

Kent Area PTA Council
 P.O. Box 6624
 Kent WA 98064-6624

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 Editor: Jennifer Hanscom newsletter@kacpta.org

November 2007
 Volume 33, Issue 4

President's Message

Giving Thanks to Volunteers!

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

Next Council Meeting
November 26 at 7 PM
KSD Board Room

Vendor Fair
 Elect Nominating Committee
 Standards of Excellence

As I write this month's President's message, I am thankful for all you do - for the many hours you spend making the lives of children a little brighter, a little more pleasant and a little more fun.

I am always amazed at the many things PTAs do for the children in the Kent School District. The list of activities is endless: Popping popcorn on cold, windy days so that students can have a treat; raising funds for playgrounds; paying for assemblies and field trips so that students have an opportunity to learn outside of the classroom. All of these activities give children a reason to smile.

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Thank you to the many volunteers in this community and especially in the schools here in Kent. And a particular note of thanks to all PTAs that have donated money to the Clothing Bank and the Cinderella Closet so that we can continue to buy clothing for those children in need.

Here is a poem I recently came across, it reminds me of you (the author is unknown).

| | |
|---|--|
| V | aluable is the work you do. |
| O | utstanding is how you always come through. |
| L | oyal, sincere and full of good cheer, |
| U | ntiring in your efforts throughout the year. |
| N | otable are the contributions you make. |
| T | rustworthy in every project you take. |
| E | ager to reach your every goal. |
| E | ffective in the way you fulfill your role. |
| R | eady with a smile like a shining star, |
| S | pecial and wonderful—that's what you are. |

PTSA President's & Principal's Luncheon

December 3rd at Golden Steer

Hallie Knudson
sknudson@msn.com
(253) 850-3316

The PTA President's and Principal Luncheon has been a wonderful opportunity to gather together and get to know one another. This year the event will be at the Golden Steer on Monday, December 3rd from 11:30 – 1:30 p.m. Please make sure the luncheon is on your Principal's calendar. The deadline for RSVP will be Monday, November 26th (you can mail your response or bring it to the KAC meeting), and refunds can be given by Wednesday, November 28th. If you write a personal check, please note your school's name on the memo line.

Save the Date

Mark Your Calendar for Founder's Day

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

Please mark your calendars for our Founder's Day Dinner - April 18, 2007. More information will be available soon. If you would like to volunteer for the event or chair the basket raffle, please let me know.

KAC Reflections

Deadline to turn in entries to KAC PTA is Dec. 1st

Sharon Pfeiffer
reflections@kacpta.org
(253) 856-0228

Please don't forget the Dec. 1, 2007 deadline for local units to turn in their Reflection entries to council.

Check in location: Allyson Johnson's House
19306 135th Ave SE
Renton, WA 98058

Check in times: 12/1/07, 8:00am - 3:00pm

No late entries will be accepted. Please do not wait until 3:00pm to turn in your work. We want to wrap up our day at 3:00pm. If you come late in the day you will be asked to stay and help check in your school's work. Remember we are all volunteers with families and things to do.

Work will be accepted prior to the 12/1/07 deadline. Please call either me (Sharon - 253.856.0228) or Allyson (253.630.4727) to make arrangements for drop off.

Here is a tentative Reflections schedule:

12/01/07 - Reflections artwork turned into Kent Area Council
01/05/08 - Reflections Art Walk - **by invitation only**
01/17/08 - Reflections Awards Ceremony - **by invitation only**

KAC Clothing Bank Update

Suggestions for Donations

Robin Blake
 (206) 276-6506
clothingbank@kacpta.org

It's the start of my second month as your clothing bank chair, and I am so impressed with the concern, participation, and support from our community.

I have had many schools contact me to let me know about the clothing drives they have done or will be doing soon. I have had at least four schools inform me of drives they are having in November alone.

I also want to thank all of the PTA units for sending in cash contributions. These funds will enable me to purchase the items when there are voids in our inventory. Still short on undies!

We have received bags and bags of donations that magically appear at the clothing bank. I want to send a sincere thank you to the staff at The Kent Phoenix Academy for allowing us to have people drop off donations at the main office and having their staff deliver the donations to our space.

Our clothing bank schedule and other forms may be found and downloaded at our site, www.kacpta.org.

