

New
FORMAT!

Now
MONTHLY!

Check Out Our New Website!

This new streamlined website will make it easier to locate the information needed. The PTA members only section contains the tools needed for a productive year. Log-on to www.mopta.org today! The login and password are case-sensitive. Check with your unit/council president or email office@mopta.org for the login and password.



Michele Reed
MoPTA Vice President
of Communications

This year seems to be the year of change for many. Several of my friends all had our oldest child leave home for their freshman year in college. While we are all still a little worried, we know we did right by our girls (yes, they were all girls). We know deep down in our hearts they will blossom and grow into strong young women and someday, into wives and mothers. While many times we wish we could go back to that eventful day we brought them home from the hospital just to hold and cherish their every breath, we all know two things: 1) Going back is not possible, and 2) We have taught them how to make good choices. The rest is up to them and where their road takes them. We will be there to offer our advice and suggestions when asked; but at this time in their lives, they need to make their own choices – creating change in their lives and learning from it.

Change is the event of all true learning

Leo Buscaglia

As the opening quote states, change is the event. What did we learn from the change – was it good, did it work well or did it fail? We deal with change every day from having to change our route to work because of construction, or an accident, to changing the way a process is done because of changes made by others. While at first the change may be hard and will more than likely be met with opposition, we need to always present the facts; and encourage change. Without change we become stagnant and personally don't grow and learn.

As each of you struggle with making changes in your units, you will ask these same questions. Many times you will be met with opposition to the change; but you must remember – you are working together for the better of all children starting with the children in your schools and homes. We must show our children that while change is hard, change is good. We learn from change and we become better people because of it.

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

So the next time someone wants to “change” something in the programs and events offered by your PTA, make sure that you take the time to actively listen to what they are saying and think about what you will learn from the possibility of this change.

Missouri Parent Teacher Association

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



Missouri PTA news and updates

#PTAsafety for Halloween, evening visits with school friends

Now that kids have been in school for a few months and making new friends, they may want to start connecting more after school. This means that children will be walking back and forth visiting one another. October is a great time to review pedestrian safety with your kids, especially for night time.

A few things to consider with sunset arriving a little earlier this time of year include wearing reflective or bright colored clothing, carrying a flashlight, and travel with a buddy. Calling before they leave each way will keep both sets of parents or guardians informed and aware of arrival and departure times.

These are also great tips to use for Halloween night, whether the kiddos will be going with you or with a group. Having treats checked by an adult before consuming will help to ensure safety, as well as helping to portion out an allowed amount each day. Think about donating some of those treats to organizations like "Operation Gratitude" who collect leftover candy to include in care packages for soldiers. Read more at www.operationgratitude.com.



#PTAsafety
Travel with
a buddy
for evening
activities.

OCTOBER Membership Checklist

- Please be sure to submit your dues monthly to Missouri PTA.
- At your next PTA meeting, report your membership numbers and how close you are to your membership goal.
- Communicate regularly with your members - make sure they know who you are, what you do, and why they are members!
- October is National Bullying Prevention Month. Find an online toolkit, Leader and Student guides, templates, and promotional tools by going to www.pta.org/c4r
- Check out the opportunity for a \$1,000 Take Your Family to School Week grant, sponsored by AXA, by visiting www.pta.org/awards.
- Remind members that November 4th is Election Day! Being a voice for our children (advocate) means that we educate ourselves on issues and make an informed choice when we vote. Please remember that PTA does not endorse candidates. We do encourage all citizens to get out and vote! Need more information on voting and how to engage your community? Visit www.pta.org/advocacy for helpful information.

Celebrate in October!

National School Lunch Week – October 13-17
www.schoolnutrition.org

America's Safe Schools Week – October 19-25
www.schoolsafety.us/safe-schools-week

National Character Counts Week – October 19-25
www.charactercounts.org/programs/ccweek/

National School Bus Safety Week – October 20-24
www.netforum.avectra.com/eWeb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=NAPT&WebCode=SBSW

Red Ribbon Week – October 23-31
www.redribbon.org/theme/

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Missouri PTA Board of Managers tips and resources

#PTAhealthy

If your child is beginning to ask questions about their bodies, here are a few places to visit online:

Health Information for Girls

Girlshealth.gov, <http://www.girlshealth.gov/body/index.html>, has been updated to include information for girls about puberty, sexual health, and taking care of their bodies. The updated section for girls offers information on what does and doesn't cause pregnancy, facts about the HPV vaccine, what to expect during puberty, and much more.

Health Information for Boys

Kidshealth.org, http://kidshealth.org/kid/grow/boy/boys_puberty.html, has information available for boys and the questions that they may have about their bodies. Topics include health problems, safety, feelings, and even why their voice is changing.

On both sites parents and caregivers will be able to find tips and advice on talking to teen or pre-teen children about sensitive subjects and how to help them take good care of their bodies.

Missouri Substance Abuse PREVENTION NETWORK



Advocacy ★ Innovation ★ Prevention

Help Keep Kids Safe This School Year

*Please note this survey is being conducted by an organization outside of Missouri PTA control. Missouri PTA is not part of the data collection and does not have control in how that data is utilized.

Parents – if you have students in grades 6-12, please complete a survey about substance use and other important issues affecting teens in your community.

