



ELK PLAIN K-7 PTA Newsletter

March/April 2016

Find us on Facebook at Elk Plain School of Choice PTA

www.epsocpta.org

epsocpta1@gmail.com



VH=Opportunity for Volunteer Hours ♻️ = Recycling available

MARCH/APRIL Events

- **MARCH PTA BOARD MEETING**
Tuesday, March 1st, 2:15, EPSOC Library
- **PTA MEMBERSHIP MEETING (elections)**
Tuesday, March 8th, 2:15, EPSOC Library
- **MIDDLE SCHOOL CONCERT** VH
Wednesday, March 9th, 6:00pm
- **GLOW DANCE!** ♻️ VH
Friday, March 11th, 6:00-8:30pm
Chrissy Gries, gncgries@gmail.com
- **MIDDLE SCHOOL BOOK CLUB**
Monday, March 14th, 5:30-6:30pm
- **BEAUTIFICATION** VH
March 20th 10:00am-Noon, rockola@q.com
- **READ & LEAD ENDS**
March 21st, Melissa Pate, mpatenkl@gmail.com
- **READ & LEAD ICE CREAM PARTY!** VH
March 25th
- **SPRING FAIR ART ENTRY DEADLINE**
March 28th, rockola@q.com
- **BOOK FAIR** March 28th-April 1st VH
- **STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON** VH
Tuesday Morning, March 29th
- **READ & LEAD ASSEMBLY**
Friday, April 1st
- **APRIL PTA BOARD MEETING**
April 12th, 2:15, EPSOC Library
- **MUFFINS WITH MOM** ♻️ VH
Friday, April 15th, cmareglo@gmail.com
- **EARTH DAY** April 22nd. All day! VH
- **BINGO NIGHT** Friday, April 22nd VH
Lisa Neideffer lisa@lisaracca.com

● **BEAUTIFICATION** rockola@q.com
VH 253-843-0747 Debbie Townsend-Schmidt
Spring Cleaning and Planting at School!
March 20 and May 22, 10:00am-Noon

Spring cleaning days are slated for March 20 and May 22 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. We will be pulling weeds and tidying up our campus. Please join us and earn volunteer hours! Middle and high school students fulfilling community service hours are also welcome.

● **POPCORN FRIDAYS** VH
Jenn Black drjlynnblack@yahoo.com
Volunteers needed! Text 253-545-8666
April 22, April 29
May 6, May 13, May 20



PRESIDENT

Crystal Green

cowgirl_73@msn.com

Hello Elk Plain Families,

It is hard to believe that we are half way through the year and that some classes have already had their 100 day parties. These last couple of months have been jam packed. We completed another successful Clothing Drive with many loads of donated items going to "Wear it Out". We offered another great Family Movie Night, our annual STEM Showcase and are in the midst of Read & Lead, our long standing reading program.



In the next few months we look forward to the Glow Dance, Read & Lead Ice Cream Party, Read & Lead Awards Assembly, Spring Book Fair, Muffins with Mom and Bingo Night. If you have not had the chance to be part of the fun, now is the perfect time. Contact the committee chairs or someone from the board to find out how you can help with these events.

It never ceases to amaze me how many parents and school staff come out to volunteer their time to help make these events such a success. It takes a tremendous amount of work and time to put on these events for our students. They provide a wonderful opportunity for parents to get involved and see just how wonderful and fun our K-8 School can be. When you see our volunteers at school, please thank them for giving up their time for our teachers and students!

Nominations for the 2016/17 PTA Executive Board are:

President: Crystal Green
Co-Vice Presidents: Christine Link and Christina Gries
Treasurer: Christie McMahon
Secretary: Melissa Pate

READ AND LEAD 2016

Melissa Pate

VH

mpatenkl@gmail.com

The Read and Lead team would like to thank all of the families participating in Read and Lead 2016. As of February 22nd, we are at 90% school wide participation with 495 students, out of 547, who have turned in at least one completed sheet. With March 21st as the last turn in date, we are so close to attaining the 100% participation goal we set out to achieve every year. For those who have yet to turn in a completed Read and Lead sheet, it is not too late to participate!



A big THANK YOU goes out to the Read and Lead team who have worked so diligently every week to track those sheets, move the students' progress up the board, and fill out the weekly prizes. Your hard work is appreciated!

If you have any questions about Read and Lead, please contact Melissa Pate (mpatenkl@gmail.com) or Crystal Green (cowgirl_73@msn.com).



All students with 1,000 minutes and all classrooms with 100% participation (each student has turned in at least one completed sheet) will be invited to an ice cream party at the end of the program!

