

Pizza Klatch for High School GSA's

By Jeff Loyer

A wonderful thing happened this year at Timberline and North Thurston High Schools! A group of wonderful people put together a program to provide support for the Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) at those schools. Facilitators ran the meetings, and FREE PIZZA was provided. PFLAG-Olympia's primary contribution was to help to provide those free pizzas, providing sponsorship and

keeping the books in order. The intent behind the free pizzas was to:

1. Allow facilitators to meet with the GSA's during lunch hour (or ½-hour, in this case), but not use the entire time waiting for the students to get their food.

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▼ SUNDAY, JULY 13 2-4:30 PM

It's Elementary — We view and talk about the documentary film *It's Elementary* from GroundSpark (see their web site at <http://groundspark.org/>). This great documentary was the first film of its kind to address anti-gay prejudice by providing adults with practical lessons on how to talk with kids about gay people.

Important Notice: the introductions/announcements portion of our usual program format will be shortened to allow for time for the film and discussion, so get there early.

For those who saw the notice in our last newsletter that we were going to show the follow-up film, *It's STILL Elementary*, we changed the plan because a lot of members told us they had not seen the first film. We will follow up with a showing of *It's STILL Elementary* at an upcoming meeting yet to be determined.

▼ SUNDAY, AUGUST 10 1-4 PM

Annual picnic— Pot luck picnic in Priest Point Park. Burgers and dogs hot off the grill (including veggie). Bring side dishes or desserts if you can. Folding chairs are also a good idea.

We start at 1 p.m. at Kitchen No. 2. There's a map on our website at <http://pflag-olympia.org/>

PFLAG Does PANCAKES in the PARK for PRIDE

... The tradition continues. PFLAG serves pancakes in the park at the annual Capital City Pride celebration. Thanks to all our wonderful members and friends who helped set up the tent, cook and serve pancakes and run the table throughout the day.



Notice the brand new banner on top of the tent. Emphasizing that PFLAG is not just for parents anymore, the new banner substitutes the slogan "Support, Advocacy, Education for the GLBTQ Community" for the old "Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays." We're still for parents and friends, but more inclusively welcoming to the wider GLBTQ and allied community. All who support our mission are welcome at PFLAG.

Look for the new banner at our picnic in Priest Point Park in August.

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- 2. Encourage attendance. Free food is a great draw for high school students.
- 3. Allow the meeting to occur during school hours so that students didn't have to find transportation, and/or explain where they were during an after-hours meeting (many aren't "out" to their families).
- 4. Reduce the risk of being identified as GLBTQ, while providing information. We figured it was helpful for someone to cite free pizza as a driving force behind attending.

We averaged about 8 students per lunch – a great attendance! We think this is very encouraging, and demonstrates the need for the program. We have high hopes for the future, including

moving more of the organization to the students. We hope to encourage the youth to develop their own leadership and social support network with the facilitators providing safety, information, and scaffolding.

Most of the financing this year came from a select few very generous donors. Their generosity allowed us to pilot the program without formally soliciting funds. If you would like to help contribute to next year's efforts, please send a check to PFLAG Olympia, with a memo marking it for "pizza". Also stay tuned for news about an auction to benefit the program. It costs about \$3 per student per week – choose how many students you'd like to support, and for how many weeks.

Thanks for all the amazing people who enabled this, including teachers, staff, school administrators, and community members

Are you online?

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The PFLAG-Olympia Alert is a one-way announcement e-mail listserv designed to inform our members and friends of upcoming events, programs, and more. Email updates are sent out prior to each of our the regular meetings and whenever something comes up that we think that our list subscribers might want to know about. Since this newsletter is published only every other month, the alert list provides an opportunity for more timely announcements. To subscribe, go online to: <http://lists.pflag-olympia.org/listinfo.cgi/alert-pflag-olympia.org>

... and check out our new blog! You could be a contributor! You can subscribe! <http://pflagolympiawa.blogspot.com/>

Cowardice asks, is it safe? Expediency asks, is it politic? Vanity asks, is it popular? But conscience asks, is it right? There comes a time when one must take the position that is neither safe nor politic nor popular, but he must do it because conscience tells him, it is right.

- Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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- I want the national quarterly newsletter *PFLAGpole* (which is not mailed in an envelope).
- I want to be added to the PFLAG-Olympia email alert/announcement list (include your email address.)

DATE: ____/____/____ PHONE: (____) _____ - _____

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Mail with your check to: PFLAG Olympia, P O Box 12732; Olympia, WA 98508-2732

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PFLAG

Olympia, Washington

MEETS at 2PM on the second Sunday of each month at First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE, Olympia (except in August when we have our annual picnic at a local park.) It is handicap-accessible.

DIRECTIONS: from Sylvester Park on Capitol Way and Legion Way, go 12 blocks east on Legion Way to Boundary Street. Turn left around the church. Park in the lot at 5th Avenue and Boundary and enter through the glass doors.

Letters, articles and requests for literature are welcome.

Mailing address:

PO Box 12732; Olympia, WA 98508-2732

For information or to discuss personal matters with an understanding parent and experienced PFLAG member, phone numbers are on our website.

Email: info@pflag-olympia.org

Website: <http://www.pflag-olympia.org>

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