

ALKI PTA CURRENTS



THE ALKI WAY

Always be Responsible
Let Kindness Be Your Guide
Keep Yourself and Others Safe
Inspire Respect and Pride

SCHOOL CONTACTS

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SCHOOL NURSE

Mary K Sykes

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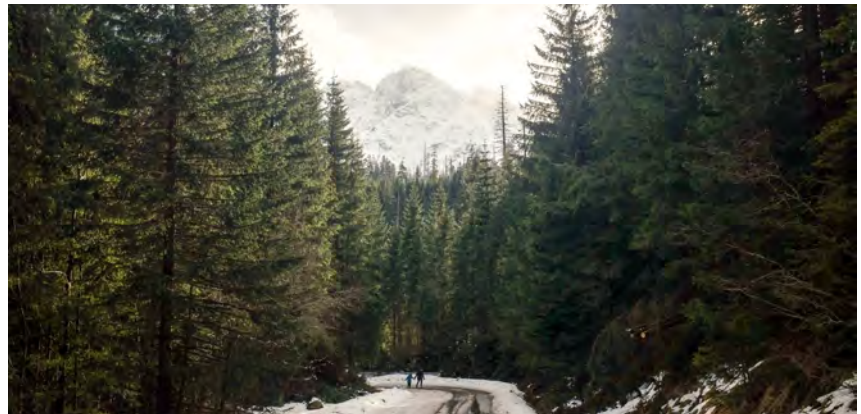
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CAFETERIA

Dianne Lannoye

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LETTER FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

Happy December, Alki!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with their families and are anticipating a holiday season of family traditions and togetherness in all of the ways our families celebrate the season.



December for Alki PTA is a time when many of our hardworking parent volunteers are taking a much deserved rest after many months of planning and executing our Fall Auction. November 11, 2017 was a great success and I want to thank the Auction Team for all their hard work: Mark Turpen, Brenda Gage, Angela Powell, Mike Powell, Pamela Boyd, Brooke Fitterer, Whitney Marois, Nikki Turpen, Britney Straus, Akemi Sakaida, Merkys Gomez, Davina Dilley, Laurie Rasmussen, Barbara Ott, Ali Pankop and many more parents who volunteered their time to bring the Alki Derby to life. It was a super fun party and at last report we've raised over \$81,000 for Alki! Thank you to our entire community for your generosity year after year.

That number will continue to climb as there are so many Buy In party spots available for purchase for students and parents alike! These are some of the most fun and treasured experiences for students to share with their friends and teachers and for parents to have the chance to meet new families and get to know one another outside of the school setting. Please visit TinyURL.com/AlkiAuction17-Catalog to snag these coveted experiences before they sell out!

GIVING GARLAND CHALLENGE! In the spirit of the season, Alki's "Giving Garland" is in its second year. Can you help us help families in need? Buy a \$10 Target gift card from Alki PTA Scrip cards and we will donate that card in your family's name to Alki's Giving Garland! A win for our students AND a gift for a family in need - what could be better? There are over 50 cards in our inventory - **I challenge our community to buy up every last one!** Please drop cash or check made out to Alki PTA in the PTA Mailbox

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ALKI PTA

ALKI PTA BOARD

PRESIDENT

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LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE

Vanessa Longacre-Wilcox
longacrewilcox@outlook.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Lindsay Yost
lindsaydyost@gmail.com

UPCOMING PTA MEETINGS

Wednesday, Dec. 6
6:30 - 7:30 PM

Sign Up For Childcare
www.tinyurl.com/PTAMeetingChildcare

OR Make a \$10 donation via our PayPal button at alkipta.com and our PTA elves will happily get the gift cards into the right hands. PTA Scrip cards will also be available at tonight's PTA meeting, 6:30pm - 7:30 PM, in the Alki Library. We hope you will join us for our last meeting of 2017! If you aren't a PTA member yet - please check out the membership drive article in this issue of Currents - December is a great time to join!

I hope everyone is looking forward to the PTA Holiday Staff Luncheon this Friday! Just a small token of thanks from Alki families to our amazing educators! If you have a delicious dish to share, please reach out to the Staff Luncheon Chair, Ali Pankop at alisonpankop@gmail.com.

Till next year, Alki! Happiest of Holidays to you and yours from Alki PTA!

Best,
Amy Cooper
Alki PTA President

VINTAGE SPIRITWEAR BLOWOUT!

