

Kent Area PTA Council  
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**Next Council Meeting**  
**January 26**  
**KSD Board Room**

**Agenda:**

Mini Treasurers Training  
Standards of Excellence  
Large Group—Awards

## President’s Message

*Happy New Year!*

Sharon Pfeiffer  
president@kacpta.org  
206-244-3389

I hope that all of you enjoyed a relaxing winter break and the snow with your families. With all that is going on in the world spending time with loved ones and friends becomes even more important than ever before.

Even though I have been a member of PTA at all levels for quite a few years, I am constantly amazed at the level of commitment and the awesome network of people we have in our district. I had personal need of a cash register for a garage sale my family was having for my sister who has breast cancer so I put out an email to all units and within one day had 11 responses from local units offering me the use of a register. We made \$2,300.00 for my sister that day and she is doing well and on the way to a full recovery. While a cash register may not be a big thing, it was the response to the request for help that was important and made me feel special to be part of this amazing group of people. At all of the different trainings, meetings and networking occasions I attend I always hear that the PTAs in Kent are held up as the example to follow and that is because of all of you!!!

The next five months of PTA will be busy and there are several things to look forward to. January is school board recognition month. Kent Area PTA Council Elections are coming in February. Our Nominating Committee is busy working on finding a slate of officers for the 2009-2010 school years. Region 9 is holding their Mid-Winter Conference on February 5, 2009 from 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM at Meeker Middle School. There are 10 individual classes and two Just in Time Learning classes that will be held during the General Sessions. There will more information given out at our General Meeting on January 26, 2009 and you should also receive information in the Region 9 newsletter which is available online right now or go to <http://www.wastatepta.org/regions/region09/re09.htm> for the registration form and deadlines. Sign up now so that you don’t miss this valuable training opportunity.

March 27, 2009 is our Founders Day and Scholarship Basket Raffle, which is always a great way to celebrate our local unit award winners along with our council award winners.

Of course who isn’t looking forward to the WSPTA convention that will be held May 1-3 at the Double Tree at SeaTac? Then we will finish the year with our Kent Area Council Scholarship winners being recognized at our last General Meeting.

On behalf of the KAC PTA we appreciate your support of these programs and activities. Thank you all for all you do in your local units.

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## KAC Legislative Update

WSPTA Focus Day - Feb. 26, 2009!

Agda Burchard  
Dennis Higgins  
Legislation@kacpta.org

Mark your calendar for Focus Day, WSPTAs annual advocacy event! Plan to attend the rally at the Capitol, noon-1:00 PM or take action from the comfort of your home, library or office. **RSVP today**, and check the WSPTA Legislation page for Focus Day updates and resources - <http://www.wastatepta.org/legislation.htm>.

The long anticipated December 2008 release of the final report by the legislature's Basic Education Finance Task Force will make 2009's Focus Day different. This is the year we want the media, people of influence and *everyone* to know where WSPTA stands on their mandate.

We'll be out in the open at the Capitol with a noontime Rally On The Steps! The Rally features elected officials and guest speakers. Advocacy partners for children's issues and education will join us too. Bracketing the Rally will be member activities in the Columbia Room (basement of the Capitol Dome), where attendees may meet throughout the day.

Our legislative Top 5 Issues determined at Legislative Assembly are the focus of WSPTA's conversations. *Our showing up in Olympia for a public conversation* emphasizes the pivotal role members contribute to their legislator's focus around the issues.

You don't have to travel to Olympia to participate or to help make Focus Day more effective. All it takes is internet access and two minutes. On Focus Day, you can send safe, verified emails expressing your opinion to each of your legislators using WSPTA's easy-to-use, on-line legislative action center called CapWiz.

Each CapWiz topic comes with background info and a requested action on a specific issue. Use either the template provided or your own words to say exactly what you want in an email directly to your own legislators. Share your hard-earned and informed opinions; tell your elected representatives what you want done. Armchair advocacy has never been easier or more effective! Go to <http://capwiz.com/npta2/wa/home/>.

### **Basic Education Funding**

Kent Area PTA Council's December 9<sup>th</sup> Forum on Basic Education Funding was a big success! State legislator Pat Sullivan shared the final recommendations of the Basic Education Finance Task Force with over 50 parents, school board members, Superintendent Barbara Grohe, teachers and other school district employees.

For 15 months, the Basic Education Finance Task Force, comprised of legislators and education leaders, sought the best ideas to change our schools. In December, they finalized their recommendations to reform and improve Washington's schools. This legislative session, the Governor and the State Legislature will consider the Task Force's recommendations:

- Early learning included in basic education
- A new compensation system for teachers
- CORE 24 raising the bar for graduation and lengthening the school day
- A more transparent way of budgeting
- Phase-in of recommendations over six years

## **KAC Founders Day**

*Save the Date—March 27*

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

Hola! We hope you can join us for the Kent Area Council Founders Day Dinner, Friday, March 27, 6:00 - 9:00pm at Kentridge High School. The cost of the dinner is \$25 per person and is being provided by Azteca of Kent\*.

