

Kent Area PTA Council
P.O. Box 6624
Kent WA 98064-6624

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September 2007
Volume 33, Issue 2

Next Council Meeting
September 24 at 7 PM
KSD Board Room

Pull Outs:
Membership
Reflections
Legislation

Large Group:
Insurance—What and Why?

Inside This Issue

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| KAC Board News | |
| • Membership | 2 |
| • Reflections | 3 |
| • Special Events | 3 |
| • Open Positions | 3 |
| • Legislative Update | 4 |
| • Cinderella Project | 5 |
| • Public Awareness | 6 |
| • Clothing Bank | 7 |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| KAC Membership Meetings | |
| • Looking Ahead to Oct | 6 |
| • Looking Back to August | 6 |

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Local & State PTA News | |
| • Region 9 News | 5 |
| • WSPTA News | 5 |

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Kent School District News | |
| • Superintendent Message | 8 |
| • School Board's Message | 8 |

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Contact Information | |
| • KAC, WSPTA, NPTA | 10 |
| • Calendar | 10 |

President's Message

Back in the Swing of Things!

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

September is a busy month - first day of school, back to school nights, school supply shopping, not to mention the PTA activities that are going on and finding volunteers to help with those activities. I hope you find this year a rewarding one as you begin the 2007-2008 school year.

Thank you to the 19 local units that attended the Region 9 Fall Leadership Conference in Federal Way on August 23rd. It was nice to see so many people from Kent. I hope you walked away feeling energized, with some great ideas for the upcoming year.

Another thank you to those who attended our August 27th General Membership meeting. As a board, we appreciate you taking the time to attend our meetings. We will strive to make the meetings meaningful, with beneficial information for all of you to share with your local units.

I look forward to seeing you at our next General Membership meeting on Monday, September 24th. I hope to meet and work with each one of you this year. Please feel free to contact your area vice president or myself if you have any questions or concerns.

Have a wonderful month!
Allyson

KAC PTA General Membership Meetings

Mark Your Calendar!



- Monday, September 24
- Monday, October 22
- Monday, November 26
- Monday, January 28
- Monday, February 25
- Monday, March 24
- Monday, April 28
- Monday, May 19

KSD Administration Building
Board Room

7:00pm to 8:30pm

Anyone from your PTA/PTSA is welcome to attend!

KAC Membership

Increase 7 in 2007

Carol Liu
membership@kacpta.org
(253) 638-7243

Let's help WSPTA Make Their Goal of 7 New Members Per Unit!

Here are some easy ways how:

1. Raffle off a gift to someone who joins your PTA during your membership kick-off drive.
2. Create a coupon book with \$\$ off PTA items or events.
3. Set up a membership table at your Welcome Back to School/Open House events displaying PTA materials. Make it colorful and inviting.
4. Have PTA officers give a presentation on the value of membership to school administration and building staff.
5. Send an invitation letter to all incoming new families in the school describing PTA/PTSA and providing information on when and where your next meeting will be.
6. Select an energetic leader to be your PTA Account Executive (Recruitment Coordinator). This person will be very visible, so choose an extrovert, someone who revels in the spotlight but can also pitch in to get the job done.
7. Ask the business community if they would like to join your PTA.
8. Provide students/parents with an information packet about your PTA. Include a calendar of events, list of officers, and an application to join.
9. Reduce membership dues for students or two per household who join PTA.
10. Offer a prize to the person in your PTA who recruits the most new members.
11. Invite a successful professional in your community to speak to your PTA on the value of joining the association.
12. Coordinate a "Survival Seminar." Incoming parents rarely know what to expect. Help them by organizing a "survival seminar," featuring a panel of diverse PTA members that can share their advice.
13. Make your first meeting a pizza night.
14. Co-sponsor a high visibility event such as a dance, concert, seminar or sporting contest to raise awareness of your PTA and its activities. Provide the volunteers to staff the event.
15. Survey current members to determine what benefits are most valuable to them. Emphasize these benefits when creating flyers or speaking to potential new members.
16. Think WIIFM - What's In It For Me? That's what prospective members are asking themselves. Be sure to tell them specifically how membership will benefit them.
17. Offer an incentive to members who bring at least two guests to a meeting.
18. Always speak with excitement and pride when describing PTA. Enthusiasm is contagious!