Did you miss the Fall Spiritwear Online Campaign? We've got you covered! We are moving out Alki's Vintage Spiritwear at rock-bottom prices in limited sizes and quantities. **\$5 Tshirts** in discontinued styles and **\$10 pullover hoodies!** Youth sizes are limited so act fast! Adult sizes are plentiful so stock up for yourselves, grandma and grandpa, your favorite Alki Alumni!



Look for the racks in the main hallway before and after school Friday December 8th, Wednesday December 13th and Friday December 15th! Cash and check is preferred but we'll have Square ready to take your credit cards! Don't miss out on this great deal - Everything must go!

BOX TOPS UPDATE!

Thank you to everyone who has been clipping Box Tops. **Alki Elementary has earned \$210.10 so far this year!** Every clip counts, so please continue to send your box tops to school with your students or put them in the pencil shaped collection bin by the front office. Thank you for your support!

-  **CHECK OUT ALKI PTA'S WEBSITE**
www.alkipta.com
-  **SIGN-UP FOR E-NEWS**
Email contact@alkipta.com to sign up
-  **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK**
www.facebook.com/alkipta
-  **ALKI ELEMENTARY'S WEBSITE**
<http://alkies.seattleschools.org/>

AROUND THE SCHOOL

LETTER FROM PRINCIPAL DEESE



Aloha Alki Community,
Our character trait/virtue for the month is Kindness & Gratitude. I'd like to invite each and every Alki family to join us in spreading kindness this month!

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Wednesday, Dec 6

(6:30 - 7:30 PM)
PTA Meeting

Friday, Dec. 8

(11:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
Staff Holiday Luncheon

Friday, Dec. 15

(1:25 PM)
One Hour Early Dismissal

Dec. 18 - Jan. 1

NO SCHOOL
Winter Break

Thursday, Jan. 4

(6:30- 7:30 PM)
PTA Meeting

Monday, Jan. 15

NO SCHOOL
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Here are some great ideas that I'm going to use with my own child this month!

<http://redtri.com/random-acts-of-kindness-just-because/>

Another way of spreading kindness this month is to consider donating to families in need this holiday season through our **Giving Garland**. In the school hallway, there is a snowflake display with wish list items requested by families in our own community. Grab a snowflake, purchase the item, and return to the school office!

Congratulations to our school community for receiving the 2017 School of Distinction Award!

We are incredibly grateful for our incredible staff, our outstanding students, and our amazing families! Way to go Alki!

Lastly, thank you to our Alki families and our fabulous PTA for such a successful and heartwarming Auction Night! Thank you so much for your continued love and support!

With love and GREAT appreciation,
Rena Deese
Alki Elementary Principal

SCRIP NATIONAL SPELLING BEE

Alki is very excited to be participating in the Scrip National Spelling Bee again this year. Participation flyer will be going home on Wednesday, Dec. 6.



Grade level bee's: Week of Jan. 29 - Feb. 2nd
All School Spelling Bee: Feb. 9

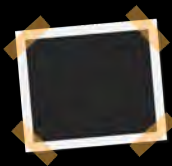
Spelling study words can be picked up from either Mrs. Rasmussen or Ms. Calkins. Spelling Bee practice will mostly take place at home with a few lunchtime practice sessions being offered. Thank you for your support.

Questions? Contact:

Laurie Rasmussen (ldrasmussen@seattleschools.org)
Julie Calkins (jkcalkins@seattleschools.org)

GOT PHOTOS?

We are in the beginning phases of working on the yearbook and are looking for candid!



Send your photos to contact@alkipta.com to submit your pics of your students!

ALKI PTA

DECEMBER 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	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
31						

- 6 PTA Meeting
- 8 Staff Holiday Luncheon
- 15 Early Dismissal - 1:25 PM
- 18-29 NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

JANUARY 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	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	31			

- 1 NO SCHOOL - New Years Day Observed
- 4 PTA Meeting
- 12 MLK Jr. Assembly
- 15 NO SCHOOL - MLK Jr. Day
- 31 NO SCHOOL - Day Between Semesters

STAFF HOLIDAY LUNCHEON Friday, Dec. 8 (Potluck Donations Wanted)

We would love your help with our annual holiday luncheon for our beloved Alki teachers and staff. Let's show them how much they are appreciated by making a special lunch Friday, December 8th. Volunteers are needed to transform the library into a dining area, provide food, serve and clean up. Your help is needed to make this a success.

