

# ALKI PTA CURRENTS



**CHECK THE WEBSITE**  
[www.alkipta.com](http://www.alkipta.com)



**SIGN-UP FOR E-NEWS**  
 Email [info@alkipta.com](mailto:info@alkipta.com)



**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK**  
[facebook.com/alkipta](https://facebook.com/alkipta)



**ALKI ATTENDANCE LINE**  
 (206) 252-9054



## TOMORROW: PTA General Membership Meeting

**Thursday, March 6th (6:30 PM - 7:30 PM) Alki Library**

Where will your PTA dollars go next year? Join us for a discussion and presentation from the Budget Committee and BLT regarding next years budget. See page 3 for more details. We hope to see you at tomorrow's meeting!



*Mark Your Calendars: PTA 2019/2020 Budget Vote will take place April 3rd during the general membership meeting (6:30-7:30 PM). This is earlier than previous years.*

March 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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
31						

- 7 PTA Meeting (6:30 - 7:30 PM)
- 10 Daylight Savings Time - Spring Forward
- 11 BLT Meeting (2:35 - 3:35 PM)
- 13 Breakfast for Champions (7:15 - 7:50 AM)
- 15 Alki Adventures
- 22 Principal Coffee Chat (8:00 AM)

April 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

- 3 PTA Meeting (6:30 - 7:30 PM)
- 8-12 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
- 15 BLT Meeting (2:35 - 3:35 PM)
- 18 Class Pictures
- 30 Principal Coffee Chat (8:00 AM)



## BREAKFAST FOR CHAMPIONS

**Wednesday, March 13th (7:15 - 7:50 AM)**

**Alki Cafeteria**

Join us for a light breakfast honoring the champions in our lives. Everyone is welcome.

Our Event Champs, Lindsay Yost and Vanessa Wilcox-Longacre need your assist to make this event a winner! Join the team - volunteer here: [tinyurl.com/AlkiChampions2019](http://tinyurl.com/AlkiChampions2019)

## ALKI ADVENTURES - 1,000,000 Minutes Read

**Friday, March 15th (during school hours)**

Alki Adventures is an afternoon of arts, crafts, games, and fun sponsored by the PTA. Every staff member directs an activity and project and kids get to choose what they'd like to do while making new friends and meeting different staff members. Students earn this privilege by meeting school-wide Alki Reads goals and turning in their Alki Reads Calendars each month.



## The Gull Has Landed - Again!

Did you miss out on ordering this year's new spirit wear design hoodies and t-shirts? **Good News! It's back!** Order online at [alkipta.com/spiritwear](http://alkipta.com/spiritwear). Order by March 29th!



## LETTER FROM PRINCIPAL DEESE

Aloha Alki Community,

Happy almost Spring! As we finally return to school from all of that crazy snow... I am excited to see our building vibrant again with enthusiastic learners. We have a lot of learning to catch up on since we were out nearly the entire month of February! Thank you for your patience and support through all the snow delays and cancellations, I know that was hard on all of our families.

Our character trait for the month of March is **Honesty and Integrity**. Students will be learning in their classrooms and through our all-school assemblies around this month's trait. We define "integrity" as "doing the right thing, even when non one is watching." Discuss this with your child at home and help us reinforce what they are learning at school!

As you may have noticed, I have started to "waddle" through our halls and will be taking **maternity leave** beginning on May 1st. Ms. Kathy Jolly, retired principal and West Seattle resident, will be acting principal in my absence. Ms. Jolly comes to us with a ton of experience and has worked in many Seattle schools. Most recently, she was the interim assistant principal at Fairmount Park Elementary. She will finish out this school year at Alki (last day of school is June 27) and I will return in the fall for the start of the 2019-2020 school year.

Pay attention to my weekly Friday Flashback (email updates) for regular communication about what is going on at Alki. Updates about budget, BEX Levy, class placements for next year, Smarter Balanced info, and much more to come soon! If you are not getting a weekly email from me, please stop by the office so we can make sure we have the correct email on file!

