



# THE WOLVERINE TRACK

A Publication of the Wellington Elementary PTA

SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

VOLUME 34, ISSUE 1

*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

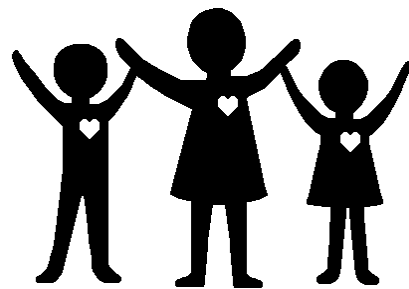
Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year!

For all those families who are new to Wellington, we offer a warm welcome into our community and hope that you will find friendships that last a lifetime, the support you need and academic excellence you desire. Wellington PTA offers many opportunities to enrich your child's life through a wide variety of programs. Your child's imagination might be ignited by our after school art classes, chess club, science club or perhaps our theater program. Look inside this issue to see a highlight of the various programs available. We welcome new ideas and encourage you to join us. The best way to learn about Wellington is to be involved and we have ample opportunities for involvement.

To all our returning families, we are glad to see familiar faces and marvel at how the children have grown over the summer! We have introduced a new program or two this year. Look for more information on Lego Club and an after school cooking class.

There are so many exciting things happening this year, it's hard to list them all. Go to [www.wellingtonpta.org](http://www.wellingtonpta.org) to read the latest information on what's happening at Wellington.

Are you prepared for the new school year? The Northshore School District website ([www.nsd.org](http://www.nsd.org)) has great information on [Preparing for the 2011-12 School Year](#). Subscribe to Northshore Connections e-newsletter find out about additional events such as events, sports, or district happenings occurring in our area. Are you concerned with Child Safety? Go to [www.pta.org/topic\\_child\\_safety.asp](http://www.pta.org/topic_child_safety.asp) to learn more.



We are very fortunate at Wellington to have such a strong PTA. Did you know PTA membership is key to giving a voice in advocating for our children and their education? Not only is PTA a great way to get connected to your school but it allows you to meet other parents and support enrichment programs that benefit our children. Our goal is 100% participation. Members can be grandparents, aunts, uncles and even organizations or businesses. ***The more people who join and participate in PTA, the stronger our voice becomes.*** Your membership, your voice, is very important. Advocacy is defined by Wikipedia as "a political process by an individual or group which normally aims to influence public-policy and resource allocation decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions." Our voice, PTA's voice, is speaking out to influence public policy for our children and their education.

Does joining PTA mean you have to volunteer? No, it doesn't. We would love to have you volunteer but realize not everyone is able to make that commitment. If you are able to volunteer, we have a variety of opportunities for you whether you have a little time or a lot, small children or time constraints, we can use your talents. Check out our open positions to see what meets your needs or contact us, there are usually upcoming events that need your help (see our website [www.wellingtonpta.org](http://www.wellingtonpta.org)). Regardless, we invite you to join PTA and encourage you to invite those around you, your parents, neighbors or the folks you do business with, to join us, too.

*Rae and Michelle*  
PTA Presidents 2011-2012

WWW.WELLINGTONPTA.ORG



Bill Bagnall, Principal  
Rae Shepherd and Michelle Morris, Presidents  
Cyndi Kellison, Newsletter Chair, [ckellison.pta@gmail.com](mailto:ckellison.pta@gmail.com)  
16501 NE 195th St., Woodinville, WA 98072  
425-408-5900

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

### September 10th - Dads & Dirt

9 am-noon

Campus clean-up. Everyone is welcome!!

### September 15th - Picture Day

8 am-noon and 1 pm -3pm

Help the photographer by organizing students and assisting children with clothes and hair.

Contact Rae Shepherd (rshepherd.pta@gmail.com) or Michelle Morris (mmorris.pta@gmail.com), if interested.

### September 16th - Kick Off /Ice Cream Social

3:30-8:30

Assist with set-up (3:30pm), raffle ticket sales (shifts during event), and cleanup (8:30 pm).

Contact Michelle or Rae, if interested.

### September 29th - Health Screening

8:45-2:15 (possibly split into 2 separate shifts)

Assist with crowd control, recording or results, and screening.

