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September 2007

Council Connections

Renton PTSA Council 9.11.00

Ray Kusumi, Editor

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF LOCAL UNITS.

We are one month into the school year and I have to THANK YOU for all your hard work and dedication. Thank you to those of you who attended the Region 9 Fall Leadership Conference, those of you who attended our August PTSA council meeting and the PTA & the Law workshop. The PTSA Council executive team was thrilled knowing that 16 of our 19 PTA's participated in meetings in the month of August! That is called dedication!!

Making your volunteer job a little easier!

The Renton PTSA Council has a new program: The **990/990EZ** tax class and best of all it is FREE. Our council has never had the opportunity to host this tax preparation class. Pat Nelson from WA State PTA will show all our treasurers how to keep the people at the IRS happy!! I hope to see all of our treasurers and presidents at the Renton High School Commons on October 23rd. Please RSVP to president@ptsa.org and don't forget to bring all your financial records.

Our job at the Renton PTSA Council is to network all of you together. I look forward to all our meetings, brainstorming and hopefully making your volunteer job a little easier!

Have a great 2nd month of the school year!



PAM TEAL – PRESIDENT - RENTON PTSA COUNCIL
E-MAIL ADDRESS: PAM@RENTONPTSA.ORG
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Check out our website: www.rentonptsa.org

Reflections I Can Make a Difference By



Thanks to everyone who attend the Reflections Workshop on September 17. Special thanks to Susan Mooring for sharing her grandson's art with us. I was truly inspired by this 12 year old young man and his grandmother who cares for him. If you have not started the Reflections program in your school it is not too late to start, below is a suggested timeline and deadlines already established by the Renton PTSA Council Reflections chair.

Participating in the Reflections Program is an opportunity for all students to explore and learn about various art forms. It does not matter whether an entry is created for the Reflections Program as a classroom assignment or independently at home. Forms of art accepted are: Dance/Choreography, Film/Video, Literature, Musical Composition, Photography and Visual Arts.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Pam Teal or visit the WA State PTA website. <http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/Reflections/reflect> for the ideas, rules & regulations. I would also visit the [2006-2007 Reflections Gallery](#) and click on the [List of Winners of 2006-2007](#). There are some amazing student artists in Washington!

Local unit timeline

- Your local unit has from September until mid November to participate in Reflections
- Advertise the Reflections Program, use a bulletin board or a daily bulletin, PTA newsletter, send a flyer via kid-mail etc.
- Establish a deadline for your students to turn in their art
- Have the art judged and select winners by Grade or by Division
- Holding an award ceremony for all the students that participated at your school
- Prepare electronic paperwork for Renton PTSA Council - deadline November 30
- Deliver winning art work to PTSA Council at the KEC building the morning of December 5
- Pick up artwork from the PTSA Council from the KEC building the morning of December 6

Washington State PTA Men Essay Contest

It's not too late for students to participate in the PTA Men: Partners in Making a Difference Essay Contest. Men make a difference in the lives of the children they care about, and children are more successful in and out of school when they have the guidance of an involved male role model. This statewide essay contest gives students the opportunity to express this vital relationship.

The postmark deadline for the essay contest is October 15th.

The contest rules and entry form are available online at:

www.wastatepta.org/programs/PTAmen.htm



The direct link to the entry form is: www.wastatepta.org/pdf07/essay_contest07.pdf

Simple Majority Action Steps



The September and October issue of your newsletter should have a simple majority article in it. Use the flyer from our website at www.rentonptsa.org. **This flyer has been cleared by Renton School Districts communications director. If you write your own article and it's going to parents via the kids backpack (kid mail) it has to be approved by the district. Remember, every district has their own set of guidelines for material distribution.**

Simple Majority should be the first order of business at your September and October meetings. It is our paramount duty as an organization to get it passed. Have campaign materials available for folks to read, take and use frequently. Many flyers are available on the Washington State PTA's website. If you need materials call Stephanie Chin @ 425.228.5770 or email legislative@rentonptsa.org.

