Believe...
and Celebrate a Great Year!
MISSOURI PTA STATE CONVENTION FAQ

What are the dates for the 2007 Missouri PTA State Convention?
October 12-14

Where will the 2007 State Convention be held?
Holiday Inn Select, Columbia, Missouri

Why do we have a State Convention?
There are many reasons! Convention is a time for PTA members across the state to:
• Participate in the business of Missouri PTA
• Receive leadership training geared toward PTA members
• Debate and adopt resolutions and position statements
• Gather tools to develop and enhance the programs of PTA
• Get to know and share ideas with other PTA members
• Celebrate the many successes of Missouri PTA and units across the state
• Choose from over 50 informational workshops for parents, teachers, and students
• Hear local and national speakers address a variety of subjects to inspire you and your PTA

Who should attend State Convention?
Anyone who is a PTA member in Missouri may attend State Convention. It is the ultimate opportunity to train up-and-coming PTA leaders and a chance to gain new ideas, improve skills, and recharge energy levels.

How much does it cost?
Registration fees for the 2007 State Convention have been set as follows:
Advanced Adult $80
Advanced Student $50
On-site Adult $90
On-site Student $55
Kick-Off Luncheon $25
Saturday Banquet $40
All-inclusive Adult $130
All-inclusive Student $100

The all-inclusive prices include registration and the Kick-Off Luncheon and Saturday Banquet.

Is State Convention a PTA expense?
Definitely! It is a legitimate PTA expense and should be a part of every PTA unit’s annual budget. It is important to send the maximum number of delegates possible to State Convention. Even if you have attended before, training is an ongoing process and an important component of success. Attending State Convention should be considered an investment in leadership training that will ensure a secure future for your PTA. You cannot afford to miss it!

Will there be an exhibit hall?
Yes. You will have an opportunity to visit with about 50 vendors who will showcase program, resource, and fundraising ideas.

Will gift items and resources be available at Convention?
Yes! The PTA Shoppe will supply a wide range of PTA gift items such as shirts, pens, organizational tools, and PTA jewelry, as well as a variety of resource materials. The PTA Shoppe will accept cash, checks, and VISA. Don’t forget to visit the Silent Auction to purchase gift items as well!

What should I wear?
Dress comfortably to attend workshops and the general sessions. Layered clothing is suggested because meeting room temperatures may vary.

How do I register?
Registration materials will be mailed to every PTA president in Missouri in July.

Where can I get more information?
The 2007 Convention is still in the planning stages but information will be updated as it becomes available on the Missouri PTA website (www.mopta.org).
President’s Message

Missouri PTA President’s Message

By Kathy Nevans, Missouri PTA president

The school year is nearing its end. Time for summer, time for vacation, time for relaxation, AND time to plan for next year. How did this year go, what did you like, what do you want to do again, what didn’t fair so well, and what needs to be changed? These are all questions that all of you need to be asking on behalf of your PTA/PTSA. Sit down with the outgoing and the incoming officers and have a real discussion on these questions. Doing an evaluation or review of the past year is just as important as preparing the budget, selecting committees, determining your calendar, and everything else necessary for a successful year. Start thinking about next year’s goals and expectations for your PTA/PTSA with the help and knowledge of the past year’s goals and accomplishments.

Granted, this time of year can be very pleasant or very difficult. It is up to the current officers to make this change as pleasant as possible. Make sure your procedure books are up to date and ready to be passed on to the incoming officers. Look to each other for support and encouragement to get a jump on next year. Look to your parents for direction; ask them for their input. Don’t forget the incoming kindergarten parents. Be welcoming and include them in your discussions. Be sure to hold several meetings this summer with the principal and the officers for the 2007/2008 school year along to get to know each other and share your expectations.

But most importantly, celebrate this past year! That’s right, CELEBRATE! Take pride in what you have accomplished over the past year for the children, the teachers, and the parents. Just as you recognize children for their efforts, praise the teachers for their hard work. You should also take time to pay tribute to those parents who helped out throughout the year. Honor what you have done as a PTA/PTSA and have fun. Recognize the efforts of your officers and volunteers. Show them how much they are appreciated. Believe that you have made a difference for the children and youth of your school. Believe that you have made a difference for all children by your support of Missouri PTA and National PTA and their work in Jefferson City and Washington D.C. Believe that you have done what is best for children. Believe in yourself and your unit!

Thank you for an awesome year and here’s to a great summer and a well-planned 2007/2008 school year. Thank you for believing in PTA.

Who We Are

The MISSION of PTA:

• To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children

• To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children

• To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of the nation

The PURPOSES of PTA:

• To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship.