Your 2015/2016 PTA Officers

President:

Crystal Green, cowgirl_73@msn.com

Co-Vice Presidents

Christie McMahon, christiemcmahill@gmail.com

Jennifer Grant, grantsrnj@msn.com

Financial Officer:

Melissa Pate, mpatenkl@gmail.com

Secretary:

Holly Ingram, hollyaguon@yahoo.com

Newsletter Entries: christinelink@yahoo.com

CURRENT PTA MEMBERS: 174

PTA Meeting Minutes



General Membership Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2015

-Called to Order @ 6:34pm

-Review of Meeting minutes and approved with the following corrections: Principle to Principal, and Mrs. Bev to Bev Rarey.

-Financial Officer Report Review.

-There is no Principal report this meeting.

-Fund Raiser Total: \$30,019.05 before expenses of \$14,882.70. Online sales were double compared to last year. What do we want to spend the money on as we do not have any big projects scheduled this year.

- Grant Request: Mrs. Pattee- AR Grant request last year for 415 students. This year we have enough for 415 students and Mrs. Pattee is asking for \$3380.60 (about \$6 per student) next year we are possible including Middle School students (additional 130+ students with an increase of \$800 for the year). Mrs. Pattee is requesting an additional range of \$3380 to \$4200 as we are at 545 students.

Motion for Mrs. Pattee's grant request made by Gabby Makinster, Second by Melissa Pate. All approved with none opposed.

-Book Fair- Is needing a new chair for the Fall 2016/2017 school year. We made \$1687.75 + \$230.65 we will keep about \$1350 of that.

- Box Tops/ Labels for Education- Gabby submitted \$638.70 in box tops and \$151.602 in soup label points. Emailed Mr. Jones for PE (he paid for a membership). He requested gift cards. They will be as follows: 60- \$25 cards, 31- \$50 gift cards, and 16- \$100 gift cards.

-Fall Carnival: Michele Davis is sick. Report is given by Crystal Green. Made \$700, sold 319 admission tickets at the door, 837 cake walk tickets sold. Made \$130 more that budget and \$167.40 on the cake walk (Special thanks to Debbie for her donations.)

-Family Fun Night: Inside Out on 11/20/2015.

-Fundraising Pick up date is Nov. 18th 2015 from 2-6pm.

-Blitz Friday in on 11/20/15 and fliers will go out on 11/12/15.

-Holiday Shop- getting ready for the sale in December- Angie Mills will be taking over the Holiday Shop for the 2016/2017 school year with a possible co-chair.

-Membership is at 158 and yearbook is at 127 sold.

-Read and Lead- Melissa and Crystal- are in need of donations and ideas of new places to ask for them. Up to week 5 is covered with a need for an additional 5 weeks.

-We are in need of a Reflections Chairperson.

-School Picture Retakes were today.

-Staff Appreciation- tree is located in the hallway, the leaves were fill out by the teachers (their needs and wants) this will run from 11/1 to 11/30/15.

-Sustainability- We have collected over 5,000 items. Accrued \$100 for bins at school events. We are wanting to place bins @ school events so families know where to put trash vs. recycling. We do not take household recycling-only stuff from the teracycle program. We are 8oz away from free shipping for the cereal bags.

-Looking for plastic lids for art projects.

-Gaby Makinster is looking for A+, Tyson, and Coke Rewards as well.

-Gaby Mankinster is submitting a shipping receipt from Feb 2015 and requesting reimbursement of \$18.40 for it. Kendra Williamson motions to pay for the reimbursement (over 60 days) with Angela Mills second. Motion approved with none opposed. Motion was passed.

-Questions about Donations: Contact Pam Korn.

-Open Floor: Software for creating cookbook was purchased about 5 years ago. Is anyone interested in creating one? Do we know where the software is?

-Staff wanted recipes for the food that was cooked from the conference week.

-Adjourned @ 7:25.

GLOW DANCE!!! ORDER TICKETS NOW! GLOW DANCE!!!

Name	# of Tickets	X \$3 = TOTAL
		\$

Tickets will be held for time of entry under the name listed above. We will send home a payment confirmation receipt no later than March 10th.

Preorders accepted through March 9th.

Send receipt home with _____ in _____ class.
Student Teacher



Theater • Music • Dance • Art • Technology • Science



MIDDLE SCHOOL BOOK CLUB
Mrs. Park, gpark@bethelsd.org

Join us for our next meeting – Monday, March 14, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
“The Mysterious Benedict Society” by Trenton Lee Stewart

The Middle School Book Club meets once a month on Mondays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Elk Plain Library. Members include both students and adults. Each month we discuss the book we read the month before, pick a new title, and have an interesting snack based on the book.



