

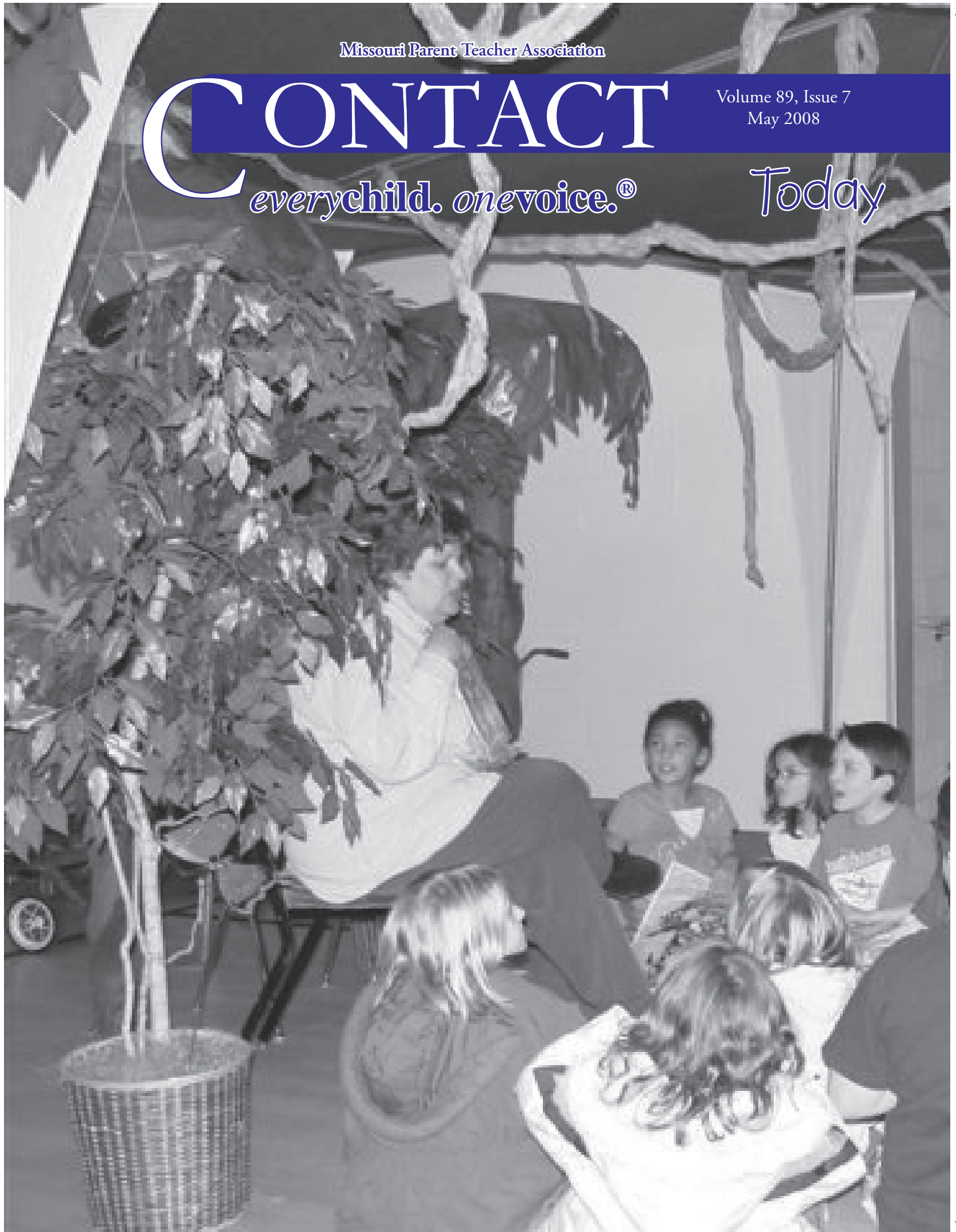
Missouri Parent Teacher Association

CONTACT

Volume 89, Issue 7
May 2008

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Today



Salute to Teacher – MY FAVORITE MOMENT

“One of my favorite moments was seeing the kids at the Blue Springs School of Economics. It was amazing watching them take all of the things that they had learned about in the classroom and put them into practice. They all worked together very well and made great economic decisions... they were great little entrepreneurs!” – *Rachel Vasko, 5th grade teacher, Sni-A-Bar Elementary*

“A student of mine since he was a freshman is a second year senior. He has had loads of struggles from getting out of gang related activities to being a father of two babies. This young man would come in early everyday and goof around on the computers before school and neglect his work. One early morning in October he came in and he had really been on my mind the previous day. I was tiring of always dragging and prodding him through each class he had with me. I said, “Good Morning, Cleavon I have come to a decision - I am no longer going to tell you to get your work done and bother you about your grades and being successful. I have decided to quit and leave you alone.” He looked up at me and said, “What!” “Oh no you don’t Ms. Mac.” “People like me need people like you to stay on tack. You can’t give up on me now. You have had my back all these years-no way!” “You better stay on me.” I wouldn’t know what to do if you didn’t push me to be better.” “You are my school mama and that is the way is has to be.” I just sat there and listened. When you think students aren’t listening and they don’t care about their futures think again. They are listening and they not only need our help and support academically but emotionally. Cleavon is in his last art course with me and he has become a leader. He has become an exceptional computer graphic artist. He is the first to finish a project and help others. He is always helping and encouraging his classmates. Everyday just seeing Cleavon reminds me why I teach.” – *Annette McDonald, Art Instructor, Hickman Mills High School*

“I have a female student who has amazing leadership qualities, but often leads others in the wrong direction. So I’ve been taking time to talk with her about her leadership gifts and I can see her really trying to use that gift to lead others in a good direction.” – *Marissa Mills, 6th grade Math Teacher, Smith Hale Middle School*

I was teaching junior high choir several years ago. I got a new student from a group home in seventh grade choir. She was friendly and very, very excited about singing. When our first concert came around, I sent a note home to parents and guardians with all the details. The girl came to my classroom door the next morning with a note from the group home leaders; she had tears in her eyes. The note told me that she could not participate in ANY extra-curricular activities. I couldn’t believe it. This young lady worked as hard or harder than any of my other students. Her attitude and behavior were just outstanding. I read the note and told her that I would call the group home and see if I could work something out but, unfortunately, she was not allowed to participate in that concert.