Be watching for photos from the Missouri PTA Leadership Conference on our website [www.mopta.org]!
Looking Ahead to Greater Achievements

By Anna Weselak, National PTA president

Now that the school year is winding down, PTA leaders all over the country are looking forward to a much-deserved break to refresh themselves and enjoy the summer with their families. The work you have accomplished individually and collectively this year is truly inspiring. I encourage you all to enjoy your summer and take a bit of time off, but then to begin the all-important work of planning your PTA’s 2007–2008 school year. If you will be continuing in a leadership position during the coming school year, take the time to review the previous year’s activities to guide your planning for next year.

Summertime is also a time of transition for many PTAs and sometimes transitions can be confusing. New leaders are busy stepping into their roles and trying to understand what is expected of them. I recall digging into files and bags of paper whenever I took over a new PTA leadership position. I was always very grateful for the guidance I received from experienced leaders, who helped me sort things out. With their assistance, I learned how to determine the continuing and emerging needs of parents and families, set goals for the next year, and plan how to reach them.

If you are a president who will be leaving office this year, I encourage you set the stage for your PTA’s continued success. Please be sure your new president gets the 2007–2008 PTA President’s Quick-Reference Guide, which was mailed to all PTA state and local presidents in April. Share your knowledge and watch your legacy continue and grow.

2007 Hazelwood PTA Scholarship Run/Walk: Saturday, May 12

The Hazelwood school district and PTA are encouraging healthy lifestyles for all students with new eating guidelines and more exercise. What better way to promote this philosophy that to join this family event, which will begin at Hazelwood Central starting at 8 a.m. Registration is $7 or $9 (depending on shirt size). Students are encouraged to ask family members to pledge an amount for their participation in the Run/Walk. Those students who turn in more than $50 in pledges will receive a $50 savings bond in their name, which will be sent to their home in the fall. Graduating seniors who are applying for the scholarships are encouraged to participate in the Run/Walk. Those who are not able to exercise or are not available to participate that day can show their support by buying a shirt.

Did you know that last year one hundred five $1,000 scholarships were awarded for a total of $15,000 and over the years Hazelwood students have received more than $2.3 million through this event? For more information please contact Pat Higginbotham at 921-5084 or Debi Spencer at 839-5107.

Wrapping Up Your Minutes

By Patty Buckholz, Missouri PTA secretary

Now that your term of secretary has come to an end, what do you do with all those minutes? It is the duty of the secretary to preserve all records of the PTA, including all minutes.

The minutes of the entire school year should be assembled with any attachments and permanently bound. All minutes should be either typed or handwritten into a formal, legible recording of each meeting. Each set of minutes should be signed by the recorder. The date of approval should be added by hand at the end of each meeting’s minutes. Any formal reports that were submitted during a meeting should be included as attachments to those minutes.

Typed minutes should be printed and kept in chronologic order. Minutes can also be written into a ledger with numbered pages. Some PTAs may choose to keep minutes of the board separate from the minutes of the general membership meetings; if so, both sets of minutes are similarly kept.

Every few years the accumulated minutes should be permanently bound. Check your PTA’s previously bound minutes for any kind of binding style that you might want to continue. Check your local copy center or office supply for affordable soft cover binding services. Be sure to include a cover page and title page so your bound copy is easily identified. Temporary assembly in a loose leaf notebook or with comb binding (plastic binding) is not recommended for the long term.

All minutes of a PTA are to be kept permanently. Such minutes should be archived where they will be safe yet accessible to the PTA. The school library may be able to dedicate a space to archive the minutes. If not in the library the minutes should be kept in a container or area that is secure against moisture, vandalism, etc. The container or area should be well marked and located where it will not be accidentally discarded.

The minutes of your PTA are both the historical recording and legal documentation of your organization. It is your responsibility to see that the minutes are appropriately recorded, approved, and permanently stored.
The Road to Leadership

By Peggy Taylor, Nixa
R-II Schools Board of Education president

Looking back over time not only lets see how far we’ve gone, it shows us the roads we have traveled and the people we have met along the way. We reflect upon the struggles and opportunities that have made us who we are today. As I recently updated my resume to run for a statewide office, I took time to think back about my humble beginnings in PTA.

One never knows who you will meet at a garage sale. In the summer of 1980, I met my school’s PTA president there and within 30 days, I was her program chairman. And so the journey began. Oh, I was a PTA member, having joined PTA each of the past three years through my son’s class. But the only PTA meeting I had attended was the night my son’s class was the entertainment. What did I know about organizing the programs for a year of monthly PTA meetings? Gee whiz… the next summer I was vice president and would have another two years to learn the ropes, they assured me. Oh sure!