Give a simple majority presentation at the September meeting. If you need someone to come talk to your membership, contact Stephanie Chin @ 425.228.5770 or email legislative@rentonptsa.org. Or contact Linda Hanson lhanson@lindahanson.org or Kelly Munn kellymunn@comcast.net. They are the Washington State PTA's Simple Majority co-chairs/subject matter experts/all round cheerleaders.

Ask your members to sign up to phone bank. Take down their name phone and email. When dates and locations are released we can plug them into a date and time convenient for them. Provide this information back to your council so they can update the local coordinator.

Walk the talk. Talk the talk. Encourage your members to talk about simple majority wherever they may be, in line at Starbuck's, the grocery store, the church pew, the gym, the pediatrician's, the parking lot, around the dinner table. Talk about all the hard work you do as a PTA, raising money to meet the basic needs of our kids and how important it is that we be able to make the best use of our time and money by only having to run a levy election once. That for every re-run that is done, more money is taken out of the classroom, money that could be used for books, paper, a librarian or music teacher. Ask them to use their e-mail lists, send out reminders to vote and **Vote to Approve 4204.**

If you have not done so, please go online to www.simplemajority.org and endorse the campaign. If you can find money in your budgets, please give until it hurts a little. Encourage your members to make those personal endorsements and if they can, to also contribute to the campaign. This is a tough time of year to be asking parents of school age children to make another contribution to a worthy cause. But we need the money to be able to communicate this issue state-wide, to provide campaign materials and get the vote out this November.

Reminder:

Absentee/mail in ballots will be in the mail around October 18th. Remind folks to vote. If they are poll voters, be sure to call and remind folks of election day on November 6th. If people forget to mail in their ballots they can be dropped off at any polling place on election day when the polls are open.

Thank you to The UPS Store

Renton PTSA Council would like to thank The UPS Store #4532, located at 4004 NE 4th Street in Renton, for providing discounted copy service to Council for the 2006 – 2007 and 2007 – 2008 school years. The UPS Store is part of the community effort to support our kids.



WSPTA Legislative Assembly

October 5-6, 2007 at the SeaTac Marriot Hotel



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.

Online Survey for Legislative Assembly

Have you checked out our new on-line survey? Please take 5 minutes or so to let us know how the Renton PTSA Council is doing or how we can do a better job. serving you. The survey is located at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=65U6McukWdmq85TKSZYncQ_3d_3d

To see the results click here:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=DYITFt_2fv16VMK_2fYBQKp3r_2b0caQdFx2DoZU3ld1DjpSg_3d

It's that easy.

You give your members and other parents and teachers a real voice is setting WSPTA policy priorities. You let them know what we're working for on state policy priorities.

Thanks! It's going to be a great Legislative Assembly this year!



My life in PTA –President

Hello my name is Pam Teal and am your Renton PTSA Council President. This is my 2nd year participating at the PTA Council level. My favorite part of this volunteer job is the networking that I get to do with all of you, the Renton School District and our community that we live in. I stated out 12 years ago in PTA helping at carnivals and book fairs, eventually I took on more leadership roles and have enjoyed volunteering at every school and at every level.

Renton has been my home for over 22 years. My husband and I have two boys that attend Hazen High School. In my spare time I like to garden, cook, collect wine and sometimes drink it! Last year I became a Mentor for Communities in Schools, and have also enjoyed participating as a member of the Community Development committee for the Chamber of Commerce. I believe that PTA is a great way to become involved with your child and school, but my hope is that you will learn that there is a greater community out there that cares about the same kids that you do.

The job of a volunteer is sometimes overwhelming and **I thank you** for all that you do for the kids of the Renton School district. If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of our awesome executive team. Don't forget to check out our website at: www.rentonptsa.org

Pam Teal



Seattle Philharmonic at IKEA Performing Arts Center

On Sunday October 14th at 3pm, the Seattle Philharmonic Orchestra, will be hosting a concert at IKEA Performing Arts Center. This fall family concert is sponsored each year by Allied Arts with prices so low that the entire family can attend. Additional sponsors include: Renton Municipal Arts Commission and the Renton School District.

