



The Pony Express

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President: Kym Clayton - sunnyhillspta@gmail.com Editor: Kina Yukish - kinay@comcast.net | 425.837.7400

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Message from the President

Happy Fall, T.E.A.M. Sunny Hills!

September and October were busy months for the Sunny Hills PTA! In September, we held our annual Meet the Teacher/Back to School Donuts, loaded and unloaded kids safely from buses during the first week of school, provided delicious meals to the staff, and finished up the first week with our Tears and Cheers event for new and incoming Kindergarten parents. Additionally, we held our Chair Orientation and PTA Welcome Brunch, coordinated volunteers for Vision and Hearing screenings, fed the homeless through the Issaquah Meals Program, and joined efforts with Principal Lederman and ISF during Curriculum night presentations. The school, ISF, and Sunny Hills PTA truly are a "TEAM" that works well together! We encourage every family to write down a commitment for the school's Campaign of Kindness.

In October, we held our first General Membership Meeting of the school year, followed by a wonderful parent education meeting about Common Core State Standards. If you missed the meeting, make sure to read the recap article in this edition of the Pony Express. Additionally, PTA volunteers helped coordinate Picture Day, Book Fair and Family Night, Art Walks, and the Reflections program. October is also the month where PTA delegates gather from around the state for Legislative Assembly and discuss the PTA's advocacy platform. To learn more about Legislative Assembly, make sure to read the Legislative Assembly recap article.

100%!! We are now at 100% for General Membership and Teacher Membership! Thank you to those who have joined SHPTA. Your membership gives each child at Sunny Hills a voice for SHPTA to advocate for the physical, emotional, and academic needs of our students. One of our goals this year is increasing our percentage of family membership participation. If you haven't joined yet, it's not too late. Just take 2 minutes and [join SHPTA now!](#)

We have some awesome events and programs planned in November and December, so make sure you stay in the know via the Mustang Messenger and weekly eNews, Pony Express Bi-monthly Newsletter, eBlasts, Facebook, and other social media.

GO T.E.A.M. Sunny Hills! Together Everyone Achieves More!

Warmly,

~[Kym Clayton](#), Sunny Hills PTA President 2013-14

Membership Report

We did it again! We are now at **100%+** and counting for our PTA General Membership! That means every student at Sunny Hills is represented by a dues paying PTA Member to advocate on their behalf!



One of our goals this school year is increasing the per family membership percentage from last year. We still need YOU! If you haven't joined yet, [CLICK HERE](#).

We have already achieved 100% Teacher and Staff Membership! THANK YOU to our AWESOME and SUPPORTIVE Sunny Hills Staff. You guys ROCK!

~ Ayana Meissner, PTA Membership Director

"Silent" Fund Raising

There are MANY WAYS to support "Silent" fundraising efforts of critical PTA programs without ANY extra hassle. Here are just a few examples. Don't forget that many companies also have Matching Funds for your donations. Click [HERE](#) for a complete list of our "Silent/Easy Fundraisers" and see how YOU can participate!

Ways to Earn Money for Sunny Hills!



- [Shop at Amazon and Earn Money for Sunny Hills](#) - When you use this link to make your Amazon purchases, Sunny Hills PTA earns 4%-8.5% on all your orders at NO extra cost to you! As more sales are generated through our site, a higher percentage of the total sales will be donated to Sunny Hills PTA. Bookmark this link or add to your favorites in your browser! Please ask your friends and family to use this link too! [http://www.amazon.com/? encoding=UTF8&tag=suhipt-20%20](http://www.amazon.com/?encoding=UTF8&tag=suhipt-20%20)

- [Target "Take Charge of Education"](#) - Support Sunny Hills when you shop at Target with your REDcard! Designate Sunny Hills as your school to sign up at Target.com/tcoe. It only takes a minute and Target will donate 1% of your purchases to our school! Don't have a REDcard? Go to Target.com/redcard to sign up - you automatically get 5% off your purchases! .