Thirty days before school started the president’s husband was transferred and she had the audacity to move with him. Guess who had to take over and serve as president? Thank heavens for procedure guides, CONTACT magazine, Schools of Information, council meetings, state conventions, and a circle of friends that willingly served on my executive committee. Many of these I still have today and they are only a phone call away.

They say “everything you need to know, you learned in kindergarten”. Well I never went to kindergarten so I give all the credit to two well-run organizations: Missouri PTA and Missouri School Boards’ Association. I was actively involved with PTA for twelve years at the local, council, and state Board of Managers level and I am still a card-carrying member. After sitting through two years of school board meetings as a local PTA president, I decided PTA people have no other agenda than doing what’s best for kids. Over two decades later, I am an unpaid volunteer that has been elected eight times to the school board and I am proudly serving my twenty-second year with my local school board…the past ten years as president.

PTA helped me develop skills in time management, communication and public speaking, delegation of duties, organizational, interpersonal relationships, team building, goal setting, professionalism, and leading by example. MSBA, through the years, has helped me hone and build upon my PTA foundation through continual professional development and training. As a veteran board member, MSBA has allowed me to work with area school boards in a consulting capacity and facilitate training seminars for new board members.

In an article I recently read on the “Art of Leadership”, an audience was surveyed on the characteristics of an ideal leader. Their answers were: a good listener, enthusiasm, passion, shows appreciation, a visionary, role model, trusting, integrity, organized, knowledgeable, credibility, persuasive, charisma, team building, clarity of purpose, problem solver, attitude of service, leads by example, patience, willing to act without complete knowledge, understands followers, consistent, empowers other people, and adapts to change.

I would add… has a direct prayer line to God. Prayer will calm the nervous stomach, stop the shakes, quiet your raging heart, moisten the dry mouth, clear your thoughts, and bring forth complete sentences of meaningful words at the right time for difficult situations.

Take notice that these characteristics relate to the human side of leadership. People want leaders who treat them with genuine compassion, courtesy, and respect. They want leaders who help them become more successful. They want leaders who inspire them with a vision for a better world and show them how to go there. They want and need leaders that will mentor them along the way.

For every successful leader, there is a wide circle of encouragers, a team of supporters, and a family that has made many sacrifices along the way. Remember to take time to thank the people around you and to treasure the memories of your journey. Wherever you are in your journey… just starting out or even facing burnout. Take stock of yourself, check your internal map, and adjust your attitude to fit the reason for the trip – your children and the children of others. They are the best reason to start on the trip and the primary focus for the road ahead!
Over 180 advocates for children and youth rallied state legislators in six Missouri PTA regions to support issues that affect the health, education, and the well being of Missouri children and families.

The first two rallies were held on February 8th – Pony Express in Platte County and Three Trails (West) in Raytown. At the Pony Express rally, representative Jason Grill (32nd district) and over twenty interested PTA/community members were in attendance. At the Raytown event, thirty-five advocates for children from the Raytown, Hickman Mills, Independence, and Center school districts met with state representatives Kraus, LeVota, and Holsman to discuss issues facing the legislature concerning our children and education.

The Heritage Region hosted a rally in Columbia on February 15th. Approximately 25 people attended the event. Representative Judy Baker also attended and spoke about the bill she is sponsoring regarding Driver’s Education and Teen Drivers and Cell Phones. KOMU Channel 8 interviewed Kathy O’Laughlin, Missouri PTA vice president of advocacy and legislation and featured the event on both the 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. news.

The Ozark Region legislative rally was held at Kickapoo High School in Springfield on February 22nd. There were three members of the Missouri House of Representatives in attendance: Charles Denison (135th district), Sara Lampe (138th district), and Charlie Norr (137th district) along with approximately 40 PTA and community members.

Representative Denison spoke about his opposition to HB 808 (vouchers/tax credits for the Kansas City and St. Louis school districts). The students with a 2.5 grade point average or lower would be allowed to transfer to a school of choice within the district. He also mentioned that more money will be appropriated for schools in 2008. Representative Denison feels that the salaries of teachers need to be increased. He said that the Transportation Committee has discovered that every dollar that is spent for tourism brings $7.00 back to the area. He said that he would be in favor of raising the bond debt level that school districts can carry from 15% to 20%. He also supports bond issues passing with a simple majority vote. He would like to see Driver’s Education offered in every school.

