



### Your 2015/2016 PTA Officers

#### President:

Crystal Green, [cowgirl\\_73@msn.com](mailto:cowgirl_73@msn.com)

#### Co-Vice Presidents

Christie McMahill, [christiemcmahill@gmail.com](mailto:christiemcmahill@gmail.com)

Jennifer Grant, [grantsrnj@msn.com](mailto:grantsrnj@msn.com)

#### Financial Officer:

Melissa Pate, [mpatenkl@gmail.com](mailto:mpatenkl@gmail.com)

#### Secretary:

Holly Ingram, [hollyaguon@yahoo.com](mailto:hollyaguon@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Entries: [christinelink@yahoo.com](mailto:christinelink@yahoo.com)

**CURRENT PTA MEMBERS: 162**

## PTA Meeting Minutes

### General Membership Meeting Minutes September 17, 2015

- Meeting called to Order @ 6:05 pm.
- Mr. Honig motions to approve meeting minutes with Christina Gries seconding. All approved, none opposed.
- Treasure Report: Copy Enclosed
- Principal Report and V.P. Gendreau Report:
  - K-7 school grades this year, with the smoothest start in years.
  - Great Options for Students: two electives can be chosen.
  - Band Provided at Zero Hour.
  - 6 & 7 grades all have iPads this year and school is trying to get them all the way down to 3rd grade.
- TerraCycle- off to a great start with over 1,000 items collected so far. The student lead collections are seeing awesome participation. Parent volunteers are needed to help out with K-3rd grade. We are earning 0.2 cents per item for PTA\*.
- Mrs. Gendreau (V.P.) Grant Request: P.B.I.S- Positive Behavior Intervention Support (SOAR Ticket) Would like \$500 for whole year to provide student incentives.
  - Christine Link makes motion to approve, Jen Grant seconds motions, all approved and none opposed, motion was passed.
- Board Members introduced to other PTA members.
- Fall Carnival (Oct. 30th): Looking for suggestions, volunteers, and donations.
- Family Fun Nights: First Movie Night will be Oct 16 – Big Hero 6.
- Field Day: Updates will be coming- Will be held on June 3.
- Fundraising: Starts Oct. 2, Great Incentives for the children, may have other small ones throughout the year.
- Goodies with Grandparents: Donations are needed.
- Popcorn: Needs Volunteers, Starts Oct 2 @ 9:30 and ends @ 12:45. Cost will be .25 cents.
- Program and Assembly: Looking for new suggestions
- Science Night: Feb 18- great program – needs help setting up, judging, and tearing down.
- Read and Lead: Volunteers and Prizes needed.
- Reflections: Need a chair lead.
- Student Store: needs volunteers.
- Mrs. Park has started a book club for 6 and 7 grades and adults on Monday nights.
- Can we have a Talent Show- ASB Run?
- Watch Dog Group: Man/ Dad presence.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:07pm.

**[\*Editor's Note: The PTA earns .02 on most items.]**

## PRESIDENT

Crystal Green

[cowgirl\\_73@msn.com](mailto:cowgirl_73@msn.com)

Dear Elk Plain Families,

It is hard to believe that the holiday season is arriving. Seems like just yesterday that summer was ending and we started school. Let me take a moment to highlight some of the wonderful events Elk Plain PTA has been a part of and thank those that made each one successful.

Big thanks go out to all of the students, parents and teachers who participated in our fundraiser by selling items or through your donations. We are definitely duct-taping Mr. Honig and a few other teachers to the bleachers! I appreciate all the hard work each of you put in. The money raised benefits all our students at Elk Plain. If you didn't get a chance to fundraise, donations of any amount to PTA are always welcome.



I would like to take this opportunity to personally express my gratitude to new committee chairpersons, returning committee chairpersons and for all of the volunteers who work tirelessly to support all of our PTA events and fundraisers! Your time, dedication and support are cherished!

We had a great turn out for our 1st movie night with a showing of Big Hero 6, had our student pictures taken, celebrated our Grandparents by enjoying some breakfast treats with them, had our 3rd Annual PTA Potluck, welcomed our Kindergarten Parents with some Tea & Tissues, and kicked it all off with 2 great Open Houses for our K-5 and 6-7 graders.

