

BOBCAT NEWS

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 5 - APRIL 2010



Twain Fun Run – Friday, April 30th

By Julie Tribolet, President

Mark Twain is having a Fun Run! This PTSA fundraiser encourages students to increase their fitness level by running/jogging/walking for 20 minutes. It also enables students to play an active role in raising funds for PTSA programs supporting their school. Donations help fund field trips, classroom supplies, Science Fair, Explore Art, before school academic support, and more!

Donation envelopes were sent home via kid mail at the beginning of April. Ask your child about it! Inside you'll find a brief explanation and receipts. Encourage your child to solicit family, friends and neighbors, and help them distribute receipts to donors as requested. Donations are tax-deductible and qualify for matching funds, so increase your donation by checking the box on the envelope and turning in any necessary forms (or submit online, if available).

Students will run during school hours according to grade level. The classroom which raises the most money will win a pizza party! The classroom which raises the most money per student will win an ice cream party! So encourage your student to keep fit with exercise and take an active role in raising money for his/her school.

If you would like to volunteer or have questions, please contact Julie at julietrib@clearwire.net / 425-822-2101. Thank you for supporting our students!

Bingo Night

By Julie Tribolet, President

We had a great turnout for Bingo Night! Kids and parents had a fun time playing Bingo and winning prizes. A big "THANK YOU" to these generous businesses for their donations: **Cactus Restaurant, Zeeks Pizza, Bridle Trails Starbucks, Panera Bread, Risan Athletics, Café Veloce, & Olive Garden.**

And of course no Family Fun event happens without volunteers! Thanks to Laura Bartolletti, Teri Colbert, Shan Evans, Mark & Tracy Johnsen, Nisa Kennedy, Amy Lanum, Rhonda Lynch, Bob & Amy Maher, Suzanne Malcolm, Tonja Matthews, Sheila Mercer, Happy Tsantilas, and Pete Weller. And special thanks to Shawn Palmer who did a fabulous job as Bingo caller, to guest Bingo callers Mrs. Tarte and Mrs. Maver (a.k.a. Miss Jones), to Mr. Burden for attending and giving us his support, and to Mr. Swain, our wonderful custodian who helped clean up after.

Yearbooks for Sale!

We are still accepting pre-orders for the yearbook on a first-come, first-serve basis. Books are \$11.00 each. Make checks payable to Mark Twain PTSA. Be sure to include your child's name and teacher on the envelope. Order now! They will sell out!!

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UNIT 2.8.65
MARK TWAIN

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Staff Birthdays

May

Melissa Halferty.....8
 Barb Scavera.....10
 Kris McKenna.....27

June

Janet Eichner7
 Missy Palmer.....12
 Melissa D-U.....15



School Dance

Fri, May 14

7:00-9:00pm

Open to all Twain students and younger siblings. Admission is \$2 per student/sibling. Snacks & water will be available for purchase. The dance will be held at the school's cafeteria, parents are required to stay at the event.

We are looking for volunteers to help set up, work during the dance and clean up when it's over. If you can help, please contact Tamar at tamar.hefets@gmail.com



Odd Girl Out, The Challenging Relationships of our Daughters

Melanie Miller, M.Ed.

Certified Positive Discipline Trainer, Parent Educator and School Counselor

Melanie_miller@verizon.net, 206.579.2172

Having worked as a School Counselor I know all too well the many fifth and sixth grade girls coming down to my office with multiple and on-going friendship issues. Now having a daughter of my own, I thought it might be a good idea to learn a bit more about girls and their relationships.

Recently, I did a little reading. I read the book, Odd Girl Out, The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls by Rachel Simmons. Simmons interviewed school aged girls across the country about friends, conflict and aggression.

According to the book and to my own life experiences it seems that boys and girls handle conflict differently. Boys tend to argue, wrestle, hit and even physically fight. They put the conflict out there and deal with it. Girls do things differently. Girls in conflict can be silent, secretive and hard to detect. They fight with a mean look, gossip, spreading rumors, note passing and isolation. Much of this behavior goes unnoticed by teachers and parents because girls are so good at hiding it. It's a lot easier to see a boy's flying fist than it is to catch a girl's mean glance. The biggest learning for me was that conflict in girls is "relational". It is not a matter of fine tuning social skills, it is that girl's have a highly tuned set of social skills. They know just how to control and manipulate friends to keep their "posse" of friends close by and involved. The gossip, mean looks and rumors don't happen between strangers, it happens between best friends. The relationship between best friends can change in a day. One day two girls are best friends, the next day one girl has decided she wants to be with the "in" crowd, so she begins gossiping about her best friend, giggling when she walks by and all together ignoring her... all done in order to fit in with the "in crowd". Not quite a part of the "in crowd", the "mean" girl will maintain a friendship with her "best" friend just in case things don't work out with the "in crowd".

