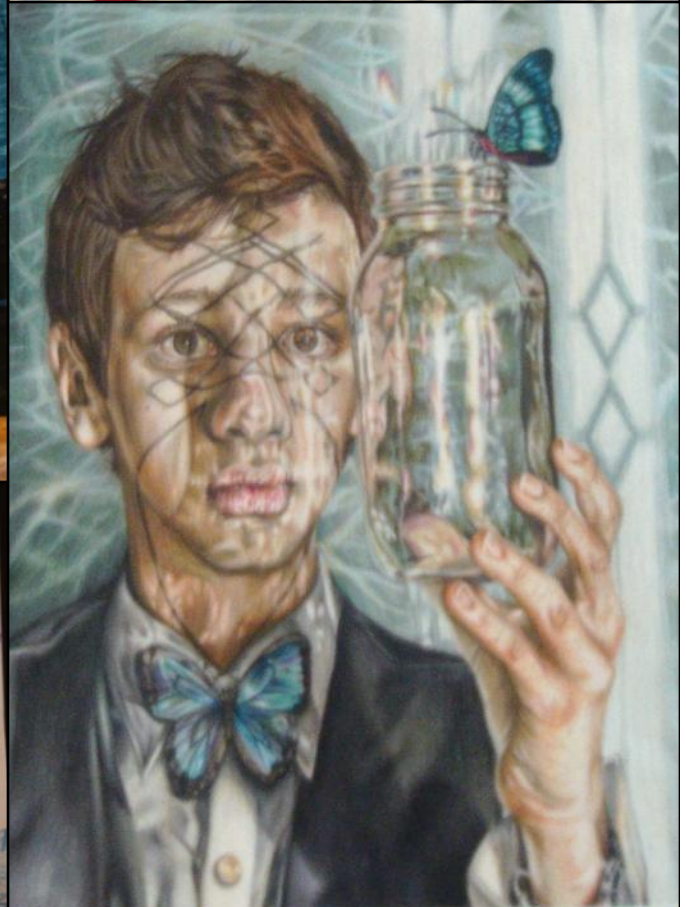


Missouri Parent Teacher Association

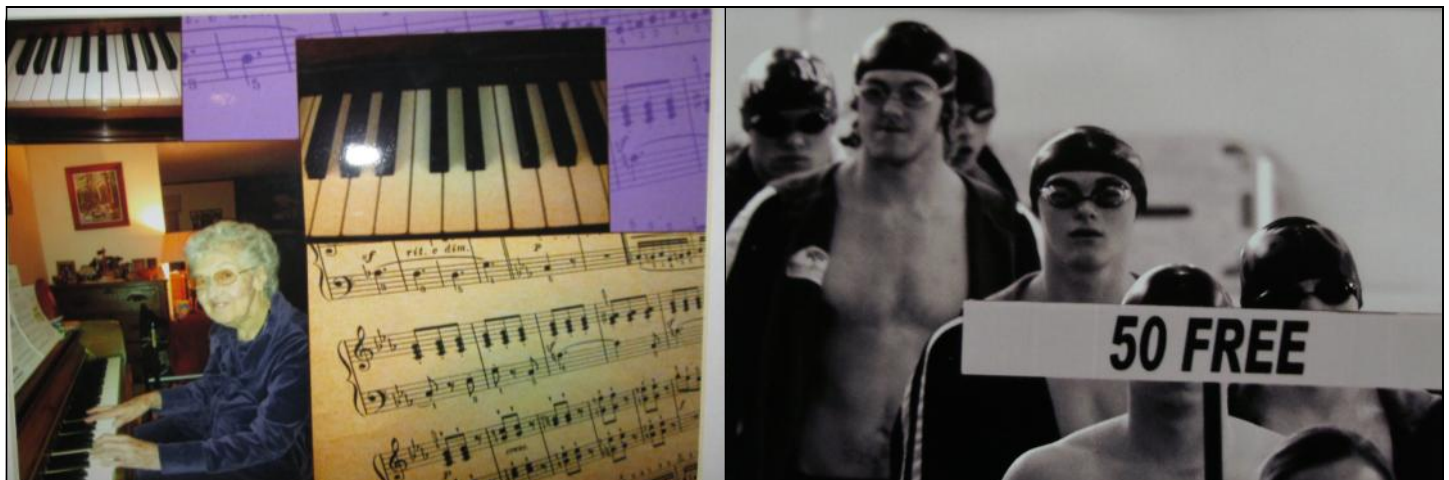
CONTACT

Volume 95 Issue 5
MaY 2014



MO PTA would like to THANK the following PTA Units and Councils for their generous donations

<u>Founders Gift</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>	<u>Scholarship Fund</u>
<p>Belton High School PTSA Bingham Middle School PTSA Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA Blue Springs R-IV School District Council PTA Columbia Council PTA Delta Woods Middle School PTSA Gracemor PTA Greenwood Elementary PTA Hawthorn Hill Elementary PTA Lakewood Elementary PTA Lee's Summit Council PTA Lee's Summit West High School PTSA Mason Elementary PTA Mathews PTA Meadow Lane Elementary PTA Meadowbrook Elementary PTA Nixa Council PTA Nixa Jr. High PTSA Peculiar Elementary PTA Pleasant Lea Elementary PTA Richardson Elementary PTA Skyline Elementary PTA Summit Lakes Middle School PTA Summit Pointe Elementary PTA Sunset Valley Elementary PTA Timber Creek Elementary PTA Trailridge Elementary PTA Underwood Elementary PTA Woodland Elementary PTA Yeokum Middle School PTSA York Elementary PTA</p>	<p>Bingham Middle School PTSA Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA Blue Springs R-IV School District Council PTA Columbia Council PTA Delta Woods Middle School PTSA Franklin Smith Elementary PTA Greenwood Elementary PTA Hawthorn Hill Elementary PTA James A. Jeffries Elementary PTA Lee's Summit Council PTA Lee's Summit West High School PTSA Mason Elementary PTA Mathews PTA Meadow Lane Elementary PTA Nixa Council PTA Nixa Jr. High PTSA North Kansas City Council PTA Pleasant Lea Elementary PTA Richardson Elementary PTA St. Joseph Council PTA Sequiota Elementary PTA Summit Lakes Middle School PTA Sunset Valley Elementary PTA Trailridge Elementary PTA Truman Patriots Club PTSA Underwood Elementary PTA Woodland Elementary PTA</p>	<p>Bingham Middle School PTSA Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA Blue Springs R-IV School District Council PTA Christian Ott Elementary PTA Daly Elementary PTA Delta Woods Middle School PTSA Franklin Elementary School PTA Franklin Smith Elementary PTA Gracemor PTA Greenwood Elementary PTA Hawthorn Hill Elementary PTA Independence Council PTA Lee's Summit West High School PTSA Lone Jack PTA Mason Elementary PTA Mathews PTA Meadow Lane Elementary PTA Meadowbrook Elementary PTA Nixa Council PTA Nixa Jr. High PTSA Richardson Elementary PTA St. Joseph Council PTA Sequiota Elementary PTA Sherwood Elementary PTA Show Me State PTA Springfield Council PTA Summit Lakes Middle School PTA Townsend Elementary PTA Trailridge Elementary PTA Underwood Elementary PTA Westview Elementary PTA Woodland Elementary PTA Yeokum Middle School PTSA</p>



Cover photo:

2014 Reflections: 1st Place Visual Arts winners.

Inside Cover &

Pg 2 photo:

2014 Reflections: 1st Place Photography winners.

*All 1st Place Winners went on to National PTA for judging.