Contact Nurse Jenny if interested (425) 408-5906.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept. 2nd	Helping Hands Service Club*
Sept. 10th	Dads & Dirt
Sept. 15th	Volunteer and student photo day
Sept. 16th	Kick Off /Ice Cream Social
Sept. 19th	Art Club* begins
Sept. 20th	Lego Club* begins
Sept. 21st	Chess Club* begins
Sept. 29th	Health Screening
Oct. 3rd-19th	Mixed Bag Designs Sale
Oct. 7th	Popcorn Friday
Oct. 7th	Helping Hands Service Club*
Oct. 12th	Choir* begins
Oct. 25th	PTA General Meeting - Wellington Library



\*Registration is required for these programs

## THANK YOU SUMMER VOLUNTEERS!!

Thank you to all the awesome volunteers that showed up this summer to take an inventory of all the classroom emergency supplies. Your help and support is truly appreciated! Many thanks to Kelly Vedaa, Stacy Meyer, Michelle Morris, Kim Hansen, Ronee Baldie, and Mimi & Kinsale Sproule.

## CALLING ALL ART DOCENTS



Please be sure to sign up on Curriculum Night to return as, or to become, an Art Docent for your child's classroom. For those parents that are new to Wellington, it is a wonderful program that enables you to engage with your child's class once a month. With these classes we expand our children's ability to form impressions of their visual world. We familiarize them with artists in history, and we provide the tools that children can apply to their own creative endeavors. We work with clay, acrylics, chalks, watercolors, etc. This is a hands on, fun experience for the Docent and the class. There is **NO ART EXPERIENCE NEEDED**. We provide full training and support throughout the year, and most importantly the kids LOVE these classes.

## FALL KICK-OFF & ICE CREAM SOCIAL!



Friday, September 16th

6:30pm-8:30pm

In the Wellington Gym!

See our Principal, teachers, and staff! Enjoy ice cream!  
Purchase raffle tickets for awesome prizes! Socialize with other Wellington families!

Learn about PTA programs and have fun!!!!

Volunteers are needed to make this event a success! Please lend your support.

Please contact Michelle (mmorris.pta@gmail.com) or Rae (rshepherd.pta@gmail.com), if interested.

## WELLINGTON PTA IS YOUR PTA!

Welcome Back Families! As the new school year begins, we invite all parents & grandparents to show their support and join Wellington Elementary's PTA. PTA is the largest network of parents in the nation. Being a member of the PTA gives parents a strong voice in advocating for the needs of children in their schools and communities. With shrinking budgets, resulting in less funding for our schools, your PTA membership provides a strong presence for children at the WA state legislature. Help us achieve 100% participation and reach our goal of making every child's potential a reality. Make membership a priority. Fees for individual membership are just \$15 per year, or choose the 2 person membership for \$20. Join PTA and support the kids of Wellington Elementary!



## MATCHING FUNDS?

Does your employer have a Matching Funds program? Matching programs are a great opportunity to maximize the dollars you donate at Wellington! Participating employers match tax-deductible donations and sometimes even volunteer hours! Your employer usually will double or even triple the amount you've donated. These types of programs provide a significant amount of yearly income for the Wellington PTA. Check with your place of employment (usually through Human Resources) to see what they currently offer. Here's a list of companies that have matched funds in the past:

AT&T Wireless	Boeing (retiree donations as well!)	Citrix System Inc.
Expedia	Gates Foundation	IBM Corporation
RealNetworks Inc.	Microsoft (volunteer hours and tax deductible dollars)	Starbucks

If your employer offers matching funds, but don't see them listed above, please let us know and we'll get the word out!

## ADVOCACY - A PARENT'S GUIDE TO STUDENT SUCCESSES

The Washington State PTA was founded in 1905. The Washington State Parent Teacher Association is the largest volunteer organization in the state, with more than 140,000 members in more than 900 local units. WSPTA's mission is to be a powerful voice for children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and to advocate for the education and well-being of every child. Don't miss the opportunity to check out the Parent's Guide to Student Success on their website at <http://www.pta.org/4446.htm>. By participating in Wellington Elementary's PTA your membership helps keep the Parent Teacher Association strong at the school level, the district level, and the state level and provides an avenue for teachers, parents, and students to voice their opinions and keep education in the forefront of legislators minds.

