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Everett PTSA Council

Proudly serving the PTAs and schools of Everett School District



*** September 15, 2020 ***

Everett PTSA Council eBlast

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* www.everettptsacouncil.org *

OUR VISION: To be a meaningful and vital resource to PTAs and our community partners.

OUR MISSION: To support, empower, and guide our PTAs to be successful.

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Wednesday, September 23, 2020: Council Membership Meeting

Topic: September Council 7.3 Membership Mtg

Time: Sep 23, 2020 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3923109315?pwd=dWRxaWw4ZTV3V0xUelpsdTN2WjFZQT09>

Meeting ID: 392 310 9315

Passcode: 7.3

Wednesday, September 30, 2020: Reflections Training (virtual/online event)

For registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reflections-training-tickets-118857292361>

Saturday-Sunday, October 24-25, 2020: WSPTA Legislative Assembly (virtual event)

<https://www.wastatepta.org/events-programs/legislative-assembly/general-information/>

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
Join Our September Membership Meeting!

Hello PTA leaders,

We are off and running for the 2020-2021 School Year! We hope that your first few days have gone smoothly and that you and your students are able to establish some good routines as we settle in.

Our first Council meeting of the year is next **Wednesday, September 23rd from 6:30 - 7:30 PM**. Please make sure that your PTA sends *at least one* representative to attend and vote on behalf of your local PTA. You will hear updates on WSPTA programs as well as updates from our school district representative, Regional Superintendent - Central, Sally Lancaster. We also want to hear from you and your PTA! Are there questions that you have or training that your PTA leaders would like to see this year? Council meetings include time for open floor and leaders are welcome to remain after 7:30 PM for additional discussion.

We look forward to seeing you there!

~Jen



COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join Our Award-Winning Team!

Would you like to join our PTSA Council team for the 2020-2021 school year? If you have enjoyed working on PTA at the local level and would like to become part of our Council team, let us know! We are looking for the following positions as either a chair or co-chair:

- **Programs**
- **Board Member-at-Large position - Central Region of Everett School District**

Position descriptions can be found on our PTSA Council Handbook on our website.

Questions? Contact Jen at jhirman@gmail.com for more information

Volunteer Appreciation

Our Council would like to take a moment to thank the following people for helping support our local PTAs and children at the beginning of the school year:

Jen Hirman, Denise Constantineau, Sarah Chamberlin: Thank you for helping put together and organize flash drives for distribution to our local PTAs.

Beenish Iqbal: Thank you for helping organize and coordinate book drives at local schools.

Amanda Cabana: Thank you for helping several of our local PTAs setup their Memberplanet accounts and features.

Council Office Hours

The Council "Office Hours" will be held at noon on every Thursday during the school year. These "Office Hours" will be held virtually (via Zoom) until further notice. All PTA leaders welcome! No appointment necessary.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82721776725?pwd=NnB2cTQvMVlwaTNLd3lDWXhuZWc5dz09>

Meeting ID: 827 2177 6725

Passcode: 7.3

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZYqdeivqT0tGNghZX3BWKllbhvUYmPvFiDD/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGqqTkrHdOTxuCpQB4jod-3wtiFajY16lCXdUAJkSSr6NOpUB4tyIM72>

May Membership Meeting Summary

Our previous Membership Meeting was held on May 27, 2020.

- Dr. Ian Saltzman announced a committee comprised of parents, staff, and students to meet during the Summer to discuss planning for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Council Awards announced (Outstanding Educator- Dr. Sally Lancaster, Outstanding Advocate- Valerie Cunningham, Outstanding Service- Jennifer Hirman, Golden Acorn- Amanda Cabana).
- 2020-2021 budget was presented, reviewed, and approved as presented.
- The check signers for 2020-2021 will be Jennifer Hirman, Amanda Cabana, and Jonelle Radford. The monthly bank statement reviewer will be Craig Willis. Motion was approved.
- We surpassed our 2019-2020 Membership goal of 5200 members, with 5269 total.
- Valerie Cunningham will continue to reach out to local PTAs next school year to educate about the Special Education PTSA. 19 of 26 local PTAs were met during this school year.

For summaries of previous Council Membership Meetings, click [this link](#).