Any questions, please contact Ali Pankop at alisonpankop@gmail.com.

Items can be dropped off Friday morning on the lunchroom stage. After 10am, please bring your dish to the Alki Library.

SignUp Here: TinyURL.com/HolidayStaff17

DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Thank you to the 127 parents and 17 staff members that have joined Alki PTA this year! You might not know it but PTA membership has to be renewed each school year. So far this year we have reached 80% of last year's membership total! We want to bring those numbers up and Washington State PTA is giving us just the incentive we need - MONEY IN THE BANK! Alki PTA is joining a December membership challenge to POWER UP our membership! By participating in this challenge we will be entered to win up to \$500 for Alki PTA!



To qualify we need 15 new members to enroll in December! Will YOU help us get there? Dues are only \$10. Please check out the Alki PTA Handbook for all the benefits that come with being a PTA member and visit pt-avenue.com/join to become a valued voice and a voting shareholder in our organization!

UPCOMING 'OPEN' BUY-IN PARTIES!

Parents Night Out - MOVIE NIGHT!!
Friday, Jan. 19 (5:30 - 7:45 PM)
\$30 | 29 SPOTS OPEN

Parents Night Out - MOVIE NIGHT!! Come and hang out on a Friday night and eat pizza, watch a movie and have fun with friends while your parents have some adult time!

Keys and Karaoke on Alki
Saturday, Jan. 27 (7:00 - 11:00 PM)
\$30 | 34 SPOTS OPEN

Talented musician and Alki Dad, Billy Stover, will perform a live piano concert of classic sing-along favorites while Alki's closeted singers and performers pass the mic and show their vocal chops!

TinyURL.com/AlkiAuction17-Catalog

CONGRATS TO 2017-18 REFLECTIONS PARTICIPANTS

The following students have entered pieces into the National PTA arts recognition program:

Dance: **Emma P.**

Visual Arts: **Hila B., Annika K., Ely T., Lily N., Isla K., Betty T., Naomi D., Matilda O., Michaela D., Lola T.**

Literature: **Vincent R., Sadie M., Ely T.**

The recognition ceremony will be during our January PTA meeting on Jan. 4, at 6:30 PM in the Library.

Thank you to **Vanessa Longacre-Wilcox** for coordinating the after school workshops.

Don't miss the Seattle Council Reflections exhibit at the Seattle Center Armory (Loft) from Dec. 1st - Jan. 7th! Featuring artwork from Alki students!

The Seattle Council PTSA will have the opportunity to advance a certain number of entries to the WA State PTA level. Let's wish our students the best of luck! We're so proud of their hard work.

ALKI DERBY WINS BIG - \$81K & CLIMBING

What a weekend at the races! It was Paydayforcharity for the win and Alki PTA in the winner's circle when we raised \$78,738.34 (and counting...) at the Alki Derby!

Huge thanks to this year's auction team for all their hard work and everyone who supported the effort with time, donations and purchases to make this year's auction a great success!

There is still plenty more fun to be had and funds to be raised with open Buy In spots for coveted teacher experiences for students and community building events for families! Check out TinyURL.com/AlkiAuction17-Catalog to purchase Buy In spots for students and parents.

Thank you, Alki!

LET'S GET TO THE HIGHLIGHTS!

- **Raise the Paddle - Counselor:** \$17,150
- **Kid Art:** \$5,925
- **Buy-In Parties & Experiences:** \$8,900 (and counting)
- **Alderbrook Lodge Raffle:** \$3,320
 - Big Congrats to Zach McInelly who won the night at the Alderbrook Lodge.
- **Live Auction Horse Races:** \$2,000
- **Cornhole Game:** \$660

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR AUCTION TEAM

- **Mark Turpen & Brenda Gage:** Auction Co-Chairs
- **Pamela Boyd:** Procurement Lead
- (Procurement Support: **Ali Pankop**)
- **Whitney Marois** - Data Entry Lead
- **Merkys Gomez** - Buy-In Parties
- **Laurie Rasmussen** - Teacher Experiences & Buy-Ins
- **Britney Straus & Akemi Sakaida** - Kid Art
- **Brooke Fitterer** - Check In/Close Out
- **Heidi Fahy, Mike Fahy, Holly Ingalls, Courtney Johnson, Lindsay McDonald, Lillie Ponnusamy, Jennifer Ogle, & The Fairmount Park Auction Team:** Night of Staff
- **Davina Dilley:** Dessert Dash
- **Nikki Turpen, Britney Straus, Ali Pankop, & Barbara Ott:** Decorations
- **Angela Powell:** Graphic Design, Live Show Production, & Raise the Paddle Video
- **Jenna Andersen:** Games & Entertainment
- **Amy Cooper:** Chair of Libations
- **Mary Roper:** Auction Printing
- **Mike Powell & Roy Tuscany:** Emcee & Auctioneer

