

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

President: Sharon Pfeiffer
Editor: Jennifer Hanscom

president@kacpta.org
newsletter@kacpta.org

May 2010
Volume 35, Issue 9

Next Council Meeting
May 24 at 7pm
KSD Board Room

President's Message

Sharon Pfeiffer
president@kacpta.org
206-244-3389

Here we are once again, the end of another school year! It has been a busy year and has gone by very quickly. We did start the year off with huge challenges but hope that as the year went by everyone found their footing and had a successful PTA year.

We have had training sessions, small break outs and many guest speakers at our meetings along with Dr. Vargas who has kept us up to date on all of the happenings in the Kent School District. All of the budget cuts and transitions have been hard, but with all of the information we have been given we have had a clearer picture than ever before.

We would like to hear any input you might have regarding classes, speakers, etc that you think would benefit the local units for next year. Please email any of the KAC Board with your suggestions.

Inside This Issue

KAC Board News	
• Membership Update	2
• Scholarships	2
• Award Winners	3
• Clothing Bank	3
• Legislative Update	4
School District News	5
Local, State & Nat'l PTA News	
• Local Units	6
• Region 9 News	7
• WSPTA News	7
Calendar	9
Contact Information	
• KAC, WSPTA, NPTA	9

Once again our Founders Day Italian Night was a big success. The scholarship baskets were awesome (good job local units!). The music provided by the KM Jazz Band (thank you Mr. Roller and Jazz Band members) was absolutely wonderful and we received many compliments on them. Last, but not least, all of our local unit award winners and attendees who made this event a success were the highlight of the evening. Thank you to all of you who attended. I would like to extend a special "Thank You" to the Founders Day Committee – Toni Troutner, Lisa Thiel-Sloan, Dana Tate, Pam Rumer, Mark Ryan and Hallie Knudson for putting this event together, and thank you to the board members who helped with check in, ticket sales, etc.

At the April 19th Kent Area Council General Membership Meeting, we held elections for the 2010-2011 KAC Executive Board. I would like to congratulate and the following for accepting the call to serve on next year's board.

President – Agda Burchard
Senior VP – Sharon Pfeiffer
Secondary VP – Ken Moynihan
Kentrige Area VP – Tania Skinner
Kentwood Area VP – Dana Tate
Kent Meridian Area VP – Open
Kentlake Area VP – Lisa Thiel-Sloan
Treasure – Anita Kallish
Legislation Chair – Jennifer Harjehausen

President's Message cont'd

Please remember to register your new officers for next year on the Washington State PTA Website for next year. If you need help with that, please contact your area VP, or anyone else on the board, and they can help.

At our meeting on May 24th we will be awarding the 6 KAC PTA Scholarships to deserving seniors from our KSD High Schools. The students who will be awarded the scholarships all are hard working students with great goals and ideas for their future and all very grateful for this opportunity.

At the meeting we will also honor our GOLD and PLATINUM membership winners and installing officers for next year. We hope to see you all there to help us celebrate our winners and the end of another successful year.

This winds down my two years as President of KAC and I want to say thank you to all of you for your hard work, your persistence, your questions, comments, and all you do for the children of Kent. You all have inspired me and taught me many things and I will always treasure these times.

Membership Update

We are coming to the close of the 2009 – 2010 Membership year. We want to congratulate our Gold and Platinum Award Winners:

Gold Level ~ a 10% increase from the previous year's membership enrolled and paid by January 25th:
Millennium, Ridgewood, Soos Creek, Park Orchard & Sunrise

Platinum Level ~ 20% increase from previous year's membership enrolled and paid by March 30th:
Ridgewood & Millennium

Final Payment Due. Your final payment is due on May 24th. Please either bring your check to the KAC General Membership Meeting or mail it to PO Box 6624, Kent 98064-6624. Please remember that your check must be written to KAC PTA, and have two signatures and to include a remittance form.

It has been fun serving you as KAC Membership Chair over these past two years!
Thanks for all your hard work this year! Hallie Knudson

KAC Scholarships

The Kent Area PTA Council is proud to congratulate this year scholarship recipients! They are:

Rachael Kelly- Kentridge
Yasaman Azodi- Kentwood
Douglas Christie- Kentlake
Ryan Blake Censley- Kentridge
Nichole Schreiber- Kentwood
Emily Anguiano- Kentridge

Each student will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the Kent Area Council PTA for their continuing education.