Representative Lampe said that she feels that the PTA mission should be “Public Schools Are America”! Public education is
Missouri PTA was called on by a legislator making that legislation become reality. At convention in 2003 was a key impetus to resolution titled “Bullying” that was adopted a Bullying Bill last year and Missouri PTA’s the fact that the Missouri legislature passed is through the resolutions process. Voice for children on issues that they have no get involved in PTA is to help provide a chair

By Scott D. Jennings, Missouri PTA resolutions chair

One of the main reasons many people like me get involved in PTA is to help provide a voice for children on issues that they have no voice. One of the main ways we can do that is through the resolutions process.

If you don’t think that is true, consider the fact that the Missouri legislature passed a Bullying Bill last year and Missouri PTA’s resolution titled “Bullying” that was adopted at convention in 2003 was a key impetus to making that legislation become reality.

During last year’s legislative session, Missouri PTA was called on by a legislator to testify in favor of a video game ratings bill because of our resolution titled “Inappropriate Television and Other Media Programming.” This validated many of the points that the proposed bill was trying to make.

And this year, legislation has been introduced about Driver’s Education in Missouri schools and Missouri PTA was asked to testify because of two resolutions we passed at our October 2006 convention titled “Driver’s Education & Training” and “Teen Drivers and Cell Phones.”

So if you have an issue that you feel passionate about or you feel some light shed on it, put together a resolution and submit it to Missouri PTA by the May 1st postmark deadline. Please refer to your Tool Kit, your Legislative Handbook, or look at our website (www.mopta.org) for more info about how to create and submit a resolution.

We’ll be glad to help you in any way we can. If you need help, please email me at scottj@mopta.org or call me at 816-763-4567. But please do so soon so that we can properly submit a resolution that can make a difference for Missouri’s children who need our voice.

Resolutions– There Is Still Time

By Scott D. Jennings, Missouri PTA resolutions chair

Representative Brian Baker receives the “A Better Missouri for Kids” award.

Representative Lampe commented that if you believe in public schools, you should be willing to pay the taxes to support those schools. She is also against HB 808, but fears that the House will pass it. She explained that Bill 808 even covers books and equipment for home schooled students. She commented that the state constitution states that the #2 priority for Missouri is education, but education is not #2 in the budget. She was proud that Missouri only has four districts left that do not offer all day kindergarten.

Representative Norr is vehemently against the Springfield School District’s closing of some of the smaller schools in Springfield.

Missouri PTA appreciates the help and support of PTA members throughout the state who took the time to attend the rallies. We also appreciate the elected officials who took time out of their busy schedules to listen to our concerns. We hope that the exchange of ideas and information that happened at these rallies will affect the votes that happen in Jefferson City throughout the remainder of the legislative session and that all children will benefit from our united efforts.
# Missouri PTA Reflections Program

**My Favorite Place 2006-2007 Winners**

## Literature

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<td>Kylie Schrader</td>
<td>Park Hill Prairie Elementary PTA</td>
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<td>Max Pearson</td>
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<td>Zoe Miller</td>
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## Film/Video Production

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## Musical Composition

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## Successes

Thank you to all the students, teachers, and families who made this year’s Reflections program a success! Congratulations to all the winners and participants! Your creativity and hard work are truly remarkable.
### PHOTOGRAPHY

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<td>James Lewis Elementary PT A</td>
<td>Springfield R-12/Three Trails</td>
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### VISUAL ARTS

#### PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Local PT A Unit</th>
<th>School District/Region</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ciara Turner</td>
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<td>Longview Farm Elementary PT A</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Hannah Stewart</td>
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<td>Coleman Elementary PT A</td>
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<td>Laurin</td>
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<td>Mark Thomas Elementary PT A</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Cheyanne Debro</td>
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<tr>
<td>HM</td>
<td>Niekki Alph</td>
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<td>Morgan</td>
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<tr>
<td>HM</td>
<td>Ava Scott</td>
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<td>HM</td>
<td>Roger Van Eaton</td>
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#### INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

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<tr>
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<td>McKinzie Stimpson</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
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<td>4th</td>
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<td>Brion Redd</td>
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<td>Robbins Elementary PT A</td>
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<tr>
<td>HM</td>
<td>Ciara Turner</td>
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### DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

#### PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

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<tr>
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<td>Lia Fricke</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Tori Eimerman</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Easson Elementary PT A</td>
<td>Springfield R-12/Three Trails</td>
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<td>INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mantis White</td>
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<td>Liberty Oak Elementary PT A</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Alexia Relampagio</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Chian Elementary PT A</td>
<td>Springfield R-12/Three Trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Macie Towner</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Woodport Elementary PT A</td>
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#### MIDDLE/JUNIOR (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cassandra Feoff</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Jenna Warmer</td>
<td>7th</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Micayla Miles</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Paige Allen</td>
<td>7th</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Elizabeth Poole</td>
<td>6th</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>HM</td>
<td>Adriana Lina</td>
<td>8th</td>
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<tr>
<td>HM</td>
<td>Maddie Candiff</td>
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<tr>
<td>HM</td>
<td>Joshua Davidson</td>
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<td>Monland Middle School PT A</td>
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<tr>
<td>HM</td>
<td>Sara Emmons</td>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Carver Middle School PT A</td>
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<tr>
<td>HM</td>
<td>Abby Neuman</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Eugene Field Elementary PT A</td>
<td>Springfield R-12/Three Trails</td>
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<tr>
<td>HM</td>
<td>Rachel Smider</td>
<td>7th</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Karson Tuig</td>
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<td>HM</td>
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<tr>
<td>HM</td>
<td>Qntiby Qin</td>
<td>6th</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Qntiby Qin</td>
<td>6th</td>
<td>West Junior High School PT A</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### CONNECTEDTech

Please Note: The First Place winning entries have been sent to National PT A for consideration at that level of judging.
Superstar Unit Eldon Elementary PTA

By Shelly Throckmorton, Missouri PTA

Membership Emphasis chair

Like many PTA units, Eldon Elementary PTA is continuously looking to grow and improve their unit and what it offers their school, students, and members. This year’s PTA President Lisa Enowski took on the task of membership recruitment to her already busy job of president and she teamed up with the executive board to increase this units’ membership by 119 from last year’s total membership.

Eldon Elementary PTA services two buildings that split their grades into K-3 and 4-6. Between the two buildings, they have around 1300 students of which 52% come from low-income homes. Lisa credits Deanna Boyd, the K-3 principal and Denise Harwood, the 4-6 principal with helping increase the membership and supporting the PTA unit. During membership recruitment this year, the principals and Lisa encouraged the faculty to jump on board with PTA. This helped increase their faculty membership totals to 100% in one building and close to 100% in the other, creating a future goal of 100% faculty membership in both. Twice a year, their unit provides a Teacher’s Appreciation Luncheon and a PTA newsletter goes out monthly, along with PTA meeting reminders. The PTA meetings rotate between the lower and upper grade buildings. Each meeting teachers are asked if there is a grade level presentation they would like parents to see/gain knowledge about their students’ accomplishments. They also plan to provide t-shirts for all the students on Field Day and have an end of the year barbeque for their parents and students.

In their efforts to continue to reach new parents, the PTA took pictures on the first day of school of all the kindergarten students labeled “My First Day of School” and sent them home with information on PTA membership. In addition, every new student received a “Welcome Packet” which includes PTA information and an enrollment form. The PTA also sent out surveys a couple years back asking for input from their members and parents on current activities/programs and what else they would like to see the unit do. The information proved to be so helpful; the unit has plans to send them again this year.

The Eldon Elementary PTA had an ambitious plan this year for their fundraising. They bought seven SMART Boards for the 3rd grade classrooms. They decided to concentrate on 3rd grade due to the onset of MAP testing at this grade level. Along with the Smart Board purchases, they planned a MAP Knowledge Night for parents. They had presentations on how best to prepare your child for MAP testing with proper sleep and nutrition along with what their student can expect during testing. Because of this unit’s goal and the way the school and parents worked together, they are now investigating the SMART Board technology upgrading needed for all elementary grades. Along with this MAP preparation, the unit provided healthy snacks to students on testing days.

Looking to next year, the Eldon Elementary PTA has plans to increase even more parent and teacher involvement within their unit. They plan to create a greater parent/teacher Board, encouraging their faculty to hold board positions, and they are looking at ways to get more of their dads involved. They are in the process of creating a website devoted to their PTA unit linked from the school district webpage that would provide information on programs, activities, meetings, and PTA news. Effectively serving two buildings has been a constant challenge for this unit so they are also considering creating dual executive committees. They would have joint executive meetings and unit meetings but each committee would be in a better position to communicate and tailor programs suitable to each building. This unit shows that creating an increased level of involvement of school staff and parents pays off for both the PTA members and students. Congratulations, Eldon PTA!

Missouri PTA

2006-2007 Reflections Program

My Favorite Place

By Jennifer Givens, Missouri PTA

Reflections chair

Missouri PTA would like to thank all students, preschool through grade twelve, for participating in this year’s reflections program. This unique National PTA sponsored program provides opportunities for students to express themselves through the arts. Students across the state submitted over 16,200 entries, representing 207 PTA units. The number of entries forwarded to the state level of judging included: 458 Literature entries, 96 Musical Composition entries, 364 Photography entries, 493 Visual Arts entries, 25 Dance Choreography entries, and 84 Film/Video Production entries.

