

CURRENTS

Newsletter of the Lake Washington
PTSA Council 2.8
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www.lwsd.org/ptsa

March 2007 Volume 27 Issue 4

15,213
Members

Council Co-Presidents
Barbara Martin
&
Michallea Schuelke

A Message from the Co-Presidents

This year's Washington State PTA-sponsored Focus Day in Olympia was quite a vocal event. State Legislators were in awe of our turn out, and they were all ears regarding our educational issues. Great discussions transpired throughout the day with many local and state legislators. For those in attendance, we thank you for carrying your communities' voices forward.

We are truly fortunate to live in an exceptionally caring PTSA community here in Lake Washington. Around this time each year PTA's begin to form an awards committee. Your Washington State PTA has several awards to choose from, or your school can develop a special school or PTA award. The following WA State awards can be given out anytime during the year. Do plan ahead if offering state awards, the turn-a-round timeline can be around two weeks.

•Golden Acorn •Outstanding Advocate •Outstanding Educator •Outstanding Service •Honorary Lifetime Member Award

For more information regarding awards and applications, go to; www.wastatepta.org, highlight "Programs", and then click on awards. You will find all of the forms noted in this message. If you have any questions regarding awards, feel free to contact anyone on the LWPTSA Council for support.

Here is the latest PTA calendar of events:

•Emergency Prep Meeting 3-5-07 •Region 2 Spring Conference 3-10-07 •LWSF annual luncheon 3-27-07 •Voting Delegate Info is due 3-30-07

In closing, we would like to wish all of your Nomination Committees all the best, in working through the important process in selecting the best nominees for your membership. Remember, PTSA elections must take place before April 30, 2007.

Each local unit should plan on holding a General Membership meeting before this date.

Best regards to all,

Barbara & Michallea

From the Editor

Articles for the next issue of Currents can be sent via email to donna_blinn@comcast.net or contact me at 425-869-7701.

**The deadline for the April issue has been
EXTENDED to Thursday, March 8th.**

If you have a change of address, are receiving more than one copy, or need to add a recipient, please contact Wendy Gildersleeve at sleeve5@comcast.net.

Thank you!
Donna Blinn, Editor
donna_blinn@comcast.net

LWSD receives grant funds from local units throughout the school year
January's Grant Total \$ 39,426
Grant Total To Date \$ 312,319

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LWPTSA Council
Co-Presidents
Say
"Thank You!"

Thanks to Michelle Lustgarten for bringing the "Visual Thinking Strategies" program to our district.

We want to thank our special guests, award winners, Reflection participants & their parents, teachers, secretaries, and administrators for joining us at this year's Founders' Day luncheon. The luncheon was such a memorable event we won't soon forget, and we were honored to have shared this time with all of you.

Our Founders' Day Luncheon was a huge success due to all the behind the scenes teamwork by many of our Council volunteers. We are so grateful to have the following volunteers time and talents:

Judy Klein and Wendy Gildersleeve (Co-Chairs of Founders' Day Luncheon), Victoria Findley and Joyce Kato (Co-Chairs of Awards), Michelle Lustgarten (Reflections Chair), Melinda Wilson for the lovely invitations, Kathy Dennis for her work on the program, and Carol Cowherd and Amy Weisner for all the beautiful table decorations. Last but not least, special thanks go out to our Council Board members for their assistance as well.

Thank you, as always, to our wonderful Council Treasurer, Wendy DeLong, for spending an evening teaching the basics of planning budget!

Working For You

PTSA Council leaders are always on the move, representing the interests of all local units. Recently they've worked on and/or attended the following events:

- Focus Day 2007 in Olympia
- Voiced our top 5 Washington State PTA legislative issues in Olympia
- LW School Board meetings
- Annual Founder's Day Luncheon
- Presented Nominations Committee workshops
- Presented Budget Planning workshop

Treasurer's Report January 2007

Financial Activity

Beginning Balance \$ 34,955.06

Ending Balance \$ 36,631.59

Scholarship Accounts

Beginning Balance \$ 21,181.04

Ending Balance \$ 21,978.75

Fantastic Participation In Focus Day 2007

A huge THANK YOU goes to the dedicated PTA members who took a day to travel to Olympia to contribute to WSPTA Focus Day. There were 24 LWPTSA members plus 15 RHS students who took advantage of our Council's offer of a free bus ride along with Bellevue Council members, and countless other intrepid individuals who braved the traffic themselves to join PTA members from around the state to advocate for children.

Our legislators addressed WSPTA's Top 5 Issues, to varying degrees of success. A few observations follow. The #1 issue, K-12 Ed Funding, is clearly going to be a protracted and incremental endeavor. Our overall goal, the redefinition and full funding of basic ed, will likely take years of unrelenting attention by membership and our alliances to eventually be realized to some degree in practice. Simple Majority for levies only will likely pass through the Senate to go to a vote before the people, but is not yet assured – SM for bonds is unlikely for years. The Math & Science issue will likely see some substantial legislative attention this session. Class-Size reduction will be meaningfully addressed in the highest merit areas of the state, though our District is not likely to see any near-term benefit. Recess is not likely to see much additional legislative attention beyond what is already in law, though local school boards may be revisiting the topic.