Membership Remittance Forms

Please bring your membership remittance form and payment to any general KAC membership Meeting or mail to:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | WSPTA Deadlines: | Fees: | |
| KAC | October 25 | National: | \$1.75 |
| PO Box 6624 | January 28 | WSPTA: | \$4.75 |
| Kent, WA 98064-6624 | March 24 | <u>Council:</u> | <u>\$1.25</u> |
| | May 29 | | \$7.75 per member |

KAC PTA Legislation

Resources for You

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

The goal of KAC Legislation is to make it quick and easy for every Kent Local Unit PTA to include Legislation whether they have a Legislation Chair or not.

KAC General Membership Meetings

- Large group presentations on current issues and what PTAs can do
- Tools for Legislation Chairs (or Presidents of PTAs without a Legislation Chair)
- Pull-Out Workshop at the September KAC Membership Meeting for Local Unit Legislation Chairs (or other interested PTA members).

KAC Legislation Web page on KAC Web site (www.KACPTA.org)

- Additional advocacy information
- Additional PTA legislation flyers and forms available for download
- Links to Region 9, WSPTA, National PTA legislation websites
- Links to local, state, national government websites
- Links to other child advocacy organizations

Be sure to give a legislative report at your local PTA meetings. Even if you don't have a Legislation Chair, I'd like to encourage all board and general membership meetings include a legislation agenda item. I will prepare and send a simple, short report on a regular basis to any Legislative Chair, President or interested person who asks. It is a great way to keep your membership informed and to honor the original intent of Parent-Teacher Associations.

Simple Majority Goes for Vote

The first priority for the new school year is to finish the job on Simple Majority. After many years of trying, PTA members finally convinced the Washington State Legislature to amend the state constitution to allow a simple majority (50% plus one) vote for school levies. At last, we are on the verge of never watching a levy fail again with 59.9% in favor. This is a proposed amendment to the state constitution, requiring a vote of the people.

Constitutional Amendment EHJR 4204 will be on the November ballot, and Washington State PTA encourages you to Approve 4204!

Ways you can help the Approve 4204 campaign:

- Mention that Washington State PTA has endorsed 4204 at your PTA's board and general meetings this fall.
- Tell your family and friends about the need to vote to Approve 4204.
- Seek an endorsement from your own PTA board and/or general membership.
- Have Approve 4204 literature on-hand at meetings and other PTA functions (print-your-own flyers available at www.wastatepta.org).
- Go to www.simplybetterschools.org for more ideas.

KAC Cinderella Closet

Now Up on MySpace

Angela Bowman
cinderellaproject@kacpta.org
(253) 638-2461

The Cinderella Closet now has a MySpace page. Go to www.myspace.com/thecinderellacloset. Please share via your local unit's newsletter.

The Cinderella Closet is a Kent Area PTA project designed to loan young ladies and gentlemen with formal and semi-formal wear to attend the local school dances. The closet is open to all Kent School District students with a current Kent School District student ID.

The closet has approximately 500 beautiful dresses as well as tuxes and suits in a variety of sizes and styles.

Region 9 News

Welcome Back to School Kent Area PTA/PTSA

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

My name is Novella Fraser, and I am the Region 9 Director for 2007 – 2009. I am very excited to start another school year, and I am looking forward to meeting local PTA leaders. My job as a Region Director is to train, mentor, facilitate, attend local/council meetings, attend WSPTA board meetings and to have fun. I represent Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Renton, Tukwila and Tahoma.

