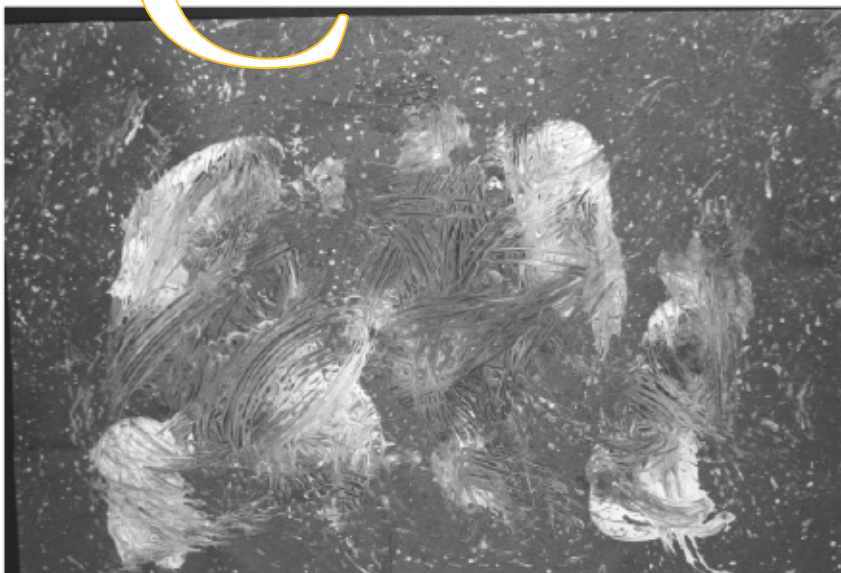


CONTACT

Volume 94, Issue 5
May 2013



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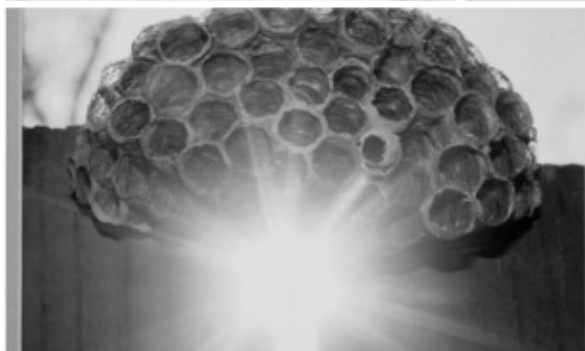
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 Mason Elementary PTA
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 Nixa Jr. High PTSA
 Logan-Rogersville PTA
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 Underwood Elementary PTA
 Raytown High School PTSA
 Sunset Valley Elementary PTA
 Mathews PTA
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 Lakewood Elementary PTA
 Mason Elementary PTA
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 Delta Woods Middle School PTSA
 Nixa Jr. High PTSA
 Logan-Rogersville PTA
 Greenwood Elementary PTA
 Liberty Oaks Elementary PTA
 Hawthorn Hill Elementary PTA
 Longview Farm Elementary PTA
 Woodland Elementary PTA
 Raytown Middle School PTSA
 Richardson Elementary PTA
 Lee's Summit West H.S. PTSA
 Meadow Lane Elementary PTA
 Pleasant Lea Middle School PTA
 Cedar Creek Elementary PTA
 Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA
 Underwood Elementary PTA
 Raytown High School PTSA
 Meadowbrook Elementary PTA
 Sunset Valley Elementary PTA
 Kentucky Trail Elementary PTA
 High Pointe PTA
 Mathews PTA
 Timber Creek Elementary PTA
 Lee's Summit Council PTA
 Raytown Council PTA
 Pleasant Lea Elementary PTA
 Gracemor PTA
 Yeokum Middle School PTSA
 Summit Lakes Middle School PTA
 St. Joseph Council PTA
 Peculiar Elementary PTA

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 Trailridge Elementary PTA
 Prairie View Elementary PTA
 Espy PTA
 Blue Springs R-IV School District Council PTA
 Independence Council PTA
 Lakewood Elementary PTA
 Mason Elementary PTA
 Delta Woods Middle School PTSA
 Nixa Jr. High PTSA
 Logan-Rogersville PTA
 Springfield Council PTA
 Greenwood Elementary PTA
 Liberty Oaks Elementary PTA
 Hawthorn Hill Elementary PTA
 Sherwood Elementary PTA
 Longview Farm Elementary PTA
 Woodland Elementary PTA
 Glendale PTSA
 Raytown Middle School PTSA
 Franklin Smith Elementary PTA
 Richardson Elementary PTA
 Lee's Summit West H.S. PTSA
 Meadow Lane Elementary PTA
 Pleasant Lea Middle School PTA
 Thomas PTA
 Cedar Creek Elementary PTA
 Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA
 Underwood Elementary PTA
 Hickman High School PTSA
 Raytown High School PTSA
 Meadowbrook Elementary PTA
 Sunset Valley Elementary PTA
 Mathews PTA
 James Bridger Middle School PTSA
 Parkway PTA
 Lee's Summit Council PTA
 Gracemor PTA
 Belton Council PTA
 Yeokum Middle School PTSA
 Summit Lakes Middle School PTA



Cover photo:

Reflections Visual Arts
1st Place Winners

Inside Front Cover photo:

Reflections Photography
1st Place Winners

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CONTACT is the official publication of Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers. We are a branch of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. CONTACT is published bi-monthly, six times a year. Subscriptions are \$7 per year.

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or www.mopta.org

Please notify the Publication Office in case of change of address or to purchase a subscription. It is important that we have accurate addresses so that we may provide the support and information to each local unit.

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PLEASE SHARE THIS MAGAZINE.

Information from this magazine may be excerpted for other PTA publications as long as credit is given to Missouri PTA and any byline that may appear with the item must be included.

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MO PTA 800-328-7330

President's Message By Donna Petiford, Missouri PTA President



Smooth Transitions

"Transitions in life are usually marked by major events, birthdays, graduations, weddings; but the greater transitions often come out of smaller moments, when we stop and look at who we are,

because each time we see how far we have come, we also see how far we still have to go."

