2015-2016 PARENT INFO GUIDE FROM VINLAND PTSA

Your Vinland PTSA wants to keep you informed! In this guide you will find:

- Dates of events coming up!
- Introduction to some of our PTSA Volunteers/Officers
- Information about Scrip, Ready Relief, the Student Store, Box Tops, our 1st Family Fun Night of the Year, and our Fall Fundraiser
- Volunteer opportunities
UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

9/25 Vinland Carnival
In the Gym, Multipurpose room & surrounding areas.
EVERYONE INVITED
6:30pm-8:30pm
We’ll have games, balloon artist, face painting, cake walk
**Proceeds to benefit annual 5th grade camp.**

9/25 FREE Dress Day
*While uniforms are not required on FREE Dress Days, students shall dress appropriately for school and still follow the general guidelines.
Other Free Dress Days for the year:
10/29, 11/25, 12/18, 1/22,
2/5, 3/31, 4/29, 5/27, 6/10

9/26 – Campus Beautification Project
Dolphin Garden & Front Campus
9:00am-12pm
EVERYONE INVITED
Bring your gardening gloves, rake, & wheelbarrow, & tools for weeding and for spreading bark.

10/08 – Hearing & Vision Screening
At school throughout the day

10/13 General PTSA Meeting
Vinland Library
6:30pm
2nd Tuesday of every Month through May
Childcare provided

10/15 Family Reading Night “Let’s Pretend”
Grades Kinder – 3rd
Vinland Library
6:00-7:00pm
3rd Tuesday of every Month Nov through May
The Vinland PTSA would like to welcome both new and returning Vinland Families to the 2015-2016 school year! We know it can be a challenge to navigate all the different events and activities that Vinland Elementary School and Vinland PTSA organizes throughout the year. This guide is intended to complement the school calendar and help you understand what everything is. In particular, it is intended to help you understand how together, we can make our school and community a better place.

The goal of the Vinland PTSA is to **Enrich Education** and to **Build Community**. We work hard to achieve this goal by organizing a strong mix of enrichment programs, activities and community events. To fund all our programs we have **2 main fundraisers**, a **Fall Fundraiser with Charleston Wrap** and **The Spring Auction**, supplemented by our “free money” programs like Box Tops for Education™, Labels for Education®, and Scrip.

### ENRICHING EDUCATION – ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

**Family Fun Nights:** Typically held once a month on a Friday evening. These PTSA sponsored nights are a great time to come together as a Vinland Family and have some fun. Typically free, these evenings have included a movie night, various entertainment, Screen Free Week, etc. Stephanie Schlosser sschlosser76@gmail.com is heading up Family Fun Nights.

Our first Family Fun Night is on **Friday, October 30** – Trick or Treat Street; 6:00 – 7:30pm. Volunteers transform the school into a magical and ghoulish place to visit! Really, you won’t recognize the inside of Vinland!! The event gives the children (and adults) a chance to dress up one more time during the Halloween Season and gives the children a safe environment for another go at Trick or Treating. Why is it held the Friday of conferences? This gives the volunteers one to two days to decorate while children are out of the building for school conference time. We couldn’t do it without our volunteers & candy/party favor donations. Be on the lookout for parent volunteer opportunities the night of AND candy donations!

**Family Reading Nights:** Becky Ryan and our Vinland Library, with the help of guest readers, offer a Family Reading Night each month. This is a fun evening for our Vinland K-3rd graders and their families. Your PTSA provides the snacks.

**Breakfast Book Club:** The Vinland Library offers our 4th or 5th graders an opportunity to read or listen to one of the books on the Breakfast Book Club list. Breakfast is provided by PTSA in the library from 8:30-9:10am **one Friday morning a month**. They discuss the books, play a game, and/or work on an activity.
**Pagemasters:** As a Pagemaster, students are able to learn the basics of how the library functions including, but not limited to: organization of books, book circulation, and book repair. Each student will have an assigned job and is responsible for keeping a section of the library in order and neat. Applications become available twice a year to 4th and 5th graders. Both teacher and parent signatures are required to on the application. PTSA provides prizes and treats for the end of trimester Pagemasters Party.

**Vinland Choir:** Information regarding Vinland Choir will be distributed by Mr. Orando to students and their families during the first week of March. Choir is open to students in grades 3-5. They rehearse in the morning before school. It is an extracurricular program, so parent permission is required for participation. Parents are required to bring their students to Choir in the morning. Many parents carpool. If your child is in Choir, it is very important to attend rehearsals. Typically, the music performed is more difficult than that done in music class, so being there to rehearse keeps the group moving forward musically. Our concert is one of the last events of the school year and is typically held during the last full week of school.

**W.A.V.E.S.:** Wonderfully Athletic Vinland Elementary Students or W.A.V.E.S is for students in grades 4 and 5 have the opportunity, under supervision of our physical education teacher and volunteers, to learn unicycling. Student effort is showcased in a school assembly each spring.