Come help us celebrate the founding of PTA, honor our local unit award winners, and most importantly raise money for our scholarship program.

There will be tables of 8 available. We will also host a dessert auction to raise additional funds for scholarships. Please bring cash or your checkbook for the dessert auction. Credit or debit cards will not be accepted.

The KAC PTA Council is made up of all Kent school PTAs. Our mission is to provide training, support and leadership to our school PTAs so that they can better serve their school's staff and families. The Scholarship program awards scholarships to students pursuing post-secondary education of any kind. Scholarships are first given to one student from each high school and then to those receiving the highest scores by the scholarship committee. Each scholarship is \$750.

You can help support the scholarship program by purchasing basket raffle tickets. Tickets are \$1 each and sold individually or in bundles of 20. Most baskets are valued at over \$150 with several baskets valued at over \$300.

\*The cost of dinner is \$25/person. After March 2nd the tickets will cost \$28/person.

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## **KAC Fundraiser**

*Cookbooks are In!*

Toni Troutner  
btkktrout@yahoo.com  
(253) 854-1268

Thank you to all the individuals that contributed to the cookbook! We have over 300 great recipes! We have recipes from almost all the schools in Kent, as well as WSPTA Board Members, KSD Administrative Staff, KSD Board of Directors, and KAC Council Members! The "KAC Cooks!" book will be available at the January General Membership Meeting. The cost is \$10 per book.

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## **KAC Nominating Committee**

*Seeking Nominees*

The Kent Area Council Nominating Committee is seeking nominations from local units for the executive committee in 2009-2010. During the next few weeks, please take a look at your PTA members and officers in your local unit that you feel may be a good candidate for a council position. Go to <http://www.kacpta.org/forms/nominatingpacket.pdf> for more information on selecting nominees and the criteria for potential nominees.

If you have any questions about the Kent Area Council, or for the time commitment and position descriptions, please contact a member of the nominating committee.

Please send your nominations to the KAC Nominating Committee as soon as possible, so we can have time to review the candidates before presenting them to the general membership.

KAC Nominating Committee  
Toni Troutner ([btkktrout@yahoo.com](mailto:btkktrout@yahoo.com))  
Pat Fredell ([p.fredell@comcast.net](mailto:p.fredell@comcast.net))  
Margaret Pfeifle ([mpfeifle@clearwire.net](mailto:mpfeifle@clearwire.net))

## **KAC Clothing Bank**

### *Work Party Scheduled*

Robin Blake  
(206) 276-6506

Dianna Madison  
(206) 669-1983  
[clothingbank@kacpta.org](mailto:clothingbank@kacpta.org)

We would like to thank our PTA community for all of your support in the success of the clothing bank. We are now five months of service in the new school year and we have already served 158 families with 518 children and could not have done this without your donations of time, money and clothing.

At this time we are doing pretty well on our socks and underwear supply but could really use some children's pajamas, hats, gloves, mittens and scarves. If your school's unit is planning to hold a clothing drive it would be great if you could emphasize these needs.

Please join us for our next *work party on Sunday, January 18, 2009 at 10am* at the clothing bank. We have a lot of donations that need to be sorted and hung and could really use your help.

Please visit our site for more information, two-sided authorization forms, volunteer schedule and donor receipts you may download if you have made clothing donations. Go to [www.kacpta.org](http://www.kacpta.org) and click on clothing bank.

Thank you!

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## **WSPTA Honor Unit Award**

### *Judges Needed*

Allyson Johnson  
WSPTA Honor Unit Awards Chair  
(253) 630-4727

Judges are needed to judge this year's honor unit award entries. Judging will take place on Saturday, March 7th beginning at 9 am. at Allyson Johnson's home (19306-135th Avenue SE, Renton). Depending on amount of entries it should only take 4 hours. If you are interested in judging please contact Allyson Johnson at [ptamom@q.com](mailto:ptamom@q.com) or by phone at 253-630-4727. Brunch will be served!

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## **KAC PTA Hospitality**

### *Thank You!*

Lisa Thiel-Sloan  
Jill Yango  
Hospitality Co-Chairs

We would like to thank Mattson and Meridian Elementary for providing snacks/beverages at the Oct 27th meeting. At the Nov 24th meeting, Martin Sortun and Covington provided us with yummy snacks/beverages - thank you so much.

For the Jan 26th meeting the following schools have signed up: Cedar Valley - snack Ridgewood - beverage Thank you.

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## **KAC Reflections**

Heather McCurdy  
Reflections Chair  
(253) 653-3668

The KAC PTA and the District Reflections Committee will celebrate "An evening of the Arts!" on Friday, January 23 at Kentwood High School Cafeteria and Performing Arts Center. Art will be displayed at 5:00pm with a program to follow at 6pm. For questions, please contact Heather McCurdy.