It's the end of another school year and time to "pass the gavel" to the next new PTA leaders. Leadership transition is an important part of ending (and beginning) every school year. A smooth transition will ensure the work you have done during your term is part of a series of PTA successes. Few will remember the great things you do if your PTA falls apart at the end of your term. Plan to leave behind a legacy of success by creating a smooth transition from your leadership team to the next.

Start by checking your bylaws for clear end and start dates for all board positions. Make sure all outgoing and incoming officers have a clear direction and that everyone understands the transition dates. Check with the incoming president about an Installation Ceremony. This may seem out-dated or old fashioned, but I have found Installations very useful in setting a clear time for the transition and for introducing the incoming officers to the membership. A simple Installation Ceremony is provided in this issue of CONTACT. (See page 9)

Update all procedure books and turn over all reports, files, notes and PTA materials to your successor. Make sure the incoming president has bylaws, policies, financial reports, 990s, minutes, passwords, account information and anything else he or she needs to start their year. Remember that PTA records belong to the unit and not to any one individual.

Make sure that all bills for your term have been paid and that a final year-end report of the actual receipts and expenses will be prepared. A committee or person should be selected to conduct the annual financial review at a specified time.

An incumbent president should meet with incoming leadership and discuss what

worked well and what did not. He or she should help new leaders get to know people in the school and the community that supports the goals of the PTA. Offer any words of wisdom and things you wish you would have known when you started your term of office. Answer questions, calm nerves and offer your help as a "resource on call".

New leaders should be introduced to the teachers, administrators and school parents and partners. Encourage your entire school community to welcome and support the new leaders.

Change contact information. Make sure the state PTA knows who the new officers are. Make sure the new leaders receive the PTA Back to School Kit. Update your database, official records and website.

Finally, be sure to celebrate your accomplishments! Put together a slideshow or video of the year in review or create a list to publish in your last newsletter. This not only helps recognize your achievements on a personal level, it also helps show your members the value of belonging to the PTA. Make sure you include a thank you as part of the celebration and recognize everyone who helped accomplish your goals and objectives. Then take some time to reflect on a job well done, step back... relax...take a deep breath and enjoy your summer!

Who We Are

PTA Vision

Making every child's potential a reality

PTA Mission - PTA is:

- A powerful voice for all children,
- A relevant resource for families and communities, and
- A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

PTA Purposes

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship
- To raise the standards of home life
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teacher may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth
- To develop between educators and general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education

National PTA and Amazon Team Up to Support Family Reading

By National PTA

The National PTA® today announced Amazon Kindle will be the exclusive sponsor of a new Family Reading Experience program to be hosted by local PTAs in cities across the United States. Throughout 2013, the National PTA and Kindle will work together to encourage family involvement with their children's reading.

Children develop a love of reading when parents are consistently involved, especially children between the ages of 7-11 who are graduating from picture books to chapter books. At this age they are beginning to explore everything that reading has to offer. In fact, parental involvement and access to books has a greater impact on kids' reading skills than household income, according to the 2013 Kids & Family Reading Report by Scholastic.

"National PTA is honored to work with Kindle to provide parents with proven techniques for improving their child's reading fluency, comprehension and passion," said National PTA President Betsy Landers. "The role of families in literacy does not end when children enter school. Families' continued interest, involvement, concern and caring make a significant difference in this crucial area of learning."

"Making reading more accessible and more enjoyable is a core mission at Amazon. We are thrilled to be working

with the National PTA to help parents get their kids excited about reading," said Neil Lindsay, Vice President, Amazon Kindle. "Reading is just more fun when you can access millions of books quickly, carry your library with you and look up words in the dictionary, which is how Kindles can help children read more."

The PTA Family Reading Experience, Powered by Kindle, is a set of free activities that engage the entire family. The activities focus on improving the reading skills of children between kindergarten and fifth grade. The program is designed to be easy for PTAs to implement events within their schools and to help teach strategies to parents and other adults for participating in their children's reading process, with the goals of improving their children's reading comprehension and motivation.

The program brings together phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension and vocabulary, and includes activities with both physical books and e-books. The National PTA developed the curriculum in consultation with family engagement and literacy experts.

As the "Official E-reader of the National PTA," Amazon Kindle will donate Kindles for the National PTA to distribute to PTAs in low-income or at-risk schools.

National PTA has piloted the PTA Family Reading Experience in ten schools

in Baltimore, MD and Albuquerque, NM, receiving positive feedback from the attendees:

"Some families like ours have a ton of books at home. But what makes this program so great is that it gives families who don't have so many books the same opportunity to read with their children." – Jocelyne L., PTA president and mother of three boys

"When parents encourage reading at home, the kids see that it can be fun. At school, they see it as work." – Shiquetta D., kindergarten teacher

"Technology is widely used by kids today. Some people aren't fortunate to have their own (devices) at home, but they still need to know how to use them. At [a] Family Reading [Experience], families can use the Kindles and make reading fun for their kids." – Keya C., mother of a second grader

National PTA will make the curriculum available for PTAs nationwide starting in March—National Reading Month. PTA parents interested in bringing the PTA Family Reading Experience, Powered by Kindle to their schools can learn more at PTA.org/familyreading. PTA membership is required to access the full set of program resources. In addition, Amazon customers can learn more about Kindle for kids at www.amazon.com/kindleforkids.

Did You Know – A Snapshot of PTA History

By Dorothy Gardner, VP and Director of Legislation & Advocacy

PTA has a long and impressive history of which many are not aware. Alice McLellon Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst were ground breaking when they first founded the National Congress of Mothers in 1897. They advocated on the behalf of child welfare at a time when they themselves were not afforded the right to vote. But, that was only the start. Did you know...

Theodore Roosevelt Chaired the PTA's Advisory Council of Fathers.

PTA advocated for children not to be tried

and incarcerated as adults, forming the basis of our juvenile justice system today.

As early as 1916 PTA advocated that sex education be taught to children before they reached puberty.

PTA advocated for child labor laws to protect against unsafe working practices and conditions for youth.

PTA advocated for a Federally-Funded School Lunch Program. This program today feeds more than 26 million children daily.

PTA supported the Family Educational

Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

In the 1980s, PTA undertook a massive public education campaign about HIV/AIDS.

