

Kent Area PTA Council
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Current Membership
Watch us grow!

President's Message

Gearing Up for Another Great Year!

Allyson Johnson
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Next Council Meeting

August 27 at 7 PM
KSD Board Room

Large Group:

Welcome Back

Local Unit Notebooks

Voting Delegate Forms

I hope you all have enjoyed your summer and are gearing up for another great school year. I would like to invite all of you to our first General Meeting on Monday, August 27th at 7pm in the Kent School District Administration Board Room. This year in holding with tradition, our general membership meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of each month except for a few months where holidays fall on the fourth Monday. Our August 27th meeting will be an informative meeting. Also this year Hallie Knudson a Kent Area Council Board Member will be giving tips at each general membership meeting on how to put together a Standards of Excellence Notebook. **She has requested that each unit bring a notebook with dividers in it to the August meeting.**

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If you have not already done so, please update your officers by sending an e-mail to directory@kacpta.org with the names, positions, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of each of your incoming officers to receive important updates from Kent Area PTA Council. You can also visit our website at www.kacpta.org for information about our council as well committee information, membership information, calendar of events and more!

Kent Area Council has a fantastic board that is ready and willing to help you have a successful year! We do have openings on our board. One position that we are still trying to fill is our Clothing Bank Chair. Without a chair the clothing bank will not be able to open to help families in our community. Please contact me at president@kacpta.org if you would like information about the clothing bank or other positions available at council. It is wonderful to be a part of an organization that not only believes that all children have value and can be successful but is actively working on assuring a bright future for all children.

Allyson

KAC Newsletter

What is your PTA up to?

Jennifer Hanscom
newsletter@kacpta.org
(253) 859-9567

Let me know about the great activities and events your PTA is hosting. E-mail me at newsletter@kacpta.org. **Deadline for each month's issue is the 1st.** Help others stay updated by including a monthly update on what's happening at your local unit in each issue of the KAC PTA newsletter.

KAC Board of Directors' Message

Welcome to another great year!

The Kent Area PTA Council Board welcomes you to another great PTA year. KAC PTA is here to help support you in your efforts whether you are an experienced PTA leader or if you are brand new to this level of involvement.

Some PTA Basics

When you joined the PTA at your child's school, your "local unit," you became connected to an entire network of support through Washington State PTA beginning with the Kent Area PTA Council. New PTA officers and board members often feel overwhelmed. However, for every position on your PTA's board there is additional support and information available through PTA Councils and PTA Regions.

Not the PTA Police

Your local unit PTA is an independent entity and it is essential for all to understand that PTA Councils and PTA Regions are not "The PTA Police" or even your PTA's "Parents." Their roles are as experienced mentors who have great information but can't tell you what to do.

What is a PTA Council?

A PTA council is a group of local PTA units within the same school district. The 36 local units in the Kent School District make up the Kent Area PTA Council (KAC). The purpose of a council is to support the efforts of those units and functions like any PTA in that it has elected officers, a board of directors, and regular membership meetings.

KAC Membership Meetings

Each KAC meeting provides useful information and valuable training to support local unit PTAs. Council officers and committee chairs are available for questions. In addition, roundtable discussions with other local unit officers may be held. The first KAC Membership Meeting will take place on August 27.

Who should attend KAC Meetings?

It is up to your board to decide who your KAC delegates will be. Every PTA is asked to designate 2 members to serve as "Voting Delegates" (and 2 alternates) who then attend monthly KAC meetings to receive information and training and to participate in council decision-making.

Local Unit Packet

Each local unit will be provided a "Local Unit Packet" that contains a variety of information to assist you and that better explains what KAC has to offer and what additional resources are available for download from the KAC web site at www.kacpta.org.

WSPTA Leadership Packets

The 2007-08 Leadership Packet from Washington State PTA contains essential information for your PTA. Leadership Packets will be distributed at the PTA Region 9 Fall Leadership Conference on August 23. Packets will also be made available at the August 27 KAC Membership Meeting to any Kent PTAs that didn't attend the conference.