With love and appreciation,  
Rena Deese  
Alki Elementary Principal

### Principal Coffee Chat:

Friday, March 22 (8:00 AM) Alki Cafeteria

### Is your family experiencing financial hardship? We can help!

Amazon and the Alliance for Education has provided our school with funds to help families in need! Please let us know if you family could use assistance with food, bills, clothing, etc. You can contact Principal Deese ([rskido@seattleschools.org](mailto:rskido@seattleschools.org); 206.252.9055) or Jennifer Greenstein, our school counselor ([jgreenstein@seattleschools.org](mailto:jgreenstein@seattleschools.org); 206.252.9069)



## LETTER FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

This past Thursday we had our second movie night of the year, thanks to the volunteer efforts of **Bree and Randy Foster**. After the event was over several parents stayed behind to help sweep up popcorn and put the tables back in place. **It takes a village**, and that's what I want to devote this month's letter to.

As a Board we are asking questions about the best way to communicate volunteer needs to the community, and how we can better match opportunities with the individuals who have time and talent to meet those needs. This organization has the potential to do and be so much more than it does now, but the current core team of volunteers are already giving all that they can give.

Avoiding burnout is crucial to ensuring all the programs PTA makes possible at the school. We want volunteers to have a positive experience and come back year after year to support programs they enjoy or feel passionate about. Not for each person to have to do too much and put in 1-2 years of draining effort before swearing off volunteering completely. We need to share responsibility, have volunteers with smaller loads if we're going to make that happen!

In **Vanessa Longacre-Wilcox's** advocacy article she'll be talking about having more parent voice and representation, an excellent foundation as the Nomination Committee begins shaping the 2019-2020 PTA.

Speaking of the Nomination Committee, there's a prime example of an opportunity to make a difference for your community. **Nomination Committee** members seek out, vet, and present volunteers for next year's Board. It's a short commitment and members of the committee have an opportunity to shape what happens in our community in a very unique way. Help Alki shape a sustainable, supportive, and fun PTA leadership body for 2019 - 2020 and beyond. For more information email [advocacy@alkipta.com](mailto:advocacy@alkipta.com).

That's where we start. This is a big topic, we'll be sharing more with you soon.

**Everyone belongs, Everyone matters.  
We need you (yes, YOU!)**

Jenna Andersen  
Alki PTA President

### JOIN THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Email [advocacy@alkipta.com](mailto:advocacy@alkipta.com)

### IT TAKES A VILLAGE:

[www.alkipta.com/volunteer](http://www.alkipta.com/volunteer)

# PTA MEETING

**Thursday, March 7th  
(6:30 - 7:30 PM)**

**Alki Library**

## AGENDA

Call To Order  
Approval or Correction of  
February General Meeting  
Minutes

### Reports

- Treasurer's Financial Update

### New Business

- Fundraising for school supplies, buying bulk supplies
- New business from the floor?

### Old Business

- BEX V update (Rena)

### Budget

- BLT presentation
- PTA budget committee
- Dano Beal

### Thank yous/

### Announcements

- Bree and Randy Foster, our extraordinary movie night hosts!
- Upcoming Buy In Parties - Booties & Bottles (sign up by Mar 7), Play Chess! (signup by Mar 11), Bowling Party (signup by Mar 21), Sip n' Swap (signup by March 26),

### Volunteer Needs

- Advocacy Co-Chair
- Nomination Committee. Open positions on Alki PTA board: VP, Membership, Fundraising, Events
- Financial Review Committee. No experience required, WA state PTA provides a checklist to guide the way

**Childcare** will not be available at this meeting, but children are welcome to attend. There is a space in the back of the library for kids to play or read.