PTA helped develop the TV rating system adopted by the FCC in 1988 based on program content, not just age appropriateness.

PTA's National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs define "parent involvement" in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

MISSOURI PTA REFLECTIONS PROGRAM

"The Magic of A Moment" 2012-2013 Winners

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Abby Burnett	2 nd	Cameron PTSA	Cameron / Pony Express
2 nd	Tatum Henneberg	2 nd	Warren Hills Elementary PTA	Liberty / Pony Express
3 rd	J.R. Barta	2 nd	Midway Heights Elementary PTA	Columbia / Heritage

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Hannah Bottarel	5 th	Ozark Upper Elementary PTA	Ozark R-VI / Ozark
2 nd	Ava Renzulli	5 th	Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
3 rd	Kelsey Mills	3 rd	Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA	Blue Springs / Three Trails

MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Megan Bishop	8 th	Delta Woods Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
2 nd	Khalil Osborne	6 th	Moreland Ridge Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
3 rd	Kirsten Mills	6 th	Delta Woods Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Claire Davis	11 th	Blue Springs South High School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
2 nd	Lindsey Shipley	11 th	Kickapoo High School PTSA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark
3 rd	Lauren Downie	11 th	Greenwood Laboratory School PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark

FILM – VIDEO PRODUCTION

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Kamree Davis	2 nd	Park Hill Prairie Point Elementary PTA	Park Hill / Pony Express
2 nd	Ian Zind	2 nd	Chapel Lakes Elementary PTA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
3 rd	Katy Parcell	2 nd	Midway Heights Elementary PTA	Columbia / Heritage

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Warren Barge	5 th	Warren Hills Elementary PTA	Liberty / Pony Express
2 nd	Macy Kopp	3 rd	Thomas PTA	Nixa R-II / Ozark
3 rd	Warren Barge	5 th	Warren Hills Elementary PTA	Liberty / Pony Express

MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Kira Wedel	8 th	Delta Woods Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
2 nd	Noel Fortman	8 th	Hazelwood West Middle School PTSA	Hazelwood / Gateway
3 rd	Courtney Foudree	8 th	Delta Woods Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Jaci Herron	10 th	Lee's Summit High School PTSA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails
2 nd	Brady Brock	12 th	Belton High School PTSA	Belton / Three Trails
3 rd	Slava Butkovich	12 th	Blue Springs High School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails

LITERATURE

SPECIAL ARTIST (Preschool – Grade 12)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Samuel Mehaffie	8 th	Moreland Ridge Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
2 nd	Isa Abdul	12 th	Truman Patriots Club PTSA	Independence / Three Trails
3 rd	Jonathan Galea	12 th	Truman Patriots Club PTSA	Independence / Three Trails

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Brooke Bendorf	2 nd	Chapel Lakes Elementary PTA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
2 nd	Braeden Thomas	2 nd	Hazel Grove Elementary School PTA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails
3 rd	Travis Peak	2 nd	Pleasant View Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Holly Mast	4 th	Shoal Creek Elementary PTA	Liberty / Pony Express
2 nd	Tatiana Rosalia Plowman	5 th	Westview Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails
3 rd	Hailey Nelson	3 rd	Shoal Creek Elementary PTA	Liberty / Pony Express

MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Cameron Steilen	8 th	Bode Middle School PTSA	St. Joseph / Pony Express
2 nd	Maria Kemerling	8 th	Bode Middle School PTSA	St. Joseph / Pony Express
3 rd	Christian Mesias	7 th	Bernard Campbell Middle School PTSA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Ricardo Solis	12 th	Oak Park High School PTSA	North Kansas City / Pony Express
2 nd	Libby Wilson	11 th	Lee's Summit High School PTSA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails
3 rd	Anna Martinez	11 th	Greenwood Laboratory School PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark

continued on next page

MUSICAL COMPOSITION

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

Rank	Name	Grade
1 st	Ethan Godfrey	1 st
2 nd	Lauren Baker	2 nd
3 rd	Brendan Holderman	2 nd

Local PTA Unit
Richardson Elementary PTA
Graden Elementary PTA
Greenwood Elementary

School District/Region
Lee's Summit / Three Trails
Park Hill / Pony Express
Lee's Summit / Three Trails

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

Rank	Name	Grade
1 st	HyunHun (John) Yoo	5 th
2 nd	Annika Tsay	3 rd
3 rd	Sam Delong	3 rd

Local PTA Unit
Fairview Elementary PTA
Cedar Creek Elementary PTA
Rountree Elementary PTA

School District/Region
Columbia / Heritage
Lee's Summit / Three Trails
Springfield R-12 / Ozark

MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

Rank	Name	Grade
1 st	Aki Anand	7 th
2 nd	Kyle Hepting	8 th
3 rd	Riley Harris	7 th

Local PTA Unit
Central High School PTSA
Delta Woods Middle School PTSA
Moreland Ridge Middle School PTSA

School District/Region
Springfield R-12 / Ozark
Blue Springs / Three Trails
Blue Springs / Three Trails

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

Rank	Name	Grade
1 st	Daphne Yu	12 th
2 nd	Zachary Adrian	11 th
3 rd	Derian Sullivan	12 th

Local PTA Unit
Rock Bridge High School PTSA
Oak Park High School PTSA
Kickapoo High School PTSA

School District/Region
Columbia/ Heritage
North Kansas City / Pony Express
Springfield R-12 / Ozark

PHOTOGRAPHY

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

Rank	Name	Grade
1 st	Launey Walker	1 st
2 nd	Megan Gifford	1 st
3 rd	Kamree Grace Davis	2 nd

Local PTA Unit
Century PTA of Nixa
Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary PTA
Park Hill Prairie Point Elementary PTA

School District/Region
Nixa R-II / Ozark
Springfield R-12 / Ozark
Park Hill / Pony Express

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

Rank	Name	Grade
1 st	Maryn Curnett	3 rd
2 nd	Alexis Jones	3 rd
3 rd	Maxwell Gifford	3 rd

Local PTA Unit
Sunset Valley Elementary PTA
Highland Park Elementary PTA
Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary PTA

School District/Region
Lee's Summit / Three Trails
Lee's Summit / Three Trails
Springfield R-12 / Ozark

MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

Rank	Name	Grade
1 st	Cori Corrado	6 th
2 nd	Delaney Cannon	7 th
3 rd	Amelia Pelaez	6 th

Local PTA Unit
Hazel Grove Elementary PTA
Jarrett Middle School PTSA
Plaza Middle School PTSA

School District/Region
Lee's Summit / Three Trails
Springfield R-12 / Ozark
Park Hill / Pony Express

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

Rank	Name	Grade
1 st	Hannah Ledesma	9 th
2 nd	Joe VanCil	12 th
3 rd	Austin Jones	10 th

Local PTA Unit
Greenwood Laboratory School PTSA
Lee's Summit High School PTSA
Lee's Summit High School PTSA

School District/Region
Springfield R-12 / Ozark
Lee's Summit / Three Trails
Lee's Summit / Three Trails

VISUAL ARTS

SPECIAL ARTIST (Preschool – Grade 12)

Rank	Name	Grade
1 st	Daniel Montes	8 th
2 nd	Kenyauta Sailer	12 th
3 rd	Isaac Kraft	1 st

Local PTA Unit
Liggett Trail Education Center PTA
Liggett Trail Education Center PTA
Sunshine Elementary PTA

School District/Region
Blue Springs / Three Trails
Blue Springs / Three Trails
Springfield R-12 / Ozark

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

Rank	Name	Grade
1 st	Allison Cooper	2 nd
2 nd	Emily Binnicker	1 st
3 rd	Isaac Kraft	1 st

Local PTA Unit
Chapel Lakes Elementary PTA
Sycamore Hills Elementary PTA
Sunshine Elementary PTA

School District/Region
Blue Springs / Three Trails
Independence / Three Trails
Springfield R-12 / Ozark

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

Rank	Name	Grade
1 st	Onyah Adams	5 th
2 nd	Georgia Barge	3 rd
3 rd	Karson Feuerbach	3 rd

Local PTA Unit
Lewis & Clark Elementary PTA
Warren Hills Elementary PTA
Greenwood Laboratory School PTA

School District/Region
Liberty / Pony Express
Liberty / Pony Express
Springfield R-12 / Ozark

MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

Rank	Name	Grade
1 st	Jillian Beauford	8 th
2 nd	Byalee Bercegay	8 th
3 rd	Audrey Barnes	8 th

Local PTA Unit
Bode Middle School PTSA
Harry S. Truman Middle School PTSA
Antioch Middle School PTSA

School District/Region
St. Joseph / Pony Express
St. Joseph / Pony Express
North Kansas City / Pony Express

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

Rank	Name	Grade
1 st	Shannon Brouk	11 th
2 nd	Kylie Wandra	12 th
3 rd	Tyler Hines	11 th

Local PTA Unit
Park Hill South High School PTSA
Parkview High School PTSA
Central High School PTSA

School District/Region
Park Hill / Pony Express
Springfield R-12 / Ozark
Springfield R-12 / Ozark

Please Note: The First Place winning entries have been sent to National PTA for consideration at that level of judging.

*NOTE: Only 1st-3rd place winners are listed. Please check with your local school for complete list.

And The Winner Is...

By Dorothy Gardner, VP and Director of Legislation & Advocacy

This year National PTA awarded, for the first time, the Outstanding Youth Advocacy Award. The Outstanding Youth Advocacy Award is presented to a youth individual, who through their dedication, leadership and efforts, positively affected policy changes compatible with PTA's mission and goals. Missouri PTA is proud Meagan Gardner, a 9th grader in the Liberty School District and current MOPTA Student Representative was selected to be the inaugural recipient of the award.

Meagan was instrumental in the creation of the Missouri Distracted Driving Resolution. As a student representative from her local unit she decided to jump in and worked with the state Student Representatives and the state Student Involvement Chair to formulate the resolution and present it to the state Board of Managers for consideration. Meagan conducted the research for the resolution and, along with the state Student Representatives at that time, wrote out the resolution language to be submitted. She assisted the Student Representatives in answering questions during the state resolution briefing and spoke in favor of the resolution from the convention floor. When National PTA selected the Distracted Driving Resolution for adoption Meagan again helped present the resolution and answer questions during the resolution briefing and spoke from the floor urging delegates to adopt the resolution. Have you ever been to a National PTA convention? Speaking from the floor at National Convention can be quite the intimidating experience. To gain increased awareness on the dangers of distracted driving after the adoption of the state resolution, Meagan hosted a booth during a Missouri PTA legislative forum where attendees could sign a pledge to avoid driving distracted and receive a 'texting kills' thumb band.

In addition to writing a resolution Meagan was the first student to be awarded the Missouri PTA AtLaw award. This award is given to applicants who demonstrate exemplary



advocacy. The award application assigns points for different types of advocacy - 200 points are required to receive the award. Meagan attended legislative forums, wrote letters to her state and federal representatives, made personal visits to state representatives and served as the legislative chairman for her local unit (South Valley Junior High PTSA).

Due to her efforts surrounding the Distracted Driving Resolution and AtLaw award, Meagan was asked and now currently serves as a state Student Representative. She has continued to focus on advocacy. In addition to helping formulate a plan for the student PSA on Distracted Driving, she has addressed school lunches by contributing an article for the CONTACT magazine and represented the PTA at the Missouri State Capitol on Child Advocacy Day. Recognizing her advocacy contributions, the Missouri PTA President appointed Meagan to serve on the state Legislative committee. In addition, she continues to attend Legislative forums and still serves on her local PTA board.

National PTA President Besty Landers presented Meagan with the award during a luncheon held in the U.S. House of Representatives Cannon Building on March 14th.

2013 Legislative Conference

By Dorothy Gardner, VP and Director of Legislation & Advocacy

Each year National PTA hosts a Legislative Conference. PTA advocates from across the country, Europe and Puerto Rico come together to hone their legislative skills, network, and hit the Hill. Hill visits are a consolidated effort to lobby Congress with a specific message. This message, often referred to as 'the ask', pinpoints just a few issues PTA has determined has the greatest chance to be addressed by Congress. This year 'the ask' focused on federal education funding, reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA also sometimes referred to as No Child Left Behind), and the importance of Mental Health in schools.