Congratulations to all of our Missouri winners! (Please see the listing on pages 6 and 7.) The first place entries are currently being judged at the national PTA level. The list of National PTA recipients should be distributed by the end of April.

Missouri PTA gratefully acknowledges the support of the many professionals who donated their time and expertise to judge the reflections program entries at the state level. This year’s judges were: Literature (Primary) - Mrs. Vicki LaHay; Literature (Intermediate) - Mrs. Mary Felin; Literature (Middle/Junior and Senior) - Ms. Lynda Ellis; Musical Composition – Dr. Michael F. Murray; Photography – Ms. Martha Dameron; Visual Arts – Mrs. Jan Bennicoff; Dance Choreography – Ms. Sara Brummel; and Film/Video Production – Mr. John Howe. Read more about our judges on our website (www.mopta.org).

We look forward to seeing all our winners at the Student Showcase on April 28th at the Missouri PTA Leadership Conference and we hope you are already planning your entries for next year when the theme is “I can make a difference by…”
Congratulations to all of our Superstar units that met or exceeded their 2005-2006 membership totals [as of 3-1-07]

Meramec Region:
Boingham Elementary PTA
Bailey Alternative High School PTSA

Ozark Region:
West Plains Elementary PTA
Greenville Grade & High Schools PTA
Central Middle School PTA
Alm Schrader Elementary PTA

Foothills Region:
Thomas Jefferson Middle School PTA
Southwest Elementary PTA
South Elementary PTA
Smith Cotton High School PTA
Shepard Blvd. Elementary PTA

School of the Osage Upper Elementary PTA
School of the Osage Lower Elementary PTA
School of the Osage Jr. High PTA
School of the Osage Elementary PTA

Ozark Region:
Bingham Elementary PTA

Eagle Glen Intermediate PTA
Eastwood Hills Elementary PTA
Faxon Montessori PTA
Franklin Smith Elementary PTA
Grace Early Childhood PTA
Grandview High School PTA
Harry S. Truman Elementary PTA
Hawthorn Hill Elementary PTA
Herat Grove Elementary PTA
Independence Headstart Preschool
James Walker Elementary PTA
John Nowlin Elementary PTA
John W. Luff Elementary PTA
Lee’s Summit High School PTSA
Lee’s Summit West H. S. PTSA
Liggett Trail Education Center
Longview Fan Elementary PTA
Martin City Elementary PTA
Mason Elementary PTA
Meadowmere Elementary PTA
Millcreek Elementary PTA
Norfolk Elementary PTA

Pony Express Region:
Antioch Middle School PTA
Avenue City Elementary PTA
Barry Elementary PTA
Benton High School PTSA
Briarcliff Elementary PTA
Cameron Elementary PTA
Central High School PTSA
Chapel Hill Elementary PTA
Chinn Elementary PTA
Chouteau Elementary PTA
Edison Elementary PTA
Franklin Elementary PTA
Hall Elementary PTA
Hosea Elementary PTA
Humboldt Elementary PTA
Lake Contrary Elementary PTA
Lakeview Middle School PTSA
Liberty Middle School PTSA
Liberty Oak Elementary PTA
Lindbergh Elementary PTA
Line Creek Elementary PTA
Manor Hill Elementary PTA
Maplewood Elementary PTA
Nashua Elementary PTA
North Korea City High PTA
Oak Park High PTSA
Park Hill Congress Middle School PTSA
Park Hill Day School
Park Hill High School PTSA
Parkway Elementary PTA
Plano City Middle School PTSA
Platte City Schools PTSA
Plan County R 111 High School PTSA
Plan Middle School PTSA
Shoul Creek Elementary PTA
Southeast Elementary PTA
South Valley Middle School PTSA
Union Chapel PTA
Warren Hills Elementary PTA
West Englewood PTA
Winnwood Elementary PTA

Thanks for a Great Year!

www.mopta.org
Happy Birthday, PTA!

By Peggy Preston, Lynda Hansen, and Deb Conrad

PTA’s 110th birthday was celebrated throughout the nation in February. Units and councils here in Missouri celebrated in a variety of ways. For example, the Nixa PTA Council officers attended the planning meetings of all of its units complete with cake and a historical PowerPoint presentation about the local PTA.

