



Your 2015/2016 PTA Officers

President:

Crystal Green, cowgirl_73@msn.com

Co-Vice Presidents

Christie McMahill, 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

EPSOC General Meeting
January 12, 2016, Held in the EPSOC Gym

-Called to Order @ 2:18pm.

-Review of Minutes to be adjusted and the represented at the February meeting.

-Budget Report: as of Dec. everything is looking great. Holiday Shop was a little short because of the shorter time frame but she will just have to spend a little less next time.

-Principal Report:

K8 Committee- we are looking for some parents to sit on the committee and meetings will be once a month. They are also looking for some middle school kids for opinions as well. This is to get an idea of what we want the school to become.

Bond voting coming up and wanting to send out texts to tell the importance of this bond getting passed. Looking for 10 parent volunteers to help send out flash texts. These texts will go out to contacts out in the community.

-No grant requests and quorum is not met.

-Science night: Feb 18th. Mrs. Park and Mrs. Rarey. They are looking for volunteers to help set up and take down. Christine Link would like to set up a sustainability booth as well as put together a time capsule with biodegradable items and then check it in about a year. Help is needed at 7:15am for the set up. Help will then be needed on the 19th to take everything down by 10 for lunches. Parent info night will be on Jan 28th from 5:30 to 6:30.

-MLK assembly will be on Monday 25th from 12:45 to 1:45. Cost is the same as previous years. It will be a new assembly this year from previous years.

-Popcorn: Jen Black- still looking for volunteers for Feb and March. Sign up is on the popcorn machine in the PTA office.

-Read and Lead: Kick off was last week with this week being first turn in. 51% participation at this point. 7th grade is at 88% this program is slightly adjusted for the grade level. March 21 is the last turn in date for all of the 10 sheets.

-Labels for Education: We have extra gift cards that we would like to "grant request" to teachers that apply. \$25 and 2 \$100 gift cards are left. We will be sending this out to the teachers to apply.

-Upcoming events: Clothing Drive, info going out soon. Movie Night, Minions will be the movie and doors open at 6:30 with the movie starting at 7:00pm.

-Art and Tech fair is coming up. Some of our kid's projects will be submitted.

-Limeberry fundraiser is from 3 to 7pm at the Limeberry in Graham, all proceeds will go to Read and Lead and also an info session.

-Open Floor- (Commentary/feedback from a parent) Read and Lead is hated because she has to read x3 kids. Her suggestion is to tailor the program more towards grade level because it is a struggle. She would like clearer instructions. After clearer instruction from the Read and Lead chairs she understands that she can count stuff that she is already doing- including sight words, homework, and regular reading. Books on tape/cd were suggested, apps, or reading from the older children. She would like to see suggestions on the actual packet that goes home.

-Adjourned at 2:48pm.

FIELD DAY!

VH

Heather Bahrt, heatherg81@hotmail.com
Marie Reed, marienot@comcast.net

The Great Outdoors

Friday, June 3rd

Field Day is coming soon! Our theme this year is "The Great Outdoors." We are in need of many volunteers to help the day run smoothly. If you would like to help out, please send an email letting us know your availability, and if there is something specific you would like to do. Some areas where we need volunteers are:

- set up, clean up, activities,
- lunch for volunteers, popcorn,
- water stations, donations

We are working on a list of items that could be donated to help out. So even if you can't come there might be a way to help. Please email Heather at heatherg81@hotmail.com and Marie at marienot@comcast.net.



PRESIDENT

Crystal Green

cowgirl_73@msn.com

Hello Elk Plain Families,

It is hard to believe this is our last newsletter of the year. These past few months have been very busy. We had another successful Read & Lead program, a great Book Fair, yummy Muffins with Mom, a productive Earth Day & Styrofoam drive and most recently a fun filled Bingo night. We have Donuts with Dad to look forward to and a most anticipated Field Day!