Below are the 5 books we've read so far this year with our recommendations:

The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker: Highly recommended. Everyone's favorite book so far. Historical fiction that takes place during WWII about children who left London for the countryside during the blitz.

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman: Favorite of those who enjoy fantasy/horror. Written by the author of *Coraline* & *The Sandman* graphic novel. *The Graveyard Book* is about a little boy who is raised by ghosts in a cemetery after his family is murdered.

The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp by Kathi Appelt: Enjoyed by everyone. An amusing fantasy/humor story about two raccoon brothers who set out to wake up the Sugar Man and save the swamp. Includes alternating chapters about the raccoon brothers and the people who live in Sugar Man Swamp.

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd: Enjoyed by most everyone, especially those who like mysteries. A mystery that takes place in London about a missing boy whose cousins set out to find him when the adults aren't being successful. Protagonist is young man with Autism.

Christmas Jars by Jason F. Wright: Some enjoyed because we read it at the holidays. Overly sentimental holiday story that is a little too obvious but still made some of us cry because we're suckers for a sappy story.

BINGO! NIGHT
Lisa Neideffer
Call/Text 253-405-1791 lisa@lisaracca.com

Save the date!
April 22, 2016

Contact Lisa if you'd like to help

SUSTAINABILITY
Christine Link
christinelink@yahoo.com

What I Learned on My Field Trip to the Tacoma Recycling Center

If you had been at the Tacoma Recycling Center (3510 S. Mullen Street) with me a few weekends ago this is what you would have heard me say to the attendant, “Really? This? And this? And you take this, too?”

Wow!” When I arrived I had a large 24 x 36 bag overflowing with plastic packaging that couldn't go in my curbside tote. When I left, it was empty—except for a few plastic candy bags. I even texted friends from the car when I was done because I couldn't contain the excitement for myself and for heads-of-households everywhere! Below is a sampling of things I brought. They weren't too messy or smelly, added up really fast, and reduced my trash by a noticeable amount.

All of the following are accepted at the Tacoma Recycling Center* when clean (free of food oils and wiped or shaken clean of most food residues.) When in doubt, bring it anyway and ask the attendants. They have been very helpful!

*We are not accepting any of these at Elk Plain unless they are brought in for a party. We rescued a huge garbage bag full of food trays and clam shells on Valentine's Day!

STRETCHY PLASTIC

If you can easily stretch it with your thumb then it can be recycled there.

Examples

Any stretchy plastic bag: grocery, bread, produce, baby/whole carrot and celery bags that have been dried out, etc. Examples of plastic bags they don't accept are frozen veggie bags, pet food bags or cheese stick bags. They don't stretch easily.

Any stretchy plastic wrapping that goes around multi-packs of things (I brought the wrapping from the 48-roll package of toilet paper from Costco), paper towel wrappers, bubble wrap, etc.

OTHER

Foil yogurt lids can be recycled as scrap sheet metal!

Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs

Batteries

RIGID PLASTIC

Plastic clamshells (has a hinge), food trays, and blister packaging

Examples

Food: Clamshell packaging from store-bought cookies, muffins or cupcakes; food trays (like veggie/fruit/appetizer platter trays); salad/herb boxes; plastic cookie trays from fig newtons; protein powder scoops.

Toys/electronics/tools: the plastic box that holds the Matchbox car, or toothbrush onto the cardboard. Really stiff blister packaging that requires scissors and patience in order to extricate the goods. I brought a small one that once held a thumb drive but I saw a large one there that once held a set of pliers.

“To go” coffee cup lids and plastic cups used for cold drinks like iced coffee, smoothies or fountain drinks.

WINTER CONCERT RAFFLE
Katherine Leitch katherineleitch12@yahoo.com

Middle School Winter Concert and Raffle
March 9 at 6:00 p.m.

Elk Plain's middle school band, choir, orchestra and dance will be hosting a performing arts concert on March 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the EPSOC Performing Arts Center. A dessert and gift basket raffle will also be held during the event by Friends of the Arts to help raise funds for our budding instrumental music programs. Friends of the Arts is very thankful for the generous support provided by Elk Plain School of Choice families allowing us to enhance our art programs to a higher level of excellence. Please consider donating a decadent dessert or a gorgeous gift basket to help our music program soar! Contact Katherine Leitch to make a contribution.

Thank you for your support!

BOX TOPS, ETC.
Gaby Makinster
makinster1@comcast.net



Hello Elk Plain families,

I would like to take the time to thank all of the awesome ladies that helped with box tops. I can not thank you enough!!!

As coordinator, I received notice that this will be **the last year to redeem soup labels**. We have until the end of the school year to submit and withdraw our points. I would encourage you to check your pantry and cut the UPC part along with the points for any participating label product. I do not have a count just yet but stay tuned.

