

Kent Area PTA Council
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October 2008
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Next Council Meeting
October 27 at 7 PM
KSD Board Room

Large Group:
Communities in Schools

Pull Out:
Secretary training

President's Message

Making a Difference

Sharon Pfeiffer
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206-244-3389

I have been thinking a lot this month about the state that we live in and the people that live in it. I had the opportunity to attend the Washington State Legislative Assembly for the first time a couple of weeks ago, and I was very impressed by the people that I met and the commitment shared by all to advocate for the children of our state. Every Region in the state was represented along with council and local unit Legislative Chairs and others who wanted to be part of the process of establishing the platform issues and top priority issues for the 2008 – 2009 year. There were education sessions, general sessions and mobilizations sessions. It was amazing to see the level of passion and concern for the issues and the benefits that need to be provided for our children.

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I have also been thinking about the community we live in and the level of commitment of the people in it. The many people who volunteer at our Clothing Bank and Cinderella Project, the volunteers at the local unit level, the past and present educators, youth, community members and groups that look for a way to serve their community and insure a positive future for the children and families of Kent. It has renewed my belief that there are people still out there willing to give some of their time for a good cause.

For Secretaries: We will have a Secretary break out session at our next General Membership meeting on 10/27/08. Please be sure to attend, there will be a lot of valuable information provided and be sure to have your questions ready.

We will also have guest speaker Michele Campbell, Director of Programs for Communities in Schools of Kent. Communities in Schools of Kent (CISK) was formed to help students remain in school, graduate and be successful in life. The organization's goal is to provide each selected student a relationship with a caring adult and a safe place to learn and grow.

For Treasurers: October 23, 2008 – Region 9 990EZ Class – 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Kent School District Board Room – 12033 SE 256th St. – Kent, WA. Class will be presented by Pat Nelson from Washington State PTA Office and it is FREE!

Keep up the great work in your local units as we are making a difference for our children and community! See you on 10/27/08.

KAC Fundraising

Recipe Deadline Approaching

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

Remember the deadline to submit recipes for the KAC PTA Cookbook is the October 27th General Meeting. Recipes can be brought to the meeting, mailed or emailed (preferred). The format is as follows; category (appetizer/beverages, soup/salads, vegetable/side dishes, main dishes, breads/rolls, desserts, cookies/candy, this/that), recipe title, submitted by (name/school/PTA, etc), ingredients, and directions.

PTSA Presidents' & Principals' Luncheon

December 1st at Golden Steer

Hallie Knudson
presidentsprincipallunch@kacpta.org
253.850.3318

The PTA Presidents' and Principals' 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 1 from 11:30 – 1:30 pm and costs \$25 per person.

Please make sure the luncheon is on your Principal's calendar. The invitations will go out on October 27 at the KAC General Membership Meeting. The deadline for RSVP will be Monday, November 24, 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. If you have any questions, please contact Hallie at presidentsprincipallunch @kacpta.org or (253) 850-3318.

KAC PTA Hospitality

Thank You!

Lisa Thiel-Sloan & Jill Yango
hospitality@kacpta.org
425.430.8646

The Hospitality Committee would like to thank Kentridge High School & Northwood Middle School for providing yummy snacks at the September general meeting. The schools to provide snacks at the upcoming meeting are: Meridian Elementary—food and Mattson Middle School—beverages.



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

Remember to submit your membership remittance forms and payment to the Kent Area Council **on or before the KAC PTA General Membership Meetings**. All checks should be made payable to KAC. Bring your remittance form and payment to any KAC PTA general membership meeting or mail it to KAC, PO Box 6624, Kent, WA 98064-6624.

KAC General Membership Meeting Dates:

- October 27, 2008
- January 26, 2009
- March 23, 2009
- May 18, 2009

The 2008 - 2009 Fees are \$8.25 per member:

National - \$1.75
WSPTA - \$4.75
Council - \$1.75

Please note: Your October Remittance Form will automatically add a one time fee (for WSPTA) of \$5 per unit.

Agda Burchard
Dennis Higgins
Legislation@kacpta.org

KAC PTA Legislative Update

It's Basic: Basic Education Funding and Other PTA Priorities

Washington State PTA held its annual Legislative Assembly October 3 and 4 in SeaTac. More than 250 PTA members from across the state were in attendance. The annual meeting is designed to educate, debate and prioritize the issues members have submitted for consideration. The prioritization guides our efforts to affect legislative change in the upcoming session of the Washington State Legislature.

The top five priority issues for 2009 are as follows:

1. **Basic Education Funding**
2. **Strengthening Math and Science Curriculum and Education**
3. **Washington State Assessment System Improvements**
4. **Support State Board of Education Core 24 Framework**
5. **Support Rational Approaches to Teacher Compensation**

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 the our state legislature has systematically under-funded basic education—and our kids are paying the price. 2008-2009 could begin the change.

For more than a year, the WA Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance has been studying the education funding problems facing our state. Its report and suggestions to the legislature are due in December 2008.

