

Kent Area PTA Council  
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**Next Council Meeting**  
**October 19 at 7pm**  
**KSD Board Room**

## President's Message

Sharon Pfeiffer  
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It is October already and the school year is in full swing. We have had to hit the ground running and do things a little differently than in years past due to the late start of school.

We have kicked off our membership campaigns and hopefully you have all started your Reflections Programs. You should have set your meeting schedules for the year and communicated with your general membership about upcoming events.

This has been somewhat of a difficult start for us than in years past, and we have had to change our usual schedules to accommodate the late start. While it has been a challenge to get things started I hope that you are seeing things start to fall into place and the atmosphere in your school is getting back to normal. We know this is a healing time for all involved in the aftermath of the teachers' strike and hope you will plan activities that support the process of bringing everyone back together after this difficult time. I encourage you to be positive and supportive to all and remember that we do this for the children.

I would also like to point out a few things that might make your year go a little more smoothly if you find yourself as busy as I find myself:

1. Remember, you don't have to do everything yourself, that is what your Board of Directors is for. **DELEGATE!**
2. Attend Kent Area Council PTA meetings – there is valuable information presented at these meetings that can help you at your local units. If your president cannot attend, send someone else to gather the information. Anyone can attend these meetings and they are always on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Kent School District Board Room.
3. If you cannot get to your PTA Mailbox in your school at least once a week, please ask someone on your board to do it for you. We send information via district mail and it is usually timely and important information such as Leadership Packets or "Family Fun Day" flyers for activities that we organize for the kids on days they aren't in school and they need to be distributed.
4. If you need help or have questions please contact me or your Area VP and we will work with you in whatever way we can.

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5. We are happy to attend your meetings, do training or anything else you think you might need. We are here to support you!
6. Attend offered trainings whether KAC PTA, Region 9 or Washington State offerings. This is very important to grow as leaders and to have the correct information to run your local unit.

I hope you find these tips helpful and would love to hear any suggestions you might have of how we can make things easier for you.

I want to thank all of you who attended Legislative Assembly. It was very interesting, informative and there were lots of "lively" conversations surrounding the Washington State platform issues.

Also, congratulations to Dianna Madison and Robin Bowman-Blake our Clothing Bank Chairs for the last two years. They are being honored with the Service Above Self Award by Kent Sunrise Rotary for their work with the clothing bank. The award will be presented by Mayor Suzette Cook. This is the Rotary's annual Gala Dinner Auction, with funds going to local Rotary projects in the community and International Projects in Third World countries. The Rotary has donated \$500.00 annually to our clothing bank.

This event is open to the public:

**Harvest for the Community**

**Date: October 24, 2009**

**Location: ShoWare Center, Kent, WA**

**Time: 5:00 - 9:30 PM**

**Ticket Price: \$45.00**

Please contact Tray Svendsen at 206-940-1319 if you would like to attend.

Congratulations Dianna and Robin on this wonderful award and for all of your hard work and dedication to the children of Kent.

And, thank you again for all you do. Enjoy the fall season and the colors of the leaves changing...this is a beautiful time of year.

## **KAC Legislative Update**

Agda Burchard  
KAC Legislative Chair  
legislation@kacpta.org

### **Vote No on I-1033**

The Washington State PTA Board of Directors has voted unanimously to oppose Initiative 1033 because of its potential adverse affect on funding for education and other programs important to children. I-1033 is misleading and complicated. It would slow economic recovery and threaten education, health care and other basic services. For more information, go to <http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/index.html> and <http://www.no1033.com/>.

PTAs CAN endorse issue campaigns, such as the No on I-1033 campaign, but school property or resources can NOT be used for campaign or lobbying purposes. So, "Kid Mail" can't be used to communicate about I-1033 but PTAs can email their members the message or include it in a mailing off of school property and not using school resources. For Washington State PTA Guidelines for using "Kid Mail", go to [http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/leg\\_basics/kidmail.pdf](http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/leg_basics/kidmail.pdf)

### **School Board Candidates' Forum October 19, 2009**

Come hear what Kent School Board candidates think about the issues you care about. Kent Area Council PTA and the Kent Chapter of Stand for Children are sponsoring a candidates' forum Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:00 PM in the Boardroom at the Kent School District Administration Center 12033 SE 256<sup>th</sup> Street, Kent. Candidates are Bill Boyce for Director District No. 4 and Tim Clark and Dale Smith for Director No. 5.

### **Legislative Chair Break Out Session November 23, 2009**

If you are a legislative chair, come to the Kent Area PTA Council General Membership Meeting November 23<sup>rd</sup> 7:00-8:00 PM and attend this brief break out 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 break out session.