Contents

- 1 President's Message
- 2 2014 Honor Roll & Independence Council Founder's Day Breakfast
- 3 Hazelwood District Founder's Day
- 4 HSD Food For Thought
- 7 Love for Literacy
- 8 2014 Reflections Winners
- 11 Be a Cool CAT
- 12 2014 Leg Con Wrap Up
- 13 Training & Board of Managers

CONTACT Staff

President/Publisher: Kim Weber

Editor: Lisa Holmes

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 digitally bi-monthly, six times a year. Subscriptions are \$7 per year.

Missouri PTA Office, Editorial and Publication Office: 2101 Burlington St., Columbia, MO 65202.

PHONE: 800-328-7330 FAX: 573-445-4163 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.

NOTE: Advertisements appearing in this publication do not constitute PTA's endorsement of the product or service.

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.

National PTA Office: 1250 N. Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 800-307-4782 (4PTA), www.pta.org.

President's Message by Kim Weber, MO State PTA President



It is hard to believe that we are fast approaching the end of the school year for most of us as well as the end of the PTA membership year for 2013-2014. While that is a relief to some of you, I am sure an anticipation for when the summer time season officially starts, it is extremely important to finish strong in this current PTA membership year. Make sure that the list of new officer's for the 2014-2015 membership year is turned in to Missouri PTA. We can't start mailing the vast resources to the new elected officer's unless we have their contact information. This is also a great time of the year to look at all of the procedure books, not just the officer's but also the committee chairs, to make sure they are updated and have the necessary paperwork in them for the new officers and chairs to start their term off on a successful start. If possible schedule a "meet and greet" type of event so the current officers and committee chairs can sit down and meet with the newly elected officers and appointed chairs. Lastly, but most definitely not least, close out your treasury and have the accounts reviewed or audited and send in, to the Missouri PTA office, the necessary paperwork requirements to be a Unit or Council in good standing. Don't wait until the beginning of next school year; finish all of the details now so when it is time to get back to school, it is a fresh start for everyone. Don't forget to start planning to attend our Missouri PTA Convention in Chesterfield, October 17-19, 2014 at the Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center in Chesterfield. Put this in your PTA budgets for next year as you close this budget year out.

In the last issue, I encouraged all of you to host a PTA Founders Day celebration and wow, some of our great councils did just that. Please take time to read about the difference the Hazelwood PTA Council is making in their community and the celebration they held as well as the continued efforts to help support community hunger with the HSD Food 4 Thought Pantries for Students on page 4. After reading that article, I know you will think of ways you can make a difference in your own PTA community with your PTA membership. Kudos to the Independence Council of PTAs for their Founders Day event by getting the whole school community involved. Their theme of "Building our PTA, One Member at a Time" was such a fun and easy campaign to run and got all of their PTAs involved as well as the students and local community. Even the Missouri PTA Board

of Managers celebrated Founders Day at our February Board Meeting with a little cake, ice cream and a sing-along.

Also, in this issue we are publishing the names of our placing students in the 2013-2014 Missouri PTA Reflections Program. Congratulations to all of the students, their families and their school PTAs for their continued support of "Believe, Dream, Inspire". The photography and visual arts first place entries are featured in this issue as well. All of the entries were truly inspiring and work begins now for next year with the theme of "The world would be a better place if..."

For all of you that have a PTSA that are looking at ways to get the S (students) into the year's activities, read the article on page 7. The Cameron PTSA is definitely working together to support all of the grade levels and the children they serve. This is a great program that would be beneficial for so many other PTSAs to do and support literacy efforts for the younger students.

"Desire is the key to motivation, but it's determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of your goal - a commitment to excellence - that will enable you to attain the success you seek."

- Mario Andretti

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 wellbeing 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

Missouri PTA Honor Roll

CONGRATULATIONS to the following units who have qualified for the Honor Roll, by meeting *or* increasing, their previous year's membership total by March 1, 2014.

Alfred L. Renner PTA	English Landing Elementary PTA	Liberty North High School	Pleasant Lea Elementary PTA
Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary PTA	Espy PTA	Eagle Club PTSA	Potosi Elementary PTA
Ann Hawkins Gentry PTSA	Eugene Field Elementary PTA	Lindberg Accelerated Elementary School PTA	Raytown South High School PTSA
Armstrong Elementary PTA	Eugene Field Elementary PTA	Line Creek PTA	Reed Academy School PTSA
Arrowpoint Elementary PTA	Fleetridge Elementary PTA	Little Blue Elementary PTA	Richardson Elementary PTA
Barrington Elementary PTA	Gracemor PTA	Little Blue PTA	Ridgeway Elementary PTA
Barry Pathfinder PTA	Grandview High School PTSA	Lower Elementary School of the Osage PTA	Robidoux Middle School PTSA
Bell Prairie PTA	Grandview Middle School PTSA	Mark Twain Elementary PTA	Rock Bridge High School PTSA
Belvidere Elementary PTA	Grannemann Elementary PTA	Matthews Elementary PTA	School of the Osage Upper Elementary PTA
Bessie Ellison PTA	Grant Elementary School PTA	McCurdy Elementary PTA	Scott Elementary PTA
Bingham Elementary PTA	Greenwood Elementary PTA	Meadow Lane Elementary PTA	Sherwood Elementary PTA
Blackburn Elementary PTA	Greenwood Laboratory School PTA	Meadowmere PTA	Skyline PTA
Blue Jay Nation PTSA	Hazel Grove Elementary PTA	Ruskin High School PTA	Smith-Cotton Junior High School PTSA
Blue Ridge Elementary PTA	Hazelwood West High School PTSA	Mill Creek Elementary PTA	Sni A Bar Elementary PTA
Bowerman Elementary PTA	Heritage Elementary PTA	Mill Creek Upper Elementary PTA	Southwood Elementary PTA
Boyd School PTA	Heritage Middle School PTSA	Moreland Ridge Middle School PTSA	Spring Valley Elementary PTA
Bridle Ridge Intermediate PTA	Hickman High School PTSA	Nashua Elementary PTA	Summit Intermediate School PTA
Brittany Hill Middle School PTSA	Hickory Hills Elementary PTA	New Bloomfield PTA	Summit Pointe Elementary PTA
Brown Elementary PTA	Hyde Elementary PTA	Nixa Early Learning Center PTA	Thomas Hart Benton Elementary School PTA
Cameron PTSA	Jarrett Middle School PTSA	Nixa High School PTSA	Tiffany Ridge Elementary PTA
Cecil Floyd PTA	Jasper Elementary PTA	Northgate Middle School PTSA	Trailridge Elementary PTA
Cedar Creek Elementary PTA	John J. Pershing Middle School PTSA	Nowlin Middle School PTA	Twillman Elementary PTA
Central High PTSA	John J. Pershing PTA	Ozark North Elementary PTA	Two Mile Prairie PTA
Chapel Hill Elementary School PTA	Kickapoo PTSA	Ozark Tiger Paw PTA	Underwood Elementary PTA
Coleman Elementary PTA	Lafayette High School PTSA	Ozark West Elementary PTA	Union Chapel Elementary School PTA
Columbia MO Assn. Gifted & Talented PTA	Lakeview Elementary PTA	Park Hill High School PTA	Washington Elementary PTA
Cordill-Mason Elementary PTA	Lakeview Middle School PTA	Pioneer Ridge Middle School PTSA	Wentzville Middle School PTSA
Creekmoor Elementary PTA	Lange Middle School PTSA	Pioneer Trail Elementary PTA	Westview Elementary PTA
Daly Elementary PTA	Laurel Hills Elementary PTA	Pipkin Middle School PTSA	Williams (Ed.V) Elementary PTA
David Barton Elementary PTA	Lee Expressive Arts Elementary PTA	Pirate PTA	Wilson's Creek PTA
Discovery Middle School PTSA	Lee's Summit Elementary PTA	Platte City Schools PTA	Yeokum Middle School PTSA
East Middle School PTSA	Lee's Summit High School PTSA	Platte County R-III High School PTSA	
Elm Grove Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit North High PTSA		

