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ISSUE 2

VOLUME 1

2007

Council Connections

Renton PTSA Council 9.11.00
Ray Kusumi, Editor

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF LOCAL UNITS.

Happy New Year! Can we still say that? On behalf of the entire Renton PTSA Executive Board, we hope you had a warm and safe holiday season. It is hard to believe that it is already the end of January. There is still much to accomplish this year, and we hope that ice, snow, wind and power outages won't get in our way!! Below are a few things that we would like to share with you.

Helping you achieve your local unit goals

Legislation on Simple Majority is at a crucial crossroads: we need you to contact your legislators! Check the article in this newsletter (or go to the legislative section on our website at www.RentonPTSA.org) and find out how **you** can make a difference with just two simple steps to follow. It's time to let our legislators know that Simple Majority is a priority for the success of our schools.

February 8 is our Region 9 conference. See the attached form in this newsletter and be sure to get registered by the due date. Training allows you to be a better resource for your PTA members! Set the time aside so you can benefit yourself and many others!

The Renton PTSA Council is work-

ing hard on our annual **Founders Day Dinner and Auction.** This auction benefits the Renton PTSA Council scholarship program. Each year, three to four \$1,000 scholarships are given, one to a senior at each of the high schools in the Renton School District. This year's festivities are going to be Monday, March 12 at the Renton Holiday Inn. It is truly a fun night to get together, eat good food and support a great cause – our kids! We greatly appreciate the wonderful tradition of each local unit providing an auction basket (filled with items of your choice) to help make our auction a great success.

It's Nominating Committee time! If you haven't already done so, be



sure you form your Nominating Committee at your next meeting (make it a general meeting!) since it is vital to have your new executive officers elected by April. This allows for your new officers to attend the state PTA conference in early May to glean from the training offered for new (and old!) officers. It is also very important that the incoming and outgoing officers participate together in the budget and calendar planning for the following school year.

We have more to accomplish together! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us!! And thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Pam Teal and Kandy Schendel
Renton PTSA Council Co-Presidents

Nominating Committee Reminder

Reminder: have your members voted in your Nomination Committee yet? You'll want to get that done ASAP since they need time to find the best people for the job of executive committee members!

Treasurer's Tidbit

Well, it's hard to believe that it's already 2007 and you should of already sent in the next round of membership dues. The number of members as of January 25th determines the number of voting delegates to convention. Payment should have been made for all members who've joined since October. The form and check were due to Council on January 25, 2007. **They should have been sent to:**

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

Remember the Renton Council is here to support you with your membership questions.

With the completion of the first half of the fiscal year, it's time to activate the **audit committee**. The committee should be made up of three or more members who are non-signers on your PTA's checking and savings accounts. Committee responsibilities are found in Money Matters, pages 16 and 17. An audit checklist can be found in Money Matters, starting on page 32. State PTA recommends that units perform a mid-year audit.

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. Please feel free to contact me at treasurer@rentonptsa.org with any comments, questions or concerns you may have.

Thanks for all you do,
Geri Carlson
Treasurer

Region 9 Leadership Conference

Remember to get registered for the February 8 conference! You have many classes to choose from and it's important to go, get new ideas for (and from) others, and to network! It is a lot of fun, too!

When: February 8

Where: Kent Meridian High School (10020 SE 256th Street, Kent)

Time: 5:15 to 9:00 PM

Classes offered: Nominating Committee, Secondary Units, Budgets & Audits, Legislative Basics & Focus Day, Magic of Conflict, Smooth Transitions, Volunteer Awards, and Education Funding Basics.

See page 7 for registration form



Reflections—My Favorite Place...

The Reflections Team would like to once again congratulate all the students who participated in the Reflections program this year. There were over 140 entries to judge, which is no easy task to coordinate. As you may know it takes many people to coordinate this program, and we would like to thank the following:

All the Local Unit Reflections

chairs:

Judy Dias – Benson Hill
Debbie Tibbitts – Cascade
Maureen Skall – Hazelwood
Dana Husby - Hazelwood
Terrin Sanidad – Kenndale
Dana Englehart – Maplewood

Brenda Colons – Sierra Heights
Jeri Martin – Tiffany Park
Annie Hetzel – Dimmitt
Theresa Valdez – Nelsen
Shelly Shear – McKnight
Suzanne Chandler – Hazen

Reflections Judges

Jerene Battisti, Children's Librarian, Renton Public Library
Lynn Bohart, Executive Director, Renton Community Foundation
Nathaniel Tally, Highlands Community Church
Paulette Manson, Art Teacher, McKnight Middle School
Chuck Yule
Mary Rehl
Geri Carlson

Evergreen City Ballet for hosting the Reflections Training
IKEA Performing Arts Center for hosting the Awards Ceremony
Dr. Heuschel for sharing with us her "Favorite Place"
Ray Kusumi for printing all the certificates and creating the slide show
Thank You to Gary Palmer, STAR Photo Services, for the group photo he took

Special thanks to Marcia Short and Suzanne Chandler for all their hard work behind the scenes. We are already thinking ahead for next year. The theme is: "I can make a difference by."

