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August 2007

Council Connections

Renton PTSA Council 9.11.00

Ray Kusumi, Editor

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF LOCAL UNITS.

On behalf of the executive team from the Renton PTSA council, we would like to thank you for volunteering to be a leader at your school's PTA/PTSA. Your role as a local PTA leader is a piece of a much larger picture. Not just the *kids in your school* but **all kids & the entire Renton community!**

Helping you achieve your local unit goals

Our job at the Renton PTSA Council is to communicate with you about important Region 9 PTA events, local community events, and network you with all the local unit PTA leaders in the Renton School District.

Renton PTSA Council meetings are typically held on the **last Monday of each month** with a few exceptions through out the

school year. Be sure to check the calendar and other information on our website: www.rentonptsa.org. I know that our executive team is looking forward to working with all of you and it is our hope that you can send a representative from your local unit to attend our monthly meetings.



The fun begins in August so mark your calendars now! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to e-mail me or give me a call.

PAM TEAL – PRESIDENT - RENTON PTSA COUNCIL
E-MAIL ADDRESS: PAM@RENTONPTSA.ORG
PHONE: (425) 235-6288

Check out our website: www.rentonptsa.org

Calling For School Supplies

Join the Renton PTSA Council in a school supply drive for the Communities in Schools in Renton (CISR) and our family Liaisons. These supplies will be used by children all over the Renton School district. We will donate all items to a representative of CISR at our September 24th meeting. If you have any questions, please e-mail any member of our PTSA Council exe team.

Items requested by the Liaisons are (but not limited to)

School supplies

2" 3-ring binders

large backpacks

10-12 count colored pencils

10-12 count colored markers

Fine & blunt nose scissors

Calculators—basic, scientific & graph

Personal Needs

Toilet paper

Paper towels

Toothpaste

Sanitary pads



In addition to these supplies is your house overrun with extra colored pencils because your child “needs” a package for the new school year, even though 23 of the 24 pencils were barely touched? Do you have a stash of wide rule (or even primary rule) paper that your high schooler won’t be using? Is your art supplies drawer cluttered with partial pages of stickers, glue sticks or paintbrushes? Now is the time to both help out and clean out your clutter by recycling your gently or partially used school supplies. It’s easy – just gather them up and take them to your child’s school (but not the first week) or bring them to a Renton PTSA Council meeting. Either way, these supplies can supplement those used in the classroom. Renton Council will be taking donations all year long. Thanks.



Treasurer’s Tidbit

Thanks for joining me in the wonderful world of finance for the 2007 – 2008 school year. As a former local unit treasurer, I want to thank each of you for the time and energy you are giving to your PTAs, and the students and families that benefit from your efforts. I’m happy to assist you with budget questions, tax issues, and corporate paperwork. If I don’t have the answer I’ll track it down. Please feel free to contact me at treasurer@rentonptsa.org with any comments, questions or concerns you may have.

The first date to remember is September 20th, when PTA & the Law will be hosted at Kent-Meridian High School. This is a critical class, as there are a number of changes in tax law that will be impacting our local units. To help you understand those changes and new filing requirements for **all** non-profits, Renton Council will be hosting an IRS class on October 23rd, at Renton High School.

It’s not too soon to be thinking about membership fees. October 25th is when the first membership forms and checks are due to Council. These should be sent to:

Geri Carlson, Treasurer
Renton PTSA Council
P.O. Box 234
Renton, WA 98057

You can find all the membership due dates posted on the Council website under membership.

Thanks for all you do,
Geri Carlson

Yes on EHJ4204

Simple Majority Campaign

First step towards making Washington State's Public Schools Simply Better ASAP Vote YES for Simple Majority EHJR 4204 in November!

For 20 years, the WSPTA has been working for a change in Washington State's school levy system. The current system disadvantages schools, students and educators by requiring a 60% "supermajority" in order to pass a school levy. In 2006, out of 225 levy elections all but one received a majority vote. However, 32 of those levies still failed because they did not receive 60% of the vote. Levy failures can result in deep budget cuts, teacher layoffs and other disruptions to vital education programs. EHJR 4204 would change the school levy election system to require a "simple majority", or 50% +1, to win passage of school levies.

