

EAGLE EYE NEWS

Echo Lake PTA Newsletter

DECEMBER 2009



If You Could Change One Thing...

...that would make this holiday season more meaningful, what would it be?

I posed this question to several Echo Lake parents and staff. Here are a few of their responses:

"I would find non-material gifts to give that involved doing things together with people, such as the gift of tickets to see a play or a membership to the zoo, and then following through and doing these things with the recipients." — *Susie O'Donnell, EL parent and PTA board member*

"I would do less. Less decorating, fewer Christmas cards, less shopping, less baking, less going...less DOing. I would break out (from bought pre-made cookie dough) cookies and play board games with my son in front of the fire. Just take time out, in a good way, for the same reason we step back when we feel we are losing our tempers — to achieve some calm, some peace, some perspective." — *Kathy Karner, EL parent*

"I would give my dad his health and youth back. He is 96!" — *Barb Cruz, EL library*

"Because of the economy, the non-profit I work for has decided to forgo the traditional holiday dinner for us and the entire staff of ten and their families have embraced the idea of having a potluck at a co-worker's home for this year's holiday celebration. I am looking forward to sharing favorite dishes and time away from the office together." — *Kathy Lynn, EL parent and PTA board member*

"Play, sing, and listen to homemade holiday music. I'm looking forward to hearing Jingle Bells on my son's violin, and all of us singing a few songs together. It brings back happy memories of my extended family singing carols together on Christmas

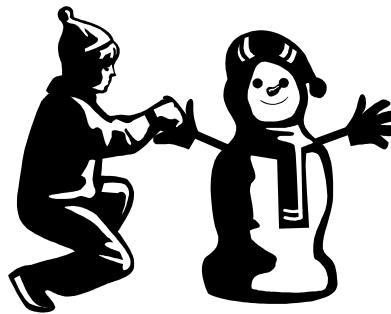
Eve — laughing with each other, somewhat embarrassed at our questionable ability to carry a tune, but having such a great time." — *Anne Avery, EL parent and PTA board member*

"My dad has three sisters and I grew up going to school, and spending wonderful chunks of my summers with my cousins. We are now spread across a thousand miles of the west U.S. but we keep in touch and exchange gifts during the holidays. There are now fifty-four of us so we each draw one name and send off a gift to that cousin/aunt/uncle in December. I know my family — big-hearted and fun-loving — and it's not the gift but the giving that keeps this tradition going. This year, I plan to suggest we shift the tradition and give the fifty-four gifts to families who have greater need in each of our home communities. We'd give the gift in the name of the family member we drew and let them know how their gift was given. We'd stay connected, continue giving, and make a small difference for others." — *Paul Shanahan, EL principal*

As you can see, there is a theme running through these responses — a little less chaos and a lot more care in the way we think of others.

I want to thank everyone who responded as it shows our diversity and also what we have in common.

Our Echo Lake PTA has tried to lift up this notion of caring for others in so many ways — for example, providing emergency food packs for the classrooms, organizing both Dads and Doughnuts and the very important Holiday Food Drive. I guess you could say the spirit of the holidays is with us all year. In keeping with that spirit, I wish you all the very best and peace for each and every one of us. — *Jocelyn Hudson, EL PTA President*



Shoreline School Board Approves Ballot Proposals for February 9 Election

The Shoreline School Board has approved three proposals to be placed on the ballot at a special election February 9, 2010.

- A four-year replacement of expiring levy for educational programs, maintenance and operations levy. The maintenance and operations levy, which replaces the four-year levy passed by voters in 2006, would provide the district with about 20 percent of its general operating budget.
- A \$150 million bond for the modernization/replacement of Shorecrest and Shorewood High Schools. The 2006 bond approved by voters included funds for the planning and design for the two high school projects, but not for the actual construction costs. Support for this bond issue will complete the projects.

- A four-year capital levy for technology improvements and support. This levy would support the District's instructional technology program and services and technology equipment replacement.

This represents no change to the average taxpayer.

To validate these levy and bond proposals, 40 percent of those voting in the November 2009 general election must vote. The two levies require a simple majority to pass, and the bonds require a 60-percent majority for approval.

For more information on these proposals, visit www.voteyesforshorelineschools.org and www.shorelineschools.org.

To register to vote

Go online to: <https://wei.secstate.wa.gov/osos/secure/pages/Onlinevoterregistration.aspx>



Echo Lake PTA Board Votes to Support Ballot Issues

Your Echo Lake Elementary PTA Board of Directors has voted to unanimously endorse and support the upcoming ballot issues to be placed on the ballot with a special election February 9, 2010. Each issue was placed before the board for vote with the following results:

Echo Lake Elementary PTA endorses and supports the February 9, 2010 Shoreline School District ballot issue Proposition 1 – Replacement of Expiring Levy for Educational Programs, Maintenance and Operations.

