

BEAR CREEK CAMPUS PTSA

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



Friendship, Kindness & Advocacy

This month, we are focusing on friendship, kindness, and advocacy because each of these helps strengthen our community. While they matter all year, February is a great time to highlight how small actions can make a big difference.

Showing kindness can be as simple as a thoughtful note, helping a friend, or thanking a teacher. Advocacy is another powerful way to show we care. By speaking up for students, families, and schools, we help create positive change.

Thank you for being part of this incredible community. Your support makes a difference for our students and families.

In partnership,

Allison, Kelsey, Sherry, & Amanda



Upcoming Events & Opportunities

- 2/5: NLO Book Swap and Board Game Event 1:30pm-3:30pm
- 2/7: Northwest African American Museum Excursion
- 2/10-2/14: Focus on Advocacy Week (subscribe for calls to actions)
- 2/11: Teacher Appreciation **Baked Potato Bar**
- 2/13: **Community Potluck**, 5pm-7pm
- 2/17: Focus on Advocacy Day & Random Acts of Kindness Day



PTSA Membership & Engagement

If you haven't yet joined the PTSA, it's never too late! Your membership directly supports programs and advocacy efforts that benefit all NLO students and families. Join today for just \$15 per person!

We welcome your input and ideas whether you have a little time or a lot, there are ways to get involved that fit your schedule. Reach out anytime; we'd love to hear from you!



Book Swap and Board Games!

Tuck notes of kindness into the books you bring to trade!

Wednesday, 2/5
1:30pm-3:30pm*
in the gym

*Times might shift slightly

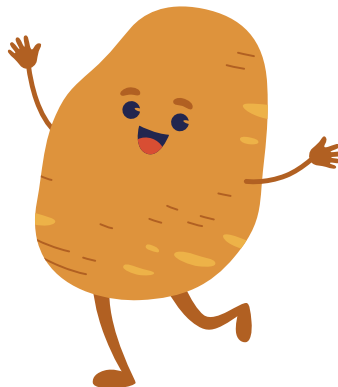
**Bring books to trade
and games to play!**



BAKED POTATO BAR

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 11TH

click
here!



LET'S SHOW OUR NLO EDUCATORS SOME LOVE!

Pal-entine's Day Potluck

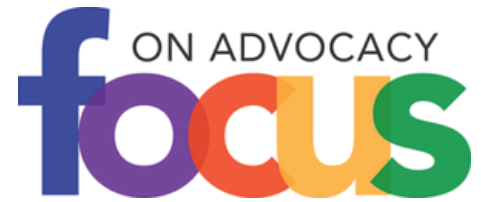
5-7pm BCC Gym

Thursday
February
13th

Celebrate your pals! Join us to share a mean, play games, chat, and join in a couple of Valentine's Day themed activities. Please use the Sign-Up Genius to let us know which family sized dish, labeled with all the ingredients, you will be bringing to share.

Sign Up

Your Voice Matters: PTA Advocacy



We are committed to creating a supportive learning environment for all students. To keep programs like ours strong, decision-makers need to hear from us.

PTA advocacy is non-partisan and focused on students.

As a non-profit, PTA does not endorse candidates or political parties but can take positions on issues affecting children, educate the public, and advocate for legislation within legal limits.

You can make a difference by sharing your story and connecting with legislators during Focus Day and Focus on Advocacy Week.

Advocacy efforts include:

- Educating the public on student issues
- Speaking with legislators
- Informing members
- Promoting voter registration

Join us in making an impact!

Focus on Advocacy Day **February 17, 2025**

Focus Day will be Monday, February 17, 2025 in Olympia and members are encouraged to meet with their legislators about our 2025-2026 WSPTA Legislative Priorities.

You will be provided with everything you need to know in order to schedule and hold a successful meeting with your legislators. While these meetings would ideally be on Monday (Focus on Advocacy Day), they may need to be scheduled throughout the week to accommodate your legislators' schedules.

Can't make it to Olympia? Schedule a remote meeting instead!