The most damaging part of this "bullying" is the isolation that the once best friend feels. Girls are social beings, they need connection with others. They need their girlfriends. The worst thing that can happen to a girl is to be excluded from her friends and therefore isolated. Most girls will do anything to keep those connections, including putting up with the glares, giggles and isolation from their best friend. Pretty depressing isn't it? But, there is hope!

Our girls are born and raised to be nurturing to care for others, to be kind and be friendly. We've all heard it or have had it implied: "Nice girls don't say mean things, nice girls don't get angry". "They are polite, generous and kind". Girls become protective of others' feelings. They don't want to say how they are feeling because they don't want to hurt another's feelings. They don't want to walk away from the abusive behavior because they don't want to be mean. As a Counselor I heard these excuses over and over again...and couldn't understand why they just can't stand up for themselves!

Rachel Simmons helped me to understand why they can't stand up for themselves. She helped me to understand the dire depths and necessity of girls having friends. She helped me to understand that only our daughters can find their way through these painful and heartbreaking relationships. She helped me to understand that as a parent the greatest gift I can give my daughter is to listen. Our girls are the best experts on their relationships. Our advice and control can only further damage the delicate web of our daughter's relationships.

It's hard to hear that all I get to do is listen. In Simmon's book, she recognized many parents that just thought this is part of being a girl and part of growing up, it will be there no matter what we do. Simmons saw it differently. She sees it as unnecessary and often with lifelong damaging affects. Our daughters do not have to endure this. Listening being the greatest gift we can give our daughters, Simmons did suggest other helpful solutions that we can do as a community.

- *Parents can model respectful relationships by not participating in gossip or judgment of others.
- *School communities can read Simmons book or others similar to it, in order to have a better understanding of girls, friendships and aggression. Girls often don't want to talk about what is going on. But each day there are the tears! As educated adults, we can look behind the tears to better understand what is going on.
- *As adults we can "agree to disagree". We can model for our daughters' healthy conflict. We can have a disagreement with another, talk it out, share our feelings and still remain in relationship with that person.
- *Allow our daughters to be angry. Accept that there are times they will be angry at you and that it is OK for them to use their words to express their anger.
- *Educate our daughters about the bullying that goes on with e-mail, text messaging etc. When we were young, rumors were spread one person at a time via phone. Now one touch of a button sends an e-mail to a whole class.
- *Be aware that relational bullying can start young. Simmons interviewed girls with stories to tell that took place in second grade....and I have heard reports of exclusion in preschool!

The Boston Globe referred to Simmons book as a "must read for young girls and their mothers". I hope that parents will take time to read this book or others similar to it. I found a copy at my local Library. I hope too that parents can build communities that are aware of relational aggression and be willing to support ourselves and others when our daughters are "growing" through this painful and challenging process.

Melanie is a Certified Positive Discipline Associate and works as a Parent Educator and Grade School Counselor. She offers parenting classes in the Bellevue, Kirkland and Redmond, WA area and is available as a Parent Coach, and Trainer of professionals who work with families and in schools. You can contact her at Melanie_miller@verizon.net or 206.579.2172. To find out more about Positive Discipline, visit www.positivediscipline.org or www.sounddiscipline.org.



Mark Twain PTSA General Membership Meeting
Thursday, May 20th - 7:00 p.m., School Library



Please join us for our last PTSA GM Meeting of the school year. Agenda items include 2010-11 Executive Committee elections & Budget approval, so please plan to attend! Questions? Contact PTSA President Julie Tribolet at julietrib@clearwire.net or 425-822-2101. Childcare will be provided.