Independence Council of PTAs 2014 Founders' Day Breakfast

by Cathy Crowley, 1st VP Programs, Founders' Day Committee Chair, Independence Council of PTAs

The Independence Council of PTAs celebrated their 100th year during their annual Founders' Day Breakfast on February 20, 2014 at Pioneer Ridge Middle School. Their breakfast was attended by PTA officers, principals, students, Independence School District personnel, the Mayor of the City of Independence, past Council Presidents and past PTA Council's Citizen of the Year recipients. Former Independence Mayor, Barbara Potts, the city's first female mayor, was the guest speaker and this year's recipient of the Citizen of the Year award.

Independence Council's theme this year is "Building our PTA, One Member at a Time." Children from several schools in the District created imaginative Lego displays to be used for the table centerpieces. Also on display were Lego robots from the elementary and middle school's first 'Lego League'. The attendees also enjoyed a short video, "I am PTA", created by a high school senior in the District.

L-R: Lisa Francis, Council Co-President, Barbara Potts, Citizen of the Year recipient, Carrie Dixon, Council Co-President



Hazelwood School District PTA Council Founders' Day

By Angie Carey, MO PTA Membership Outreach Chair

A record-breaking crowd attended the 2014 Hazelwood School District PTA Council Founders' Day awards dinner. Honored guest, keynote speaker, Dr. C. J. Huff, Superintendent of Joplin Schools, gave a riveting speech as to why the collaboration of PTA and Schools is so important and the need for the Bright Futures program. Nearly 1,800 individuals including members of HSD Board of Education, HSD administrators, teachers, staff, PTA members, and community members attended this year's event to support Teacher of the Year honorees, Support Staff of the Year and the PTA Council's Scholarship Fund.

When asked her overall impression of the event, Hazelwood PTA Council President Sarah Day said, "I think the event was a huge success. It was heartwarming to see parents, teachers, staff, and family members come together to support the teacher and support staff honorees, each other, and the work of the PTA."

The evening began with a welcome from Superintendent of Hazelwood Schools Dr. Grayling Tobias, as well as a greeting from Sarah Day. Girl Scout Troop 981 gave the presentation of colors. The invocation was jointly done by Pastor Karen Anderson of Ward Chapel A.M.E Church and Pastor Jim Walker of Hazelwood Baptist Church, then dinner was served.

Musical selections for the evening were provided by Hazelwood West Band, Orchestra, Scat Choir and Ladies Only Choir. The audience was amazed at the wonderful singing and musical performances.

One of the evening's highlights came, when each school presented its food donations to the new "HSD Food 4 Thought" pantries to help students-in need have food at home or if they have missed a meal during the day. The generosity of each school's giving was overwhelming with enough food to supply students across the district for a month.

Missouri State PTA President, Kim Weber conducted the Founders Day Candle ceremony. She explained to the audience, that Founders Day is a reminder of the substantial role that PTA has played locally, regionally, and nationally in supporting parent involvement and working on behalf of all children and families. It's a time to reflect and take pride in our many accomplishments, and to renew our commitment to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for parents, and a strong advocate for public education. PTA's founders Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Alice McLellan Birney, and the founder of Georgia's Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, Selena Sloan Butler, were women of imagination and courage. They understood the power of individual action, worked beyond the accepted barriers of their day, and took action to literally change the world. They had a simple idea—to improve the lives and futures of all of our children. As much as other conditions in America may have changed, that idea has not. PTAs keep it alive. Today, PTA is the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the nation. Our members represent the ethnic diversity of our nation, and they come from the ranks of traditional families, single-parent households, blended families, grandparents, and other caring adults. Together, we continue to serve as the conscience of the country for children and youth.

District Teacher of the Year, Chris Holmes, brought the crowd to tears and laughter as well as to their feet as he shared powerful "teaching moments" from his parenting a son with autism and how that has been a strong influence on his growth as a teacher and as a person.

Kim Weber, had this to say, "It was truly an inspiring evening. Congratulations to all of the award winners but also to all of the deserving students who will receive much needed scholarships for college from the proceeds! Great work."

(For more information on "HSD Food 4 Thought", see the Article Page 10)



HSD Food 4 Thought Pantries for Students

By Angie Carey, MO PTA Membership Outreach Chair

I'm a wife and mom of two sons, working a full-time job and volunteering on various committees and levels of PTA just like you. This article will hopefully inspire you to keep pushing forward in the various ways you are advocating in your PTA unit. Two years ago, I joined the Community Development team at HealthCare USA, where I plan health fairs, Back To School Fairs and outreach events to educate community partners and families who qualify for Medicaid about the programs we offer as a Missouri HealthNet (Medicaid) HMO choice. I was already aware of the profound effects the recession had in our community, with unemployment and record foreclosure amounts. However, my work also led me to see the new "working poor" and how heavy its sad effects were on children, not just homelessness but starvation as we volunteered in homeless shelters and food pantries. I know many people think starvation is something that only happens in Third World countries and not here in the United States but that is quite the contrary. It's happening more and more to families just like yours and mine.