Thanks again to EVERYONE!

Pam Teal

Washington State PTA

Mark your calendars:

2007 Washington State PTA Convention
DoubleTree Hotel - Seattle Airport
SeaTac, Washington

When: May 4-6, 2007

Washington State
PTA[®]
everychild.onevoice.



P. O. Box 820, Renton, WA 98057

7th Annual Circle of Giving Awards Ceremony

The Renton PTSA Council would like to congratulate the McKnight Middle School PTSA and the Hillcrest PTA for being awarded grants from the Maxwell Fund for Youth & Families!

Founder's Day

The annual Founders Day Dinner and Auction is scheduled for:

When: Monday, March 12 at 6:00 PM

Where: Holiday Inn, Renton

Cost: \$30.00 per person

Founders Day is a time to celebrate the Founding of the PTA. It is also a time to celebrate with one another and recognize some of the wonderful volunteers in our community.

Who should you invite? Your entire Executive Board, Principal and Vice Principals, Administrative Specialists and any other special staff member, just to name a few.

The Founders Day committee is working hard. Not only are we in a new venue, but we have a few new ideas we are working on to make this evening fun for everyone!

How can you help? We ask that each local unit donate a basket with items that are donated by your members for the silent auction.

The cost of the ticket did go up this year, but we felt it was time to change venues and the Holiday Inn has a tremendous buffet meal planned for us all. We are looking forward to a fun evening. Mark your calendars now, and watch for more details in February!

Scholarship Committee

The scholarship committee has moved up the deadline for scholarship applications to April 1 in order to present the recipients at the council meeting in May. It is so inspiring to read the applications of the many dedicated and bright students that we felt it would be a thrill to award the scholarships to the recipients in person.

Scholarship application forms have been delivered and are available in the career centers at all Renton high schools and Sartori and Black River.

If you are interested in assisting the committee in judging the applications, please contact us via email or let us know at a regular council meeting.

Please encourage the seniors in your school to apply.

Scholarship Committee: Annie Hetzel, Geri Carlson, Jerri Wood

Ahead of the Class

Teacher awards bring recognition and \$500 cash

Please take time to nominate a deserving teacher for this award; a truly unique and wonderful opportunity to honor Renton teaching staff. Teachers selected for the award will receive a cash gift of \$500 and be honored at a ceremony and dessert reception on May 8, 7pm - 9pm at the Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center next to Renton High School. Everyone is invited to attend this complimentary event.

Download a form from the: **Renton Chamber of Commerce website:** www.gorenton.com

Nomination forms are due to the Chamber by Thursday, February 8.
The awards presentation is: May 8th, 7 pm at the Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center



Renton School District News

Students to make up missed school days due to snow, power outage

January 29, May 7 and May 25 are now scheduled as school days; other makeup days are June 25 & 26

The Renton School District has announced plans to have students and staff make up the three days of school missed in late November and mid-December due to a snow storm and power outages.

Renton students will now attend school on Friday, May 25, a regularly scheduled snow makeup day, and on Monday, June 25 and Tuesday, June 26. Those days have been added to the end of the school year which was initially scheduled for June 22.

The few schools that were closed for an extended time because of power outages (Hazen High School, McKnight and Nelsen middle schools, Highlands, Hillcrest, Sierra Heights and Tiffany Park elementary schools) will not be required to makeup additional days beyond those set for the whole district.

If more inclement weather causes additional school closures, those days likely would be added to the end of the school year. Staff, students, parents and community members will be notified promptly if more makeup days are needed.

Randy Matheson, Executive Director,
Community Relations Renton School District



Renton School District - 2008 bond measure

The Renton School District has formed a committee to look at proposed needs for schools and technology to present to School Board members for possible inclusion on a ballot measure in February 2008. The School Construction and Technology committee is reviewing a proposed list of identified needs to improve school buildings and technology.

Needs on the current list being reviewed include continued work at Lindbergh High School, Nelsen and Dimmitt middle schools, Renton Stadium, as well as improvements in safety and security, school track and fields and technology upgrades in connectivity, wiring, software and training.

Committee meetings are open to the public and are held the second and fourth Wednesday's of each month from 1 to 3 p.m. Meetings will be held at varied locations. For more information, contact the district's Community Relations Office at 425.204.2345



Simple Majority NEEDS YOU!!

This message applies to all voters in Washington state!