**Market Day:** Market Day is an early exposure to entrepreneurship for Vinland 3rd through 5th graders. Students select a product or service to sell, created by the student themselves, and pre-approved by staff. They set a price and determine a marketing plan. When they are not selling their own product, students go from table to table, deciding what products or services they will buy with their earned market dollars. Market dollars can be earned in class based on classroom/school behavior, completed homework assignments, etc. Market Day occurs quarterly.

**Meaningful Mentors:** Meaningful Mentors is a volunteer program linking general education peers with students who have disabilities in order to support these students throughout the school day (i.e. walking them to their buses, or specialist classes). Daily, we observe students who are caring, compassionate, and genuine. The students involved in Meaningful Mentors learn from an early age what it means to be a generous, helpful, patient friend. This program not only raises awareness, but also helps our mentors and their peers gain confidence. Students are recommended by their teacher to participate. Contact Ms. Darby for more information, darmbrister@nkschools.org.

**Assemblies:** We hold assemblies periodically during the school year for the purpose of cultural and educational enrichment or student recognition. An assembly team consisting of staff and PTSA members will review potential programs and make selections for the year. Your Assembly PTSA contact this year is Irene Moyer, irene_moyer@hotmail.com.

**Art Docents:** Our building Art Docent coordinator is Millissa Riffle rifflefam@gmail.com. Teachers are encouraged to recruit a parent volunteer from their class to take on the role of Art Docent. Times allotted and days will be arranged between the art docent and teacher. Millissa and others are available to assist those folks with ideas and supplies if they feel less confident. Our kids love art and we are fortunate that our PTSA supports and supplies a wonderful Art closet. An art docent orientation will be held by the district and Millissa Riffle, more details to come.

**Room Parents:** This is another role that is vitally important as they can act as the liaison between parents and the school/PTSA for various functions, volunteer opportunities and needs (i.e. Box Top info and contests sponsored by the PTSA, PTSA fundraising, Auction Art Projects/Baskets). There is a room
parent orientation held early in the school year to help everyone understand more about this exciting role. Nicole Perry is the Room Parent Coordinator and can be reached at nicolekylex2@gmail.com

**Uniform Closet:** The Uniform Closet is a program run through the PTSA, to assist students in need of gently used, uniform items. This is a free service to all school families. Prior to purchasing uniform items, the HSO invites parents to check the Uniform Closet to see if that item might be available. In turn, we ask families who have gently used, clean uniform items they are no longer using to please donate them to the Uniform Closet where they might benefit others. Please contact Jenny Childs at jennychilds01@yahoo.com with any questions regarding this program.

**Reflections:** Vinland students take part in the National PTA Reflections Program which welcomes all grades and abilities to explore and be involved in the arts. Annually, thousands of students will reflect on a common theme and create original works of art in the categories of dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts. **This year we are looking for a volunteer to take on the Reflections Program for our school.** The theme for the 2015-2016 school year is “Let Your Imagination Fly”.

**Ready Relief:** This is an annual school event that prepares food packets for our students and staff in case of an emergency at the school. Emergency supplies are all kept in the large green cargo container outside the gym. Emergency rations of lentils, spice, chicken, and rice packets are prepared by our own students grades 1-5. This year’s Ready Relief will happen on **November 5th.** $5.00 is collected from each student at the beginning of the year and Children of the Nations leads this event with the help of our parent volunteers. June Hensley (junemh4@gmail.com) and Teresa Hall are coordinators for this.

**Campus Beautification and Dolphin Garden:** The PTSA works in conjunction with the school administration, along with NKSD, to improve the overall campus setting. This includes the Dolphin Garden and areas of the Vinland School Campus. Our next campus beautification work party is on **Saturday, September 26th from 9am-12pm.** We are looking for parent, staff and student volunteers to come any time, or even for the entire time. Please bring extra gardening tools (shovels, sheers, rakes, trowels, etc.), and don’t forget to wear your gloves. Questions? Please contact Richele Strong (randastrong@gmail.com) or Mark Kluth.

**5th Grade Camp:** Vinland has a long tradition of offering a 5th Grade Outdoor Education Program thru the Naturebridge Organization at Lake Crescent in the Olympic National Park. Outdoor school is funded by a combination of PTSA fundraisers, grants, and family contributions. It is 3 days and 2 nights of great fun, science that comes alive in a tangible way, and memories that do not easily fade! It is a highlight for students. Parent chaperones are also vital to this effort and we hope many will consider doing this with your child.