This year Christi Florance, orchestra director at Hazen, has selected seven students who will perform with the Seattle Philharmonic in two number Performing with the Mozart Overture, "Lucio Silla" and Rachmaninoffs. The musicians from Hazen are:

First Violinists

Christine Duong, Ebae Kim & Sarah Schmidt

Cello

Desta Olds & April Leingang

Second Violin

Karianne Kajita

Bass

Neal Jones

The selected program also includes: Rachmanioff; Piano Concerto No. 2 in c with Denice Grant as soloist; and Hermann: Symphony, Movements 11 and 1V.

You may purchase your tickets at the following ticket outlets

King & Bunnys - 4608 NE Sunset Blvd,
 LA Frames Inc. - downtown at 309 S. 3rd. Street
 Bill's Bodacious BBQ - 3813 N.E. 4th.
 IKEA Performing Arts Center - the day of the concert
 Tickets prices are: Adults, \$8 - Seniors \$5 - and students (under 18), \$3



For further information please contact Deloris Dewing @ 206-772-6528 or Char Baker @ 425-255-5145 .



Principals and Presidents

Every year for as long as I can remember the Principals and the Presidents gather. Sometimes for a PTA training, sometimes for a social time, sometimes for a speaker in our community. This year the theme will be: "Getting to Know You". This evening promises to be a great way learn about each other and collaborate on working together for the sake of kids!

Save this date: Tuesday, October 29 at 6:00 pm at the KEC Building.

The evening is a potluck, please bring a dish to share.

Last Name: A - J: Main Dish

Last Name: K - R: Salad or Vegie/Fruit Tray

Last Name: S-Z: Dessert



* DRINKS will be provided by Council *

August Council Meeting Highlights

In addition to regular business at our August meeting, we had special speakers who kept us informed of the news within our district.

Our superintendent, Dr. Heuschel spoke about Late Start Fridays and the opportunities it will provide for staff to look at student work and learn strategies to reach our diverse population. There will be an emphasis on math. There will be communication to the public about the work being done.

School Board member Lynn Desmarais reported that the district budget was approved for the coming year. She also stated that we have many new administrators this year. Additionally, she mentioned that the School Board would like to be kept informed of PTAs' accomplishments in the district so that they can show recognition.

Our meeting also included a treasurer's and legislative report, as well as a brainstorming session on ways to improve membership. Please see related articles in this newsletter for information about these topics.

Annie Hetzel, secretary

Membership Drive Brainstorming Ideas

- Use a tri-fold display with photos of PTA activities and send a welcome letter with a membership form to all kinder parents.
- Establish a goal: higher expectations help.
- Send out an email newsletter to parents with calendar items and news.
- Sell bright book covers at back to school functions and place them strategically next to membership forms.
- Give out coffee before/after school, with membership forms.
- Give out free backpacks at back to school BBQ.
- Translate membership letters into Spanish and other languages to try to reach ELL families.
- Make PTA more relevant to people's lives.
- Have 5th grade parents mentor kinder parents.
- Be inclusive to our diverse populations and reach out.
- Be open to new members.

The issue of having members who do not volunteer as opposed to new volunteers was discussed. "If everyone would volunteer one time each year, so much would be achieved". A sign-up table for committees with job descriptions has been used successfully at some schools.

Thank you to The Name Source



Thank you to Eva at The Name Source for the complimentary name badges that she provided to our new members of our Executive Board. The quick turn around time and personal delivery to my home was unbelievable. Eva you are great! [The Name Source.com](http://TheNameSource.com)

RENTON PTSA COUNCIL OPERATING ACCOUNT

2007 - 2008 Actual Budget

(With Permission to the Board of Directors to reallocate Funds)

Council Budget



INCOME	Budgeted
<u>Category Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
INCOME	
Bulk Mail Reimbursements	0.00
Founder's Day - Dinner	4,350.00
Fundraiser	250.00
Membership - Council Fees	3,750.00
Membership - State & Nat'l Fees	16,250.00
Membership - Yearly Unit Fees	38.00
Miscellaneous - Concert	50.00
Scholarship Account - Transfer	4,000.00
Charitable Giving Acct - Transfer	1,500.00
In-Kind Donations	500.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 30,688.00