Finally, there will be a serious and open discussion in Olympia about what our kids need and how we can help them get it. 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 now.

- Here's what you can do:
Sign up to receive email updates during the legislative session. Go to <http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/Legislation/listservs/grassroots.htm> to receive the Washington State PTA's *Grassroots Connection*.
- Join PTA advocates from across the state in Olympia for the Washington State PTA annual Focus Day February 26. A full day of activities is planned, centered around a large public rally of the membership on the front steps of the Legislative Building at 12:00 noon.
- Get more information at <http://www.wastatepta.org/legislation.htm>

Save the date and spread the word...

Washington state's education funding crisis is hurting our kids. What can be done? On Tuesday, December 9th 7:00 – 8:30 pm at the Kent School District Building, come hear recommendations from the Basic Education Finance Task Force. They have been studying this problem for a year; their recommendations are due to the legislature in December. Task force member, state legislator, and former PTA president Pat Sullivan will share the task force's recommendations at this Kent Area PTA Council sponsored event.

KAC Clothing Bank

Now Open!

Robin Blake
(206) 276-6506

Dianna Madison
(206) 669-1983
clothingbank@kacpta.org

The KAC PTA Clothing Bank is open to provide services every other Tuesday during the school year from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. The clothing bank is located at Kent Phoenix Academy in room 612 (11000 SE 264th Avenue, Kent, WA 98031-7798).

The Clothing Bank volunteer schedule is now posted on the KAC PTA website—www.kacpta.org (click on committees).

Remember each PTA is asked to send a minimum of four or more volunteers to help the night they are assigned. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 5:45pm for a quick orientation prior to opening.

The November/December schedule:

November 4—Horizon Elementary and Jenkins Creek Elementary

November 18—Kent Elementary and Cedar Valley Elementary

December 2—Kent Phoenix Academy and Kentlake Elementary

December 16—Kentridge High School and Kentwood High School

All local units are encouraged to make a cash donation to the clothing bank. Donations may be sent to:

KAC PTA 9.7 Clothing Bank
PO Box 6624
Kent, WA 98064

KAC Cinderella Project

Homecoming Season

Lisa Thiel-Sloan & Allyson Johnson
Cinderellaproject@kacpta.org

Thank you to all the volunteers who have graciously gave up their time to help us make dreams come true during this year's Homecoming season. We helped over 40 high school students attend their Homecoming dance.

We also want to say thank you to our wonderful donors: Weddings With Joy who donated several boxes of dresses, Nordstrom donated some fixtures to the Cinderella Project, and also to the community members who have made donations of dresses, ties, accessories and shoes! A big thank you goes to the Kent Tux Shop for their help in fitting some students in tuxes at a discount.

Open Positions at Kent Area PTA Council

Open Positions for Us Mean Opportunities for You!

Sharon Pfeiffer
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. Open positions include:

Council Public Awareness
Emergency Preparedness
Advocacy Topics

Historian
Fundraiser
Parent Involvement

Scholarships
Scholarship Fundraiser
Directory

News from Park Orchard PTSA

Catherine Chandler
PO PTSA President

Park Orchard PTSA hosted a New Parent Welcome Breakfast open to all new families, including kindergarten parents, on the first day of school. Along with breakfast, the group handed out tissues and Hershey kisses, and PTSA Welcome Handbooks chock full of school and PTSA information.

To give the teachers a great start to the new year, they were treated to fresh fruit and muffins.

After everyone was settled into the school routine, over 50 families contributed food, desserts and beverages to acknowledge and thank our teachers and staff for their good work and enthusiasm for teaching our children.

At the end of the month, not letting the rain dampen their spirits, the PTSA hosted a Open House BBQ dinner, serving over 400 families and teachers. There was live music and a fire truck tour.

The group rolled into October with their 1st Roller Skate Night of the year. At the end of the month, they will host a Haunted Café and movie. Students voting to select which movie will be shown at the event has been part of the fun!

The PTSA has wrapped up student pictures, the fall fundraiser and will be kicking off spirit wear sales this month.

News from Emerald Park Elementary

Lori Macauley
EM PTA President

This past September, Emerald Park Elementary attempted its first ever Jog-a-thon! Aside from becoming a very successful fundraiser, we were all thrilled with how it strengthened our entire school community! It turned out to be a beautiful, fall Friday, and from 2:15 until 3:00pm, our field turned into an amazing site of every student, teacher, staff member and many parents, pushing themselves to their physical limits, competing with themselves and their classmates. There was loud, energetic music playing, and our wonderful music teacher MCing the event and announcing prizes every few minutes.

This whole event was kicked off with a motivational speaker a month earlier, talking to the students about being champions, and our PE teacher working with the kids all month about setting personal goals. We had an Olympic theme to follow up from the summer Olympics, and our music teacher wrote a special song for the event.

The kids loved having their teachers right there with them in a fun and carefree atmosphere, and laughing with friends. It really gave our school year a very positive kick-off!