## 2019-2020 PTA Budget Committee -

### Process Updates and Proposed Budget

The 2019 PTA Budget Committee would like to thank staff and PTA event chairs for budget feedback, submissions, and overall collaboration. Through discussions with Principal Deese and staff at the December and January general PTA meeting, we learned that historically the PTA budget presentation and vote occurred in May AFTER the school's budget was due to Seattle Public Schools in March. It was clear that the process could benefit from more close coordination with the school and their budget deadlines. Therefore, we ramped up our schedule and the committee met in January, twice in February (during SNOWMAGEDDEN) and again in March. In addition, we attended the Principal Budget Coffee Chats to hear feedback and discussion directly from parents.

As a reminder, our expense categories are school grants (library, hourly staff, counselor, WITS, supplies, etc.), self-sustaining PTA events (auction, musical, alki-a-thon, etc.), PTA community events (breakfasts, socials, staff appreciation, etc.) and operations (insurance, software subscription, printing fees, etc.). The percentage breakdown of each category can be found in last month's Currents and the Alki PTA handbook.

Aside from the timeline adjustment, we made three other process changes:

- Committee presentation and minimum grant vote (February)
- School grants grouped with similar expenses into categories (February)
- School grants reviewed in detail and proposed by Principal Deese and Building Leadership Team ("BLT") (March)

The Budget Committee presented to the membership mid-way through the process at the February PTA General Meeting. Historical budget data from the prior three school years was shown as well as a roll-forward of future impact based on projected fundraising and spending. We also reviewed key terms and definitions from the WA State PTA Handbook. The discussion was plentiful and feedback greatly appreciated. The staff attendance was nearly identical to the parent representation which was so valuable for everyone. (Thank you, teachers!)

At the end of the meeting, there was a motion, discussion, and vote from membership on a minimum amount of **\$120,000** to grant to the school.

Rather than the Budget Committee analyzing the school grants line-by-line and each dollar, we left it in the staff's capable hands. The PTA school grant funds were combined with the funds received from SPS and Principal Deese and the BLT will propose the spending allocations based on that larger pot of money.

Their process included receiving feedback from staff, students, and parents as well as looking into other funding options. Additionally, through feedback directly received from a parent at coffee chat and in coordination with the Budget Committee, similar expense items will be grouped together into sub headings. For instance, supplies will encompass P.E. equipment, playground equipment, folders, art supplies, etc. This provides flexibility within the budget based on the needs of the students and school in a given year, without compromising transparency into spending. The BLT team will be presenting the overall school budget to the PTA general membership on **Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 6:30 pm** and the staff vote is on March 13th .

The next task for the committee was to evaluate the remaining expenditures and income items. Notable changes include morphing Razzle Dazzle into a spring Community Inclusion event which combines budgets and reduces those expenses from \$1,500 down to \$650. We were able to entirely eliminate website fees and a few other small operation expenses without compromising quality and the self-sustaining Musical received an uptick in both the income and expense categories.

The 2019 budget committee thanks you for your thoughtful consideration of the proposed budget. Please plan to attend the **March 7th general PTA meeting at 6:30pm-7:30pm** for both BLT and PTA budget presentations, discussion, and voting!

Thank you!

PTA Budget Committee

Nicole Bryant, Jenna Anderson, Amy Cooper, and Melissa Spiker

# Congratulations Spelling Bee Participants!!



We are so proud of our 2019 Spelling Bee participants for committing and working hard at accomplishing this goal. Their practice at home and at school empowered them all to show their Alki Way spirit!

Mrs. Rasmussen, Ms. Calkins, and Ms. Deese would like to thank all families who helped their student prepare and complete in this year's Spelling Bee. Thank you to Ms. Bri'Ana Smith for helping us

navigate the grade-level Spelling Bees. Our all-school Spelling Bee judges were Kristin Edstrom from the Seattle Public Library and our very own Mrs. Iba. Thank you! And finally, a GIANT THANK YOU to the Alki PTA for sponsoring this wonderful addition to Alki.

The All-School Spelling Bee was on Monday, February 25th and our Alki Spelling Bee Champion is **Mason Duffy**.

Mason will move on to the city-wide Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 2, 2019, at 1 pm at Meydenbauer Convention Center in Bellevue.