WSPTA is excited to work for passage of EHJR 4204 but we can't do it alone. We need your help if we're going to win. Endorse EHJR 4204 through your local PTA, give generously to the campaign and invest your time to get involved. Together we can seize this historic opportunity to make a positive change for our schools, teachers and students..

EHJR 4204 encourages investment in:

- The purchase of vital supplies such as updated textbooks
- The repair, maintenance and modernization of our schools
- Reducing class sizes
- Updated technology

PTA leadership can support our children and schools:

- Vote **YES on Simple Majority 4204 on November 6th**
- Challenge your local PTA to vote to endorse EHJR 4204
 - How to materials provided at www.wastatepta.org website
- When your PTA endorses, make a financial contribution, contact info@simplybetterschools.org
- Personally endorse and donate to the campaign www.simplybetterschools.org
- Attend your next Region Leadership Conference to learn more about this issue and get involved!



Questions? Need more information?

- Contact your Region Legislative Chair Stephanie Chin at stephchi@msn.com
- Contact WSPTA Simple Majority Chairs
 - o Kelly Munn at kellymunn@comcast.net
 - o Linda Hanson at LHanson@LindaHanson.org
- Visit WSPTA Website at www.wastatepta.org



PTA and The Law

This seminar is one of the most important services by Washington State PTA. This workshop will explain how these rules can and do affect your PTA's activities. This training is essential for your ENTIRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Cost of the workshop is \$35 per unit. The cost includes as many PTA members in your unit or council who wish to attend. Included are two PTA & The Law books.

Registration must be postmarked seven days prior to the workshop. Go to our website (www.rentonptsa.org) to download a registration form. On site registration will be \$60 per unit!

Thursday—September 20, 6:00-9:00 at Kent Meridian High School

Register to Vote

In November we will all have an opportunity to start the journey to change how education is funded. In preparation it is important for you to:

- **Register to vote!** If you're registered.....
- **Ask a friend to register!** If you have no friends.....

Ask a family member to register to vote!

You can register at any **Library**, online at www.metrokc.gov/elections/register.htm or by **phone at 206-296-8683**.

Take the time and vote...for the kids' sake.

Stephanie Chin

stephchi@msn.com

425.228.5770



Legislative Assembly

2007 WSPTA Legislative Assembly

October 5-6, 2007

SeaTac Marriot, SeaTac, WA

This is an educational and fun two-day event where delegates learn more about each of the proposed issues and represent their PTA's priorities. The delegates then cast ballots to decide the issues will be worked on most during the upcoming legislative session.

This year we'll have a pre-function dinner to get our feet wet the night before. And if you're new I'll be happy to show you the ropes. ??'s call me, Stephanie Chin at 425.228.5770.

My life in PTA –Secretary

My PTA involvement began when my youngest daughter was in Kindergarten. I came to every PTA meeting at Highlands that year and was sometimes the only person there other than the officers. At the end of the year, I was approached about taking the Treasurer position and I innocently said yes. I still believe that this is the hardest role in PTA- thank you all you number crunchers out there.

I have been an officer every year since- Katie is now an eighth grader- and I chaired or participated in more committees than I can remember. I have been vice-president, president and secretary, at times simultaneously in different units.

My focus started with carnivals and yearbooks and has increasingly gravitated toward advocacy as I have struggled to find relevancy in the secondary schools and realized the awesome responsibility we have for the education and welfare of all children.

This is my third year as a council officer and my second as secretary, though I have participated in various council committees prior to serving as an executive officer. I especially enjoyed the nominating, scholarship, and Founder's Day committees.

I enjoy council because it makes me realize that I am not part of just one school or one neighborhood but I belong to a tremendous community which is rich in culture, personalities and diversity that is the Renton School District. Networking with other PTA leaders has enriched my experience and given me a wonderful feeling of support. I look forward to meeting those of you who are new to PTA and hope to see many of you at council meetings and events.

Annie Hetzel - Secretary

The Landing - Community Fact Sheet

The Landing is a 68-acre urban village development located just off the I-405 freeway in Renton’s South Lake Washington neighborhood. The project is part of an ambitious redevelopment of the South Lake Washington community and will provide convenience, comfort and charm in an exciting outdoor shopping, dining and entertainment environment. Its unique blend of residential neighborhood, retail and entertainment districts will serve local residents and the greater regional community.