I started contacting the group home leaders in advance of every activity, asking that she be allowed to participate, and offering to personally supervise her at these events. Still she was not allowed to attend. I talked to my principal and he informed me that the group home rules would stand. I was disappointed but not as disappointed as that very sweet girl, who still gave her all each and every day in class. She would often linger after class to give me a hug and thank me for letting her sing. When I complimented her singing (which was very beautiful) in front of her classmates, she just beamed. Well our annual Christmas caroling was coming up and I was determined that she would participate. I called the group home and asked to setup a meeting with the leadership about this student. I think that they

assumed I was having trouble with her and agreed to meet. I prayed and prayed before this meeting that God would open their hearts. I literally begged them to let her participate in the caroling event and suggested that one of the leaders come with us. Of course, I insisted that that person also participate, telling them how much fun it would be.

The morning of the event came and the girl met me at my classroom door with a signed permission form and a huge smile. She probably sang loudest of all as we walked through neighborhood after neighborhood spreading Christmas cheer and lots of laughs. The group home leader was a little hesitant to sing with us at first but the junior high kids’ exuberance finally got to him and he joined in. That sweet girl sang and sang. It was phenomenal.

The next day she again met me at the door with a note from the group home sharing that she could participate in any upcoming choir events. We were both ecstatic! Later that year, she attended contest and received a I rating on both her solo and a girls ensemble (where she had started making some friends). She also shared with me on the bus ride home (with NO group home leader in attendance) that her parents were both in jail and she had no one to live with. My heart was broken for her. I was so glad that she had a way to express herself through music.

Sadly, less than a week later, she was transferred to a different group home in another area. I never had an opportunity to say goodbye to her but I will never forget the words she spoke to me as she was leaving the night of the Christmas caroling event - “Thank you so much for believing in me. Nobody else does.” I often wonder where she is and I pray that she is having a happy life. – *Peggy Preston, Computer Teacher, Century Elementary*



Cover photo:

Cameron PTSA

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CONTACT Staff

President/Publisher Mary Oyler

Editor Dorothy Gardner

Graphic Designer Olivia Gill

President's Message *By Mary Oyler, Missouri PTA President*



As May begins the end of the school year is fast approaching. Many exciting events are on the calendar for the children this last month of school. But, this also marks the end of another PTA year - a time to reflect on and celebrate your

accomplishments.

First of all, Missouri PTA would like to thank each of you for all of your hard work for the children and parents in your school community. Because of this work, parents were made to feel welcomed and needed in the school and the children were provided the opportunity to become more successful in school and to know that there are caring adults in their lives. Take time to enjoy all of these accomplishments – thank your parents and teachers and especially all of the members of your board for a job well done. But, also spend some time evaluating your programs and activities. Decide the most successful and look for ways to make them even better. Survey your community to determine what new activity or program would be of interest in the upcoming year.

Your new officers should be in place and working to appoint committee chairmen for next year. Missouri PTA hopes that these leaders were able to attend Leadership Conference the end of April, but if not watch for information about a Regional Conference in your area or a School of Information hosted by your local council. Also, please mark your calendar for our annual convention to be held October 18 & 19 in the Kansas City area. By attending these leadership-training opportunities, your unit is one step ahead of the game as they plan and work towards another successful PTA year.

The membership theme for the upcoming year is: We're Soaring to New Heights. . . Join PTA Today! I hope the theme inspires not only an increase membership, but also a desire to set high goals for quality programs for both the parents and students in your school community.

A vital part of a successful PTA is setting goals for the upcoming year and preparing a plan of action. As goals are discussed, please take time to review the Standards for Family-School Partnerships:

- Reach out to make all families welcome
- Work to improve effective communication

between home and school

- Help your families and school work collaboratively to improve student success
- Speak for every child in your school community
- Help parents and school staff become equal partners in school decision making that affect children and families
- Connect the community and all it has to offer with the students, families and staff

By including these standards in your program planning your unit will be focusing on the PTA Vision of "Making every child's potential a reality."

Congratulations on a wonderful year and best of luck as your unit plans for the upcoming year.

Bravo!!

To all our outgoing Unit and Council Officers, "Thank You" for all you have accomplished this past year. Your hard work and dedication has brightened many children's Today and improved their Tomorrows.

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.moapta.org

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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.

National PTA Office: 330 North Wabash Ave Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60611-3690
Phone: 312-670-6782 (670-NPTA), www.pta.org.
MO PTA 800-328-7330

Who We Are

PTA Vision

Making every child's potential a reality

PTA Mission ~ PTA is:

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

PTA Purposes

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

Our Members, Our Leaders-in-Training

By Jan Harp Domene, PTA National President



You don't have to be PTA national president to see the passion of this organization's members. I knew long before I took office that it was our membership's commitment to children which has

propelled PTA forward for over a century. But an organization doesn't thrive for 112 years on enthusiasm alone. Membership has enabled PTA to grow for generations because they are inspired and because they want to inspire others—that's how our membership becomes our leadership.

Nurturing our emerging leaders is important not only for the seamless operation of units from term to term, but it's also the means by which PTA remains relevant to the evolving masses that make up our nation's school communities. Developing leaders from within our membership ensures that our organization has a constant influx of new ideas worthy of the PTA mission.

It's never too early or too late to begin developing the next generation of PTA leaders. Newly elected PTA presidents can begin cultivating successors right away. By identifying several promising candidates and assigning roles or tasks which give them an opportunity to show their leadership potential, the entire unit can see who rises to the challenge. It is important not to favor any one candidate over another, however; there should always be a democratic process, rather than an "anointing," for choosing our new leaders.

Current leaders late in their terms can help develop leaders, too. Any time a PTA president has a meeting—with a school board member, state PTA leader, or potential community partner—that's a chance for an emerging leader to make new contacts or personally witness new, higher-level strategies.

Connect with the future of PTA: develop new leaders in your unit today! The destiny of a great organization is truly in your hands.