Thanks for your support!

| SUGGESTED DRIVES | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Blankets | |
| Shoes | New-all sizes |
| Underwear | New-all sizes |
| Bras | New-all sizes |
| Pajamas, robes, slippers | New/Used-all sizes |

| NOVEMBER DRIVES ANNOUNCED | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Emerald Park Elementary | Coat Drive |
| Fairwood Elementary | Sock & Underwear Drive |
| Springbrook Elementary | Coats, PJ's, Robes, Slippers |
| Lake Youngs Elementary | New Underwear Drive |
| <p><i>*If your school is planning a drive, and you would like to be listed on this schedule, please send me an email to be added</i></p> | |

| CASH DONATIONS |
|---|
| <p>Cash donations are accepted and appreciated and may be sent to:</p> <p>KACPTA 9.7 Clothing Bank PO Box 6624 Kent, WA 98064</p> |

| CURRENT VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE (full schedule may be found on our site) | |
|--|-------------------------|
| December 5th | Ridgewood Elementary |
| | Sawyer Woods Elementary |
| | Scenic Hill Elementary |
| December 19th | Soos Creek Elementary |
| | Springbrook Elementary |
| | Kentlake High School |

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KAC PTA Legislation

Simple Majority - AT LAST!

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

In an amazing turnaround, late absentee ballots heavily favored measure 4204 and Simple Majority for School Levy Elections prevailed. After decades of hard work, PTA members in Washington state have achieved their most significant legislative victory. No longer will school levies "fail" despite receiving 59% of the vote. Our local Kent campaign had one of the highest ratios of volunteer phone calls to the size of the district in the entire state. Many thanks go to PTA members for their volunteer hours. 4204 obviously would not have prevailed without the help of Kent PTA volunteers!

Legislative Roundtable - Monday, Dec. 3

On Monday, Dec. 3, at 7:00 pm, the Auburn and Kent PTA Councils will host a Legislative Roundtable. Come speak with our state representatives in advance of the 2008 session. 47th District Rep. Pat Sullivan and others are confirmed. Address is: 915 Fourth St. NE, Auburn.

PTA Legislative Focus Day - Mark your Calendars

WSPTA Legislative Focus Day will be Wednesday, February 13 in Olympia. Come see how things work in your state government. Meet your state representatives and let them know how important PTA issues are to you! More details after the first of the year.

KAC Newsletter

What is Your PTA Up To? Let Us Know!

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

Take a moment to let me know what great activities and events your PTA is involved in. Email your PTA update to newsletter@kacpta.org. Deadline for the KACPTA newsletter is the 1st of the month. Help others stay updated by including a monthly update on what's happening at your local unit in each issue of the KACPTA newsletter.

Open Positions at Kent Area PTA Council

Get Involved Today!

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 | Fundraiser | Scholarships |
| Kent Meridian VP | Advocacy Topics | Parent Involvement |
| Kentwood Area VP | Directory | Fun Days |
| Spirit | Historian | Scholarship Fundraiser |

KAC PTA Local Unit News

School of Distinction!

Jill Patterson
MSEPTA
Pattersonkynanji@qwest.net

Martin Sortun PTA is off and rolling this year with a “welcome back” ice cream social and lots of great committees already busy at work!

New this year is the Passport Club, organized and kicked off by PTA volunteer, Tracy Smith. Over 250 students are participating and many new volunteers have stepped up to get involved.

Student comfort kits have arrived, emergency supplies have been ordered, and our Reflection’s program is off and running! Our Fall fundraiser is underway and we hope to earn enough for more wonderful fieldtrips. Students are looking forward to the bookfair, which is right around the corner!

Martin Sortun PTA is eagerly planning a celebration to honor the recently awarded “School of Distinction Award” to Martin Sortun Elementary by the WA State OSPI. It is going to be a great year at Martin Sortun!

Looking Back to October 22

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Allyson Johnson in the KSD board room. The minutes were reviewed and approved. Joseph Nawar gave the Treasurer’s report. Superintendent Grohe reported that Martin Sortun and Crestwood Elementary received awards for being “schools of distinction.” They were in the top 5% of schools in the state. Only 86 schools in the state received this award. She also reported that KSD was recognized as second in the country for technology. Melanie Taylor and CeCe Velez from the Kent Fire Department and Kent Police Department presented information to help keep families and homes safe and discussed crosswalk safety. Both said they are will to do Family Nights/Carnival nights. President Johnson thanked everyone for their support and announced Alison Newcomb’s resignation. Hallie Knudson offered tips on Standards of Excellence. Dennis Higgins reported on WSPTA’s top legislative priorities and asked PTA to support the phone banking for Approve 4204 campaign. Carol Liu handed out membership awards. Robin Blake gave a clothing bank update. 171 children and 48 families have been helped to date. The Clothing Bank is open the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 6-8pm. Invitations to the President and Principal Luncheon were handed out. The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Looking Ahead to November 26, 2007

Large Group Presentation:

- Vendor Fair
- Elect Nominating Committee
- Standards of Excellence

Who should come:

- Your PTA’s Voting Delegates or Alternates

What you should bring:

- Your questions and ideas
-

WSPTA Nominating Committee Seeks Recommendation

Deadline: November 30, 2007

Statewide elections will be held at the 95th Annual State PTA Convention, May 2-4, 2008 in SeaTac. Elections will be held for the positions of Finance Officer, Secretary, Leadership Director, Program Director, and At-Large Nominating Committee (2 positions).