We each made important contacts with our legislators which we will want to keep up even after the session is over. We really must keep them informed as to our positions as they continue their work. WE are the experts when it comes to how the laws they enact affect our kids, our schools, and our communities.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Now that the legislative session is in full swing, we need to insure we continue to **communicate to our legislators**. The pace is so fast in the session and we all have to stay on our toes. Thanks to the WSPTA *Grassroots Connection* newsletter and *Action Alert* emails we are able to stay informed and let our experienced voices be heard.

Alas, the work of the child advocate is never done. While we will soon be in the less busy phase of the legislative year, there is still a big goal to fulfill -- **ensure your school has a Leg. Chair elected for next year** (the sooner the better – spring is the time!). First, find out if your legislative chair is returning next year. If so, they deserve a big pat on the back and a heartfelt thank-you! If not, do what you need to do to get one elected or appointed as soon as possible. If you need help recruiting, let us know and we will be happy to help. **In your LC Handbook are several docs that will help you explain the role and recruit**, or we can email the info to you. We can come speak at a general meeting or work one-on-one to answer questions. If we can help your BOD have an LC in place before the next school year, your community can start the year better informed and prepared, and well represented to go to WSPTA Leg. Assembly in October.

The Legislative Chair helps guide your unit with one of the core missions of PTA: **To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.**

Thank you for all you do in PTA advocacy leadership.

Shelley Kloba
shelley@kloba.com

Byron Shutz
bcshutz@comcast.net

LWPTSA Council Scholarship Program — *Carolyn Vaché, Scholarship Chair*

Scholarship Applications due Friday, March 9, 2007!

Thanks to the generosity of our local PTSA units and the continued success of our Scholarship Basket Auction, the LWPTSA Council will award \$1,000 scholarships to six graduating seniors – one from each of our district high schools, including B.E.S.T. and the International Community School. Also available are two \$1,000 at-large scholarships to be awarded at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee. Scholarships in the amount of \$500 are also available to certificated teaching staff for their continuing education.

Three additional scholarships will be awarded. The Dr. L.E. Scarr Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000, will be awarded to a student going on to a vocational school or junior college, a \$1,000 Dr. Karen Bates/LWEA Scholarship will be awarded to a student going on in the field of education and the \$1,000 Adria Klein Memorial Scholarship. The purpose of these scholarships is to assist the recipients in continuing their education and to provide recognition of overall achievement and community service.

Student scholarship applications are now available in the Career Centers or counseling offices at each high school. Staff scholarship applications are available at each school through your LWEA Building rep and in the LWEA Office. They can also be accessed through the LWPTSA Council website at www.lwsd.org/ptsa

Completed applications must be postmarked by Friday, March 9, 2007. Award recipients will be notified in early May 2007. Scholarships will be awarded during the Academic Award/Scholarship Programs at each high school and at the LWSF Board meeting in June.

For more information, please contact LWPTSA Council Scholarship chair Carolyn Vaché via email at dva-che@verizon.net or by phone (425) 869-1013.

LWSF — LW Schools Foundation — *Tracy Hoiem, President*

Annual Luncheon: A Legacy for Learning



Please join in supporting the Lake Washington Schools Foundation (LWSF) at their second annual luncheon on **March 27th** at the Juanita High School field house.

Email your RSVP to luncheon@lwsf.org or by calling 425-868-5104.

If you are interested in becoming a table captain and inviting nine guests to join you, we would welcome your support.

www.lwsf.org

LWPTSA Special Needs Group — *Beth Angelo*

Enhancing Knowledge of Special Needs Issues

The PTSA Special Needs Group holds monthly meetings that provide a chance to hear from speakers, learn about resources in the community, network with other parents and keep updated on district and PTSA issues affecting children with special needs and /or whose children receive any special services such as Section 504, remedial help, and English Language Learners. These meetings are open to anyone in the district that wishes to attend.

The goals for our group are:

- Parent Education
 - * Updates on district happenings in Special Services
 - * Information on parent advocacy
- Parent Networking
- Communication with the Parent Advisory Committee
- Enhancing collaboration with staff

For questions and/or to be added to the PTSA Special Needs email list, please contact Beth Angelo at 4bangelo3@verizon.net.

Meetings are the fourth Tuesday of every school month except December and June from 7:00 to 8:30 p. m. at the Lake Washington Resource Center.

- **March 27th:** Annika Pollock from the Dussault Law firm. She specializes in Spec Ed law, advocacy, estate planning and guardianships.
- **April 24th:** District info about the new "Promotions" transition plan and Cassie Martin from the U WA on "Accessing the General Ed Curriculum"
- **May 22nd:** End-of-the-Year Dessert Potluck Celebration! Families and Special Ed Staff welcome to attend. See a preview of the meeting plans for next school year! Network with other families! Eat lots of goodies! Come with your whole family and join the fun!