KID ARTIST LEADS

Ashley Morrison, Amy Cooper, Ming Yuan, Lisette Terry, Sasha Bishop, Pauline Chardoul-Sutter, Mary Murphy, Althea Bradley, Nanda Guajardo, JJ, Guajardo, Ali Pankop, Nikki Turpen, Britney Straus, Akemi Sakaida, Paulette Athan, Cynthia Fein-Wallace, Jason Plourde, Stacie Woods, Casey Lynn, Ingrid Seuss-Harkleroad, Rebecca Ripley Kent, Lindsay Duffy, Ashley Beyer, Nicole Kistler

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Ashley Beyer, Julie Walker-Curran, Mark Curran, Anders Dahl, Pedro Deguzman, Hunter Dilley, Erik Fitterer, Holly Ingalls, Courtney Johnson, Vanessa Longacre-Wilcox, Cheryl Meckley, Amey Nutter, Christopher Nutter, Amy Reese, Owen Reese, Janelle Sosh, Lisa Tirnauer, Rachel Thomas, Annie Wagar, Hope Youngs

I know we're forgetting people... thank you everyone for your help!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & DONORS

INDIVIDUAL

<https://alkipta.com/individualdonors/>

BUSINESSES

<https://alkipta.com/businessdonors/>

**NORTHWEST
ART & FRAME**



A Kids Place
Dentistry for Children
Keith E. McDonald, D.M.D.

LEGISLATIVE

PTA HISTORY: NOT A CLUB, A CHILD ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION

By: Vanessa Longacre-Wilcox

Let's be honest, many of us have had preconceived ideas about what PTA is and isn't. Movies like *Bad Moms*, use stereotypes and humor to paint PTA as a group of out of touch, judgmental, clique-y, over-privileged group of mostly white women obsessing over trivial matters.

Even those of us deeply entrenched in the organization are met with eye rolls and scoffs when talking to friends about joining PTA—or even just coming to a meeting. There is such a misconception about PTA that within Alki we even talk about downplaying the “PTA” part of the PTA as we focus on our main goal: working with the school and families to support students, share information, and connect our community.

The idea of downplaying PTA deeply saddens me because National PTA has an amazing history of over 100 years of child advocacy. National PTA was founded in 1897 on the premise of inclusivity, that motherhood (and later parenthood) was a unifying force across all communities. In its founding statement, Alice McLellan Birney specifically called for a level of inclusivity that was completely radical for the time.

“The National Congress of Mothers, irrespective of creed, color or condition, stands for all parenthood, childhood, homehood. Its platform is the universe, its organization is the human race.” - Alice McLellan Birney, co-founder of National PTA, 1897

In the early years, PTA was instrumental in lobbying for child labor laws and it helped to establish kindergarten. PTA has always focused on the whole health of the child, campaigning against smoking, and supporting food security programs by offering trainings for vulnerable communities on home canning to promote food storage through the winter. PTAs raised money to establish schools in poor areas, got buildings built, and even worked to get electricity run to schools in some areas.

The National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers (NCCPT), was founded by Selena Sloan Butler in 1926 to serve African-American Schools in the segregated south. Selena Sloan Butler collaborated and partnered with the National PTA when she set up the NCCPT. The organizations were deeply connected and because of her work in the south, and the organizations merging

officially in 1970, Selena Sloan Butler is considered a co-founder of the National PTA.

Selena Sloan Butler was born just 7 years after slavery was abolished. When we think about the African-American parents and teachers working on behalf of their children at the time, we have to remember that African-Americans were sometimes killed for learning to read and write during slavery. A generation later, parent and teacher advocates were trying to formalize schools for African-American children. The importance of this work and the personal risk the members of NCCPT took to improve lives of children cannot be understated and should be honored and revered.

