



THE WOLVERINE TRACK

A Publication of the Wellington Elementary PTA

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It is the mission of Wellington Elementary PTA to promote the welfare of children, provide staff support, foster teacher, parent & community cooperation, and enrich student learning.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Well, it's January! We hope you had some much needed R& R this holiday season. For us, it provided a welcomed respite that allowed us to stop and take a deep breath, spend some time with our own families, and briefly look at all the PTA accomplishments that have taken place over the past 6 months. So much has happened in that short amount of time! Although being Co-President seemed overwhelming at first, the position has provided us the opportunity to understand the history of National PTA, State PTA and most importantly, Wellington PTA. It has been quite a journey and we have been delighted to learn how what we do at Wellington can affect other schools: like the implementation of programs such as Helping Hands and Dad's-n-Dirt that can be duplicated and that support the greater community. How wonderful are these programs that set an example for our children, provide ownership to the children themselves, and affect the greater good! Our PTA positions also provided us the opportunity to recommend even more enrichment classes for the students, providing a broader selection for them to explore their talents and demonstrate their strengths.

Are there areas at Wellington where you would like to make a difference? As we begin the new year, our 2012-2013 Nominating Committee has been put in place and will begin to look for the most qualified PTA leadership for next year. Being an Executive Member of the PTA is an excellent way to get to know other members of the Wellington community, affect the quality of enrichment for children, and get a deeper understanding of the education system. If you are interested in supporting PTA as a leader for the 2012-2013 school year, please contact Sandy Moellerup, slmoellerup@hotmail.com, Heather Church, chawchurch@comcast.net, or Sarah Hoagland, sarah_hoagland@comcast.net.

Wishing you a year that's full of discovery and wonder,

Michelle and Rae

PTA Co-Presidents 2011-2012

*"Our greatest natural resource is the minds of our children."
~Walt Disney*

HELPING HANDS' HOLIDAY GIVING SUMMARY

At-risk youth and homeless young people at 20 local sites affiliated with the Friends of Youth benefited from our holiday project on December 2nd. Over 80 gifts were donated and wrapped for children. One hundred snack bags were assembled to benefit teens. Forty hygiene kits were assembled for youth in emergency and transitional shelters. Various tree ornaments and holiday decorations were distributed to shelters for youth and families to make the holidays brighter. Thank you! Thanks, also, to all who have donated clothing and winter coats and gear to the Northshore clothing bank, Treads and Threads. Sandra Pell and Erica Smith have organized and delivered our donations. Keep them coming!

HELPING HANDS WISH LIST

- KID-THEMED WRAPPING PAPER
- FLEECE
- SMALL TOYS/TRINKETS
- SMALL STUFFED ANIMALS
- CLEANING SUPPLIES
- TOILET PAPER
- PAPER TOWELS
- NEW/GENTLY USED WOOD PUZZLES, LEARNING GAMES, AND DOLLS WITH CLOTHES

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HELPING HANDS SHARES SOME LOVE WITH LOCAL SENIORS

On Friday, January 6th, the Helping Hands Service Club got together to work on a service project benefitting the senior residents at the Emerald Heights Retirement Community in Redmond. The children had a great time making Valentine's cards and decorations for the dining facilities at the center. A fieldtrip is scheduled to take the place of our service project on Friday, February 3rd. All club members are invited to help deliver our Valentine's crafts and to participate in a music performance. Permission slips **MUST** be turned in for each student and parents will need to transport their child/children to and from the activity. Mark your calendars and plan to join us! Permission forms were handed out at Friday's meeting and sent home in the Monday Envelopes. Please return them to school with your student as soon as possible. This service project is a favorite among many of our club members. It is not too late to join Helping Hands! Registration forms are located outside of the Wellington office and all students are invited to join in and lend a helping hand.

Looking Ahead: February 3rd Field Trip to Emerald Heights for Valentine's delivery
 March 2nd Service Project for YWCA Family Village and Head Start Preschool

DATES TO REMEMBER - EVERY FRIDAY IS SPIRIT WEAR DAY!