We are also signed up with A+ labels through Tyson. More info at <http://projectaplus.tyson.com/>

Coke rewards you can do at home. Create an account and then donate them to Elk Plain. More info at <https://www.mycokerewards.com/content/causes.html>

- Krystal Fox
- Jessica Picard
- Holly Vest
- Cassandra Nordin
- Melissa Looker
- Ashley Robinson

SCIENCE NIGHT/STEM Showcase
Mrs. Park, STEM Coordinator gpark@bethelsd.org
Bev Rarey, Volunteer Co-Coordinator bjrgrandma@aol.com

STEM Night was a huge success! For the second year, the focus has been on engineering. There were 248 very impressive projects. Special thanks to community volunteers Ryan Mисley, Randy Stearnes, Toray Industries, Point Defiance Zoo, parent, Mr. Ebbinga and staff member Miss Scott, for their demonstrations/displays AND for all the support from parents.

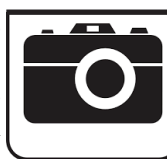
STAFF APPRECIATION
Jayme Roberts jroberts0769@gmail.com

A big THANK YOU to all who have, and continue to support, the Second Tuesday of each month as our special treat day for the EPSOC staff. Continue to watch for emails early in the month for themes. Maybe March will be “Pot of Gold” and luck of the Irish. Green???



YEARBOOK PHOTOS
epyearbook@hotmail.com

The yearbook committee has created an email account (above) for anyone to send in photos from any function--classroom or schoolwide. Please send at the highest resolution possible for best quality. Some photos taken on phones, and those transferred from Facebook pages are often not usable due to quality. We are always in need of theater production photos, and Bethel Rec TEAM photos.



Kendra Williamson, kwilliamson@pcnw-docs.com
Christie McMahill, christiemcmahill@gmail.com

EARTH DAY EXTRAVAGANZA!
Mrs. Park, Debbie Townsend-Schmidt, Christine Link

Elk Plain Students Planting

Our annual Earth Day extravaganza will be held on Earth Day, Friday, April 22. Elk Plain students will be adding color to the landscape and learning the importance of keeping our campus beautiful. If you are able to donate plants, seeds, or time to assist please contact Debbie Townsend-Schmidt at rockola@q.com or 253-843-0747.



Styrofoam Drive

Collect all the block styrofoam you can find between now and Earth Day and bring it to school on Earth Day (not before). PTA Sustainability members will take it to the recycle center in Tacoma for you. Free up some space in your trash and do the earth a big favor!

Trash Time Capsule: Is There An “Away”?

For a few days leading up to Earth Day we will be creating 2 trash time capsules from items thrown away during lunch. One will hold non-biodegradable trash (milk cartons, wrappers, plastics, styro foam) and the other will hold compostable trash (carrots, lettuce, banana peels). We will bury them on Earth Day and dig them up next year to see how much has decomposed and how much has stayed the same. In other words, we will see which items have “gone away” after being “thrown away”.

THE SPRING FAIR IS COMING!
Debbie Townsend-Schmidt
rockola@q.com 253-843-0747

Entry Deadline March 28th

The Spring Fair is rapidly approaching, which means amazing art projects created by Elk Plain students are being prepared by Friends of the Arts to travel to Puyallup for the Creative Kids Exhibit! Most of the pieces that were showcased at Bethel's Art & Tech Fair will be entered, as well as any additional pieces submitted by students. Please review the rules at <http://www.thefair.com/participate/exhibit-entries/> prior to submitting art and keep in mind that artists must be at least 6 years old. Projects must be delivered to the EPSOC office by March 28. Each participant will receive a ticket for one free admission to the Spring Fair being held from April 14-17.

FAMILIES IN NEED
Suzette Ebbinga
smebbinga@gmail.com

Thanks to your generosity the families in need committee has completed another successful season of giving. Elk Plain's clothing drive donated over 100 large bags of clothing to Wear It Out, a free clothing bank in our district. Our fall food drive brought in more than 1,800 pounds of food. When you consider that the average person eats about 1,800 pounds of food a year, that's pretty amazing! This could not have been accomplished without our wonderful volunteers: Angie Strub, Spencer Ebbinga, Crystal & Shawn Green, Kevin Whalen and Nata Gilbert, thank you all. A special shout out to Peggy Brayton for all of her administrative expertise.

- Angie Strub
- Spencer Ebbinga
- Crystal & Shawn Green
- Kevin Whalen
- Nata Gilbert
- Peggy Brayton

To learn about volunteering at Wear It Out email Angie DerHammer at grneydldy98387@gmail.com

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