I wanted to take a moment to say thank you to my 2015-2016 Executive Board and Committee Chair people for such a successful year. You are all amazing and I have been so lucky to have you on my team. You have shined, achieved great things, and made a difference in the lives of not only the students in our school, but our staff, families and community. You are all talented, giving, generous, and dedicated and without you, this year would not have been the great one it has been.

To the teachers, principals and staff of Elk Plain, thank you for all your hard work and dedication to our children. We know we are at the best school in the district and appreciate everything you all do to make our children's educational experience so meaningful.

"One of the most difficult things to give away is kindness—it is usually returned."

~Joseph Joubert, French writer.

Have a fantastic end of school year!
Crystal Green
EPSOC PTA President

VH=Opportunity for Volunteer Hours ♻️ = Recycling available

MAY/JUNE Events

- **MAY PTA BOARD MEETING**
Tuesday, May 3rd, 2:15, EPSOC Library
- **PTA MEMBERSHIP MEETING** VH
Tuesday, May 10th, 2:15, EPSOC Library
- **DONUTS with DAD** ♻️ VH
Friday, May 20th, 7-7:35am
Mara Areglo, cmareglo@yahoo.com
- **FINAL BEAUTIFICATION DAY** VH
Sunday, May 22nd, 10am-Noon
Debbie Townsend-Schmidt, rockola@q.com
- **FIELD DAY** ♻️ VH
Friday, June 3rd, All Day
Heather Bahrt, heatherg81@hotmail.com
- **JUNE PTA BOARD MEETING**
Tuesday, June 7th, 2:15, EPSOC Library
- **MIDDLE SCHOOL BOOKCLUB**
Monday, June 13th, 5:30-6:30
Mrs. Park, gpark@bethelsd.org
- **PTA MEMBERSHIP MEETING** VH
Tuesday, June 14th, 2:15, EPSOC Library
- **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!**
Monday, June 20th

● **POPCORN FRIDAYS** VH
Jenn Black drjllynnblack@yahoo.com
Text 253-545-8666



1. THANK YOU to: Tina Mitchell, Krystal Ripka, Hilary Mauch, Sunny Fievez, Laurene Christmas, Ricki Perrie, Somboon Lathrop, Tina Dunn, Rosealba Solterno, Gary and Linda Hornbuckle, Gina Sawyer, and Mara Areglo who gave of their time to pop and sell popcorn...no matter the weather! Their dedication is the reason the lunchtime tradition continues. Please extend your appreciation when you see them around campus.

2. THANK YOU to: Tina Dunn who helped sell popcorn at the fall carnival and to Rodney Falzon who helped prepare popcorn for the movie nights.

3. The last Friday for popcorn is June 3 and will be FREE during field day activities.

- Tina Mitchell
- Krystal Ripka
- Hilary Mauch
- Sunny Fievez
- Laurene Christmas
- Ricki Perrie
- Somboon Lathrop
- Tina Dunn
- Rosealba Solterno
- Rodney Falzon
- Gary and Linda Hornbuckle
- Gina Sawyer
- Mara Areglo

15/16 GOLDEN ACORN!

Gina Sawyer and Christine Link

15/16 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: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____ Phone: _____
 Child(ren)/Teacher(s): _____

Standard Membership Fees

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



DIVERSIONS *from Mrs. Park*

Snow White for President!



The primaries are in full swing and the rancor is heating up. Many in the electorate are tired of politics being mean, getting nothing done, and lacking support for the average people. To this end I put forth my nominee to answer all these concerns - the red-lipped, two-dimensional, perky, celluloid creation named Snow White.