## NEW TO WELLINGTON OR WOODINVILLE?

Join the Wellington Networking Program.

When do I sign my child up for baseball? Where is a good place to take ballet lessons? What can we expect at the Wellington Kick-Off? If you are new to the area or new to Wellington, it's hard to know where to go for answers. Wouldn't it be great if you had someone to ask? This program connects new families with established Wellington families in the same grade.



If you are interested in joining this program, please contact Ronee Baldie at [rcaldie@frontier.com](mailto:rcaldie@frontier.com).

## PTA PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

We are excited to once again be offering after school art classes for students K-6th grade this year at Wellington. Art for Kids School is an established after school multi-media fine art program with a history of teaching fine art to children for over 26 years in 10 school districts throughout our state. Degreed, professional artist and instructor **Jesse Peil** is returning for his 5th year at Wellington.

Weekly classes are open to new and returning students; projects are not repeated. Students are given the opportunity to explore their creativity through a variety of materials including: pen & ink, watercolors, acrylics, pastels, clay, and plaster. Classes take place after school on Mondays in room 16 from 3:15-4:15 (ages 5-8) and 4:30-5:30 (ages 9-12).

Fall Semester begins September 19th and continues through December 12, 2011. Registration is available **online only**. For more information or to register, please visit [www.artforkidsschool.com](http://www.artforkidsschool.com) or (206)412-8816.

Registration ends September 17th, 2011. Classes are small and tend to fill quickly.

**\*A PTA parent is present at each class to sign students in and out. For questions or to help, please contact Kelly Vedaa at [kvedaa.pta@gmail.com](mailto:kvedaa.pta@gmail.com)**

*(A limited number of scholarships are available, please call the above numbers for more info.)*

**Nourish your child's self-esteem and creativity through Art!**

## GIFT BASKET DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE KICK-OFF!

Wellington PTA's Fall Kick-Off and Ice Cream Social event this year will include the ever popular gift basket raffle! This is a great fundraiser for PTA and lots of fun for kids and adults alike. Join in the fun of putting together a gift basket donated by your family, or join with other families to create a joint basket and help raise funds for PTA.

**What do you need to do?**

- **Pick** a theme and design your basket around it, such as Movie Night, Sports, Kids Art, Gift Cards, Spa Day, Gourmet, etc. (Please note: We are unable to accommodate wine bottles in baskets – a coupon or gift certificate for the wine would work as an alternative).
- **Place** your items in a basket or a decorated low sided box.
- **Wrap** your gift basket in clear cellophane to secure your items.
- **Attach** a donation form (available in the school office or on the flyer sent home with your child).
- **Bring** your basket to the school office by **Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>** and come to Kick-Off on September 16<sup>th</sup> (starting at 6:30 pm) and check out all the great baskets.

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Ritter at [dj.ritter@frontier.com](mailto:dj.ritter@frontier.com).

Thanks for your support!



## SPIRIT WEAR

Get a jump start on your fall or holiday shopping with Wellington Elementary Spirit Wear!

Purchasing Spirit Wear offers students, parents and faculty the chance to show your pride in being part of the vibrant Wellington community. You'll find high quality, durable merchandise for the entire family. Sizes and samples will be available to try on at the Kick-Off event, Friday September 16th. Orders may be placed at this time as well (cash/checks only). Remember, every Friday is Wellington Spirit Day so be sure to stock up!

## POPCORN FRIDAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Every child loves the smell of freshly popped popcorn and we will continue the tradition of bringing that joy to Wellington students on the first Friday of every month during the school season. Just after lunch, PTA will be popping and serving movie-style popcorn to everyone during recess, rain or shine! Please come to the Ice Cream Social on September 16th to learn more about volunteering and/or supporting this committee.

## PARENT CORNER - GOOD PARENT/TEACHER RELATIONSHIPS

Article courtesy of: *The Child Advocate*, May 2011, [www.PTA.org](http://www.PTA.org)

Jay Maebori, Washington State Teacher of the Year, discussed things that help form good parent/teacher partnerships. Following are the things Maebori identified that teachers appreciate:

**“Have faith in us.”** He encouraged parents to start off the new school year believing in the abilities of their children’s teachers.