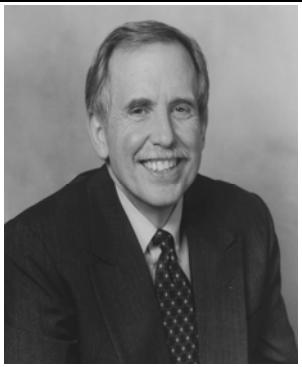
These meetings are a great time to hear info, ask questions and network with other parents.

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The Lake Washington School Board Wants To Hear From You!

Nancy Bernard	820-2007	nbernard@lwsd.org
Doug Eglington	868-7218	eglington45@msn.com
Robert Hughes	828-6340	bhughes@toysrbob.com
Jackie Pendergrass	821-1157	jpendergrass@lwsd.org
Ravi Shahani	558-0789	rshahani@lwsd.org

The Snow Day Blues



Dr. Don Saul, Superintendent

For many years, the Lake Washington School District built snow days into the calendar. For many years, it didn't snow at all, or at least it didn't snow enough to close schools except on rare occasions. So the district regularly held school on more days than the state required, even though the state only provided funding for the minimum number of

days. And that was fine when school funding was a little more generous.

The last time the school calendar was negotiated with the Lake Washington Education Association, those extra snow days didn't make sense. With budgets getting ever tighter, the District just couldn't afford to pay for extra days in class. Therefore, the calendar was developed without any built-in snow days, figuring that an extra day or two could just be added on to the end.

Fast forward to this winter. It has been tough. The weather patterns just happened to make not just snow, but thick, wet snow that froze into ice, making hills impassable. Moreover, it did not happen just once, it happened twice. Add into that a windstorm of epic proportions, and you've got a terrible winter for school.

Trying to figure out what to do with this situation was not at all easy. Fortunately, the state will allow us a waiver for the one day associated with the windstorm, and fortunately, we already had the holiday vacation beginning after that one day off. That gave our facilities staff two weeks to get all systems up and running again. However, the extra five days schools were closed are still an issue.

There really was not an easy answer. We discussed possibilities with the associations representing the various staff groups. Using spring break was not feasible: we believe that more parents and staff have plans for the full week of vacation than for the shorter mid-winter break. Saturdays were not considered: many if not most students and staff have scheduled activities on weekends. Moreover, adding hours to our early release Wednesdays would help meet the state's minimum hour requirement but not the minimum day requirement.

Since the teacher's contract calls for simply adding days to the end of the school year, that was an obvious option. In fact, after the two November snow days, the district had already decided to extend the school year to June 22. But that left three more days to account for. One mid-winter break day, February 19, is the Presidents' Day national holiday, so it did not make sense to have school that day. The other two mid-winter break days and the March 2 LEAP day seemed like a good plan.

The parent survey, though, provided some very interesting data. Certainly, parents and staff both preferred the alternative plan. However, about one third of the respondents said their students wouldn't be in school on February 20 and 21 and June 26 and 27, no matter which plan they preferred. If we held school on the two February days, up to one third of students would not attend, and the staff survey told us we would have a higher level of substitutes. That's if we could get the substitutes, knowing that many other school districts in the area are in the same boat. In fact, Snoqualmie Valley School District just reversed its decision to cancel mid-winter break because they can't find the substitutes to cover for the staff members who won't be able to be in school.

We knew parents didn't want to go into the last week in June, as reflected in their preference for the alternate plan. Yet we didn't want to hold school if the quality of the instruction wasn't going to make the day worthwhile. And with a third of their students out, we couldn't expect that teachers would move forward with full lessons they'd have to repeat when those students returned.

Hence, a compromise plan was born. And like any compromise, it's not perfect. It does go into the last week in June, though only by one half day and on the day that week when the most students are expected to attend. It doesn't use the mid-winter break days for students though teachers will use the last of those days to do training and planning activities. There will be some students who won't be able to attend school on one or more of the days involved in this plan. But the impact of this compromise plan seemed to be the smallest of all the possibilities.

I really appreciate the work the PTSA did to help us get the word out to parents. The response from parents shaped our plans and in fact convinced us that neither of the original plans would work. Now we just have to get through February and March without any more snow days.



WERE YOU PREPARED?!?

Even though we're soon into spring, we may have another good windstorm in our future. And, if not before spring and summer certainly next fall! This is the time to think about how you did in the last one and restock, stock up, and add to your emergency supplies. The stores are finally restocked themselves.

So, how did you do?