Some of our exciting upcoming events include Book Fair, Staff Appreciation Luncheon, Fall Carnival, A Giving Tree for Teachers and another Movie Night in November. We will also be doing our Annual Food Drive in November and the Holiday Shop in December. We are always looking for more volunteers, so please contact us if you are interested in helping with any of these events.

Again, thank you to all of the volunteers who dedicate their time and resources to support the PTA. Another warm welcome to all new members, and I look forward to meeting and working with you! If you are not a member already please join, it's never too late!

If you ever have any questions, and or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you!  
Crystal Green  
PTA President

## BEAUTIFICATION

[rockola@q.com](mailto:rockola@q.com)

253-843-0747 Debbie Townsend-Schmidt

Do you like to play in the dirt? If so, then the Beautification committee is for you! We meet once a month on a Saturday or Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to noon to keep EPSOC neat and tidy. This is a great opportunity for families that are looking to fulfill volunteer hours, but are unable to do so during the school day. It is also perfect for middle and high school students needing to complete community connection service.

*Sunday, Nov. 15, from 10:00am - Noon*

Our next beautification event will be on Sunday, Nov. 15, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, with 2016 dates coming soon. Thanks to those who joined us for campus clean-up during August and September! Your assistance keeps EPSOC a beautiful place.

## 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



VH=Opportunity for Volunteer Hours   ♻️ = Recycling available

## NOV/DEC Events

- **ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE** **VH**  
*November 2nd- 20th*  
Suzette Ebbinga, [smebbinga@gmail.com](mailto:smebbinga@gmail.com)
- **PTA BOARD MEETING**  
*Tuesday, November 3rd, 2:15, EPSOC Library*
- **PICTURE RETAKES** **VH**  
*Tuesday, November 10th*
- **PTA EVENING MEMBERSHIP MEETING** **VH**  
*Tuesday, November 10th, 6:30pm, EPSOC Library*
- **BEAUTIFICATION DAY** **VH**  
*Sunday, November 15, from 10:00am - Noon*  
Debbie Townsend-Schmidt, [rockola@q.com](mailto:rockola@q.com)
- **MOVIE NIGHT!** **VH**  
*Friday, November 20th, 7:00pm*  
Chrissy Gries, [gncgries@gmail.com](mailto:gncgries@gmail.com)
- **PTA BOARD MEETING**  
*Tuesday, December 1st, 2:15, EPSOC Library*
- **CHOCOLATE, CHIMES and CHEER** **VH**  
*December 4th from 5:00-8:00 p.m.*
- **HOLIDAY SHOP** **VH**  
*December 7th-11th*  
Kendra Williamson, [kwilliamson@pcnw-docs.com](mailto:kwilliamson@pcnw-docs.com)

## CHOCOLATE

*Chimes and Cheer!*

*December 4th from 5:00-8:00 p.m.*



Elk Plain School of Choice's 10th annual holiday extravaganza "Chocolate, Chimes and Cheer", hosted by Friends of the Arts, will be held the evening of December 4th from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

This is a festive evening with performances by various classes and performing arts groups consisting of Elk Plain students. It also serves as a fundraiser for our arts' programs and includes a silent auction in rooms 9 & 11 (C<sup>2</sup>) and plenty of scrumptious chocolate desserts available for a small donation. Watch for more information and volunteer opportunities to arrive in your student's purple folder or backpack. Friends of the Arts hopes to see you there!

Debbie Townsend-Schmidt: [rockola@q.com](mailto:rockola@q.com), 253-843-0747

## FALL CARNIVAL

Michelle Davis

[closer919@msn.com](mailto:closer919@msn.com)

I'd like to give a hearty thank you to all of you wonderful volunteers who helped make this year's Fall Carnival a success. Whether you helped setup, run an activity, tear down, sell food or donated goodies, you played a big part in making things run smoothly. The carnival couldn't have happened without you! I'd also like to say thank you to all of the families that came and supported this event. It was delightful seeing so many smiling faces!

With gratitude,  
Michelle Davis, Fall Carnival Chairperson



**READ AND LEAD 2016**

VH

Melissa Pate

mpatenkl@gmail.com

EPSOC's annual reading program is right around the corner! Look for more information to come home about Read and Lead before the program's start date of Monday, January 4, 2016.



As with all of EPSOC's events and programs, volunteers are crucial for successful execution! We are looking for volunteers interested in the following:

- Preparing Read and Lead die cuts and tracking board
- Weekly tracking (8am on Monday mornings starting January 11, 2016)
- Weekly prize tracking and distribution

There are many ways to help with the Read and Lead program. Please contact Melissa Pate at mpatenkl@gmail.com or Crystal Green at cowgirl\_73@msn.com with any questions or suggestions.

