

Kent Area PTA Council  
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November 2008  
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**Next Council Meeting**  
**Nov. 24 at 7pm**  
**KSD Board Room**

**Agenda:**

- Best Practices: Recognizing Volunteers
- KAC Luncheon RSVP Due
- Membership Awards Reflections
- KAC Nominating Committee

## President's Message

### *Giving Thanks to Volunteers!*

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

As Thanksgiving approaches it reminds me of things in life that I have to be thankful for, especially for all that 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.

As always I am amazed at the things PTAs do for the children in the Kent School District. The list of activities is endless: popping popcorn on cold and 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; taking your turn at the Clothing Bank and doing clothing drives to help with the cost of getting children new socks and underwear and donating part of you valuable budgets to help keep it going; working the Cinderella Project so high school students can attend their dances, which are very important to their social life at school, and without our help, would probably not be able to go. There are too many to list but all of these activities give children a reason to smile.

Thank you to the many volunteers in this community and especially in the schools of Kent.

Here is a poem I recently came across and I dedicate it to you "Our Volunteers."

### **VOLUNTEER**

*Jolita Dorsett, Volunteer Coordinator*

**V** is for the vigor that you bring  
**O** is for the opportunity to know you  
**L** is for your life you share  
**U** is for the unconditional love you have  
**N** is for the nurturing you give  
**T** is for the time you don't have  
**E** is for the excitement you bring  
**E** is for the energy you have  
**R** is for the reason you're a volunteer

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families!

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## KAC Fundraising

*Thanks for the Recipes!*

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 sometime in January. We have gift certificates available for purchase. These are great for the holidays! They are \$10 each, and they can be exchanged for a cookbook once they are here! I will have gift certificates at the general membership meeting in November, or you can contact me to purchase one.

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## PTSA Presidents' & Principals' Luncheon

*December 1<sup>st</sup> at Golden Steer*

Hallie Knudson  
presidentsprincipallunch@kacpta.org  
253.850.3318

This year KAC is honored to have Sally Jewell, REI CEO, as our guest speaker this year. We are also excited to have Novella Fraser, Region 9 Director, as our inspirational speaker. As we know this is a busy time of year, we hope you can take the time to enjoy a relaxing and fun lunch with fellow Principals, PTA Presidents and Administrative Staff. The luncheon will be at the Golden Steer on Monday, December 1st from 11:30am – 1:30pm and costs \$25 per person. The deadline for RSVP will be Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, which is also the deadline for any refunds (you can mail your response or bring it to the KAC meeting). If you write a personal check, please note your school's name on the memo line.

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Hallie Knudson  
membership@kacpta.org  
(253) 850-3318

Congratulations to all our units for all your hard work and efforts on your membership campaigns! We enrolled 4,386 members in October, which was up 68 members from last year!

We had 27 units earn the Bronze Award, which will be announced at our November 24<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting. We also want to acknowledge some units that enrolled more members in October than they had in June, 2008! Congratulations to Cedar Heights PTSA, Covington PTA, Crestwood PTA, Fairwood PTSA, Glenridge PTSA, Jenkins Creek PTA, Martin Sortun PTA, Mattson Middle PTSA, Meeker Middle PTSA, Neely O'Brien PTA and Northwood Middle PTSA!

Please remember that membership doesn't stop with your October payment. Just about every unit is experiencing a lower membership count right now. Make sure you are asking, as so many people just forget they haven't enrolled. Here are some thoughts of what you can do throughout the year to keep your membership program going strong!

- Set up your membership table at every PTA and school event (have a current list of members in case people forget if they have joined already).
  - Publish a list of PTA members in your newsletter.
  - Regularly include articles about membership and a clip-out membership form in your newsletter—samples can be found on the WSPTA website.
  - Include a membership form in every newsletter. Change the way the form looks every time it is published. Changing the form will get more people to notice it.
  - Reach out to diverse populations at your school and your community by getting your membership form translated.
  - Publish your current membership count. Check it against your goal often.
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## **KAC Legislative Update**

*A Forum You Don't Want to Miss*

Agda Burchard  
Dennis Higgins  
Legislation@kacpta.org

Washington state's education funding crisis is hurting our kids.

