

Kent Area PTA Council  
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## President's Message

### *Making a difference!*

Allyson Johnson  
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**Next Council Meeting**  
**November 26 at 7 PM**  
**KSD Board Room**

Vendor Fair  
Elect Nominating Committee  
Standards of Excellence

I have been thinking a lot this month about the community we live in and the people that live in it. I have had the opportunity to talk to several people about Kent Area Council, specifically about the Clothing Bank and the Cinderella Closet. Most of the people I talked to were not aware of these programs and that they helped students within the Kent School District. The majority were looking for a way to volunteer, to give back a little to the community, and to help children along the way. It was great to hear positive feedback from these people that I hadn't met before.

These people were from all walks of life: Some retired; some stay at home moms; men looking to donate evening gowns that belonged to their late wives; mothers and daughters looking for a way to volunteer together; past and present educators; and youth looking for a way to serve their community. It has renewed my belief that there are people still out there willing to give some of their time for a good cause!

This was ever apparent at two recent Saturday work parties when members of the KAC Board gather to organize the clothing bank. Much to our surprise several people showed up on both Saturdays to volunteer. At the first work party we managed to haul 17 bags of clothing to Value Village and about 5 bags of garbage to the dump. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> work party we hung up clothing rods on the back wall (*Thank you to Jim Wilson and Joseph Nawar for their handy man skills*).

Thanks to the efforts of all the volunteers we were able to have the clothing bank organized and ready for business the following Wednesday. That night students from Meeker, Meridian and Mill Creek Middle Schools show up to help. We even had three teenage girls that were waiting for their friend to pick them up, walk in and start helping when they realized what we were doing!

Our Cinderella Closet, thanks to Angela Bowman, helped approximately 80 high school students attend their school's homecoming dance. What a great feeling to know that these programs are making a difference for our children in Kent!

Keep up the great work in your local units as we are making a difference for our children and our community!

## Inside This Issue

### Kent School District News

- School Board's Message 2 & 7

### KAC Board News

- Hospitality 2
- Reflections 3
- Legislative Update 4
- Cinderella Project 4
- Clothing Bank 5
- Website 6
- Standards of Excellence 6
- Principals Luncheon 6

### Local & State PTA News

- Region 9 News 7

### Contact Information

- KAC, WSPTA, NPTA 8
- Calendar 8

## Message from the Kent School Board

### *Questions and Answers—EHJR 4204*

Sandy Collins  
Sandy.Collins@kent.k12.wa.us  
(253) 373-7701

On November 6, voters have the opportunity to vote on a ballot measure that impacts KSD. If approved, the measure officially known as EHJR 4204, or the Simple Majority measure, amends the Washington State Constitution to allow the passage of school district levies that have more than 50 percent approval. Below are questions and answers explaining the measure in greater detail:

#### **How does Washington's current school levy system work?**

Currently, local school levies must receive both a 60 percent supermajority approval and meet the 40 percent validation requirement to pass.

#### **What would EHJR 4204 do?**

EHJR 4204 would amend the Washington State Constitution and provide that a simple majority of voters (50 percent + 1) could authorize local school district levies. The amendment also removes the 40 percent election validation requirement. It does NOT apply to school bond elections. EHJR 4204 is on the November 6 ballot.

#### **What do school levies pay for?**

Local levies support school needs. In KSD, the levies help to support education programs and school operations such as drama, sports, Advanced Placement courses, transportation, and staff training. Our levy pays for nearly 19 percent of the district's operating budget.

#### **What happens if school levies don't pass?**

Some school levies have failed because they do not meet the supermajority requirement. Levy failures can result in budget cuts, which require program cuts, staff and/or teacher layoffs, and other disruptions. Elections cost money.

If KSD needs to run a subsequent election for the same levy, it takes money away from educational programs. It cost our district \$228,561 to pay for the 2006 levy election.