- **Shelter** – Your house was probably good, although cold, unless you had a tree in your roof. Did you use your fireplace? If it was wood burning, did you have wood ready to go—enough for three to five days? OR did you have a generator?
- **Generator** – If you have one, do you know how to use it properly and safely? Remember to connect lights and appliances directly to the generator and not the electrical system. **DO NOT KEEP IT IN THE GARAGE** or any enclosed area it is not meant to be kept. Remember the tragic deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning due to improper generator usage.
- **Food/Water** – Did you have enough canned or packaged food and a way to heat up meals with a camping stove if you don't have gas appliances? Were you safety conscious in regards to carbon monoxide prevention and food safety? Did you move frozen goods to your big freezer in hopes of being able to save some foods if the power was to be out longer than a few hours? Water probably wasn't a problem if you were in your house, but what if you weren't—do you have extra stored somewhere? Did you think about freezing temperatures and keep your faucets dripping if your house temperature wasn't above freezing? Did you turn off and protect your outside faucets? What if your toilets didn't work—did you have a sanitation bucket and wag bags?
- **Communication** – Since your TV and computer didn't work, did you have a battery or wind-up radio to see if school was canceled on that Friday? Did you have phone service, and was your cell phone charged for needed phone calls? Did you have a way to charge it in the car if you needed to?
- **Lighting** – Did you have enough flashlights, batteries, light sticks, lanterns (battery operated are safer), and candles (used safely)? Remember to replace used batteries and light sticks for the next event soon!
- **Gas in your Car** – Did you have at least a half-full tank of gas? Remember to always keep it above half full. . . just in case.
- **Clothing** – You probably had enough clothes in your home to keep you warm. . . but did you have extra, warm clothes in your car for everyone in your family in case you were forced to evacuate? It's also a good idea to keep hand warmers “on hand” in your car.
- **Elderly Family Members and Neighbors** - the cold weather is extremely difficult on the elderly and anyone with vascular disease. We're sure you checked on family members but don't forget your elderly neighbors during these times.

As we said, the stores are now stocked, this is a good time to restock your supplies and review your emergency supplies.

2007 LWPTSA Council Award Recipients

Congratulations to the 2007 Lake Washington PTSA Council award recipients! Thank you to those of you who took the time to complete and submit an Awards Nomination Form. The Awards Committee enjoyed reading about each candidate. Thank you to committee members Nanci Wehr and Wendy DeLong, both of whom provided invaluable assistance.

Certificates of Special Service

Claire Beighle - Parent Volunteer at Wilder Elementary; volunteers with Links, and extends her services to Einstein Elementary.

Michelle Lustgarten - Volunteer in art education, bringing a new Visual Arts program to our school district, currently the Council Reflections Chairperson.

Community Service Award

Pastor Al Veillette III - Student mentor in the Muir – Kamiakin community.

Community Outreach Award

LensCrafters of Redmond run by Dr. MaryJane Healey & Associates, has been a resource for the “Gift of Sight” program in this school district for a number of years.

Outstanding Educator Award

Rondel Hardie - A teacher for many years, serving on many district committees, and currently the principal at Eastlake High School.

Golden Acorn

Wendy Gildersleeve – Has served at the local unit level for many years as well as LW Council PTSA volunteer, currently the Co-Chair of the Founders Day Luncheon & Council secretary.

Outstanding Advocate Award

Shelley Kloba - “This lady has elevated the advocacy community for which we reside.” Shelley has done an outstanding job at raising the bar as LWPTSA Council Legislative Chair.

Outstanding Service Award

Wendy DeLong - This Council Board member has served in many different capacities not only in PTSA, but in the community at large. Currently, she is the treasurer of the LW Council PTSA.

Honorary Life Membership Award

Madelyn Murray - This recipient was the LWSD Superintendent’s secretary until her recent retirement. She has worked on behalf of all children as well as being a great supporter of PTSA.



LWPTSA Reflections Program — Michele Lustgarten, Chair

“My Favorite Place. . .” Award Recipients

(* Denotes entry advancing to State Level)

FILM/VIDEO

SENIOR (9th-12th Gr.)

OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION*
Laura Kerger - Redmond HS

AWARD OF MERIT
Theodore Van Ee – BCA

CHOREOGRAPHY/DANCE

PRIMARY (K-2nd Gr.)

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE*
Whitney Ryan - Blackwell Elementary

INTERMEDIATE (3rd-5th Gr.)

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE*
Delaney Ryan - Blackwell Elementary

MUSIC

PRIMARY (K-2nd Gr.)

OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION*
Haley Smith - Juanita Elementary

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE*
Fiona Soetrisno - BCA

AWARD OF MERIT
Kes Sorensen - Dickinson Elementary

INTERMEDIATE (3rd-5th Gr.)

OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION*
Morgan Gilbert - Franklin Elementary

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE*
Drew Valdez - McAuliffe Elementary

AWARD OF MERIT
Nicholas Topinka - Sandburg Elementary

MIDDLE/JUNIOR (6th-8th Gr.)

OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION*
Lucy Hill - Kamiakin JH

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE*
Koyo Kim - Redmond JH

AWARD OF MERIT
Jessica Gear - Rose Hill JH

SENIOR (9th-12th Gr.)

OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION*
Gregory Benson - ICS

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE*
Erik McClure - Redmond HS

AWARD OF MERIT
Ryne Kurtz - Redmond HS

PHOTOGRAPHY

PRIMARY (K-2nd Gr.)

OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION *
Maxwell Fanning - Rose Hill Elementary

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE *
Nathaneal Martinez - Rose Hill Elementary

AWARD OF MERIT:
Riley Conklin - Franklin Elementary
Ally Holetz - Mann Elementary

INTERMEDIATE (3rd-5th Gr.)

OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION *
Kamden Chew - Frost Elementary

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE *
Rachel Latt - Mann Elementary

AWARD OF MERIT:
Rachel Eakins - Franklin Elementary
Clay Holtzinger - Mann Elementary

MIDDLE/JUNIOR (6th-8th Gr.)

OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION*
Nicole Kirwan - Redmond JH

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE*
Ted Daschle - Redmond JH

AWARD OF MERIT
Marisa Mousseau - Redmond JH

SENIOR (9th-12th Gr.)

OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION*
Sarah Faubion - Juanita HS

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE *
Kristine Kelley - Lake Washington HS

AWARD OF MERIT:
Tyler Vadman - Juanita HS

Caitlin Limberg - Redmond HS
Stormy Keffeler - Redmond JH

VISUAL ARTS

PRIMARY (K-2nd Gr.)

OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION*
Heather Gazitt - Dickinson Elementary

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE*
Michael Volynsky - BCA

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE*
Christine Lee - Einstein Elementary

AWARD OF MERIT:
Anne Lee - Smith Elementary
Erica Li - BCA
Angel Davenport - Bell Elementary

INTERMEDIATE (3rd-5th Gr.)

OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION*
Laura Liao - Alcott Elementary

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE *
Daria Liborski - BCA

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE*
Jordan Hall - Wilder Elementary

AWARD OF MERIT:
Lisa Groene - Thoreau Elementary
Emily Jiang - Franklin Elementary
Allen Jiang - Franklin Elementary

MIDDLE/JUNIOR (6th-8th Gr.)

OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION*
Albert Jiang - Einstein Elementary

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE *
Sophia Xu - Redmond JH

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE*
Edward Zhang - Redmond JH

AWARD OF MERIT:
Ellen Nielson - Kamiakin JH
Ryan Martinez - Mead Elementary
Amy Wang - ICS

SENIOR (9th-12th Gr.)

OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION*
Surabhi Nirkhe - ICS

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE *
Kimberly Harrison - Eastlake HS

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE*
Kaysee Fahl - Redmond HS

AWARD OF MERIT:
Jared Wilson - Redmond HS
Laura Avery - Lake Washington HS
Evan Doyle - Lake Washington HS

LITERATURE

PRIMARY (K-2nd Gr.)

OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION*
Bethany Clowers - Franklin Elementary

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE *
Oindrila Banerjee - Smith Elementary

AWARD OF MERIT:
Iriba Sinha - Twain Elementary
Adian Valdez - McAuliffe Elementary
Leina Seeley - Smith Elementary

INTERMEDIATE (3rd-5th Gr.)

OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION*
Catherine Quian - Alcott Elementary

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE*
Hailey Peterson - Dickinson Elementary

AWARD OF MERIT:
Milloy Kawabata - Thoreau Elementary
Tyler Lofquist - Juanita Elementary
Dylan Doerflinger - Thoreau Elementary

MIDDLE/JUNIOR (6th-8th Gr.)

OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION*
Keira O'Hearn - Redmond JH

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE*
Jordan Masters - Kirkland JH

AWARD OF MERIT:
Ashlyn Graff - McAuliffe Elementary
Gabriel Koslowski - Rockwell Elementary
Janae Mock-Gutow - Juanita Elementary
Anna Gordon - Kamiakin JH

SENIOR (9th-12th Gr.)

OUTSTANDING INTERPRETATION*
Mary Jones - Kirkland JH

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE*
Claire Webber - Lake Washington HS

AWARD OF MERIT:
Bromwyn Maier - Eastlake HS
Anna Stephens - Juanita HS
Rishi Goutam - Redmond HS

(Reflections - Continued on page 10)

LWPTSA Reflections — Michele Lustgarten, Chair

(Reflections - Continued from page 9)

Thirty-eight schools participated in Reflections this year, including new schools, Rosa Parks and Renaissance.

There were 600 entries in all.

Visual Arts.....	347
Literature.....	131
Photography.....	90
Music.....	21
Film/Video	9
Choreography/Dance	2

The Washington State PTA Reflections ceremony to recognize the finalists in this year's program will be held at the WSPTA Convention, May 4th to 6th at the Doubletree in SeaTac.

Heartfelt THANK YOU's go out to the following people who helped tremendously to pull off this event at the VERY last moment!



Pat Helland, Barbara Martin, Michallea Schuelke, Janet & David Roberts, Matt Manobianco, Joanne Shellan, Leslie Bloom Van Ee, Gail Frank, Debby Daudelin, Debbie Gilbert, Cathryn Whitaker, Amanda Hirst, Sarah Hunt, Natalie Scollick, Barb Nappen, Becky Latt, Heidi Geiger (and daughters), Julie LaManna (and children), Fang Koh, Jenny Hussin, Julie Holetz, Byron Shutz, Shelley Kloba, Joyce Kato, Wendy Gildersleeve, Barb Nappen, Michelle Grinslade, Melna Skillingstead

The 2007-2008 Reflection theme (submitted by a student) is:

(drum-roll, please. . .)