Karen Sims, was our wonderful parent, who chaired this whole event. She had a very dedicated group of parents who worked hard all summer getting donations, creating a goodie bag for each student, and gathering great prizes! We have many lessons learned, like how to not run out of cups for the water station, but overall, it was a very valuable 45 minutes for everyone!

News from East Hill Elementary

Pat Fredell
EH PTA President

The East Hill Blazer Bees adopted a new school logo this year. New spirit wear, including shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies (available in black and white) is flying off the shelves! Students, teachers and parents are all enthused by the new look, creating a great sense of camaraderie among all!



Region 9 News

990EZ Class

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

Do you need help with your 990EZ? Bring your most recent treasurer's report and your PTAs 2007 - 2008 financial records. This workshop will give you line-by-line assistance with this very important form.

Date: Thursday – October 23, 2008

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Location: Kent School District – Board Room
12033 SE 256th St
Kent, WA 98030

Presenter: Pat Nelson – Washington State PTA

Cost: Free

RSVP to Novella Fraser at ptareg9@wastatepta.org. Subject Line – 990EZ Class. Please include in your e-mail – your name, local unit name & number, and how many people from your local unit will attend.

WSPTA News

Honor Unit Judges Needed

Allyson Johnson
WSPTA Honor Unit Chair
ptamom@q.com

Washington State PTA's Honor Unit Chair is seeking volunteers to help chair this year's entries. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Allyson Johnson at ptamom@q.com. The committee will meet on a Saturday in early March to judge this year's entries.

WSPTA on Facebook

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

The Washington State PTA is happily stepping into Social Media arena and has a group for ALL its members on Facebook. All local units are encouraged to join [Washington State PTA](#) under Groups- Non-Profit Organizations. This is a great way for members to share stories, plan events and network with members across the state.

Call for Class/Workshop Presentations for the 2009 Convention

Do you or someone you know want to present a class that would appeal to our membership? A broad range of topics relating to parent involvement, child advocacy, and leadership are encouraged. The application form is now available on the state website. The deadline for submitting proposals for the 2009 Convention is November 15, 2008.



National PTA News

PTA Movie Night Live! Registration is now open through October 31!

Invite your school community to join in on a fun-filled family event featuring *Kung Fu Panda*, November 13-26! Host a PTA Movie Night Live! and your local unit will receive:

- *Kung Fu Panda* DVD
- One time performance license
- PTA Video Store gift cards to sell
- *Kung Fu Panda* activity CD and more!

Bring your community's families together this November! The event possibilities are endless and a great way for you to promote family and parent engagement in your school and community.

PTA Movie Night Live! is an opportunity to sell gift cards to a family-friendly video store site. Selling the gift cards prior, during, and after your movie night will ensure that more national PTA sponsored family events can take place. The PTA Video Store gift cards are \$20 each, with \$2 being donated back to your local PTA.

Register your local unit today to participate! Go to www.ptamovienightlive.com!

Message from KSD Board President Bill Boyce



On August 27, the Kent School District Board of Directors approved the 2008-09 budget. As covered in last month's council newsletter and on our website, the district's shortfall of \$2.6 million required reductions. The budget that we approved was the result of months of diligent work by staff. Despite the necessary reductions, the school board strongly believes in staff training and maintaining small class sizes as the budget allows.

The district is committed to fiscal responsibility and providing a quality education for all students. Part of that commitment includes the KSD School Board policy of preserving five percent of the district's money, which amounts to approximately ten days of operation. The purpose of our reserve (often termed "rainy day fund") is to address unforeseen expenses and respond to monthly variations in our revenues and our costs. Spending our reserve on ongoing costs would not be responsible as it would mean we are not living within our means. And, it would be extremely difficult to replace the reserve funds without making additional budget cuts.

It is also important to know that monies from voter-approved bonds and measures such as the technology levy must be directed toward intended projects. Spending those funds elsewhere violates state law and voters' trust.

For more information about the district's budget, please visit www.kent.k12.wa.us/ksd/cr/09_08_budget.asp.

We will continue to keep you updated on the district's work to address our ongoing budget challenges.

Calendar

Oct 23	Region 9 990EZ Class 6 PM KSD Admin Bldg	Nov 24	KAC Membership Meeting 7PM KSD Board Room
Oct 25	Membership Fees Due	Nov 27	Deadline for KAC President & Principal Luncheon
Oct 27	KAC Membership Meeting 7 PM KSD Board Room	Dec 1	President & Principal Luncheon - Golden Steer 11:30am
Nov 3	KAC Board Meeting KSD Admin Bldg	Dec 6	Reflections Deadline
Nov 13	Newsletter Deadline	Jan 8	Newsletter Deadline
		Jan 10	KAC Reflections Art Walk & Award Ceremony

Looking Ahead To October 27, 2008

7 PM KSD Board Room

Pull Outs:

- Secretaries

Who should come:

- Your PTA's Voting Delegates or Alternates
- Your PTA's Secretary

What you should bring:

- Voting Delegate Forms

KAC, WSPTA, and NPTA Contact Information

KAC President-Sharon Pfeiffer
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