Wide, vibrant sidewalks lined with dynamic retail shops, lively cafes and cozy residential living will encourage pedestrian strolls throughout the varied streets. A collection of restaurants surrounding a strong retail core will create a venue vibrant enough to be a year-round destination.

At the heart of The Landing is *The District at The Landing*, a pedestrian friendly area that will offer the urban ambiance of a lively city street. Winding through the pedestrian village, visitors will find a 14-screen, stadium-seat Regal Cinema as well as numerous specialty retailers and unique restaurants to enjoy before or after a movie. *The District at The Landing* will feature *The Landing Place*, an entertaining gathering spot with outdoor seating and playful amenities as well as *10th Street*, a fashionable “Main Street” to stroll and explore.

The Landing First Wave Store Openings

Expected completion date: fall 2007

- 225,000 square feet of retail space
- Anchor store: Target
- Junior anchor stores: PetSmart and Staples
- Variety of smaller retail offerings including Sleep Country, Verizon Wireless and Golf Galaxy
- Family-dining restaurants and cafes including Starbucks, Jamba Juice, Jimmy Johns, Panda Express, Panera Bread and Red Robin,
- L.A. Fitness, a full-service health club

The Landing Second Wave Store Openings

Expected completion date: spring 2008

- 375,000 square feet of retail space
- 675-car parking garage and 2,630 parking spaces offering free, short-term parking
- *The District at The Landing*
 - o 14-screen, stadium-seat Regal Cinema
 - o Variety of specialty retail shops
 - o Unique restaurants and cafes
 - o Outdoor seating
- One or two additional anchor stores
- Three junior anchor stores including Confetti Junction
- Residential complex



Principals and Presidents

Save this date on your calendar: October 29 at 6 pm at the KEC Building. "**Getting to Know You**" is this year's Principals and Presidents Potluck dinner theme. This is an opportunity to put the faces with the names, to hear more about our PTSA plans for this school year, and to truly get to know each other - in some cases it's a first time meeting opportunity! Be prepared to **have some fun** and introduce your Principal to the rest of the PTSA family. Be sure to ask your Principal to "save the date!". Here's the meal plan:

The evening is potluck, please bring to share!
 Last Name: A - J: Main Dish
 Last Name: K - R: Salad or Veggie/Fruit Tray
 Last Name: S-Z: Dessert

* DRINKS will be provided by Council



Directory Information

Your PTA Council will once again be offering complimentary local unit directories to be available at the October membership meeting and Presidents & Principals Potluck. Please check the WA state PTA membership web site to make sure that your executive board information is correct. This is the information we use to build the directory.

Go to wastatepta.org and click on membership. If you do not have your password, it is included in the leadership packets which are handed out at the Fall Leadership Conference or can be obtained by calling the state office at (800) 562-3804.

Dates to Remember in 2007

September 20	6:00PM – 9:00PM	“PTA & the Law”, Kent Meridian High School
	6:30PM - 7:00PM	<u>Renton PTSA Council Pre-Meeting</u>
September 24	7:00PM - 9:00PM	Guest speakers regarding the upcoming Simple Majority Election Renton PTSA Council Meeting (KEC Building)
October 23	6:00PM - 9:00PM	990EZ Class, Renton High School
October 29	6:00PM - 9:00PM	<u>Renton PTSA Council</u> & Principals & Presidents Potluck (KEC Building)
October 5 to 6		2-day Legislative Assembly, Sea-Tac Hilton
November 26	7:00PM	Renton PTSA Council meeting
December 5	8:30AM to 10:00AM	Reflections artwork DROP-OFF time
December 6	8:30AM to 10:00AM	Reflections artwork PICK-UP time
December		No Council meeting

** Council meetings and Reflections activities are held at KEC building unless otherwise noted.

KEC: Kohlwes Education Center (KEC), 300 SW 7th Street, Renton



Let Us Help

Are you struggling to find officers for your executive board? Finding members who are engaged? Any other pressing issues? We would love to help you. Please contact any of the council officers and we will be happy to provide support and guidance.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & LEGISLATIVE

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