Funding for education has shouldered a great deal of the

spending cut burden. In the aggregate, fiscal year 2011 saw \$1.25 billion in cuts. Between FY10 and FY12 more than 50 education programs totaling \$1.2 billion had their funding completely eliminated. Education is a vital part of our nation's infrastructure. By short changing our investments in education we are harming the students of today and damaging the long-term stability and strength of our economy. During our visit PTA urged Congress to enact FY13 and FY14 appropriations measures that do not further reduce dollars to classroom, students and families.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act has been due for

continued on next page

2013 Legislative Conference

continued from page 5

reauthorization since 2007. Because of measures adopted during the last reauthorization, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) action was needed to protect schools from the 100% proficient mandate. While the flexibility waivers did afford states relief they are not a substitution for the legislative action needed to fix the flaws of NCLB. Since the enactment of ESEA in 1965 reauthorization has always been met with bipartisan action. Our message to Congress was the time is now to come together, casting aside partisanship, and do what is best for our students and families. Safeguards are needed to improve family engagement in education. In addition our states and local school districts need more flexibility while maintaining federal safeguard that ensure education equity and opportunity for all students.

Children and teachers should feel safe in schools. This shouldn't be regarded as a luxury but rather a fundamental right. Currently 70% of adolescents living with a mental illness do not receive treatment. Research has demonstrated school-based mental health services are critically important when it comes to assisting children suffering from a metal illness. It is recommended there be one school counselor for every 250 students. The national average, during the 2010-11 school year, was one for every 471. The Mental Health in Schools Act was introduced in both the US Senate and US House of representatives. PTA asked members of Congress to sign on as a cosponsors of the Act. If enacted, the Mental Health in Schools Act would establish a grant program to school districts to expand mental health services by providing vital assistance to utilize innovative community partnerships in training school staff, volunteers, families and other members of



the community.

Lobbying for everychild this is one of the aspects that set PTA apart from other Parent-Teacher organizations. Missouri PTA was proud to represent our children and families on Capitol Hill.

Advocate – Yes You Can

By Dorothy Gardner, VP and Director of Legislation & Advocacy

Anyone can advocate. No special skills or in depth knowledge about the legislative process is required. Your passion to be a voice for everychild is all that is needed. Pick one or two of the ideas below and become an advocate today.

Attend a local school board meeting. This is one of the best ways to learn what is going on in your district. It will also give you better insight into how the administration and school board function together and run the school district.

Mail a copy of your unit newsletter to your state or federal representatives with a note telling them you wanted to share

the great things that happened at your school this year. Just like us, often the stories they hear about education from the news media is negative. This is also a great way to show them how parents, teachers and the community are working together to make education excel.

Go online and learn more about the Common Core State Standard Initiative. CCSI is a joint effort designed to develop a common core of English and Math standards for grades K-12. The aim is to ensure all children are college and career ready. You can find this resource on the pta.org site under the tab Advocacy.

During the month of May we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. Contact

your local city councilman or mayor and remind them of the great work the teachers in your community do each day. Ask if they could send a personal "Thank You" to include in your Teacher Appreciation Week celebration.

Not a member of the JC/DC network? Join today!! The only way to compete with the lobbyist and special interest groups is to join together and shout louder. Forms can be found in the Took kit, or on the Missouri PTA webpage, www.mopta.org, and click on the "subscribe to Legislative alerts" in the 'Act Now' box on the front page. When legislative alerts arise be sure to take action.

How to Encourage Male Involvement in PTA

By Angela McCormick, Membership Outreach Chairman

How many times have we looked around a PTA board meeting or a PTA function and taken inventory of who is volunteering or participating? If we look at the majority of the volunteers we will see women. Where are the men? How do we, as PTAs, encourage men, not only to join PTA but become more involved?

It's EASY—JUST ASK!!! Ask men to become more involved. According to the National Center for Fathering in Kansas City, MO, men respond more quickly when addressed as “dad” versus being addressed as “parent.” Dads/ men respond best to specified tasks and being asked to volunteer. A flier inviting them to a special event tailored to children and the male influence in their life whether that be a dad, uncle, older sibling or good friend would be a good start in encouraging male involvement in future PTA opportunities. So many times we plan events and we may forget that there is an audience and resource available to us that we have not utilized.

The Watch DOGS (Dads of Great Students) program is another great resource that provides insight and means for men to become more involved within the school environment. This program is currently active in 500 schools in 38 states and was created in response to the school shooting in Jonesboro, Arkansas in 1998. The organization is a partnership within communities and parents, mostly men, to provide an excellent educational

environment for all children.

Lastly, National PTA recommends 10 ways to get more men involved in PTA:

1. **Make the membership pitch relevant to males.**
2. **Use specific messaging and advertising aimed at men.**
3. **Just ask them.**
4. **Ask the women in your PTA to invite the men in their children's lives to join PTA.**
5. **Create more volunteer opportunities and special events for dads.**
6. **Emphasize that becoming a PTA member doesn't necessarily involve a large time commitment.**
7. **Give it to 'em straight.**
8. **Communicate with men the way they want to be reached.**
9. **Seek male members in the community.**
10. **Recognize and celebrate members.**

Resource: National PTA Website *Note: See the website article “10 Ways to Get More Men Involved in PTA for specific details in the article*”

Getting Involved

By Richard Davis, Male Engagement Officer

I would like to say ‘Thank You’ to the NPTA and MOPTA for not only asking me but also sending me to the first ever Male Engagement Conference. I felt honored to be asked and quite shocked that I was chosen. I couldn't wait for this to happen and hoped that nothing got in the way of me attending. I even used a vacation day as soon as I was asked to ensure that I could attend.

I was asked what it meant to be a father involved in PTA. I started, at the very beginning, when my daughter started kindergarten. I had made this decision before she started school and it was slow at first with the first year going by without knowing where or how to start volunteering. The next year the Principal asked me to look over a new program called WatchDOGS (Dads of Great Student) and to get back with him the next day. After looking it over, I was fired up and ready to begin, not knowing that he was really asking me to take the lead in organizing and implementing this program. So I have been volunteering since, over the next several years, participating in the WatchDOGS program at Fleetridge, where it is still actively going. I also pursued and pushed for this all across Raytown Elementary and Middle Schools. I am currently serving on two local boards as President, Council Treasurer, and recently began serving as the

Male Engagement Officer on the Missouri PTA board.