Top 5 Legislative Priorities for 2025-2026

- Closing the Funding Gaps
- Addressing the Student Mental Health Crisis
- Addressing Funding, Inclusion, and Supports in Special Education
- Preventing and Reducing Gun Violence and Suicide
- Expanding School Construction Funding Options

2025-2026 Also WSPTA Supported Issues

- Increasing Education Equity by Closing the Digital Divide
- Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Climate Change

Focus on Advocacy Week **February 10-14, 2025**

Make an Impact with Just a Few Minutes!

During Focus on Advocacy Week, WSPTA will share daily virtual actions based on key advocacy priorities. The best way to stay involved is by subscribing to the WSPTA Action Network, which will send you simple, customizable messages to contact your legislators.

[Subscribe to WSPTA Action Alerts](#)



Additional Information and Links

Video Series

This series is about what to expect including the players, the challenges and what you can do to advocate for your PTA and your students.

- WSPTA Module 1: What to Expect in the 2025 Legislative Session: [Video](#) and [Presentation Slides](#)
- WSPTA Module 2: 2025 Legislator Panel: [Recorded Video](#)
- WSPTA Module 3: [Advocacy Tips and Tools](#)
- WSPTA Module 4: [Bill Elements and Analysis](#)

Here are additional resources you can use for successful year-round advocacy:

- [Tips for Testifying Virtually on Bills](#)
- [Remote Testimony, Written Testimony & Positions](#) – Screen shots walk members through the process of participating in public hearings during committee proceedings.
- [WSPTA Blog](#) – The WSPTA blog has helpful information about everything from PTA leadership and governance, advocacy, membership, events, news, and much more! Throughout the legislative session, PTA advocates testify to the legislature on bills that align with our legislative priorities. Information about the testimony is posted in the WSPTA blog, search on the tag “testimony” to see the full list of posts.
- Overview of the Legislative Process – [English Version](#) | [Spanish Version](#)
- [WSPTA Understanding the Legislative Process in Olympia video](#)
- Citizen’s Guide to Effective Legislative Participation – [English Version](#) | [Spanish Version](#)
- Guide to Reading a Bill – [English Version](#) | [Spanish Version](#)
- Legislative Hotline [1-800-562-6000](#) – You can ask questions or send a message to a legislator via the legislative hotline.
- [Subscribe to individual bill and bill topic feeds](#)

Advocacy and Civics Education

Beyond Politics

Advocacy and civics education focus on understanding how systems work, engaging in constructive dialogue, and empowering individuals to create positive change not on promoting specific political beliefs.

Here's how they are separate:

- **Civics is about knowledge, not partisanship.** It teaches students how government functions, how laws are made, and how they can participate in their communities, without endorsing any political party or ideology.
- **Advocacy is about skills, not opinions.** Students learn how to research issues, think critically, communicate effectively, and work toward solutions, regardless of their personal beliefs.
- **Encourages respectful discourse.** Understanding different perspectives and engaging in meaningful discussions helps students develop empathy and collaboration skills, rather than reinforcing division.
- **Empowers all voices.** Advocacy and civic engagement ensure that individuals know how to make their voices heard, whether they are standing up for their education, community needs, or broader social issues.

By teaching advocacy and civics, we equip students with the tools to be informed, engaged citizens no matter their personal beliefs or political affiliations.

Here is some information you can use as you create learning opportunities for your students, or help with writing a progress report.

- **Critical Thinking & Communication:** Helps students analyze issues, consider different perspectives, and express their ideas clearly.
- **Active Citizenship:** Teaches how government and policies work, encouraging lifelong civic engagement.
- **Empowerment:** Shows students that their voices matter in shaping their education and communities.
- **Empathy & Collaboration:** Builds understanding of diverse viewpoints and strengthens teamwork skills.
- **Leadership Development:** Prepares students to take initiative and work toward meaningful change.
- **Real-World Connection:** Makes history, government, and social issues relevant to daily life.
- **Lifelong Engagement:** Encourages students to stay informed and involved in their communities.