10 WAYS TO INCREASE YOUR PTA MEMBERSHIP

1. **DEVELOP** a month-by-month "Show your PTA card" privilege. For example, local merchants could give 10% off purchases, free soft drink with burger and fries, or free line of bowling when you purchase two. Or, PTA could give a discount on spirit wear purchases this month, free popcorn at movie night the next month, etc.
2. **PROMOTION:** Make sure your budget includes money for the promotion of membership.
3. **HOLD** a poster or slogan theme contest for students with a PTSA membership. Plan the contest with cooperation of the teachers at the end of this year for next August or September's membership drive.
4. **USE** a back-to-school teacher's luncheon to invite your teachers to join PTA.
5. **GIVE** away a token with each membership, such as a sticker, button, pin, pen or pencil inscribed with your PTA's name.
6. **START** your membership enrollment with a neighborhood parade; involve your students. They love it!
7. **ASK** local realtors to include welcome from PTA to new buyers with children.
8. **HOLD** a "new parent coffee get-together" – for parents of kindergarten and first graders to deal with first day trauma and an opportunity to join PTA.
9. **INCLUDE** with information that goes home to parents at the beginning of school, last year's PTA accomplishments along with this year's goals and plans.
10. **COUNCILS:** Plan a Council membership contest. Base awards on a criterion established at the planning meeting.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Congratulations!

The PTA Life Achievement Award is the highest PTA honor for service committed to children. These honorees are individuals who have demonstrated their willingness to continually go above and beyond with respect to children's issues. This year three individuals were chosen by PTA units to receive the PTA Life Achievement Award.

Our congratulations and deepest thanks go out to:

Annie Cockrum
nominated by the Portland PTA

Robert Collins
nominated by the 31st District PTA

Amanda Thompson
nominated by the Franklin Smith
Elementary PTA



Your decision to make a difference in the lives of children is appreciated by all.



Have you come across something interesting or useful in an issue of CONTACT? Chances are other members of your unit also share that same notion. Go ahead and spread the knowledge. Information in any of the CONTACT publications is available for use in your own PTA publication, be that a newsletter, handout or e-mail message. If you decide to pass this information along, and we hope you do, please give credit where credit is due. Let your readers know the piece came from Missouri PTA and who authored the piece, if a byline was present.

Founder's Day Donations

For well over a hundred years, PTA has spoken out, stood up and effected change in our children's welfare. We are proud to be the nation's largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the nation. Your unit's donations to the Founder's Day funds assist the PTA's day-to-day functions and are greatly appreciated.

Honor the Extraordinary

Volunteers go the extra mile everyday for PTA and what better way to show your units appreciation by honoring those extraordinary volunteers than with the Missouri PTA Distinguished Service Award. In addition to recognizing that special person's contributions, half of the \$25 fee goes directly into the Missouri PTA Scholarship Fund and the other half into the Missouri PTA general fund. Plan a special event or set aside time at your next meeting to honor your remarkable volunteers. Your honorees will receive a letter of recognition from the state president, a certificate, and a lapel pin. Look in the Tool Kit on page 80, Winter Packet on page 57 or on the www.mopta.org webpage for the form.

Say Hello to Our Newest Unit



Congratulations and welcome to the newest member of our PTA family, NRC Korte PTA. We are proud to have you as a part of our great organization and wish you great success.

WANTED!

A fresh and relevant school assembly!

- ★ Invite Sheriff Quick Draw to your elementary school to present **CARTOONS OF CHARACTER**, a 50-minute assembly featuring LIVE cartoon drawings and timely stories that define **HONESTY, RESPECT, and RESPONSIBILITY**.
- ★ Sheriff Quick Draw (*aka, Lyle Farquhar*), is a nationally recognized cartoonist and book illustrator. Through huge on-the-spot drawings, audience participation and humor, he will bring to life relevant values that will compliment your curriculum.
- ★ "It was one of the better assemblies we've had in years!"
Sarah, Teacher, N. Kansas City.

Call **816.858.7766** or e-mail cartoonsofcharacter@hotmail.com today to request a brochure or to book **YOUR** assembly!

Membership Thanks

CONGRATULATIONS to the following units who increased their membership in the 2007-2008 year (as of 3-01-08)!

FOOTHILLS REGION

Central Middle School PTA

GATEWAY REGION

Duchesne Elementary PTA
Barrington Elementary PTA
Grannemann Elementary PTA
Arrowpoint Elementary PTA
Keeven Elementary PTA
McNair Elementary PTA
Hazelwood East Senior High PTA
Hazelwood Central Middle School PTSA
Hazelwood North Middle School PTA
Cold Water Elementary PTA
Russell Elementary PTA
Hazelwood West Middle School
Hazelwood West High School PTSA
Rose Acres Elementary PTA
Ethel Hedgeman Lyle Academy PTA

HERITAGE REGION

Hickman Sr. High PTSA
Russell Blvd. Elementary PTA
West Junior High PTSA
Rock Bridge Elementary PTA
Ridgeway Elementary PTA
Blue Ridge Elementary PTA
Paxton Keeley Elementary PTA
Jefferson Jr. High School PTA
Two Mile Prairie PTA
Mill Creek Elementary PTA
Parkade Elementary PTA
Eldon Elementary PTA
Thomas Jefferson Middle School PTA
Osage High School
School of the Osage Upper Elementary
Parkview Elementary PTA
Skyline Elementary PTA
Southern Boone County PTA

MERAMEC REGION

Ste. Genevieve Elementary PTA
Crossroads PTA

OZARK REGION

Bois D'Arc Elementary PTA
Bolivar Primary School PTA
Bolivar Intermediate
Clever PTA
High Pointe PTA
Inman PTA of Nixa
O.N.E. Ozark North Elementary
Ozark East Elementary PTA
Ozark West Elementary PTA
Sparta G&H PTA
Cherokee Middle PTSA
Mark Twain Elementary PTA
James A. Jeffries Elementary PTA
Holland Elementary PTA
Jarrett Middle School PTA
Horace Mann Elementary PTA
Sunshine Elementary PTA
Pleasant View Elementary PTA
Bissett Elementary PTA
Weller Elementary PTA
Boyd School PTA
Central High School PTSA
Weaver Elementary PTA
Delaware Elementary PTA
Walt Disney PTA
Robberson Elementary PTA
Pershing Elementary PTA
Eugene Field Elementary PTA
Greenwood Lab PTA
Sequiota Elementary PTA
Glendale High PTSA
Hickory Hills Middle School
McBride Elementary PTA
Carver Middle School PTSA

Membership – A Year in Review

By Jennifer Casey, VP Membership

Days are flying by, and the end of this school year quickly approaches. It's time to look back and review how the year went. Having a successful year is determined differently by each unit. All units have their unique strengths and weaknesses and it is how your board worked with them that define whether your year can be called a success.