So what is like? It's exciting, fun and yet challenging to balance my schedule working full time, running a full time business, and serving on union boards as well but most importantly--family time. From the beginning, I chose to be involved as a dad. I wanted to be in the know-how about the education process while showing my daughter how important she was and to be involved during school and other activities she was involved in. It is my goal to show other dads the importance of being involved in their children's lives and encourage each and every dad to get involved. I now know being involved creates better results for our children when we get involved and are there for our children.

I am especially grateful for the support I have received from others involved in the PTA, as well as the school staff, and school board.

Did your unit **BLAST OFF** this year?

It's time to look back and review how the membership year went for your unit. Take a minute to ask some questions about your year.

- ✓ How do you think your unit did?
- ✓ Did you manage to reach 100% membership?
- ✓ Did you increase your membership by one member or more, or even keep your membership equal with last year's?
- ✓ Did someone new join this year?
- ✓ Did you have goals that you set and succeeded in meeting one or more of them?
- ✓ Did you create and introduce a new program or activity for your members?
- ✓ Were you able to meet all the requirements of a "Unit in Good Standing"?

If you can say yes to any of these questions, then consider your year a success. Having a successful year is determined differently by each unit. All units have their unique strengths and weaknesses and it is how your board worked with them that define whether your year can be called a success.

NPTA Member Benefits

Check out the National PTA, www.pta.org website for further information on how your members access these benefits. Make sure the details on benefit access are provided only to your PTA members.

- **eTrak** (powered by Verizon) - helps PTA parents *Always Know* their children are safe with its revolutionary new location-tracking device. **For a limited time only, PTA members can order the device for free (regularly \$99).** There is an activation charge of \$39 and a monthly fee of \$15. This lightweight domino-sized device uses highly accurate, patented GPS+ technology to show a child's location on any smartphone or computer. And in the case of an emergency, the device sends messages with its location at the push of a button to multiple recipients.
- **SHARP ELECTRONICS** - The PTA/Sharp Electronics member store is now available to offer you valuable member discounts on Sharp AQUOS Liquid Crystal Televisions and other home electronics products! Every unit is offered at special PTA member pricing, guaranteeing you the lowest possible price.
- **T-MOBILE** - 14% discount off your monthly service charges for new and existing T-Mobile subscribers, plus additional savings for new subscribers.
- **Hertz** - We're at the Airport and in your Neighborhood. The world's largest airport general use car rental brand, operating from approximately 8,500 locations in 146 countries worldwide is proud to offer PTA members benefits like: Savings of up to 20% off rentals, special promotions in addition to your discount and Fee Waived Hertz #1 Club Gold® enrollment—a \$60 savings!
- **METLIFE** - MetLife Auto & Home® has worked with PTA to bring PTA members a group insurance program that comes with special savings and benefits. This program includes competitive benefits and superior discounts for members.

Just like a good scout... A Membership Chair is Always Prepared!

Preparing for blizzard conditions and the next successful membership year are more similar than you may think. Both involve thinking ahead, checking your supplies and being informed.

Most of us were faced with the task of winter weather preparedness just a few months ago. At my house we had to ask ourselves questions about available food and water for the animals and ourselves. 10+ inches of snow can present some problems! We watched various television channels to hear the different arrival times and predicted snowfall amounts as well as school and road closing. We moved hay bales and filled water tanks. Then we checked the cupboards and refrigerator for the necessities like ibuprofen, peanut butter, jelly, eggs, milk, candles, matches, and bottled water. Don't forget the Pepsi and toilet paper!

Planning ahead, evaluating resources and seeking out useful information are just the basics of being prepared. A key to success is being prepared. Half of the battle in conducting a successful membership campaign is in the planning.

10 Membership Preplanning Tips:

1. Make sure your membership chair is in place for 2013-2014 now, not when the new school year begins.
2. Have a good procedure book. The suggested contents of a procedure book can be found on www.MOPTA.org
3. Send home a "See You in the Fall" flyer the last week of school recapping achievements, thanking volunteers and business members' support.
4. Form your committee now & start planning so you are ready before the first day of school. Enlist the help of those with connections in the business and school community, have free time, are creative and share the desire to make things happen.
5. Attend any available training, i.e. school of information, regional training, convention
6. Develop a month-by-month membership plan. Use your school's calendar to get you started. Schedule membership tables at events like concerts, football games, etc.
7. Make sure your unit's budget includes money for the promotion of membership.
8. Meet with your school's administrators to get their support for your plan and permission to be a part of back to school events, i.e. teachers' meetings, registrations.
9. Contact local businesses and organizations to establish good working relationships and pave the way for them to be members and/or donate incentives.
10. Hold a "new parent coffee get-together" for parents of kindergartens and first graders to deal with first day trauma and an opportunity to join PTA.

INSTALLATION CEREMONY

(A small plant is provided for each officer)

Installation ceremonies really have two purposes. First, we have the opportunity to recognize those who were the leaders of the _____ PTA during the past year. If you served as an officer, a chairman, an advisor or a committee member will you please stand?

The membership of this PTA appreciates you and the time and effort you gave in service to this school. We would like to applaud your accomplishments. (Lead Applause)

The second purpose of an installation service is to present the newly elected officers in a meaningful manner and to stress the importance of the positions they have accepted for the coming year. Will these new officers please come forward at this time?

President (Name) _____

Vice President(s) (Name or Names) _____

Secretary (Name) _____

Treasurer (Name) _____

I have a gift for each of you. These plants represent the duty of care that all board members assume when they take office. The duty of care contains several elements such as attending meetings and monitoring those committees and responsibilities that come with the position that you are accepting today.

We are all very grateful that you have agreed to this year of service. It will mean some sacrifices on your part to meet many new challenges, and it will mean giving quite a lot of yourselves for the benefit of this organization. If you are to succeed, you will need the support and encouragement of the entire membership.