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What is a PTA Region?

A PTA region is a geographical area within the state of Washington and Kent Area Council is located within WSPTA Region 9 along with the PTAs within the Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Renton, Tahoma, and Tukwila school districts. Each region elects a director who serves a two year term. Novella Fraser is the current Region 9 Director. Region Directors are members of the Washington State PTA Board of Directors and appoint members to their region's Service Delivery Team.

What is a Service Delivery Team?

Each region also has a Service Delivery Team, a group of experienced PTA leaders who provide additional support and training to the local units within their region. The Region 9 Service Delivery Team (SDT) consists of representatives from each of the 5 PTA Councils as well as the Region 9 Legislation Chair. The SDT member from Kent is Allyson Johnson.

The Bottom Line

You are not alone! No matter what the problem there is someone available with the experience and the willingness to help you. And we all get by with a little help from our friends.

Save the Date

Mark Your Calendars for these Special Events

Toni Troutner
kentridgevp@kacpta.org
(253) 854-1268

As we look ahead to the coming year, please be sure to mark the following special events on your calendar:

- President and Principal Luncheon - December 3, 2007
- Founder's Day Dinner - April 18, 2007

More information on these events will be provided soon. If you'd like to volunteer with the December luncheon, please contact Hallie Knudson at (253) 850-3318.

Volunteers are also needed for the Founder's Day dinner to plan the event and chair the basket raffle. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Toni Troutner at (253) 854-1268.

Open Positions at Kent Area PTA Council

Open Positions for Us Mean Opportunities for You!

Allyson Johnson
president@kacpta.org
(253) 630-4727

There are many opportunities to become involved with KAC. We welcome new faces and fresh ideas! For more information, contact any current KAC Board member at allboard@kacpta.org.

Open positions include:

Kentlake Area VP	Clothing Bank	Fundraiser	Scholarships
Kent Meridian VP	Advocacy Topics	Parent Involvement	
Reflections	Directory	Fun Days	
Spirit	Historian	Scholarship Fundraiser	

Legislative Update

2007-2008 School Year Promises to be a Challenge and Rewarding One for PTA Legislation

Dennis Higgins
legislation@kacpta.org
(253) 630-4545

The first priority for the new school year is to finish the job on Simple Majority. After many years of trying, PTA members finally convinced the Washington State Legislature to amend the state constitution to allow a simple majority (50% plus one) vote for school levies. At last, we are on the verge of never watching a levy fail again with 59.9% in favor. This is a proposed amendment to the state constitution, requiring a vote of the people.

Constitutional Amendment EHJR 4204 will be on the November ballot, and Washington State PTA encourages you to Approve 4204!

Ways you can help the Approve 4204 campaign:

- Mention that Washington State PTA has endorsed 4204 at your PTA's board and general meetings this fall.
- Tell your family and friends about the need to vote to Approve 4204.
- Seek an endorsement from your own PTA board and/or general membership.
- Have Approve 4204 literature on-hand at meetings and other PTA functions (print-your-own fliers available at www.wastatepta.org).
- Go to www.simplybetterschools.org for more ideas.

Give a Legislative Report at Every Meeting

Be sure to give a legislative report at your local PTA meetings. Even if you don't have a Legislation Chair, I'd like to encourage all board and general membership meetings include a legislation agenda item. I will prepare and send a simple, short report on a regular basis to any Legislative Chair, President or interested person who asks. It is a great way to keep your membership informed and to honor the original intent of Parent-Teacher Associations.

KAC Cinderella Project

Helping Those in Need

Angela Bowman
cinderellaproject@kacpta.org
(253) 638-2461

The Cinderella Project will be up and running again this year thanks to the hardwork and dedication of Allyson Johnson, Joseph Nawar and Boy Scout Troop 414's efforts to move, sort and establish the new location within the Phoenix Academy (previously Sequoia Jr. High).