MEMBERSHIP

Message from your Co-VPs of Membership

Memberplanet:

Please update your current (2020-2021) Executive Board and Committee Chairs in Memberplanet. This is done thru the "Committees" feature. You also need to update the Primary Contact Name and Contact Email for your PTA account.

NOTE: This is in addition to emailing state/region/council.

Directions for updating your Executive Board and Committee Chairs in Memberplanet:

- Click on **Committees**
- Click on Box "**Local PTA Leaders**"
- Click on **Green Circle with +**
- Search by name, and click **Blue Assign** Button
- Click **Continue**

That will bring you back to the Positions page.

If your PTA has any CO- positions, repeat the above steps.

Repeat until you have entered each PTA Position you have.

Entering all of these chairs will allow position specific information to reach the proper person.

When you are done click the little Home icon to return to your Memberplanet homepage.

Memberplanet Online Join Feature

Offering online membership will be a must do this year. This will enable you to continue to grow your PTA, community, connections, and help keep your PTA strong!!

Memberplanet now offers price-scaling membership. This is great for your bundled or family membership. If you have not updated your membership levels, we highly recommend taking advantage of this option. If you are having issues or are unsure of how to set up your online membership, you are welcome to contact us or you can check out the WA State PTA success site: <http://wastatepta.memberplanet.com/>

Our council membership goal is 5200 members. We already have over 970 members, and school has only just begun! Great start! There will be some fun incentives announced soon, if we reach our goal.

Best Regards,

Amanda Cabana and Craig Willis

Co-VPs of Membership

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (F.A.C.E.)

Book Drives for Local PTAs

I wanted to notify all of you that we have secured donations (books) from Sno-Isle libraries, and are looking forward to donating to local PTA's in the Everett School District. PTA's can use these books for hosting book drives. I want to provide you the opportunity to learn about the concerns and questions parents have for the next academic year; it can also act as a tool in making new connections. If any of you are interested in securing books for your school community, contact me at everettcouncilface@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Beenish Iqbal

F.A.C.E - Everett Council PTSA



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Message from your Special Education PTSA Liaison

Hi everyone,

I am the Everett Council Special Ed Liaison this year as well as the President of the Everett Special Education PTSA. I had the privilege to meet many of you and your families last year as I attended your membership meetings and introduced our Special Education PTSA. This year, more than ever trying to stay connected with families that are struggling, need support, or just a place to vent is so important. I will be emailing all of you to reach out and see if I can once again attend one of your upcoming virtual membership meetings to help your special needs families know there are supports and resources out there for them. If you have not heard from me yet, you are always welcome to reach out directly at valcunningham25@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Valerie Cunningham

Special Ed Liaison, Everett Council PTSA 2020-2021

REFLECTIONS

Message from your Council Reflections Co-Chairs

The Reflections Program is still on! Join us for Reflections Training at the end of this month!

Wednesday, September 30, 2020: Reflections Training (virtual/online event)

For registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reflections-training-tickets-118857292361>

Reflections is a National PTA arts recognition program that helps students explore their own thoughts, feelings and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence, and find a love for learning that will help them become more successful not only in school, but in life. Students in pre-K through grade 12 create original works of art in response to a theme. The theme for the 2020-2021 program year is "I Matter Because..." Students submit their completed works of art in one, or all, of the available arts categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts.

While the primary focus of Reflections is a celebration of creativity through positive recognition, finalists from local PTAs will move on to their council PTA (if applicable), then finalists from councils will move on to the state round. Washington State PTA finalists who receive an "Outstanding Interpretation" award will advance to the National PTA round.

Special for 2020-2021: This year's program is a combination of online and in-person submissions. The local and state programs are currently being forwarded to the National Level will be collected at a future date. Submitters will be contacted to provide their art piece and paper entry form as they are announced. Young artists get involved by contacting their local PTA leaders. The deadline for turning in artwork to your local PTA will typically be in late autumn.

Recruit a Local PTA Reflections Chair today! Still recruiting? Contact us, your Council Co-Chairs (Vanessa Dilley and Georgina Johns) at everettreflections@gmail.com for help kickstarting your program. Also, feel free to visit [our Reflections webpage](#) for more info!

Thank you,
Georgina Johns and Vanessa Dilley
Reflections Co-Chairs, Everett Council PTSA 2020-2021



ADVOCACY

Message from your Council Advocacy Chair

Greetings!