“ I Can Make a Difference By. . . ”

News from Local Units



New Feature

Tell us!

You'll soon be electing new officers for your local unit.

What advice do you have for new officers at your school?

Share your advice, ideas, and tips for new officers with all of us. We'll print as many of your responses as space permits in the next issue of *Currents*.

Send your advice to the editor at Donna_Blinn@comcast.net.

EVERGREEN — Lois Hiskey & Janet Roberts, Area Vice Presidents
Evergreen JH * Louisa May Alcott * Emily Dickinson * Laura I. Wilder * Albert Einstein * Rosa Parks

Evergreen Junior High — Lois Hiskey, President

Evergreen Junior High has been having a very busy winter! The National Junior Honor Society sponsored a school-wide food drive for Northwest Harvest, which netted a whopping 4795 pounds of food! As part of the PTSA "Teen Wellness" program, guest speakers have been visiting the P.E. classes to discuss different "fit for life" sports and activities. Recent topics have included cricket, yoga and Pilates. These guest speakers will be repeated in the second semester for students who didn't have P.E. during the Fall term. The PTSA voted to purchase cricket equipment for the school due to the popularity of this event. The students planned and held an assembly to commemorate the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Rehearsals are underway for our school musical, "High School Musical", which will be performed in mid-March. Monthly prize drawings of PTSA-purchased Borders gift cards continue in the Library as part of our "recommend a book" program. A school-wide Electives Evening was held on January 25, showcasing the first semester elective classes' accomplishments, and a Parent Education program featuring family therapist Colin Preston was held on February 1. A "school spirit" week took place the last week of January, culminating with a dance on February 2. The PTSA Nominating committee is starting to recruit officers for next year's Executive Board.

Louisa May Alcott Elementary—Anne Holmdahl, President

The first half of the year is already gone and Alcott is keeping busy! We started the year with our annual Back to School Bash, and followed it with a new October family event--the Fall Festival. Nearly 400 kids dressed in their Halloween costumes and had a great time at a carnival-type event. We hosted another new event in the fall, the School Yard Sale. It was a win-win-win--people cleaned out closets, other people got great items inexpensively, and the PTSA made some money! More new events coming up include two family math nights and our first-ever Science Fair, including an egg drop contest at school! Two big events coming up soon are our annual International Culture Night and our auction, "Splash, Making Waves for Education." We are also very proud of our wonderful website--check us out at www.alcottptsa.org. We have cut the amount of paper we send home by nearly 75% this year!

Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary — Ginger Clough & Linda Brady, Co-Presidents

Wilder has been very busy this year with expanding its outreach programs. The PTSA initiated a student card-making program. Students create handmade cards for various holidays. We have completed Veteran's Day, the winter holidays, and Valentine's Day. The students deliver the cards to Cascade Vista Nursing Home in Redmond and visit with the residents. The residents have thoroughly enjoyed chatting with the children and reading the beautiful cards! The Student Council, with help from the PTSA, collected over 1100 pounds of food that was delivered to Hopelink in November. Our annual Book Swap is another way of reaching out to others. Children bring in old books, and can take others. Any books left over are donated to Harborview Medical Center's adult ESL literacy program, and for use by families of long term care patients. The students at Wilder are really brightening the lives of those in the larger community.

FINN HILL – *Jan Shinstrom, Area Vice President*

Finn Hill JH * Juanita * H.D. Thoreau * Carl Sandburg

H. D. Thoreau Elementary—Natalie Young and Buddy Huntsinger, Co-Presidents

In January, we held a family math night that was enjoyed by all who attended. Pacific Science Center presented a Mathblast Assembly in January and we are looking forward to our annual Book Rodeo in February as well as our very popular Valentines Breakfast, followed by Bingo Night coming up in March.

Finn Hill Junior High - Katie Cowan & Laurie Clawson, Co-Presidents

Finn Hill had a very successful performance of High School Musical in December. Students had a great time by participating in the production or attending one of the performances. On March 8th, FHJH is hosting the ASB Pasta Dinner, a great community tradition. At the dinner, the PTSA is holding the first silent auction in over a decade. Our ninth grade celebration committee is involved in a variety of fundraising activities to help pay for their cruise.

KAMIAKIN – *Johanna Palmer, Area Vice President*

Juanita High * Kamiakin JH * Robert Frost * Helen Keller * John Muir

John Muir Elementary – Cindy McElroy & Stephanie Glickman, Co-Presidents

In January, Muir chess students and their families organized and hosted another successful chess tournament at Kamiakin JHS. Over 170 students from around the school district participated in this day-long tournament. In February, our talented teachers and staff put on their second annual variety show and silent auction. This year's theme was "The Beat Goes On" and all proceeds raised will go to literacy programs at Muir.

In support of our school's focus on literacy, we have invited selected students to attend our monthly meetings and read some of their original work. We've been treated to presentations from all grade levels – it's been quite entertaining! We've also revamped our newsletter to include student writings. We are very proud of our student authors!