**“Communicate with us.”** Maebori encouraged parents to communicate with their children’s teachers at every opportunity. Tell your child’s teacher if you are going on a family trip, or dealing with something at home that would affect the child in the classroom.

**“Hold kids accountable at home.”** He urged parents not to make excuses for their children, but to have high expectations of them.

**“Write to your child’s teacher once a month.”** Teachers like to get thank you notes or emails from parents of things they appreciate that the teacher did for their child. A simple note is incredibly meaningful.



Following are some things Maebori said that parents should expect from teachers:  
A teacher should communicate with parents.

- A teacher should explain the purpose for what the students are doing.
- A teacher should use class time wisely. Teachers need to see time as a commodity and use that time to make sure your children have more knowledge and skills than they did when they walked in the classroom door.
- A teacher should never give up on children, regardless of how they act, whether they don’t turn in their homework, or even when they disappoint the teacher. Not only should a teacher never give up on children, a teacher should never let children feel like he or she has given up on them.

## REFLECTIONS UPDATE

Reflections is a program open to **all** students at Wellington Elementary. Entries will be submitted under the following age divisions: Primary (grades K-2), Intermediate (grades 3-5), and Middle/Junior (grades 6-8). If you have any questions, please contact Wendi Carter at [wendicarter@me.com](mailto:wendicarter@me.com).



## COLLECTIONS FOR THREADS AND TREADS



The first Friday of every month is collection day for Threads and Treads. **Helping Hands** is working to support the **Threads and Treads Clothing Bank Program** for Northshore students and their families. New & used children’s clothing, as well as, new underwear and socks are needed. You can contribute throughout the year by bringing your donation items on the first Friday of every month to a bin by the gym during the Helping Hands meeting after school. If you have any questions, please contact Sandra Pell at [mommypell@comcast.net](mailto:mommypell@comcast.net).

## CLASSIC BOOK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR GRADES 3-6

When you attend Curriculum Night, consider signing up to co-lead a Classic Book group. The six-week program is open to all 3rd - 6th graders. Weekly meetings will take place during lunch recess from February 13 - March 30. No experience is necessary; training will be provided! Volunteers are also needed to write short book summaries. For more information, please email Leah Clark ([leahpclark@frontier.com](mailto:leahpclark@frontier.com)) or Sandra Pell ([mommypell@comcast.net](mailto:mommypell@comcast.net)).

## ENGINEERING FUNDAMENTALS WITH LEGOS!

Does your child like to build things? Are you interested in a new after-school class?



Students take on real-life engineering challenges that explore concepts in physics, architectural, mechanical and structural engineering with over 100,000 LEGO components. Design and build motorized machines, catapults, pyramids, demolition derby cars, buildings and other constructions. This is a hands-on and minds-on program suitable for LEGO novices to LEGO maniacs!

Play-Well TEKologies instructors strive to build problem-solving skills, provide an opportunity for creative expression, foster a greater appreciation of how things work, and encourage the qualities of inquisitiveness, self-reliance, and self-confidence in children.

Open to girls and boys grades 2-5

Tuesdays, Sept. 20th-Nov. 29th, 2011 - class time 3:15pm-4:45pm, room 16

Class size is limited and all materials are provided.

Registration ends Sept. 13th, 2011

For more information about Play-Well TEKologies or to register online, please visit [www.play-well.org](http://www.play-well.org)

Parent volunteers needed to supervise student check-in/out every class!

*Please contact Kelly Vedaa at [kvedaa.pta@gmail.com](mailto:kvedaa.pta@gmail.com) to volunteer, thank you!!!*

## EMERGENCY PREP THANKS!

Have you spotted the BIGGEST NEW addition to our campus? We are EXCITED to share that Wellington was one of four schools selected to receive a NEW container to house our emergency supplies.