While working across the entire Eastern Region of Missouri (north to Bowling Green and down south to Potosi) with my day job, I kept seeing food pantries and Backpack Feeding programs that were geared towards kids. I wanted to bring that same generosity back to my own community to help out. Every time I mentioned the idea casually to anyone in our community, they immediately jumped on board saying, "I'm in, let me know what you need me to do!" or "That's a great idea, what's next?" I honestly did NOT know how to get it started but knew there was a need.

I had already noticed three years ago, that my own son's Varsity basketball team was getting sick at before-school practices or playing lethargic during after school games from not eating. I started providing meals for them after-school and leaving snacks such as popcorn, chips, bananas, oranges, pop-tarts and fruit snacks with their coach to have on-hand to disburse. The hugs, smiles, newfound energy and appreciation were worth every dime. It made me eager to find ways to help other students who were hungry. I talked with the cafeteria staff and learned they see several kids without lunch money and aren't able to provide PBJ or a cheese sandwich to all of them. I also learned the free breakfast program was only available at the elementary and middle school level and not in high school. I explained to the district, PTA Council and Hazelwood National Education Association (HNEA) how simple it was to start feeding the Varsity basketball team and now in my third year of doing it, it's expanded to 10 other parents helping and now feeding not only the Varsity team but freshman and JV too. The coach also does two (2) fundraiser events to raise money to donate to the food/snacks for his players. It was amazing to see that \$30-\$40 dollars per game could stretch so far to feed 20 young men. It's been amazing to see how that one kind deed has paid forward to

so many others and I definitely wanted it to spread further than just the basketball team.

You've heard the saying, "Don't put a limit on how God will bless you." Well I had already limited Him by saying to people, "I know this won't happen maybe in our children's lifetime, but let's start working to get a food program started to help future kids in our community." I approached Hazelwood PTA Council at one of our summer planning meetings. The idea was immediately received with a positive stance, saying "let's do it!!" When school began we reached out to the school district and teacher's union to join in. It was not only to help the students but spread awareness and to perhaps wake up a little empathy in people. Just by sharing this story, I hope people will do something to prevent hunger in their country, their community, and their family. You may be surprised to learn that hungry children don't always come from homeless families, addicts or people that are too lazy to work. These kids need our help and understanding that is a part of the "PTA way" which is "Parents & Teachers Advocating" or as our own National President, Otha Thornton, referred to it as "People Taking Action". I wanted to reach far beyond the classroom parties, graduation incentives, and guest speakers at meetings that my local PTA unit was providing to really show how we are "advocates" for the entire community in PTA and not just the students.

Look at the statistics below from the No Kid Hungry website (www.nokidhungry.org):

- Hunger prevents kids from reaching their full potential. It's an epidemic that's threatening America's future. It's so widespread it equals to 1 out of 5 students who are affected.
- 9.8 million Kids-which are more than ever before-get free or reduced price school lunch on an average day, but 10.6 million eligible kids go without.
- Only 1 in 7 kids who get free and reduced-priced school lunches receive summer meals.
- Hunger has a huge effect on how a child performs at school. In fact, 9 out of 10 teachers say having a healthy breakfast is key to academic achievement.

While attending the National PTA Emerging Minority Leaders Workshop in Washington D.C. in October 2013, our luncheon keynote speaker was Alma Powell, Chair of America's Promise Alliance which focuses on the wellbeing of our young people. She made some key points; I hope will motivate you to continue the hard work you are doing in PTA and be a "change agent".

- Education continues to be the golden door to opportunity for a better life
- It's time to call out the myth that poor children can't learn and their parents don't care. They just need caring adults around them who are invested in helping.
- More importantly, knowing that when children don't succeed in school it's not someone else's problem, we all pay the price.
- Children who start school without breakfast are 20% less likely to graduate. Drop out equals to a permanent recession.

Continued on pg 5

HSD Food 4 Thought Continued

Thus the work we are doing now never mattered more to help children and families.

Adding further fuel to the fire to get the Food 4 Thought program started, I went to a “Feed the Hungry” training on August 27th offered thru Operation Foodsearch at the St. Charles Community Council office where I learned about the work they do behind the scenes to get programs up and started in communities. I knew and had helped with the Operation Backpack program that sends home meals with kids in need over the weekend, as my job donated several backpacks to the cause. I also learned about their other programs which are:

- [Hunger Hotline](#)
- [No Kid Hungry](#)
- [Advocacy](#)
- [Summer Meals Sites](#)
- [Nutrition and Culinary Education](#)

Operation Food Search is a proactive anti-hunger advocate! They reach out daily to engage and expand their network of supporters, including elected officials and the media in an effort to end hunger for men, women and children throughout the St. Louis bi-state region. They speak out on behalf of vulnerable children who don't get enough to eat at home and whose health, academic performance and general well-being are threatened by hunger.

With the idea and statistics to support the need and desire to help my local Hazelwood PTA Council, Hazelwood School District and Hazelwood Teacher's Union met a few more times from September to December to plan out how donations would be accepted, where food could be stored, how could we make the program long-lasting and reach the most students/families. Originally we wanted to have a pantry in every school (30) but did not have the spacing or resources to do so. Thus we decided on making each high school (3) a satellite storage area for the pantry in which social workers who fed into that high school could pull items from at any time for their students. So far it seems to be working great as our counselors travel and share multiple school sites and thus are able to go to one central location to pick up macaroni-cheese, pop-tarts, fruit bowls, instant oatmeal, and other easy to serve “kid-friendly” foods that do not require a can-opener.

You may be surprised to know the initial planning meetings did not have a ton of people, just a few consisting of school social workers (2), transportation department Asst Superintendent, Title I Superintendent, President of the HNEA (teacher's union), Margaret Slaughter, Hazelwood Central High School PTSA Membership Chair; Hazelwood PTA Council President, Sarah Day and myself. We discussed how the current “Backpack Feeding Program” was maxed out and only covering the elementary schools and ideas of how we could expand the program to help meet the middle schools and high schools. We knew we could not serve all kids in need but wanted to at least

help where we could. We also discussed the importance of having foods kids liked and not just people cleaning out their pantries, with old homily, asparagus, or beets. We wanted things that kids could eat “on the go” and food they liked and desired; microwaveable with no cans due to the weight in transporting cans and ability to open them if they were homeless and did not have access to a can opener. While we came up with several cliché names to call the program, we decided on keeping the word “pantry” as most people knew what pantry meant versus some acronym or saying that would leave people asking, “What is that?”