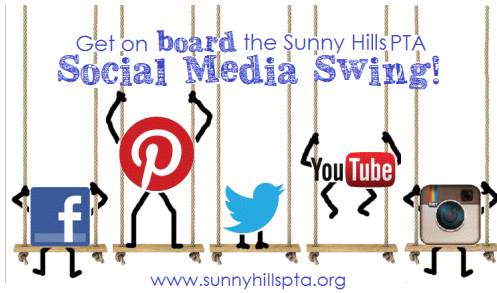
- [Support Sunny Hills by shopping at Safeway!](#) If you shop at Safeway, take a few minutes to enroll in eScrip to earn money for Sunny Hills. It's free and easy! Every time you shop at Safeway with your debit card, a percentage of what you spend is then given back to Sunny Hills. This could mean hundreds of additional dollars for our PTA to put right back into great Sunny Hills programs! To sign up, go to eScrip.com, click on "1-Sign Up" and enter your Safeway club card number. If you participated in the past you must renew so our group continues to earn contributions. To renew, go to eScrip.com, click on "Yes, Renew!" and enter either your phone number, email or club card number.



- **Jamba Juice "Sip to Support Schools"** - Every time a "Sip to Support Schools" swipe card is presented at the time of a Jamba Juice purchase, 10% of proceeds will be donated to Sunny Hills PTA and 2% to the National PTA. Pick up your free swipe cards in the front office!



Social Media & Sunny Hills PTA



You can follow Sunny Hills PTA using the social media links below:



What's been happening?

School Tours

In August, families new to Sunny Hills were given tours of the school by PTA volunteers. Many of the volunteers were assisted by their children as well. We SO appreciate their

efforts to help new students and parents feel comfortable starting a new school year at a new school. Our wonderful volunteers included: **Cheryl Furey, Kym Clayton, Stephanie Shipley, Tracy Drake (and kids), Amy Gathright (and kids), Monica Rockwell (and kids), Heather Duenaz (and kids), Barb Howe (and kids), Darawan Morrison (and kids).**

Thank you ALL for your help!



Grounds Beautification

A very special THANK YOU to Grounds Beautification Chair **Amy Gibbons** & her husband **Dan Gibbons**. They have spent many hours working to do the fall weeding/plantings/mulching and set up the harvest decorations that make our Sunny Hill campus look beautiful and festive. Thank you both for all your work!



Meet the Teacher Day/ Back to School Donuts

On September 3rd, students were able to come find classrooms, meet their teachers, and drop off school supplies. To help kick off the new school year, the PTA sponsored a Back to School Donut Social in the Courtyard afterwards. Sunny Hills alums and PTA members helped serve donuts to students and their families. Thanks go to both **Top Pot Donuts & Krispy Kreme** for providing donuts at a discount for the event.



Our Fabulous PTA Board

Jaime Menold, Jennifer Murai, Shawna Borichewski, Ayana Meissner, Kym Clayton, Tracy Drake, Amy Gathright and Katie Brown.

Students and parents were also able to look over this year's selection of Mustang Spirit Wear, look at photos from past PTA-sponsored events, and learn about this year's upcoming events, volunteer opportunities and fund-raising efforts.

Many thanks to our wonderful **Sunny Hills PTA Board of Directors** and all who helped with this fun Back-to-School Event!

Tears & Cheers

Thank you to **Tiffany Buck**, chair for organizing the Tears & Cheers event held on Sept 5th. This meeting gave parents the opportunity to come visit with other parents, meet our new principal, Leslie Lederman, and learn more about PTA and ISF. Light refreshments were provided, and plenty of tissues, too!

