

CONTACT

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Missouri Parent Teacher Association | 2101 Burlington Street | Columbia, MO 65202 | 800-328-7330 | office@mopta.org | www.mopta.org

Spring into action!

You can make a difference in your PTA membership and in your school community through your action each and every day.

Send us pictures, brags and stories. **We want to hear from you!** Send everything to andreab@mopta.org



The 2015 Annual Meeting and Conference will be held at the Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center in Independence on April 17th & 18th. **I am so excited about this event and the theme, "PTA ... Spring Into Action!!!" is perfect for this training opportunity for our units.**

Susan Rupert
MoPTA VP Programs

Spring is the season between winter and summer. It represents new growth or a new beginning. I have visions of flowers blooming and new baby calves learning to walk for the first time. The dictionary defines spring as a device, such as a coil or strip of steel, that stores potential energy when it is compressed, stretched, or bent and releases it when the restraining force is removed.

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

Maybe you thought of the old cliché; **"Actions speak louder than words"**. What we do is much more significant than what we say. I googled "spring into action" and found it described as to suddenly begin moving or doing something.

Our goal is to provide training for volunteers that are new to their leadership role while updating and revitalizing those experienced leaders. Unit presidents, secretaries, and treasurers will be able to benefit from position specific training. Membership and Reflections information vital to successful programs will be presented. Attendees will have the chance to hear helpful ideas about fundraising, successful PTA programs and how to develop an award winning plan of work. Pickup hints about how standing rules, bylaws, Parliamentary Procedure and conflict resolution can help your unit run smoothly. This exciting two day event will be topped off with our annual Reflections Student Showcase on Saturday afternoon. Join us as we recognize and celebrate the hard work of students from across the state.

The 2015 "Spring Into Action" event will allow new volunteers to take their first steps down the PTA path with confidence and knowledge. The potential energy of our veteran officers and chairs will be released as they take action to lead their units and advocate for our children.

This article is part of a series from the vice presidents of Missouri PTA.



15 minutes for 2015

By Susan Rupert,
MoPTA Vice President
of Programs

A quick way to spend 15 minutes of your board's time would be to contact your school District's Health/Wellness Department and/or Nutrition Services Department. Learning what their current plan in motion is and future goals will be can help your board in coordinating efforts with your unit and school.

Going to the National PTA's (www.pta.org) website will guide you in health topics and questions that you might bring up for discussion. Missouri PTA's website (www.mopta.org) is a great local source to get ideas for your area.

Contact your state's Health/Wellness chair and share what your unit is doing to strive for unit improvement.



Take Your Family to School Week

National PTA's Take Your Family to School Week—**February 16-20, 2015**—will focus on the theme Supporting Student Success to promote family engagement solutions that are proven to help prevent the risks associated with high school dropout.

Research shows that prevention of high school dropout can begin as early as kindergarten.

For more information visit <http://www.pta.org/>

Congratulations to Bowerman Elementary PTA, winner of the \$1000.00 NPTA Take Your Family to School Week grant and Holland Elementary PTA, winner of the NPTA Take Your Family to School Week Tool Kit. Both units are from Springfield, MO!



PTA Winter Membership Challenge Begins Now

The **MORE VOICES FOR CHILDREN IN '15** Winter Membership Challenge begins now! There are two parts to this challenge:

Units that increase their membership by 15 members over and above last year's reported membership numbers, will be recognized on the Missouri PTA website, in **CONTACT** e-magazine and awarded a certificate.

Units that show a 15% increase over last year's reported membership numbers will be recognized on the Missouri PTA website, in **CONTACT** e-magazine, awarded a certificate, and entered in a drawing for **\$200.00!!!**

All dues must be postmarked by **March 21, 2015** to participate in the challenge. The winner of the \$200.00 will be announced at the Annual Meeting and Reflections Showcase on April 18, 2015.

Remember that our collective PTA voice is powerful, and we are heard across the state of Missouri when we speak on behalf of our children.

The **MORE VOICES FOR CHILDREN IN '15** Winter challenge encourages you to share with your local school community what PTA is doing on behalf of children, and how they can support all the wonderful things you do by joining PTA!

HALL OF FAME 2015 Induction Dinner

Park Hill School District PTA's honored with award

By Michael Atchison, Park Hill PTA President

The PTAs of the Park Hill School District were honored as the district's Partner of the Year at the Park Hill Hall of Fame Dinner on January 26 in Kansas City. The PTAs earned recognition for their many contributions to the district, including operating the Park Hill Clothing Center, which annually serves more than 1,000 students, providing them with donated clothing and new socks and underwear, and the district's After Prom Auction and Parties, which provide a safe environment, free of alcohol and drugs, for students on prom night.

