

The Talon

The Eastgate Elementary School PTA Newsletter

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue 3 February 2012

- Feb 8 - Auction Meeting (7pm)
- Feb 9- ESL Talk Time (see article)
- Feb 16- Donuts with Dad, 8:30am
- Feb 17 - Science on Wheels/ Auction Item donation deadline
- Feb 20-24 - Mid Winter Break
- Feb 29 - Finding Kind/Ski School Makeup
- March 31 - PTA Auction

Learn what programs the auction supports
Eastgate has incredible programs that are only possible with the support of our community.

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Make it a date night. March 31, 2012
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Auction Items Needed
We need more fantastic items to sell. Can you help?
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It's An Auction Year At Eastgate!

The Eastgate Elementary PTA hosts a bi-annual auction. This year the theme is 'Spread Your Wings and Fly' and will be held at the Bellevue Red Lion March 31st 2012. Please plan to join us for an evening of fun! This auction helps the PTA raise funds that will support programs for the next **two years**.

Eastgate Elementary School is a great example of the importance of community, administration, faculty, and parent involvement in the success of educating our children. The PTAs bi-annual auction has historically been our biggest fundraising event. Our goal for the 2012 "Spread your Wings and Fly" Auction event is to continue that success.

Here is a list of **some** of the programs PTA funds and with **your help** facilitates

- Art Docent
- Back-to-School And School Spirit Events

- Classroom Grants
- Communication including eNews, the PTA Website (www.eastgatepta.org) and the Talon
- Grade level activities (Toymaker Workshop, Roots of Empathy)
- 5th Grade Marine Biology Field Trip
- Multi-Cultural Week
- Library books
- PNB 4th Grade Residency Program
- PE Equipment
- Reflections (National Arts Program)
- Talent Show
- Visiting Instructor PTA Program (VIPP)
- Science Fair
- Science on Wheels
- Young Author's Day
- And many more....

Please visit our Auction Page http://www.eastgatepta.org/event_auction.html and click **Auction Items** to see the great community businesses that have already contributed towards the big event.

Make It A Parents Night Out!

Eastgate Elementary School Auction Tickets will be \$45 per person and includes a fabulous dinner menu featuring a choice of:

- Garlic Stuffed Top Sirloin, Breast of Chicken in Panko or Ravioli Florentine
- Complimentary champagne upon arrival. Wine, beer and spirits can be purchased at a No Host Bar.

The evening's events will include the Recess Game Room, a Live Auction, a Silent Auction, Dessert Dash and a Food Frenzy to name a few. Mention you are part of the Eastgate Elementary PTA Auction Group and receive a discounted standard room rate of \$89 per night at the Bellevue Red Lion (price excludes taxes and fees).

Samena Swim Club will be hosting Kid Night Out, a fun night of activities for your kids while parents attend the auction. For times and costs visit http://www.eastgatepta.org/event_auction.html.

Donations Needed

Do you have something you could donate to the auction? Do you know someone that would be willing to make a donation. Everyone has something to contribute - consumer electronics or baked goods, professional services, personalized experiences, vacation homes, use of your RV or boat, house cleaning, web design, landscape design and much more!

Please visit our Auction Page http://www.eastgatepta.org/event_auction.html and click the **Get Involved** tab! You will need to fill out a procurement form and turn it into the PTA mailbox in the copy room. Help us make this year's auction the most successful yet!

Bus Stop Baskets

Want to help out at the Eastgate PTA Auction, but not sure how? Don't have a lot of time or money to spend? The solution: BUS STOP BASKETS! A fun & easy way to involve people you already know like home owners associations, soccer teams, cub scouts, girl scouts, bus stop, book club or just a group of friends. They are so much fun to put together! Start with a theme and brainstorm all of the items that go with that theme!