Kym Clayton, PTA Pres & Leslie Lederman, Sunny Hills Principal visiting with parents



Bus Greeters

A huge thank you goes out to all of the cheerful Bus Greeters who came every morning and each afternoon during the first week of school to assist the kiddos with getting on and off of the buses safely! Kudos to **Shannon Holliway**, Bus Greeters PTA Director for organizing everyone so flawlessly. The wonderful volunteers included: **Kris Broenneke, Jennifer Murai, Stephanie Mittmann, Kristin Marcy, Becky Hall, Martha Roorda, Sally Porter, Cami Blumenthal, Heather Duenaz, Tori Berntsen, Lori Riskin, Dana Rundle, Amy Coleman, Kathy Dillon, Shelby Morton, Alison Tobey, Cheryl Furey, Kym Clayton, Barb Howe, Pailin Huang, Amy Wisler and Beth Alt!**



Staff Appreciation

The Staff Appreciation committee is off to a great start spoiling our terrific Sunny Hills Staff members. We served our staff a wonderful back to school lunch on August 29th including chicken and wild rice salad, broccoli salad, lots of fruit, artisan breads and trifles. Thanks to **Jamie Menold, Katie Brown, Tracy Drake, Amy Gathright, Kym Clayton, Dana Rundle and Jennifer Murai** for their contributions and assistance.



On September 25th the committee provided some yummy snacks for the staff development meeting. Many thanks to **Jaime Crothers, Lisa Small, Stacy Jarvis, Connie Fortier, Jayne Sievers, Karen Goo and Darawan Morrison** for their generous contributions of cheese, salami, crackers, grapes, strawberries, bottled water and of course chocolate!



On October 29th the committee served the staff a fabulous fall lunch including white chicken chili, veggie minestrone and pumpkin apple curry soups, northwest apple salad, artisan breads and apple crisp a la mode for dessert. Thank you **Kym Clayton, Heather Duenaz, Katie Brown, Jayne Sievers, Lisa Small, Carmen Oakley, Stacy Jarvis, Sara Ceteznik, Jaime Menold, Kammy Lull, Shannon Holliway and Connie Fortier** for providing goodies for this luncheon.

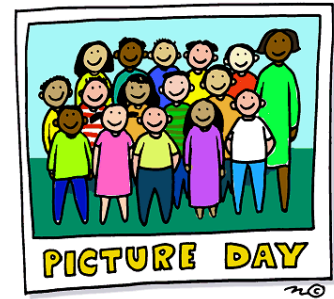
Thank you ALL for making our staff feel appreciated.

*~ Stephanie Shipley & Alison Tobey,
Staff Appreciation Co-chairs*

What's been happening?

Picture Day

Thanks so much to **Karen Goo**, **Amy Linzbach** and **Kristin Marcy** for taming flyaway hair, straightening collars, holding jackets, and doing everything in between to make Picture Day run smoothly this year!



Thanks!

~ *Heather Duenaz, Picture Day Director*

Vision & Hearing Screening

A HUGE thank-you goes out to all the parent volunteers and the PTA Vision & Hearing Coordinators **Terri Sanders** and **Megan Haas** who have made the 2013 Vision/Hearing Screening a huge success on September 26th. We screened close to 590 students in one day!



~ *Kim Rocco, School Nurse*

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair® was a big success! Thank You to all the families who were able to come and shop the Fair. Thank You to all the wonderful volunteers all week



long who helped Cashier, Set Up, Take Down and everything in-between. A special Thank You to **Leslie Lederman** for Reading at the Family Night Event, to **Jenell Tamaela** for organizing the Teacher Wish Lists, and to **Michelle Ensey** for supporting our efforts! The money earned will go to support Eager Reading and new books for the Library.