There are approximately 500 beautiful dresses ready for some very lucky girls to put on and dance the night away. We have a wide array of sizes and would like to help as many young ladies as possible, so please pass the word and keep an eye out for further details.

Point of Interest: Did you know the Cinderella Project helps young men too? We have tuxes and suits in a variety of sizes and styles just waiting for someone to wear them!

VOLUNTEERS are ALWAYS WELCOME! Come enjoy the emotional reward that comes with helping a gracious young lady or man with preparing them for a night they are sure to never forget!

Looking Ahead To September 24, 2007

7 PM KSD Board Room

Large Group Presentation :

- Insurance, What and Why?

Pull Outs:

- Membership
- Reflections
- Legislation

Who should come:

- Your PTA's Voting Delegates or Alternates
- Your PTA's Reflections Chair
- Your PTA's Legislative Chair & anyone interested

What you should bring:

- Voting Delegate Forms
 - Insurance Forms
 - Reflections Program booklet
 - Advocacy and Legislation booklet
-

Looking Back To June 11, 2007

Meeting was called to order at 6:55pm by President Allyson Johnson in the KSD board room. Minutes and Financial Report were approved and filed. President Allyson Johnson reported that the clothing bank and Cinderella Project were set to move on June 23rd and asked for volunteers. She also noted the WSPTA Leadership Conference will be held on August 3rd and 4th and encouraged all board members to attend. President Johnson noted that Ken Yamaguchi has volunteered to chair the Emergency Preparedness Committee, and Jennifer Hanscom has volunteered for the Newsletter Chair. The Reflections Chair is still unfilled. Carol Liu gave the membership report. To date we have 5,096 members. Under the Legislative Report, the Board voted to endorse and support Initiative EHJR 4204 and to provide a \$100 donation in support of the initiative. Under New Business, it was noted that the 2007-2008 WSPTA membership slogan is "Live the Adventure...Join the PTA." Also noted was the Region 9 Leadership Conference scheduled for August 23. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

KAC Membership

Discovering Endless Possibilities - Live the Adventure...Join PTA!

Carol Liu
membership@kacpta.org
(253) 638-7243

The membership theme for the 2007-08 year is Discovering Endless Possibilities - Live the Adventure...Join PTA. No doubt your unit is focused on increasing membership this year. If you need ideas on how to increase your unit's membership go to the Washington State PTA Web site at www.wastatepta.org/programs/membership.htm. Let's work together to increase our membership for the 2007-2008 school year.

Fall 2007 PTA/Safeway In-Store Campaign

Don't Miss This Great Opportunity to Boost Your Group's Supporter Numbers!

Novella Fraser - Region 9 Director
ptareg9@wastatepta.org
(253) 631-2601

Safeway stores of Washington state are inviting PTA groups into their local Safeway store for four hours on Saturday, October 13th to register supporters' Safeway club cards to support their school PTA group. Every time they shop, a percentage of what supporters spend will be donated to your group. A member of your group is required to attend a training meeting for this event to receive valuable sign-up materials and information pertaining to this event.

The closest training for our area is at the Burien Library on Tuesday, September 18 in the Margrette Lemon Room. The library is located at 14700 Sixth Street Ave SW in Burien. Questions or to RSVP contact Amber Puzey at (425) 208-9560 or apuzey@escrip.com.

KAC PTA Local Unit News

How Covington Elementary Is Getting Healthy

Pam Koza
secondaryvp@kacpta.org

MultiCare Health System is partnering with Covington Elementary this year in a Coalition for a Healthy Community (CHC) campaign. This effort has been spearheaded by local dietitian and PTA member Pam Kramer RD, CDE. The theme for the effort: *Eat Smart, Play Hard! Covington Gets It, Do You?* Pam has encouraged all Kent area administrators to use pedometers in order to track their daily steps. She also challenged kids from Covington Elementary to walk, jog, hike or bike 100 miles over the summer to earn a pedometer from their PE teacher. This fall there will be more efforts coming including a partnership with Auburn YMCA, a grant to encourage fruit and vegetable intake, and the mile club.

