

News release



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Michelle Nims, Everett Public Schools PTSA Council Co-Chair

PTSA Council returns from [state convention](#) with passel of awards!

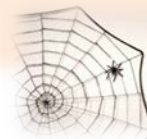
Individual members, students and schools honored for advocacy, action and talent

Each year, the [Everett Public Schools PTSA Council](#) makes its mark at the state convention – bringing home awards and sharing local best practices for others to emulate. The April gathering this year was no exception. Recognitions and honors included:

- **Honor Unit:** Forest View Elementary-Silver, Everett Council-Gold
- **Standards of Excellence:** Forest View Elementary-Gold, Gateway Middle-Gold, Everett Council-Gold. Cedar Wood Elementary and Heatherwood Middle each entered materials in this category for the first time, and each earned Silver medals.
- **Communication:** Forest View Elementary-Gold, Gateway Middle-Gold, Everett Council-Gold
- **Website:** Everett Council-Gold, Forest View-Gold
- **Newsletter:** Henry M. Jackson High-Bronze
- **Taking Significant Action:** Forest View Elementary-Bronze, Everett Council-Gold
- **Applegate Grants:** Eisenhower Middle, Everett Council, Jefferson, Lowell and Jackson elementary schools
- **'14 in '14' grant:** Penny Creek Elementary
- **100 Percent Council Participation:** Everett Council
- **Leadership Academy** Ginny Andrzejewski-Bronze, Marion Gillins-Bronze, Laura Peterson-Silver
- **100 Percent Teacher Membership:** Forest View, Mill Creek, Penny Creek and Silver Lake elementary schools; Gateway Middle School
- **Platinum Level (20 percent increase):** Garfield, Jackson, Silver Lake and Whittier elementary schools; Eisenhower Middle School
- **Gold Membership Level (10 percent increase):** Emerson, Garfield, Hawthorne, Jackson, Lowell, Monroe, Silver Lake, Whittier and Woodside elementary schools; Eisenhower Middle; Everett and Henry M. Jackson high schools
- **Silver Membership Level (5 percent increase):** Garfield, Hawthorne, Jackson, Madison, Monroe, Silver Lake, Whittier, and Woodside elementary schools; Eisenhower Middle School; Everett and Henry M. Jackson high schools

What grade level is the author if this award-winning essay? (Answer at the end of the article)

My daddy is my role model.
He is not afraid of spiders and other creepy stuff. He knows what 100 + 600 is. He can give me piggy back rides. He helps me with my homework. He is thoughtful because he cooks dinner, takes me to karate and gets me my favorite fries from McDonald's. He makes me laugh when he tickles me. He builds and plays Legos with me. I want to be brave, smart, strong and fun like my daddy.



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- **Bronze Membership Level** (enrolled 50 percent of last year's membership): Cedar Wood, Emerson, Forest View, Hawthorne, Jackson, Jefferson, Lowell, Madison, Mill Creek, Monroe, Penny Creek, Silver Firs, Silver Lake, View Ridge and Whittier elementary schools; Eisenhower, Evergreen, Gateway, Heatherwood and North middle schools; Everett, Henry M. Jackson, Port Gardner and Sequoia high schools; Everett Special Education PTSA.

Local Council members were committed to active involvement in a variety of Washington State PTA committees for 2013-14:

- **WSPTA Resolutions** – Alex Truchot
- **WSPTA Bylaws** – Denise Constantineau, Michelle Nims (chair), Laura Peterson
- **WSPTA Reflections** – Denise Constantineau, Marion Gillins, Michelle Nims, Laura Peterson, Michele Rufer
- **Region 7 Outreach** – Michele Rufer
- **Region 7 Legislative** – Laura Peterson
- **Region 7 Membership** – Toni Wilson
- **Region 7 Service Delivery Team** – Denise Constantineau, Michelle Nims
- **WSPTA Website and Communication Judging** – Connie Baldwin, Denise Constantineau (co-chair), Vicki Fraser, Michelle Nims (co-chair), Laura Peterson, Kelley Phan
- **WSPTA Board Region 7 Director** – Jenny Forbes
- **Incoming WSPTA Programs Director** – Michelle Nims

Superintendent Gary Cohn lauded the Council not only for these latest state recognitions, but for “... continually being a valuable strategic partner on district and school efforts to support each child's learning.

“These dedicated parent leaders have in mind what is best for each child as they do their work on the state and local level.

Everett Public Schools and all other districts in the state benefit from the talent and commitment of PTSA members in our schools.”

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Who wrote one of the award-winning essays in this year's Washington State PTA Men's Essay Contest? And how old was the author?

Forest View Elementary KINDERGARTEN student Mailynn Jeffries wrote why she admires and wants to be like her father. Not only did she bring tears to the crowd at the State Convention, but she shows the level of learning in kindergarten classes today!

The Little Seed earned a National PTA Award of Merit in this year's Reflections competition for second-grader Elise Moe of Penny Creek Elementary.

The Little Seed

By Elise Moe

Once, a little seed fell from an apple tree. The little seed looked around and said, “I am nothing in this big world!”

But just then, the wind picked it up and carried it off to amazing places. All different countries and oceans and cities, and then one day, the wind dropped the little seed, and the seed looked around and said, “I am nothing in this big world!”

But then, the wind picked it up, and carried it off to amazing places. All different countries and oceans and cities, and then, the wind dropped the little seed, but this time, the seed was silent for a while, and then finally, he said, “I have gone off to amazing places. All different countries and oceans and cities, and I feel so tiny in this big world.”

The seed stayed there, and the rain watered it and the sun warmed it, and one day, the little seed sprouted roots, and a little shoot. That shoot grew and grew until it became a big apple tree. The little seed was amazed, “How can I be something so big when I was so small?!” he said. And one day, a little seed fell from the apple tree, and the wind carried it off to amazing places.