Our first region conference for the year was a great success. We had 225 – 250 in attendance. Laura Bay – WSPTA President stopped by to meet and greet local unit leaders. Linda Hanson and Kelly Munn presented classes on Simple Majority and were the keynote speakers. There was a lot of PTA energy in the room.

Laura Bay and Debbie Straus will present PTA and the Law on September 20 at Kent Meridian High School. PTA and the Law is a very informative class that everyone on your board should attend. If you can't attend the class on September 20, there are other Regions that will be hosting a PTA and the Law class. Go to www.wastatepta.org and click on Regions to find out when they are having their PTA and the Law class.

Renton council is hosting a 990/990EZ class on October 23 from 6:00 – 9:00 PM at Renton High School (400 South 2nd St). The presenter is Pat Nelson – WSPTA staff. The class is free and if you would like to attend please RSVP Pam Teal – Renton Council President at Pam@rentonptsa.org by 10/16/07.

Have a great PTA year.

WSPTA Legislative Assembly

October 5-6 - SeaTac Marriot Hotel

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

Legislative issues prioritized by the delegates of Legislative Assembly become the platforms defining the WSPTA's legislative program for the current year. Your PTA needs to have a voice in prioritizing issues which will form the legislative platform for 2008.

Registration is \$120. To register, go to www.wastatepta.org.

KAC Public Awareness Committee

Raising the Profile of KACPTA

Alison Newcomb
councilpublicawareness@kacpta.org
(360) 886-0722

The Council Public Awareness Committee was formed in 2004 in order to raise the profile of KAC PTA in the community and within local unit PTAs. The main goal of the committee is to extend the support and services offered by the KAC PTA beyond its monthly membership meetings.

This year the Public Awareness Committee is launching the Community Partners program. Local businesses and merchants will be invited to make a donation to KAC PTA to support Council in its efforts to provide services to Kent PTA local units. The participating businesses will be given a certificate identifying them as Community Partners. Look for these signs at your local retailers and restaurants. A Community Partner business deserves your patronage!

For more information about the Public Awareness Committee, volunteering and the Community Partners program, please contact Alison Newcomb at 360.886.0722 or email at councilpublicawareness@KACPTA.org

Looking Ahead To October 22, 2007

7 PM KSD Board Room

Large Group Presentation :

- Awards

Who should come:

- Your PTA's Voting Delegates or Alternates
- Your PTA's Reflections Chair
- Your PTA's Legislative Chair & anyone interested

What you should bring:

- Reflections Program booklet
 - Advocacy and Legislation booklet
 - Your questions and ideas
-

Looking Back To August 27

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by President Allyson Johnson in the KSD board room. The minutes were reviewed and approved. Five findings and recommendations from the financial review committee were reviewed and discussed. Superintendent Grohe gave her report and also introduced the new Executive Director of Technology. Charlotte Marrison from KSD Food Service reported that snack food items sold to students throughout the day need to contain no more than 40% of calories from sugar and 40% of calories from fat. She also noted how to properly pop popcorn in order to stay within the guidelines. Bob Keller gave the Citizen's Budget Review Committee report. Ruth Fletcher provided an overview of UPromise and how it can assist parents in sending their children to college. Hallie Knudson provided an overview of the Standards of Excellence program and offered to assist any Kent Area Council Local Unit member on obtaining recognition via the Standards of Excellence Program. President Allyson Johnson noted that the PTA and the Law seminar is scheduled on 9/20 at Kent Meridian High School. She also asked local units to pick up their notebooks and turn in their voting delegate forms by the next general meeting. Carol Liu gave a membership overview and announced the 7 in 2007 goal. Dennis Higgins gave a legislative report, noting the importance of passing EHJ 4204 (Simply Majority). Toni Troutner passed around a sign-up sheet for hospitality. Leon O'Daniel gave an overview of the Web site. President Allyson Johnson noted that the Council still needs a clothing bank chair. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm. Breakout sessions after the meeting were legislation, reflections and membership.