PTA & the Law

A Must For Your PTA's Board Members

Novella Fraser - Region 9 Director
ptareg9@wastatepta.org
(253) 631-2601

As a member of your PTA's Board you are on the Board of Directors for a non-profit corporation and this class is one of the most important services offered by WSPTA! It deals with state and federal rules and regulations for running a charitable, tax exempt, non-profit corporation.

The Region 9 PTA & the Law Workshop will be held on September 20, 6:00-9:00pm at Kent Meridian High School - 10020 SE 256h St. Kent, WA 98030. The cost is \$35.00 per unit before September 14th or \$60.00 after.

Go to www.kacpta.org to download the brochure and registration form.

WSPTA Legislative Assembly

What It Is and Why Kids Need Your PTA to Send a Delegate to It!

Laura Bay - WSPTA President
president@wastatepta.org
(800) 562-3804

One-hundred years ago PTA was founded as a child advocacy organization and advocacy is still an important part of our mission. We all joined PTA to make a difference for kids and participating in Legislative Assembly is an essential part of making that difference. Because there are so many issues impacting children and PTA's resources are limited, it is essential that we identify which are the most critical.

This annual process begins each spring when PTA members submit issues important to them and their community. It carries forward at Legislative Assembly where attendees learn more about proposed issues and let their voice be heard to determine PTA's Legislative Priorities. It culminates with advocacy we do with the issues during the legislative session.

Current proposed issues have been compiled into a survey and members are encouraged to complete surveys to determine the priorities of their PTA. **Then ensure that the "voice" of your PTA is heard by sending a delegate to Legislative Assembly, to be held Oct. 5-6 in SeaTac.** The Proposed Issues Survey and survey guidelines are available by going to www.wastatepta.org and clicking on "Legislation".

KSD Superintendent's Message
Preparing Students for the Future

Dr. Barbara Grohe
Barbara.Grohe@kent.k12.wa.us
(253) 373-7701



As this summer comes to a close, I want to welcome both returning and new students and their families to the Kent School District. **We are very fortunate in KSD to have such a high degree of involvement by PTA members across the district.** I look forward to celebrating many accomplishments with you as we successfully prepare all students for their future.

Mathematics is part of that future. From the mundane act of balancing a checkbook to the complexities required to launch space vehicles, our students must understand math matters. KSD is committed to focusing extra attention on the subject of math this year.

Teachers and administrators have developed new curriculum and teaching techniques to help students master math skills. Various programs are highlighted in the district's 2007-2008 calendar: *Math Matters in KSD*. The Calendar also profiles alumni who cite real-world examples of why math is important in their respective professions.

Commitment by KSD to student success has led to this year's opening of the Kent Phoenix Academy and the Kent-Meridian Technology Academy. Next month's issue of KSD News will highlight these programs.

Welcome to the 2007-2008 school year!

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National PTA President-Jan Harp Domene
National PTA
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Calendar

Aug 23	Region 9 Fall Leadership Conference 5:15pm Saghalie Middle School Federal Way	Sept 21	Pre registration deadline WSPTA Legislative Assembly
Aug 27	KAC Membership Meeting 7 PM KSD Board Room	Sept 24	KAC Membership Meeting 7 PM KSD Board Room
Sept 10	KAC Board Meeting Rainier Room KSD Admin Bldg	Oct 5/6	WSPTA Legislative Assembly SeaTac Marriott
Sept 20	Region 9 PTA & the Law Kent Meridian High School	Oct 8	KAC Board Meeting Rainier Room KSD Admin Bldg
		Oct 22	KAC Membership Meeting 7pm KSD Board Room

every child. one voice.

Kent Area PTA Council

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