

Message from our Region 7 Director!

The Washington State PTA Region 7 Team would like to thank you for your generous time and spirit during these beginning months of the school year. You have all been engaging families, adding members, fundraising, and all of the other things, for months. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed! There are many students and families that have felt engaged and accepted because of the work you have done. This holiday season, we want you to know that you are appreciated. We hope that you make memories as magical as those you have helped create for students in Washington State. Thank you for all you continue to do! Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

-Jessica Giffin

**National PTA Grants**

National PTA recently offered over 400 grants to local PTAs. The following Region 7 PTAs were among the winners: **Fairmount Elementary PTSA 7.5.10** and **Martha Lake Elementary PTA 7.2.80** both won two-game pack from ThinkFun Games!

National PTA recently posted the YouTube link for the STEM+Families video that was partially filmed at **Heatherwood MS** last spring when their PTA won the STEM+Families grant. Check that out here: <https://youtu.be/uVL2dLzMEKM>

Winning a grant requires filling out an application form that includes basics about your PTA and your school population, and sometimes a statement on how the grant will be used. In many cases, the application can be filled out in a few minutes. Sign up here <https://www.pta.org/home/programs/stem/STEM-Families-Grant-Opportunities> to get notification of other grant opportunities coming later this year! Maybe YOUR PTA will be listed as a winner in the Spring!

Upcoming Trainings**WSPTA Webinars:**

PTA & the Law, December 7, 9am-noon. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pta-and-the-law-webinar-tickets-49053512376>

Effective Budgets & Financial Strategies, January 9th, 7-9:30pm <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/effective-budgets-financial-strategies-webinar-tickets-49115603091>

PTA & the Law, January 19th, 8-11am, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pta-and-the-law-webinar-tickets-49053562526>

WSPTA eLearning Options:

Check out the PTA Leaders: Training webpage for a growing list of eLearning options for all members! As of 9/26/18, 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>

Membership Thermometer

goal: 12,000
total to date: 11367

The January Region Newsletter will be out the **SECOND** week of January. If you have PTA news items to share, please send them to : PTAKim.Kuhne@outlook.com

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Advocacy News– Washington

The new Top 5 Issues are: 1) Social & Emotional Learning, 2) School Construction & Simple Majority for Bonds, 3) Prevent Gun Violence, 4) Strategies to Address the Teacher Shortage, 5) Strategic K-12 Investments to Close the Gap.

For all the details on each issue in the WSPTA’s Advocacy Platform, go to: <https://www.wastatepta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/> and click on the down arrow next to each issue. You can also [sign up for action alerts](#) to receive emails about action on each of these issues. If you would like to actively work on any of these issues, including giving testimony in Olympia, please contact Nancy Chamberlain at ptalegdir@wastatepta.org

Advocacy News– National

National PTA has created a Legislative Checklist that is similar to the WSPTA Top 5 and Supported Issues Platform. It is the list of topics that the National PTA would like Congress to focus on for the sake of all children. The complete list is here: <https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/uploadedfiles/Images/2017-ppa-legislativechecklist-web>

For those members that ask, “Why join PTA?” you can refer them to this document showing PTA advocacy work over the last 120 years. <https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/uploadedfiles/Images/2017-ppa-advocacy-web>

New Member Benefits!

LEGO Bags discount is here! Members shopping at www.LEGObags.com will have a 50% discount for online purchases. Great source for LEGO themed backpacks, lunch bags, accessories, AND LEGO storage bags! Purchase will also give a discount to the LEGO parks! [LEGO flyer](#)

Nutcracker Tickets! WSPTA members get 10% off the purchase of the PNB production of “The Nutcracker” by following this link: <https://www.pnb.org/mypromo/?promo=WSPTA>

Ticket Monster Now Tickets at Work! Use your Ticket Monster log in or start a new account. Company Code for new accounts: WSPTATickets [Tickets at Work website](#) Members can use this benefit to get discounted tickets to Volta at Marymoo park. [Volta flyer](#)

NEW from Office Depot/Office Max! The WSPTA is pleased to introduce an exciting new member program through a partnership with Office Depot / Office Max. This program will provide you with substantial year-round savings on all things Office Depot, School Supplies, Office Products, Technology, Furniture, and Print. This program is open to all PTA members and their families. Check out the [flyer here!](#)

Be sure to use your card to get the best discounts. For a full list of benefits, go to : <https://www.wastatepta.org/pta-leaders/benefits-discount-codes/> and access using Every Child.