How do you think your unit did? Did you manage to reach 100% membership, increase your membership by one member or more, or even keep your membership equal with last year's? Did you have goals that you set and succeeded in meeting one or more of them? Did you create and introduce a new program or activity for your members? Were you able to meet all the requirements of a "Unit in Good Standing"? If you can say yes to any of these questions, then consider your year a success.

Whether you achieved your goals or fell just a little short, now is the time to record those accomplishments and suggestions for next year. Hopefully your unit maintains a procedure book for membership, but if not, do your unit's future membership chairs a favor and start one now. Even if your unit's membership chair is the same person again next year, writing down now what worked and what didn't can be a huge benefit in starting out next year strong.

The front page of any good procedure book should have your unit's ID number, Region name, Council & school district information, State PTA contact information and the National & State PTA's web address. It's also good idea to include the following information in a Membership Procedure book each year:

- Campaign theme (if you used one)
- All the ways you promoted membership
- Goals for the year & which ones were met
- Membership roster
- Awards applications turned in
- Most successful thing you did
- Suggestions for future years
- Helpful information received at Leadership Conference or Convention
- Resource information – contact names, numbers & websites
- Any other details are beneficial
- Incentives/benefits offered
- Promotion budget (if any)
- Membership total for the year
- Newsletter articles regarding membership
- Awards received
- Least successful thing you did

Recording all this information will help your unit either build on previous achievements or provide a valuable roadmap to future success. We look back each year on how much our children have grown and learned and celebrate their triumphs. As PTA leaders, we also need to look back and honor what we have learned and accomplished. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization, and by utilizing these lessons learned we have the ability to keep our membership growing and strong and stay successful in our advocacy for children.

Williams Elementary PTA
Pipkin Middle School PTSA
Pleasant View Middle PTSA

PONY EXPRESS REGION

Clinton County R-III PTA
Schumacher Elementary PTA
Shoal Creek Elementary PTA
Doniphon Elementary PTA
Manor Hill Elementary PTA
Liberty Junior High School PTSA
Ridgeview Elementary PTA
Franklin Elementary PTA
Liberty Oaks Elementary PTA
Meadowbrook Elementary PTA
Chouteau Elementary PTA
Topping Elementary PTA
West Englewood PTA
Linden West Elementary PTA
Davidson Elementary PTA
Gracemor Elementary School
Oak Park High PTSA
Fox Hill Elementary PTA
Crestview Elementary PTA
North Kansas City High PTA
North Platte PTA
Park Hill Prairie Point Elementary
Park Hill Day School PTA
Park Hill High PTSA
Hawthorn Elementary PTA
Graden Elementary PTA
Renner Elementary PTA
Chinn Elementary PTA
Union Chapel PTA

Barry Middle PTSA
Platte City Schools PTA
Platte County R-III High School PTSA
Spring Garden Middle School PTA
Robidoux Middle School PTSA
Parkway Elementary PTA
Bode Middle School PTA
Edison Elementary PTA
Bessie Ellison Elementary PTA
Webster PTA

THREE TRAILS REGION

Sni-A-Bar Elementary PTA
Chapel Lakes Elementary PTA
Lucy Franklin Elementary PTA
Blackburn Elementary PTA
Yeokum Middle School PTSA
Mill Creek Upper Elementary PTA
Thomas Ultican Elementary PTA
Moreland Ridge Middle School PTSA
Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA
Delta Woods Middle School PTSA
Sunny Pointe Elementary PTA
Sunny Vale Middle School PTSA
Liggett Trail Education Center
Blue Springs High School PTSA
Center High PTA
Buckner Elementary #265
Blue Hills Elementary PTA
Cler-Mont Elementary PTA
Sni-A-Bar Elementary PTA
Martin City K-8 PTA
Butcher-Greene Elementary School
Warford Elementary PTA

C.A. Burke Elementary PTA
Dobbs Elementary PTA
Ingels PTA
Bridger Middle School PTSA
Bingham Middle School PTSA
Thomas Hart Benton PTA
Santa Fe Trail Elementary
Independence Academy Campus
Bryant Elementary PTA
Luff Elementary PTA
Faxon Montessori PTA
Border Star Montessori PTA
Meadow Lane Elementary PTA
Lee's Summit Elementary PTA
Summit Pointe Elementary PTA
Highland Park Elementary PTA
Underwood Elementary PTA
Summit Lakes Middle High PTA
Prairie View Elementary PTA
Greenwood Elementary PTA
Osceola Grade High School PTA
Shull Elementary PTA
Timber Creek Elementary PTA
Stonegate Elementary PTA
Peculiar Elementary PTA
Raymore Elementary PTA
Eagle Glen Intermediate PTA
Creekmoor Elementary PTA
Norfleet Elementary PTA
Fleetridge Elementary PTA
University Academy Lower
Thank you to every unit for the work you are doing for the children of Missouri!

The Procedure Book A "MAP" FOR THE PTA ADVENTURE

By Susan Rupert, Regional Director

Think about this scenario. You have heard about this new and exciting place in town. They've got the best deals and fantastic opportunities. You're pumped and all set to go when suddenly you realize you have no idea where you are going. You don't know the name of the place, the address or phone number. You don't have directions or a map. You begin to feel "lost". What a let down! Imagine your frustration and disappointment. It is the same feelings new volunteers have when they are asked to join your unit's board as an officer or a chairman. They're pumped! They're excited and ready to make a difference for our children. Then suddenly they are told, "Sorry, no files" or "I wasn't given anything either". Their enthusiasm and excitement begin to fade. They feel "lost" without a "map". They don't have a procedure book, the "map" for their PTA Adventure.

According to the MO PTA Tool Kit, "a procedure book serves as a permanent record of

a PTA board member's activities and insures an ongoing PTA plan of work. It should contain material, information, and records needed for the board member's position. The book is passed on to the successor when leaving the position."

Each board member (officer, standing chairman or special event chairman) needs a procedure book. Make it clear it is their responsibility to maintain this important document.

- A loose-leaf (3-ring) binder is perfect. It is easy to add and remove pages.
- Unit funds can be (should be) used to purchase the binder, dividers, sheet protectors, etc. if provided for in the budget.
- The binder is the property of the local unit.
- Label the binder to show what position the information is for and the unit's name, i.e. Cameron PTSA Student Sponsor

- Use dividers with tabs and label your information so it is easy to locate, i.e. current year, previous year, bylaws, standing rules, this position, contacts.