EXPENSES

Administration	
Bulk Mail Permit	160.00
Bulk Mail Postage	25.00
Insurance - Bonding	85.00
Insurance - Liability	90.00
Insurance - Officer's	50.00
Materials/Supplies	150.00
Non-Profit License Renewal	10.00
Officers Pins	50.00
Postage	50.00
Printing	125.00
PO Box fee	80.00
Website cost	120.00
Committees	
Directory	150.00
Family Concert	50.00
Founder's Day Expenses	300.00
Founder's Day Dinner	3,675.00
Founder's Day Entertainment	0.00
Hospitality	50.00
Legislation/Advocacy	200.00
Levy & Bond Donations	250.00
Newsletter	200.00
New Local Unit	0.00
Reflections	500.00
Principals/Presidents Event	100.00
Scholarships	4,000.00
Renton River Days (donation)	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00

Leadership Training

Legislative Assembly	200.00
Program & Speakers	0.00
PTA Convention	880.00

Workshops

Membership (WSPTA/NPTA)	95.00
State & Nat'l Unit Fees	16,250.00
Yearly Local Unit Fee	38.00

Recognition

Honorary Life Membership	100.00
Outstanding Service Award	90.00
Outstanding Advocacy	65.00
Golden Acorn	65.00
Recognition - Special Appreciation	50.00

MISC.

Charitable Giving	1,500.00
In-Kind Expenses	500.00

Renton Chamber of Comm

Yrly. Membership	285.00
Sponsorships	100.00

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 30,688.00
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Operating Acct. Estimated Balance on Hand 7/1/07 \$ 6,734.94

Influenza Vaccination

Seattle King County Public Health reported that, “In King County, last year’s influenza season was notable for the tragic deaths of three elementary school children related to influenza infection--a reminder that although **uncommon**, influenza infection can cause death even in healthy young people. Influenza related severe complications and hospitalizations are most common among adults 65 years of age and children less than 2 years of age and children and adults with certain underlying medical conditions.”



Because of the concerns during the last flu season, Seattle King County Health Department is encouraging flu vaccine for children and adults. Public Health recommends that many school-aged children receive annual influenza vaccination because they have asthma or other medical conditions, or live with a household member between 6 months and 5 years of age, 65 years of age or older, a pregnant women, or person with a high risk medical condition. Flu Vaccination is also encouraged for all school age children and adults who wish to reduce their risk for influenza infection.”

To support Public Health’s recommendations for the flu vaccine, the School Nurses will be gathering information on available Flu Clinics in the area to include local Public Health Clinics. In order to distribute this information in our school communities the School Nurses could use your assistance in this effort. Please contact your school nurse for information on how you can help.

Susan Lander, Renton School District Health Director

City of Renton to place cameras in school zones to catch speeders

Fines for speeding in school zones can be nearly \$200

September 10, 2007—The City of Renton will install speed cameras in front of three district schools to catch motorists driving too fast in school zones.

Beginning this fall, cameras will be installed in front of Renton High School on South Second Street, at Talbot Hill Elementary School on Talbot Road South and at McKnight Middle School on Edmonds Avenue Northeast.

Drivers regularly drive by the schools going too fast. Police say they chose the locations after clocking drivers' speeds on the streets in front of the schools. Some of speeders include parents, students and school staff.

Renton also plans to add red-light cameras at three intersections: Northeast Third Street and Sunset Boulevard North; the three-way intersection of Sunset Boulevard North, Bronson Way North and Maple Valley Highway; and South 43rd Street and East Valley Highway.

A fourth red-light camera likely would be installed at Rainier Avenue South and South Grady Way, McClincy said.

The primary goal of the cameras is to cut down on speeding and red-light running, but they also take a burden off police who cannot be stationed at every school.

The cameras photograph the vehicles' license plate. The red-light cameras take pictures only when a vehicle crosses the stop line when the light is red.

