

Kent Area PTA Council
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November 2009
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Next Council Meeting
November 23 at 7pm
KSD Board Room

Breakout - Legislative Chairs

President's Message

Sharon Pfeiffer
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Giving Thanks to Volunteers!

As Thanksgiving approaches it reminds me of things in life that I have to be thankful 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. In these hard times you make a difference.

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 your 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

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Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families!

KAC Legislative Update

Agda Burchard
KAC Legislative Chair
legislation@kacpta.org

Legislative Chair Break Out Session November 23, 2009

If you are a legislative chair, please come to the Kent Area PTA Council General Membership Meeting, November 23rd 7:00-8:00 PM ,and attend a brief breakout session immediately following the meeting. The meeting is in the Boardroom at the Kent School District Administration Center. Presidents wanting to know more about what a legislative chair does are also welcome to attend the breakout session.

Levy Proposals for the February 9, 2010 Ballot

On November 18th, the Kent School District Board of Directors will consider adoption of a resolution to place two replacement levy proposals on the February 9th ballot. The educational program and operations levy proposal would continue to fund programs and positions not funded by Washington state. Across the district, this levy pays for approximately 1 in 5 staff positions as well as staff training. The technology levy proposal would continue to address technology needs within classrooms.

WSPTA Focus Day January 19, 2010

Start the New Year with Advocacy for Our Kids by joining other PTA activists and their families in Olympia for Focus Day on January 18, 2010, Martin Luther King's Birthday. Our goal is to work to move education reform, which began with the passage of ESHB 2261 last session, and other PTA priorities forward. So mark your calendar and make plans to be there with your children.

Kent School District Board of Directors

Candidates Bill Boyce (District No. 4), Tim Clark (District No. 5) and Dale Smith (District No. 5.) responded to audience questions at a forum October 19th sponsored by the Kent Area PTA Council and the Kent Chapter of Stand for Children. The forum was filmed by the City of Kent, so community members could also watch the forum on Kent's TV21. Bill Boyce, currently on the board, and Tim Clark won the election. Continuing board members are Jim Berrios, Chris Davies and Debbie Straus. Sandy Collins is retiring.

As trustees for the community's schools, the school board is responsible and accountable for vision, structure, advocacy, and accountability. Regular meetings of the school board are open to the public. Meetings are held in the boardroom of the administration center located at 12033 SE 256th Street, Kent, at 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. The purpose of board meetings is for the board to conduct its business in public. The board does provide a period during the meeting when visitors may make formal presentations, seek clarification, discuss non-agenda items, and make presentations on agenda items. In addition to attending a board meeting, you can voice your opinion by calling the superintendent's office at 253-373-7701 or members of the board or writing any of them at 12033 SE 256th Street, A200, Kent, WA 98031.

KAC Board Fundraising

Cookbooks for Sale!

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

Just in time for the holidays....The KAC Cookbooks are available for \$10! They make great gifts and are full of yummy recipes. The recipes come from staff and families throughout the Kent School District! It's a treasure keepsake, so be sure you get yours today! They will be available at the November 23rd KAC General Membership meeting or by calling Toni Troutner at 253-854-1268

PTSA Presidents' & Principals' Luncheon

December 7th at Golden Steer

Cynthia Tanis
presidentsprincipallunch@kacpta.org

The PTSA Presidents' and Principals Luncheon will be held **Monday, December 7 at 11:30am at the Golden Steer** (23826 104th Ave SE, Kent).

By now you should have received your invitation. If you have not, please be sure to check your mailboxes at your schools (the invitations were sent via district mail). They were addressed to the Principal & PTA President (for the two of you to share—so please make sure your principal gets the info as well!).

The cost is \$25 per person (payable to KAC PTA). Feel free to bring checks to the next KAC PTA meeting on 11/23 or mail to the P.O. Box below:

Kent Area PTA Council - 9.7
PO Box 6624
Kent, WA 98064-6624

I have received a few RSVPs, but not many, so please be sure to rsvp today. Reply either at my email address (ctanis@comcast.net) or to PresidentsPrincipalLunch@kacpta.org. **RSVPS are due by December 2nd at the latest, but the sooner the better for planning purposes!**

KAC Membership Update

Congratulations Bronze Award Winners!

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 3,527 members in October! We had 11 units earn the Bronze Award, which will be announced at our November 23 General Membership Meeting.