Thank you!


**DIVERSIONS from Mrs. Park**

### “What are you thankful for?” (I am thankful for the word Pluviophile!)

“What am I thankful for?” This is the time of year that we typically think about, and are asked about, what in our lives we are most thankful for? When the discussion comes up I often talk about being thankful for my children, being healthy, having time with loved ones, a relatively peaceful life, blah, blah, blah... Don't get me wrong, I am thankful for those things. Incredibly lucky is how I mostly feel about my life, but this year I thought I would expand my thinking to the small, or unusual, items in my life for which I am truly thankful.



So, here is my random, and eccentric, list for this November month of thankfulness:

- I am thankful that I no longer have to have all those child safety latches all over my house and cupboards. The few we forgot to remove still drive me crazy and I am forever breaking a nail trying to open them.
- Speaking of which ~ I am thankful for the invention of nail clippers. What an incredibly great idea!
- I am thankful for doormats. I appreciate having a chance to divest my feet of dirt and litter, which I seem to accumulate in embarrassing quantities, before entering someone's house. And you get to do so on holiday motifs and/or pithy sayings. Nothing like wiping mud on Santa's face or reading as you scrape, “Ask not for whom the dog barks, it barks for thee”.
- I am thankful for pie. Pie is always included on my lists of thankfulness because we eat a lot of it around this particular holiday. I, however, rarely explain to people the deeper meaning. And, no, I don't mean a deep-dish pie, but rather the second layer (now a cake pun!) to my thankfulness. Simply put, I don't like cake... so this time of year provides a bonus of pie for my “desserting” pleasure.
- I am thankful for zip ties. With these simple, but elegant, fasteners I am able to fix so many things that otherwise would go dragging around on the ground, flying through the air, or flopping on the floor. My fixing skills are limited to zip tying it up ... or duct taping it down.
- Oh, I am thankful for duct tape. 
- I am thankful I let my kids eat dirt. New research suggests that a little dirt when you are young actually protects you from allergies. Bonus thankfulness since I can now feel self-righteous about having been an unclean mother.
- I am thankful for quiet. I am, by nature, outgoing and gregarious. That being said, the voices in my head often get too noisy, even for me. I am thankful for quiet to calm the chaos in my noggin. I find solace in quiet places.
- Most of all, I am thankful my alarm goes off every morning and it wakes me up for a new day. The alternative would be most distressing.

Thankfully yours,  
Georgina Gryc Park

(P.S. pluviophile ~ a lover of rain; someone who finds joy & peace of mind during rainy days)

**POPCORN FRIDAYS**

Jenn Black

drjlynnblack@yahoo.com

Text 253-545-8666



Elk Plain School of Choice has a long tradition of “Popcorn Fridays.” Popcorn is popped and sold outside during all lunch recesses every Friday. Each bag of popcorn costs \$.25 with all proceeds sustaining this favorite lunchtime treat! Given this is an ongoing event that needs staffing throughout the school year, it is helpful to have volunteers who can commit to a schedule. Some volunteers commit to one Friday per month, while others choose two Fridays a month, every week, or even once per trimester. Whatever your availability, we will gladly include you! (We always welcome people to help with popcorn if they are on campus during lunch on Fridays, but it is best if we have two people scheduled for each Popcorn Friday). The popcorn schedule and trainings are pending; if you are interested please contact Jenn Black via email or text. Thank you for your help!

**SCIENCE NIGHT/STEM Showcase**

Mrs. Park, gpark@bethelsd.org  
Bev Rarey, bjrgrandma@aol.com

Thursday, February 18, 2016

Science projects will be required for 4th-6th graders, and encouraged for K-3 and 7th graders. All the projects will be up for show all day and during the evening on the 18th along with extra science related activities. We are always looking for judges and people to help set-up and take-down first thing both Thursday morning (starting at 7:15 am) and take-down Friday morning (starting at 7:15 am). More information and details will be coming.

