



PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Custodio
er_custodio@hotmail.com

Hello EPSOC Families! It's almost the end of the year! We had a very successful clothing drive, the Read and Lead ice cream party is right around the corner, Chrissy Gries has become our Field Day Chair and there is so much more. Let's keep up the good spirits and stay strong! I'm so proud of everyone who has helped out and given their time to support our staff and our students here. We couldn't be Elk Plain without all our wonderful volunteers!

READ AND LEAD

Melissa Pate, mpatenkl@gmail

Important Read and Lead dates to remember:

- Monday 3/16: Last turn in date for completed Read and Lead sheets
- Friday 3/20: Read and Lead ice cream sundae party.
This party is for all classrooms with 100% participation and all students with 1000 "Read and Lead" minutes turned in.
- Friday 3/27: Read and Lead medal presentation and awards ceremony



PTA's emphasis this year has been on reaching the 100% participation goal. This means that every student in each classroom has turned in at least one completed and signed tracking sheet. If you have not participated so far, it is not too late for your student to participate and help their classroom get invited to the ice cream party!

If you have any questions regarding read and lead, please contact melissa pate at mpatenkl@gmail.com or crystal green at cowgirl_73@msn.com. Thank you so much for your support of this worthwhile program!

SPRING BOOK FAIR

kirsten_bowie@yahoo.com

Volunteers needed for spring book fair
March 23-26th
during conference week

Elk Plain Parents! It's that time again...Book Fair is just around the corner and we need volunteers for setup, during the fair, and breakdown.

Set Up:

Friday, March 20th

(immediately after the Read and Lead ice cream party)

Book Fair hours:

Monday, Wed., Thursday 7:15am until 2:00pm

Tuesday 7:15am until 7:30pm

Breakdown:

Thursday, March 26th at 2:00pm

Thank you for your continued support and your assistance in making the Book Fair so successful!

GOLDEN ACORN

Naoko Geforos and Elizabeth Custodio

April is National Volunteer Month!

Golden Acorn is an award presented by local PTAs to an outstanding PTA member who has consistently gone above and beyond for students in the community. The recipient(s) participates in multiple activities and is dedicated to the well-being and growth of all children. EPSOC PTA is now accepting nominations to honor one or more deserving member(s). Forms will be available outside the PTA office soon! The deadline for submissions is April 6th.



BINGO! NIGHT

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

Family BINGO Night

Friday, April 17th

6:00pm-8:00pm

(doors open at 5:30)

BINGO is an exciting family night out with lots of opportunity to WIN! We are currently looking for donations for the BINGO prize table and of themed baskets for the silent auction. In addition to donations, we'll need several volunteers to help with set up, clean up, BINGO "checkers" and more. Please email Christina Gries at gncgries@gmail.com or call/text 253-221-3263 to sign up to help!

MARCH/APRIL Events

- SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION**
Saturday, March 7th, 10am-Noon
- PTA BOARD MEETING**
Tuesday, March 10th, 2:15, EPSOC Library
- ARTS NIGHT, EPSOC Auditorium**
Friday, March 13th, 5:00-7:00pm
- LAST DAY FOR READ AND LEAD**
Monday, March 16th
- PTA MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
Wednesday, March 18th, 2:15, EPSOC Library
- READ and LEAD ICE CREAM PARTY**
Friday, March 20th
- SPRING BOOK FAIR**
Monday, March 23rd- Thursday the 26th
- STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON**
Tuesday, March 24th
- CREATIVE KIDS ENTRIES DUE**
Friday, March 27th
- READ and LEAD AWARD CEREMONY**
Friday, March 27th
- GOLDEN ACORN NOMINATIONS DUE**
Monday, April 6th
- PTA BOARD MEETING**
Tuesday, April 7th, 2:15, EPSOC Library
- SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION**
Sunday, April 12th, 10am-Noon
- PTA MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
Wednesday, April 15th, 2:15, EPSOC Library
- BINGO! NIGHT**
Friday, April 17th, 6:00-8:00pm

VOLUNTEER Hours

- Weekly Read and Lead help counting minutes, bundling prizes, adjusting board: mpatenkl@gmail.com
- Help at Student Store every other Thursday: Elizabeth Custodio, er_custodio@hotmail.com
- Help at Book Fair: kirsten_bowie@yahoo.com
- Help at BINGO! Night: gncgries@gmail.com
- Join the Field Day planning committee: gncgries@gmail.com
- 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

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!