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 - www.wastatepta.org.
 - 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.
-

KAC Clothing Bank

When Autumn Leaves Start to Fall

Deb Fairclough & Kris Kaeding
KAC Clothing Bank Chairs
clothingbank@kacpta.org

The air is getting crisper and we're seeing lower temperatures at night. The turn in the weather brought a major increase in the need for winter coats. Currently our stock of warm coats is depleted. If you haven't cleaned out your closets yet this season, now is the perfect time. Knowing there is a great need should be all the incentive you need to get going! Your donations can be dropped off anytime at the outdoor bin at Kent Phoenix Academy. Please follow the signs for the Community Center and you will see the box against the west side of the building.

In October, we served **257 children** from **76 families**. Word is obviously getting out about the new space and increased inventory and each week we have more customers. Your support is critical to keep up with the increased demand.

Thank you to all the volunteers that have worked during our open nights. We find that it takes a minimum of ten volunteers to run smoothly so we really count on you the night your school is scheduled. Please remember to check the schedule and get the night on your PTSA calendar now.

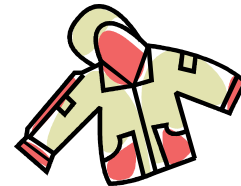
If your school budgeted to make a donation to the Clothing Bank, now is the time to mail in your checks! If you do not have the form we handed out at the KAC General Meeting in September, please download one from the website. Our clothing bank schedule and forms may be found and downloaded on our website: www.kacpta.org.

Thanks for your support!

PS: We would like to request that you run the schedule of open nights in your PTSA newsletter on a monthly basis and request your school to do the same. Please remember to post the dates to your online calendars as well.

Volunteer Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Schools</u>
November 3:	Glenridge Elementary and Grass Lake
November 17:	Horizon Elementary and Jenkins Creek Elementary
December 1:	Kent Elementary and Cedar Valley Elementary
December 14:	Kent Phoenix Academy and Kentlake High School



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 to let me know what great activities and events your PTA is involved in. Email your PTA update to newsletter@kacpta.org. The newsletter deadline is the first Thursday of every month. The newsletter will be posted the following Sunday.

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 Reflections

Beauty is...

Heather McCurdy
Reflections Chairperson
(253) 653-3668
Reflections@kacpta.org

“Beauty is...” is the Reflections theme for this year. This is a really exciting theme and we at council can’t wait to see what our Kent School District students come up with to showcase their creativity.

Reflections is such a terrific program to support arts and education in our schools. I hope that you are planning on having a program this year and have identified a Reflections Chair. If not, please re-consider. The Reflections program is very easy to run and promotes a critical, and often neglected educational area- the arts. If you need help getting a program started or finding someone to run it, please contact me and I can help!

Reflections Schedule is as follows:

- Beginning Now- **Promote, Promote, Promote!** Because each school needs to submit the winning artwork from their school (unit) to the Kent Area Council between November 30th & December 10th, it is important to get the program underway as soon as possible. It is really important to introduce the theme and program to the school community as soon as possible. There are a lot of resources available to help with this on the National PTA website. Need Help? Contact me!
- **Plan & Run Your Program-** Collect artwork and get it judged. Figure out how you are going to recognize your participants. Choose winners to send to Council. Make sure that all of the entries you send on comply with the rules!
- 11-30-09 to 12-10-09 —**Council Submission Deadline** Artwork will be accepted by appointment during the time period named above. I will meet you in my office in Kent or my home in Covington. Each meeting should take less than an hour. Arrangements can be made to submit artwork at an earlier date. I am very flexible. Contact me any time to schedule your drop off.
- **Invite your winners** who were sent to Council to the celebration (see below).
- **January 8, 2010 —Arts Celebration & KAC Reflections Award Ceremony!**
Our 2nd Year! Every child who has art sent to the Kent Area Council for judging will be invited, along with his/ her family to this celebration at Kentlake High School Performing Arts Center. All of the Art will be on display beginning at 6:00pm and there will be performances/ readings of some of the music, choreography, and writing entries at the program beginning at 7:00 pm. The Kent level awards will also be announced. This promises to be a terrific evening, so keep your eyes open for more info!
- **Collect Visual Arts & Photography entries-** The artwork that goes to the council can be picked back up at the February KACPTA meeting. It is your responsibility to get the art and return it to the students! Only Visual Arts and Photography entries are returned. All other entries should make a copy for themselves before they submit it at the school level! I will be in touch with you if you have a student whose art is going on to compete at the State level. That art will come back at the May KACPTA meeting.

Program rules and other information can be found on the Washington State PTA Website: www.wastatepta.org under programs. There is also a terrific Reflections “User Guide” booklet in your Leadership packet. (The pdf version is also available on the website above).

If you have any questions at any time, please contact via me at the contact information above.