Some would say that such a generous, quiet, and kind person cannot survive, let alone, lead in this new political world heralded with meanness and vitriolic speech. I, however, can easily argue that although Snow White may be a sweet character she is also a fully self-actualized individual with significant attributes sought after in a leader. Her life story is the stuff of legends ~ much like JFK or Dwight D. Eisenhower. And Snow White has acting chops similar to the acting record of, say, Ronald Reagan. I might even argue her film career has been much more heralded and long lasting. Snow White would move us forward in diversity, not only being the first female in the Oval Office, but the first President who never needs make-up added before a press conference. Let's look at Snow White's compelling story showing all the values and experience she brings to the highest office in the land.

Having lost her core family at an early age, Snow White was raised by an uncaring and harsh Stepmother. Does Snow White become angry and withdrawn? On the contrary, we see her singing, going cheerfully about her "unprincess" like chores (Snow White's work ethic would benefit her with the rigors of political office). She is so beloved that when her Stepmother attempts to remove her from competition (kind of like a political election) the woodsman puts himself in peril to save Snow White. We then find Snow White alone and ill equipped to handle abandonment in the forest. Once again, due to her generous nature, animal friends (she is pro environment) help Snow White find the inner strength to continue, discovering the Dwarf's home. In a decidedly take charge manner (executive decision making skills), Snow White sets about bettering the home, increasing the quality of life for seven complete strangers (supporting the working class). Setting expectations high (no clean hands/no dinner ~ fighting for health care) Snow White refuses to back down and firmly demands compliance (showing how she might work with Congress) even by the most difficult personality - Grumpy (think President Putin of Russia).

Snow White built her support system so well that when she finds herself in desperate times (the metaphorical poisoned apple life struggle such as war) the support system jumps to action (such as Americans rallying to support FDR's call during WWII). All right, maybe Snow White should diversify her clothing options (one outfit is not adequate) but otherwise she shows qualities that can be extrapolated to a variety of real life situations ~ including President.

Given the current national conversation in the political realm, the unpleasant and rude public persona of most Candidates on both sides, I think we could use some more Snow White type behavior. There is even an obvious campaign slogan ~ Let's Clean-up Politics. Snow White is tough but kind, works in partnership with others, and would bring a civility to the office we desperately need. Show White has an understanding of a global society while remaining focused on the individual people and their needs.

Some will no doubt say we can't have a celluloid, made-up candidate for President. Really!? Don't we already have just that in our current candidates? Why not have a good one ~ Snow White For President!

One Woman ~ One Suggestion,
Georgina Gryc Park

BOX TOPS, ETC.

Gaby Makinster
makinster1@comcast.net



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.

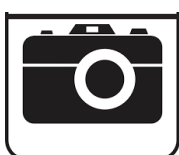
We are also signed up with A+ labels through Tyson. More info at <http://projectaplus.tyson.com/>

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>

16/17 YEARBOOK PHOTOS

VH epyearbook@hotmail.com

The yearbook committee has created an email account (above) for anyone to send in photos from any function--classroom, schoolwide or sports related. 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.



EARTH DAY EXTRAVAGANZA!

Wow! What a fabulous whole-school Earth Day we had at Elk Plain! Our students planted the following plants: allysum, cosmos, impatiens, snow-on-the-mountain, Missouri primrose, marigolds, calendulas, violas, flowering currant, spirea and snowbrush. They also planted seeds: lupine, delphinium, bachelor buttons, coneflower, marigold, sunflower, dwarf sunflower, portulaca, columbine, and flowering mixes.



Thanks to the Gunderson and Williamson families for donating gardening tools which enabled more students to plant at the same time. Thanks also go out to the families who donated seeds.

The Gundersons
The Williamsons
Anne-Sophie Montgomery
Stacy Legg
Michelle Davis

Mrs. Park was very much appreciated for sharing her 7th grade science students with our younger students as they planted, and for her Earth Day expertise throughout the day. Special

thanks to Mrs. Montgomery for assisting and supervising during the entire event.

We are already planning for Earth Day 2017, so if you have any extra seeds, plants, or bulbs please consider donating them to Elk Plain students!