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

Melissa Pate, mpatenkl@gmail.com

Secretary

Holly Ingram, hollyaguon@yahoo.com



Newsletter Entries: christinelink@yahoo.com

PTA MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 155

PTA Meeting Minutes



EPSOC PTA's General Membership Meeting
September 26, 2014

Meeting called to order 6:28 pm.

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. Executive and Committee Chairs were introduced.

General Membership Business:

- May 2014 minutes were reviewed.
- Financial Officer's 2014-2015 Budget Report. Kimberly Trammell motioned to approve, Mr. Honig seconded.
- Standing Rules 2014-2015. (to be checked during the next board meeting)

Upcoming Events:

- Fall Fundraiser this year will be Cherrydale/Otis Spunkmeyer. The fundraiser will begin October 3rd and continue through October 20th.
- Book Fair will be October 20th through October 24th with set up on October 17th and break down on October 24th. Volunteers are needed, sign-up sheets are located outside of the PTA room.
- Staff Luncheon will be held on October 21st.
- Fall Carnival will be held on October 24th. Set up and break down will be the same day. Volunteers and donations of cakes and cupcakes are needed as well as individually wrapped candy for game prizes.

Open Floor: Volunteers are needed for Popcorn Fridays. 8:30-12pm (popping, bagging and selling or either one)

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

PHOTOS WANTED FOR YEARBOOK!



DIVERSIONS from Mrs. Park

What's going on?

What is going on? Things are just not right and I don't know about you, but my world feels a little like it is turning upside down. Because, seriously, March 1st and it's spring? Actually, I think it was spring in January when I heard the first chorus of frogs begin singing. I guess that stupid Punxsutawney Phil was looking towards the east when he saw his shadow. Any groundhog around here who had the audacity to stick his nose out February 2nd would have sneezed due to hay fever brought on by early blooming flowers. Don't get me wrong I love the sunlight, warmth, and beautiful spring colors but I am a touch concerned about those same frogs, come summer, when there isn't a wetland to croak in.

If that was the only topsy-turvy event I could maybe weather the storm but the early spring is just one of many. The Seahawks lost the Super Bowl how? Mr. Spock has died when I thought Vulcans were supposed to live to be 200 years old or something? And just this week I read the worst one yet. Something that rocked me to the center of my core. News that upended my belief system and sent my world spinning the wrong direction. Researchers have discovered it wasn't rats who brought the Black Death to Europe that killed millions but instead soft, cuddly, adorable gerbils reigned down the devastating plague!

This is indeed a disturbing thought which has thrown me into a tizzy. For centuries we have blamed the ugly black rat and its creepy parasite, the rat flea, for the waves of outbreaks of bubonic plague throughout Europe and Asia. It is definitely easier to be afraid of something with a scaly tail and gnashing teeth. The much-maligned rats have taken on mythic proportions in terms of hate and disgust. Now it seems our emotional abhorrence is totally misplaced! Now, all of a sudden, I have to be repulsed by and loath gerbils? Wow! Many a household will have to rethink the pet situation when they see their child snuggling with a cute, roly-poly gerbil. Instead we need to drop the rodent and run.

Spring coming early has provided some sunny, warm, extra weeks to weigh my reactions to these earth-shaking changes. And prepare myself, potentially, for other upheavals. What will happen next? Will they tell us our very solar system is not what it seems? Oh, wait ... they already did that when the astrophysicists yanked Pluto out of the ranks of planets and dubbed it a "dwarf" planet instead. Poor Pluto, instead of a planet it is now known as the tenth-most-massive known object directly orbiting the sun. Knowing how to act must be hard for this icy celestial body on the edge of the Kuiper Belt. I'm beginning to know exactly how Pluto feels.



Here's to hanging on during the wild ride,
Georgina Gryc Park (the little-known-massive object orbiting Graham)

CLASSIFIED APPRECIATION WEEK

March 9-13

Surprise your bus driver, para-educators, custodians, office and lunch room staff with a box of chocolates this week! March 9-13 is Classified Staff Appreciation Week. They are the well-oiled machine that keeps EPSOC running smoothly. Thank you Classified Staff!!

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ARTS NIGHT at EPSOC

Debbie Townsend-Schmidt, rockola@q.com, 253-843-0747
 March 13th, 5:00-7:00 p.m

March 13th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. is Arts Night at EPSOC! This Friends of the Arts fundraiser is a fun night of pizza (available for purchase) and performances by our orchestras, bands, choirs and dance ensemble. Funds raised go towards supplies and technical tools for our arts classrooms that help make Elk Plain such a special place for students to be creative. We hope to see you there!