## Please congratulate all of the spellers!

### 2nd Grade:

- 1st Place: Joshua
- 2nd Place: James K
- 3rd Place: Rilyn
- Shane
- Jack
- James
- Leilani
- Ava
- Zahran
- Hazim
- Jordi
- Asher
- Alice
- Abby
- Tuula
- Alina
- Violet
- Wolfy
- Livi
- Oscar
- Kenley
- Cora

### 3rd Grade:

- 1st Place: Ruby
- 2nd Place: Eve
- 3rd Place: Sienna
- Yola
- Lily
- Ryan
- Riley
- Joey
- Maka
- Shae
- Aka
- Maymuna
- Anas
- Oliver
- Lamorna
- Betty
- Lyla
- Raelan
- Nina

### 4th Grade:

- 1st Place: Sofia
- 2nd Place: Mason
- 3rd Place: Maya
- Adelyn
- Asher
- Ben
- Hazel
- Janie
- Keara
- Sawyer
- Tom
- Will

### 5th Grade:

- 1st Place: Jack
- 2nd Place: Huda
- 3rd Place: Kabode
- Iman
- Ryan





# AROUND THE SCHOOL

## Honors Bestowed for Alki Students' WITS Poetry

For four years now, Alki students in Grades 2-5 have written poetry with Dr. Jeanine Walker from the Writers in the Schools (WITS) program. This winter, two Alki fifth graders have been honored by Seattle Arts and Lectures (SAL) for their outstanding poetry. On January 28, **Draven Villwock-Taylor** read one of his poems on the main stage at Benaroya Hall, opening for author Katherine Boo. Second, a poem by **Lars Kowalczyk** received an honorable mention in the 2018/2019 Elaine Wetterauer Writing Contest. The winners were announced on February 27 at the start of SAL's Conversation with Zadie Smith, also at Benaroya Hall, and their poems are published on the SAL blog (<https://lectures.org/blog/>).

### "The Rain"

By Lars Kowalczyk

The rain falls in  
a cave making  
an echo that can  
be heard for miles.

The rain falls over  
the world to put it to sleep

The rain falls on my  
roof to put me to sleep  
with great dreams like  
a caterpillar in his cocoon  
dreaming his big dreams of  
wings

### "Home and No Home" By Draven Villwock-Taylor

There's a person that  
can come home to a home  
with a light  
on the table  
and there's someone  
that can come home  
to a home with a light on  
the balcony

And there's another person  
that can come home to  
a home with a chandelier on  
the ceiling  
but there's somebody that  
has to come home to  
a home with a light on  
the grass where the worms rest.

**SAL's Writers in the Schools** (WITS) program connects professional writers with public school classrooms throughout the Puget Sound region to elevate the voices of all students as they discover and develop their authentic writing and performance voices. Through WITS, students become authors of their own lives. For more information on this PTA sponsored program, visit [www.alkipta.com/WITS](http://www.alkipta.com/WITS)

## GLOBAL READING CHALLENGE

**Congratulations** to the following students for winning **3rd place** in the Global Reading Challenge Semi-Finals that were held at the Seattle Downtown Library on March 1st!

- Marcus Ramsey
- Onnika Boender
- Azhar Samatar
- Dillon Newhall
- Matilde Smith
- Lia Bacon
- Gabe Evans



The Global Reading Challenge is a reading incentive program for 4th and 5th graders enrolled in Seattle Public Schools. Students form teams and read 10 books, then take part in a trivia competition to determine the winner for the city of Seattle.

Huge thanks to the **4th and 5th grade teachers** and **Mrs. Iba** for all their support.

# ADVOCACY CORNER



Written by Vanessa Longacre- Wilcox,  
Advocacy Chair  
([advocacy@alkipta.com](mailto:advocacy@alkipta.com))

## How Do We Support Students, Families, Staff, and a Fundraising Goal of over \$150,000?

In our February PTA meeting we broke out into small groups to discuss the financial asks from the school, our own programs we wanted to support, and the operating costs needed to make all that happen. We did an exercise where we used cards representing the program asks from the school and tried to prioritize and see where we could make cuts. The counselor, the playground support staff, and budget for academic interventionists were all on the table.

