



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: 147

PTA Meeting Minutes

EPSOC PTA General Membership Meeting
April 15, 2014

Called to order: 2:03
Quorum: Yes

- Minutes were reviewed. Kendra Williamson made a motion to approve the minutes, Elizabeth Custodio seconded. Motion was passed.
- The Budget was reviewed and filed.
- Nominees for next year's PTA board were introduced and ballot slips were handed out.

New Business and Committee Reports:

- Our popcorn machine is not repairable. The cost for a new machine is \$1,695.00 + tax and an additional \$28 for machine cleaner. Staci Sherrod made a motion to allocate \$1900 for a new machine and cleaner, Georgina Park seconded. Motion was approved.
- Yearbooks were submitted as scheduled so they should be ready by Field Day.
- Field Day is scheduled for Friday May 30th. We are planning on going to Point Defiance Zoo. This trip will be dependent on the ASB paying for bus transportation. The total cost for 465 student and 100 chaperones is \$4339. We have \$3000 budgeted but we have other overages which can make up the difference. Michelle Davis made a motion to add \$1700 to our Field Day budget, Crystal Green seconded. Motion was approved pending ASB approval of covering transportation costs.
- Newsletter: Christine has made the Newsletter smaller to use less paper. This will cut production costs in half!
- Ballots were turned in and tallied. Next year's PTA President is Elizabeth Custodio. Co-Vice Presidents: Christie McMahill and Jennifer Rivard. Secretary: Dawn Calkins and Treasurer: Sarah Hinsverk. Congratulations!

Upcoming Events:

- Muffins with mom is next Thursday, April 24th. Any muffin or doughnut donations would be appreciated. Any dads that would like to volunteer that morning would also be appreciated. Please see Becky Ortega for further information.
- Board/Budget meeting May 6th @ 2:00pm
- Next General Membership and budget approval meeting and May 13th @ 2:00pm
- Doughnuts with Dad May 29th

Meeting adjourned at 2:46pm

PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Custodio
er_custodio@hotmail.com

Well, we're done with the beginning months everyone! September sure was busy with adding all the new PTA members, our potluck, and seeing how our 6th graders are adjusting. In October we finished our Fall Fundraiser (the Wacky Walk Wall is amazing!), our Book Fair (so many books to choose from), Staff Appreciation Lunch and the biggest of them all: FALL CARNIVAL!! I'm so excited for everything still to come this year and like the famous song says "...We've only just begun..." so let's keep it going!

ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

Suzette Ebbinga, smebbinga@gmail.com



The tradition of generosity at EPSOC continues with the annual food drive. All donated food goes directly to area families through the Graham FISH Food Bank. Each classroom will have a donation box and, in the spirit of friendly competition, the class who donates the most food items will get a celebration party!

Holiday Shoppe

Holiday Shop is just around the corner!
This year, it will be open
Tuesday 12/16 - Friday 12/19
7:15am - 2:15pm

Prices will again range from \$0.25 to \$10.00, with most items in the \$1.00 to \$5.00 range. The kids have a great time shopping for their family and friends, and learn to budget and use their math skills in the process! Watch for more information to come home in purple folders in December.

If you sent back your volunteer form saying you'd like to help, please watch for an email soon. If you didn't sign up, but would like to help, or have any questions, please contact Kendra via email at kand3bees@hotmail.com, or call or text (253)381-2435.

NOV/DEC Events

- ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE**
November 3-21
- EVENING PTA BOARD MEETING**
Wednesday, November 12th, 6-7pm
- PTA MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
Wednesday, November 19th, 2:15-3:30
EPSOC Library
- CHOCOLATE, CHIMES & CHEER**
Thursday Evening, December 4th
- HOLIDAY SHOP**
Tuesday, December 16-Friday, December 19th
- HOLIDAY BREAK!**
December 22-January 2nd

VOLUNTEER Hours

- Help collect and count food drive donations: Suzette Ebbinga, smebbinga@gmail.com
- Help setup and work in the Holiday Shop: Kendra Williamson, kand3bees@hotmail.com
- Help at Student Store on Thursdays: Gina Sawyer, ginasawyer@comcast.net
- Attend PTA Membership Meetings
- Help Arts Team with productions: Mary Ellen Gilmour (Theater Specialist), mgilmour@bethelsd.org

EPSOC FAMILIES IN NEED

Pam Korn, pkorn@bethelsd.org

Dear Elk Plain Families- Again I am honored to be the Social Worker here at Elk Plain School of Choice. Part of my job includes helping families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Here is where I need your help. If you are a family who could use help at the holidays I need to know so I can get the partners who would love to help. I also need families or organizations who would like to help. All of the information is confidential and you can contact me at 253-683-7970 or e-mail me at pkorn@bethelsd.org. Thank you for your assistance in helping our families.

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 or 253/843-0747

Rules and regulations can be found at wastatepta.org under *Reflections*.

everychild.onevoice!



DIVERSIONS *from Mrs. Park*

Some of my best friends are ...