We'd like to congratulate a local member of our community, Pastor Al Veilletta, who was honored with the Community Service Award at the most recent Founder's Day Luncheon. Pastor Al has worked for many years as an advocate for our low-income and non-English speaking families. Congratulations Pastor Al!

Helen Keller Elementary – Deanna Crowe & Cathy Salgado, Presidents

We are a very active group of parents who genuinely care about our school and the children in our community.

To start our year off on a Saturday we held a Keller Community Pride Day. Headed by Barbara Tritz we had nearly 100 volunteers both parents and staff. We removed weeds on a massive scale, trees were trimmed, benches were painted, flower beds were spruced up, trash was removed, and Keller is looking great. We had Juanita High School Honor students who helped our kids make stepping stones which we have displayed at the school.

Our annual Back to School Barbeque was catered by Albertsons and the entertainment included a performance by the Hot Dog USA Jump rope Team. Deanna Crowe was in charge of this event and it was well attended by the Staff and families in our community.

For the first time ever we held a Reflections Open House. Reflections Art entries were displayed and the winners announced. Mike & Julie LaMana, Cathy Benson, Gretchen Fines and Barbara Tritz did an amazing job. Entertainment was provided by our music teacher Mr. Stombaugh and Keller Students. We held a silent auction and included a class project along with other donated items. The evening was a huge success. We are seeing that reaching out into our community and hosting family events is building momentum and support for our school in our community. Our next event is the Family Dance – Disco theme – Nicole Derbyshire is in charge of this annual event.

We have many programs in the works, a parents morning aerobics class, a Kids after school Jazzercise class, Art for Kids, and Garden Club. Our six grade staff and students are preparing to publish a school wide magazine. Two staff members Tessa Garrels and Angie Angel are starting a running club. We look forward to continuing the many great programs we have at Keller and starting some new ones. We are so excited about the energy and sense of community that is building at Keller.

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much" ~ Helen Keller, Educator

INGLEWOOD — Judy Klein, Area Vice President

Eastlake HS * Inglewood JH * Elizabeth Blackwell * Margaret Mead * Christa McAuliffe * Samantha Smith * Renaissance

—No Report—

KIRKLAND - Carol Cowherd, Area Vice President

Kirkland JH * A. G. Bell * Lakeview * Peter Kirk * ICS

—No Report—

REDMOND — Carolyn Vaché, Area Vice President

Redmond High * Redmond JH * Audubon * Horace Mann * Redmond El. * Norman Rockwell

Norman Rockwell Elementary—Vicki Krum, President

Rockwell is having a fabulous year. We just had our annual pancake breakfast honoring the police and fire departments. Upcoming events include Disco Bingo, our annual blood drive, and Family Fun Night. A new committee this year has focused on getting kids active. We participated in Redmond's walk-to-school campaign in October, had a "Turkey Trot" in November where kids ran laps at recess, encouraged families to try new activities during winter break and created a book of these activities. Upcoming events from this committee include a football clinic to tie in with the Superbowl, Jump Rope for Hearts, "a walk to the moon" tied in with the city of Redmond's spring walk, and a bike rally. We are also extremely excited about our new kindergarten playground which will be open to the public in February.

Redmond High School—Melinda Wilson and Carolyn Vaché, Co-Presidents

RHS PTSA hosted a teen drug and alcohol information evening with a panel that included our principal, Jane Todd, the YES Resource Officer, Redmond City police officer and an insurance agent to make parents aware of the things that are out there & how kids are using them. PTSA also partnered with the Administration to hold an "Academic Night" to help parents & students understand course offerings and what students should be taking to get themselves ready for life after high school, whether that be a 4 year college, technical school, community college or the workplace. This was the 2nd year we have held this type of evening & it has become

ROSE HILL — Carla Dunlap, Area Vice President

Lk Washington High * Rose Hill JH * Ben Rush * Rose Hill * Mark Twain * Ben Franklin * BCA

Ben Franklin Elementary — Cindy Burt and Christine Muenz, Co-Presidents

As a PTA we feel it is important for this year's fundraising dollars to be used to enhance this year's students. We have put most of this year's funds into educational programs, and have recently added to our **Art and Science programs**. We are fortunate to have strong leaders in our parent community as Art Chair and Science Chair. We feel that art education needs to be increased and that we are always striving to increase science education. Programs in the arts and sciences at all grade levels are being increased at the decent level. We have also helped the teachers with extra curriculum in **reading and writing**, and continue to support **drama, music, and environmental education**.

WSPTA Region 2 Spring Leadership Conference 2007

Saturday, March 10th

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Lake Washington Resource Center

16250 NE 74th St., Redmond

✓ **Conference Fees:**

Advance Registration: \$45.00 per local unit – unlimited attendees. (Must be postmarked by March 6)

Register at the Door: \$55.00 per local unit. (Please do not mail registrations after March 6)

- ✓ **Checks should be made out to WSPTA.** Please include your local unit name & number on the check. Remember, PTA checks need two signatures to be valid.