~Debbie Townsend-Schmidt

---> P. S. Please join us for the final Beautification Day of the school year on Sunday, May 22 from 10 a.m. to noon.



Thanks to everyone who helped make our annual Earth Day celebration a success ~ even with the rain :-). Special thanks to Debbie Townsend-Schmidt, PTA Beautification Chairperson, who every year puts together plants, seeds, tools, volunteers, and schedules to give us all a chance to spruce up the school grounds and teach basic land stewardship to our students.

Extra thanks this year to Christine Link, PTA Sustainability Chairperson, for adding some great ideas to our Earth Day events. The Styrofoam Drive was very well received and with the help of Mrs. Legg three packed van loads of Styrofoam were dropped off in Orting and recycled. The 7th graders persevered through the rain to dig three holes for our trash and biodegradable time capsules which will be dug up next year on Earth Day.

But, again, thanks to every teacher who came out and helped. That's what Earth Day is all about ~ we each do what part we can and it all adds up!

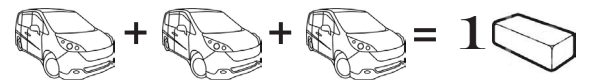
~Mrs. Park

Trash collection for the experimental landfill.



SUSTAINABILITY

Christine Link
christinelink@yahoo.com



What does 3 packed van loads of styrofoam look like once it's "densified"?

About the size of 1 brick.

Here's how it works: a densifier machine sucks all the air out of block styrofoam, condenses it and shapes it into bricks for easy storage, shipping and resale. As it turns out, styrofoam is mostly air with some plastic thrown in. So when it's condensed it becomes a fraction of the volume it once was. The super-condensed bricks are sold to buyers who turn it into cell phone cases, etc. The styrofoam is truly recycled instead of spending the next millennium in a landfill.

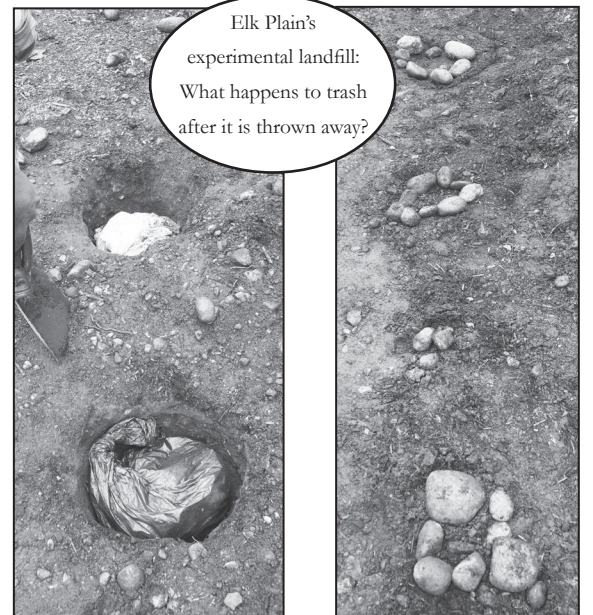
This is what I learned on my trip to R&D Recycling in Orting when I delivered my carload of styrofoam collected during our highly successful styrofoam drive on Earth Day.

Thank you Stacy Legg for your green knowledge on how and where to recycle styrofoam.

The Tacoma Recycling Center on S. Mullen Street in Fircrest (run by the city) will also be collecting styrofoam beginning this summer. If you go there to recycle styrofoam why not bring some of these other common household items that can be recycled? Plastic clamshells (called this because they have a hinge) like from strawberries or store bought cupcakes and cookies; food trays and lids from prepared veggie platters, cakes, rotisserie chickens, or pre-washed lettuce. You can even recycle plastic "to go" coffee cup lids. Basically, any rigid #3 through #7 plastics can be recycled there including toy and blister packaging. The attendants are very nice and have always answered my many questions.

TERRACYCLE UPDATE:

280+ lbs saved from the landfill and over \$300 earned for the PTA!



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