BOX TOPS and LABELS

Gaby Makinster makinster1@comcast.net



Our box top goal for this school year is \$1000.00. Our submission for the fall was \$738. Another submission is due March 2nd and so far I have counted and bagged 3750 which gives us \$375. That added to our fall submission gives us a total of \$1,113. We have exceeded our goal! Way to go Elk Plain!!!

I have also added our school to www.ProjectA-plus.tyson.com. They collect points from Tyson products just like Box Tops. I am currently working on signing us up with Coke, too. Both of these companies have a catalog where our teachers can choose products for their classrooms.



Soon I will be reaching out to parents who need volunteer hours to help trim the soup labels. If you have any questions you can email me. I am brand new to this position, but if I don't know the answer I will find out for you!

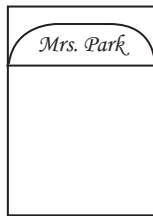
FIELD DAY

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

I am now gathering volunteers for the Field Day Planning Committee. I will need people who can meet in the evening beginning in March but not often; perhaps once a month until May and then more often. Thank you!

TEACHER TASK BOARD in OFFICE

Check out the new Teacher Task board in the office! Every teacher has a small envelope filled with cards describing tasks they need done in the classroom. This is a great way to support teachers directly and get your volunteer hours filled.



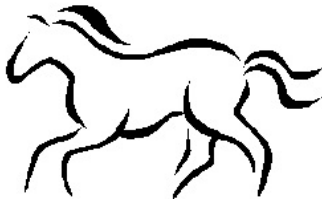
FUNDRAISING

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.

FOUR STAR FARM
 Graham, WA

After School Program
 Drop-in Lessons
 Day and Summer Camps
 Group Programs
 Field Trips
 Birthday Parties



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

SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION

Debbie Townsend-Schmidt, rockola@q.com, 253-843-0747
 Color Bursts Coming Soon!

Thanks to the awesome volunteers that helped replant hundreds of our daffodils, crocus and grape hyacinths on Feb. 8. Team Daffodil included parents Dwayne Black, Jeff & Naoko Geforos, Chantee Ivory, and Michelle Ray, Haley Orzel (CMMS student logging in community service hours) and 6th graders Reina Geforos, Marley Ray and Emmaline Schmidt.

- Dwayne Black
- Jeff & Naoko Geforos
- Chantee Ivory
- Michelle Ray
- Haley Orzel
- Reina Geforos
- Marley Ray
- Emmaline Schmidt

There are still more bulbs to put in the ground and an endless supply of weeds to pull. Help keep our new landscaping looking its best by joining us for monthly beautification efforts on March 7, April 12, May 9 and June 7 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Any time you can spare is greatly appreciated! Please email Debbie Townsend-Schmidt at rockola@q.com if you can join us and/or would like to receive updates.

STEM ACTIVITIES

Bev Rarey

bjgrandma@aol.com Volunteer Science Coordinator
 STEM (Science) Assemblies

Jack Walsh from Sub Zero Ice Cream demonstrated several different experiments using liquid nitrogen for students in Grades 4-6 on February 10. The assemblies ended with each student receiving a scoop of ice cream. The assemblies were informative and "yummy."

STEM (Science) Night

During the day of February 19, judges graded each of the 300 projects that were turned in by students. The judges awarded 30 mastery ribbons to those whose projects they thought were exemplary examples of engineering skills. Special thanks to judges Ron Elliff, Andy Anderson, Dennis Selle, John Korn, Evan Korn, and Douglas Ostegaard for donating their time.

- Ron Elliff
- Andy Anderson
- Dennis Selle
- John Korn
- Evan Korn
- Douglas Ostegaard
- Chantee Ivory
- Jessica Gabriel
- Marie Reed

BIG thank you's go to Chantee Ivory, Jessica Gabriel and Marie Reed for their help in setting up and taking down displays and tables.

We would also like to thank the following community leaders for their time and demonstrations during our Science Night: Parkland Light and Water, Toray Industries (Erica and Kyoko), Tacoma City Light (Randy Stearnes) and Pierce County Public Works Environmental Services (Ryan Misley).

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: _____ Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Child(ren)/Teacher(s): _____

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