January

- 4th School resumes - Welcome Back!
- 4th Science Club* K-1st grade, Tuesdays at lunch recess thru February 7th
- 5th Science Club* 2nd-6th grade, Thursdays at lunch recess thru February 11th
- 6th Art Club* 3:05 pm, Fridays
- 6th Helping Hands* 3:05 pm, in the gym
- 9th Art Club* 3:05 pm, Mondays
- 10th Engineering FUNdamentals* 3:05 pm, Tuesdays
- 11th Chess Club* 3:05 pm, Wednesdays
- 11th Choir* 3:05 pm, Wednesdays
- 12th Let's Bake!* 3:05 pm, Thursdays
- 13th Family Fun Movie Night - 6:00 pm, in the gym: Cars 2!
- 14th Dad's 'n' Dirt Big Blower Event - 1:30 pm
- 16th No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 18th Spanish Club* K-3rd, Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:00-4:00 pm
- 23rd PTSA Council General Meeting, 7:00 pm, NSD AC
- 26th Crazy Hair/Hat Day
- 27th No School - Non-Student Day



February

- 3rd Helping Hands* 3:05 pm in the gym
- 9th-17th Food Drive
- 10th Classic Books* begins
- 10th Science Fair
- 20th WSPTA Focus Day in Olympia
- 20th-24th Mid-Winter Break
- 29th PACE General Meeting



*Registration is required for these activities

YOUR 2011-2012 PTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Co-President:	Michelle Morris	mmorris.pta@gmail.com
Co-President:	Rae Shepherd	rshepherd.pta@gmail.com
VP Programs:	Kelly Vedaa	kvedaa.pta@gmail.com
VP Membership:	Meghan Whittle	meghanwhittle@hotmail.com
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Co-VP Fundraising:	Denise Cooley	gdgcool@comcast.net
Treasurer:	Amanda Lopez	ajlopez.pta@gmail.com
Secretary:	Tina Stember	tstember@gmail.com

WELLINGTON FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHT: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Ever wonder why bread dough rises? What makes oil float? How a washing machine gets almost all of the water out of your clothes? We're exploring these mysteries and more during our Lunchtime Science Club this year, and students will display their findings at the Wellington Family Science Night on Friday, February 10! Your student does not need to be a participant in Science Club to be part of this fun family event. Any student or family can enter a project, or test their engineering skills in the double-egg drop contest! Watch your Monday Envelopes for more information.

Volunteers are needed to assist with setup and cleanup as well as helping out during the event. Email Bob Geise, rgeise1208@aol.com, if you can help.

We have few items that we would love for you to help us with:

Sharpie Pens 12

Food Coloring - 17 bottles each Red, Green, Blue

Super Glue -6

Yeast Packets - 63 packets

Tweezers- 21

Measuring Cups - 10 sets

Empty Soda bottles rinsed

Masking Tape 4- 60ft Rolls

Bottled Water

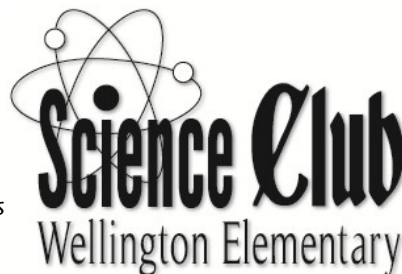
Root beer extract - 3 bottles

White glue - 3 bottles

Vegetable Oil - 8 large bottles

Measuring Spoons - 18 sets

Popsicle sticks - 145



There will be a bin in front of the office that you can put your donation in.

You can contact any of us if you have questions.

Rachel Campbell-Best – callics@gmail.com

Brenda Miner – Brenda@fourminers.com

Brigitta Suwandana – brinkids@comcast.net

COLONIAL DAY PLANNING IS UNDERWAY

Colonial Day, a fifth-grade wide event will be held on April 27th this year, and the committee has been begun planning.

Volunteers

This event depends on many volunteers. If you would like to be involved, please contact Nollie Olson, nollieolson@frontier.com, or Tina Stember, Tstember@gmail.com. We are in need a few more station leads and station helpers, but there are many other ways you can volunteer your time including, donating food or helping with station prep.

Costumes

If any sixth grade parents have costume items they would like to donate or loan to us, please contact Katie Klaveano, Katieklaveano@hotmail.com. Fifth grade parents, please start gathering costume materials.

Donations

We are still in need of the following donated items: mandarin orange cans and baby food jars with lids. Please bring your items to the donation box in Mr. Shelton's room. Thanks!

THANK YOU DIRECTORY SPONSORS!

Thank you to our Premium Sponsors for their support of the Wellington PTA Directory!

Butler & Butler

PACE at Wellington

Homebridge Builders

Roscoe's Ranch

Mike Rodgers - State Farm

Thank you!

Thank you to all the fabulous businesses for their participation in this year's Directory Sponsorship!

Butler & Butler

Elena Tselnik Piano Studio

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Homebridge Home Builders

Karlee Hansen Babysitting

Kim Hansen Mary Kay

Mike Rogers State Farm

PACE at Wellington

Personalized Health & Fitness

Phoenix Farms

Roscoe Ranch

Sarah Sweetman Photo

Savvy Reading

Sunshine Preschool

Westhill, Inc.