Lucy Franklin Elementary in Blue Springs celebrated PTA’s 110th birthday by hosting a pancake dinner prepared by “Chris Cakes” and a visit by “Elvis”. Students and their families were invited to share this happy event together. Over 1,000 pancakes and sausages were eaten while guests were wooed by an Elvis impersonator. The evening was topped off with an abundance of delicious birthday cakes. It was a very “sweet” night to all that attended.

The Saint Joseph Founder’s Day Dinner was a success, with Missouri PTA president Kathy Nevans in attendance. She encouraged the council to share ideas with others throughout the state. The program was highlighted with a series of presentations and awards, including recognition of the school board members, SJSD Teacher of the Year and Support Person of the Year, the recipient of the Dr. Dan L. Colgan PTA Foundation Award, the Clarence J. Carpenter Memorial Fund recipient, and the Principal of the Year. Outstanding contributions by a variety of stakeholders are recognized.

This year’s Springfield Council of PTA’s event was titled “A Feast for the Eyes!” Glendale High School was the host for the evening providing a talented string quartet for prelude music, outstanding performances by the Glendale choir, a tremendous dramatic program by the theater department, and beautiful Elizabethan decorations. The Wilder Elementary jugglers were a bit hit as well. Recognition of past presidents was an important part of the program and a surprise announcement that council president Annie Cockrum had been honored by the local units with a PTA Lifetime Achievement Award. In addition, each school’s Volunteers of the Year were recognized. Congratulations, PTA! Here’s looking forward to another 110 years!

“Elvis” entertains attendees of the Blue Springs Founders Day.

One of the many Volunteers of the Year recognized at the SCPTA Founders Day event

Mark Your Calendar

MAY

Family Wellness Month

1 Resolutions submission deadline
1 May Day
2 Robert’s Rules of Order Day
7-13 Teacher Appreciation Week
13 Mothers Day
15 International Day of Families
28 Memorial Day

JUNE

3 National Cancer Survivors Day
14 Flag Day
16 World Juggling Day
21 First Day of Summer
24 America’s Kids Day
28 – July 1 National PTA Annual Convention (St. Louis)

Looking Ahead

AUGUST

1 PE&I grant deadline

OCTOBER

12 – 14 Missouri PTA Annual Convention (Columbia)

Parent Education and Involvement Grant

By Barb Gilmore, Missouri PTA parent education and involvement chair

It’s the end of the year and your unit is wrapping up, electing new officers, and looking at the calendar for next year. As you do those things, make sure that you put the PE&I Grant application on your calendar as due August 1, 2007.

The grant is designed to help with costs incurred by units that are organizing and holding an event/program/workshop that educates and/or celebrates parent involvement in their school. You can find the grant application online on the Missouri PTA website (www.mopta.org) or in the Tool Kit your president receives (under Grants and Awards). Also make sure you are a unit in good standing (see the Tool Kit on page 102), your bylaws are current, and your dues have been paid.

We had many great programs across Missouri this year and great PE&I grant recipients. So come on – share your program(s), receive monetary help, and be recognized at the Missouri PTA convention. Help your PTA unit and other units across Missouri achieve goals through great programs!
Real Success

By Allison Thiele, Missouri PTA student representative

In all of the hustle and bustle of the world, people think that in order to be happy, they must have a lot of big successes. However, this is where people’s conceptions can run astray. Society views successes and rates them by how much change or achievement can be seen physically. But in living in the real world, it is important to remember that success is relative and its implications are the largest on an internal level.

As an example, let us say that Susie has a project that is due next week. Let us also say that Susie is a horrible procrastinator, even though her work does not always show it. With society only looking at what Susie has achieved on the outside, only the final grade Susie received would be of importance. While this may boost her self-esteem for a little while, the grade and the pat on the back do not help to overcome Susie’s extreme procrastination. It would be more beneficial for Susie to take charge of the project and set up a timetable to help battle against procrastination. Although in the end she will end up with about the same grade on the project, she will have achieved something inside herself. It is this little personal success in Susie’s life that could lead her to enrich other parts of her life. In being able to improve her own quality of life (even if it is as simple as getting back those three extra hours of sleep right before the project is due), Susie would be able know that she can make a difference in her own life through her own power.

