

CONTACT

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Volume 88, Issue 7
May/June 2007

believe



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).

Cover photo: Courtesy of Dawn and John Howe. The students are from John W. Luff Elementary in Independence, Missouri.

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CONTACT is the official publication of Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers. We are a branch of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. CONTACT is published September through May, seven issues. Subscriptions are \$7 per year. Missouri PTA Office, Editorial and Publication Office: 2100 I-70 Drive SW, Columbia, MO 65203, 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.

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PLEASE SHARE THIS MAGAZINE.

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

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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 on 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.



- 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 teachers 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

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.



Congratulations to Annie Cockrum, SCPTA president, on her PTA Lifetime Achievement Award. For more information on nominating someone for this honor, go to www.pta.org.

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 than 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 us 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!

Don't forget to have your treasurer's books audited as soon as possible after June 30th! Remember to send a copy of the final report to the Missouri PTA office.

Thanks So Much For Your Generous Gifts!

Building Fund

Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA
Cambridge Elementary PTA
Espy PTA of Nixa
Lee's Summit Council of PTA's
Northgate Middle PTSA
St. Joseph PTA Council
Sycamore Hills Elementary PTA

Founders Gift

Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA
Espy PTA of Nixa
Grannemann Elementary PTA
Lee's Summit Council of PTA's
John W. Luff Elementary PTA
Northgate Middle PTSA
Parkade Elementary PTA
Raytown PTA Council
Sycamore Hills Elementary PTA
Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA
Yeokum Middle School PTSA

Scholarship Fund

Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA
Cambridge Elementary PTA
Center Middle School PTA
Espy PTA of Nixa
Grain Valley Grade & High PTA
Lee's Summit Council of PTA's
Northgate Middle PTSA
Portland Elementary PTA
Sherwood Elementary PTA
St. Joseph PTA Council
Sycamore Hills Elementary PTA
Yeokum Middle School PTSA

From 1/16/07 – 3/30/07

2007 Kids First Rallies Deemed A Success



Legislators share their views at the Three Trails (West) Rally.

By Donna Petiford, Missouri PTA state legislative chair (with input from Peggy Richey, Mary Oyler, Kathy O'Laughlin, Lisa Boeding, and Kathy Nevans)

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. All of our representatives were in agreement that scholarships, vouchers, or whatever the going name is this year would be detrimental to public education but they also felt that HB808 would make it to the floor for debate this year. Representative LeVota stated that we needed to start a very active letter writing campaign if we didn't want this to become law. They all agreed that there was a need in the constitution to change the passage of school bonds to a simple majority and that there was a

need to increase the percentage of school indebtedness to 20%. All legislators support representative Baker's legislation on Driver's Education and restricting the use of cell phones by drivers with provisional licenses.

In addition, representative Holsman shared information on legislation he is working on to change our current school system to year round school. He asked the audience for input which included concerns about how this would economically affect businesses that depended on high school students for employment and how this would affect summer entertainment businesses. Also, it was pointed out that currently schools receive 1 ½ the state reimbursement per day for summer school student attendance and wondered how would this affect the school districts' budgets.

Representative Holsman is also looking into legislation to address alternative certification for teachers. His proposal will require that alternative teaching certificate requirements be at a much higher standard than the legislation current being presented.

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 president Kathy Nevans and Representative Jason Grill at the Pony Express Rally



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

what sets us apart from every other country. 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.

Resolutions— There Is Still Time

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

He supports the Parent Effectiveness Training Program. An audience member that is a Springfield crossing guard asked why the school zone speed limits are not uniform across the state and made a suggestion that they all be 20 mph; Norr offered to help him pursue that issue. The Springfield rally was highlighted on the local news.

Also on February 2nd, the Three Trails East Rally was held in Blue Springs. Elected officials included senator Matt Bartle and representatives Paul LeVota, Brian Baker, Gary Dusenberg, and Brian Yates. The Blue Springs Council hosted the events. Representative Brian Baker was pleased and surprised to receive Missouri PTA's "A Better Missouri For Children" award at this rally.

Discussion was held regarding the questions posed by Missouri PTA (tuition tax credits, school bonding capacity, voting school bonds and drivers education and cell phone use by teen drivers). There was very little dissention among the legislators. They all agreed that the tuition tax credit bill would most likely pass because there seemed to be no other alternative solution for the St. Louis and Kansas City school districts.

The final rally (Foothills Region) was held in Cape Girardeau on March 1st. There

were seven people in attendance as well as one legislator. The legislator was in vocal support of the vouchers/tax tuition credit bill. A rousing discussion followed. He also disagreed with Missouri PTA's stand on simple majority for bonds as well as raising the bond indebtedness. It was quite an interesting evening. Those in attendance did not agree with his stand on vouchers but did seem to agree with his opinion on simple majority.

