk@comcast.net](mailto:hinsverk@comcast.net)

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

**Theme: "The world would be a better place if..."**  
*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 17, 2014

**For details, contact:** EPSOC Reflections Coordinator  
Debbie Townsend-Schmidt  
[rockola@q.com](mailto:rockola@q.com) or 253/843-0747

Rules and regulations can be found at [wastatepta.org](http://wastatepta.org) under Reflections.

National PTA *everychild.onevoice* PTA.org/Reflections

**Don't forget to use your Target REDcard.** It brings in valuable funds for PTA events and student enrichment. Target now offers a RED debit card option, too!

Think eScrip before you buy!

Create an account at [escrip.com](http://escrip.com) and select EPSOC PTA as your school. This connects your Safeway Club Card to escrip and a percentage of everything you buy comes back to the PTA. If you already have an account you will need to renew your membership on the website annually. Amazon also participates in the escrip online mall as well as hundreds of other popular online retailers. **You have to begin your purchasing session at [escrip.com](http://escrip.com)** then click on Amazon (or whichever retailer you choose). The hardest part is remembering to go there first!

**FOUR STAR FARM**  
Graham, WA

After School Program  
Drop-in 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