Procedure file contents should include: (as outlined in the MO PTA Tool Kit)

(This list should be included in all procedure books)

- Names, addresses and phone numbers of past officers/chairmen having this position
- Bylaws (unit and/or council)
- Procedures (standing rules) of unit and/or council
- Job description of position
- Newsletters, handbooks and subscriptions (CONTACT and Our Children)
- Board Roster
- District and state counterparts' names and addresses
- Copies of:
 - *Relevant Correspondence
 - *Flyers
 - *Publicity
 - *Minutes and Treasurer's Reports
 - *Reports
 - *PTA Budget
- Reports of predecessors with evaluations and recommendations
- Budgetary needs for position

In addition, chairmen's procedure books should include:

- Names, address and phone numbers of committee members
- Approved plans of work that include goals, areas of interest, possible projects and/or programs.
- Reports of committee meetings and any other meetings attended. (Topic of meeting or event, speaker's name, film's name, people contacted, expenses, evaluation.)
- Year-end report including goals, activities, expenses, evaluations, and recommendation.

Keep your book up to date! If you were unable to fulfill your commitment on the board, would someone be able to take over your position tomorrow?

Leave a "paper trail" for those who are following behind you! Don't make your successor recreate the wheel. Precious time and energy is wasted during that process. Remember, volunteers are easier to find and keep when they have a "map" for their PTA Adventure.

Lowe's Tool Box Grant

By Stephanie Hicks, South Elementary PTA

South Elementary in Jefferson City, MO is located right next to a cemetery owned by a local church. Although the cemetery is beautiful for its historic value, South Elementary PTA decided they wanted a different backdrop next to the school. Denise McCorkle, '06-'07 president, and Sonya Garrison, spirit coordinator, decided they would do something about this. They applied for The Tool Box Grant and received \$2,800.00 to put slats in the chain link fence to mask the view of the cemetery from the parking lot at South Elementary.

The fence was measured and an order placed for the supplies costing approximately \$2,000.00. The rest of the money from the grant will be used for tall shrubbery to cover the other side of the cemetery fence. This way the children will no longer see the cemetery from the playground.

The masking of the cemetery not only beautifies the grounds at South Elementary but also gives a brighter livelier atmosphere to the school. They look forward to seeing the fence slats installed in early spring.

The Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.'s youth group, Kappa League, graciously volunteered to help install the slats in the chain link fence. The Savings South Elementary PTA received from the volunteer installation allows them the needed funds to purchase the shrubbery.

Janeese Trapp, historian, has also been instrumental in the successful fulfillment of the grant obligations. Her willingness to get involved in this project is commendable. She has been handling the photography and publicity for this project.

Any one can apply for the Lowe's toolbox grant. Preference is given to those schools whose focus is on grounds beautification, but it is not limited to this area. Check it out today at www.toolboxforeducation.com your PTA could receive a grant for up to \$5,000.00 dollars.



Parent Involvement A NEW WAY OF LEADING

By Barb Gilmore, VP of Programs

What does Parent Involvement really mean? Who should it include? Those parents or caregivers just starting out with young children in kindergarten have a long and wonderful experience ahead but who says you need to stop helping children, or that you can't go back at any time in your life to enrich the lives of children with your experiences. Parents, kids, schools, and communities are the ones who benefit from everyone being involved.

After reading the ideas from the four areas below, you'll see that a new way of leading shifts the focus from what schools should do to involve parents to what parents, schools, and communities can do together to support student success.

Here is a new way of leading and building family – school partnerships for student success.

Involvement programs that link to learning improve student achievement. Student learning improves more when parent and community involvement is high. Activities to promote learning might be *family nights on math or literacy - *family/teacher conferences that involve students - *or family workshops on planning for college.

Speaking up for children protects and promotes their success. It can't be said often enough that research findings show parent(s) or significant adults that are active in their child's educational experience in the home and the school contribute to a student's success academically and socially in school education.

The more families advocate for their children, the longer their children stay in school.

Families or significant adults should *become knowledgeable about the operations of schools and the laws that govern those operations - *be confident about their ability to work with schools - *expect only the best from their children and for their children - *join PTA.

All families can contribute to their children's success. Regardless of race/ethnicity, class or parents' level of education, student success improves with family involvement. School staff/administrators, along with parents, must buy into believing that by working together great involvement can happen! If parents and school staff do a few of the following, we can promote children's academic success by *teaching the importance of education and find out what your children are expected to know - *sending children to school ready to learn - *making parent involvement a priority and removing barriers for involvement - *sharing decision-making power and working to understand differences.

Community organizing gets results. Community members, businesses and organizations can improve learning. These partners could *provide expanded learning opportunities - *build broad-based support for increased school funding - *and provide quality after-school programs if needed.

To reflect the shifting focus from what schools should do to involve parents to what parents, schools, and communities can do

together, and the recent updated research, the National PTA has updated its National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs. Listed below are the new, renamed standards.

PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

Standard 1: Welcoming all families into the school community – Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.

Standard 2: Communicating effectively – Families and school staff engages in regular, meaningful communication about student learning.

Standard 3: Supporting student success – Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

Standard 4: Speaking up for every child – Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

Standard 5: Sharing Power – Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

Standard 6: Collaborating with the community – Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

So be a part of A New Way of Leading to build even better family-school partnerships! For more information about programs that promote family-school partnerships, contact Missouri PTA or visit www.pta.org.

Keep Them Safe RESOURCES FOR ALL

The National Crime Prevention Council has developed a website packed full of helpful safety tips and tools. Once online you can download a variety of items including Webinar presentations on Preventing Teen Identity Theft and Generation MySpace: Making Smart Decisions. Brochures and tip sheets on a variety of prevention topics are available for free. While the materials are copyrighted as long as the text and the National Crime Prevention Council's credit line has not been altered, you are able to reproduce as many copies as needed. In fact, you are encouraged to do so. The only way for this information to be effective is to get it in the hands of community members.

Some of the brochure topics available include:

- School Safety (A Dozen Things Students/Parents/Teachers/Principals Can do to Stop School Violence)
- Conflict management (Bullies: A Serious Problem for Kids & Calling All Hotheads – Tips on Keeping Cool in an Angry World)
- Technology (Safe and Secure in an Electronic World, A Family Guide to Using the Internet & Safe Surfing for Teens)
- Illegal Substances (Don't Lose a Friend to Drugs & Don't Go Up in Smoke)
- Child Safety (Raising Streetwise Kids: A Parent's Guide, At Home Alone: A Parent's Guide & Talking With Children About Violence)
- Teens (Road Rules, How to Help a Troubled Friend & Dangers of Drinking)

Keeping children safe can often seem overwhelming. Parents and teachers need to be equipped with the right tools to meet the task head on. If you are planning a program on safety, stop by the website for some great information. Many of the resources are also available in Spanish. Point your browser to www.npc.org and check out the site today.