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## News from Park Orchard PTA

Catherine Chandler  
cat939@comcast.net

It is with sadness that our Park Orchard students and community started the year back to school with the news of losing a beloved teacher and friend, Mrs. Cathy Johnson. Mrs. Johnson was among the first to welcome our family to Park Orchard and her interest and attention went far to making us feel welcome in our new surroundings. Although my grandchildren did not have her as a teacher, she was easy to get to know as she enthusiastically attended every school and PTA function. Her support was contagious and it was usually her students who were most in attendance no matter what the event. She loved her work and inspired her students. She was a remarkable teacher. What endeared us to her was her unselfish spirit that made sure no pupil, friend, or colleague went uncared for. A testament to the impact she had on her students was the regular visits she received from prior students, now adults. Her kindness will be in our hearts forever and she will be greatly missed by her Park Orchard family. Please join us for a community memorial at Park Orchard Elementary in the gym on Monday evening, January 26 at 7pm.

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## KAC Newsletter

### *Local Units Send in an Update*

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

What is your PTA Up to? Let us know! Take a moment o let me know what great activities and events your PTA is involved in. Email your PTA update to newsletter at kacpta.org. The newsletter deadlines are printed on page 7 of this newsletter.

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. Be sure to include who the piece is being submitted by (otherwise I will default to your PTA president).

Looking forward to hearing from all of you soon!

## Region 9 News

Novella Fraser - Region 9 Director  
ptareg9@wastatepta.org  
(253) 529-0458

Thank you everyone for volunteering. Thank you for opening up a whole new world for many kids that don't have the full support that they need. Thank you for spending time at the schools reading with kids, doing math and helping wherever you are needed. Thank you for inviting new members into your PTA and showing them what a wonderful organization this is. Most of all, thank you for supporting every child at your school and in the state of Washington.

Sometimes we forget to say thank you to our volunteers, teachers, administrators and kids. In 2009, please make it a priority to thank everyone that helps. Send them a thank you note, email or just say thank you. I am looking forward to thanking everyone for supporting kids and PTA at our conference and at convention.

My term as Region 9 Director will end May 31, 2009. It is up to the local units and councils to vote for the new Region Director. Each local unit and council will receive a ballot in the mail to vote for the new Region Director and it is very important that you fill out the ballot and return it to the Washington State PTA office. There is a quorum for the Region Director election just like the local units and councils have one. Please take a minute to fill out the ballot when you receive it and return it by the deadline date.

Our next region training is schedule for Thursday, February 5 at Meeker Middle School in Renton. The registration form and more details can be found in the Region 9 newsletter. If you have questions, contact the conference coordinator, Charlotte Kemble at 253.874.0612 or cykemble@msn.com

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## WSPTA News

Bill Williams  
Executive Director  
Washington State PTA  
(253) 565-2153

### **NOMINATION DEADLINES APPROACHING FOR PTA AWARDS**

The purpose of the Washington State PTA Awards and Recognition Program is to build pride and participation in, and an awareness of Washington State PTA's mission and focus; to give recognition for outstanding effectiveness; and inspire units, councils, school districts, and communities to recognize the service and involvement of their members. These awards provide an opportunity to recognize the work that your members are doing on behalf of the children in your community—give yourselves a well-deserved pat on the back and submit a nomination now. Award forms can be found in the AWARDS envelope in your PTA's Leadership Packet and on the WSPTA website: <http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/Awards/awards.htm> or click on the links below.

### **PTA Men's Essay Contest Deadline is February 1, 2009**

Men make a difference in the lives of the children they care about, and children are more successful in and out of school when they have the guidance of an involved male role model. For several years Washington State PTA has promoted a statewide essay contest that explored this vital relationship – from our children's perspective. Statewide prizes will be awarded in four different age groups. For more information and the application form, go to [http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/PTA Men Essay 08.pdf](http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/PTA%20Men%20Essay%2008.pdf).

## Calendar

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Jan 26	KAC Membership Meeting 7PM KSD Board Room	March 27	KAC Founder's Day Dinner—6PM Kentridge High
Feb 5	Region 9 Mid Winter Conference	April 2	Newsletter Deadline
Feb 12	Newsletter Deadline	April 27	KAC Membership Meeting 7PM KSD Board Room
Feb 23	KAC Membership Meeting 7PM KSD Board Room	May 1-3	WSPTA Convention, Red Lion, SeaTac
Feb 26	WSPTA Focus Day Olympia	May 7	Newsletter Deadline
March 1	Deadline for WSPTA Award Applications	May 18	KAC Membership Meeting 7PM KSD Board Room
March 12	Newsletter Deadline		
March 23	KAC Membership Meeting 7PM KSD Board Room		

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### KAC, WSPTA, and NPTA Contact Information

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