Way to go students!!

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

KAC Award Winners Recognized

The Kent Area Council would like to congratulate this year's award winners from the recent Founders Day Dinner.

Golden Acorn - Hallie Knudson
Outstanding Advocate - Agda Burchard and Deb Fairclough
Outstanding Educator - Anthony Giles
Outstanding Service - Kris Kaeding

Thank you to each of these individuals for all they do for the students in the Kent School District and beyond!

KAC Clothing Bank Update

Deb Fairclough & Kris Kaeding
KAC Clothing Bank Chairs
clothingbank@kacpta.org

As we reach the end of the year, we'd like to send out a huge THANK YOU to each person who contributed to the success of the clothing bank this year. From the person who dropped off a bag of clothing, to the volunteer who worked the night their school was scheduled, to the PTSA who conducted several clothing drives this year, we'd like to acknowledge your contribution. Since this is an all-volunteer organization, the role you played this year, small or large, is vital to the existence of this organization.

Our partnership with the Transition OutReach Program (TOP) continues to be a win-win relationship. The students are able to gain experience in a setting much like a retail environment while we benefit from having a trained staff with a regular schedule.

In April, we served **40** families. We continue to see new families each week.

The clothing bank schedule and forms may be found and downloaded on our website: www.kacpta.org under the Committees tab.

Local Unit Volunteer Schedule

Date	School Scheduled
May 11th	Scenic Hill Elementary Soos Creek Elementary
May 25th	Springbrook Elementary Sunrise Elementary
June 8th	KAC PTA Board

The support of our local units is critical to our success. If your unit has a conflict on the night you are scheduled, please let us know well in advance so we can schedule another school or put the call out for more volunteers. The Clothing Bank cannot run without your help.

Please watch for announcements over the summer. Although we are not open during the summer break, we continue to receive donations and will need help preparing for the new school year.

KAC Legislative Update

Agda Burchard
KAC Legislative Chair
legislation@kacpta.org

State Legislative Session

The 30-day special session finally came to a close in the wee hours of the morning April 13th with passage of both a budget and revenue package. The legislature addressed the \$2.8 billion gap in the following ways: Budget Cuts \$755 million, Federal Reserve Funding \$618 million, Reserves and Transfers \$690 million, and New Revenue (taxes) \$757 million. Here's how K-12 education did in the budget and with policy.

Major Increases

- **Maintenance Level** increases for K-12 due to caseload increases and other increased costs (\$252.1 million)
- **Levy equalization funding** increases from 12% to 14% (\$29.8 million)
- **Education Reform funding** – to support our state's Race to the Top federal grant application and some follow up work to 2261 to implement the new funding distribution formulas, and new pupil transportation funding (\$5 million)

Major Savings

- **728 Funding eliminated.** Districts often used this funding to reduce class sizes and offer extended learning opportunities. (**\$79 million** on top of the \$600 million that was eliminated in last year's budget)
- **Reduction in K-4 Class Size funding** (\$30 million)
- **Bus Depreciation.** Delays annual payments sent to districts so that they can replace bus fleets to the end of the expected life of buses (\$22 million)
- **Learning Improvement Day.** The only remaining state-funded professional development day for teachers has been eliminated (\$10 million)
- **Grants and Statewide Programs** (\$9 million)

Policy Gains

- **Plan to improve basic education funding created.** We held lawmakers accountable to fund more of the basic education costs that are currently paid for through local levies, beginning in the fall of 2011. This will be the first down payment in a multi-year plan that will dramatically increase state funding for basic education through 2018. (House Bill 2776)
- **Education reform moved forward.** We worked with a broad coalition of parents, educators and business and community leaders to pass reforms that will improve Washington's public schools and help our state win a federal Race to the Top grant. The reforms will help our teachers and principals be more effective and turnaround consistently low-performing schools. (Senate Bill 6696)

Kent School District Budget

Even though the final state budget resulted in fewer cuts to education spending than anticipated when the session began, local districts are now faced with the tough choices of where to make reductions. The challenges include a continuing reduction of state dollars, the primary funding source for the Kent School District, and an increase in costs. As a result, it is necessary for the Kent School District to make reductions of approximately \$7 to \$10 million, with a worst-case scenario of \$12 million. More than 1,600 community members, staff, parents, and students completed either an online or paper version of a survey. The school board is considering these results as it deliberates budget reduction options for the 2010-11 school year. For updates, go to www.kent.k12.wa.us.