In making the presentation, the district also cited the PTAs' stellar record of volunteerism and for raising funds to support programs that enrich students' educational experiences. The PTAs were honored to be recognized alongside the district's Business of the Year and six inductees into the Park Hill Alumni Hall of Fame.



Watch the YouTube Video Here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OopU05XRVsM&list=PLx1JUFjzcYUBDjV9niUfNix0tZe_2az1xe

Congratulations to Nixa Council PTA and their units!

Nixa Council PTA gets 100% for being the first council to have ALL units, including themselves, mail in their dues to Missouri PTA.

We have a few councils that need just one more unit to send in their dues, and they will be at 100% as well!

Send your dues in to MoPTA today.

Carver Middle School PTSA Success Story

By Sunshine Wolfe, Carver Middle School PTSA President

With 2014 behind us, I wanted to take a moment and reflect on 2014 for Carver Middle School PTSA. I took office as President in May 2014 and I had my hands full! Our unit was NOT in good standing, and we weren't sure what we should have been doing. With an average of 6 people at our meetings it would be an understatement to say that we were struggling.

I immediately started attending every training class I could take. I used the MO PTA website, National PTA and the Facebook pages. I needed to "fix" our unit. Somehow the treasurer and I got our unit in good standing before school started in August.

Our first PTSA meeting was held in July and I had 8 members in attendance. I started our Carver PTSA Facebook page, I entered in all the email addresses from past membership forms. I started emailing people and sending out emails to include, and involve people. Our meeting attendance started to grow! Now we have an average attendance rate of 16!!! Yippe!!!

Our unit had 2 officers and a student rep attend MoPTA Convention this year. We learned a lot and enjoyed our weekend! Thank you for the resources and education.

We have successfully filled all officer positions including we have 2 student VP'S. They are doing a wonderful job with spreading the news at school during announcements. At the 1st PTSA meeting I had 0 students in attendance. At the December meeting I had 5 students in attendance!!!

We participated in Reflections this year and we are excited to see the potential of our student entrant.

We had our 1st ever Fall Fundraiser during December. The principal warned me that Middle School students and fundraisers are nothing like elementary students. He didn't want me to get my hopes too high. Well me being me, I had the hope that each child would sell at least 1 item. We had 76 students participate so right at 10% participation from the student body. I was amazed that such a small group of kids were able to do such an amazing job! We plan to hand out prizes to the sellers next week.

- We have funded 6th grade field trip this year.
- We have provided monthly gift certificates for the teachers awards.
- We were able to sell at cost some of our merchandise for a new Welcome Grant at Carver.
- We pampered the teachers with foods during Parent Teacher Conferences.
- We have successfully collected 4,397 BTFE labels this year earning \$439.70
- We have started a Cougar's Don't Bully committee and our Chair's are working closely with the school to supplement the Student Ambassador's program.

Every day I am thankful for all the blessings the Lord grants me with. In the beginning it was more stressful and frustrating it was hard to see the blessings, but as time has passed and with all of your help and guidance I am able to reflect on the blessings and now even see them as they happen. PTA Flexible!!!!

Our unit is currently working on getting back in good standing since we missed the due date on the Financial year end reports, but we will get it done. **We are equipped with the tools, resources and a great group of dedicated members and volunteers to make anything happen.** I am proud to be part of the Carver Middle School PTSA. Let's see what 2015 has in store for us.



For more information, visit the MoPTA website

Legislative Report | February

States across the country over the last few years have been adopting standards that are designed to ensure students are on track to be college and career ready. As with all standards there must be a way to assess if students are reaching goals laid out. But the world of assessments has changed in the last few years. **PTA has compiled a State Assessments for parents to learn more about the assessments in their state and additional assessments they can utilize to make sure their children are on a college and career track.** Also included is a link to PTA's position on assessments and testing.

PTA believes that a valid assessment does not consist of only a single test score, and that at no time should a single test be considered the sole determinant of a student's academic or work future. Additionally, PTA opposes federal legislation and/or regulations that mandate standardized testing or would lead to such testing, as well as federal policies that mandate comparisons of states, school districts, or individual schools and student retention based on a single test or sole criterion and the practice of social promotion.