<http://surveys.missouri.edu/parents>

The survey is confidential and anonymous. Your answers will help prevention programming in Missouri. It's that easy to make a difference. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis at 573-882-7396.

October Legislative Report

Amendment 3 is an initiative ballot measure. This amendment has two major components that affect teachers in public school districts. The first component deals with teacher tenure. This amendment would eventually do away with teacher tenure in public school districts by limiting teacher contracts to a maximum of three years. The second component would require public school districts to institute an evaluation system that would be used to retain, promote, demote, discharge, and determine teacher salaries.

PTA's mission has long been focused on being a voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child. The issue of tenure has never been discussed by our membership, and falls outside of our mission.

PTA does have both a resolution and position statement on teacher and principal evaluation systems. We look to these documents to guide our voice. Based on our voice we do have concerns regarding the evaluation system proposed by this amendment. Amendment 3 requires that the majority of the evaluation system be based on "quantifiable student performance data as measured by objective criteria". PTA believes in balanced accountability systems that utilize multiple measures in order to improve academic achievement for all students. Such measures of teacher and principal performance should take into account both quantitative and qualitative data. These systems should be designed primarily to improve instruction, increase student learning, and support continuous improvement. In addition the evaluation system should be constructed in a way that all personnel decisions regarding terms and conditions of teacher and principal employment be left to local determination.

You can find the exact wording of Amendment 3 at www.sos.mo.gov/elections/2014petitions/2014-024.pdf

The PTA Position Statement: Development and Implementation of Teacher and Principal Evaluation Systems can be found at www.pta.org/about/content.cfm?itemNumber=3457

Amendment 2 would amend the Missouri Constitution to allow relevant evidence of prior criminal acts to be admissible in the prosecution of sexual criminal acts involving a victim under eighteen years of age. The protection of our children should always be of the utmost importance and was the driving factor in the creation of PTA in 1897. PTA has long championed programs and laws designed to afford children who are the victims of abuse greater protection.

You can read the full text of Amendment 2 at www.sos.mo.gov/elections/2014ballot/HJR16.pdf

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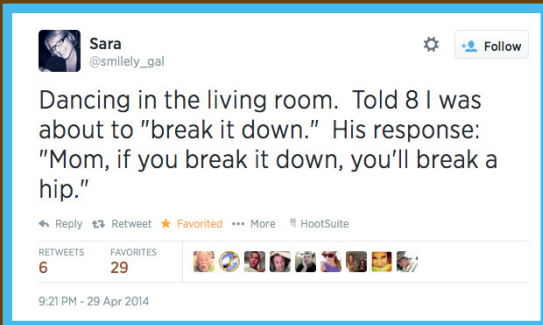
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Missouri PTA show me ideas



When did we get this old? At least we're still young at heart. #GrowingUpGracefully



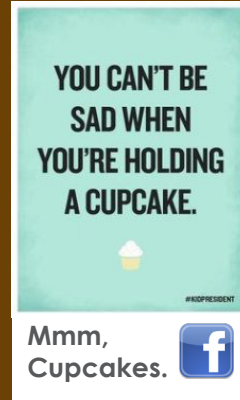
Does anyone else feel like this too? Quicksand sounded pretty serious.



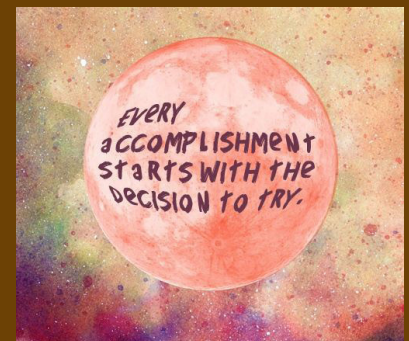
People think **focus** means saying yes to the thing you've got to focus on. But that's not what it means at all. It **means saying no** to the hundred other good ideas that there are. **You have to pick carefully.** I'm actually as proud of the things we haven't done as the things we have done.

– Steve Jobs

You can't do everything. Learn to say, "No" so you can say, "Yes" to the things that really matter.



Mmm, Cupcakes.



Try new things every day. #MoPTAawesome



The Secret Millionaires Club

New Info



Steven Cook
MoPTA Student Involvement Chair

"National PTA and By Kids For Kids share a mission and commitment to make every child's dream a reality," said Otha Thornton, president of National PTA. "We are excited to partner with By Kids For Kids to inspire children to develop their ideas and support them in achieving their goals through programs like "Grow Your Own Business Challenge."

Created by Warren Buffett, the Secret Millionaires Club is a program that teaches good financial decision-making as well as basic lessons about starting a business through activities at school and home. It is designed to help children develop healthy financial habits at an early age and provide a fun way for them to learn

about the "business of life." Part of the Secret Millionaires Club, the "Grow Your Own Business Challenge" is an annual national competition that encourages students to develop ideas for their own business. Finalists in the competition are invited to present their business plans to Warren Buffett.

"We are honored to partner with National PTA," said Norman Goldstein, CEO of By Kids For Kids. "Like National PTA, we also want to ensure all kids have a chance to succeed. Our partnership will help make this possible for every child no matter where they are from."

For more about the Secret Millionaires Club, visit www.SMCKids.com.

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