Tickets are sent to the address of the vehicle's registered owner, who can view the photos online.



Internet Safety Presentation

Thursday, October 11th, 7pm, at Lindbergh High School Auditorium.

This mature presentation is for parents and guardians (Adults ONLY) wanting to learn and share ideas about on-line safety plans for their homes. Topics will include: Realities of Sexual Abuse; On-Line Solicitations; Children as Willing Victims, Warning Signs, and much more. Facilitated by the King County Sheriff's Office, the speaker will be Former Detective Michael Sutherland (Special Assault Unit, KCSO, now SRO Officer at Tahoma High School).



For more information or questions, contact Deputy Paul Aio at (206) 423-9317, or paul.aio@kingcounty.gov

Local Units News

Maple Wood Heights PTA along with the support of the school staff held a back to school picnic on August 30th. The class lists were posted and the school was open for one hour. Students and parents were able to find their classrooms, library, gym, music room, and bathrooms. Each student was given a short treasure hunt form to encourage them to see different places in the school as well as ask the PTA members "what is the event that will be held on September 18th" a PTA meeting of course. Free popcorn was served and information tables were lined up in front of the building. Families were able to learn about Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire, and of course PTA committees and membership. This was a well attended event and will be held year after year. Our fall fundraiser of Cookie Dough and Entertainment books will start on October 13th with a kick off assembly. We are very excited about our fall events which include curriculum night, carved pumpkin contest, math night, ice cream social, book fair, and holiday shop.

Nancy DeChenne; dech4@comcast.net

Sierra Heights PTA Calendar

September

7th All School BBQ 5-7pm
9th PTSA General Meeting 7pm (6:30 Latino meeting)
24-28th Book Fair
24th Fall Fundraiser Kick-off

October

10th Fall Fundraiser ends
11th Carnival
22th Holiday Fundraiser Kick-off
25th Family Reading Night 6-7:30pm
30th PTSA Board Meeting 6-7pm

Nelsen Middle School PTSA Calendar

September

9/18 6:30pm PTSA General Meeting, and Fall Open House immediately following

October

10/16-19 Book Fair, Nelsen Theater Room
10/23 All Day Vision & Hearing Screenings (more information in the October update)

Kennydale PTA

September 4th: Yahoo/Boohoo –Refreshments for parents on the first day of school and information about PTA. Participation at the Kennydale Neighborhood Picnic, (Sept. 5th) as well as the School Curriculum night (Sept. 11th) PTA Board meeting on the 25th.

October 2nd for their General Membership Meeting and then Math Night on the 18th of October.

McKnight Middle School PTSA

Participation at Orientation for 6th, 7th & 8th graders and their parents, August 22nd-23rd, Present at the KNA Picnic. PTSA held a PTSA 101 parent meeting on Sept. 10th. Provided dinner for the staff at Curriculum night (Sept. 18th).

October 1st: PTSA Parent Seminar: Surviving Middle School; 8th General membership meeting

16th PTSA sponsors the Tap Root performance of "Witness" -3 performances, one for each grade level. This play deals with the issue of "bullying". The October 22nd Parent Seminar will be an "Anti-bullying" video presentation.

Thank you to **Dimmit, Nelsen & McKnight PTSA** for providing breakfast to all the Middle School teachers at their district wide in-service training at McKnight on August 29th.

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

October 23	6:00PM – 9:00PM	990EZ Class, Renton High School Commons
October 29	6:00PM - 9:00PM	Renton PTSA Council : Principals & Presidents Potluck (KEC Building)
October 5 to 6		2-day Legislative Assembly, Sea-Tac Hilton
October 11	7:00PM	Internet Safety Class at Lindbergh High School Auditorium
November 26	7:00PM—8:30PM	Renton PTSA Council —"Round Table discussion"
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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Editor	Ray Kusumi	ray@rentonptsa.org	(425) 221-2852

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: The object of life is not to be "happy." The object of life is to make society a better place in which to live. Every one of us has something to offer. In the words of G.B. Stern:

"Both optimists and pessimists contribute to our society. The optimist invents the airplane and the pessimist the parachute."