

East Ridge PTA Newsletter

Monday, January 12, 2009



Enrich, Encourage, Enlighten
www.erpta.org

President's Message

Lisa Goldman, PTA President



Wellington, Wellington, here we come. Join us at Wellington for a joint Program Night!! East Ridge will have a quick General Meeting; starting at 6:45pm in rooms 27 and 28 to go over some PTA business and then we will adjourn to the gym for a visit with Author David Schwartz. See full details about this fun night in the article below.

Have you had a chance to check out our teacher wish lists? The holiday's have come and gone but our teachers still have items remaining on their wish lists. You can help them out with room supplies by visiting the Ta-Da List for your teacher at <http://eastridgepta.tadalist.com> using password **wishlist**. Look for your teacher's list to see what is still being "wished for" - they will appreciate anything, anytime.



With January in full swing the PTA needs to start looking for a few good volunteers for next year. The first committee that needs volunteers is the **Nominating Committee**. The Nominating Committee is responsible for finding volunteers to fill the elected PTA Executive Board positions, which are President, VP Fundraising, VP of Programs, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you would like to volunteer for the Nominating Committee, or one of the elected Executive Board positions, please contact me at president@erpta.org or 788-8833.



PTA Program Night

A Special Joint Program with Wellington Elementary School

East Ridge PTA and Wellington PTA are co-hosting Author David Schwartz on **January 13** for Family Night at Wellington Elementary!

With his **Numbers, Numbers, Everywhere!** program David shows how numbers enrich our lives. He treats families to delightful storytelling, and talks about the connection between stories and numbers.

David is an accomplished storyteller and an innovator in presenting mathematical information in engaging ways, using humor and a wealth of visuals to inspire and inform. David customizes his presentations to audiences from early primary through secondary school grades. Children and adults learn, laugh, think, and howl with delight!

There will be a short East Ridge PTA meeting at Wellington Elementary prior to the presentation. East Ridge parents and children should head to rooms 27 and 28 by the Wellington Library by **6:45pm**. We'll all head to the *Numbers* program together, after our meeting is over.

Questions? Please contact **East Ridge PTA VP for Programs Trish Cooper** at 788-6623 or programs@erpta.org.



Cookies and Juice

Make our Program Night Even More Fun!

If you can make or buy baked treats or juice for our Program Night at Wellington on the 13th please contact **East Ridge PTA Hospitality Chair Kathleen Summers** at hospitality@erpta.org. Thanks!



What's That Buzzing Sound?

2009 Spelling Bees!

Spelling Bee for 1st and 2nd Graders – Wednesday, January 14th
 Spelling Bee for 3rd and 4th Graders – Wednesday, January 21st
 Spelling Bee for 5th and 6th Graders – Wednesday, January 28th

All Bees held in the East Ridge Gym at 3:30pm

Register online at www.erpta.org/spelling.html
 by **Monday January 12, 2009 (1st & 2nd Grade)**
 by **Monday January 19, 2009 (3rd & 4th Grade)**
 by **Monday January 26, 2009 (5th & 6th Grade)**

Questions? Contact **East Ridge PTA Spelling Bee Chair Mary Mulkins** at spellingbee@erpta.org



Box Tops Collection week is coming!

February 2nd – 6th

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.

Our last collection brought in \$675 for our PTA. That is over half the \$1300 goal for the year! 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!

Questions or comments please contact **East Ridge PTA Box Tops Chair Bea Creel** at boxtops@erpta.org



Weather Related School Closures

How to Find Out Fast When Schools Are Closed

The old "Hear it First" email program is no longer used by the Northshore School District. However you can sign up for personalized email alerts about Northshore Schools at <http://www.schoolreport.org/index.php>



PTA Legislation

Washington State Legislature Convenes January 12, 2009

The next legislative session will convene on January 12th and last for 105 days. During this session, the legislature will pass a budget for the next biennium (2-year period). The projected deficit for the next budget cycle is projected to be between \$5 and \$6 billion dollars for our state.

The Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance has been completing its work to develop a new education funding model. The 30-year old, outdated model needs to be replaced. A majority of members have endorsed the proposal put forth by the bipartisan group of legislators.

Note that the funding is slated to increase over a 6-year (3 budget-cycle) period, with no funding increase for the first biennium. Here are the highlights:

http://www.leg.wa.gov/documents/joint/bef/Legislators_Basic-EdFundingProposalBrief.pdf *Stay tuned for information about what you can do to contact legislators with your input once the session convenes.*

Here are two things you can do now to stay involved:

1. Sign up for email news and legislative updates from the League of Education Voters, a state education advocacy organization:
http://www.educationvoters.org/2009_legislative_session
2. Share information with your kids about the legislative process and how it works:
http://www.leg.wa.gov/documents/legislature/studentspage/teenguide_web.pdf

Thanks for your support of K-12 education in our state! Questions – thoughts – concerns? Contact **East Ridge PTA Legislation Chair Kirsten Taniguchi** at legislation@erpta.org

PTA Calendar

January 12 - February 28

Monday	January 12	PTA Board Meeting - 9:30am - Room 21
Tuesday	January 13	PTA Program Night at Wellington Elementary 7pm
Wednesday	January 14	1 st & 2 nd Grade Spelling Bee in Gym 3:30pm
Monday	January 19	No School - MLK Day
Wednesday	January 21	3 rd & 4 th Grade Spelling Bee in Gym 3:30pm
Wednesday	January 28	5 th & 6 th Grade Spelling Bee in Gym 3:30pm
Friday	January 30	No School - Non-Student Day
Monday-Friday	February 2 - February 6	Box Tops Collection Week Send in Your Box Tops!
Monday	February 9	PTA Board Meeting - 9:30am - Room 21
Friday	February 23	Newsletter Published
Monday - Friday	February 16- February 20	No School - Mid-Winter Break
Friday	February 27	Popcorn Friday - Don't Forget Your Quarter!