### **WSPTA Focus Day January 18, 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.

### **Legislative Assembly**

Nine PTA members from Kent joined 250 members from across the state at Washington State PTA's annual Legislative Assembly October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in SeaTac. The focus of this year's gathering was on education, training and advocacy preparation regarding our current platform, including important updates and planning for next steps. Sessions were provided for both novice and seasoned advocates.

The top five priority issues for 2010 remain as follows. Amendments were approved to numbers one and five.

- 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**

Two new supported issues were added:

- Music and Arts education
- Increase Funding and Support for Highly Capable Students

*Continued on next page...*

*Legislative Update continued...*

As parents and voters we can get the results we want from our elected representatives on these and other issues if we speak up now. Here's what you can do:

- Sign up to receive Grassroots Connection or Legislative Action Alert email updates at [www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/index.html](http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/index.html).
- Join other PTA members and their children in Olympia for the Washington State PTA annual Focus Day January 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Get more information at <http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/index.html>.

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## **KAC Founders Day Update**

*Friday, April 16, 2010*

Dana Tate and Pam Rumer  
Scholarship Basket Co-Chairs  
[dj.tates@comcast.net](mailto:dj.tates@comcast.net)  
[therumers@comcast.net](mailto:therumers@comcast.net)

Hopefully you were all able to get out and enjoy the sunshine this weekend especially since we never know how long it will be sticking around. This year's Founders Day celebration is scheduled for Friday, April 16th at Kentridge High School...theme to be determined. Last year we were able to raise over \$2,000 through the dessert frenzy and in excess of \$4,000 from the basket raffle for our scholarship fund. If you have ever seen the face of one of the deserving high school recipients, you will know the efforts of your local unit are truly appreciated and that you have made a tremendous impact on the life of a child attending a Kent school.

This celebration has two functions:

- Honor all our local unit and council award winners - Golden Acorn, Outstanding Educator and Outstanding Advocate.
- Raise funds for scholarships for post high school education!

Information about basket themes has been distributed to all local units. The list was distributed very early this year in order to give every unit a "heads up" on their basket theme. There are so very many sales that are going on now and will be going on throughout the year, that we want your unit to have a great chance to stock up and save money on items for your basket. Lets work together and top last year's numbers!!!

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## **KAC Membership**

*Important Things to Do This October*

Hallie Knudson  
[membership@kacpta.org](mailto:membership@kacpta.org)  
(253) 850-3318

If you haven't had an opportunity to go to the KAC website and checkout all the new information for Membership, go check it out—[www.kacpta.org](http://www.kacpta.org)!

October is when our first membership check is due. Please note the following:

- Make your check payable to KAC PTA 9.7. Please ***DON'T*** make your check out to WSPTA!
- Mail a copy of your remittance form. Note: Your remittance form automatically adds a onetime \$5 fee to the October payment.
- You can bring your check to the KAC General Membership meeting on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> or mail it to: Mail to **Council**: KAC, PO BOX 6624, Kent, WA 98064-6624 no later than Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- If you mail your check to our PO Box, please send me an email at [membership@kacpta.org](mailto:membership@kacpta.org). There is always one check that never arrives at the PO Box, so it is helpful to know which units sent in their check.

We had 11 units receive the Bronze Level award! Huge congratulations go out to Kent, because we only had two weeks to accomplish this! Come to our October meeting to find out who is getting the award!

Just remember, "You get the card, your kids get the benefits! Join PTSA today!" Keep asking your families and staff members to join your unit. There is plenty of time to join.

# KAC Clothing Bank

Deb Fairclough & Kris Kaeding  
 KAC Clothing Bank Chairs  
[clothingbank@kacpta.org](mailto:clothingbank@kacpta.org)



**Thank you for a great start to a new school year!**

We're beginning a new year and off to a great start at the KAC PTA Clothing Bank. In September, we served **77 children** from **20 families**. We have received many wonderful donations from our community. Thank you for your support; it would be impossible to serve the students of the Kent School District without your help!

Thank you to all of our great volunteers that have served the families who visit the clothing bank. 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. Remember, you don't need to be assigned to come out on open nights to help...just show up! We are also a great source of community service hours for students..

We would like to thank everyone who has donated socks and underwear as these are the hardest items to keep stocked. We can always use more!

If your school has 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](http://www.kacpta.org).