Thank you for your support of the Scholarship Fund

- Sycamore Hills Elementary PTA
- Bingham Elementary PTA
- Eastwood Hills Elementary PTA
- Show Me State PTA
- Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA
- Santa Fe Accelerated Elementary PTA
- Hazelwood Middle PTSA
- St. Joseph PTA Council
- Yeokum Middle School PTSA
- Delta Woods Middle School PTSA
- Bingham Middle School PTSA

"The Amazing Rain Forest"

By Susan Rupert, Regional Director

It was a trip to the rain forest this year when the Cameron PTSA held their Annual Grade Reading Adventure on Monday, March 3, at Parkview Elementary School in Cameron.



Over 50 students moved through stations to learn about different animals that make the rain forest their home and had the opportunity to taste various foods that grow there too. A brief lesson about the four "floors" of the rain forest was then taught through the reading of Bonnie Worth's, "If I Ran the Rain Forest," from the Cat in the Hat's Learning Library Series. They made a monkey door hanger to take home and enjoyed a pizza dinner.

This is the fourth year the Cameron PTSA has held this event. It was first

started to show their support of the Reading First Program that is used for Kindergarten through third grade. This event is a huge success because of the wonderful parent volunteers and student members of the Cameron PTSA.



Take 25

This May 25, observe National Missing Children's Day, hosted annually by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children to remind families and communities to make child safety a priority.

- Host a bike rodeo, Internet Safety workshop, CPR training, or other safety event.
- Issue a special edition of the PTA newsletter focusing on child safety.
- Start a safety and security assessment or bullying prevention program at your school.
- Meet with decision makers and elected representatives about child safety concerns.
- Spend 25 minutes talking to your children about staying safer.

Visit www.pta.org/take25 for other great ideas.



Creating Healthy Lifestyles PTA STYLE

By Shana Ryan, CLE Health & Safety Chair, Chapel Lakes Elementary

In September of 2007, Chapel Lakes Elementary was selected as one of the winners in the National PTA Healthy Lifestyles program and was awarded a \$500.00 grant to implement our proposed "CLE Project: Family Health". Chapel Lakes is located in Lee's Summit and is part of the Blue Springs School District.

Our "CLE Project: Family Health" program promotes healthy lifestyles by emphasizing nutrition and exercise as part of a daily recommended routine. We provide in our regular column in the "Cheetah Chatter" school newsletter, written recipes and useful shopping suggestions to encourage better eating habits, as well as health and safety tips provided by a physician on our committee. The "CLE: Project: Family Health" team has also coordinated on-campus events such as hip-hop dance classes and boot-camps. While student and family attendance has been terrific for these activities, our involvement in the International Walk to School Day had more than 300 students, parents and staff participate. The goal of these activities is to teach various fitness and dietary techniques with a focus on fun and safety.

Future "CLE Project: Family Health" events include an Earth Day walk and neighborhood beautification project scheduled for April 22nd. A 5k/1k family run/walk involving our local community is planned for September and will continue with ongoing nutritional and safety advice.

The Healthy Lifestyles Award has enabled our team to create, promote and conduct very successful activities, which we hope to continue throughout the decade. It is through this program we hope to instill in our children the ability to make healthy choices throughout their lives.

Treasurer's End of Year Responsibilities

By Pat Brune, Missouri PTA Treasurer

The treasurer should start planning for the end of the unit's fiscal year. You can find your fiscal year in your bylaws. Now is the time to make sure you have paid all your dues to the state office, and given any monies to scholarship funds, building funds, founder's gift that were approved in the budget. Make sure you have paid all outstanding bills, gifts, etc. Then you can start preparing for your annual report and getting the books ready for the audit.

At the last meeting of the year you should give your Annual Report. Samples of this were sent to your president in the Winter Packet on page 34. This is a summary of all income and expenses incurred throughout the fiscal year. This is also when your audit committee should be elected. (Check your bylaws to determine how this committee is formed and when your fiscal year ends.)

Even if you are continuing on as treasurer the books should be audited each year. And if you are the new treasurer you should never take over the books unless they have been audited. Ask your president for their winter packet if they haven't already given it to you. On pages 35 & 36 this process is explained, with page 35 providing a sample of an audit report that should be sent to the State Office by November 1st, 2008. Also remember that you cannot pay any bills after you have closed the books for the audit.

Please note that all units are required to file some form of a 990 this year. If you normally had gross receipts less than \$25,000 you weren't required to file unless you received a form from the IRS. This has changed and you are now required to file a form 990-N Electronic Notice (e-postcard). Visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov and look under Charities & Non-Profits Tab for more information on this.

Remember if you have given a treasurer's report each month, balanced the check book monthly, and prepare an annual report you will have everything you need to file your 990's. And it will help with the budget processes this summer.

If you have any questions or need help please contact Pat Brune, State Treasurer, patb@mopta.org or 816-880-0412.



MISSOURI PTA 2007-2008 Reflections Program

By Toni Wiechmann, Missouri PTA Reflections Chair

On behalf of Missouri PTA, a huge thank you goes out to all students and PTA units for participating in this year's Reflections program. As one of National PTA's largest sponsored programs, Reflections provides opportunities for students in preschool through twelfth grade to express themselves through the arts. Students from across the state submitted over 12,800 entries, representing 168 PTA units. The number of entries forwarded to the state level of judging included: 444 Literature entries, 442 Visual Arts entries, 71 Musical Composition entries, 249 Photography entries, 28 Dance Choreography entries, 51 Film/Video entries. A listing of Missouri winners can be found on page nine. Congratulations to every student participant and to each student winner at the state level! The first place entries are currently being judged at the National PTA level. The listing of National PTA winning entries should be distributed in late April.