I have been visiting friends the past few weeks catching up on how they are doing. Some are friends I haven't seen for awhile and I needed to make a special trip, some I see every week or even every day. But this year, at least, they all seem to be doing quite well. No big storms have battered their lives; no new building has limited their habitats, no bugs or illnesses taken a toll on their health. You see, these friends can't travel to see me because the friends I am checking up on are actually... trees.



Inordinately fond of trees, I believe my personality trait was passed down honestly through my gene pool. My father was inordinately fond of trees, and my grandfather before him. My father came from humble beginnings. Humble enough to believe that the plants and animals sharing his space were of value unto themselves. When the family cabin was being re-built in northern Minnesota my father made sure that no trees were unnecessarily removed due to the footprint needed for the new structure. Nestled in a leafy grove with growth close to the walls most people would have cleared much more. I remember my father walking the lot with the contractor discussing each tree and whether or not it could be saved from destruction. And when the decisions were made I saw my dad out with a shovel and bucket. He was digging up seedlings in the buildings path hoping to resettle them into new homes where they would thrive undisturbed.

Some of my tree friends I have known my whole life and they make up a significant part of my memories. At that same cabin there is a water birch that stands on the lakeshore. Dressed in bright green leaves the birch's lovely white bark is stark in contrast. The water birch has several limbs that run parallel to the surface and its roots cling to the bank. As children my siblings and I spent many summers sitting under, and on, the water birch. Sturdy enough to hold several kids at once its limbs became a fort, a cool place to perch on a humid midwestern day, or a companion to share your thoughts. We floated tiny leaf boats from its boughs and whispered fears to scary to voice outloud. A friend who did not complain, preach, argue, or (since I was the youngest) tell you to go away. Over the years, as with so many of us, the water birch has grown fatter, developed marks, grown fungus, and leaned farther over the water. Our sitting limb now dips precariously over the lake's surface. My brother asked this summer if we should take the limb off, since it is likely to be removed some winter by the unrelentless ice. I was shocked and hurt. I finally realized I reacted such because to me the water birch is old but still retains its dignity and deserves to live out its life untouched as long as possible.

Obviously, I have deep feelings for some trees. But I have come to realize I am not alone. Others have commented to me about certain trees they see on their regular travels or are growing near their homes. I know a tree that is very public, standing on 224th across from the Baptist Church in front of Frontier Middle School. Due to the striking and vibrant colors it dons each fall many know this old, and beautiful, maple. One limb in particular tends to turn first. Like a streak of white hair in an otherwise youthful head, one branch of the tree turns vivid oranges, reds, and yellows, weeks before the rest. Eventually, the whole bursts into brightness, branches like arms rising to the sky. Several winters back it was damaged badly in one of our storms. I waited with baited breath to see if come the next year it would survive, and even more curiously, whether the owners would let it continue to live, damaged though it was. The tree did survive and recently I noticed that once again the limb had turned while the rest of the tree was still clothed in green leaves.

We live our lives traveling through a landscape filled with fellow journeyers. For some of us this path includes individuals who happen to be trees.

*Buoying the soul in search of solace
the quiet stills my mind.
When I walk the trees bear my passage and murmur,
but no one is there.*

Deciduously yours,
Georgina Gryc Park

CHOCOLATE

Chimes and Cheer!



*Mark Your Calendar...
set the date!*

Elk Plain School of Choice's annual holiday extravaganza "Chocolate, Chimes and Cheer", hosted by Friends of the Arts, will be held the evening of December 4th. Watch for more information and volunteer opportunities to arrive in your student's purple folder soon. Friends of the Arts hopes to see you there!

POPCORN FOR SALE!

FRIDAYS DURING RECESS

Popcorn: \$.25
Red Vines: 3 for \$.25



STUDENT STORE

Gina Sawyer

ginasawyer@comcast.net

Now open Thursday during lunch! Bring your spare change and come shop!



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!

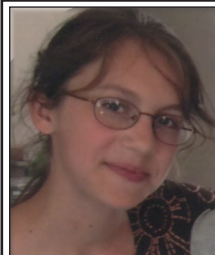
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FOUR STAR FARM

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

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.

\$1600!



Last year your box top and label collections earned teachers over \$1600! PTA collects these throughout the year so send in your collection to your child's teacher at any time.



Online Holiday Shopping with eScrip

Holiday shopping is just around the corner. One of the easiest ways to fundraise for EPSOC PTA is to go to eScrip.com before you purchase anything on line. From there click on the online retailer of your choice (there are hundreds) and a percentage of the total sales automatically goes to EPSOC. Last year we earned almost \$200 through eScrip (including Safeway purchases). If we can all remember to go there before buying then we could easily double or triple that amount just for a few extra seconds and steps. The hardest part is remembering to go there first! Cut out the image at right and tape it to your computer to help jog your memory.

Think eScrip before you buy!



American Accounting

Sarah Hinsverk Accountant

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

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