Thanks for your support!  
 Deb & Kris

## Volunteer Schedule

Date	School Scheduled
October 20, 2009	Emerald Park Elementary
	Fairwood Elementary
November 3, 2009	Glenridge Elementary
	Grass Lake
November 17, 2009	Horizon Elementary
	Jenkins Creek Elementary
December 1, 2009	Kent Elementary
	Cedar Valley Elementary
December 15, 2009	Kent Phoenix Academy
	Kentlake High School

**The Clothing Bank is located at: Kent Phoenix Academy, 11000 SE 264th Ave, Kent, WA in the Boy's Locker room next to the Gym**

## 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 30<sup>th</sup> & December 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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 the Emerald Park

Emerald Park PTSA and Principal Dean Ficken welcomed parents on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school with coffee and donuts. This was a great way to welcome new families to our school. Within two weeks of school starting, our school held curriculum nights for each grade, as well as ELL and IP. The PTSA set up tables to sell spirit wear, membership and also provide information on fundraising and volunteering. We will kick off our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual jog-a-thon on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Students and teachers join together and walk laps around the field. Funds raised go towards student enrichment programs at Emerald Park. We will hold our general membership meeting at the end of the month, followed by a Harvest Party and bake sale.

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## News from the Kentlake Strand

**Jenkins Creek PTSA** has really big...no...HUGE news!

After more than ten years of fundraising, and many, many families taking on the cause over the years, they have raised enough money for an Electronic Reader board! They have experienced many pitfalls and roadblocks along the way but with tremendous perseverance it is becoming a reality!

The electric work is being laid this week and parts have been ordered. They hope to have their sign up and running by mid-October if not sooner. A huge thank you to Sharon Andrews, their treasurer who worked all summer to iron out the details and worked closely with the district to make sure everything was done correctly. They plan on having a big party, and inviting as many old members of the PTA—as many as they can find ...anyone that has taken up the cause of this sign! Congratulations to the many members of Jenkins Creek PTA...both old and new, for their dedication to their school!

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## 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](mailto: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.

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Allyson Johnson  
WSPTA Region 9 Director  
253-630-4727  
ptareg9@wastatepta.org

## Region 9 News

It's that time of year. You can feel autumn in the crisp cool morning air and the laughter of children as they run to the bus stop and onto school grounds. Fall is one of my favorite times of the year. It's a wonderful time to set goals for the year and to realize the difference you can make as you start your year of service to the children and families of your school. PTA is a wonderful organization and a vehicle to achieve success for your school.

By now there are several things you should be doing to kick your year off right:

- Meet with your board. DREAM. Where do you want your school/PTA to be?
- Meet with your Principal and agree with him/her on what your PTA can do to help the school succeed.
- Calendar your meetings and activities.
- Start your membership campaign.

Washington State PTA held their annual Legislative Assembly October 2 and 3 it was really nice to spend time with those from Kent and other areas in Region 9. I appreciate them attending the Region 9 Roundtable on Friday night.

I'd like to invite you to attend the first annual Cocoa with Allyson on Monday, October 26 from 4-6 p.m. at the Starbucks on Southcenter Parkway Plaza near Old Navy. If for some reason that is closed lets meet at the one near Kohl's a block or two down Southcenter Parkway. This will be your time to ask questions, bounce ideas off others and learn more about PTA. Hope to see you there!

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the trainings we have coming up - first the 990 Class on October 14 and then PTA and the Law on October 29<sup>th</sup>. These trainings are very informative and great for your whole board to attend.

Have a wonderful month!

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Scott Allen  
WSPTA President  
PTAPres@wastatepta.org

## WSPTA News

### **Proposals to change WSPTA's Uniform Bylaws Due by November 2, 2009**

If you have an idea that will help make your local unit, your council and/or WSPTA work more effectively on behalf of our children, this is your chance. The WSPTA Nominating Committee is now accepting suggestions to improve the Uniform Bylaws that govern our organization at all levels. You can review the current bylaws and download the form to be used in proposing amendments at this link: <http://www.wastatepta.org/resources/bylaws/index.html>. Proposed amendment developed from your input by the Bylaws Committee will be forwarded to the Board of Directors for review and possible consideration at the WSPTA Annual Convention, to be held April 30 - May 2, 2010, at the Doubletree Hotel-Seattle Airport, SeaTac, WA.

## Calendar

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### October 2009

14 - Region 9 990EZ Class - 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM - Board Room - KSD Admin Building

19 - General Membership Meeting (Board Room - KSD Admin Building), 7pm

29 - Region 9 PTA & the Law Workshop - 6:00 – 9:00 PM - Kennydale Elementary School - 1700 NE 28th St, Renton, WA 98056

### 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

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### KAC, WSPTA, and NPTA Contact Information

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