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 president elect Mary Oyler at the Three Trails (West) Rally

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.

**Announcing the 2007-2008
Membership Theme!**

www.mopta.org

POWER IN MEMBERSHIP...JOIN PTA

MISSOURI PTA REFLECTIONS PROGRAM

My Favorite Place 2006-2007 Winners

LITERATURE

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1	Kyllie Schmied	2nd	Ozark South Elementary PTA	Ozark R-VI/Ozark
2	Madelyn Dollar	2nd	Pershing Elementary PTA	St. Joseph Schools/Pony Express
3	Corey Bradford	K	Park Hill Prairie Point Elementary PTA	Park Hill Schools/Pony Express
4	Kelli Daugherty	2nd	Fairview Elementary PTA	Columbia Schools/Heritage
5	Gabrielle Purdy	2nd	Skaith Elementary PTA	St. Joseph Schools/Pony Express
HM	Sean Atkins	2nd	Mark Twain Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12/Ozark
HM	Rose Cadden	2nd	Eugene Field Elementary PTA	St. Joseph Schools/Pony Express
HM	Sydney Ernsor	2nd	Lucy Franklin Elementary PTA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
HM	Tábhitha Fritz	2nd	Chapel Lakes Elementary PTA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
HM	Kaylee Gamblin	2nd	Parkway Elementary PTA	St. Joseph Schools/Pony Express
HM	Daniel Lyu	2nd	O.N.E. PTA Ozark North Elementary	Ozark R-VI/Ozark
HM	Eleanor Panico	2nd	Hawthorn Elementary PTA	Park Hill Schools/Pony Express
HM	Kristofer Snodgrass	2nd	Renner Elementary PTA	Park Hill Schools/Pony Express
HM	Garrett Weaver	1st	Wanda Gray Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12/Ozark
HM	Katie Westberg	2nd	Clardy/Gashland Schools PTA	North Kansas City/Pony Express

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1	Delaney Travis	4th	Fairview Elementary PTA	Columbia Schools/Heritage
2	Kelsey McGrath	4th	Bladburn Elementary PTA	Independence / Three Trails
3	Brooke VanSickle	4th	Northview Elementary PTA	North Kansas City/Pony Express
4	Alexandria Hofmann	4th	Mill Creek Elementary PTA	Columbia Schools/Heritage
5	Jackson Morrill	5th	Cedar Creek Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit R-7/Three Trails
HM	Sean Cooley	3rd	Fox Hill Elementary PTA	North Kansas City/Pony Express
HM	Courtney Day	5th	James Lewis Elementary PTA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
HM	Anna Drexler	5th	Skyline Elementary PTA	Sedalia Schools/Heritage
HM	Ross Dryer	4th	Cordill-Mason Elementary PTA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
HM	Taylor Felz	3rd	Stonestate Elementary PTA	Raymore-Peculiar/Three Trails
HM	Abtree Groff	5th	Chapel Lakes Elementary PTA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
HM	Kaleb Harvey	5th	Line Creek Elementary PTA	Park Hill Schools/Pony Express
HM	Taylor Lentz	4th	Chinn Elementary PTA	Park Hill Schools/Pony Express
HM	Grace Mize	5th	Hawthorn Hill Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit R-7/Three Trails
HM	Haejung Moon	4th	Sequoiata Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12/Ozark

MUSICAL COMPOSITION

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1	Gordon Fang	2nd	Thomas Ulican Elementary PTA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
2	Eleanor Panico	2nd	Hawthorn Elementary PTA	Park Hill Schools/Pony Express
3	Allene Lux	1st	Meadow Lane Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit R-7/Three Trails
4	Tessa Danielle	1st	Lucy Franklin Elementary PTA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
5	Hannah Lawrence	2nd	Trialridge Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit R-7/Three Trails
HM	Hope Ammons	2nd	James Walker Elementary PTA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
HM	Jordan Andrews	2nd	Wilder Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12/Ozark
HM	Eryn Kennedy	1st	Union Chapel Elementary PTA	Park Hill Schools/Pony Express