PTA State Assessments: <http://www.pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=4311>



Update your
2015-2016 Officers
with MoPTA

Updated Officer Information
is due Tuesday, March 31.

Complete This Form:
<http://mopta.org/missouri-pta-2015-2016-officers-form/>



MoPTA Annual Meeting
April 17-18, 2015

Stony Creek Hotel & Conference Center
18011 Bass Pro Drive
Independence, MO 64055

\$85 for adults | \$50 for students
www.MoPTA.org



You could be
"Show Me" Famous!

Send Us Your PTA success stories, PTA Photos, Pinterest Favorites, Tips & Ideas

Send to andreab@mopta.org



Apply for a MoPTA
Board of Manager
position

Get your talent bank interest finder today at mopta.org

Open Positions:

Membership Outreach Chairman
Resolutions Chairman
Male Involvement Chair
Gateway Regional Director
Heritage Regional Director
Pony Express Regional Director
Three Trails Regional Director



Your positive outlook can make a world of difference for your health! With each situation you encounter, you have chance to make the most of it through positivity and good decisions. Here's my advice when you get in a tough spot:

accomplishments done and think about something else. Try to interpret the facts in a way that propels you toward your goal, not one that discourages you or holds you back. It's more constructive and it releases you from stewing in your frustration.

Take a deep breath and count until you calm down. This is usually the opposite of what I want to do in any frustrating situation. I want to let the other person have it good & immediately. But I've noticed that when I wait until I calm down – usually after a deep breath, a walk or sleeping on it – I'm much more mature and graceful with my response and the result is much more constructive and helpful. It's not usually worth it to give someone a piece of your mind. Instead focus on the positive outcome opportunity and let that direct your actions.

Learn from the past and move on. If you learn that your negative interpretation was right, deal with it immediately and move on. You may find out that the bad situation is as bad as you think. Be brave enough to get out and move on. You don't need that negativity in your life. Better to have an awkward moment for a while than to live in a time of frustration because you're too worried about what may happen.

Change your focus. When you're frustrated, don't dwell on your anger, re-focus yourself to get positive

Remember, you lose nothing by having a positive outlook on good days and difficult days. Your attitude matters. Do something you love and keep a good attitude. You'll be better for it.

The Power of Positivity

By Andrea Battaglia, MoPTA PR Chair & Boyd Elementary PTA Secretary

Adapted from www.andreabcreative.com, "Create Your Own Positive Reality."



Amy Blakmore
MoPTA Technology Chair

Meet Your MoPTA Board of Managers Officers

Your PTA Region - **Three Trails**
#Years involved in PTA and MoPTA - **7 years with PTA, 2 years with MoPTA**
Kids names - **Jordan & Trenton**

Why do you believe PTA is important? - **It builds a relationship between parents, teachers and schools to advocate for children in multiple ways.**

Why did you get involved? - **To use my technology skills to help MOPTA**

What do you do on the board? - **Responsible for the MOPTA website.**

Something interesting you've done this year -

Traveled to Las Vegas for my anniversary

Advice you'd give to others - "

Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does." ~ William James

Favorite book, movie, band, TV show - **To Kill a Mockingbird, Lord of the Rings, Too Many to List, Downton Abbey**

Favorite food - **pie... no preference, I pretty much like them all**

Something that makes you stand out - **I drive a big blue truck.**

Healthy Living Tip - **I try to shop the outer aisles and avoid processed foods.**

Describe yourself - **strong, thoughtful, compassionate, curious, busy**

What are you learning this year? -

I'm taking online classes on adolescent psychology.

Anything else you want to share? **Helping others makes me happy.**

DIGITAL LEARNING DAY

MARCH 13, 2015

Digital learning day originated in 2012 to celebrate teachers, leaders and instructional technology programs providing students with exceptional learning experiences. But don't mistake Digital Learning Day as a celebration of technology in the classroom. This is a celebration of learning. Technology is just a medium. It takes innovative teachers utilizing technology in a way that enhances the student's experience in the classroom that defines digital learning.

Defined as any type of instructional practice used to in conjunction with the student's learning experience, Digital learning incorporates a variety of tools that allow for learning anywhere and at any time. However, the focus should be on high quality instruction and combining access to challenging content that incorporates formative assessment. The goal, as with all learning in the classroom, is to prepare the children to be college-career ready.