~ *Leah Cho & Marion Zidar, Book Fair Co-Chair's*



Art Walk

The theme of this year's Art Walks is Arts of the World. Each Art Walk will provide the students with an enticing entrée into studying other cultures including Pre-Columbian Meso-America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania. Through the examination of artistic traditions and styles, students will learn about the geography, history, language, religions, mythologies, and everyday lives within each culture. The Art Walk schedule has been synchronized to take advantage of exhibits at the Seattle Art Museum such as **Peru: Kingdoms of the Sun and Moon** and **A Fuller View of China, Japan and Korea**. In addition, the Arts of Oceania has been selected to take advantage of the fantastic examples of Aboriginal Art now part of the Seattle Art Museum's permanent collection. Students are encouraged to supplement their exposure during Art Walks with a trip to SAM.



In October, we kicked off the series with a Unit on the Aztecs of Mexico and the Incas of South America. By examining the various Aztec art forms including pyramids, ceramics, masks, costumes and jewelry students discovered how the Aztecs lived and how they related to the world around them. They learned how the Aztec culture continues to influence the world today as seen in the Mexican flag, the enjoyment of chocolate, sports, decoration and even the use of masks to emulate power – think Halloween!! Students were dazzled to discover the abundant use of gold (tears of the sun), silver (tears of the moon) and vibrant



textiles in Incan art and how most of these treasures were lost when the Spanish conquered the Americas.

~ Heather Rogers & Lori Riskin, Art Walk Co-directors

Culture of Kindness Commitment Wall

Our Principal **Leslie Lederman** has invited the Sunny Hills Community to join with her, the staff and students in making a commitment to do just one small thing this year to help build our **Culture of Kindness**. Commitments are being displayed on a wall in the cafeteria. What can YOU commit to? Stop by and add your resolution to the wall.



Issaquah Meals Program

The Sunny Hills PTA would like to say a HUGE thank you for all of the Sunny Hills families that pitched in for our first Issaquah Meals Dinner of the school year. **Melody and Mike Lee** with their girls **Maddie** and **Mackenzie**, **Tori Bernsten** and her kids, **Spencer** and **Chloe** and **Sheila Barlow** and her daughter **Reese** prepared and served a hot, delicious Spaghetti Dinner to about 45 folks in need down at the Issaquah Commons on Monday, September 23rd.



Spaghetti and Meatballs, Garlic Bread, Green Salad, Dressing, Milk and a yummy assortment of Cookies were provided by the following fabulous people: **Amy Coleman** and **Fred Owens**, **Laura Cameron**, **Jocelyn Rucker**, **Lisa Small**, **Jenell Tamaela** and **Eloisa Tang**.

Thank you all so much for your generosity and your time!
~ *Amy Wisler, Issaquah Meals Director*



PTA Chair Orientation and Welcome Brunch

The annual SHPTA Chair Orientation and Welcome Brunch was held this fall at the beautiful Beaver Lake Lodge. It was great to meet so many new volunteers this year! We are fortunate to have such supportive and involved parents and community members at Sunny Hills. Thank you to all the wonderful chairs who attended to receive training, collaborate, eat great food, and socialize.

Interested in getting involved and/or volunteering for a PTA event or program, but don't know how? We would love to add your skills and great ideas to the mix! [Click here](#) to join SHPTA and discover awesome volunteer opportunities, or contact PTA President, [Kym Clayton](#).

~ *Kym Clayton, PTA President*



PTA Chair Orientation

October General Membership Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended our first General Membership Meeting, held on October 10th. If you were unable to attend, here is a quick recap of what you missed:

- We reviewed the [PTA Mission Statement, Theme, and Goals](#) and voted to approve them for 2013-14.
- We discussed and approved our [Standing Rules for 2013-14](#).
- We discussed and approved our [Budget for the 2013-14 school year](#).
- Meeting Minutes from the [June 2013 GMM](#) were reviewed and filed as presented.
- Our Issaquah Schools Foundation (ISF) representative, Dana Rundle, talked about what ISF is and how they fund the bigger items PTA cannot fund, to fill in the bigger gaps between state funding and the dollars our schools need. The “All in for Kids Campaign” runs from August to mid-November and everyone is encouraged to participate, where possible. Donations (big or small!) can be made at www.isfdn.org.
- Advocacy Director, Dana Rundle and VIS representative, Suzanne Weaver, provided additional information regarding the [3 levies that will be on the February 2014 ballot](#) and how they impact our students.
- We voted and [approved levy endorsement as a Sunny Hills General Membership](#) in support of the 3 levy measures.
- After the GM meeting was adjourned, we had a wonderful Parent Education presentation about Common Core State Standards. Former Sunny Hills’ principal, Sarah White (ISD’s new Director of Instructional Support), Rena Pitasky (ISD Math Specialist) and Linda Henderson (ISD Language Arts/Soc. Studies Specialist) provided the Sunny Hill’s community with the WHO, WHAT, and WHY of Common Core and HOW parents can best help their child(ren). If you missed their presentation at Sunny Hills, be sure to attend one of the upcoming November and December parent/community workshops being provided by the district. [Click here for more info!](#)



Common Core Presentation – Wonderful!

Issaquah School District Updates

All in for Kids

The Issaquah Schools Foundation's **All in for Kids** annual fund campaign is doing a great job with over \$265,000 in donations. Unfortunately, less than 10% of the families in our district have made a donation. If you have made your donation- thank you! You are making a difference in the lives of every student in our district. If you have not yet donated this year, please do so when our wonderful and energetic high school volunteers contact you during our calling nights on **November 12 and 14**. Answer your phone, listen to their request and consider the lives you can change. Whether you can give \$5/month (a venti latte?) or the average family donation of \$309— every gift matters.

~ Dana Rundle, Advocacy/ISF Director



Our Sunny Hills crew braved the weather to remind drivers to Click for Kids during the Honk & Wave event. You can make a difference! Donate today at www.isfdn.org. Thank you!

Levies Updates - Volunteers for Issaquah Schools

This February we will have a very important opportunity to support our students by voting YES to pass the 3 levies Issaquah school district is running. These three levies include:

- A maintenance and operations levy which funds staff salaries, as well as curriculum, and general classroom operational needs.
- A bus levy which allows the district to purchase new buses and align with state safety standards.
- A levy for technology and critical repairs.

Please read more at www.visvote.org . Approx. 2/3 of our voters do not have kids in our schools. We need their support for this to pass. Besides voting yes, **please inform friends and neighbors about the need to support these levies**. You can endorse the levies on the website just as the Sunny Hills PTA voted to do at the last General Membership meeting.



All ballots MUST be postmarked no later than Feb 11th!

Issaquah Schools Foundation

Seeking Success Stories

If your child has an inspiring story about their experience with a Foundation funded program, let us know. **His or her photo and story could be featured in our upcoming Annual Report.** Contact Lynn Juniel, ljuniel@issaquahschoolsfoundation.org for more information.

Your Ideas Wanted - (Academic Enrichment Grants)

Online applications for **Academic Enrichment Grants** go live on **Monday, November 4**. Teachers, staff and **parents may apply** for projects that reflect creativity and innovation in education and/or support school needs not currently covered by building or district budgets. Grants are awarded in two categories: **Classroom Enrichment** for projects that cost less than \$1,000 and **Kateri Brow Big Idea/Biggest Need** for projects in the \$1,000 - \$10,000 range. Grants are presented 'blind'—school and teacher names excluded—to the review committee and are judged on innovation, merit and need.

If you have a great idea, talk to your teacher and/or principal and plan to attend our Grant Workshop on Tuesday, November 5 at the District Administration Building. Who knows, the Balloon Brigade may stop by your child's classroom next March. For more information please contact Michelle Weldon, mweldon@issaquahschoolsfoundation.org.



Call for College Bound Mentors

Over 300 Issaquah students are eligible for the State's College Bound Scholarship for low income students. **We're seeking adults to serve as mentors, advisors and friends to students admitted to the program. College Bound Mentors make a four year commitment to follow their mentee through high school.** The time commitment is significant, but the payoff is priceless. For more information please contact Susan Gierke, VOICE Mentor Co-Director, 425-837-6801.