Our kick-off to the Food 4 Thought program was on January 20, 2014, which was also the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. The MLK Day of Service is a part of United We Serve, President Obama's national call to service initiative which asks Americans from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national problems. So in my opinion, we could not have selected a more fitting day to launch this program. We wrote the “press release” and organized volunteers from the school district, various schools, PTA Council, HNEA and local Girl Scouts. The media coverage was phenomenal and got the word out like no other form of social media we've used since. Donations and phone calls began to pour in. We then used our PTA Founder's Day celebration the following month to have a large food drive where every school in the district participated. Even now as this CONTACT article is released, people are still approaching me asking how they can help because they saw us on the news.

The morale of this story reminds me of one of my favorite gospel praise and worship songs by Israel Houghton, “The Power of One”. Read some of the lyrics below and you will see why:

*What if it all depended on me
To change the world, to change the world?
What if my only responsibility was
To change the world, change the world?
Let me be the one to start a revolution
Let me sing my song to the people of the world
It all begins with one, the power of one
Joining the hundreds of millions of people believing
In one, the power of one
Don't hang around, stand up or sit down and believe
We can change the world together
We can change the world together
What kind of love can conquer disease?
And change the world, change the world?
What I can do to make poverty history
And change the world, change the world?
Let me be the one to start a revolution
Let me sing my song to the people of the world
To the children of the world*

YOU can be the one to start a REVOLUTION in your own community. Don't hesitate to reach out to your Missouri PTA Regional Director or your local PTA President for help. We need EVERYONE's help in the fight to end childhood hunger.

Pictures on page 6



Do you know an overwhelming number of our students go without the proper nutrition?
 Do you know it is hard to thrive and learn when you're hungry?
 Food insecurity impacts educational achievement.
 That is the problem.

Hazelwood PTA, Hazelwood NEA, and the Hazelwood School District are partnering to establish **Food Pantries** accessible to every Hazelwood School



Support of HSD's ***Food For Thought Program*** will ensure that our Students will receive the emergency food assistance when they need it.

Items Needed:

- Box of instant oatmeal (individual packets)
- Full or mini sized boxes of cereal
- Pop Top Soup, Stew, Ravioli, Pasta (no cans, please)
- Peanut Butter (plastic jar)
- Jelly or Jam (plastic jar)
- Pop Tarts
- Ramen Noodle bowls
- Boxed Macaroni and Cheese
- Snack Items (Granola Bar, Pretzels, Goldfish, Cheez-Its, Rice Krispy Treats, Cheese Crackers, Fruit Snacks)
- Applesauce, Peaches, Pears, Mixed Fruit (plastic, please)
- Muffins
- All Microwavable / individually packed items
- No cans or glass please!

Donations are accepted at all Hazelwood School locations
Monetary donations may be made to Hazelwood PTA Council
c/o HSD Family Outreach Center, 13780 Old Halls Ferry Road,
Florissant, MO 63033

If you have questions, please contact Angie Carey at
angiec@mopta.org



Love for Literacy *By Cameron MO PTSA*

The Cameron PTSA student members held a 'Love for Literacy Book Drive/ Valentine Card Sale' during the month of February. Flyers went home with elementary and middle school students asking for donations of new or gently loved books. The flyer also included an order form for a Valentine to be sent to a favorite student, teacher or friend for only \$1.00. The members worked together to make, address and deliver the Valentines just before Valentine's



Day. The purpose of this event is to collect books to be used for the 1st Grade Book Bingo the PTSA students sponsor each year. The funds generated are used to purchase new books, book marks and other items for goodie bags for the 1st graders attending the event. The students and their families enjoy a night of fun together while playing bingo for books. The goal is to build home libraries through a 'Love for Literacy'.

Note: Cameron PTSA is a K – 12th grade PTSA

Treasurer's end of year...

By Lori Prussman, MO PTA State Treasurer

As the school year winds down; the time to start those 'end-of-year preparations' begins. Being prepared will keep the undo stress away. Having done your monthly reports will make the end-of-year much easier.

So, what is 'end-of-year preparations'? At the end of the fiscal year, usually June 30th, you as the treasurer must close out the books. You will make sure that all receipts are attached to their appropriate vouchers, all ledgers are up to date and all deposits and expenses have been entered. You need to make sure that all bills are paid before June 30th because once books are "closed for financial review/audit" no checks can be written until it is completed.

Once the last bank statement comes in July, you will need to reconcile as soon as you can and get all files to the financial review committee or the auditor in a timely manner. Once the committee or auditor has the books reviewed/audited you will need to fill out the appropriate forms; financial review/audit, end of year report and file appropriate IRS form. November 15th is the deadline for IRS filings for units/councils with a fiscal year end date of June 30th. They must be filed by the 15th day of the

5th month after fiscal year ends. December 1st is the deadline for copies of all reports and IRS filing to the State PTA office. As soon as your financial review/audit is completed and paperwork has been filled out, it is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that you go ahead and file your IRS form and send copies of everything to the State office. This ensures that it is done and if a new treasurer is taking over, they will not need to worry about getting it done. Pay it forward!!!

If you are an outgoing treasurer these duties still fall to you even though the incoming treasurer now bears the responsibility of the office (as of July 1); you are the one who has the knowledge of the last year. Finishing this out will make the transition much smoother.

Outgoing treasurers should be training the person taking over, again paying it forward. Please have all records and procedure books updated then set up a time when you can meet with the new treasurer to give them the tools they need to be successful. Also, encourage them to contact you during the following school year if they have questions regarding the books. Thank you for everything you do to help build a brighter future for kids!!!!

**[Click here](#) to get copies & samples of the paperwork needed by State.

MISSOURI PTA REFLECTIONS PROGRAM
“Believe, Dream, Inspire” 2013-2014 Winners

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
1 st	Alexandra Falke	2 nd	Summit Pointe Elementary	Lee’s Summit / Three Trails
2 nd	Octavia Drydale	2 nd	Procter Elementary PTA	Independence / Three Trails
3 rd	Trista Tidrow	2 nd	Chapel Lakes PTA	Blue Springs / Three Trails

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
1 st	Lydia Cooney	5 th	Richardson Elementary PTA	Lee’s Summit / Three Trails
2 nd	Halle Fee	5 th	Underwood Elementary PTA	Lee’s Summit / Three Trails
3 rd	Kelsey Mills	4 th	Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA	Blue Springs / Three Trails

MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
1 st	Mikayla Dixon	7 th	James Bridger Middle School PTSA	Independence / Three Trails
2 nd	Hallie Comer	6 th	Smithton Middle School PTSA	Columbia / Heritage
3 rd	Ave Renzulli	6 th	Delta Woods Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
1 st	Claire Davis	12 th	Blue Springs South Senior High PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
2 nd	Megan Bishop	9 th	Blue Springs South Senior High PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
3 rd	Lauren Downie	12 th	Greenwood Laboratory School PTA	Springfield / Ozark