In the end success is relative. Not procrastinating may be a huge feat for one person while another person struggles more with the quality of work he/she puts out. The United States has a huge problem in that its people are set to look up to colossal figures in Hollywood and wonder why they have not achieved that status. People tend to forget that popularity does not bring happiness. Who is to say that your favorite star does not have some horrible habit that he/she cannot get rid of? While big successes are looked upon as great things, and no doubt they should be at times, it is necessary to remember that inner achievement must be made before outer achievements can really be appreciated.
PTA Urges Inclusion Of Four Key Principals In NCLB Reauthorization

As the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act approaches, the national PTA has released their recommendations on revising the education law. These outline four major principals: assuring the implementation of parent involvement provisions required in NCLB; delivering clear, timely information to parents; integrating Parent Information and Centers (PIRCs) into parent involvement plans; and providing incentives to businesses and community groups to encourage school-community partnerships. A summary of PTA’s four principals of parent involvement to include in NCLB:

PTA recommends every state designate an office or position, within their education department, responsible for overseeing the proper implementation of the parent involvement provisions required under NCLB. It will maintain records of all comments made to or about any local education agency (LEA) in that state with regard to an LEA’s development and implementation of their parent involvement plan and shall annually send a report to the state’s PIRC listing every LEA’s and school’s Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and state assessment scores, as well as information on their compliance with legal requirements for parent involvement.

PTA recommends the federal law require schools to provide information from the accountability systems in language that is both clear and understandable to parents. The information must not only reach parents in a timely manner, but it must also be presented in a format and using language that is easy to comprehend.

PTA recommends states be required to integrate their PIRC into the plan to increase parent involvement. PIRCs should be at the forefront of not only disseminating information and materials to parents but also providing valuable assistance to schools that have not achieved AYP.

PTA recommends federal law support business and community involvement by providing incentives to encourage school-community partnerships. Schools must be an essential part of a community, working cooperatively to build partnerships within the community in order for the school to be more successful. Also, school-parent involvement plans must include community outreach and partnerships.

PTA’s complete recommendations outline the steps necessary to implement them, as well as the NCLB revisions needed to increase parent involvement and, in turn, increase student achievement.

It’s a fact, there is a direct link between parent involvement and student achievement. Although the government can not mandate parents to be involved, PTA urges Congress to give parents every opportunity to do so.

“With the appropriate funding, the implementation of these recommendations will connect parents and families, communities, and schools to ultimately help children succeed,” said PTA national president, Anna Weselak. “Whether it’s ensuring every school district in the country implements their parent involvement plans or providing schools the resources to inform parents quickly and clearly, this is about giving parents every opportunity to be involved in their child’s education.”

The Bottom Line

By Peggy Preston, Missouri PTA CONTACT editor

Another school year is almost over and it’s time to take stock. How much money did we raise for the school? Were there enough family-friendly activities during the year? Do we have our officers in place for next year? While all of these are important questions, I don’t believe that we should use these answers to judge the success of the past year. I truly believe that the answer to whether our PTA unit or council was a success is the answer to this question – How many children did we positively impact this school year? I can honestly say that, in the elementary building where I work, 605 out of 605 students benefited from the many events and activities provided by our PTA. We’re a success…and so are YOU!

Is this a time to look back and reflect? Why, absolutely. Did you do everything perfectly this past year? Well, most likely not. Did anyone’s feathers get a little ruffled? Possibly. Did we do our best? Well, absolutely. Let’s not beat ourselves up when our intentions are good and honest. But before you make notes of things to change for next year, make your list of successes—both great and small. Circle, underline, and highlight your successes before you start “that other list”.

More importantly…it’s time to take a moment to celebrate. Pat yourself on the back. Tell yourself that you made a difference. Call at least three other PTA members that you worked with this year and tell them what a fabulous job they did. Take a moment to thank your principal for his/her support and help as well. Email your Missouri PTA regional director and share your joyful spirit with him/her.

Now that you’ve celebrated, please feel free to start sharing information with your new incoming officers. If you are staying for another term, make a preliminary list of goals for next year. If you’re moving on, be sure that your procedure books are in order and ready to pass on. Use the summer months to be sure that everything is ready for another great year with PTA.

One more thing…be sure to make a note to share your unit or council’s great ideas and events with Missouri PTA through CONTACT magazine next year. You can always reach me at peggypr@mopta.org or 417-725-1778 and I would love to hear from you!
Special Thanks
Thank you to all the delegates that attended Leadership Conference in April held in Kansas City.

Missouri PTA hopes that you enjoyed the conference and that you received many new ideas to share with your board members!

Missouri PTA also wishes to thank our sponsors for the following events:

Membership Breakfast and Lunch
George K. Baum & Associates

Student Showcase:
Radio Disney

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?

PTA National Convention
Renaissance Grand Hotel
June 28 – July 1, 2007

New this year – PARENT EXPO!

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED!
Please contact Peggy Richey at peggyr@mopta.org or Debi Spencer at debis@mopta.org. This activity can be counted on your Leaders Project and it will be fun!