

## **Issaquah High School PTSA is Recognized as Washington State PTA's Outstanding Local PTA Unit of the Year**

Issaquah High School PTSA was recently recognized as the Outstanding Local PTA Unit of the Year in Washington State. They will represent Washington State PTA local units at the National PTA Convention in San Diego in June.

"The Outstanding Local Unit of the Year is the PTA that, when compared to all others in their unique environments and within their own special circumstances, is selected as the most representative example of a local unit which exemplifies the purposes and mission of PTA," said Laura Bay, Washington State PTA president.

*Tradition & Progression* was the theme for Issaquah High School PTSA this year. New programs this year included the formation of a multi-cultural event, college planning seminars, and a parent education event designed specifically to address student success in high school. Legislative advocacy remained a focus for the PTSA. Among their advocacy activities, they set up a voter registration and legislation table during their registration and curriculum night events, and supported Simple Majority for School Levies through phone banking, letter writing, fundraising, posting campaign signs and printing messages in their monthly E-news.

"Our theme is perfect for a group of leaders who keep the best of what works while looking for new ideas and growth towards our mission," said Issaquah PTSA President Marianne Kersten. "Creating specific and evolving goals and then systematically acting on them has raised the level of respectability of the organization, thus adding new members and volunteers. We strive to attend trainings and implement best practices in the management of our PTSA which has also led to our voice being heard and our support growing."

Other popular programs included a SAT/ACT Readiness Program designed to help students practice and prepare for these college entrance exams at a low cost, and an assembly which featured Washington State Attorney General Rob McKenna that focused on online privacy issues.

"Above all, we message on the importance of continued parental involvement in the lives of teenagers because despite their apparent maturation towards adulthood, they face numerous variables that can either boost or unravel their futures. Parental involvement at the high school level is critical to the success of our youth in launching into their independent lives from the best path possible," Kersten added.