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1	Haley Ferguson	5th	Lillian Schumacher Elementary PTA	Liberty Schools/Pony Express
2	Lois Yu	5th	Paxton Keeley Elementary PTA	Columbia Schools/Heritage
3	Andrew Olsen	4th	Meadowmere Elementary PTA	Grandview/Three Trails
4	Mingqi Kim	5th	Paxton Keeley Elementary PTA	Columbia Schools/Heritage
5	Destiny Roberts	4th	Timber Creek Elementary PTA	Raymore-Peculiar/Three Trails
HM	Natalie Frierking	4th	Wanda Gray Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12/Ozark
HM	Allison Johnston	4th	Rountree Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12/Ozark
HM	Emily Miller	4th	Fairview Elementary PTA	Columbia Schools/Heritage
HM	Sarah Moratz	5th	Renner Elementary PTA	Park Hill Schools/Pony Express
HM	Macey Rowland	3rd	Ozark East Elementary PTA	Ozark R-VI/Ozark
HM	Ashley Scott	5th	English Landing Elementary PTA	Park Hill Schools/Pony Express
HM	Trevor Stark	5th	Chinn Elementary PTA	Park Hill Schools/Pony Express
HM	Alexander Stubblefield	4th	Cordill-Mason Elementary PTA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
HM	Cindy Veng	4th	Lewis & Clark Elementary PTA	Liberty Schools/Pony Express

FILM/VIDEO PRODUCTION

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1	William Hume	1st	Longview Farm Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit R-7/Three Trails
2	Sydney VanDyke	1st	Eugene Field Elementary PTA	St. Joseph Schools/Pony Express
3	Macey Hoover	1st	Skyline Elementary PTA	Sedalia Schools/Heritage
4	Jaden Lorenc	2nd	Wanda Gray Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12/Ozark
5	Naimish Balaji	1st	Paxton Keeley Elementary PTA	Columbia Schools/Heritage

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1	Tēlyse Masacay	4th	Sequoiata Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12/Ozark
2	Kriston Hamilton	3rd	Ozark East Elementary PTA	Ozark R-VI/Ozark
3	Jourdain Evers	3rd	Park Hill Prairie Point Elementary PTA	Park Hill Schools/Pony Express
4	Austin Booth	5th	James Lewis Elementary PTA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
5	Darcie Kinnison	3rd	Mill Creek Elementary PTA	Columbia Schools/Heritage
HM	Jamee Badendick	4th	Hillcrest Elementary PTA	Belton Schools/Three Trails
HM	Kellie Beal	4th	Scott Elementary PTA	Belton Schools/Three Trails
HM	Sean Blackwell	4th	Lucy Franklin Elementary PTA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
HM	Elly Bray	4th	/Pony Express	
HM	Bailey Righi	3rd	Franklin Smith Elementary PTA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
HM	Aldon Ridsden	4th	Hillcrest Elementary PTA	Belton Schools/Three Trails
HM	Danielle Sanders	3rd	Hillcrest Elementary PTA	Belton Schools/Three Trails
HM	Ryan Smith	5th	English Landing Elementary PTA	Park Hill Schools/Pony Express
HM	Austin Twenter	3rd	Glendale Elementary PTA	Independence/Three Trails
HM	Haley Wen	4th	Fairview Elementary PTA	Columbia Schools/Heritage

MIDDLE/JUNIOR (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1	Carson Teague	8th	Antioch Middle School PTSA	North Kansas City/Pony Express
2	Emily Royer	6th	Moreland Ridge Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
3	Elizabeth Myrick	8th	Moreland Ridge Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
4	Ryan Rippee	7th	Cherokee Middle School PTSA	Springfield R-12/Ozark
5	Lara Seli	8th	Oscola PTA	Oscola Schools/Three Trails
HM	Whitney Barr	6th	Park Hill Plaza Middle School PTA	Park Hill Schools/Pony Express
HM	Lindsay Brockman	6th	Pershing Middle School PTSA	Springfield R-12/Ozark
HM	Alysa Carrell	7th	Strafford Middle School PTSA	Springfield R-12/Ozark
HM	Lindsay Cunningham	7th	Delta Woods Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
HM	Ryan Haynes	6th	Coleman Elementary PTA	St. Joseph Schools/Pony Express
HM	Kelsey Kelly	8th	Antioch Middle School PTSA	North Kansas City/Pony Express
HM	Allison Murray	7th	Ozark Junior & Senior High PTSA	Ozark R-VI/Ozark
HM	Jacob Ptachek	7th	Carver Middle School PTSA	Springfield R-12/Ozark
HM	Derek Rice	7th	Bode Middle School PTSA	St. Joseph Schools/Pony Express
HM	William Smith	6th	Sunny Vale Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1	Tyler Baker	10th	Blue Springs South High School PTSA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
2	Connie Cho	10th	Hickman Senior High School PTSA	Columbia Schools/Heritage
3	Laura Neff	12th	Central High School PTSA	St. Joseph Schools/Pony Express
4	Ashley Fowler	12th	Lafayette High School PTSA	St. Joseph Schools/Pony Express
5	Adrianna Kramer	11th	Oak Park High School PTSA	North Kansas City/Pony Express
HM	Jesse Barry	9th	Lee's Summit West High School PTSA	Lee's Summit R-7/Three Trails
HM	J.C. Casey	12th	Kickapoo High School PTSA	Springfield R-12/Ozark
HM	Emily Geiman	9th	North Kansas City High School PTA	North Kansas City/Pony Express
HM	Hannah Graves	12th	Oak Park High School PTSA	North Kansas City/Pony Express
HM	Amanda Johnson	11th	Blue Springs High School PTSA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
HM	Myra Milain	9th	Greenwood Lab School PTSA	Springfield R-12/Ozark
HM	Kristopher Miller Reese	11th	Center High School PTA	Center 58 Schools/Three Trails
HM	Kacee Mitchell	10th	William Chrisman High School PTSA	Independence/Three Trails
HM	Rachael Weinhold	10th	Central High School PTSA	North Kansas City/Pony Express
HM	Kayla Yager	11th	Lee's Summit High School PTSA	Lee's Summit R-7/Three Trails