Reflections 2018-2019

Remember that Reflections entries are due in WSPTA office **BY January 18, 2019**. Arrange plenty of time if mailing entries to make sure they arrive by the 18th! Submit to WSPTA at: Washington State PTA Attn: Reflections Chair, [1304 South Fawcett Ave., #300, Tacoma, WA 98402](#).

Resources can be found <https://www.wastatepta.org/events-programs/reflections> If you are expecting a lot of entries, you might want to recruit judges now. If you have questions you can contact the WSPTA Reflections Chair Lindsey Yost at reflections@wastatepta.org or your Region 7 Chair Laura Peterson at Lkpete@mac.com. Don’t forget to join the WSPTA Reflections group on Facebook, it’s a great place to ask your questions.

Local PTAs (part of a council)	Local PTAs (not part of a council)	Councils
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your council determines your deadline You submit directly to your council Limits: Your council determines your submission limits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 18, 2019 (not a post-marked date) Submit to WSPTA at: Washington State PTA Attn: Reflections Chair, 1304 South Fawcett Ave., #300, Tacoma, WA 98402 Limits: Eight entries or 10% of the total entries received (whichever is greater) PLUS six additional special artist entries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 18, 2019 (not a post-marked date) Submit to WSPTA at: Washington State PTA Attn: Reflections Chair, 1304 South Fawcett Ave., #300, Tacoma, WA 98402 Limits: See Reflections Handbook

Winning Ideas

Each month we will highlight programs from local PTAs that have gone above and beyond to do something special for their school community. Do you have something to share? Send your story to Kim at kimkuhne@hotmail.com

Arlington PTA Council hosted guest speaker Laura Peterson from the Everett PTSA Council on Wednesday, November 28th. Laura talked about ways to make local PTAs more welcoming to special needs families.

Everett PTSA Council hosted Dr. Cynthia Jones to speak about how Everett School District assists Kids In Transition (KIT) kids that have been reported to not have "fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime residence". These kids may be "couch surfing" with friends and family, living in a motel, or sleeping in a tent or car. Once kids are classified as KIT during the current school year, they are part of the supported population until the start of summer. Each school district is federally mandated to help KIT students.

What can you do to help? What can PTA do?

- Be aware of signs of homelessness
- Volunteer at a shelter or social service agency
- Be a mentor at school
- Donate to an organization that supports students and families experiencing homelessness
- * SchoolBell, Clothes for Kids, United Way, Volunteers of America, Stuff the Bus for Kids campaigns, & shelters
- Advocate for living wage jobs, low income housing, and support for social services
- Shoe cards (Everett PTSA Shoe Fund program)
- Clothing drive, coin drive

Cascade View PTA hosted a PAWS for Reading event on November 26th. Kids (with parents) could go to the library after school and spend time reading with dogs or a cat. Bookmarks and other treats were available for the very fun event!



Lynndale PTA will be hosting the Missoula Children's Theater December 10-14th. Students will audition for roles in "Alice in Wonderland". Student will spend the week working with the theater company to produce 2 performances on Saturday, December 15th! Hopefully they will share some of the pictures from the week on their Facebook page!

Skyline Elementary PTA hosted an ice skating event at Angel of the Winds Arena on November 29th! For only \$5/person, students and family members could rent skates and enjoy the ice. Fair warning though! Their Principal almost got "eaten" by T-Rex! This event might be fun to try for PTAs that have hosted many roller skating events.



Region 7 Contact Information

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