In the 1940s the National PTA was invited to participate in the United Nations because of their advocacy work. This led to the National PTA shifting focus from creating good citizens to fostering “world citizens” and PTA began programs to raise awareness of cultures around the world. This led to examining racism and bigotry on a national level. As early as the 1930s and 1940s articles were written in the National Parent-Teacher magazine addressing racism, including an article by Ruth Benedict entitled, “Let's get Rid of Prejudice” in 1946.

Just to be clear though, for all of the wonderful history of National PTA, it is not a simple one. The organizational structure of PTA was designed to give autonomy to the different regions PTAs serve. The idea being that the needs of a small rural town might differ from a big city, for example. Because of that, PTAs can choose their own paths. Some of chosen exclusion based on bigotry. Others have chosen to follow in National PTA's path and fight for every child. Each PTA has a choice about who they want to be.

Alki PTA works hard to provide the school, teachers, students and families with important support. We sponsor student safety positions like playground supervisors, emergency preparedness kits, we fund the counselor position, and support the school nurse and front office. We pay for school wide programs such as Writers in the Schools, provide field trip sponsorships so that every student that wants to go on a field trip can afford to. The full list is very extensive, you can find it here: <https://alkipta.com/ta-201718-budget/>

When I hear people say they “don't like PTA” I wonder what they mean because PTA is not a static thing. There is no single definition for what PTA is or HAS to be, other than an organization working to advocate for children. PTAs elect new officers every year as parents come and go through the community. Because of that, Alki PTA is an ever changing organization, every year we get to choose who we are going to be, what we are going to be about, and what we are going to get done.

If you have ever thought that PTA wasn't for you, I challenge you to think about what would change your perception? What would you like to see the PTA doing, and who in our community would be a good fit for that? Over the next few months we will be nominating next year's officers. Your thoughts and voice are important and now is the perfect time to help shape Alki PTA into the organization you think it should be.

There is a lot important work to do on behalf of kids. We need to advocate to close the achievement gap, ensure social and emotional learning for all students, make inclusion and family engagement a priority, and yes, we still need to raise our voices for school funding until PTAs are out of the business of funding basics like safety and counselors.

PTA is not a clique of friends, it is a group of dedicated individuals, just like you, working to advocate for children. I hope you'll honor the PTA advocates from our history and join us to shape the future.

VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY

WEST SEATTLE ART NEST ART NIGHT BENEFITTING THE ALKI PTA

Friday, Jan. 26 (5:00 - 8:00 PM)
\$15 an hour/per child

West Seattle Art Nest is hosting a special Art Night Out benefitting our PTA! Attendees will enjoy a night of art, community, and fundraising. **20% of**



the evening's proceeds will go directly to the PTA. The evening will include open studio time designated exclusively for Alki families and friends. Open studio gives families access to our entire space and all supplies. We have a bead, fabric and yarn room, paper crafts room, recycled arts room, paint room stocked with watercolors and tempera paint and the splatter room for a total body experience. The cost is \$15 an hour per child and there is no charge for accompanying adults and children under 2. Come connect and create for a cause.

2017-18 OPEN CHAIR/ COORDINATORS POSITIONS

- PTA Events Chair
- BLT PTA Representative
- Room Parent Coordinator
- Running Club Chair(s)
- Spiritwear Campaign Coordinator
- Scrip Sales Coordinator
- Staff Appreciation Week Chair(s)
- Cultural Committee (6+ people)

Signup Here: <http://TinyURL.com/AlkiVolunteers>

GIRLS ON THE RUN



Empowering girls, from start to finish.

Girls on the Run is an after-school program that uses the power of running to give girls the tools to celebrate their bodies, honor their voices, recognize their gifts and activate their power! 3rd - 5th grade girls come together twice a week and learn new skills, celebrate girl empowerment, and

train to run a celebratory 5K at the end of their 10 week season.

Learn more at <http://girlsrun.org/our-approach/> or email our Program Manager, Katie Glenn, at Katie@girlsrun.org. YOU can make a difference!

Find out more at <http://www.girlsrun.org>.

ALKI COMMUNITY CENTER

Annual Christmas Ship Event

Saturday, Dec. 9 (7:45 - 9:30 PM)
FREE hot cocoa, pastries and caroling.
Ship arrives at 8:55 PM

Parent's Night Out

Friday, Dec. 15 (6:00 - 8:00 PM)
\$25 per child.
Includes dinner, arts n crafts and skating

Theme Night Skate Night

Friday, Dec. 15 (5:45 - 7:45 PM)
\$3 per skaters