VisFest Annual Visual Literacy Arts Festival

Tom Riddle
(253) 373-7439
Tom.riddell@kent.k12.wa.us

Since 2002, the Kent School District has hosted the VisFest Annual Visual Literacy Arts Festival. Organized and ran by members of the VisFest Student Advisory Board, VisFest has provided thousands of Kent area students an outlet to display their creative and artistic visual literacy talents to a wide audience of fellow students, teachers, and members of the community.

In the past, VisFest has solely been a student film festival. Students in kindergarten through 12th grade have directed, produced, and filmed three minute movies on a variety of subjects. This year, VisFest has expanded to include a Video Gaming Expo to reach an even wider audience of student participation. By offering such an unique outlet for students, our leaders of tomorrow are able to practice 21st century skills such as creativity, innovation, communication, collaboration, research, critical thinking, and problem solving in a non-traditional manner.

Hundreds of students have just finished placing the final touches on their films and video games and submitted them to the Student Advisory Board for judging. After the judging is complete, the success of all participating students will be celebrated as the red carpet is rolled out at Kent-Meridian High School **on May 25, 2010 at 6:00 PM.**

All are welcome to this exciting and unique event. Attendees will be treated to a night of watching movies and playing video games all created by students of the Kent School District.

For more information on the 2010 VisFest Film and Game Festival, please visit our website at www.visfest.org.

KSD Free Lunch During Summer Months

Lura Beck
(206) 304-8436

The Kent School District will be providing FREE LUNCH for all children 18 year and younger all summer long!!! Lunch will start Monday, June 21 from 11:30 – 12:15 Monday – Friday. Lunch will be served at the Cheetah Den at Cedar Valley.

Parents do not have to be present for a child to get a lunch. The only thing that I ask is that the children to be on their best behavior.

Lunch has to be eaten on school grounds. Lunch cannot be taken home.

If you would like to volunteer for this program, please let me know. I need two more site supervisors to help me this summer in case I cannot make it for some reason. You will have to take a free class at the KSD building. The classes are June 10 and June 15 at 2:30.

If you are interested, contact Lura Beck, head site supervisor at 206-304-8436.

News from Sunrise PTA

Sunrise has just had an amazing assembly with the Mariner Moose, a successful McTeacher's Night to support the the AR Program and the library, as well as a huge staff appreciation week! The Music Man will be held May 6,7,8 and will be our last annual Mustang Musical under the direction of Jenna Hanson. She has poured her heart and soul into the drama program for the last 5 years as a volunteer at Sunrise and has been creating plays that are not typical at the elementary level--they are fabulous. If you have never seen one, it's not too late! Details on the website! May 24th will be our all new Sunrise Variety Show and then in the next two months we are looking forward to our Carnival, Field Day, and the Mustang March. The Mustang March is a charity Fun Run to support the pediatric interim care center (PICC). More eetails on our website: <http://sunrise-pta.weebly.com>

News from Northwood PTSA

Northwood just held it's first ever Follies talent show and it was a huge success, thanks to the drama advisor Ryan Simpson! It was not only a great show, but over 200 people showed up to watch! We are also looking forward to one more Student of the Quarter, a BOGO Book Fair, Volunteer Appreciation, and the 8th grade Party! We are slowly filling our executive Board for next year and are still looking for a 3rd VP and a secretary! If you are interested there are details on our website including contact information for our nominating committee! <http://northwood-ptsa.weebly.com>

News from Emerald Park Elementary

In March Emerald Park held a book fair in conjunction with conferences. The spring book fair had over 25 volunteers, donating 155 hours. We raised approximately \$10,000 in products for our classroom and school libraries this year! The PTSA sponsored a new sock & underwear spring clothing drive in April. Our final General Membership meeting of the school year was April 23rd. We presented our budget, as well as a full slate of nominees for the 2010-2011 Board. Our Golden Acorn & Outstanding Educator recipients were also honored. Following the meeting we had Bingo Night and a bake sale. On May 6th Emerald Park hosted a multicultural night. Friends and family were encouraged to share their cultural heritage. The PTSA will be sponsoring a coin drive in May.