Digital learning day is also an opportunity to try out new digital tools and innovative instructional practices. The Alliance for Excellent Education has created planning guides to assist with the creation of your own event. Thinking of organizing a Bring-Your-Own-Device Day (BYOD). The Project 24 provides an overview of BYOD programs, things to consider, and examples of successful blended learning practices. Looking for a starting point to jump off a digital experience in the classroom? The site has compiled lesson plans, digital tools and resources to give you a leg up.

Whether your school decides to try something new or wants to take this opportunity to highlight digital learning already underway, share those experiences with MOPTA. Our job as educators, parents and community members is to make sure we are preparing our students for their tomorrow. Future Ready is all about opportunity. Digital learning is one of those key opportunities.

Find the Planning Guide Here: <http://all4ed.schoolwires.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=275>

For more information, visit the website

Go Digital

To help you celebrate Digital Learning Day, we've compiled a set of digital tools, resources and lesson plans recommended by fellow educators from around the country.



LESSON PLANS

Don't reinvent the wheel.

Check out our collection of lesson plans from teachers to remix your instructional playlist.



DIGITAL TOOLS

We asked. You answered.

Find out what tools other educators are using to power digital learning.



RESOURCES

The best things in life are free.

Keep DLDAY going all year with this list of free online resources suggested by teachers.

Mark Your Calendar! **MoPTA Annual Meeting** April 17-18, 2015
Stony Creek Hotel & Conference Center 18011 Bass Pro Drive Independence, MO 64055
\$85 for adults | \$50 for students www.MoPTA.org

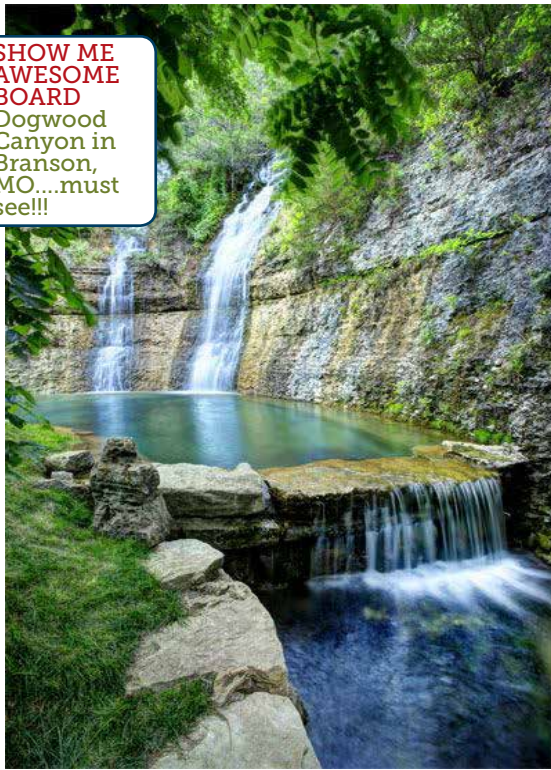


Volunteers...

- Very important people!
 - Outstanding!
 - Love to be helpful!
 - Understand children!
 - Needed for many things!
 - Teachers value them!
 - Enjoy helping children!
 - Enthusiastic adults!
 - Ready at a moment's notice!
 - Special people!
- Thank you!



SHOW ME AWESOME BOARD
Dogwood Canyon in Branson, MO....must see!!!

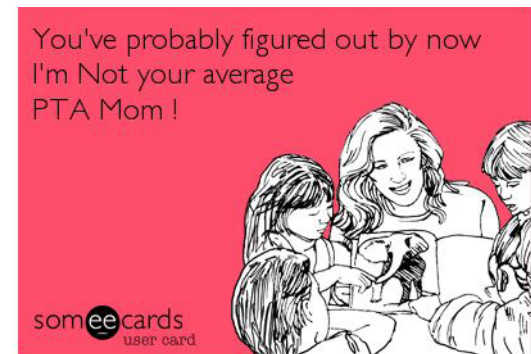


Lisa Davis
MoPTA Regional Director
Ozarks

My favorite pins this month



Volunteers are just ordinary people with extraordinary hearts. They offer the gift of their time to teach, to listen, to help, to inspire, to build, to grow, to learn. They expect no pay, yet the value of their work knows no limit. They've known the unexpected joy of a simple hug. They've planted tiny seeds of love in countless lives. Volunteers are just ordinary people who reach out and take a hand and together make a difference that lasts a lifetime.



Show your favorite teacher with thanks by using Wordle



AMAZING what this PTA did for teacher appreciation week - rolled out the red carpet