Woodinville Academy of Martial Arts

Woodinville Family Eye

Woodinville Pediatric Dentistry

Woodinville Whiz Kids

YMCA

"All of us have moments in our lives that test our courage. Taking children into a house with a white carpet is one of them." ~Erma Bombeck

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

CERT training is designed to prepare you to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors in the event of a catastrophic disaster. CERT is about personal preparedness and being able to assist others until help arrives.



Learn minor fire suppression, disaster first aid, urban search & rescue, disaster psychology, and much more! Classes begin at the Woodinville City Hall on January 12th. There is a \$45 fee for the Emergency Services Coordinating Agency (ESCA) CERT class. In return, participants will receive course materials and personal protective equipment (hard hat, eye protection, reflective vest, gloves, whistle and dust masks in a backpack) to keep. Call or email Jamie Gravelle, CERT Program Manager, for more information (phone: 425-776-3722; email: jamie@esca1.com).

DADS 'N' DIRT



It's time to get up all the leaves. Our Big Blower Event will be January 14th. The start time is a bit later this time - at 1:30. Bring your gas leaf blowers, rakes, and the whole family to make quick work of cleaning up our campus.

ECO BAGS? IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET MORE!

Thanks again to everyone who ordered bags as gifts, or a bag for yourself - our event was a huge success!

When you received your bags did you want more, or get so many compliments that people wanted to know where you got them??? Do you have a gift card from Mixed Bag Designs? Well, it is not too late to order! The opportunity to get more bags has been extended and 40% of your order goes to Wellington PTA.

If you are interested, the spring catalog has arrived and there are many new fun bright colors and designs!

It is easy, simply go to www.mixedbagdesigns.com and enter your order. Upon checkout type 68805 in the "School/Fundraiser ID#" field and Wellington PTA will receive 40% back from your order.

Thanks again Wellington Families! If you have any questions please contact Ronee Baldie - rcbaldie@frontier.com.

SPRING SPIRIT WEAR

It may be winter, but the Spring Spirit Wear order forms will go home in early February. Look for new items and spring fashion options. Remember, EVERY Friday is a Spirit Wear day, so put on your Wellington Elementary clothes!

CLASSIC BOOKS IS COMING SOON - SIGN UP BY JANUARY 13!

Wellington will soon be abuzz about books. Third - sixth graders, don't miss out on this opportunity to read six great books in six fun weeks during this free, PTA-sponsored program. Weekly lunchtime meetings will take place February 13-March 30. Keep an eye out for permission slips; they are due back to school by Friday, January 13. Parents, we still need more volunteers to make Classic Books happen! Please email Leah Clark (leahpclair@frontier.com) or Sandra Pell (mommypell@comcast.net) for more information. Training for co-leaders is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 19 (9-11am) or Monday, Jan. 23 (1-3pm) in the Publishing Center. Thank you!



AFTER-SCHOOL SPANISH

Elizabeth Gavidia Gosch, an experienced and enthusiastic native Spanish instructor from Peru, will be starting an after-school, total immersion program in Spanish for Kindergarten through third graders. Her program includes games, singing, dancing, writing, stories and art/coloring. Children will record their own Spanish audio CD of songs to take home at the end of the year program. A certificate of completion and all materials are included. Classes will be Mondays and Wednesdays after school from 3-4 PM starting January 18th through May 16th, 2012 (30 sessions for \$14 a class). Registration forms are available on the PTA website. The Registration deadline extended to Friday January 13, 2012. If you have any questions, contact Julie Krause (kx2@earthlink.net).



PARENT'S CORNER - 15 IDEAS FOR FAMILY FITNESS

Article courtesy of the National PTA at www.pta.org

Kids these days are spending too much time sitting still, and it's becoming a major health risk. American children 8 years old and above spend an average of 6.5 hours a day engaging with media technologies including watching TV, using the computer and playing video games. (1) *Studies have shown that the more TV kids watch, the more likely they are to be overweight.* (2)

Increasing physical activity improves cardiovascular fitness, helps prevent obesity, promotes a healthy lifestyle, boosts self-esteem and confidence, and reduces stress. You don't need to have a lot of fancy equipment or a membership at a health club—there are many ways to make your family's lifestyle more active. To overcome resistance from reluctant youngsters, it helps to make the activity fun. For example, don't just run with a young child—run like a penguin or hop like a kangaroo! Or have a destination like the park or zoo!