In preparation for the removal of the old container and delivery of the new container, a team of parents and students spent a hot August afternoon moving all of Wellington's emergency preparedness supplies into a temporary holding trailer. **HUGE THANKS** to Virginia, Camdyn, & Kaelas Munger, Kristie, Matthew, & Alexander Serra, Kaila, Karlee, & Kohl Hansen, Marion Mays, Brigitta Suwandana, Rae Shepherd, Kelly Vedaa, Cat Gustafson, Dawn Harris, Patrice Welch, and Stacy Meyer.

Once the new container was delivered, another awesome team of volunteers helped to move the emergency supplies into their new home. **BIG THANKS** to Kristie, Mathew, & Alexander Serra, Patrice & Cole Welch, Dawn Harris, Grace Johnson, Tina Stember, Kelly Vedaa, and Stacy Meyer.

**Special thanks** to Craig Phillips, Vinesh Gounder, & Amos Grayson for helping move the very heavy canopies and water barrels.

Being prepared for an emergency is important! The PTA E-Prep team will continue to work closely with Wellington staff to assure that the necessary supplies and systems are in place should an emergency occur.

Of course, we hope that all of our preparation is never needed; however, it is GREAT to know that should we experience an emergency, our community will be ready. If you are interested in helping with these efforts, please contact the PTA Emergency Prep Co-chairs: Stacy Meyer [smeyer.pta@gmail.com](mailto:smeyer.pta@gmail.com) or Patrice Welch [dpkwelch@msn.com](mailto:dpkwelch@msn.com) for more information, or to volunteer.

THANKS AGAIN TO ALL THE SUMMER VOLUNTEERS!

## YOUR 2011-2012 PTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Co-President:	Michelle Morris	<a href="mailto:mmorris.pta@gmail.com">mmorris.pta@gmail.com</a>
Co-President:	Rae Shepherd	<a href="mailto:rshepherd.pta@gmail.com">rshepherd.pta@gmail.com</a>
VP Programs:	Kelly Vedaa	<a href="mailto:kvedaa.pta@gmail.com">kvedaa.pta@gmail.com</a>
VP Membership:	Meghan Whittle	<a href="mailto:meghanwhittle@hotmail.com">meghanwhittle@hotmail.com</a>
Co-VP Fundraising:	Ronee Baldie	<a href="mailto:rcbaldie@verizon.net">rcbaldie@verizon.net</a>
Co-VP Fundraising:	Denise Cooley	<a href="mailto:gdccool@comcast.net">gdccool@comcast.net</a>
Treasurer:	Amanda Lopez	<a href="mailto:ajlopez.pta@gmail.com">ajlopez.pta@gmail.com</a>
Secretary:	Tina Stember	<a href="mailto:tstember@gmail.com">tstember@gmail.com</a>

# PTA Needs YOU!

Committee Chairs are needed to assure the below programs continue in 2011-12.

Help keep an enriched community by Volunteering TODAY!

## OPEN Standing Committees - Chairs are members of Wellington's PTA Board of Directors

**Bulletin Board\*** - Keep PTA bulletin board updated with PTA events, membership, advocacy, and community happenings.

**Historian/Notebook\*++** - Assist PTA board by keeping a notebook of all pertinent information.

**Parent Support/Enrichment\*++** - Coordinate guest speakers, presentations or workshops for parents throughout the year.

**Historian/Photographer\*** - Document PTA events and photograph programs/events. May coordinate with Bulletin Board Chair.

## OPEN AdHoc Committees - Chairs report to BOD, but are not required to attend meetings

**Food Drive \*** - Coordinate and oversee annual Food Drive in Spring.

**Volunteer Coordinator\*++** - Collect and maintain volunteer survey and a list of volunteers. Distributes list to other Committee chairs & works with school staff providing volunteers for Picture Day and Health Screening Day.



\* works well for parent(s) with small children still at home ++ works well for working parent(s).

**Committee Chairs:** person/persons who coordinate each program. Chairs often facilitate promotion, volunteer organization and/or training, are responsible for supply collection and distribution, student registration, as well as program assessment. Each chair is provided information outlining past practices as a guide, and allowed the freedom to influence change & growth to each program.

Please Contact us with questions or to volunteer:  
 Michelle Morris [mmorris.pta@gmail.com](mailto:mmorris.pta@gmail.com) or Rae Shepherd [rshepherd.pta@gmail.com](mailto:rshepherd.pta@gmail.com)