(To officers) Do you accept this challenge as you work together to uphold the bylaws of _____ PTA? If so, Please say I DO

If these officers are to succeed, they will need the help, support and encouragement of the entire membership. Audience, do you promise to help them? If so say I DO

Then it gives me great pleasure to declare you duly installed officers of the

_____ PTA for the 2013-2014 school year.

I hope you truly will enjoy your year of service. Thank you and congratulations!

Student Representative Perspective

By Amanda Rupert, Student Representative

When I was in first grade my mom joined our local PTA unit. I tagged along to most, if not all, the meetings. At that time, I thought all my mom did was sit around with a room full of women. I had no idea until I was older the impact they were making on our school.

When I was in 6th grade I joined PTA. And now I have been a part of PTA for seven years. For the last four years I have served as a Student Representative on the State Board. This opportunity has given

me many experiences in PTA. I have attended two National Conventions, as well as many Leadership Conferences and State Conventions. I have also been a guest speaker at St. Joseph's Founders Day banquet. At each of these events I have learned something new.

I have met so many new people who have impacted my life and have become my friends. I had the privilege to meet Anna King, Oklahoma PTA President. People, like Anna, have taught me that

teachers and parents must work together for the good of the child. Regular communication between home and school helps keep parents informed on what they can do at home to help their child learn.

PTA has become a big part of my life. When I graduate in May, I plan to major in education. Through my involvement in PTA I have learned the important roll teachers have in student's lives. I can't wait to have that roll and help students achieve their goals.

Treasurer's End of Year Responsibilities

By Shelly Throckmorton, Missouri PTA Treasurer

As the fiscal year is wrapping up, the treasurer should start planning to close out the financial records and completing the necessary paperwork for the year. Your unit's fiscal year is outlined in your unit bylaws. Now is the time to make sure the state and national portion of all membership dues collected to date have been submitted and any monies approved in your budget for donations to the state scholarship fund, building fund or founder's gift have been sent to the state office. All outstanding bills or expenses should be paid out before the fiscal year end. All monthly bank statement should be reconciled. Once these steps have been completed, you can prepare the "Fiscal Year-End Report" and ready your books for the "Annual Financial Review" or an audit.

The Fiscal Year-End Report is a summary of all income and expenses incurred throughout your fiscal year. If you have done a monthly treasurer report that included monthly totals of each budget line as well as a year-to-date line, this report will be easy to compile. Make sure a copy of this report is included with the financial records for your Annual Financial Review committee. A copy must also be submitted to the state office no later than December 1st.

The Annual Financial Review committee is comprised of members that are *not signers on the bank account(s) for the fiscal year being reviewed*. While they may wish to have the treasurer present to answer any questions that come up about the financial records, the treasurer is not an official member of the committee. It is often helpful to an incoming Treasurer or President to be a part of the review committee (as long as they are not a signer on the bank accounts) as it will better acquaint them with past financial records and procedures. Check with your bylaws to determine how your Annual Financial Review committee is formed and any time requirements specified. Even if you are continuing into the next fiscal year as Treasurer, the books should be reviewed or audited each year. The committee will need to complete and sign the Annual Financial Review form. The original form should be kept with the fiscal year records and a copy must be submitted to

the state office no later than December 1st.

Once the books have been reviewed or audited, an IRS filing is required. Units that have gross receipts of \$50,000 or less, are able to file the 990-N electronic postcard. Units with higher gross receipts will need to file a 990EZ or 990. Gross receipts means all money brought into your account(s) throughout the fiscal year. For instance, if you had a fundraiser that took in \$51,000, you are required to file either a 990 or 990EZ, regardless if the fundraising company was paid \$30,000 and your unit only made a profit of \$21,000.

All PTAs are required to file with the IRS by the 15th day of the 5th month after the fiscal year ends. This means if your unit fiscal year ends on June 30th, the IRS requires submission by November 15th. If for some reason your unit is unable to meet this deadline, you must file Form 8868 for a 3 month extension of time to file. To receive the extension, Form 8868 must be filed before your tax deadline. A copy of your tax filing needs to be sent to the state office no later than December 1st. This can be a copy of a paper filing or if electronically filed, a copy of the email acknowledging receipt by the IRS.

For more detailed information or samples of the Fiscal Year-End Report, Annual Financial Review or filing with the IRS, check out the Treasurer's section in the Tool Kit mailed to every unit president by Missouri PTA or find on the Missouri PTA website at www.mopta.org. Click on the "Forms/ Awards" link and then scroll to the end of the page for links to each of these topics.

Remember, if you have given a treasurer's report each month, balanced the checkbook monthly and kept good records, you will have everything needed to complete your Fiscal Year-End Report and file your 990s with ease. Best of all, you will have everything in place for successful budget planning for the upcoming fiscal year!

If you have any questions or need help, don't hesitate to contact Shelly Throckmorton, Missouri PTA Treasurer, at shellyt@mopta.org or 816-716-8370 or the state PTA office, office@mopta.org or 800-328-7330, for further assistance.

St. Joseph PTA Founders Day 2013

By Lori Prussman, Pony Express Regional Director

St. Joseph PTA Council celebrated PTA Founders Day on Thursday, Feb. 7th at Stoney Creek Inn. It was an exciting night full of good food, wonderful entertainment and great company. It is so wonderful to get everyone together at this event and celebrate our honorees.

Nat. PTA Lifetime Achievement Award:
Honorary MO Distinguished Service Awards:
Caroline B Ullman Honoree:
MO PTA Building Fund Honoree:
Carpenter Board Honoree:
Principal of the Year:
Davis-Langemach Honoree:
Colgan National PTA Award:
"Making A Difference" Award:

Dr. Melody Smith
Cheri Patterson & Eileen Duty
Marta Sansone, Teacher of the Year
Debbie Elder, Support Person of the Year
Sandy Frazer
Joni Owens, Parkway
Joyce Stohr, Robidoux
Carol Baltezor, Pickett
Carol Baltezor, Pickett

Our Outstanding Volunteer awards went to the following...Brenda Lebsack, Coleman; Tara Shryock, Edison; Samantha Halsey, Ellison; Marla Heeler, Field; Bob Tanner, Hall; Amber Wallace, Hosea; Anne Manns, Humboldt; Mandy Hacker, Hyde; Sharon Bell, Lake; Bobby Nelson & Curtis Zahnd, Lindbergh; Joe & Sherry Deatherage, Mark Twain; Maggie Burns, Noyes; Barbara LaBass, Parkway; Kristy Berning, Pershing; Echo Lovelady, Pickett; Jennifer Rhoad, Skaith; Jeana Haggard, Bode; Latisha Little, Robidoux; Nancy Adams, Spring Garden; Denise Fleckal, Truman; Jennifer Kendel, Benton; Michelle Deatherage, Central; Liz Payne, Lafayette.