I hope that the first week of school went well for all of you with not too many technical difficulties and that everyone is getting use to the new normal of schooling virtually.

Registration for Legislative Assembly is now open! This year's format will be done virtually and will look a little different than past years when we could gather in person to caucus and debate. At Legislative Assembly voting delegates decide what proposed issues, resolutions and principles will be approved by the membership. Some of these are submitted by members while others are submitted by the advocacy and resolution committees. This year we will be deciding a NEW legislative platform with NEW top 5 priorities that will be the focus of our legislative efforts. Registration is only \$25 compared to \$130 that we normally would have to pay so let's take advantage that we can participate for a low price from the comfort of our homes! Please visit <https://www.wastatepta.org/events-programs/legislative-assembly/general-information/> for more information. I will be highlighting some specific things about what is an issue, resolution and principle and what is caucusing in upcoming eBlasts so you have a better understanding of what Legislative Assembly is all about.

Feel free to email me (rungal20@msn.com) for any questions or thoughts that you have!

Lizzy Sebring
Advocacy Chair

SHOE FUND

Message from your Shoe Fund Chair

The Everett PTSA Council's Shoe Fund provides shoes to students in need. Working with school staff, we identify kids who need new shoes and provide a pair of shoes to elementary school students and a \$55 Famous Footwear gift card to middle school and high school students. We rely on donations from the community and our local PTAs/PTSAs to keep this program up and running. We appreciate your generous donations. If you have any questions about the Shoe Fund, please email me at everettcouncilshoefund@gmail.com. Thank you!

Abbey McGee
Shoe Fund Chair

COMMUNICATIONS

Message from your Council Communications Chair

Hi PTA Leaders!

Did you know that nearly 20% of our local PTAs do not have dedicated PTA websites, beyond social media? As part of our ongoing efforts to improve outreach for our local PTAs, the Everett PTSA Council is offering to create a dedicated webpage on our Council website for each interested local PTA that does not already have a dedicated website of its own. Each dedicated webpage would include major information such as Board Members, Calendar of Events, Membership Form, and/or social media link. If you are a current local PTA leader whose PTA does not already have its own website and you would like to learn more about this offer, please contact our Communications Chair.

Also, did you know that you can get updates from Everett PTSA Council 7.3 via online and social media platforms? Please follow us at:

Website: <http://www.everettptsacouncil.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/everettptsacouncil/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EverettPTSA>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/everettptsa/>

As always, you are welcome to contact me if you ever have any questions or concerns related to communications. Have a great 2020-2021 school year!

Best Regards,

Craig E. Willis
Communications Chair

WASHINGTON STATE PTA NEWS

How Do We Do Teacher Grants in a Pandemic?

From the [WSPTA website](#):

Grants are a key tool PTAs use to support teachers in the classroom. The question many local leaders have this year is: Can we still do teacher grants with virtual or hybrid learning?

We reached out to leaders around Washington and across the United States to see what PTAs plan on doing this year. The results fell into three large groups. The first group is taking a “wait and see” approach. This group wants to see what needs the teachers have as we start the year with virtual and hybrid models across the state. This group is also waiting to see how their Fall fundraisers work out before deciding how much money to spend on grants.

The second group of PTAs are typically the PTAs that offer to reimburse all teachers a fixed dollar amount toward classroom supplies each year. Some of these PTAs have reduced the amount this Fall and have said they will reexamine teacher needs and the budget in the Spring.

The third group of PTAs is looking outside the box. These PTAs typically have small budgets and small reserves. They are not optimistic about running a Fall fundraiser, so they are completely changing how they help teachers. Some of these PTAs are coordinating teacher wish lists on Amazon or local chain stores. Some PTAs are coordinating “teacher supply drives”, asking for families to donate specific goods that teachers will be using. Those PTA leaders will then distribute the collected supplies to the teachers as needed.

Whichever group you fall under consider reaching out to the teachers to see what they may need. Don't assume that you may know what is needed or not needed because learning is starting virtually. For example, an art teacher may need supplies to help families work virtually. Your PTA may suggest teachers pool their individual grants if there is something they all can use for a grade level or department, depending on whether they are elementary or secondary. Another idea is

talking with the administration to see if teacher grants are the way to go this year or if there is another way to help.