Recommendations to the Nominating Committee will be accepted until November 30th. A recommendation form can be downloaded from: www.wastatepta.org/nomination_form_07.pdf

WSPTA Membership Awards Announced

From Dori Tate, WSPTA Membership Director:

Congratulations to all of the outstanding PTAs and PTSAs who have worked hard to attain the SILVER level membership award! These units attained a 5% increase of the previous year's membership enrolled by October 25th. A complete list of recipients can be found online: www.wastatepta.org/membership_awards07-08.htm

The next level your local unit can achieve is the GOLD level award. This award will be issued to all local units that increase membership by 10% over last year's enrollment by January 25, 2008. To be eligible for this award all members must be entered and membership fees paid by January 25, 2008.

PTA means different things to different individuals. Encourage them to join PTA and discover how PTA can fit into their lives. Thank you so much for your excellent work in increasing your membership. Together we will reach our WSPTA membership goal of 156,000 members strong.

Your Region Membership Chairs are here to serve all your membership needs. Contact information can be found on the WSPTA Membership Resources web-page: www.wastatepta.org/programs/membership.htm

WSPTA Applegate Grant

Deadline: December 1

Do you need money to help fund a PTA/PTSA Project? The purpose of the Applegate grant program is to provide opportunities for supplemental funding to units and councils for community-wide projects focusing on the health, welfare, safety, education, care and protection of children.

Each year the WSPTA sets aside funds to be awarded to local units and councils for these programs, projects and activities. For the 2007-2008 PTA year, approximately \$6,000 is available for grants. The maximum single grant is \$500. This year special preference will be given to programs which recognize the importance of men in children's lives.

The postmark deadline for applications is December 1, 2007. To get a application, go to <http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/Applegate/applegate.htm>.

Region 9 Spring Leadership Conference

Save the Date

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

The Region 9 Spring Leadership Conference is scheduled for Thursday, February 7, 2008 at Federal Way Public Academy. The address is 34620 9th Avenue South, Federal Way. The program runs 5:30 - 9:00pm. The cost per local unit is \$35.00. More information will be posted soon at <http://www.wastatepta.org/regions/region09/re09.htm>.

KSD Superintendent's Message

Celebrating Success in KSD

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



This month, we celebrate Thanksgiving — a day to share a special meal, laugh, reminisce, and enjoy time with family and friends. It's also a good time for a short but well-deserved break for Kent School District staff and students after a busy start to the school year.

Providing a quality education is hard work for all involved. It requires commitment, diligence, and focus. In short, it demands extra efforts to implement and sustain strategies that help our students become successful. I am happy to report that happens each day in KSD.

Recently, two schools in the KSD family were among 82 statewide to receive recognition for their efforts. Crestwood and Martin Sortun elementary schools were honored by state Superintendent of Public Instruction Terry Bergeson for achieving continuous improvement in both math and reading over a six-year time period. Additionally, the schools met state learning standards on the math and reading sections of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning.

In recognition of being among the top five percent of elementary schools in Washington state, the principals and staffs received an award and banner declaring their sites as "Schools of Distinction." I was thrilled to attend the celebration, and I applaud both schools.

The occasion highlighted the commitment across KSD to do what it takes for our students to successfully prepare for their future.

For that, I am truly thankful.

KAC, WSPTA, and NPTA Contact Information

KAC President-Allyson Johnson
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Kentlake Area VP-**Open**

Kentwood Area VP-**Open**

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Tacoma, WA 98466-6215
(800) 562-3804
www.wastatepta.org

National PTA President-Jan Harp Domene
National PTA
(800) 307-4782

Calendar

Nov 26 KAC Membership Meeting 7pm KSD Board Room
Nov 30 Deadline WSPTA Nominating Committee
Dec 1 Deadline WSPTA Applegate Grant
Jan 14 KAC Board Meeting KSD Admin Bldg
Jan 28 KAC Membership Meeting 7pm KSD Board Room

Feb 7 Region 9 Spring Leadership Conference Federal Way
Feb 11 KAC Board Meeting KSD Admin Bldg
Feb 25 KAC Membership Meeting 7pm KSD Board Room
Mar 10 KAC Board Meeting KSD Admin Bldg
Mar 24 KAC Membership Meeting 7pm KSD Board Room

every child. one voice.

Kent Area *PTA* Council

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