



The Navigator Way...



PTSA News

Emerald Park Elementary's

3rd Annual PTSA Holiday Craft Bazaar

Date: Saturday, November 23, 2013

Time: 9:00am – 3:00pm

Location: Emerald Park Elementary
11800 SE 216th ST Kent



There will be a lot of fun vendors selling wonderful items, door prizes, and food!

If you interested in being a vendor, or if you are interested in volunteering at the event, please email Sharon Jung at epholidaybazaar@gmail.com or (206) 412-5625.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 11/1 Teacher Workshop
No School
- 11/11 Veteran's Day
No School
- 11/12 PTSA Great American Fundraiser Order Due

PTSA -
Membership Meeting and
Home Safety Presentation
6:30 - 8:30 pm

- 11/21 PTSA Clothing Drive
KSD - Food Drive Begins
- 11/23 3rd Annual PTSA
Holiday Craft Bazaar
9:00-3:00pm
- 11/28 - 11/29 Thanksgiving Holiday



A special thank you to Kathy & Art King for heading up the Oasis fall book fair. Thank you to all of the volunteers who stepped forward to make this book fair a successful event. Since the preliminary numbers are not available at the time of printing of the newsletter, look for successful results in the next newsletter.

Thank you to Kristi Thulin for organizing pizza night and bake sale and the volunteers who helped to make this a fun evening for Emerald Park families. Proceeds from the sale of baked goods will go towards the One For Books.

Thank you to Heather Scheer for arranging the delicious staff dinners for the staff during goal setting conferences.

KSD LEVY NEWS

Your KAC Legislative Committee Chair, Janine Weber, represents KAC on the Citizens for Kent Schools Levy Steering Committee. This all-volunteer committee is composed of community members, city and school district officials, teachers, PTA members and others. Together we are responsible for getting out the vote in support of KSD levies which will be on the ballot in the February 11th special election. KAC has the lead on conducting a voter registration drive between now and January 13th which is the last day to register to vote for the February special election. Whether you're for or against the levies, hopefully we can all get behind voter registration. If you would like to help with this effort, please contact Janine at janineweber@comcast.net.

2013 WSPTA Issue Survey Results are Published!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2013 WSPTA issues survey. Approximately 5,000 PTA members across the state responded to the survey. The issues were proposed by members, and rated on a scale of 2 to 5 with 2 meaning respondents "disagree" with the proposal, and 5 meaning respondents "strongly agree". All the issues being considered this year received aggregate ratings between 4.2 and 4.7 indicating they were all well accepted by PTA members across the state. You can see the full survey results on the WSPTA web page at <http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/index.html>

Here's a reminder of the issues and principles considered this year:

Background checks gun purchases

Funding highly capable programming

Equitable instruction for English Language Learner Students

Special Education (amendment to previously approved issue)

Leg. Principal Amendment: High quality special education

New Leg. Principal: Add Social Emotional Learning

New Leg. Principal: Add Sex trafficking Prevention

Your voting delegates used this information to inform their voting decisions at the 2013 WSPTA Legislative Assembly. That's where we decided on changes and additions to our legislative advocacy platform for the next year. Legislative Assembly was still in progress at press time, so stay tuned for more on our updated advocacy platform in next month's edition!

NEW THIS YEAR . . . IDENTIFYING "EMERGING ISSUES"

A new item on the issues survey this year was a list of "emerging advocacy issues". Survey respondents were asked if any of the issues listed should be a "top 5" priority issue for our organization in the near future. These are the issues you are likely to see proposed as new platform issues next year:

1. Smaller class size
2. Arts in School (music, fine Arts, film, video, radio, etc.) – changing STEM to STEAM
3. Fully funding basic ed
4. Teacher quality
5. STEM (Science, technology, engineering and math)
6. Highly capable ed
7. Middle and High School Electives, vocational, STEAM, and advanced classes, for feign language options
8. Bullying
9. Full day kindergarten

Any PTA member can submit an issue to be considered for the WSPTA platform. If there's an issue you feel WSPTA should be focusing its advocacy efforts on, let's work together to submit your issue for consideration at next year's legislative assembly. Deadline for proposals is June 1st 2014. Let your voice be heard!