Echo Lake Elementary PTA endorses and supports the February 9, 2010 Shoreline School District ballot issue Proposition 2 – \$150m Bond Issue for Modernization/Replacement of Shorecrest and Shorewood High Schools.

Echo Lake Elementary PTA endorses and supports the February 9, 2010 Shoreline School District ballot issue Proposition 3 – Capital Levy for Technology Improvements and Support.

Facebook Fans

Interested individuals can become a Facebook fan of Vote YES for Shoreline Schools.

Green Tip for the Holidays

Produce less waste over the holidays by using and reusing gift boxes and bags. Open gifts carefully and save the paper to use again. Give gifts that don't need wrapping and give experiences and memories such as gift certificates (music, dance, or yoga lessons, massage, restaurant, boat rental), tickets (theater, sports, museum), or memberships (zoo, aquarium, museums).

Environmental Committee Update

You may have noticed that information was not sent home about the fall Weed and Feed. Because Echo Lake is getting all new landscaping, we decided to cancel the Weed and Feed for this fall. The landscapers are also going to help us by removing the remaining ivy from the native plant garden! We plan to resume the Weed and Feed in the spring, so look for information about it then. Questions? Contact Susie O'Donnell susodonn@hotmail.com.



Welcome, New Echo Lake PTA Members!

Echo Lake PTA is continuing to add new members. We now have 177 members. Here are our most recent additions:

Larry Monger
Richard Potter
Paul Shanahan
Sarah Shanahan

Melissa Blue
Peter Blue
Terri Holmes
Syed Siraj Mahmood
Jeanne Monger

Please consider joining PTA. Return the membership form below with your payment to your child's teacher. Thank you for your continued support.

Fundraising News

Thank you to those of you who supported our fall fundraiser — Sally Foster Gifts and Otis Spunkmeyer Cookies. We anticipate having made approximately \$5,000 on over \$11,000 of gross sales. As of this writing, all products will be delivered to school on **Thursday, December 3**. Please plan accordingly by picking up your student and product after school on that day! If you have any questions, please call Beth Lydin at 206-363-7034.

A special thank you to my team who helped get order information distributed to you, as well as check all returned orders. They are Michelle Holguin, Deb Brooks, Michele Hamilton, Jocelyn Hudson, Susie O'Donnell, Kendra Mirante, Kate Lydin, Alex Holguin, Luke Hudson, Ava Hamilton, and Jack Hamilton. THANK YOU!!

You can continue to support Echo Lake by going to www.sallyfoster.com — use our school account number **292137 when prompted.**

Echo Lake PTA Membership Form

Yes, I/we would like to join Echo Lake Elementary PTA!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

I/we are joining to support (child's name) _____

Child's Teacher _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

PTA Membership Fee: \$10.00 for individual / \$18.00 for two from same household

Please make checks payable to: "Echo Lake Elementary PTA" and return to the school office.



**Echo Lake PTA
2009-2010
Executive Officers**

**President
Jocelyn Hudson**

**Co-VP Socials
Susie O'Donnell
Heidi Triesch**

**Secretary
Michele Hamilton**

**Treasurer
Kathy Lynn**

**Contact us:
echolakepta@hotmail.com**

*Soaring to New
Heights!*

Holiday Baskets — Food, Toys, Teen Gifts December 7 – 18, 2009

We are again participating in the Shoreline PTA Council & Shoreline Fire Department "Holiday Baskets" Food, Toys and Teen Gifts Drive to **provide a holiday meal and food support for the winter break** and gifts for Shoreline families in need during this holiday season. Collection boxes will be placed in your student's classroom for donations of non-perishable foods and other essential items. We are moving our focus to encourage healthier food being donated. Please think about what you might like to receive if your family were in need.



Each school in the Shoreline School District has been assigned a specific food item to be in charge of providing for each of the holiday baskets. **Our school, Echo Lake Elementary, needs to provide 500 items of canned or dried fruit.**

In addition, we are asking for additional winter break food support. "Most Wanted" suggested items:

Peanut Butter — Condiments (mayo, mustard, ketchup) — Pasta — Beans (canned or dry) — Canned soup — Cereal (hot or cold) & breakfast items — Canned tomato products — Granola bars, snack items

Of course, any other donations will be gladly accepted, including basics (soap, toilet paper, facial tissues, feminine hygiene products, paper towels, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, laundry detergent, dishwashing soap, and baby food/cereals/formula).

No glass jars or home canned foods, please!

**PLEASE BRING DONATIONS TO YOUR CLASSROOM
NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 18...THANK YOU!!**

Questions? Please contact Rachel Snyder 206-546-0975 or jrjlsnyder@hotmail.com



Shoreline Area News Website

Shoreline Area News is a new online news site for Shoreline and Lake Forest Park. It covers school, community, government and other news of interest to Shoreline residents. Check it out at: shorelineareanews.com.