Some ideas are:

- ★Grilling * Tailgating *American Girl
- ★Costume/Dress Up * Greeting Cards
- ★Ornaments *Baby *Aveda/Spa
- ★Home Improvement *Cooking
- ★Gardening *Mexican Fiesta
- ★Aroma Therapy *Outdoor Activities *Baking

For additional Bus Stop basket ideas see our http://www.eastgatepta.org/event_auction.html

Wine Open House

Jason and Sara Cook (parents of Gavin and our own auction co-chair) are hosting an open house for wine collection for our auction wine toss event. If you have a couple of bottles of wine that you would like to donate to the auction, please plan to stop by the Cooks The Open House will be Sunday March 4th 10am.-2pm A light bunch menu will be served. This is a fun, casual gathering. Parents can swing by, drop off wine, grab a bite, and socialize(childcare not provided). 4625 159th Ave S.E., 98006. Contact jason@jasoncook.com.

Auction Contest!

Weekly drawings will be held beginning January 20th thru February 17th for a chance to win a \$20 Starbucks gift card.

The more donation forms you turn in, the higher your chances of winning! Each procurement form turned in for that week equals one entry into the weekly drawing. Please include your name (Procured by...), phone number and child's teacher at the bottom of each form.

There will be a Classroom contest as well. The classroom that turns in the most procurement forms wins a PJ Day and a breakfast including Krispy Kreme Donuts, milk, fruit and a healthy cereal choice.

Forms may be turned in at the office or to a teacher.

Winners will be announced each Monday morning in the PTA eNews starting January 23rd.

PTA Program Spotlight: Art Docent

Our Art Docent program is one that we are particularly fond of. Megan Hedges has facilitated this AMAZING program for the past several years. Our Eastgate students are incredibly talented! In addition to the wonderful works the children create as part of the Art Docent program - our Art Docent parents work with the teachers and students in the classroom to create magnificent pieces to be auctioned at our event. We have included just a few of the many wonderful masterpieces created by classrooms in prior auctions.



These projects are truly amazing and a wonderful reminder of your students time here at Eastgate. Some of this year's projects include; a mosaic garden table, several fused glass projects, a mixed media collage with

natural materials and much much more! Don't miss the opportunity to take your classroom's projecthome!

Visiting Instructor PTA Program (VIPP): Raise the Paddle Focus

The Eastgate PTA is proud to continue supporting VIP² this year! The VIP² program has been our PTA's largest expenditure. This program pays for additional staff time to support our classrooms in core subject areas. Thanks to our donors and fundraising efforts, we were able to dedicate \$59,000 to this program for the 2011-2012 school year! We have hired three instructional assistants this year that are working with our students in math and literacy.

All students benefit from VIP² - whether it is from participating in a small group to master a targeted skill, working with both the VIP² instructor and their classroom teacher during an instructional block, or increased interactions with their regular classroom teacher as a result of other students working in small groups.

We are excited about the impact VIP² is having on our students. Eastgate PTA has continued the legacy and the partnership with our teachers by again voting to focus funds collected at the "raise the paddle" portion of our auction on this program.

Volunteers for Neighbor Auctions

Every year we hold a volunteer exchange programs with other Bellevue Elementary Schools to support each other at these big fundraising events.

Special thanks to Sarah Howard, Dee Dee Blumenstein, Robyn Fuller, Eli D'Alessandro, Monika Smith and Beth Aigbe for volunteering at the Spiritridge Auction 2/3. Volunteering at a neighboring school provides a firsthand look at how auctions are run as well as allows our fellow elementary PTAs the ability to enjoy their own functions. The favor is always returned. There are two other schools that are having auctions this year: Puesta del Sol 3/20/12 and Woodridge 3/30/12. If you are able to help at one of these events please contact Beth Aigbe @ e.aigbe@comcast.net.

What is the “Pacific Northwest Ballet Residency”?



Photo: Bill Mohn, PNB

Each year ALL 4th grade students at Eastgate attend PNB dance classes in the Eastgate gym for about 7 weeks. Only four area schools (we are the only Bellevue school) are lucky enough to participate in this program and since 2000, Eastgate has been privileged to be one of them.

In 1999 PNB came to Eastgate to teach one week of PE as part of a Bellevue Schools Foundations grant written by a parent and Sandy Perenchio, our PE teacher. Eastgate jumped at the opportunity to participate in a newly developed residency program. Principals, fourth grade teaching teams and parents have been ardent supporters ever since. This program helps students work through a myriad of challenges such as “I don’t want to do this”, “I can’t do this”, “Ballet isn’t for me”, and “I’m nervous.