\$\$\$\$ SHOW ME THE MONEY!!!! \$\$\$\$

You may have heard about last year's landmark "McCleary decision" in which the Washington State Supreme Court found that our Washington State Legislature was failing to meet its "paramount duty" to adequately fund basic education in our state and directed the legislature to fix the problem. If so, you were probably thrilled when you heard in late spring that the Legislature came up with an additional \$1 Billion for public education in the 2013 – 2015 budget.

Well . . . it's definitely good news that for the first time in years Washington schools will get a funding increase instead of *another* cut, **but** don't get too excited. Upon closer look, the increase restores a lot of what has been cut in the past few years, but comparing SY 2013–14 funding to SY 2008–09 (when the *McCleary* case was heard in Superior Court), there is an increase of just \$151 million—**and the funding per pupil is \$45 less.**

I'll try to explain more about the funding deets in a later issue, but for now, I will just provide you some quick and easy references to help you understand the situation, and point out that the Legislature still has a lot of work to do, and the money has to come from somewhere. It's going to be a painful and difficult issue, but we in PTA have got to work hard to ensure our schools get the necessary funding. Until the Legislature figures it out, we'll remain more dependent than ever on our local levy funding. Our KSD levies are up for renewal in February and account for more than 20% of KSD's overall operating funds. We have to do what we can to ensure the levies pass in the short term, while simultaneously pushing the legislature to provide more adequate and sustainable funding for the long term.

Here are two references for you. The first is a "talking points" paper (easy to read and understand) developed cooperatively by the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA), the Washington Association of School Business Officials (WASBO) and the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA). You can find it on the WASA web site <http://www.wasa-oly.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTFILEID=4379>.

The second is a link to the 2008/2013 budget comparison chart on the OSPI web site: <http://www.k12.wa.us/DataAdmin/DistrictRevenueExpend.aspx>

... OK, BUT HOW MUCH MORE IS KENT SCHOOL DISTRICT GETTING THIS YEAR?

Drum roll, please . . . KSD is getting an additional \$15M increase over last year's operating funds plus \$2.2 - \$2.6 Million additional funds specifically earmarked for the Learning Assistance Program (LAP) which provides additional academic support for students who are achieving below grade level or are at risk of not graduating. KSD officials advise that while there are some new positions, this budget is mostly "restoration" funding with the majority of the funds restoring positions and programs that were cut, unfreezing salaries, and re-establishing a multi-year restoration and growth track so the district will be competitive with the surrounding districts and can continue to attract and retain talent. Here's a list of the positions being restored or added with the new funds:

POSITIONS RESTORED

- 4 High School Assistant Principals
- 1 Assistant Principal at Mill Creek
- 1 Director of Human Resources
- 1 Technology Integration teacher

NEW POSITIONS

- 5 Assistant Principals at Neely O'Brien, Meadow Ridge, Daniel, Millennium, East Hill
- 5.5 Secondary Tiered Intervention Teachers
- 1 Director, Program and Professional Development (TPEP)
- 1 Transportation Supervisor
- 14.92 certificated teachers for projected enrollment growth.

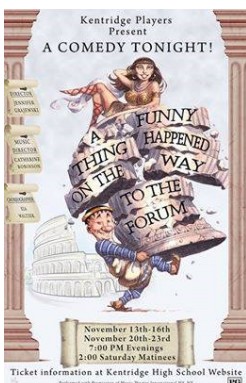
The remaining funds are being used in a variety of ways, here's the big chunks:

- | | |
|--------|---|
| \$750K | staff development/training for TPEP the new teacher and principal evaluation system |
| \$125K | fingerprinting volunteers (no longer a free service from the state) |
| \$750K | textbooks |
| \$500K | training & materials costs to implement the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS) |
| \$150K | diesel fuel |

8 TIPS TO PROTECT TEENS ONLINE

The Internet is a great place for information and communication, but it's also a source of worry for parents with teens. Dangers from predators lurk online. Plus, teens often don't realize that the comments, photos, and videos they post can later create problems. Here are some steps to take:

1. **Have a family "tech talk."** Tell your kids about online dangers, including cyber bullying, overexposure on social networks, and inappropriate content. Voice your concerns and establish some rules. The basic one, "If you wouldn't say it, do it, or watch it with me in the room, it's not okay."
2. **Activate parental controls.** Most computers and mobile devices come with parental control settings, plus there are apps you can download and parental control settings on sites like Netflix, YouTube, and iTunes.
3. **Friend your kids on Facebook, follow them on Twitter.** Let them know you're seeing their posts. Make sure only their friends can see what they've put on Facebook. Remind them that tweets live in cyberspace forever. Relate some of the horror stories that have happened to kids on social media.
4. **No sleeping with phones, tablets, or laptops.** At night all portable devices belong plugged into a power strip or charging station in a public place, such as the kitchen.
5. **Keep desktop computers out in public.** Never install a desktop in a child's bedroom. Keep the monitor in plain sight in the family room, living room, den or other well-trafficked part of the house.
6. **Know all their passwords.** Get your kid's passwords for email, social media accounts, and all other sites they visit. If they balk, explain that when you let them use this technology, they waive any expectation of privacy. This is no different from companies who can monitor all employee activities on the technology they provide.
7. **Monitor activities.** Check your teen's devices regularly. Monitor social posts, browsing history, emails, and texting. This seems obvious, but many parents don't keep up with what their kids do online, with disastrous results.
8. **Be a role model.** If you want your kids to use technology wisely, do so yourself. Curtail your own smartphone use. No cell phones or tablets at the dinner table. Institute a weekend family day when all electronic devices are left off. Show kids they can survive just fine without technology.



Kentridge Players Present A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum!

Written by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart, with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" combines situations from time-tested, 2,000-year-old comedies of the Roman playwright Plautus with the infectious energy of classic vaudeville. The result is hilarious. Crafty slave (Pseudolus) struggles to win the hand of a beautiful but slow-witted courtesan (Philia) for his young master (Hero), in exchange for freedom. This fast-paced, witty, and irreverent stage classic, has been called "Broadway's greatest farce and probably one of the funniest musical comedies ever written. Under the direction of Kentridge Artistic Director, Jennifer Grajewski and Music Director, Catherine Robinson, as well as Community Leaders: Tarik Abouzied and Eia Waltzer this production is guaranteed to entertain. The show runs from November 13-16 and 20-23 at 7:00 with two Saturday matinees at 2:00. Kentridge High School Performing Arts Center. Tickets are available at <http://www.showtix4u.com>

Emerald Park Elementary
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\$5	\$10
\$5	
\$15	

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

Have something you need to advertise? This newsletter is received in over 400 local homes monthly! Newsletter Advertising is open to EP PTSA Members only.

Prices:

\$5 for 1/8 page \$10 for 1/4 page \$15 for 1/2 page

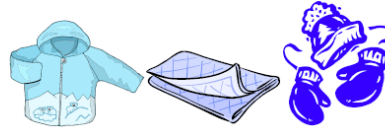
Clothing Drive

November 21st thru December 11th

Emerald Park Elementary will be reaching out to help our local KAC PTSA families with donations this fall.

There is a great need for Jackets, Blankets, hats, and gloves. Also new socks and underwear (boxer briefs for boys, panties for girls), School Supplies, back packs, and gently used clean clothes and shoes would be greatly appreciated.

Please bring your new or gently used items to the multi-purpose room.



For questions please email Kristie Schneider at

orangieks@hotmail.com

IF YOUR FAMILY NEEDS THE SERVICES OF THE CLOTHING BANK, PLEASE COME INTO THE EMERALD PARK OFFICE TO SIGN UP.



Come join us for dessert on **Tuesday November 12th**
Starting at 6:30pm
For our first General Membership meeting.



Each attendee will receive a raffle ticket to win prizes.

Our community partners will be there to provide information including crime statistics and prevention as well as info on emergency preparedness and keeping your family safe.

Your PTSA is proud to provide you with the resources you and your family need.



Come join us and find out how your PTSA can assist you and your family.

Find out why it's important for your child and for you to join the PTSA.

We look forward to meeting you there.