Please take the important time of emailing, calling or writing to your Senator and State Representatives so we can get Simple Majority passed. This is an area where YOU — the public — truly make a huge difference. Marcie Maxwell, school board member and past president for the Renton School District, has written the best letter on this subject we have seen to-date. Please go to the Renton Council Web page www.rentonpta.org and download this letter and follow the 2 step process in sending this letter to your legislators! The most important thing: **do it TODAY!** Thanks for your much needed help. **(And please get the word out to everyone you know in Washington state.)**



Focus Day in Olympia

Washington State PTA's Focus Day is on Thursday, February 15th. This is our opportunity to participate in the legislative process. Come and learn more about the bills that are before the House and Senate that effect not only education, but health care, jobs, public safety and the environment.

Focus Day tips:

1. If at all possible, car pool. Parking is extremely difficult near the Capitol complex. There is visitors parking with free shuttle buses. I urge you to take advantage of this service.
2. Bring a sack lunch. There is one cafeteria on campus and it's extremely busy with the 'Hill habitants', otherwise known as lobbyists and legislative staff members. Conference rooms are being reserved by legislative districts you will have a place to sit, eat your lunch and have the opportunity to meet your legislators and others to network and discuss our issues and yours.
3. Wear comfortable shoes. Granite floors are hard. Dress for warm, crowded spaces. Legislator's offices are small, not built for large audiences. Hearing rooms are packed and stacked, especially on Focus Day. We are arranging for overflow rooms so more folks can comfortably listen to the proceedings.
4. If you have business cards, bring them. If not, be sure to bring a list of your local unit's contacts, including your name and information. Bring a pen and a tablet. You'll find yourself wanting to write down information about different bills or someone will give you their name and contact information.
5. And don't forget large amounts of patience and understanding. Everyone has something to learn, our various skills and styles keep us interested and interesting, and we need every one's perspective as we help define the future of education in our state.

And when you get home..

Please take a few moments to write your legislators and thank them for taking the time to meet with you. Even if it was only for a brief moment at lunch, remind them that you were there and this was why.

Share all that you heard and learned, at your local unit meeting, in the line at Starbuck's, the grocery store, the school parking lot or in the pew before church services. Every child deserves a voice. Every child is our child.

Region 9 – Leadership Conference
February 8, 2007 5:15 - 9:00 PM
Kent Meridian High School (10020 SE 256th St – Kent, WA 98030)

Schedule

Registration/Dinner.....5:15 – 5:45 PM
 Welcome..... 5:45 – 6:00 PM
 Legislative and Announcements. 6:00 – 6:20 PM
 Class Session 1..... 6:30 - 7:40 PM
 Class Session 2..... 7:50 – 9:00 PM

Please make a copy of the registration form for your records.

Registration Form – Please Print

Local Unit Name & Number _____
 Contact Person _____ Phone Number _____
 Email Address _____

Name – Please Print	Session 1 Class #	Session 2 Class #	Dinner \$3.00 per person

Class Materials: For planning purposes and materials, please indicate the approximate number of attendees. Register early to ensure there are enough handouts for all your participants

Conference Fees: \$35.00 per local unit (unlimited attendees), *postmarked on or before February 1, 2007.*
 \$60.00 per local unit (unlimited attendees), *postmarked after February 1, 2007.*

Make checks payable to WSPTA. Please include your local unit name & number on the check. Remember, PTA checks need two signatures.

Dinner: \$3.00 per person.

Lasagna, salad, breadstick, and a bottled water.

Dinner must be **preordered on or before February 1, 2007– no orders at the door.**

Mail this registration form and a check made payable to WSPTA to:

Novella Fraser – Reg 9
 2020 S 320th St #C119
 Federal Way, WA
 98003

Please make a copy of the registration form for your records.

Questions?

Novella Fraser 253/529-0458
 venicka@yahoo.com

Directions for the Kent-Meridian High School website: ww.kent.k12.wa.us/KSD/KM/directions.html



Dates to Remember in 2007

FEBRUARY

- 8 Region 9 Conference, Kent Meridian High School, 5:15pm - 9pm
- 15 Focus Day in Olympia (Legislative)
- 19-23 No school this week — mid winter break
- 26 Council meeting, KEC building, 7pm

MARCH

- 9 Drop off your Auction Baskets 3-7pm at KEC building
- 12 Founders Day Dinner & Auction, Holiday Inn Renton, 6:00pm
- 24 Drug Summit; sponsored by Renton PTSA Council, Hosted by Hazen High School

APRIL

- 9-13 No school this week – spring break
- 30 Council meeting, KEC building, 7pm

MAY

- 4-6 WA State PTA Conference, Doubletree Hotel-Seattle Airport
- 7 Make up School Day
- 8 “Ahead of the Class” Ceremony, Renton IKEA
- 21 Council Mtg: Incoming & Outgoing officers POTLUCK, KEC building, 6pm
- 25 Make up School Day
- 28 No school – Memorial Day holiday

JUNE

- 25 Make up School Day
- 26 Last Day of School

Changes happen! Please refer to the calendar section at www.RentonPTSA.org.

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