2007 Region 2 Spring Leadership Conference Registration Form	
Local Unit Name: _____	LU Number: _____
Contact Person: _____	
Phone _____ e-mail: _____	
Approximate Number of Members Attending from this PTA: _____	

- ✓ For planning purposes and materials, please indicate the approximate number of attendees for each class. Register early to ensure there are enough handouts for all of your participants.

Session 1 10:00 AM Class Title	Number of Attendees	Session 2 11:00 AM Class Title	Number of Attendees	Session 3 Noon Class Title	Number of Attendees
101 – Qwest (Online Safety)		201 – Getting Ready for Convention		301 – MADD	
102 – Ed Funding		202 – Child Advocacy		302 – Legislation Basics and Update	
103 – How Much is Too Much? Managing Your Reserve		203 – Budgets and Audits		303 – Seamless Transitions	
104 – Outreaching in our school Communities		204 – Spring Growth for your PTSA			
105 – Structuring Your Executive Committee and Board: New Officer Q & A		205 – How Do You Get to 100% Membership?		305 – Secondary School Networking	

Postmark Deadline: March 6

Mail this registration form & \$45 check (made out to WSPTA) to:

Deborah Parsons
4126 187th Avenue SE
Issaquah, WA 98027
Questions? 425-373-5969 or
deborah@theparsons.com

January 4, 2007 Council Meeting Highlights

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Wendy DeLong reported the current balance of the operating account is \$34,955.06 and the current balance of the scholarship account is \$21,181.04.

Administration Report: Dr. Saul reported that the district is continuing to work with the local law enforcements for the safety of our students and staff. An 800 number will be re-established for parents and students who wish to report safety concerns, or information heard in the community. Dr. Saul stated that tent city four will be moving to the Redmond area of the district. The district will be meeting with the schools in the area to go over safety procedures.

LWEA: LWEA President Kevin Teeley reported the legislative session begins January 8, 2007. The WEA is advocating for class size reductions and special education during the legislative session.

School Board Report: School Board director Jackie Pendergrass reported that during the legislative session the school board will continue to remind the legislators to keep public education at the top of their priority list. School board members meet and help educate our legislators about the districts needs, and how their positions on certain policy matters may affect students. Jackie reminded everyone that the first school board meeting of the month is open to public comment.

Lake Washington Schools Foundation Report: Interim president Tracy Hoiem reported that the LWSF will be adopting a policy supporting developments of our districts science curriculum.

Housekeeping: A motion (#1) was made by Cheri Gorder to add the Renaissance PTSA to the council standing rules as written. The motion was seconded by Kristin Pitt. A vote was taken and the motion was passed. Motion #1 is attached to the minutes.

Legislative: Co Chair Shelly Kloba announced that there will be a bus available for focus day on February 15, 2007.

Membership: Chairperson Stacey Good announced that Lake Washington PTSA has 14,976 current members. Membership fees are due on January 25, 2007.

Nominating committee: Committee Chair Wendy DeLong reminded members to fill in the nomination form for the 2006/2007 council Executive Committee.

Reflections: Chairperson Michelle Lustgarten announced a Visual Thinking Strategies seminar on February 1, 2007 from 7pm to 9pm at the LWRC.

Scholarship Committee: Committee Chair Carolyn Vache' announced that the scholarship deadline is March 9, 2007. Carolyn reminded the members to encourage staff and seniors to apply for scholarships.

Nuts and Bolts:

Nomination Workshop January 25, 2007, Founders' Day February 8, 2007, Focus Day February 15, 2007, Spring Conference March 10, 2007

District Program: Dr. Saul spoke to the members about the 2007 legislative session and Washington Learns. Washington Learns top goals were shared with the council members. Initiative 728, which was never fully funded, is used for reduced classroom size in kindergarten and 1st grade and is a safety net for children in need within our district. The district will be facing more budget deficits for the next two years. The district needs full funding for teacher salaries, health benefits, health care authority retiree subsidy, pension rate changes, and special education. The Washington Learns requirements actually put Lake Washington School District in a deficit. Salary grandfathering is starting to be addressed. The levy grandfathering is not being addressed.

For a complete copy of the minutes from this meeting, please email LWPTSA Council Secretary, Wendy Gildersleeve, at sleeve5@comcast.net.

Lake Washington PTSA Council 2.8
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March

6, 13, 20, 27	9:30am – 12p	Council Office Hours
1		Deadline for WA State awards applications
1	9:30am	Council meeting @ LWRC
5	9:30am	Emergency Prep meeting @ LWRC
5	7:00pm	LW School Board meeting
8		<i>“Currents” newsletter articles due (Extended Deadline)</i>
10	9:00 -1pm	Reg. 2 Spring Conference @ LWRC
15	9:30am	Council BOD meeting @ Hughes Room
19	5:30pm	LW School Board meeting
27	11:00am	LWSF Luncheon @ Juanita High School
30		<i>Convention Voting Delegates due to WSPTA</i>

2006-7 WA State PTA's Top 5 Legislative Issues

1. K-12 Education Funding
2. Math and Science Education
3. Simple Majority
4. Reduce Class Size
5. Preserve School Recess

**Check out the LWPTSA
Council website at
www.lwsd.org/ptsa**