**Teacher/Specialist Grants:** The Teacher/Specialist Grants Program is designed to further support classroom and school needs. The PTSA knows that there are activities, field trips, supplies and educational materials that would enhance and further enrich our children’s learning, yet they are often too costly to ask parents and/or teachers to supplement. Additionally, it may not be in the school budget to honor a particular request. To assist at these times, the PTSA has set aside money in a fund to help with these special grant requests. Teachers and Staff are eligible to apply.
FUNDRAISING – HOW WE PAY FOR ALL OUR PROGRAMS

Vinland PTSA Memberships: We invite you to be a part of making Vinland Elementary School the best it can be. Start off the school year by showing your support of Vinland PTSA, Single Memberships are $15! By joining the Vinland PTSA, you also become a member of the Washington State and National PTA. Your membership guarantees you a vote at our Vinland General Membership Meetings held the 2nd Tuesday of every month (First meeting is Tuesday, October 13th at 6:30pm in the Vinland Library), along with many other great perks/discounts including: Wild Waves, Silverwood Theme Park, Great Wolf Lodge, FedEx Office, Staples, and rental cars. Please refer to Washington PTA website for more information. From time to time, we will run membership drives and class competitions to help us reach our goal of 300 members and 100% staff membership. Our Membership Chair is Kristi Repp, kristirepp@comcast.net.

Fall Carnival: Our very 1st all school-wide event of the year is here – Fall Carnival will be held on Friday, September 25th from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. There will be carnival games, cake walk, face painting, balloon animals, food, and lots of fun. Entry is $5/person –or- $15/family maximum (includes food and drinks). Tickets to play games are 2 for $1 –or- $10/wristband (best value for unlimited games). **Proceeds from this event will be benefit the Annual 5th grade camp.

Fall Fundraiser – Charleston Wrap: Fall Fundraising Committee has decided on Charleston Wrap Company (www.charlestonwrap.com) for the Fall Fundraiser. Catalog products include wrapping paper, frozen food, as well as unique products for the kitchen and home. Through Charleston Wrap, Vinland receives 50% of the profits. Dates TBD, please contact Millissa Riffle riflefam@gmail.com.

Spring Auction: This year’s Spring Auction will be held at the Clearwater Resort Tower Ballrooms on Saturday, March 5th 2016. It will be a Dinner, Silent Auction and Live Auction. We have reserved a block of hotel rooms at a reduced rate for guests who choose to stay over after this lively adults only event! Please call 1-866-609-8700 and indicate that you are part of the Vinland Elementary group. Tower Water View Rooms are $139 and Tower Non View Rooms are $99. Individuals booking are responsible for room charges and taxes. Melissa Dennis (mdennis@kpud.org) and Callie Gillespie (calliegillespie@yahoo.com) are Co-Chairing the Spring Fundraiser.

Student Store: Vinland Student Store features fun school supplies, Spirit Wear (uniform t-shirts, sweatshirts,) Scrip products and more! Remember, it is open daily now from 9:10-9:15am. It will also be available at some family nights, as well. Please contact Beth Moore at gbamoak@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Yearbook: The yearbook is a great way to preserve your child’s memory of their experience at Vinland. Our yearbook is loaded with candid photos of classroom activities and school events from throughout the year, as well as individual and class photos. Your presale cost is $10 per copy. Price will go up after February 2016. Your Yearbook Coordinator is Richele Strong, randastrong@gmail.com.

Scrip™: Earn money for your organization using gift cards for everything you buy – groceries, restaurants, gas. For more information you can check out this link https://www.shopwithscrip.com/# (Vinland’s activation code is LALD6F9A17158, or you can email Uma Pierson at unamiplierson@gmail.com).

Box Tops™: One steadfast way for our teachers and staff to earn FREE money is through the Box Tops for education program! For every coupon clipped, we earn 10 cents. But the best part is that the Box Top money earned stays with the classroom. Teachers can spend this money any way they want - books, VINLAND PTSA. ENRICHING EDUCATION. BUILDING COMMUNITY.
paper, art supplies, educational materials, rewards - whatever they need! We collect box tops year round and twice a year the box tops are turned in - at the end of October and the end of February! Keep a lookout for class challenges and encourage them to clip those coupons! Millissa Riffle leads this effort and can be reached at rifflefam@gmail.com.

**Labels for Education®:** The Labels for Education program is a PTSA fundraising program designed with busy families in mind as an alternative to traditional fundraising. By saving and redeeming product UPCs and beverage caps from participating products schools can earn FREE educational merchandise, such as art supplies, sports equipment, musical instruments, and library books. The school community can assist by saving UPCs and beverage caps from participating products and giving them to the school. The school redeems the points collected for FREE merchandise! NOTE: We only need the UPC’s from the labels, not the entire soup label. The UPC is the bar code and will most likely have either a 1 point or 5 points designated next to it. A receptacle is provided at the front of the school. **PTSA is looking for a Labels for Education Coordinator.** Contact a PTSA officer if you are interested in taking this on.

This year we are looking forward to working alongside our parents and the staff at Vinland Elementary to enrich education for our students and build our community.

Your 2015-2016 Vinland PTSA Executive Board,
President – Stasie Pike, spike@evergreenhomeloans.com
Vice President – June Hensley, junemh4@gmail.com
Secretary – Richele Strong, randastrong@gmail.com
Co-Treasurer – Jennifer Schmitt, jensprv8@gmail.com
Co-Treasurer – Stephanie Schlosser, sschlosser76@gmail.com