At the meeting, the Nominating Committee will recommend the following members for next year's PTSA Executive Committee:

President	Julie Tribolet
Co-VP1	Laura Bartoletti & Karen Smith
Co-VP2	OPEN & OPEN
Co-VP3	Tammy Gilliam & OPEN
Secretary	Teri Colbert
Treasurer	Jilleen Broyles

Any PTSA member can be nominated or nominate themselves! If you are interested in running for any of these positions or have questions, please contact a Nominating Committee member:

Cindy Neils mcneils95@verizon.net
 Dana Neilson neilsondana@hotmail.com
 Tina Olenick tinaolenick@hotmail.com



PTSA Board of Directors

Executive Committee

- President: Julie Tribolet / 425-822-2101
julietrib@clearwire.net
- co-VP 1: Laura Bartoletti / 425-827-3539
slbartoletti@yahoo.com
- co-VP 1: Karen Smith / 425-822-5939
karen@thenwsmithfamily.com
- co-VP 2: Amy Maher / 425-827-1543
amy.maher@gte.net
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karrinwikel@hotmail.com
- co-VP 3: Tammy Gilliam / 425-614-9745
tammygilliam@gmail.com
- co-VP 3: Shawn Palmer / 425-761-7865
shawn.palmer@lpl.com
- Secretary: Teri Colbert / 425-827-5039
dtk.colbert@verizon.net
- Treasurer: Jilleen Broyles / 425-827-3820
jilleenbroyles@comcast.net

Board Members

- CommunicationsTammy Gilliam
- Community Awareness..... OPEN**
- Fundraising Malia Campbell, Shan Evans
- Legislative..... OPEN**

HELP NEEDED for Skate King party June 2nd 6:30—8:30pm. Two extra volunteers are needed to help check kids in at this fun event, about a one hour commitment.

Please contact, Amanda Macpherson at Amanda@macwinch.com if you would like to help.

April is Disaster Preparedness Month

By Shawn Palmer, PTSA VP and Twain Emergency Preparedness Chair

Western Washington residents are no stranger to inclement weather and natural disasters. In the past 20 years we have been surprised with severe flooding (1990, 1996), tornadoes (1997), relentless windstorms (1993, 2006) and the 6.8 magnitude Nisqually Earthquake (2001). And, let us not forget the eruption of Mount St. Helens (1980).

Disasters and severe inclement weather can result in property damage and sometimes fatalities; but they always cause disruptions. Phone networks can break down, infrastructure (road, rail, bridges...) can fail, and emergency services can very quickly become overloaded as do public works & utilities working to restore basic services. Trips to the grocery store, turning on the heat or the faucet at home, or using the phone are everyday conveniences we may be without for a few days (or longer).

The better prepared your family is to respond in a disaster situation, the better you can deal with these interruptions. King County is sponsoring The "3 to Get Ready" Challenge. Go to www.mynorthwest.com/getready to learn some simple (yet essential) things you can do to be prepared. For further information, you can do a web search for "3 day kit".

Should anything happen while school is in session, Mark Twain Elementary has emergency/disaster response protocols in place to help ensure the safety of each Twain student. We urge you to take similar steps at home. To learn more about how Twain is prepared or what you can do, contact Shawn Palmer at cwu_wildcat@yahoo.com.

Disasters and inclement weather situations have occurred about every four years, the last being the Hanukkah Eve Windstorm of December 14 and 15, 2006, which resulted in 1.2 million homes and businesses losing power and a State of Emergency declaration. It is now 2010. I'm just saying.



School Supply Kits for 2010-11

By Julie Tribolet, President

This spring we will again be selling SchoolKidz school supply kits for Fall 2010! Avoid the hassle of last minute shopping and hauling all those supplies to school. SchoolKidz assembles supply kits to match the items on the Mark Twain 2010-11 School Supply List, customized by grade.* And they come in a handy keepsake box, personalized with your child's name. Kits will be delivered to school in August. Pick it up at the Teacher Meet & Greet, take it directly to your student's classroom, and you're done!

This year we've selected more high quality brand products, like Crayola (markers, watercolors, colored pencils & crayons), Avery durable binders with clear covers, Dixon #2 pencils, Papermate "Flair" pens, and Elmer's (white glue & glue sticks). Order forms will be distributed next month by kid mail; extras will be available in the school office and posted on the PTSA page of the school website. For questions, please contact Julie at julietrib@clearwire.net / 425-822-2101.

* Some items on the supply list are not included with the kit, such as snacks or extra school fees. Omitted Items will be noted on the supply form.

Popsicle Stick Bridge Crushing Contest

Contest will be on a Saturday starting at 10AM but need a minimum of four volunteers to throw the event.

Please contact Michael Fox at mb.fox@verizon.net or (425) 497-8400 for details.

Staff Appreciation Week

By Coco Fulton & Amy Maher, co-Chairs

Staff Appreciation Week is coming the first week in May. We hope you'll help us spoil the staff. There will be an opportunity for kids to bring a flower to their teachers and student written thank you notes. We'd love it if you had any items you'd be willing to donate for our massive staff giveaway.