Here are 15 ideas for getting your family on the move:

- Take active vacations (hiking, swimming, skiing).
- At the mall or when running errands, use the stairs rather than the elevator.
- Get pedometers and have a contest to see who takes the most steps in a given week.
- Start a new tradition: take the whole family out for an after-dinner walk around the neighborhood or park.
- Take on active chores as a family (gardening, raking leaves, shoveling snow, or washing the car).
- Spend an afternoon at the local playground.
- Play a sport together (basketball, soccer, baseball, softball, touch football).
- Dance to your favorite music.
- Go for a family bike ride.
- Plant a family garden.
- Play miniature golf.
- Go to the zoo.
- Take the dog for a long walk.
- Whenever possible, walk short distances rather than using your car. When you drive, park a little farther away from the store.
- Play games that your kids love (tag, Simon Says, Red Light-Green Light, Duck-Duck Goose).



1 Kaiser Family Foundation. 2005. *Generation M: Media in the Lives of 8–18 Year Olds*. Menlo Park, CA.

2 Center for Health Improvement. 2005. *Preschoolers Increasingly Overweight: Preventing Childhood Obesity: A Prop 10 Opportunity*. Updated Policy Brief.

CHOIR - SIGN UP BY JANUARY 10TH!

Join the after-school PTA sponsored choir program led by our new Director, Kyra Settle. Ms. Settle is the director of choirs at Leota Junior High School and Woodinville High School. In addition to meeting weekly and performing at Wellington, students will have the exciting opportunity to perform in the Woodinville Pathways concert at the Northshore Performing Arts Center on March 29th! Students will develop well-rounded music skills, and experience music from a variety of cultures and musical genres, all while discovering how exciting it can be to make music and perform with your friends for others! Choir starts after school on Wednesday, January 11th for 4th through 6th grades. Registration forms can be found on the PTA website. The registration deadline has been extended to Tuesday, January 10th.



If you have any questions, please contact Julie Krause (kx2@earthlink.net)

THE LATEST FROM OUR LEGISLATURE

Faced with another \$2 billion shortfall in the budget, Governor Gregoire called a 30-day special session of the legislature which began on Nov 27th. She asked legislators to come up with a new balanced budget by the end of the session. She also proposed a budget which included huge cuts to education funding that would affect all of our children. While the legislature did not come up with a final budget, they did agree upon a series of cuts which amount to \$479 million. There will likely be a vote on this package of cuts this week.

The good news is that the proposed education cuts were not included in this first round of budgeting.

The bad news is that the education cuts are still on the table and they will be discussed in the regular session starting on January 9th.



The education cuts include:

- 1) Reduce the kindergarten-through-12th grade school year by four days - **\$99.2 million**
Shrinks the school year from 180 days to 176 days. School districts are directed to maintain 1,000 hours of instruction per year. This results in a reduction in annual salaries for school employees, by an equivalent of 2.2 percent, beginning in the 2012–13 school year.
- 2) Reduce levy equalization payments - **\$151.9 million**
Cuts equalization funds to eligible districts. Creates a four-tiered approach so districts with the lowest property values and highest local levy tax rates would receive the smallest cut. Those districts with local levy rates closest to the state wide average rate would lose program eligibility as they are better able to offset the state reduction through local tax collections.
- 3) Reduce national board certification bonuses - **\$8.6 million**
Cuts annual bonuses from \$5,000 to \$4,000 for 5,800 teachers certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, including additional bonuses for board-certified teachers working in challenging schools.
- 4) Reduce state support to colleges and universities - **\$160.1 million**
Cuts support to the six public colleges and universities, and 34 community and technical colleges in the second year of the biennium. Support is reduced by: 17 percent at the University of Washington, Washington State University, and Western Washington University; 16 percent at Eastern Washington University, Central Washington University and The Evergreen State College; and 13 percent at the community and technical colleges.
- 5) Eliminate or reduce small grants and projects - **\$8.8 million**
Terminates a number of grants and projects administered through OSPI: Promoting Actual Student Success (PASS), Readiness to Learn, Beginning Educator Support Team (BEST), principal and superintendent internships, career and technical education start-up grants, STEM Lighthouses and nonviolence training. Cuts by 20 percent: Building Bridges, Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG), LASER, Washington Reading Corps, Leadership Academy, College Readiness, Achievers Scholars, and IT Academy.

You can read about the Governor's full budget and the rest of the education cuts here:

<http://www.ofm.wa.gov/budget12/highlights/default.asp>



According to our state constitution, education is the state's PARAMOUNT duty. Neither fiscal crisis nor financial burden relieves the state of its legal duty to fund its Program of Basic Education. Please take a moment to contact your state legislators and tell them not to cut education any further. The Washington State PTA website makes it easy to find and contact your local Senator/Rep: <http://capwiz.com/wastatepta/home/>