#### **Do all types of levies require a supermajority to pass?**

No, they do not. Regular tax levies do not require supermajority approval. Public hospital districts, metropolitan park districts, and other taxing jurisdictions can pass levies to operate hospitals, parks, and other facilities with a simple majority vote. School districts are held to the supermajority standard to pass a local levy.

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## KAC Hospitality

*Thank You!*

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

The Hospitality Committee would like to thank the Kent-Meridian PTSA for providing food at the September Kent Area Council general membership meeting. Thank you!



## **KAC Reflections**

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

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

Hopefully you have done a kick off at your school, established a date for turn-in of entries, set a date for the judging and showing of the students work, reserved your venues and started working on getting your judges. You will want to consider your awards ceremony, where you will order your awards and create your certificate of participation for each student. The more you can get done now the easier it will be when December 1st rolls around.

Remember judges can be teachers, parents with knowledge in specific art mediums, librarians, photographers, dance teachers, etc. Use your imagination! The judging forms are available on the Washington State PTA website, [www.wastatepta.org](http://www.wastatepta.org), as part of the Reflections program guide, and there is other important information included in that packet. Be sure to take a look at it.

I am looking forward to working with all of you and should you need any help or have questions, please contact me. Email seems to work best for me—[2sharonp@comcast.net](mailto:2sharonp@comcast.net). KAC is looking forward to another successful Reflections Program. Please don't forget the Dec. 1, 2007 deadline for local units to turn in 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.

See the Kent Area Council PTA website for further information in the near future. I plan to post helpful hints and other information.

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 PTA Legislation

*Approve 4204!*

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



The Simple Majority for our Schools campaign had a great kickoff on Monday, October 8. Senator Claudia Kauffman, Representative Pat Sullivan, and school board member Jim Berrios spoke about how important this campaign is to our local schools. School levy elections should be as fair as any other measure—50% plus one, instead of the undemocratic 60% supermajority requirement. Since levies pay for 20% of the operating expenses of our schools (keeping class size lower, among other things), approving 4204 is all the more important.

Please join the campaign! Each unit is asked to provide three volunteers for the phone banking that will be going on beginning October 15. We need to remind pro-education voters to send in their ballots and get to the polls. Please spend an hour in the next few weeks making sure this opportunity does not pass us by. To volunteer, please contact your local unit president or contact Shirley Hickey at 253.631.5795 or stel-lari@harbornet.com.

## *Legislative Assembly Report*

At the SeaTac Marriott on October 5-6, hundreds of PTA members came together to decide on WSPTA's legislative priorities for the next year. The results:

1. K-12 Education Funding
2. Math and Science Education
3. Quality Teaching
4. Student Support Services
5. Special Education Funding

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## KAC Cinderella Closet

*Keeping up with high demand*

Angela Bowman  
cinderellaproject@kacpta.org  
253-373-6945  
[www.myspace.com/thecinderellacloset](http://www.myspace.com/thecinderellacloset)

Busy, is the word for The Cinderella Closet. During the past couple of months we have had five Open Houses, each with approximately 30-45 people in attendance. To date approximately 75 students have borrowed formal attire to attend the Kent Meridian, Kentwood, and Kentlake Homecomings. After Kentridge's Homecoming, the last in our district, the Cinderella Closet will be closed and will be open by appointment only to students for Tolo & Prom.

We would like to send a special thanks to Monique Little, a student from Kentlake, who has donated approximately 20 hours of her time along side: Tyler Wright, Hanna Borgen, Alexa Felchlin, Margaret Howe, and Tyler Borgen.

Thank you to all of our donors: Carol's Maple Valley Floral, Daniel Ross Salon & Spa, Lyn Haggen, Jody Shreve, and many other local families. Thank you also to Linda Novak, Valerie Karlsson, Shelly Parker, Linda Zeiler, and all the others that made a superlative effort in marketing the programs availability.

