



PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Custodio
er_custodio@hotmail.com

Thanks Elk Plain Parents, Staff and Students! These next few months will be filled with Read & Lead and Science Fair. I look forward to seeing how fast the kids grow in their reading abilities and the teamwork that both events bring out in our lovely volunteers. Thank you all again for the time you take to make sure our kids can be the best that they can be!

2015

READ AND LEAD

Melissa Pate, mpatenkl@gmail.com

January 5th – March 27th

EPSOC PTA's annual reading program kicked off Monday, January 5th and our students are off and reading! Our goal is 100% staff and student participation. Support and encourage your child's love of reading and help us achieve this goal! If you have any questions regarding the program or would like to volunteer, please contact Melissa Pate at mpatenkl@gmail.com or Crystal Green at cowgirl_73@msn.com.

WEAR-IT-OUT CLOTHING DRIVE

Suzette Ebbinga, smebbinga@gmail.com

January 12th-30th

We are giving you a great opportunity to get a jump on your spring cleaning while helping our community. Our annual clothing drive runs from January 12th-January 30th. Please bring in all your gently used and *freshly washed* clothing and shoes. The clothing will be donated to Wear It Out, a free clothing bank located near Spanaway Elementary. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help please contact Suzette Ebbinga.

ENGINEERING SCIENCE FAIR

Mrs. Park, gpark@bethelsd.org

The Engineering Science Fair Information Night will be Thursday, January 29 from 6:30-7:30 pm in the gym. Learn about the Engineering Project requirements, ideas for projects and have questions answered. Engineering Science Fair projects are due Thursday, Feb. 19, at the start of school (required for all 4th - 6th graders). Engineering Science Fair/ Night is Thursday, Feb. 19 from 5:30-7:00 pm.

CREATIVE KIDS at SPRING FAIR

Debbie Townsend-Schmidt, rockola@q.com, 253-843-0747

April 16-19

Elk Plain Friends of the Arts will be delivering student art and writing projects to be entered into the Creative Kids Exhibit at the Spring Fair. 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. Projects completed at home should be submitted to Mrs. Bergamot or to the office no later than March 27 and rules and regulations should be carefully reviewed prior to turning in work at: <http://www.thefair.com/fun/details/creative-kids>. All participants will receive a free gate admission ticket to the Spring Fair!

FIELD DAY 2015

(your name here)

Field Day Chairperson Needed! Planning begins soon...

SPRING BOOK FAIR

kirsten_bowie@yahoo.com

Volunteers needed for spring book fair March 24-27th during conference week.

JAN/FEB Events

- **READ AND LEAD BEGINS**
January 5th-March 27th
- **EVENING PTA BOARD MEETING**
Tuesday, January 6th, 6-7pm
EPSOC Library
- **PTA MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
Wednesday, January 21st, 2:15-3:30
EPSOC Library
- **ENGINEERING SCIENCE FAIR INFORMATION NIGHT**
Thursday, January 29th,
6:30-7:30pm, EPSOC Gym
- **CLOTHING DRIVE BEGINS**
January 12-30th
- **PTA BOARD MEETING**
Tuesday, February 10th, 2:15-3:30pm
EPSOC Library
- **PTA MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
Wednesday, February 18th, 2:15-3:30
EPSOC Library
- **ENGINEERING SCIENCE FAIR NIGHT**
Thursday, February 19th,
5:30-7pm



VOLUNTEER Hours

- Weekly Read and Lead help counting minutes, bundling prizes, adjusting board, mpatenkl@gmail.com
- Help organize donated clothing during drive, smebbinga@gmail.com
- Help at Student Store on Thursdays: Gina Sawyer, ginasawyer@comcast.net
- Check out the Teacher Task board in the office for ways to volunteer for teachers.
- Attend PTA Membership Meetings
- Help Arts Team with productions: Mary Ellen Gilmour (Theater Specialist), mgilmour@bethelsd.org

FUNDRAISING

Christina Gries

253-221-3263 gncgries@gmail.com



Online ordering and fundraising continues all year long at Elk Plain School of Choice! Go to www.cherrydale.com and select Go Shopping.