We honored our Clarence J Carpenter Board Honorary Trustees Gertie Beaver, Ruth Mooney and newest trustee Sandy Frazer. Certificates were also presented to schools who participated in the "Help A Child to See" campaign. A special thank you to Mark Twain for contributing the most to the campaign.

We also honored our school board members with certificates. Those attending were Sue Wagner, Sarah Siemens, Brad Haggard, Dan Colgan and Chris Danford. Books were donated in their honor to each of the libraries.

A special thank you to Jacy Atkins, St. Joseph PTA Council Character and Spiritual Leader and Central HS senior for giving the thought for the night and to Central JROTC under the direction of LTC Brett Hall for Presentation of Colors. Also thank you to Dr. Matt Martz for Invocation. Thank you to Benton Singers Chamber Choir; director, Amber Welter and Cheryl Herman, accompanist; for the evening's entertainment.

Our special guest speaker was Amanda Rupert, MOPTA Student Representative and a senior at Cameron HS. Amanda spoke about her experiences with PTA and as a MOPTA Board of Managers member. Amanda spoke also about attending last year's National PTA convention where MOPTA had two resolutions presented and passed. Amanda proves that it is never too early to get our students involved in PTA. They do make a positive difference and the experiences that they will have will stay with them for a lifetime.

We finished the night with closing remarks from retiring Superintendent Dr. Melody Smith. She spoke of "doing what is right for kids".



Short Takes

TAKE YOUR KIDS TO THE LOCAL FARMERS MARKET

Looking for ways to entice your kids to eat more fruits and vegetables? Now that spring is here and summer is just around the corner, you can turn healthier eating into an adventure! Try taking your kids on a trip to the local farmers market. Encourage them to talk to the farmers and ask questions about how to pick the best produce. Involving your kids in the produce selection and meal preparation may encourage them to eat what they helped make.

(From www.nutrition.gov)

MoPTA's TINA ZUBECK AND KATHY NEVANS NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL PTA POSITIONS



(Tina Zubeck)



(Kathy Nevans)

Former Missouri PTA Presidents, Tina Zubeck and Kathy Nevans, are nominated for board positions with the National PTA. Tina Zubeck is nominated for the position of Secretary-Treasurer and Kathy Nevans is nominated for a second term as member representative. Elections will be held during the annual National PTA Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio in June. We are pleased and proud of these nominations! Congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Brown Elementary PTA (Florissant) as a recipient of the National PTA Take Your Family to School Week Grant.

Brown Elementary PTA joins two other Missouri PTA 'Take Your Family to School Week' Grant winners: Hazelwood Galatic and Kellybrooke.

2013-2014 PTA Reflections theme:

Believe, Dream, Inspire

2013-2014 MO PTA Membership theme: 

Mark Your Calendar

May

Healthy Vision Month

National Physical Fitness & Sports

Asthma Awareness Month

National Foster Care Month

1 May Day

5 Cinco De Mayo

6-10 Teacher Appreciation Week

7 National Teachers Day

12 Mother's Day

18 Armed Forces

27 Memorial Day

June

National Safety Month

Men's Health Month

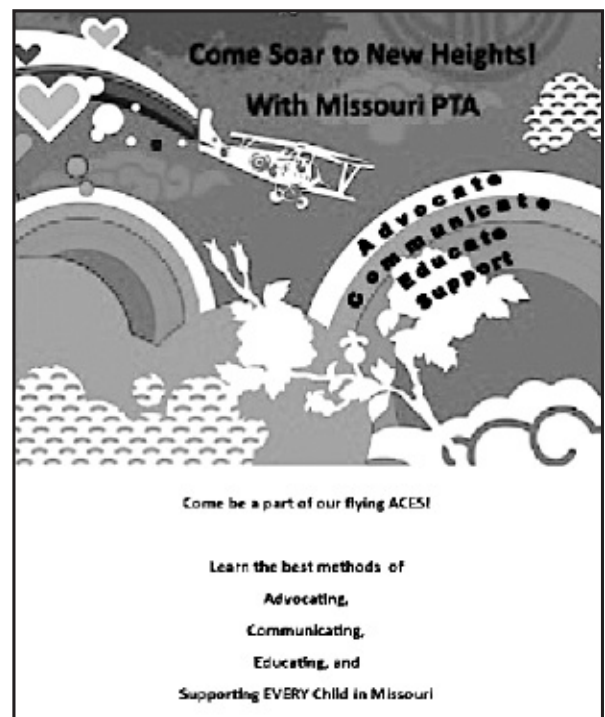
8 World Ocean Day

14 Flag Day

16 Father's Day

20-23 National PTA Convention

21 Summer Begins



Missouri Congress of Parents & Teachers
Missouri PTA
2101 Burlington St.
Columbia, MO 65202

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Save the Date!

Missouri PTA and the Springfield, MO Convention & Visitors Bureau would like to extend a sincere welcome and invitation for you to attend the Missouri PTA 98th Annual Convention in Springfield, October 18 - 20, 2013.

We invite you to visit our Web site www.springfieldmo.org to learn more about our city. You may also download our FREE mobile application to your cell phone <http://visitspringfield.mobi>. Or if you prefer an information packet to be mailed, please visit this link <http://request.springfieldmo.org> and complete the form. We want to deliver the information that works best for you.

Registration? Coming soon, registration and more information about meetings and workshops will be available online at: <http://www.mopta.org/events/conferences/missouri-pta-convention.html>

Lodging/Accommodations?

Call the hotel to reserve your room at the special group rate of:
\$104.00 Standard Room / \$139.00 King Suite (tax not included)

University Plaza Hotel
Phone: (417) 864-7333

We look forward to showing you our hospitality!