## KAC Clothing Bank Update

*Calling All Units!*

Robin Blake  
 clothingbank@kacpta.org  
 (425) 584-7450

It's that time of year again, and we need your help. The KAC Clothing Bank needs grade school size underwear and clothing for boys and girls. We also need gloves, hats, scarves, winter coats and hangers.

Please consider doing a clothing drive at your local school and contributing a donation to the clothing bank so we can purchase new socks and underwear. Carriage Crest had a sock hop, where the kids donated socks as admission to their dance. What a great idea! Consider doing something similar at your school.

Also, the clothing bank authorization form has been changed. You can download a copy at <http://kacpta.org/clothingbankauthorizationform20072008.pdf>.

Changes to note:

- There is now room for up to 10 children per family
- More clothing items are listed
- The underwear and sock allotment has been increase to 7 for each child.
- An added grid of numbers (like a punch card) for each type of clothing item to hopefully expedite check out of clients.

If you have any additional suggestions, comments or criticisms, please let me know.

The Clothing Bank Location is:

**Kent Phoenix Academy**  
**11000 SE 264th Ave, Room 612**

Hours Starting October 3rd:  
**1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6:00pm - 8:00pm.**

**Remember:**

- ◆ Each PTA is asked to send **3** volunteers to help the night they are assigned.
- ◆ Some dates may not be the first and third Wednesdays due to holidays or school closures.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>
November 7– Coat/Mitten Drive	Panther Lake, Carriage Crest, Park Orchard
November 21– Closed	CLOSED
December 5– Shoe Drive	Ridgewood, Sawyer Woods, Scenic Hill
December 19– Shoe Drive	Soos Creek, Springbrook, Kentlake
January 9– Shoe Drive	Sunrise, Cedar Heights
January 23– Shoe Drive	Kent Elementary, Meridian Elementary
February 6– Sock Drive	Mattson , Meeker
February 27– Sock Drive	Meridian, Martin Sortun
March 5– PJ/ Jean Drive	Northwood, Meadowridge
March 19– PJ/Jean Drive	Cedar Valley, Covington
April 2– PJ/ Jean Drive	Crestwood, East Hill,
April 16– PJ/Jean Drive	Mill Creek, Emerald Park
May 7– Sock Drive	Fairwood, Glenridge
May 21– Sock Drive	Kentridge, Kent Meridian

## **KAC Webmaster Update**

*Stop Reporting Mail as SPAM to your ISP (especially AOL)*

Leon O'Daniel  
Secretary@kacpta.org  
(452) 277-5005

Did you know that each time you identify a message as SPAM to your Internet Service Provider (ISP) that was forwarded from a KAC PTA mailbox, especially American Online (AOL), you are in essence reporting KAC PTA as a SPAMMER to your ISP? Recently AOL contacted our website host and complained that KAC PTA is sending SPAM to their AOL members. The actual case is that mail sent by a SPAMMER to a KAC PTA mailbox was forwarded to an AOL member. Sadly, AOL doesn't look at it that way; they only look at who last sent the message.

If you receive a message that is obviously SPAM from a KAC PTA mailbox, please delete the message instead of reporting this as SPAM. Doing this will help to ensure that KAC PTA will continue to be able to send messages to its members who use AOL.

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## **Standards of Excellence Award Application**

*Tips on How to Apply*

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

Best Practices is something every unit strives to achieve. So why not apply for the award based on those practices! Of the 27 tasks on the application, 11 are items you check off if they apply. How easy is that! At our November KAC General Meeting, I will be talking about the question on how your PTA determines your members' needs. Specifically, I will address the use of surveys.

Since we are all about not "reinventing the wheel," if you have a survey that you are willing to share please email me a copy. My plan is to give you some ideas on surveys so that units can copy the information to address the unique needs of your unit. Please send me your ideas by November 12<sup>th</sup> to sknudson@msn.com.