MIDDLE/JUNIOR (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1	Brady Anderson	8th	Moreland Ridge Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
2	Kaylee Osborne	6th	Brittany Hill Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
3	Henry Panico	7th	Park Hill Congress Middle School PTSA	Park Hill Schools/Pony Express
4	Jillian Moore	6th	Woodland Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit R-7/Three Trails
5	Daphne Yu	6th	Smithton Middle School PTSA	Columbia Schools/Heritage
HM	Jonathan Ackmann	6th	Smithton Middle School PTSA	Columbia Schools/Heritage
HM	Christian Ackmann	7th	Smithton Middle School PTSA	Columbia Schools/Heritage
HM	Britni Nelson	8th	Yeokum Middle School PTSA	Belton Schools/Three Trails
HM	Lauren Troy	6th	Ozark Upper Elementary PTA	Ozark R-VI/Ozark

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1	Kelly Knack	10th	Park Hill South High School PTSA	Park Hill Schools/Pony Express
2	Victoria Yu	9th	West Junior High School PTSA	Columbia Schools/Heritage



MIDDLE/JUNIOR (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1	Josiah Berridge	6th	Bridger Middle School PTSA	Independence / Three Trails
2	Matthew Green	8th	Carver Middle School PTSA	Springfield R-12/Ozark
3	Shelby Gilmore	8th	Bridger Middle School PTSA	Independence/Three Trails
4	Nicolas Ellis	6th	Lake Contrary Elementary School PTA	St. Joseph Schools/Pony Express
5	Marisa Moore	6th	Brittany Hill Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
HM	Kelsie Fatino	7th	Brittany Hill Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
HM	Saamantha Hajjick	7th	Sunny Vale Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs R-IV/Three Trails
HM	Brandon Hurley	8th	Sedalia Middle School PTSA	Sedalia Schools/Heritage
HM	Robert Jones	8th	Yeokum Middle School PTSA	Belton Schools/Three Trails

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1	Scott King	11th	Oak Park High School PTSA	North Kansas City/Pony Express
2	Alexander Bear	12th	Central High School PTSA	St. Joseph Schools/Pony Express
3	Adam First	12th	Central High School PTSA	St. Joseph Schools/Pony Express
4	Michelle Wendlandt	9th	Lee's Summit High School PTSA	Lee's Summit R-7/Three Trails

Congratulations!

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 unit's 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:

Boone Trail Elementary PTA
 Dixon PTA
 Progress South PTA
 St. Genevieve Elementary PTA
 Wentzville Middle PTSA

Gateway Region:

Armstrong Elementary PTA
 Ethel Hedgeman Lyle Academy PTA
 Garrett Elementary PTA
 Gateway Institute of Technology PTA
 Grannerrann Elementary PTA
 Hazelwood West Middle School PTSA
 Jamestown Elementary PTA
 Jury Elementary PTA
 Larimore Elementary PTA
 McCurdy Elementary PTA
 Pattonville Assn. Gifted Education PTA
 Twillman Elementary PTA

Heritage Region:

Blue Ridge Elementary PTA
 Cedar Ridge Elementary PTA
 Eldon Elementary PTA
 Fairview Elementary PTA
 Gentry Middle (Annie Hawkins) PTSA
 Grant Elementary School PTA
 Hickman Senior High PTSA
 Horace Mann Elementary PTA
 Jefferson Junior High PTA
 New Bloomfield PTA
 Rock Bridge Elementary PTA
 Rock Bridge Senior PTSA
 Russell Blvd. Elementary PTA
 Sedalia Middle School PTA
 School of the Osage Jr. High PTA
 School of the Osage Lower Elementary
 School of the Osage Upper Elementary
 Shepard Blvd. Elementary PTA
 Smith Cotton High School PTA
 South Elementary PTA
 Southwest Elementary PTA
 Thomas Jefferson Middle School PTA
 West Junior High PTSA

Foothills Region:

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

Ozark Region:

Bailey Alternative High School PTSA
 Bingham Elementary PTA

Bolivar Intermediate School PTA

Bolivar Primary School PTA
 Boyd/Berry Elementary PTA
 Clever PTA
 Eugene Field Elementary PTA
 Fremont Elementary PTA
 Glendale High PTSA
 Greenwood Lab PTA
 Halfway Grade & High PTA
 Halltown (Miller East) PTA
 Holland Elementary PTA
 James A. Jeffries Elementary PTA
 John J. Pershing Elementary PTA
 John Thomas PTA of Nixa
 Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary
 Logan Rogersville Elementary PTA
 March C. Early Grade & H.S. PTA
 McGregor Elementary PTA
 Mt. Vernon Elementary PTA
 Miss High School PTSA
 Miss Jr. High PTSA
 Ozark East Elementary PTA
 Ozark Junior & Senior High PTSA
 Ozark Noah Elementary PTA
 Ozark South Elementary PTA
 Ozark Upper PTA
 Pipkin Middle School PTSA
 Portland Elementary PTA
 Sequiota Elementary PTA
 Sherwood Elementary PTA
 Sparta Grade & High PTA
 Strafford Grade & High Schools PTA
 Stafford Preschool PTA
 Wanda Gray Elementary PTA
 Watkins PTA
 Watkins Fairview PTA

Three Trails Region:

Belton High School PTSA
 Belvidere Elementary PTA
 Blue Hills Elementary PTA
 Bridle Ridge Intermediate PTA
 Buckner Elementary PTA
 Butcher Greene Elementary PTA
 G.A. Burke Elementary PTA
 Cambridge Elementary PTA
 Cedar Creek Elementary PTA
 Center Middle School PTA
 Center of Differentiated PTA
 Chapel Lakes Elementary PTA
 Clermont Elementary PTA
 Conn West Elementary PTA
 Condill Mason Elementary PTA
 Creekmoor Elementary PTA
 Delta Woods Middle School PTSA

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
 Norfleet Elementary PTA
 Off Elementary PTA
 Peculiar Elementary PTA
 Pleasant Lee Middle High PTA
 Proctor Elementary PTA
 Randall Elementary PTA
 Raytown South High School PTSA
 Red Bridge Elementary PTA
 Santa Fe Accelerated Elem. PTA
 Shull Elementary PTA
 Smith Hale Middle School PTA
 Sni A Bar Elementary PTA
 Southwood Elementary PTA
 Special Services Center PTA
 Sunny Pointe Elementary PTA
 Sunny Vale Middle School PTA
 Sycamore Hills Elementary PTA
 Underwood Elementary PTA
 Voy Spasm Jr. Elementary PTA
 Westridge Elementary PTA
 William Chrisman High School PTSA
 William Southern Elementary PTA
 William Yai Elementary PTA
 Woodland Elementary PTA
 Yeokum Middle School PTSA

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 PISA
 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 PTA
 Liberty Middle School PTA
 Liberty Oaks 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 PISA
 Park Hill Congress Middle School PTA
 Park Hill Day School
 Park Hill South High PTA
 Parkway Elementary PTA
 Plane City Middle School PTSA
 Platte City Schools PTA
 Plane County R 111 High School PTSA
 Plan Middle School PTA
 Shoal Creek Elementary PTA
 Southeast Elementary PTA
 South Valley Middle School PTA
 Union Chapel PTA
 Warren Hills Elementary PTA
 West Englewood PTA
 Winnwood Elementary PTA

Thanks for a Great Year!

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



"Elvis" entertains attendees of the Blue Springs Founders Day.

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, SJSJ 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!"



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

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!

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!

STUDENT CHALKBOARD

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 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.

Winning Reflections Entries



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 peggyp@mopta.org or 417-725-1778 and I would love to hear from you!

National PTA Convention in St. Louis June 28 - July 1: Dont Miss it!

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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



1212 Baltimore St.
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HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?



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!

ONLINE REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION at www.pta.org



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