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

Secretary

Newsletter Entries: christinelink@yahoo.com

PTA MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 155

PTA Meeting Minutes



EPSOC General Membership Meeting
May 13, 2014

Called to order: 2:06pm

Quorum: Yes

- Next Year's budget was reviewed. Marilyn Fangman motioned to approved 2014-2015 budget, Kendra Williamson seconded. Motion was passed.
- Minutes were reviewed. Becky Ortega motioned to approve April minutes, Georgina Park seconded. Motion was passed.
- Current years budget was reviewed and filed.

Principals Report:

- Construction broke ground today! Staff will be in the building through June 20th. We will have access back into the building on August 25th.
- Mr. Merrin spoke about some of the changes that were made from the original construction plans to accommodate fire codes etc.
- There will be no 5th grade promotion since we will be a K-6 school again next year.

Committee Reports:

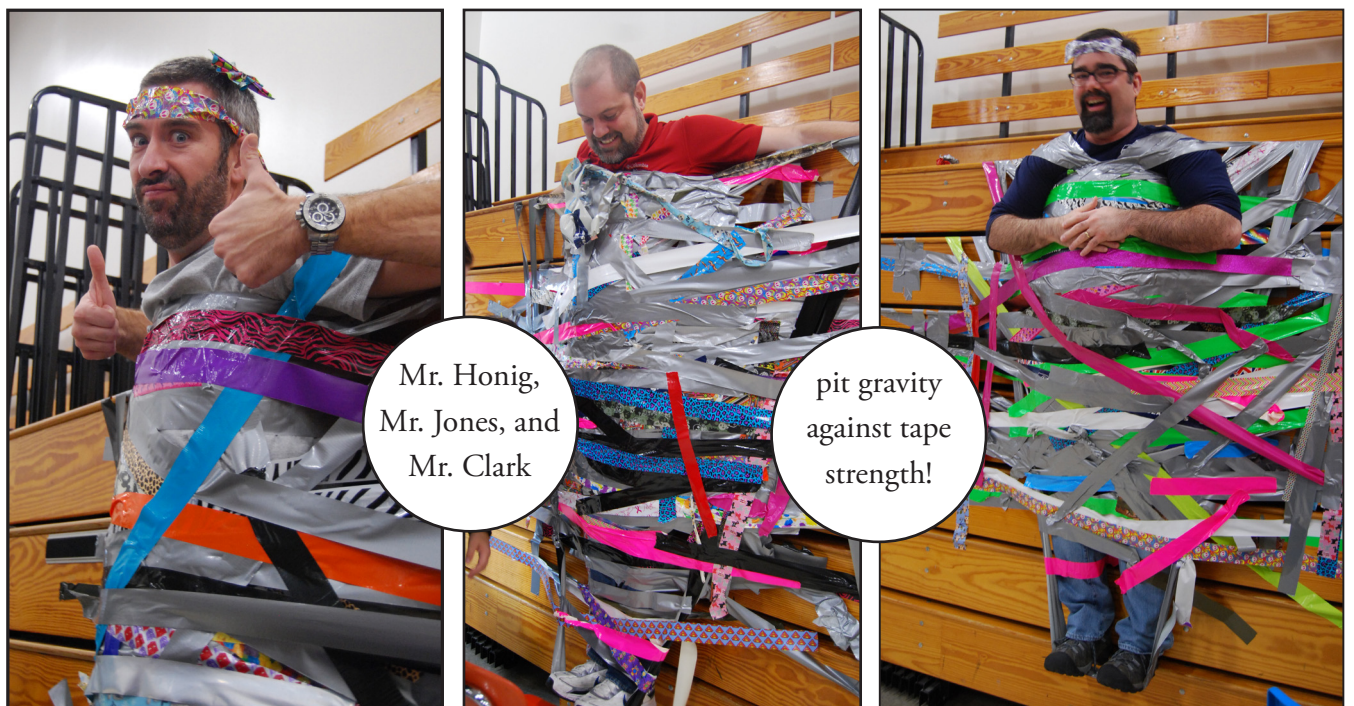
- **Field Day:** We have secured 9 buses at a cost of \$4.407. These will hold approximately 410 people. We are encouraging chaperones to drive themselves to save on seating. Teachers will carry any required medications for students in their class. So far only 2 students will not be attending the Field Trip.
- **Donuts with Dad** is May 16th at 7am. We have about 30 dozen promised donations so far. Please bring any donations Thursday after school. Setup and take down help would be appreciated.