Missouri PTA would also like to thank this year's judges! All of these professionals donated their time and expertise to view and judge the many state Reflections entries. Our judges for this year were: Literature: Mrs. Karen McDonald, Mrs. Rachel Vasko, Mrs. Elizabeth Faherty, Dr. Bryan McDonald; Musical Composition and Dance Choreography: Mrs. Kathy Howard; Visual Arts: Mrs. Hallie Pals, Mrs. Angie Smith, Mrs. Kathy Argotsinger; Film/Video: Mr. Rob Fridge; Photography: Mr. Kurt Jaques, Mrs. Karen Welle, Mr. Ron Anderson, Mrs. Tammy Wall. Thank you also to H&H Color Lab of Raytown and Mr. Ron Anderson for the digital photography of our first place state winners' in the categories of Visual Arts and Photography.

We look forward to hosting all of our state winners at the Student Showcase on Saturday, April 26th from 2:30 to 4:00 pm at the Missouri PTA Leadership Conference. It's not too early to start planning now for your artwork in next year's competition when the theme is "Wow..."



Missouri Reflections Program 2007-2008 Winners

“I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY...”

LITERATURE

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

- 1 Elena Harrison, Logan-Rogersville Elem PTA
- 2 Faiyaz Hossain, Ridgeway Elementary PTA
- 3 Naimish Balaji, Paxton Keeley Elem PTA
- 4 Madden Murfin, Ozark West Elem PTA
- 5 Isabella Martinez, Oakwood Manor Elem PTA

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

- 1 Graham Sherard, Eugene Field Elem PTA
- 2 Abby Rein, Northview Elementary PTA
- 3 Shannon Best, Liberty Oaks Elem PTA
- 4 Kaytlan Uhlman, Sunshine Elem PTA
- 5 Abigail Perkins, Skyline Elementary PTA

MIDDLE/JUNIOR (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

- 1 Abby Peoples, Plaza Middle School PTA
- 2 Nick Dungy, Sunny Vale Middle Sch PTSA
- 3 Trysta Schultz, Skaith Elementary PTA
- 4 Lydia Smith, Ozark Upper Elem PTA
- 5 Trent Mullins, Pershing Middle Sch PTSA

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

- 1 Jesse Caylor, Oak Park High School PTSA
- 2 Richard Marks, Raytown High Sch PTSA
- 3 Michael Adams, Blue Sprgs South H.S. PTSA
- 4 Ellen Sherman, Blue Sprgs H.S. PTSA
- 5 Clarice Miller, Park Hill South H.S. PTA

MUSICAL COMPOSITION

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

- 1 Connor Wangsgard, Lucy Franklin Elem PTA
- 2 Dawson Reith, Meadowbrook Elem PTA
- 3 Dane Workman, Voy Spears Jr. Elem PTA
- 4 Holly Roustio, William Yates Elem PTA
- 5 Baylie Teela, Lillian Schumacher Elem PTA

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

- 1 Shannon Reynolds
- 2 Paige Patterson, Wanda Gray Elem PTA
- 3 Alice Yu, Paxton Keeley Elementary PTA
- 4 Lindsey Wilkerson, Logan-Rogersville Elem PTA
- 5 Emily Chu, Northview Elem PTA

MIDDLE/JUNIOR (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

- 1 Kaylee Osborne, Brittany Hill Middle Sch PTSA
- 2 Jillian Moore, Pleasant Lee Middle Sch PTA
- 3 Sabriana Dinwiddle, Pipkin Middle Sch PTSA
- 4 Daphne Yu, Smithton Middle Sch PTSA
- 5 Henry Panico, Park Hill Congress MS PTSA

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

- 1 Victoria Yu, West Jr High School PTSA
- 2 Michael Putthoff, Blue Sprgs H.S. PTSA

PHOTOGRAPHY

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

- 1 Katelyn Low, James Lewis Elementary PTA
- 2 Sam Engelmyer, Logan-Rogersville Elem PTA
- 3 Mya Writer, Ozark North Elementary PTA
- 4 Logan O'Hara, Rountree Elementary PTA
- 5 Elleigh Spragg, Logan-Rogersville Elem PTA

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

- 1 Ridley Scott, Ozark North Elem PTA
- 2 Katelyn Arthur, Eugene Field Elem PTA
- 3 Madelyne Hartleroad, Platte City Schs PTA
- 4 Austin Jones, Highland Park Elem PTA
- 5 Alissa Stott, Line Creek Elementary PTA

MIDDLE/JUNIOR (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

- 1 Micayla Miles, Logan-Rogersville Elem PTA
- 2 Ashley Brown, Sunny Vale M.S. PTSA
- 3 Elizabeth Peoples, Park Hill Congress MS PTSA
- 4 Lauren Downie, Central HS/Accelerated MS PTSA
- 5 Conner Wilkerson, Cherokee MS PTSA

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

- 1 Aaron Fiddelke, Oak Park High Sch PTSA
- 2 Thomas Nelson, Central High Sch PTSA
- 3 Quinn Reader, Central High School PTSA
- 4 Rachel Woodward, Raytown H.S. PTSA
- 5 Austin Kowan, Raytown High Sch PTSA

VISUAL ARTS

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

- 1 Julie Sharpe, Laura Ingalls Wilder Elem PTA
- 2 Ava Scott, Ozark North Elementary PTA
- 3 Brock Huyck, Mark Twain Elem PTA
- 4 Reagan Van Eaton, Mill Creek Elem PTA
- 5 Dalton Basnell, Woodland Elem PTA

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

- 1 Avery Prine, Lillian Schumacher Elem PTA
- 2 Kevin O'Brien, Clardy-Gashland Schs PTA
- 3 Meredith Sharp, Greenwood Lab PTA
- 4 Kaleb Barker, High Pointe PTA
- 5 Emily Vandel, Lewis and Clark Elem PTA

MIDDLE/JUNIOR (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

- 1 Aaron Schmidt, Coleman Elementary PTA
- 2 Jennifer Andrews, Delta Woods MS PTSA
- 3 Sylvia Majeres, Bode Middle School PTA
- 4 Eric Andrews, Delta Woods MS PTSA
- 5 Lauren Wallace, Gentry MS PTSA

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

- 1 David Horvath, Central High Sch PTSA
- 2 Abby Sun, Hickman High School PTSA
- 3 Amanda Reed-Gossman, Belton HS PTSA
- 4 Caitlyn Duckwork, Oak Park HS PTSA
- 5 Caitlyn Duckwork, Oak Park HS PTSA

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

- 1 Ava Scott, Ozark North Elementary PTA
- 2 Emily Downie, Greenwood Lab Sch PTA
- 3 Katelyn Frahm, Hickory Hills Elem PTA
- 4 Olivia Slatinsky, McGregor Elem PTA