KAC PTA Clothing Bank
 2007-2008 Schedule

Robin Blake
 clothingbank@kacpta.org
 425.584.7450

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**

| <i>DATE</i> | <i>SCHOOL</i> |
|--|--|
| September 18– School Supply Drive– TUESDAY | Grass Lake, Horizon |
| October 3– Coat/Mitten Drive | Jenkins Creek, Lake Youngs |
| October 17– Coat/ Mitten Drive | Millennium, Neely O'Brien |
| 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 |

- ◆ 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.

KSD Superintendent's Message

Ending a Myth



"Math isn't for everyone."

We've all heard, or possibly said, something along this line to friends, colleagues, or even around the dinner table. These words perpetuate the myth that math skills are optional for many.

Consider this issue from a different perspective. The importance of literacy is well recognized. People do not say, "Reading isn't for everyone." Imagine reactions of friends or strangers if you made that statement.

Let me state here, "Math is for everyone." Saying otherwise repeats a myth that jeopardizes our students' beliefs and willingness to work hard on skills that are critical to their future success.

Our words carry weight. Parents have an important role in helping and encouraging their children to understand math and its value.

Even if children pretend not to listen, we know they can be influenced by what we say and do.

Math is not only being used everyday by everyone, it's vital for success in the workforce. Students must comprehend the importance of math if they are to meaningfully engage in this world. The American Diploma project tells us that the majority of workers who earn more than \$40,000 annually have two or more high school math credits at the Algebra II level or higher.

So, the next time you hear a child complain about math, please don't encourage a self-defeating attitude by stating, "It's okay. I'm not very good at math either." Sit down and offer to help. You both may learn something new.

Greetings From the Kent School Board

Making a Difference in Each Student's Life

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

Welcome back to another year of making a difference for the children of Kent School District. You are all an important part of the success of the KSD students. Preparing our students for their futures takes all of us - parents, families, the community, as well as the employees of the Kent School District. Each has a role in helping students reach their goals and make their dreams come true.

We look forward to working with each school's PTA and the Council to ensure another banner year for students.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Sincerely,
Sandy Collins
President
Kent School District Board of Directors

Drive safely! Our future depends on it!

As this school year begins, it is very important that all motorists remember the importance of safety in school zones and parking lots.

A few safety reminders:

- **Drive the correct speed in school zones. Unless otherwise posted, the speed limit is 20 mph.**
- **Obey the school's pick-up and drop-off rules.**
- **Stop at intersections to allow pedestrians to cross.**
- **Stop for buses loading or unloading students. When red lights flash and the stop sign is extended, you must stop.**
- **Stop for crossing guards.**
- **Make sure all passengers wear seatbelts. Children 12 years old and younger must sit in the back seat. Booster seats are required until the 8th birthday unless the child is taller than 4'9".**
- **Be a good role model—demonstrate safety skills and obey traffic laws.**



Practice Safety Every Day!

KAC, WSPTA, and NPTA Contact Information

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Kentlake Area VP-Open

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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

Calendar

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|---------|--|--------|---|
| Sept 20 | Region 9 PTA & the Law Kent Meridian High School | Oct 22 | KAC Membership Meeting 7pm KSD Board Room |
| Sept 21 | Pre registration deadline WSPTA Legislative Assembly | Nov 5 | KAC Board Meeting KSD Admin Bldg |
| Sept 24 | KAC Membership Meeting 7 PM KSD Board Room | Nov 26 | KAC Membership Meeting 7pm KSD Board Room |
| Oct 5/6 | WSPTA Legislative Assembly SeaTac Marriott | Jan 14 | KAC Board Meeting KSD Admin Bldg |
| Oct 8 | KAC Board Meeting KSD Admin Bldg | Jan 28 | KAC Membership Meeting 7pm KSD Board Room |

every child. one voice.

Kent Area PTA Council

**P.O. Box 6624,
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