Here are a few ideas:

- ◆ Gift certificates to restaurants or movies
- ◆ Tickets to a play or sporting event or concert
- ◆ A day on the lake – have a boat to offer a ride or lunch?
- ◆ A gift basket of your creation
- ◆ A weekend or week away at a cabin

If you'd like to donate something, please contact one of us at: Amy amy.maher@gte.net
Coco cocofulton@verison.net

Thank you!

EXPLORE ART! GALLERY WALK

Save the Date!!! Mark Twain's annual Explore Art! Gallery Walk is coming soon - Thursday, June 3rd from 6:30-8:00pm. Come celebrate your child's art work and tour a year's worth of fabulous art pieces in our gym/cafeteria. Music, refreshments, and lots of fun!

Any questions or looking to help out at the event? Contact Laura Bartoletti, (425) 827-3539 or Cindy Neils (425) 985-6463

PTSA Committee Chairs

After School Programs	Amy Maher
Book Fair	Pirkko Terao, Julie Tribolet, Dana Neilson
Box Tops	Tobi Smith
Chess Club	Doris Lim, Bhanu Purohit
Craft Fair	Holly Hawkins, Alicia Ferguson
Emergency Prep.....	Shawn Palmer
Engineering	Michael Fox
Explore Art!.....	Laura Bartoletti, Tracy Johnsen, Cindy Neils, & Cindy Uthus
Family Fun Nights	Tamar Hefets, Tammy Silva
Historian/Photo Journalist.....	Gary Runstadler
Hospitality.....	Karen Brown
Mathnificent	sched for 2010
Membership.....	Sandi Kaiser
Parent Education.....	Melanie Miller
Reflections.....	Julie Tribolet, Vanessa Banks
School Assemblies	Lynn Peterson
School Pictures	Tammy Guisness
Science Fair	Susan Glynn, Carol Lewis
Sixth Grade Celebration	Lisa Jahnke, Jodi Scheffler, & Happy Tsantilas
Skate Party	Amanda MacPherson
Special Needs	Malia Campbell
Staff Appreciation	Coco Fulton, Amy Maher
Student Directory.....	Kim Bourassa, Jill Coon & Valerie Whelan
Student Safety.....	Doreis Howard
Studio East.....	Karen Getzinger, Leslie Holle, co-chair OPEN
Talent Show	JonErik Johnson
Teacher Wish List.....	Vlasta Hillger
Twain Apparel	Pirkko Terao, Jill Miller
Vision/Health Screen.....	Roxanne Raubacher
Yearbook.....	Tammy Gilliam, Tamar Hefets & Leslie Reusser



Mark Twain

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Parent Organizer:

www.parentorganizer.com

Tammy Gilliam, Communications

Twain Website:

www.lwsd.org/school/twain

Click the "PTSA" link to access
PTSA information.

Click the "Calendar" link to view
events posted on Tandem Calendar.

State PTSA Website:

www.wastatepta.org

Did you know that... 3rd grade teacher Miss Jones got married over spring break?
Best wishes to the new Mrs. Maver!

May 2010

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
30	31					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

- 5/3-7: Staff Appreciation Week
- 5/7: No School LEAP Day..... all day
- 5/10-14: Dance Week during PE
- 5/12-13: MSP Testing, grade 4
- 5/14: School Dance 7pm
- 5/17-20: MSP Testing, grades 3-6
- 5/20: General Membership Mtg 7pm
- 5/27-28: 4th Grade Field Trip 9am
- 5/31: No School Memorial Day all day

June 2010

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

- 6/2: Skate King 6:30pm
- 6/3: Gallery Walk 6:30pm
- 6/9: Yearbook Distribution
- 6/11: 6th Grade Graduation
- 6/14: 6th Grade Pool Party/Celebration
- 6/16: Half Day—Last Day of School 11:30

■ NO SCHOOL ○ HALF DAY □ EVENT – check calendar

2009-10 MARK TWAIN PTSA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Annual membership fees are \$10.00 per individual or \$17.00 per couple. Make checks payable to **Mark Twain PTSA**.* Please submit this form with payment to your child's teacher. Your membership includes a student directory. Thank you!

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please send my directory home with:

Student's Name: _____ Teacher's Name: _____

I am a returning Mark Twain PTSA member.

*Checks returned for NSF subject to a \$20.00 fee.