Striking teachers, overcrowded classrooms, vanishing art programs, unacceptable dropout rates, buildings in need of maintenance are all examples of how our state legislature has systematically underfunded basic education.

What can be done? For more than a year, the Washington Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance has been studying the education funding problems facing our state. Their report is due in December 2008 to the legislature. Hear task force member, state legislator, and former PTA president Pat Sullivan share the task force's recommendations.

### **Basic Education Funding is hurting our kids! What can be done?**

**Tuesday, December 9, 2008 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

**Kent School District Administration Center, Boardroom 12033 SE 256th Street, Kent**

The Task Force report could be just another stack of papers sitting on a desk in Olympia, *or* it could be the catalyst for change we've been waiting for.

As parents and voters we can get the results we want from our elected representatives if we speak up. Come be informed, so you can speak up this legislative session.

*Sponsored by Kent Area PTA Council and Kent School Board Members*

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## **KAC Reflections**

*December 6 Deadline Approaching*

Heather McCurdy  
253-653-3668  
reflections@kacpta.org

It is Reflections Prime Time at the local unit level. I am sure all of your programs are well under way. I have recently sent out a bunch of information via email to the unit leaders and Reflections chairs. If you have any questions on that information, please contact me.

Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Collect Artwork, have it judged, and turn in to Kent Area Council on December 6th, 2008 from 9:00am - 3:00pm. Turn in location is my house - 19514 SE 277th Street, Kent, WA 98042 near Covington.
- Make sure art complies with all of the Reflections rules.
- Please submit the Excel spreadsheet "Master Local Unit Participation List" via email or on a disk when you turn in your artwork on 12/6.
- COMMUNICATE with the students and families who have turned in art work. Let them know where their artwork is at all times, if it has gone on to the Kent Level and when they are invited to come to Reflections Events. Also, let them know when you will be returning their artwork.

The District Reflections night is January 23, 2009 at Kent Lake High School. We'll have an art walk from 5:30pm - 6:30pm, then the awards and art appreciation ceremony from 6:30pm - 7:30pm. Refreshments will top off the night. Mark your calendars now- it promises to be a great evening of art!

I am always available to help or answer questions. Contact me if I can be of any assistance!

## KAC Clothing Bank

*KAC Clothing Bank needs your support!*

Robin Blake  
(206) 276-6506

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



We would like to thank the units that have contributed donations to help keep socks and underwear in the bank. Without your donations, we would have bare bottoms and chilly toes in our district. If your unit has not yet, and is able to donate the suggested \$100 donation, please forward in time for Black Friday sales.

We have heard from many units gearing up for clothing bank drives at their schools and wish to encourage your unit to do so as well. If your unit would like ideas for a clothing bank benefit, there are schools that have done drives before and would like to share their experiences and suggestions with you. Our main focus is really on NEW socks and underwear as we are very blessed with clothing donations from all of you. Keep 'em coming! Our other need is shoes and with winter here blankets are always appreciated by the families we help. You may drop off clothing donations at the main office of the Kent Phoenix Academy during their open office hours. You may mail your monetary donations to:

### **Kent Area PTA Council Clothing Bank**

PO Box 6624  
Kent, WA 98064-6624

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## Open Positions at Kent Area PTA Council

*Open Positions for Us Mean Opportunities for You!*

Sharon Pfeiffer  
[president@kacpta.org](mailto:president@kacpta.org)  
206-244-3389

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](mailto:allboard@kacpta.org). Open positions include:

Council Public Awareness  
Emergency Preparedness  
Advocacy Topics

Historian  
Fundraiser  
Parent Involvement

Scholarships  
Scholarship Fundraiser  
Directory

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## Looking Back to October 27, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by President Sharon Pfeiffer. Minutes and Financial Report were approved and filed. KSD Superintendent Dr. Barbara Grohe reported that four schools received Schools of Distinction awards. She also reported that KSD Math Night will be held the evenings of October 27 and 28. The Kent Meridian School State Superintendent debate will also be held on October 28 at 6pm. She also noted the refugee center located at the Kent Phoenix Academy next to the clothing bank. The refugee center has frequent family nights and a summer school program to help break down barriers. President Sharon Pfeiffer announced the Mid-Winter Region Conference to be held on February 5, 2009 at Meeker Middle School. She also announced that November is the time to elect the nominating committee. Agda Buchard gave a legislative report. She reported that Region 9 has decided to focus on Basic Education and Core 24. She also shared that Patrick Sullivan would be having a Basic Education Forum on Dec. 19. Lisa Thiel-Sloan, hospitality chair, thanked Meridian Elementary and Mattson Middle School for bringing hospitality. Hallie Knudson gave a membership report and noted that 75% of the units in Kent received Bronze awards. Clothing Bank Chair Robin Blake thanked Grasslake and Glenridge for volunteers. She also noted donations would be used to shop for socks and underwear. Allyson Johnson and Lisa Thiel-Sloan, Cinderella Project co-chairs, reported that the project was able to help over 40 students attend Homecoming. Toni Troutner updated the group on the cookbook. Dana Tate and Pam Rumer reviewed the scholarship basket themes and noted that the baskets need to be turned in by March 25. Hallie Knudson reviewed the logistics for the Presidents and Principals' Luncheon. Michele Campbell from Communities in Schools of Kent then addressed the group. The meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

## News from Meadow Ridge PTA

Kathy Masiker  
Co-president Meadow Ridge PTA

Meadow Ridge PTA is happy to welcome one of our newest members...Misty May-Treanor. Misty just brought home her second gold medal from the China Olympics in Beach Volleyball and won more tournaments than any other female player! Her advice is to "Dream in Gold". *Pictured here with her Aunt, our own Principal Mrs. Wong along with her gold medal.* When you look around our school this year, you may notice the Olympic theme being played out for our students. This year, our Accelerated Reader program is centered around the Olympic Rings and hopefully our children will dream in gold as well!



*In Other Meadow Ridge News...*

On October 3rd, Meadow Ridge Elementary School classroom, taught by Kathy Kier was named AM 570 KVI's Pledge Friday Class of the Week in a local contest conducted by AM 570 KVI TALK radio!

Kathy Kier's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom was nominated by their teacher, Mrs. Kier by submitting an audio of their class reciting The Pledge of Allegiance to AM 570 KVI!

AM 570 KVI's Kirby & Company announced and played audio from the winning class LIVE during their morning show at 7:30 a.m on October 3rd. Plus, Kirby & Company's Carleen Johnson, made a special visit to the Meadow Ridge Elementary School classroom in Kent.

Each student received a goody bag full of prizes from New York Cupcakes, Bartell Drugs, All the Kings Flags, and AM 570 KVI! The classroom also received a personalized plaque from Trophies2Go.com, and a framed copy of The Pledge of Allegiance from Museum Quality Framing.

**AM 570 KVI's "Pledge Friday Class of the Week"** is a twelve-week program that allows our community to recognize the schools, teachers and classes who know the importance of teaching our children the heritage of the United States and the significance of liberty and justice for all by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. You can submit your mp3 online at KVI.com or send a CD Attn: KVI Promotions, Pledge Friday, 140 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North Suite 340 Seattle, WA 98109.

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## News from Kent Meridian

Melisa Nicolet  
KM PTSA President  
206.949.2003  
kmptsa@yahoo.com

Welcome to the start of the 2008 Holiday Season! Once again the Kent-Meridian PTSA will be selling the Holiday Greenery to brighten up your festivities. We will be selling a 24" Double Noble Fir Wreath for \$20.00 and a \$14.00 Door Swag.