**7 THINGS You Should Never Throw Away**

Anne-Sophie Montgomery

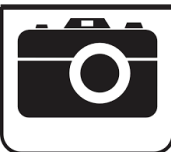
1. Cardboard Tubes: Cut tubes down to the correct height to fit inside any drawer. Use glue to secure bottom of the tube “rings” to a piece of cardboard (from a cereal box maybe) that fits the bottom of the drawer. Commence to collect and store tiny tidbits like earrings, necklaces, paper clips or thumb tacks inside rings.
2. Broken tile: Elevate the roots of your houseplants and improve drainage by adding a layer of broken tile, stepping stones or pavement to the bottom of the planter. For best results, arrange 1” to 3” pieces so they overlap slightly
3. Bread tags: Never quite sure which wire belongs to what device in that mess of cables behind your desk or TV cabinet? Label a plastic bread tag using a fine-point permanent marker, then secure the tag to its cord.
4. Dryer lint: Dryer lint actually makes a great, environmentally-conscious fire starter. Collect your old dryer lint in a small plastic bag, and take it anywhere you need: camping, to the fireplace or to the bonfire. It quickly and easily starts a fire.
5. Newspaper: Old newspaper makes for magnificent garden mulch. It will keep weeds at bay and even promotes growth.
6. Egg Cartons: You can use egg cartons to grow starters for your garden. Make sure you do not water them too much, and put some sand or small gravel at the bottom to increase drainage. When you plant the starter in soil, remove it from the egg carton and break up the bottom a bit. It will help the plant grow faster.
7. All Sorts of Bottle Caps: Bring them to EPSOC for a future art project! Search “bottle cap art” on Pinterest for inspiration.

10/22/2010© Provided by Woman's Day

**YEARBOOK PHOTOS EMAIL**

epyearbook@hotmail.com

The yearbook committee is looking forward to using great pictures taken by you this year! That's why we've created an email account (above) for anyone to send in photos from any function--classroom or schoolwide. No guarantees everything will make it in, but we'll do our best to include some of the submissions! 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. If you would like to be a volunteer photographer for class plays, please contact:



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

**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. After you create an account and select EPSOC PTA as the donation recipient, click on the online retailer of your choice (there are hundreds) and a percentage of the total sales automatically goes to EPSOC. The hardest part is remembering to go there first!

**SUSTAINABILITY**

Christine Link

VH

christinelink@yahoo.com

The lunchtime collection station for Terracycle items is off and running! To date, we have collected about 70 pounds of recycle from lunch and anticipate about a \$60 donation in return for those items.

Furthermore, this trimester's Green Team is becoming self-sufficient and we have seen lots of “green” behavior from the student body over and above just putting their recycle in the bins. For example, during the first week of school a 4th grader paused at the nearly full drink pouch bin and said, “We are going to make a lot of trash.” And my favorite was just last week when I saw a Kindergartener approach the recycle station with his trash already separated from his recycle.

The 6th and 7th grade Ambassadors have also started the classroom recycle pickup service and we rolled out the big, grey recycle totes for our first evening function at movie night. We collected more drink pouches and chip bags that evening and about a trash bag's worth of plastic bottles and aluminum cans. Thanks to all who chose to use the recycle bins instead of the trash cans that night!

The local company Toray and the refuse company LeMay have even become a part of our increased recycling initiative. Toray donated all the highly sought-after recycle cylinders and LeMay wrapped them with curbside recycling guide stickers and personally delivered them.

Last but not least, I want to give a special thank you to committee members Anne-Sophie Montgomery and Angie Strub. Anne-Sophie introduced Terracycle to the school last May and has been dedicated to its success ever since. Angie contacted me at the end of last school year and wanted to know how she could help. It is her design eye that keeps our ideas beautiful. She created all the different flyers and stickers, and the impressive wall chart in the cafeteria. Ask them both what it's like to stuff pounds and pounds of sticky drink pouches into a giant box while simultaneously trying tape it shut. It's a labor of love for sure!

Anne-Sophie  
Montgomery  
&  
Angie Strub

**Holiday Shoppe**

December 7th-11th

Watch for more information in purple folders.

If you would like to volunteer for this holiday spirit-filled event, contact  
Kendra Williamson at  
kwilliamson@pcnw-docs.com.

**FOUR STAR FARM**

Graham, WA

After School Program

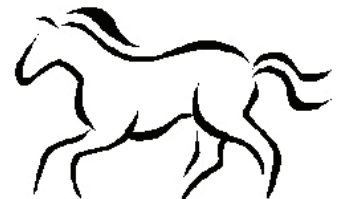
Drop-in Lessons

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