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

Region 9 News Update

The time of year for transition is upon us all in PTA. The local units and councils are holding elections. Some of those elected are new to PTA and others have been around a while. Congratulations to everyone!

During the next several weeks we are either looking at handing over everything we did this year or receiving all the information from someone else. This opportunity for everyone to grow, to accept change and to pass everything on can be either nerve whacking or one of the most rewarding feelings. There is always someone who can follow you and bring different and unique ideas to the PTA. We need to trust that the new officers or committee chairs are here for the kids (just like we are) and only want to continue to have growth in a positive manner. Continuing and Outgoing Officers and committee chairs take time to explain and mentor the new officers during the next couple of months. This will help the transition go smoother.

If you are the one receiving the information, take the time to thank the person before you for everything he or she has done and for taking the time to sit with you and give you all the tools that they used. Make sure you ask questions and do not be afraid to think outside of the box. Take the time to have a retreat (meeting) with all the incoming officers to set goals and learn the strengths and weaknesses of each other. Everyone has something different to offer and this is a good time to find out about each other.

I'd like to take this time to say thank you to those officers that I have had the pleasure to work with this year. I appreciate your willingness to make a difference for the students in your community.

WSPTA Update

Bill Williams
Executive Director, WSPTA
(253) 565-2153

Important Dates

May 21st—New extended deadline for applications for National PTA Arts Enhancement Grants

May 31st—Deadline for Annual Charitable Solicitation Renewals

June 1st—Deadline for submitting proposed legislative issues to legislative committee

June 10-13—National PTA Convention, Memphis

June 15th—Deadline for receipt of proposed Washington State PTA Resolutions to be considered at the Legislative Assembly.

Register for the Official PTA Kit

National PTA has announced that registration is open for each local unit and council to receive a free Official PTA kit—PTA's Big Box of Possibilities—and get the tools you need to serve your community and run your PTA. The kit contains invaluable PTA Quick-Reference Guides, as well as membership materials, program and advocacy resources, and special offers from national partners. All local, council, district and region PTAs must register to receive their kit for the 2010-2011 year. The registration form allows your incoming PTA president to provide your unit's preferred shipping address and date—to ensure that the kit gets into the right hands at the right time. Kit registration is now available at www.pta.org/3104.asp, and kits will ship weekly starting June 18. In order to register you will need to know your National PTA ID number, which was included in an email that Melissa Anderson of our staff sent to all local units and council presidents.

Calendar

May 2010

- 1 - Washington State PTA Annual Convention
- 2 - Washington State PTA Annual Convention
- 10 - Board Meeting (Rainer Room - KSD Admin Building)
- 24 - General Membership Meeting (Board Room - KSD Admin Building), 7pm

KAC, WSPTA, and NPTA Contact Information

KAC President-Sharon Pfeiffer
206.244.3389
president@kacpta.org

Senior Vice President-Hallie Knudson
253.850.3318
vicepresident@kacpta.org

Kentridge Area VP-Carol Liu
253.638.7243
kentridgevp@kacpta.org

Kent-Meridian Area VP-Margaret Pfeifle
kentmeridianvp@kacpta.org

Kentlake Area VP-Dana Tate
kentlakevp@kacpta.org

Kentwood Area VP-Pam Rumer
kentwoodvp@kacpta.org

Secondary-Mark Ryan
secondaryvp1@kacpta.org

Secretary-Toni Troutner
253.854.1268
secretary@kacpta.org

Treasurer-Anita Kallish
treasurer@kacpta.org

Legislation Chair
Agda Burchard
legislation@kacpta.org

KAC Newsletter Editor-Jennifer Hanscom
(253) 859-9567
newsletter@kacpta.org

Web Site—Leon O’Daniel
webmaster@kacpta.org

KAC PTA
P.O. Box 6624,
Kent WA 98064-6624
www.kacpta.org

Region 9 Director-Allyson Johnson
253-630-4727
PTAreg9@wastatepta.org

WSPTA President-Scott Allen
ptapres@wastatepta.org

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

National PTA President-Chuck Saylor
National PTA
(800) 307-4782