

# West TV PTC Monthly Newsletter

March 2017

## Message from the PTC, Guest Writer Natalie Bodenhamer

I was on a soccer team in Kindergarten. We were the Purple Blazers, a co-ed team consisting of 11 boys and 1 girl (me). My objective was to kick the ball as little as possible. And that was the extent of my soccer career. One short season that left an overwhelming “fish out of water” taste in my mouth.

Earlier this year my five-year-old decided to play on a Milltown soccer team. A few weeks before the start of the season, I got an email from the coach asking for a parent volunteer to be assistant coach. I immediately dismissed the idea with, “I’m 100% unqualified.” And then a week later, a second email rolled in reminding the parents that the assistant coach position was still vacant. I reviewed my qualifications:



- \* Able to distinguish a soccer ball from a baseball.
- \* Available during practices.
- \* Older than a five-year-old.

My reply email went something like this, “I’m available to be the assistant coach. Disclaimer: I know nothing about soccer, but have experience with five-year-old girls. I will give it my best.”

I showed up the first day of practice – a nervous rookie coach, wondering if this group of five-year-old girls was going to call my bluff. I suddenly wished that THPRD offered a crash course in Soccer-Mom Readiness. Our head coach was great. His experience with coaching kids and knowledge of the game was evident from the first moment of practice. And as the season progressed, I found that I had something to offer too - energy, encouragement and the ability to follow Coach’s instructions, mainly. And believe it or not, Team Pony Star never called my bluff. It was a great season.

Parenthood often looks like showing up before we’re ready. We can prepare, read books, listen to experts, ask friends and family for advice, but at the end of the day, we don’t get a practice run. This is our first rodeo and we have no choice but to show up and give it our best. There are moments that leave us feeling 100% unqualified and wondering, “Is this really up to me to pull off? I have no relevant experience.” Whether it’s troubleshooting math homework, resolving sibling issues, figuring out how to make ends meet or coaching soccer, parenthood does not give us the luxury of readiness. No dress rehearsal. No graduate level course in *Raising Successful Children*. No preparation. Just demand – show up.

And so, as parents what do we do? Improvise. Sift through the chaos to find a solution. Test the limits of our resourcefulness. Fumble. Make mistakes. Get creative. And under the circumstances, we've no choice but to abandon perfection. The upside is our growth as not only parents, but also people. The daily challenge shapes us into smarter, more flexible, creative and confident individuals.

So, is it possible that one of the greatest privileges of parenthood just might be that we have the chance to show up before we're ready? To let go of perfection and get real with what we have to offer. To rise up to a challenge all while under the watchful eye of our spawn. And could our imperfection provide our kids a unique opportunity to relate to their parent, not as a polished figurehead, but rather as a genuine person? A person with limitations and grit.

West TV, we are in this parenting thing together. May we encourage each other to show up before we feel ready. To abandon perfection and bring what we've got. To saddle up and give this rodeo we call parenting our best shot.

## Appreciation



Have you seen our beautiful new art piece in the main hallway? Stop by and appreciate the great work by our students and Artist in Residence Mark Brody. The Artist in Residence program was funded in major part by last year's school auction. Projects like these, along with the PTC's Art Literacy program (spotlighted below,) keep art in our school and accessible to our kids.

## Spotlight

### **Art Literacy**

#### **Coordinators Sharon Papadopoulos and Lindsey Haglund**

My name is Sharon Papadopoulos and I am a co-coordinator of the Art Literacy Program at West TV along with Lindsey Haglund. My commitment to Art Lit started on the day of kindergarten round-up for my son who is now a fourth grader. I remember sitting in the library, listening to Principal McNamee speak about the curriculum, and she uttered the words "since there is no art teacher here at WTV, we have a volunteer-based art literacy program." My heart sank. Art was always my favorite class beginning in elementary school, and those words made me sad for my children and all the other children who otherwise would not get to experience art class. That is why I began volunteering for Art Lit.

Hi, my name is Lindsey Haglund, and I am a co-coordinator for the Art Literacy program at West TV. It is such a privilege to work with Sharon Papadopoulos, and contribute to our school in this role. Our goal has been to continue the amazing work of past coordinators, and develop a mindful curriculum that teaches art elements and artist history to our kids through creative expression and conceptualization. Personally, I have always had a special affinity to art. Throughout my life, and during college, I spent countless hours in the studio, and studying art history before pursuing a degree in organizational development. The Art Literacy program allows me to couple my love for art with work that serves our kids and community. This program is implemented entirely by volunteers, and has been since its inception in the 1970s. We hope to continue to promote, engage, and inspire our kids to be themselves, and to create!

#### **HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?**

The program is run by the Beaverton School District. They provide all the training materials, images and lessons for each artist that the volunteers then present to the classrooms. Each school has 6 art lessons per year which are comprised of the art history portion, i.e. learning about the artist and their works, a lesson online, form, shape, value, space, along with creating a piece of art that encompasses the lesson being taught. The lesson is typically taught in the classroom by 2 to 3 volunteers. Each volunteer can expect to commit 3-5 hours per lesson broken down as follows:

- 1 hour for the training, held on the first Wednesday of the month at 9AM in the cafeteria.
- 1 hour at home to read and prepare for the lesson.
- 1.5 to 2 hours to teach the lesson and clean up.

I think that the best part about volunteering for Art Lit is witnessing the joy that it brings to the children. They are truly excited to see us when we roll the art cart into the room. Every piece of art

that comes home should have the artist info attached to the back so it is a great opportunity to discuss the lesson with your child.

Lindsey and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Art Lit volunteers for their time, effort and commitment...you make the program a success!!

"Creativity takes courage" - Henri Matisse

## Keep in Touch

We want you to feel welcome and informed about all WTV activities, so please follow our news on our **website** [www.wtvptc.org](http://www.wtvptc.org), get a quick reminder of upcoming events every Monday in your email inbox from our **Monday Minute**, attend our monthly **PTC meeting** (every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday evening at 7PM in the school library,) and get to know our organization more in-depth in this monthly **newsletter** sent via email. Cheers!

## More Ways to Help the PTC Earn Money for our School!

### **eScrip**

We have a new fundraising program...eScrip!!! It just takes a few minutes of your time to create an account online. Earn money for our school at places you already shop!!! It's easy...

Log onto [www.eScrip.com](http://www.eScrip.com). Enter the School or Group I.D. (500109987) or search for: West Tualatin View Elementary.

- Sign up for an account
- Register your debit and credit cards (this is optional, but makes it so much easier) - every time you use the registered credit or debit card at a participating merchant, those purchases will earn money for our school!
- Shop at eScrip merchants!
- Use your eScrip registered cards for all your purchases.
  
- A percentage of purchases will be automatically contributed by the merchant.

**Any questions? Contact Sharon Parks at [parks\\_sharon@yahoo.com](mailto:parks_sharon@yahoo.com)**

If you have any content suggestions for upcoming newsletters, please contact Jami Keene, PTC Secretary, at [jamikeene@hotmail.com](mailto:jamikeene@hotmail.com).