

# East Ridge PTA Newsletter

Monday, January 11, 2010



Enrich, Encourage, Enlighten  
[www.erpta.org](http://www.erpta.org)

## President's Message

Denise Nicholson, PTA President

It only seems like yesterday that we were starting a new school year and here we are already into 2010! There are lots of PTA activities and events coming up for you and your children to enjoy.

Firstly, thank you to **Karen Garhns** and her helpers who organized a hot lunch for the staff for two days during conference time in November. Also, to all of you who made contributions to Kirby's Winter Wish List in December. Kirby is the emergency storage container. A special thank you goes to **Margaret Hughes** and **Amy Cummings** for organizing this. We still need bungee cords (18" and 24"). If anyone would like to donate any please leave them in the PTA room (next to the front office) for us - thanks.

On **Tuesday, January 12th** we have **Reptile Man** returning to East Ridge at 7pm. This is a free PTA Program for everyone.

We have a presentation on **Tuesday, January 19th** on the upcoming Levy/Bond election plus a chocolate tasting and a quick General Meeting in the library at 7pm. There will be door prizes and chocolate there to taste. You can decide which ones you want for Valentine's Day. Also, if you come to **BOTH** the Reptile Man **AND** this meeting, you will have the chance to win a special chocolate gift basket. The Levy and Bond are being voted on by **February 9th** and they affect our children's education.

The **Spelling Bee** is starting on January 13th for 1st and 2nd grade children, January 20th for 3rd and 4th and January 27th for 5th and 6th. Details are on the website at [erpta.org](http://erpta.org).

**And finally, don't forget the Levy/Bond vote is due February 9th. Please use your vote!**

If you have any questions or comments please contact me at [president@erpta.org](mailto:president@erpta.org).

## The Reptile Man is coming to East Ridge!

Tuesday, January 12th, 7pm in the Gym

Join us for a special PTA Program Night that promises thrills and chills! The Reptile Man, otherwise known as Scott Petersen, will surely spark your interests in the natural sciences and the importance of all animals in the balance of nature!

You may have seen Scott on Disney's nationally televised Bill Nye - The Science Guy, Evening Magazine, Northwest Afternoon, Town Meeting, Q13 Kids Club, or Watch This. Now see him, and his animal entourage, up close and personal at East Ridge!!

Questions? Please contact **Trish Cooper** at 788-6623 or [programs@erpta.org](mailto:programs@erpta.org).





## PTA General Meeting

Tuesday, January 19- 7pm, Library Area

The ER PTA is please to offer a special presentation by Dick Anastasi, Executive Director of Business Services, Budget and Finance. Mr. Anastasi will discuss the Bond and Levy vote on February 9th.

The Bond needs to be approved for the next phase of the Woodinville High School reconstruction, for example. When this was last voted on 4 years ago, only 34% of East Ridge parents registered to vote did so. So please, at the very least, use your vote in February!

In addition to this very important presentation, we will also be tasting chocolates, just in time for Valentine's Day! We will have refreshments and door prizes and hope to have childcare.

If you attend **BOTH** the Reptile Man Program Night and this general meeting, you will be eligible to win a wonderful basket of chocolates!

Questions? Please email **Denise Nicholson** at [president@erpta.org](mailto:president@erpta.org)

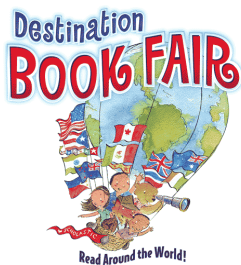
## A Note From Willy Wonka

A Few Reminders

Rehearsals are in full swing **Mondays and Thursdays** for 3rd-6th Graders.

Please remember to **pack a snack** for your child to eat outside before entering the gym. We appreciate our HUGE cast being in control and respectful by throwing trash away, entering gym quietly with parent volunteers and placing back packs by designated grade-level chair.

Remember, children will not be released until a parent signs them out from that grade-level chair in the gym. **Prompt pick-up at 5 PM is appreciated.**



## Book Fair A Huge Success!

From the desk of Mrs. Chwirka...

Thanks to the entire East Ridge Community for supporting our annual Book Fair.

Thanks to your generosity we were able to purchase over **\$2,000** in books for our library as well as fund future reading incentives, author visits and library materials.