Open Floor:

- Mrs. Park suggested that we send home another Field Day reminder and make a suggestion to chaperones that did not purchase a Field Day tee shirt to consider wearing or purchasing an EPSOC shirt for easy visibility for students and school personnel during the trip.

Meeting adjourned: 3:05pm

PHOTOS WANTED FOR YEARBOOK!



DIVERSIONS from Mrs. Park

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Arguably for most people the end of December - with its celebrations, Christmas everything, and time off with family and friends - wins the distinction of "most wonderful time of the year". But I think this year I found a better answer to the question. I found the answer in an old, favorite story.

Christmas and holiday movies are, for me, the best way to spend December nights that are dark and busy with holiday tasks. I revel in crying through sappy dialogue, contrived moments, and tear jerking scenes. Love them all, even the dumb "made for television" events and especially the older, lovely cinematic holiday diversions such as Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol.

During the past month I ended up watching four different interpretations of A Christmas Carol. Troops of ghosts from Christmas past, present, and future galloped across my TV screen as I watched Ebenezer Scrooge cling over and over again to his dour and lonely existence. Each edition has its excellent moments and each a weakness. I am partial to A Muppet Christmas Carol with Kermit as Bob Cratchit and Rizzo, the Rat. But it is the oldest version of one man's redemption (1951) with Alastair Sims as Scrooge that always makes me think, and cry, the most. Meanness and crachityness fit him like a glove so that when the kindly transformation washes over him that is the persona that doesn't seem to align with his true self. We see him as the bitter miser who works hard over the course of the night to change. As his dark hours progress through the Ghostly visitors Sims, as Scrooge, looks just as surprised by the transformation as we are. And at the end when Scrooge speaks about how the events have affected him we know he really has embraced the Christmas spirit ~ "I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach!"

What is the most wonderful time of the year? Not the perfect moment we have orchestrated with decorations, or perfect food... or perfect gifts, or even perfect people. Instead, the most wonderful time is that moment when we are working at something and feel the contentment inside that no one can describe. A wonderful time occurs in an uncontrollable laugh that comes out of the blue. It is that moment when you look around and realize you are with the people who accept and love you, even though you always cry at movies. Wonderful times are unscripted, uncontrolled, and serendipitous. Scrooge's lost love, Belle, summed up what held him back from enjoying his life ~ "You fear the world too much."

Here's to moving through 2015 without fear,
Georgina Gryc Park

I want to thank my all my Chair Person's for all that they do and have done! You all have been so wonderful! Alina Perdue for setting up and running Fall Carnival, Bev Rarey for being a wonderful person to all our EPSOC Staff, Christina Gries for running a very fun and successful Fall Fundraiser, Christie McMahill for always being my voice when I can't find the words, Christine Link for being our wonderful news lady, Crystal Green for always being there and Read and Lead, Debbie Townsend- Schimdt for always being there to laminate and help with F.O.T.A., Georgina Park for being a wonderful science teacher, mentor and friend, Gina Sawyer for running Student Store and being that strength and happy smile we need during lunch, Kendra Williamson for always being positive, Kirsten Bowie for making Book fair fun and great every time, Krystal Ripka for making picture days run smoothly, Mara Areglo for always having a positive outlook and having Goodies with Grandparents delicious and fun, Melissa Pate for always being there to answer questions and being our Membership Chair, Read and Lead Chair and Treasurer, Michelle Davis for organizing, building and running Fall Carnival, Naoko Geforos for Spirit Wear and how you are always there to help, Ron Babel for taking your time to see all the outdated kits, Shannon Gregory for Popcorn Fridays and always lending an ear, Sheila Portuque for running Bingo night and being such a strong person, Stacy Legg for always being there, and Suzette Ebbinga for making our Food Drive a fun and fulfilling experience.