As a result of those conversations with our membership, our March General PTA meeting, our budget committee will be submitting to our membership a budget of over \$170,000 for 2019 -2020. Filled with crucial programs that support student success.

At our Board meeting last week as we got ready for the March General meeting, the Board was asking tough questions about how the PTA can sustain itself to support Alki. With so many programs to support and such a huge financial ask, how do we carry this weight? We talked about having more parent representation at the table. We need to not only find next year's PTA Board but new ideas to reach all parents in our community. What came of this discussion was an idea from Mel Spiker to rethink and reimagine to create a robust Room Parent program.

We did some quick math. We have about 380 students in 16 classrooms. If we had 2 parents from each class, plus board roles we could have a team of almost 40 people. That is just 10% of the school but would dramatically change parent access to information and getting their voices heard.

**Does this sound good to you? More representation, more voices heard, less work for everyone?** If so, help us think through how to make it happen and join the **Nomination Committee** and begin shaping the 2019-2020 PTA. It's a short commitment and members of the committee have an opportunity to shape what happens in our community in a very unique way. Email [advocacy@alkipta.com](mailto:advocacy@alkipta.com) if you are interested.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

### Community Meetings with School Board Director Leslie Harris

- March 16, 2019 3:00PM to 5:00PM High Point Library, 3411 SW Raymond St, Seattle, WA 98126

### Seattle Public School Board Meetings

- March 13, 2019 4:15 to 8:30 PM - John Stanford Center 2445 3rd Avenue South, Seattle
- March 27, 2019 4:15 to 8:30 PM - John Stanford Center 2445 3rd Avenue South, Seattle

## CALLING ON PARENT ADVOCATES:

Looking for an Alki PTA Advocacy co-chair and/or supplemental help!

Every year Alki PTA has an opportunity to come together as an organization and advocate for our kids! This is my third year in the role of Advocacy Chair (formerly Legislative Chair) and I could use some help to make sure that we get all the important information out to help folks stay informed on issues. This could range from formerly signing up to co-chair with me, or just focusing on a subset of advocacy tasks like monitoring legislation being brought up and helping to promote advocacy alerts on Facebook and E-news. There is so much that can be done and I would love some help! If you are interested in finding out **more** please email me at [advocacy@alkipta.com](mailto:advocacy@alkipta.com)



# THANK YOU



What a great turnout for last month's Family Movie Night! Thank you to **Bree and Randy Foster, Jenna Andersen,** and **Tom Harris** for making it all



possible. We appreciate everyone that helped set up beforehand and clean up afterward! None of this is possible without your help!

## A Grade Band School Directory is on its way!

Looking to set up a playdate or invite a classmate to a party? Want to ask another parents a question? A grade band directory is in the works, but you must opt-in to be listed.

To ensure that you are in the directory, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/alkidirectory2018-2019> to sign up.

Check Kid Mail for a sign up form and return by March 15th.

**CLIPPING FOR COCOA COMPETITION**

**WINNER:**  
**Ms. Gilbert's Class 652 BOX TOPS**

Congrats to Ms. Delacour's class (492) and Ms. Kramer's class (331)  
Thank you all for your participation!

Big THANK YOU to our Box Tops Coordinator, **Salleigh Knox**, for organizing this fun competition. This campaign brought in over \$270.00 for Alki Elementary!

# THANK YOU TO THE BUY-IN PARTY HOSTS

Thank you to all of our Auction Buy-In hosts so far for organizing such fantastic events! These generous teachers and parents donate the most precious thing of all to our students, their time! Thank you to **Mrs. Rasmussen & Mrs. Gilbert** for getting kiddos in the holiday spirit with the gingerbread making party, **Ms. Scranton** for a crafty afternoon of Valentine making, **Amy Cooper** for helping us find our intent with a What's Your Word? bracelet party, **West Seattle Art Nest** for all of the fun times at their slime party, **Ms. Iba & Ms. Espinosa** for the afternoon of STEM activities, **Ms. Kramer** for making lunch time a dance party, and **Mr. Harijan** for an afternoon of Magic the Gathering. And thank you to all of you that signed up to attend these parties.