Teachers send their gratitude for helping them build their classroom libraries with your kind donations of books from the Book Fair.



## Time To Spell!

### Register Now for the 2010 Spelling Bees!

Registration forms will be sent home via kid-mail. Forms are also available to print out online at [www.erpta.org/spelling.html](http://www.erpta.org/spelling.html). Completed forms should be returned to your child's teacher. This website will also provide the rules and a practice word list. We look forward to seeing another great crop of East Ridge Spellers this year!

**1st & 2nd Grade Bee – Wednesday, January 13th**

**3rd & 4th Grade Bee – Wednesday, January 20th**

**5th & 6th Grade Bee – Wednesday, January 27th**

All Bees will be held in the **East Ridge Library** and will begin at 3:15pm.

**Registration deadlines are the Monday before the Bee (January 11th for 1st/2nd Graders, January 18th for 3rd/4th Graders, and January 25th for 5th/6th Graders)**

**Questions?** Contact **Mary Mulkins** at [spellingbee@erpta.org](mailto:spellingbee@erpta.org)



## One Million Pennies

### 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a million collected!

In an effort to make our penny drive even easier, we will be collecting pennies on **Wednesday** mornings, near the office. Just bag your pennies and drop them in the collection bucket.

No need to count or roll pennies! Add your pennies (or nickels, dimes, quarters- I'll convert anything and everything to pennies!) and watch our collection grow!

**Questions?** Contact **Rebecca Gerhardt** @ 425-844-1177 or [fundraising@erpta.org](mailto:fundraising@erpta.org)



## Nominating Committee

### Volunteers Needed!

We are currently looking for 1 more person who would like to serve on the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee finds qualified, enthusiastic people who are willing to serve on the 2010-2011 PTA Board.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in leading a group of volunteers by serving as a member of the PTA Nominating Committee, please contact **Denise Nicholson** at [President@erpta.org](mailto:President@erpta.org).

## Friends of the Library

### Birthday Book Club

The books keep coming in to our Birthday Book Club! Thank you to the following for these wonderful books!

Cambria M. - Janie's Freedom  
 Cambria M. - Nellie the Brave  
 Olivia M. - School's Out  
 Olivia M. - Back to School  
 Andrea M. - Out of Control  
 Andrea M. - New Beginnings  
 Brody G. - Find Nat  
 Asia P. - Tyrannosaurus Math  
 Ethan T. - Diary of a Wimpy Kid Dog Days

If you want to donate a book to our library. Go to Amazon.com, click on "WishList", and then enter "East Ridge Library". Buy a book and then send it to the library! Here is a link: <http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/registry.html?ie=UTF8&type=wishlist&id=2T5PRXX4883JF>

**Questions?** Please contact **Sandy Skeel** @[sandyskeel@hotmail.com](mailto:sandyskeel@hotmail.com) or (425) 844-1986.

## Box Tops 4 Education

### Box Tops Collection week is coming!

#### February 8<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup>

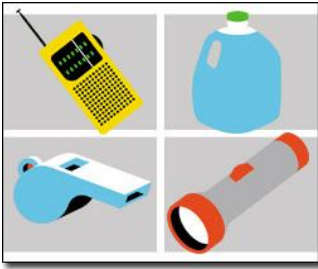
Our second, and final, Box Tops collection of the school year is coming soon. For this collection there will be a prize given to the **classroom** that collects the most Box Tops. Collection boxes will be placed either outside or inside the classroom depending on the classroom preference. Please remember to check the expiration dates on the Box Tops. Only unexpired Box Tops will be counted.

During the week of February 8th - 12th, each classroom will have their own box for collecting Box Tops. The classroom with the most Box Tops collected will earn a classroom party.

Our last collection brought in \$524.70 for our PTA. That is under our \$1300 goal for the year. Please help us make our yearly goal - we can't do it without you! Collecting Box Tops contributes greatly to helping make a difference in our school. Please remember that Box Tops are so wide spread and can be found on a variety of products from napkins to cereal to plastic bags, the list seems endless; so chances are you already have them in your home. Keep up the good work and send in those Box Tops. Thank you!