Students learn dance fundamentals and compose a dance piece during their twice weekly 40 minute classes with dance instructor Kayti Bouljon from the world renowned Pacific Northwest Ballet School in Seattle. The program concludes when our 4th grade students perform on the stage of the 2,800 seat McCaw Hall along with students from 3 Seattle schools and PNB dancers. Please join us on **Saturday, March 24 at 10:00 a.m.** Ticket information will be sent home before mid-winter break. If you have questions please contact Joanne DePina at 562.2908 or Emily Browder at 749-7054 or visit <http://www.pnb.org/outreach/discoverdance.html>

The PNB residency program is made possible through a grant from the Eastgate PTA and a myriad of sponsors including; JPMorgan Chase Foundation, Lockwood Foundation,

National Endowment for the Arts, PONCHO Puget Sound Energy Foundation, Safeco Insurance Foundation, Union Bank Foundation, Washington State Arts commission just to name a few.

Find The Phrase Winners

Thank you all that participated in the Find the Phrase contest. We hope you find the new website easy to use and full of interesting and important information. Contest participants received two 31 Flavors certificates! Should you have any feedback for us, additional items you would like to see or corrections – please send them to ptaweb@eastgatepta.org. The winners are:

Sara Cook - Gavin - Mrs Robert’s 1st Grade
 Emily Browder -Elyse Mr Rea 4th Grade/Camille Mrs Gallawa 2nd Grade
 Janice Rios Janiela - Mrs Roberts 1st Grade
 Susan Han -Mathew Mrs Gallawa 2nd Grade
 Robyn Fuller Danica and Natalie Ms Rotz
 Huy To -Alexis Khauv Mrs. Schmidt 5th Grade
 Ms Jaffe - Music Teacher
 Emily Wan -Student - Mrs Schmidt 5th Grade
 Ruiqin Liang -Zheru – Mrs Schmidt 5th Grade
 Anne Bankson -Lalita- Mr Faulkner 5th Grade
 Cari Bradshaw - Gannon “Boomer” – Ms Finerty 2nd Grade
 Carrie Lowenson-Jessica – Mr Faulkner -5th Grade

Donuts With Dad

Due to the enormous success last year, we are hosting Donuts With Dad again! Bring your Eastgate son or daughter to school and enjoy a donut, coffee and juice. Donuts will be served from 8:30-9:00am on Thursday, February 16 in the gym. Chat with other parents, and afterward you can walk your child to class. All “father figures” are welcome, whomever plays that role in your family. A couple of volunteers are needed, please call Eric Dawson @ 206-427-9585.

Eastgate Students and Teachers Put on a Fabulous Talent Show

We are so proud of Eastgate's rising stars who participated in our Annual Eastgate PTA Student and Teacher Talent show Friday, January 27th in the Gym. The show was a standout!

The kids worked for over a month on their acts, coming in at recess and meeting after school to get ready. Their hard work and dedication can only be described as passion for performing! The kids were so focused on the show, many came to every single practice we held, and even asked to practice on non-practice days.

Their hard work paid off with smiles, cheers and applause from the audience. 41 acts, 80 kids shared their talents with us. They put on a fantastic show! We also enjoyed Miss Kelye and Ms. Rosenthal getting Ms. Rosenthal ready for school.

A special mention goes out to the 5th grade MC's and Tech crew who ran the show without a hitch! Thanks to all the "show" parents for their support. The kids could not do this without you.

Special thanks to our Talent Show Committee and Volunteers: Brenna Fields, Tom Fields, Greg O'Byrne, Janice Rios, Angela DeLahoz, Giang Nguyen, Dee Dee Blumenstein, Susan Nguyen, Monica Privat, Kathy Takahaski, Eli D'Alessandro, Scott Shigeta, Sheri Byther, Megan Clark, Adam King, James Dupy, *and all of you chair stacking parents!*

We could not do this without you. Thanks goes to Eastgate Staff Xion Cao, Gabriel Yel, Jessica Soto, Kirk Tavener and Gail McDonald.