You can let me know by email if you are interested in a wreath or swag. Checks can be made to KM PTSA. You can either leave a check with the main office at school or mail it to the school office. (*Checks must be received by December 1st*).

I will be at the school handing out the wreaths on Tuesday December 9th in the teachers' lounge after school. Thank you so much....Happy Holidays.....sell the holiday greenery to your friends and neighbors...it helps support the PTSA

## Region 9 News

Novella Fraser - Region 9 Director  
ptareg9@wastatepta.org  
253.529.0458

Hello PTA Leaders,

First, thank you very much to the people that attended PTA and the Law, Legislative Assembly and the 990EZ class. Thank you to Pat Nelson for presenting the 990EZ class. This is the 4th year she has presented the class to Region 9 and every year she does an outstanding job.

Thank you also to Roberta Gould – WSPTA staff for helping at the 990EZ class. Training is an essential part of being a PTA leader. I have been a PTA leader for 9 years and I still learn something new from every class I attend. Rules and policies change, classes change and presenters change. Please make sure there is a line item in your budget for each of your leaders to attend the trainings, especially convention.

I'm excited to announce that our next training will be our midwinter conference on Thursday, February 5, 2009 at Meeker Middle School in Kent. (*see below*)

I would like to thank every PTA leader for putting children first, for volunteering at schools and providing a better life for each child. Sometimes we get so involved in a conflict in our PTA that we forget why we are doing this. We are doing this for every child and when we work together we make a big difference. *everychild.onevoice.*

Work hard, have fun and laugh a lot.

**Region 9 Mid-winter Conference**  
**Thursday, February 5, 2009**

Meeker Middle School

2600 SE 192nd Street, Renton, WA 98058

\$40/local unit before Friday, January

\$3.00 per person for pizza, salad, dessert and drink

Registration material will be available in January. Questions? Email

Charlotte Kemble at [cykemble@msn.com](mailto:cykemble@msn.com).

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## WSPTA News

Laura Bay - WSPTA President  
[president@wastatepta.org](mailto:president@wastatepta.org)  
(800) 562-3804

Plan to join PTA advocates from across the state in Olympia for the WSPTA annual Focus Day. February 26, 2009 in Olympia. The theme is *Rally on the Steps*.

A full day for activities is planned, centered around a large public rally of the membership on the front steps of the Legislative Building at noon. All members, along with legislative representatives and the media, are invited to hear keynote speakers, meet with legislators and show support for children's issues.

Look for additional information on the WSPTA website - [www.wastatepta.org](http://www.wastatepta.org)



## Calendar

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Nov 24	KAC Membership Meeting 7PM KSD Board Room	Jan 26	KAC Membership Meeting 7PM KSD Board Room
Nov 27	Deadline for KAC President & Principal Luncheon	Feb 5	Region 9 Mid Winter Conference
Dec 1	President & Principal Luncheon - Golden Steer	Feb 12	Newsletter Deadline
Dec 6	Reflections Deadline	Feb 23	KAC Membership Meeting 7PM KSD Board Room
Jan 8	Newsletter Deadline	Feb 26	WSPTA Focus Day Olympia
Jan 10	KAC Reflections Art Walk & Award Ceremony	March 1	Deadline for WSPTA Award Applications
Jan 13	School Board Appreciation	March 12	Newsletter Deadline
Jan 16	Newsletter Deadline	March 23	KAC Membership Meeting 7PM KSD Board Room

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### Looking Ahead To November 24, 2008

7 PM KSD Board Room

#### Agenda:

Best Practice: Recognizing  
Volunteers  
KAC Luncheon RSVP Due  
Membership Awards  
Reflections  
KAC Nominating Committee

#### Who should come:

- Your PTA's Voting Delegates or Alternates
- Your PTA's Membership Chair
- Your PTA's Reflections Chair

#### What you should bring:

- Voting Delegate Forms
- Reflections Notebook
- Luncheon RSVP

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#### KAC, WSPTA, and NPTA Contact Information

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