Also sending Valentines to Dawn Calkins for always being someone who is willing to put the happiness of our kids first. She always knows how to make a kid smile even as she passes them in the hallway. Thank you ALL for ALL THAT YOU DO!

-Elizabeth Custodio



Much appreciation goes out to the many volunteers of EPSOC that made Chocolate, Chimes and Cheer a successful event this year. Thanks to the numerous bakers that supplied scrumptious goodies and to those that provided auction items. Your dedication brings in donation dollars to assist our arts programs! Special thanks to Brandy and Eddie Sigaw for their help in setting up and cleaning up for the event. Thanks also go out to Elizabeth Custodio, Naoko Geforos, Christina Gries, Noreen Kim, Melissa Pate and Gina Sawyer for overseeing the chocolate sales. You are all amazing and Friends of the Arts could not put on such a wonderful evening without you!

-Debbie Townsend-Schmidt



Thank you Bev Rarey for all your volunteer activities, especially your work helping me with Science Fair and Night! I couldn't do it without you :-)

-Mrs. Park



Valentines to Melissa and Chrissy for their acting roles on the Executive Board as Treasurer and Secretary.

-Christine

VALENTINE'S for **VOLUNTEERS**

A big thank you to everyone who helped with Holiday Shop 2014! We had another very successful year, and it couldn't have been done without the help of YOU! Thanks to Kirsten Bowie, Heather Bahrt, Crystal Green, Angela Mills, Dorothy Tuck, Chrissy Gries, Allison Erickson, Jill Seeburger, Trisha Chambers, Holly Aguon, and Candice Wade for working shifts and

helping the kiddos shop. My apologies if I missed anyone, I had so much great help, it was hard to keep track!

Special thanks to Bernie, Baylie, & Brooks Williamson, Ali, Olivia & Blake Doolittle, Elizabeth Custodio, and Christina Black and kids Haley & Aiden for the help with the arduous task of set-up.

Finally, my eternal gratitude to Bev Rarey, Karly Olson, and Brenda Romero... because without their help, I'd probably still not be ready! They helped shop, price items, make goodie bags, cocoa and coffee sets, earrings, etc. I truly don't think I could do it without your help!

Looking forward to (and already shopping for) Holiday Shop 2015!

-Kendra Williamson



THANK YOU to all who have helped with the preparation of Read and Lead 2015! We are off to a great start and could not have done it without our awesome volunteers! Thank you in advance to everyone who has signed on to track weekly progress, fill out prizes, and help with our ice cream party! Our students are truly lucky EPSOC PTA has such dedicated volunteers!

-Melissa and Crystal



Valentines to Mr. Honig, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Clark for boosting the fundraiser efforts by being willing to be duct taped to the wall in the gym.

Thanks from Elk Plain students to Chrissy Gries for leading the exceptional fundraiser that made us money to do great things for kids this year.

Thank you from the PTA to all the Elk Plain families who participated in the fundraiser ~ whether they bought or sold items. Your efforts have made it a banner year for Elk Plain PTA events!

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EPSOC PTA MEMBERSHIP 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: _____ Zip: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____
Child(ren)/Teacher(s): _____

Standard Membership Fees
 Individual: \$10 Couple: \$18 Business ads: card \$25 1/4 page \$50