FILM – VIDEO PRODUCTION

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
1 st	Zane Miller	2 nd	Platte City Schools PTA	Platte County / Pony Express
2 nd	Jack Reidlinger	1 st	Hawthorn Hill Elementary PTA	Lee’s Summit / Three Trails
3 rd	Marshall Serrano	K	Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA	Blue Springs / Three Trails

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
1 st	Jonathan Jenkins	5 th	Cordill-Mason Elementary	Blue Springs / Three Trails
2 nd	Megan Brassard	5 th	Inman PTA of Nixa	Nixa / Ozark
3 rd	Alexis Mcguire	5 th	Platte City Schools PTA	Platte County / Pony Express

MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
1 st	Warren Barge	6 th	Heritage Middle School PTSA	Liberty / Pony Express
2 nd	Morgan Todd	6 th	Inman PTA of Nixa	Nixa / Ozark
3 rd	Alayna Gaskin	6 th	Greenwood Elementary PTA	Lee’s Summit / Three Trails

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
1 st	Erika Rogers	11 th	Belton High School PTSA	Belton / Three Trails
2 nd	Alex Collette	9 th	Southern Boone County PTA	Southern Boone Co. / Heritage

LITERATURE

SPECIAL ARTIST (Preschool – Grade 12)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
1 st	Kevin Wesson	10 th	Truman Patriots Club PTSA	Independence / Three Trails
2 nd	Janessa Nichols	11 th	Truman Patriots Club PTSA	Independence / Three Trails
3 rd	Daniel Whitmore	12 th	Truman Patriots Club PTSA	Independence / Three Trails

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
1 st	Kamryn Meisenheimer	2 nd	Richardson Elementary PTA	Lee’s Summit / Three Trails
2 nd	Lydia Schildknecht	2 nd	Sherwood Elementary PTA	Springfield / Ozark
3 rd	Alex Beeman	2 nd	Platte City Schools PTA	Platte City / Pony Express

2013-2014 Reflections Winners (con't)

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>
1 st	Justin Baker	4 th
2 nd	Molly Sloan	4 th
3 rd	Jenna Higgins	4 th

MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>
1 st	Asa Scott	7 th
2 nd	Sofia Bennett	8 th
3 rd	Paige Bockes	7 th

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>
1 st	Sarah Schesser	12 th
2 nd	Natalie Harper	9 th
3 rd	Dani De la Chica	10 th

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>
1 st	Hannah Borgstadt	1 st
2 nd	Morgan Brock	2 nd
3 rd	Alex Beeman	2 nd

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>
1 st	Elaina Twenter	4 th
2 nd	Georgia Barge	4 th
3 rd	Samantha Thomas	5 th

MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>
1 st	HyunJun Yoo	6 th
2 nd	John Georgiades	6 th

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>
1 st	Zuzanna Fraczak	10 th
2 nd	Ethan Davis	9 th
3 rd	Ethan Forte	10 th

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>
1 st	Amalia Espinoza	2 nd
2 nd	Audrey Morrow	1 st
3 rd	Ella Turley	2 nd

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>
1 st	Jack Duffy	4 th
2 nd	Finnley Casey	4 th
3 rd	Chanel Bullock	5 th

MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>
1 st	Delaney Cannon	8 th
2 nd	Jacob Sharp	6 th
3 rd	Jaylyn Stephens	6 th

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>
1 st	Melody Walton	12 th
2 nd	Hunter Whitebread	9 th
3 rd	Destinee Karas	10 th

LITERATURE (con't)

<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
Ozark North Elementary (O.N.E.) PTA	Ozark R-VI / Ozark
Sycamore Hills Elementary PTA	Independence / Three Trails
Ozark East Elementary PTA	Ozark R-VI / Ozark

<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
Central High School PTSA	Springfield / Ozark
Delta Woods Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
Brittany Hill Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails

<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
Truman Patriot Club PTSA	Independence / Three Trails
Blue Spring South Senior High PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
Blue Springs South Senior High PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails

MUSICAL COMPOSITION

<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
Longview Farm Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails
Mathews PTA of Nixa	Nixa R-II / Ozark
Platte City Schools PTA	Platte County / Pony Express

<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
Sunset Valley Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails
Warren Hills PTA	Liberty / Pony Express
Sunshine Elementary PTA	Springfield / Ozark

<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
West Middle School PTSA	Columbia / Heritage
Central High School PTSA	Springfield / Ozark

<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
Central High School PTSA	Springfield / Ozark
Blue Springs South Senior High PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
Rock Bridge High School PTSA	Columbia / Heritage

PHOTOGRAPHY

<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
Sherwood Elementary PTA	Springfield / Ozark
Union Chapel Elementary School PTA	Park Hill / Pony Express
Union Chapel Elementary School PTA	Park Hill / Pony Express

<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
Bell Prairie PTA	North Kansas City / Pony Express
Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary PTA	Springfield / Ozark

<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
Jarrett Middle School PTSA	Springfield / Ozark
Central High School PTSA	Springfield / Ozark
Mill Creek Upper Elementary PTA	Belton / Three Trails

<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
Belton High School PTSA	Belton / Three Trails
Blue Springs South Senior High PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
Truman Patriots Club PTSA	Independence / Three Trails

2013-2014 Reflections Winners (con't)

VISUAL ARTS

SPECIAL ARTIST (Preschool – Grade 12)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
1 st	Angelica Sims	4 th	William Yates Elementary PTA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
2 nd	Allison Van Hoesen	4 th	William Yates Elementary PTA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
3 rd	Cody Miller	3 rd	Ozark East Elementary PTA	Ozark R-VI / Ozark

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
1 st	Madelyn Morrow	1 st	Union Chapel Elementary School PTA	Park Hill / Pony Express
2 nd	Ainsleigh Stout	1 st	Summit Pointe Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails
3 rd	Kynlee Rucker	2 nd	Ozark North Elementary (O.N.E.) PTA	Ozark R-VI / Ozark

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
1 st	Lily Mae Weaver	4 th	Lewis & Clark Elementary PTA	Liberty / Pony Express
2 nd	Maci Kate McGraw	5 th	Cordill-Mason Elementary PTA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
3 rd	Maddie Ramsey	4 th	Sunset Valley Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails

MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
1 st	Scotlyn Belew	7 th	Cherokee Middle School PTSA	Springfield / Ozark
2 nd	Shannon Casey	6 th	Mark Twain Elementary PTA	St. Joseph / Pony Express
3 rd	Ashleigh Waggoner	6 th	Mill Creek Upper Elementary PTA	Belton / Three Trails

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Local PTA Unit</u>	<u>School District/Region</u>
1 st	Grant Pace	10 th	Park Hill South High PTA	Park Hill / Pony Express
2 nd	Shannon Brouk	12 th	Park Hill South High PTA	Park Hill / Pony Express
3 rd	Heather Moe	11 th	Hickman High School PTSA	Columbia / Heritage

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.