News from Jenkins Creek PTA

Jenkins Creek PTA is selling Ultrakey, Keyboarding Software that is used in the Kent schools starting in the 3rd grade. Give your child the advantage of having this wonderful software at home. UltraKey 5.0 is leading school typing program featuring 30 animation, computer graphics, and video designed for maximum learning. UltraKey directly teaches keyboarding without pressure. It concentrates on typing well and it provides the greatest satisfaction of all by making every user a success.

Contact us at JenkinsCreekPTA@hotmail.com for order forms. This program is available for \$19.95 via a CD.

News from Soos Creek PTA

Our 2009/2010 PTA board has pledged to dedicate more time to helping people in need right here in our own community this year. We also want to encourage the students to become more involved in the importance of community service and giving back to their communities. During the entire month of November the PTA will be holding a food drive with the goal of putting together Thanksgiving dinner baskets to provide to families right here in our Soos Creek community who otherwise would not be able to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner this year.

Here is the schedule for food donations. Think about what items you enjoy in your own Thanksgiving dinner and let us share similar items with our families in need:

November 9th through 13th: Boxed side dishes such as instant mashed potatoes, stuffing mix, plain stuffing bags, etc.

November 16th through 20th: Desserts, snacks and juices. Examples include boxed dessert items (brownie mixes, etc.), canned nuts, instant jello mixes, apple cider, cranberry juice, etc.

November 23rd through 25th: This is crunch week. We will be looking for deliveries of frozen turkeys, fresh produce items, fresh bakery items, cash donations or grocery store gift cards. The cash will be used to finish the baskets and fill in items where needed and purchase additional turkeys if needed. Please plan to get your donations in on Monday or Tuesday of that week so that Tuesday evening and Wednesday can be dedicated to assembling the baskets and delivering them.

If you would prefer to make a one-time cash donation in lieu of sending in food items each week, we challenge you to send in a one-time donation of \$25. A receipt for tax purposes will be provided to you. Be sure to make your check payable to Soos Creek PTA and indicate "Food Drive" in the memo section. Place your check in an envelope marked "PTA Food Drive" and send it to school with your child and his/her teacher will make sure that it finds its way to us.

There will be a large lime green container under the PTA counter at the school to collect your donations. You can send your items to school with your kids or, if you have a large donation that you need help getting to the school, you can contact our PTA President, Toni Rocca, at 206-372-0260 and she can arrange for your items to be picked up from you.

Last but not least, if you are a family who could use help this Thanksgiving or if you would like to nominate a family to receive a Thanksgiving dinner basket, please send an email to Toni Rocca at president@sooscreekpta.org. All nominations will be kept strictly confidential as well as the names of recipients.

News from Martin Sortun PTA

23rd Annual Holiday Affair Craft Bazaar

One of the biggest and most-established craft bazaars in the area! Over 60 booth spaces of HANDCRAFTED (only) items for ALL your gift giving needs this holiday season!

Saturday, November 21st, 2009

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Martin Sortun Elementary PTA

12711 SE 248th St, Kent, WA 98030

Shop early for best selection ... some vendors sell out before the day is over! You DON'T want to let this shopping opportunity pass you by!

News from Emerald Park PTA

With fall in the air, Emerald Park Elementary kicked off our General Membership meeting, followed by a Harvest Party. There were games for kids, face painting, pumpkin decorating and guess the weight of the pumpkin. People were also invited to bake treats for the bake sale. Proceeds from the bake sale will go toward student enrichment programs at Emerald Park. This was a great opportunity to introduce our fall fundraiser to parents.

News from Sunrise PTA

Things at Sunrise are finally slowing down a little. We started off the year with our Sally Foster fundraiser, Reflections and the Art Docent Program. We also tried something new! Since Sunrise no longer has 6th grade camp, the Sunrise Staff and the PTA worked together to create a field trip to Camp Berachah on Friday the 16th. The PTA then planned an overnight to piggyback the field trip for the students who wanted to stay overnight. It rained and poured, but the kids had a great time. There was thunder and lightning, activities were cancelled, but the kids would tell you it was one of the best experiences of their lives!

News from Northwood PTA

At Northwood the big focus in October was our Music Program. Robe fittings, the program picnic, cookie dough sales and the first concert! We held the annual school fun run and over 300 students walked, skipped and ran! In addition to that we had our first dance that 275 students attended!! Spirit wear this year has been a big hit and many of the students and teachers have been wearing their new shirts, pajama bottoms, sweats, and shirts! We are gearing up for the conferences and staff appreciation!