PTA RESOURCES

We'd like to introduce you to two terrific resources – PTA magazines published by Washington State and National PTA organizations. Please take a few moments to follow the links below and see what they contain.

The Child Advocate: Engaged Families, Successful Students!

Washington State PTA issues a monthly magazine called "The Child Advocate". The October 2013 issue focuses on effective family engagement in raising successful students. To read this month's issue, click [here](#) or on the picture we've linked.



Our Children: National PTA's magazine

The October/November issue of NPTA's "Our Children" magazine is out. Check out the great articles in this year's Health and Safety Issue! To read this issue, click [here](#) or on the picture.

Legislative Assembly Recap

PTA advocates from around the state came together at the SeaTac Marriott on October 18th and 19th for WSPTA's Annual Legislative Assembly for advocacy training and to consider issues proposed by PTA members to be added to the list of issues supported on the WSPTA's legislative platform. In addition, it was also well attended by legislators and representatives from other agencies as we work to further our collaborative efforts for children.

You might be asking "What can I do to help advocate for student safety and education funding?" Here's how you can help:

- Join the Sunny Hills PTA! As a member, we have a stronger voice together to advocate for children!
- Stay informed about legislative issues and learn more about how our state currently funds education.
- Write letters to legislators about education and safety needs—don't assume other parents are going to do it, so you don't need to. Too much of their time each week is spent with paid lobbyist who call, email, or stop by their offices. Flood them with letters, emails, tweets, etc. They want to hear from parents and students!
- Support the passage of bonds and levies. There will be 3 levy measures on the February 2014 ballots impacting maintenance and operations, classroom technology, and bus transportation.



Monica Rockwell & Kym Clayton

As the second year of a two-year platform, the top priority issues will remain the same as last year. (Click [here](#) to view the top priority issues for 2012-14.) However, delegates voted to adopt the proposed amendment to the current supported issue of Access, Opportunity and




Great presentation by Tom Ahearne, attorney "The McCleary Decision. Where are we now and what's next?"

Equity for Special Education (as presented in the Issue Guide) and add to the list of supported issues: English Language Learner Students (as presented in Issue Guide); Sufficient and Equitable Funding for Highly Capable Programming (as presented in Issue Guide); and Background Checks on Gun Purchases (Click [here](#) to view the Issue Guide.)

New and amended resolutions were debated and approved. These were: Access to General Education for Students with Disabilities (as presented in the Issue Guide); Allergies and Asthma and the proposed amendment Funding Basic Education (as presented in the Issue Guide).



November Calendar

- Nov 1st Bucket Filling Assemblies (8:50-9:30/ 9:45-10:35am)
- Nov 4th-15th Thanksgiving Food Drive
- Nov 6th After School Movie (1:00-2:30pm)
- Nov 8th Make up Picture Day
- Nov 8th Veterans Day Assemblies (1:45-2:10 & 2:20-2:45pm) Click [HERE](#) for more info
- Nov 11th No School - Veterans Day 
- Nov 12th-14th ISF- "All In For Kids!" Calling Campaign
- Nov 12th Iss. Special Needs Group Meeting (Iss. High School Library 7:00-8:30pm)
Panel Discussion w/ Special Services Administration. Click [HERE](#) for more info
- Nov 15th Dancing Through the Decades Family Social (PLMS 7:00-8:30pm)
- Nov 25th Holiday Gift Program Begins (Nov 25th - Dec 9th)
- Nov 26th Site Council Meeting @ 3:15pm
- Nov 28th & 29th No School - Thanksgiving Break



December Calendar



- Nov 25-Dec 9th Holiday Gift Program
- Dec 4th & 5th No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Dec 9th 5th Grade Camp Parents' Info Meeting (6:00-7:00pm in SH Library)
- Dec 23-Jan 3 No School - Winter Break