8 Tips to Stop Literacy Loss over the Summer

By MOPTA Parent Education & Involvement Committee

*National PTA 2011 article still holds true today!

As children's first and most important teachers, families have a major role to play in motivating children to read during the summer months. According to the nonprofit organization Reading is Fundamental, there are many strategies families might employ to encourage summertime reading.

Combine activities with books

Summer leaves lots of time for kids to enjoy fun activities, such as going to the beach or seeing a movie. Why not also encourage them to read a book about the activity? If you're going to a baseball game, suggest that your child read about a favorite player beforehand. In the car or over a hot dog, you'll have lots of time to talk about the book and the game.

Lead by example

Read the newspaper at breakfast, pick up a magazine at the pediatrician's office, or stuff a paperback into your beach bag. If kids see the adults around them reading, they will understand that books and other reading material can be a fun and important part of their summer days.

Talk it up

Talking with your kids about what you have read also lets them know that reading is an important part of your life. Tell them why you liked a book, what you learned from it, or how it helped you. Soon they might

start doing the same.

Help kids find time to read

Summer camp, baseball games, and videos are all fun things kids like to do during summer. However, by the end of the day, children may be too tired to pick up a book. Remember to leave some time in their schedules for reading, such as before bedtime or over breakfast.

Relax the rules for summer

During the school year, children have busy schedules and often have required reading for classes. Summer is a time when children can read what, when, and how they please. Don't set daily minute requirements or determine the number of pages they should read. Instead, make sure they pick up books for fun and help find ways for them to choose to read on their own.

Have plenty of reading material around

Storybooks aren't the only thing that kids can read for fun. Be sure to have magazines and informational material on hand that might spark the interest to reader.

Use books to break the boredom

Without the regular school regimen, adults and kids need more activities to fill the hours. Books that teach kids to make or do something are a great way to get kids reading and keep them occupied.

Read aloud with kids

Take your children to see a local storyteller or be one yourself. The summer months leave extra time for enthusiastic read-aloud with children, no matter their age. Don't forget to improvise different voices or wear a silly hat to make the story that much more interesting.

Reprinted with permission from Reading is fundamental (rif.org)

BE A COOL CAT!!!

By Steven Cook, MOPTA Male Involvement Chair and FATHER

Care enough to be involved!
Aware of what needs to be done!
Be There whenever you can!

Many people are both scared and unaware of how to get involved in their child's school. Well let me tell you, it is very simple. **CARE** about their learning! Be **AWARE** of what needs to be done! Be **THERE** to help out!

- **CARE** to be involved in what is happening in your child's schooling.
- Find out and be **AWARE**.
- Be **THERE** to help when needed.

Being in your child's life, first of all, is a huge part of their overall development. Many times that is all we can do or feel we can do. Being there shows you care. Be there...Be available in their school. Children love to be read to, listened to, and played with. Even better if a male is involved in all three of these. Now I know your time is valuable, but sometimes all it takes is one day a week, one evening a week, or even one day/evening a month.

This can be done in a variety of ways. Read to them during a BRING A DAD TO SCHOOL DAY, or reading night in which you read to several kiddos that night. One example is READ FOR THE RECORD NIGHT. A book is chosen on the national level and schools around the nation read to kids that day. Another example is WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students). This is the father involvement initiative of the National Center for Fathering that organizes fathers and father figures in order to provide positive male role models for the students and to enhance school security. Being involved is all it takes! Another example is ALL PRO DAD. This is a great program that will help increase male involvement with your own PTA. All you need is one minute a day; one hour a month; one day a year. One last example is to have a cook-off. Dads would do the cooking and kids would do the serving. Working as a team allows kids to gain an understanding of working together. What better way to see teamwork than with eating!

Overall EVERYONE has a couple of minutes a day or week to give back to their child's school--you CAN get involved. So CARE, be AWARE, and be THERE!
Being a dad myself, I love the fact that dads want to get involved and do everyday! I asked several different questions about male involvement in schools. Here are two extraordinary dads and their thoughts on male involvement.



Dr. John Koenecker, Principal
Walker Elementary – Hazelwood School District

1. What are your thoughts about men being more involved in schools?

I think getting more men involved in school is a great idea. All too often there are not enough male role models in schools, especially at the elementary level. I believe helping young men see positive grownups that look like them, i.e. men they could grow up to be, gives them a sense of self-worth and positive encouragement for what a bright future might hold.

2. How can we get them in the schools?

I think the first step to getting men involved in schools is showing them that there is a place for them at school. In general, school has always had more of a female connotation to it. I believe when men see they too can belong, they will get involved. The second step is inviting them. For men and women alike, I believe they want to help out in schools, but no one asks them to pitch in or tells them how they can.

3. What are some programs that you are involved in, or aware of, in schools?

Brown Elementary participates in a program called Men on a Mission that encourages men to participate in different activities at school such as planting trees for beautification.

Chris Holmes, P.E. teacher
Hazelwood West High School – Hazelwood School District

1. What are your thoughts about men being more involved in schools?

It is imperative for both mothers and fathers to be involved in their children's education, not just at home but in the school building, as well.

2. How can we get them in the schools?

It is my belief that we -- as teachers -- should visit homes and personally invite families to participate. For some families, this will be first time such an invitation has been extended.

3. What are some programs that you are involved in, or aware of, in schools?

I am personally involved in a dropout prevention program called Project WALK. Many of our students lack the support of a positive male role model at home. There are dozens of others, as well -- all of them would benefit from the collaboration with positive male role models, I would think.

4. How do you get involved in your children schools?

I have three children. My two youngest ones are 11 and 13, so my involvement involves daily homework, collaboration and guidance on projects and activities, and volunteering at various events. I also make a point to attend school-hour activities, such as "Doughnuts with Daddy". My oldest child is 20, and after attending seven different schools, both public and private, graduated from Southview (SSD). He has high-functioning autism, which required that my wife and I become intimately involved in his education, both at home and in school.

If you have any wonderful ideas to get more males involved, email me at stevenc@mopta.org.

Care
Aware
There

SIMPLE AS THAT!



2014 Legislative Conference Wrap-Up

By Angel Davis, VP & Director, Department of Legislation & Advocacy

Each year National PTA hosts their Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. This event gives each state the opportunity to come together with National PTA to discuss in-depth federal legislative issues concerning our children and education and the chance to visit with legislators in their Washington D.C. offices. This year's National PTA Legislative Conference focused on the Family Engagement in Education Act.

The Family Engagement in Education Act would expand the opportunity to have more effective family engagement programs in our schools and communities. This act authorizes no new federal spending. Title I schools would increase their family engagement set-asides from 1% to 2% to strengthen their family engagement programs. At the state level, .3% of Title I administrative funds would be set aside to form and fund family engagement centers across the state which would support both Title I and non-Title I schools in Missouri.