And thank you EASTGATE PTA for making the show possible.

The Talent Show needs a new Producer / organizer next year. Please consider helping. There is great passion and great support in our Eastgate Community for getting these kids on stage to share their talents. Lets go on with the show!

Sowing the Seeds of Science

Eastgate PTA is kicking off our love of science this year by hosting **Science on Wheels** again **on Friday, February 17th**. This year's topic will focus on mathematics in the form of spatial reasoning, probability, logic and patterns, and mathematics in everyday objects. Students K-3 will have the opportunity to explore how fundamental math is in our everyday lives with a hands-on station based activities assembly facilitated by Pacific Science Center staff. Students will discover how math is everywhere, from maps, to quilts, to fitting toys in a box. Grades 4 & 5 will have a science expert visit their classroom for a 45 minute in-depth science lesson focusing on the importance of math. This program reminds us how we use math every day!

Ready Set Science!

Eastgate Science Week will take place March 12th -March 15th. The Fair itself will be **Thursday March 15th** and will take place between 6:30 -8:00 in the Eastgate gymnasium. Students will have an

opportunity to showcase their science experiments and share their love of science with their fellow students. Parents plan to channel your child's excitement for science over the mid-winter break and assist your child in formulating this year's science fair entry. See http://www.eastgatepta.org/event_science_fair.html for entry rules, suggested grade appropriate experiment topics, tips for parents to assist your children and volunteer opportunities. More information will be sent home next month.

Talk Time Comes to Eastgate

Our Eastgate Community is very diverse. Did you know that over 30% of Eastgate's student population speaks a language other than English? Kathy Takahashi will be facilitating weekly ESL Talk Time at Eastgate beginning Thursday, Feb 2 from 10-11:30 am in the Music Room. Kathy has been volunteering at Somerset's Talk Time and has witnessed the wonderful way this opportunity builds community within the school. Talk time is an opportunity for all parents, not exclusively ESL, to meet and discuss important topics of the day, get connections on extra-curricular activities, and community

events. Native English speakers are encouraged to attend. Please note that our new website has a translation tool to help those new to our community. Also, the Eastgate PTA directory has a page listing parents able to assist with translation. Please come by and say hello when able and spread the word.

Talk Time Schedule:

Feb 2, 2012 10-11:30am (music room)
Feb 9, 2012 10-11:30am (music room)
Feb 16, 2012 10-11:30am (music room)
Feb 23, 2012 10-11.30am (music room)
March 1, 2012 10-11.30am (music room)



Empathy Corner

The Seattle Channel Cable 21 has aired an editorial about Roots of Empathy. Its most recent airing was this last Wed January 25 and includes an interview with Mary Gordon, the founder of the Roots of Empathy program. Eastgate is one of three schools in the Bellevue School District that is participating in this program. Here's the link to the most recent article and showing <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=4071202>. To find out more about this program www.rootsofempathy.org

Community Corner

Community of Mindful Parents is hosting a free screening of Finding Kind on February 29. The documentary takes a closer look at bullying in teenage girls <http://findingkind.indieflix.com/home/> and is recommended for ages 10 and up. More details provided soon. Visit <http://www.eastgatepta.org/community.html> for more information.

Have You Joined the PTA?

Eastgate PTA is a non-profit, volunteer organization committed to enhancing the educational experience for the students at Eastgate. The PTA works to involve and educate parents and to support teachers and staff to enhance classroom learning. **By joining Eastgate PTA you help provide many ongoing programs that support EVERY Eastgate student.** Visit www.eastgatepta.org for more info.

Eastgate Executive Board

Here are your PTA executive board members. They are happy to help answer your questions and collect your feedback and comments.

VP Programs
[Tracey Cook-Lee](#)
VP Fundraising
[Beth Aigbe](#)
VP Communications
[Eli D'Alessandro](#)
VP Hospitality
[Deb Grover](#)
Treasurer
[Rosella Picado](#)
Secretary
[Joanne DePina](#)

Are you interested in becoming a board member or chair for the Eastgate PTA next year?

Visit www.eastgatepta.org for more information.

Eastgate PTA is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.