News from Cedar Valley PTA

This year's Holiday Craft Fair is taking place in the Cedar Valley gym on December 12, 2009 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. If you have any gently used book around, we sure could use them for the book sale. If you would like to show off your baking skills, this is a good time, as we also need home baked goodies for the bake sale. This is also a wonderful time to do some Christmas shopping as well. So, mark your calendars now and come join us. It was a blast last year.

WSPTA Update

Friday and Saturday, November 6 and 7 the Washington State PTA Board of Directors met in Bellevue for its Fall Meeting. You can check out the agenda on the WSPTA website [here](#). A summary of the Board's actions will be posted at www.wastatepta.org in the next two weeks. The WSPTA Board's Winter Meeting will be held on **January 16th and 17th** at the Phoenix Inn in Olympia. A tentative agenda should be posted on the WSPTA website in mid-December.

JUST ONE MORE WEEK TO FILE FEDERAL TAX RETURNS FOR 08-09 OR REQUEST AN EXTENSION
If your local unit hasn't filed its required federal tax return, there's only one week to either file it or request an extension. The deadline is **November 16th** (really it's November 15th but because that falls on a Sunday the deadline is extended by one day to the 16th). As a reminder, if your local unit's revenue is less than \$25,000, you are required to file a Form 990-N (to be filed electronically); for revenue between \$25,000 and \$1 million, use the Form 990EZ, which is available on the [IRS website](#). If your local unit's revenue exceeds \$1 million, please share your secrets with the rest of us! **If for some reason your local unit's return will not be filed by November 16th, you should file an [IRS Form 8868](#) and request the automatic three month extension of time. To be safe, we recommend you make sure the IRS receives your extension request on or before the due date.**

DEVASTATING FIRE DAMAGES HISTORIC SCHOOL; PTSA STEPS UP TO HELP STUDENTS RECOVER FROM THE LOSS.

Students at Whatcom Middle School in Bellingham awoke Thursday morning to the news that their 106 year-old building had been significantly damaged by fire overnight. Details and some dramatic video of this devastating fire are available on the website of the [Bellingham Herald](#). Not surprisingly, the Whatcom Middle School PTSA has already stepped up, and is looking for both volunteers and monetary donations to help low-income students replace lost school supplies, playground equipment, athletic equipment, musical instruments, and provide classroom supplies for teachers. Monetary donations may be sent to the Whatcom PTSA, 3014 Vallette Street, Bellingham, WA 98225, with checks made out to "Whatcom Middle School PTSA." The PTSA's leadership team would welcome any other support as well as they struggle with this daunting challenge—you can contact them at WhatcomPTSA@gmail.com.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

- November 9th –Officer and State Directors' Nominations Due November 11th –Veterans' Day, (WSPTA Office closed)**
- November 16th – IRS 990-N, 990EZ or 990 for 08-09 due**
- November 26th – Thanksgiving Day (WSPTA Office closed on the 26th and 27th)**

Finally, the approach of Veterans' Day on Wednesday serves as a reminder of the debt of gratitude we all have to those men and women who currently serve or have served in our nation's Armed Forces. Let's all try to find an opportunity to express our appreciation, even in a small way, sometime during the next week.

Calendar

November 2009

- 9 - Board Meeting (Rainier Room - KSD Admin Building)
- 23 - General Membership Meeting (Board Room - KSD Admin Building), 7pm

December 2009

- 7 - KAC Board Meeting and Holiday Party

January 2010

- 11 - Board Meeting (Rainier Room - KSD Admin Building)
- 25 - General Membership Meeting (Board Room - KSD Admin Building), 7pm

February 2010

- 8 - Board Meeting (Rainier Room - KSD Admin Building)
- 22 - General Membership Meeting (Board Room - KSD Admin Building), 7pm

March 2010

- 8 - Board Meeting (Rainier Room - KSD Admin Building)
- 22 - General Membership Meeting (Board Room - KSD Admin Building), 7pm

April 2010

- 6 - Founders' Day Dinner
- 12 - Board Meeting (Rainier Room - KSD Admin Building)
- 26 - General Membership Meeting (Board Room - KSD Admin Building), 7pm
- 30 - Washington State PTA 2010 Annual Convention (DoubleTree Hotel - Seattle Airport - SeaTac, WA)

May 2010

- 1 - Washington State PTA Annual Convention
- 2 - Washington State PTA Annual Convention
- 10 - Board Meeting (Rainier Room - KSD Admin Building)
- 24 - General Membership Meeting (Board Room - KSD Admin Building), 7pm

KAC, WSPTA, and NPTA Contact Information

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