PTA Advocates stormed Capitol Hill to ask Senators and Congressmen to co-sponsor this bi-partisan piece of legislation. Missouri PTA visited both of the Missouri Senators and four of the Missouri Representatives to ask them to co-sponsor the Family Engagement in Education Act to support our schools and children. While presenting the information to Senator Blunt's office, he agreed to sign on to the Family Engagement in Education Act. Missouri PTA is very excited to have Senator Blunt join another fellow Missourian, Representative Sam Graves, as a co-signer to this legislation that will provide a much needed boost to family

engagement in our schools.

National PTA Advocacy Awards were also presented at the Legislative Conference. During the "PTA Takes Action" Dinner, outstanding child advocates were presented with their awards. This was the second year National PTA awarded a Youth Advocate of the Year Ambassador Award and for the second year this award went to a Missouri student. Gabriel Unruh of Kansas City and a senior at Platte County High School received the honor for his work organizing a Kansas City "Arrive Alive" event that brought his school, community and law enforcement groups together to educate on the dangers of texting and driving as well as making good choices during prom. His event was so successful other schools and organizations have reached out to him to help host events in their areas. Gabriel is also in the process of submitting to the Missouri Department of Transportation an official action plan and proposal to create a model "Arrive Alive" program to be used by schools across the state.

You don't have to travel to Washington D.C. to advocate for our children and education. Your federal legislators are just a phone call or click away. You can visit National PTA's [website](#) and send an email to your legislator. On the federal level our Senators and Congressmen are in recess from the Senate and House during the month of August. They spend this time in their home state districts visiting and connecting with their constituents. Now is a good time to contact your legislator and invite them to one of your August PTA events. This provides one of the best opportunities for advocates to connect with their legislators. To be effective advocates it is important to establish a connection with your legislator beyond contacting them to support or not support a piece of legislation.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May

National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
Healthy Vision Month

- 1 Dues to State Office
- 5-9 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 6 National Teacher Day
- 11 Mother's Day
- 26 Memorial Day

June

National Safety Month

- 1 Dues to State Office
- 14 Flag Day
- 15 Father's Day
- 19-22 National PTA Convention in Austin TX
- 21 Summer School



Missouri PTA Officers

President: Kim Weber kimw@mopta.org
President Elect: Dorothy Gardner dorothyg@mopta.org
Secretary: Norvel Johnson norvelj@mopta.org
Treasurer: Lori Prussman lorip@mopta.org

Administrative Assistant: Patty Voss pattyv@mopta.org
State Procedure & Bylaws Chair: Sarah Day sarahd@mopta.org
Immediate Past President: Donna Petiford dpetiford@mopta.org
Parliamentarian: Dr. Leonard Young

Department of Legislation and Advocacy

VP & Director: Angel Davis angeld@mopta.org
State Legislative Chair: Michelle McLaughlin michellem@pta.org
Resolution Chair: Contact VP of Legislation & Advocacy

Department of Membership Services

VP & Director: Rebecca Cahill rebeccac@mopta.org
Membership Emphasis Chair: Contact VP of Membership Services
Membership Outreach Chair: Angie Carey angiec@mopta.org
Resource Development Chair: Contact VP of Membership Services

Department of Communications

VP & Director: Michele Reed micheler@mopta.org
CONTACT Editor: Lisa Holmes lisah@mopta.org
Information Technology Chair: Amy Blakemore amyb@mopta.org
Public Relations Chair: Contact VP of Communications

Department of Field Service

VP & Director: Catherine Sweeny catherines@mopta.org
Foothills Regional Directors: Contact VP of Field Services
Gateway Regional Directors: Aisha Faulkner aishaf@mopta.org
Sonia Smith sonias@mopta.org
Heritage Regional Directors: Terra Merriweather-Shultz terras@mopta.org
Mark Twain Regional Director: Contact VP of Field Services
Meramec Regional Director: Carla Wiese carlaw@mopta.org
Ozark Regional Directors: Contact VP of Field Services
Pony Express Regional Directors: Rebecca Stone rebeccas@mopta.org
Joyce Brewka joyceb@mopta.org
Three Trails Regional Directors: Lisa Smallwood lisas@mopta.org
Virginia Pennington virginiap@mopta.org

Department of Programs

VP & Director: Susan Rupert susanr@mopta.org
Reflections Chair: reflections@mopta.org
Health/Wellness & Safety Chair: Christine Kent christinek@mopta.org
Male Involvement Chair: Steven Cook stevenc@mopta.org
Parent Ed & Involvement Chair: Pat Higginbotham path@mopta.org
Student Involvement Chair:
Youth Representatives: Meagan G. and Myranda C.
MO PTA Scholarship Chair: Donna Petiford dpetiford@mopta.org

Training – vital for a successful PTA

By Dorothy Gardner, President Elect, MO State PTA

After years of attending PTA conventions and conferences at both the state and national level, I can honestly say never once did I come away from an event without learning something new and growing as a PTA leader. Companies, both large and small, understand the importance of training and continual education for both their new and veteran employees. This is vital for ensuring the company's success. Why shouldn't this also be true for PTAs?

In addition to being an important link between the school and the home, PTAs are 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations - organizations that are required by the IRS to operate in a specific manner. No one should expect to have to jump into being an officer responsible for the organization without any training. PTA fully understands the importance of providing training events to afford new leaders with the skills they need to be successful and veteran leaders with resources to keep them abreast of changing practices.

However, training and continuing education is just one part of the PTA convention experience. Not only have I never left a convention without learning something new. I've never left a convention without meeting someone new. Do you have time to reinvent the wheel? I'm guessing probably not which is why PTA conventions are the perfect environment to meet and network with new people. People involved in PTA LOVE to share their ideas and experiences. They can tell you what does and does NOT work well. This is the place to share and learn the tips of the PTA trade.

Finally, PTA conventions are just plain fun! Combine the training and networking and toss in both inspiring speakers and exhibitors and you end up with a great time. Running a PTA can be a lot of fun but it can also be hard work. Convention is a great place to recharge your volunteer batteries. Fortified with new great ideas and filled with inspiration, PTA leaders head back to their units ready to do great things.

National Convention is coming up soon. Plan now to meet us in Austin, June 19-22. [Registration is open now!](#) Not only can you register online for the National PTA convention but National PTA's website has hotel and group rate information. Be sure to let the Missouri PTA office know if you plan to attend and delegates from the Missouri Board of Managers will be sure to touch base with you. If National Convention doesn't fit into the picture this summer for you or your PTA leaders then be sure to plan on joining us in Saint Louis this October for the Missouri PTA convention. Make training a priority not just for you as a leader but for your unit and the children whose lives benefit from all your great work.





National
PTA[®]
everychild.onevoice.[®]



MO PTA
Board of
Managers



Celebrating
Founder's Day
at our
February Meeting.



Phoebe
Apperson
Hearst

Alice
McLellan
Birney

Selena
Sloan
Butler