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## **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 3<sup>rd</sup> from 11:30 – 1:30 p.m. Please make sure the luncheon is on your Principal's calendar. The invitations will go out at the October 22<sup>nd</sup> KAC General Membership Meeting. The deadline for RSVP will be Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup> (you can mail your response or bring it to the KAC meeting), and refunds can be given by Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. If you write a personal check, please note your school's name on the memo line.

## **Region 9 News**

### *Plan for the 2008 Spring Conference*

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

Thank you to everyone that was able to attend Legislative Assembly – what a wonderful and educational experience. This is my 4<sup>th</sup> year attending and every year I walk away impressed with the people that attend. When planning for your 2008 – 2009 budget, please think about including a line item for Legislative Assembly scheduled for October 3-4, 2008 at the SeaTac Marriott Hotel.

Mark your calendar – Spring Conference is schedule for February 7, 2008 from 5:30 – 9:00pm at Federal Way Public Academy (34620 9 Ave S). Cost is \$35.00 per local unit, plus dinner. You will receive more information in upcoming newsletters.

Please keep asking people to join your local unit. Carry your membership forms with you to every event and ask-ask-ask.

One of my responsibilities as Region Director is to represent Region 9 at WSPTA Board of Directors meetings. The next meeting is schedule for November 9 & 10 in Tacoma. If you have concerns or comments that you would like for me to present at the Board of Directors meeting please e-mail or call me with your concerns.

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## **Greetings from the Kent School Board**

### *Honor Veterans - Remember to Vote*

Sandy Collins  
Sandy.Collins@kent.k12.wa.us  
(253) 373.7701

We celebrate Veterans Day next month. An excellent way to thank the men and women who served this country is to exercise our right to vote on November 6. For voters, Election Day is an important day and one that can reshape a community and the nation. Voting is also a chance to educate children on this important building block of our society. Involving children in the process at a young age is the start of a positive lifelong habit.

Discussing election issues with your children can be a learning opportunity. For example, EHJR 4204, commonly referred to as the “Simply Majority” measure, would impact KSD and school districts across this state by changing the state constitution.

Currently, public school districts in Washington can pass operating levies if at least 60 percent of the voters approve the measure and the percentage of voters participating equals at least 40 percent of the voters who cast ballots in the previous election. Election officials refer to this as a “supermajority” requirement. The Simple Majority measure on the November ballot would change the Washington State Constitution to allow passage of a school district levy when a simply majority of voters (50 percent + 1) approve the levy. The Simple Majority measure also does away with the 40 percent validation requirement. On August 22, 2007, the KSD Board of Directors approved a resolution to support EHJR 4204. In KSD, levies fund smaller class sizes, staff training, student transportation, sports programs, and enhanced curriculum such as Advanced Placement classes, music and drama.

I encourage you to take time to educate yourself on all issues in the upcoming election. As voters, it’s our responsibility to exercise good citizenship by voting on November 6.

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**KAC, WSPTA, and NPTA Contact Information**

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

Senior Vice President-Sharon Pfeiffer  
(253) 856-0228  
vicepresident@kacpta.org

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kentridgevp@kacpta.org

Kent-Meridian Area VP-**Open**

Kentlake Area VP-**Open**

Kentwood Area VP-Allison Newcomb  
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Region 9 Director-Novella Fraser  
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WSPTA President-Laura Bay  
ptapres@wastatepta.org

Washington State PTA  
2003 65th Ave West  
Tacoma, WA 98466-6215  
(800) 562-3804  
www.wastatepta.org

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

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**Calendar**

Oct 22 KAC Membership Meeting 7pm KSD Board Room  
Nov 5 KAC Board Meeting KSD Admin Bldg  
Nov 26 KAC Membership Meeting 7pm KSD Board Room  
Jan 14 KAC Board Meeting KSD Admin Bldg  
Jan 28 KAC Membership Meeting 7pm KSD Board Room

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  
April 1 WSPTA Convention Pre-Registration Deadline

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*every child. one voice.*

**Kent Area *PTA* Council**

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