There are still many great Buy In Party/Teacher Experiences to come! See the full list at [tinyurl.com/BuyIns2018](https://tinyurl.com/BuyIns2018)

# YEARBOOK

Thank you to all of the students that turned in entries for the yearbook cover contest. Parents/Guardians will have a chance to narrow the entries down to the top 10 at the April PTA Meeting on April 3rd. After that, the winner will be chosen by the classrooms. Thank you to **Angela Powell** for her hard work putting together this year's Yearbook!

Don't forget to send school candid photos to [info@alkipta.com](mailto:info@alkipta.com).

**YEARBOOK COVER CONTEST**

"THE LANDSCAPE AROUND US"

Yearbooks on sale now! Order online at <https://yuenluischools.com/>

# Upcoming Auction Buy In Parties

Sign up online: [tinyurl.com/Buyins2018](http://tinyurl.com/Buyins2018)

Don't miss out on these awesome experiences! Students and parents will meet new friends and make lasting memories when you sign up for these auction Buy In parties! Spaces still available so tell a friend and **support Alki PTA!**



## Booties & Bottles (adults only)

**[Rescheduled] Friday, March 8th (6:00 - 8:00 PM) at Youngstown Cultural Art Center**

SPACE STILL AVAILABLE! Join for an evening of hip hop dance instruction with Alki mom and dance artist, Kisha Vaughan! Easy to follow dance instruction for all levels willing to shake it (hence the booties) and pre-func cocktails (hence the bottles)! **\$40/adult- only 4 spaces left!**



## Play Chess

**Tuesday March 12, 2019 (2:25 - 4:00 PM) in the Alki Library**

Join Ms. Calkins and Ms. Iba for an afternoon of chess in the library! No experience necessary to play! Beginners will receive instruction and seasoned strategists will face off with other chess lovers!

**Open to K-5th Graders. \$30/Student**



## Bowling Party

**Friday, March 22, 2019 (3:30 - 5:30 PM) at West Seattle Bowl**

Spend an afternoon with Ms. Calkins, Ms. Grygleski, Ms. Cicero, & Ms. Gilbert at West Seattle Bowl! Open to 1st - 5th grades - 20 lucky bowlers will share some snacks, spares and maybe a few strikes!

**Open To 1st-5th Graders. \$30/Student**



## Sip & Swap

**Wednesday, March 27, 2019 (6:00 - 8:00 PM) at the home of Jenna Andersen**

Have you got a closet, or a basement, or a secret corner stashed with clothing and accessories that you no longer like, wear, or need? The Sip & Swap is the perfect place for you to bring all of your extra and unwanted items! Drinks and snacks will be provided, items will be divided into categories, and each attendee will have the chance to try on and take home anything they like from the community pile. All leftover items will be donated after the event is over (saves you an extra trip to donation drop-off too!) Join us, and get rid of what you don't like while discovering new (free!) items that you do.

**\$30/Adult - spaces available**



## Flip Cup Tournament (adults only)

**Saturday, May 18, 2019 (time TBD) at Seattle-Lite Brewing Company**

Gather a team or come solo and join in on the best darn Flip Cup Tournament this side of the Cascades! What's Flip Cup you ask? Only THE BEST adult drinking game known to man! Only the most skilled and nimble are able to swig their shot of beer, balance their keg cup precariously on the edge of a table and in once swift motion FLIP IT so it lands upright in the first try signaling your

teammate to follow suit until all on your team have accomplished this daring feat faster than your foes across the table! DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?? Tournament beer and snacks provided by Seattle-Lite Brewing Company - Southpark's newest Light Beer Brewery! Tournament Bracket organization and Winner's trophy provided by Mike & Angela Powell. **\$40/Adult - reserve your spot now before it fills up!**