All PTAs need to remember that teacher/classroom grants are a budget item, and therefore need member approval to be changed. Remember that members can vote to change the budget later in the school year if the situation changes and students return to full face-to-face learning.

Guest post provided by WSPTA Membership Director Kim Kuhne and WSPTA Program Director Candy Walters

NATIONAL PTA NEWS

Increasing Family Engagement in Diverse Schools

by Heejae Lim

From the [National PTA website](#):

I know first hand what it is like to grow up as an English-language learner and saw what a difference it made to have parents who were able to connect and engage with teachers. On a very personal level I understood what we now know from decades of academic research: That family engagement is the key to greater learning outcomes.

As an adult, I have made it my life's purpose to remove the barriers to family engagement. In 2015, I founded TalkingPoints, a non-profit whose mission is to drive student success by unlocking the potential of families to fuel their children's learning, especially in under-resourced, multilingual communities. We do this through a multilingual platform that helps teachers and families communicate in 100 different languages through two-way translated messages and personalized content.

One in four US children is born to an immigrant or refugee family. Over the course of our work in partnership with teachers, schools, and districts, we have learned a lot about increasing family engagement in diverse schools. These lessons are especially critical now that so many schools have shifted to remote learning. In fact, in our most recent TalkingPoints survey, the vast majority of respondents — 73% of families and 93% of teachers — said regular communications between teachers and families were more important now than ever.

(You can download the report detailing survey findings, *Family Engagement and Covid-19 Distance Learning: Data & Insights from the Field*, [here](#).)

For the rest of the article, including tips for increasing engagement, click the following link:
<http://onevoice.pta.org/increasing-family-engagement-in-diverse-schools/>

PTA LEADER TRAININGS

Open to all Local PTA/PTSA BOD and Officers!

Training opportunities can be found on the Training webpage of our Council website: <http://www.everettsptacouncil.org/training.html>

WSPTA eLearning Options:

Check out the PTA Leaders: Training webpage for a growing list of eLearning options for all members! Options included: Nominating Committee, Effective Meetings, Secretary: More than Just Minutes, Treasurer Basics, and Bank Statement Review. [WSPTA Training webpage](#)

National PTA eLearning Options:

National PTA offers a wide variety of eLearning options for local PTA leaders and all active members. They are FREE and a great supplement to our local offerings! Go to: <https://member.pta.org/Shop/Local-Leader-eLearning-Courses>

eLearning Options in Spanish!

National PTA also offers 5 eLearning options for our Spanish-speaking leaders. Check them out at: <https://member.pta.org/Shop/eLearning-Courses-En-Espanol>



"**Our Children**" is an online magazine for parents published by the National PTA. Today's PTA is dedicated to empowering parents to make a difference in the education, health, and safety of America's children.

<https://ptaourchildren.org/>





Everett PTSA Council - CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: Jen Hirman, jhirman@gmail.com

CO-VP MEMBERSHIP: Amanda Cabana, aruddell52@gmail.com

CO-VP MEMBERSHIP: Craig Willis, greatapez@yahoo.com

TREASURER: Jonelle Radford, jonelleradford@gmail.com

SECRETARY: Stephanie Cherry, stephchaney@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTOR POSITIONS

FACE Chair (Family & Community Engagement): Beenish Iqbal, beenishadnan@yahoo.com

Advocacy Chair: Lizzy Sebring, rungal20@msn.com

Reflections Co-Chairs: Georgina Johns & Vanessa Dilley, everettreflections@gmail.com

Programs Chair: OPEN

Shoe Fund Chair: Abbey McGee, everettcouncilshoefund@gmail.com

Communications Chair: Craig Willis, greatapez@yahoo.com

Special Ed Liaison: Valerie Cunningham, valcunningham25@gmail.com

Member-At-Large, North District: Barb Lawrence, FW221@mac.com

Member-At-Large, Central District: OPEN

Member-At-Large, South District: Denise Constantineau, denise.constantineau@comcast.net

Region 7 Representative: Laura Peterson, lkpete@mac.com

AD-HOC COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Recognition/Award Celebration Co-Chairs: Heather Morrow & Kristy Mothersbaugh,
everettcouncilbanquet@gmail.com

For more information or further assistance, please refer to the Council Contact list in this eBlast and also posted on our [website](#).



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