If you have any questions about Box Tops, please feel free to contact East Ridge PTA Box Tops chair **Margaret Hughes** at 425-788-5470 or [boxtops@erpta.org](mailto:boxtops@erpta.org)





## Emergency Prep Chatter

### Be Prepared!

We are so excited about all that is happening with our emergency container, Kirby. First, an update: This week, we were able to purchase more food and water, thanks to a generous grant from our PTA board. Each year, we purchase a portion of the recommended supplies, with the eventual goal of being able to rotate out items just before they are to expire. It made us almost giddy to be able to stock the shelves of Kirby, with new, much needed supplies. Kirby was awfully excited too.

Also thrilling Kirby the Container, are all of the generous donations which have been made during December. The response to his Winter Wish List has been so encouraging. So far, 25 percent of Kirby's wishes have been fulfilled! If you've been meaning to send something in and just haven't gotten around to it, please visit: [tadalist.com](http://tadalist.com) for a complete and up-to-date list of (tax-deductible) items still needed. Once there, go to the top of the page where it says "Log into your account", then enter the **username: emprep**, **password: wishlist**. There you will find the remaining items. Only 66 items left. Just pick something out from the list and then follow the directions at the top of the page. It has been so much fun to watch the progress as items fall off the list into a neat little pile at the bottom of the page. You have until the end of this month to send in donations. Just send them in on your child's music day, to Mrs. Anderson, or drop them off at her room before school. Quick, easy, and very much appreciated. You should see Kirby's big grin. If you haven't, ask your child about it. They get to see it every time they go to music.

Thank you so much to the following families who have helped to put such a big grin on Kirby's face: **The Held family**, hand sanitizer; **the Kitzan family**, spoons; **the Marantz family**, hand warmers, latex gloves and bungee cords; **the Springer family**, hand warmers; and **the Taplett family**, D batteries and hand sanitizer. There have been many other families who have donated anonymously, and their contributions are also very much appreciated. Our children will be well taken care of if the unthinkable actually does happen.

#### Finally, the **Tip of the Month**:

Decide upon an out-of-area contact who can relay information for separated family members. Someone out of state works best. You've probably heard this suggestion before but here's my extra tip. When you call your sister in Colorado to tell her there's been an earthquake and you are fine, make sure she doesn't panic when she turns on the news and sees heavy damage in Pioneer Square. Our local damage may not be the same as what they are showing on CNN. You need her to stay calm, so that when your husband calls her to get an update on your condition, she is not hysterical. This anecdote is based on an actual incident during the 2001 earthquake.

My second tip is to label your canned food, so you know how old it is. Then you can donate it to the food drive just before it expires. Do the same with the extra pet food you have set aside for Scruffy or Fluffy. Animal shelters take pet food donations too.

Thanks again for all the help we've received. It really is fun to see the progress being made in East Ridge's container, Kirby. It's a great investment and brings us all a little more peace of mind.

Want to have fun, work hard and get our school better prepared? If you are interested in joining our committee, helping with a special project or donating supplies, please contact: **Margaret Hughes** at 425-788-5470, [magspaws@gmail.com](mailto:magspaws@gmail.com); or **Amy Cummings** at 425-556-9868, [greg.amy@comcast.net](mailto:greg.amy@comcast.net).

## PTA Calendar January 2010



Monday	January 11	PTA Newsletter Published
Tuesday	January 12	PTA Program Night- Reptile Man! 7pm
Wednesday	January 13	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Spelling Bee- Library 3:15pm
Monday	January 18	No School - MLK Day
Tuesday	January 19	Talk on Levy/Bond by Dick Anastasi And General Meeting- Library 7:00pm
Wednesday	January 20	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Spelling Bee- Library 3:15pm
Friday	January 22	Popcorn Friday- Don't Forget Your Quarter!
Friday	January 22	Levy/Bond Ballots Being Mailed Today
Wednesday	January 27	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Spelling Bee- Library 3:15pm
Friday	January 29	No School- Non-Student Day

## February

Monday	February 2	PTA Board Meeting- Room 6- 9:00am Everyone Welcome!
Monday	February 8	Newsletter Published
Tuesday	February 9	Levy/Bond Election- PLEASE VOTE!
Monday- Friday	February 8 February 12	Box Top Collection Week Send in your Box Tops!
Monday	February 15	No School- President's Day
Monday	February 15	No School- President's Day
Tuesday- Friday	February 16- February 19	No School Mid-Winter Break
Friday	February 26	Popcorn Friday- Don't Forget Your Quarter!