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

- 1 Brooklyn Wattenberger, Lindbergh Accelerated Elem PTA
- 2 Ridley Scott, Ozark North Elem PTA
- 3 Madeline Chamber, Woodland Elem PTA
- 4 Hannah Israelite, Voy Spears Jr. Elem PTA
- 5 Abby McGregor, Lewis and Clark Elem PTA

MIDDLE/JUNIOR (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

- 1 Sarah Adams, Delta Woods MS PTSA
- 2 Megan Lee, Brittany Hill MS PTSA
- 3 Lexy Kadey, Pershing Middle School PTSA
- 4 Marissa White, Brittany Hill MS PTSA
- 5 Lindsey Brockman, Pershing MS PTSA

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

- 1 Vitoria Paolillo, Central HS PTSA

FILM/VIDEO PRODUCTION

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

- 1 William Hume, Longview Farm Elem PTA
- 2 Bryce Bosnell, Eugene Field Elem PTA
- 3 Cameron Chesik, Logan-Rogersville Elem PTA
- 4 Riley Madden, Greenwood Lab Sch PTA
- 5 Jayson Lyons, Matthews Elementary PTA

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

- 1 Erin Bachus, Hickory Hills Elem PTA
- 2 Cameron Jordan, Woodland Elem PTA
- 3 Rachel England, Line Creek Elementary
- 4 Marie Kurucz, James Lewis Elem PTA
- 5 Darcie Kinnison, Mill Creek Elem PTA

MIDDLE/JUNIOR (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

- 1 Maddie Niemann, Brittany Hill MS PTSA
- 2 Kaitlyn Kohne, Brittany Hill MS PTSA
- 3 Meg Erickson, Carver Middle Sch PTSA
- 4 Lyrie Davis, Brittany Hill MS PTSA

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

- 1 Robert Hulme, Raytown High Sch PTSA
- 2 Madison Turner, Raytown High Sch PTSA
- 3 Courtney Lutman, Raytown HS PTSA



Child Advocacy Day

JANUARY 29, 2008 • JEFFERSON CITY, MO

By Donna Petiford, VP of Legislation & Advocacy

Despite the cold weather on January 29, 2008, child advocates from around the state gathered at the capital to show their support for the health, education, safety and well being of children. The crowd included 5 delegates from the Missouri PTA Board of managers (Mary Oyler, President; Wendy Jackson, President-elect; Donna Petiford, VP-Dept. of Legislation and Advocacy; Stephanie Miller, State Legislative Chair and Teddy Tatum, Health and Safety Chair) who showed their support for the 26th annual Child Advocacy Day, sponsored by the Missouri Alliance for Children. Participants had the opportunity to meet with their elected officials, visit exhibit booths, and attend workshops on a variety of children's issues.

During the Welcome and Overview of the Day three people were awarded the Child Advocate of the Year Award—Beth Griffin, Corrine Patton and Deborah Scott. Many legislators welcomed us to this year's Advocacy Day including Representatives Sara Lampe and Rachel Storch and Senators Norma Champion and Jolie Justus. We were informed about SB1000 a Foster Care bill that would create an educational liaison in all districts with foster care children. We were informed that over 70,000 children no longer have health care coverage and considerably more money is spent on our prisoners than our students. Senator Champion said that our most important citizens are our children and they are also our greatest resource. In addition, we were invited to come to Jefferson City with one legislator saying "it's better to have something done for you than to have something done to you."

Donna Petiford and Stephanie Miller attended a workshop presented by Dr. Peggy Pearl, professor of Early Childhood and Family Development at Missouri State University. Dr. Pearl presented a list of bills of impacting children and families.

Some highlights include:

- HB 1407-Deeken-limits petition circulators to be registered voters and Missouri Residents.
- HB 1683-Meiners- revises the definition of bullying to include cyber-bullying (needed for law enforcement).
- HJR 43-Portwood-A constitutional change that would have the effect of more restrictions

on government spending.

Dr. Pearl pointed out that it is estimated that an investment of \$1 in early childhood education creates a return of \$17; and that it is an official (unspoken) rule that the number of students that are a grade-level or more behind in reading by grade three equals the number of prison beds needed for future planning.

Mary Oyler and Teddy Tatum attend a workshop titled "Engaging Your Community" presented by representatives from LINC – Local Investment Commission including Bill Rodgers, Rick Bell and Brad Smith. They talked about how to motivate people to stand up and take a stand on issues in their local communities, shared information about Caring Communities in the Kansas City Area. Many schools have both Caring Communities and PTA. Brad Smith of the Independence School District is being asked to present at the 2008 Convention – he presented great strategies about how to reach out to community members.

Wendy Jackson attended 2 workshops entitled Advocacy. The presenter talked about the process of taking a position and walking it through the process of becoming a law. The presenters shared with the attendees that each and every one of us can and should become involved with the legislative process. The presenters gave pointers on how to get your message out to your legislators and how to get it heard.

Stephanie Miller and Donna Petiford visited the offices of Rep. Sara Lampe, Rep. Bob Dixon and Rep. Charlie Dennison. They spoke to each about tax credits, third party child abuse reporting and other Missouri PTA legislative priorities. Mary Oyler visited the offices of Rep. Michael Brown, Rep. Craig Bland, Rep. Will Kraus, Senator Victor Callahan, Rep. Paul LeVota, Rep. Judy Baker and Senator Matt Bartle. Most of the legislators visited by Oyler were not in but the MOPTA legislative priorities brochure was left in each office. There was conversation with Will Kraus about the Parent Involvement Week Bill as well as the Third Party Child Abuse Reporting Bill. Wendy Jackson visited the offices of Rep. Jay Wasson, Rep Mike Cunningham, Rep. Raymond Weter, and Senator Dan Clemens. Although Rep. Wasson was the only legislator that she was able to talk to she left our legislative priorities with each of their offices.



Leap into New Opportunities!

MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

CONGRATULATIONS to the winner of our winter second push Membership Challenge! Kickapoo High School PTSA, Ozark Region was drawn to win to free 2008 Leadership Conference registration.

"Way to go!" also goes out to these additional units who took the challenge to "Leap into New Opportunities" and increased their membership by 20 members or more between January 3rd and March 1, 2008!

- Belton High School PTSA
- Benton High School PTSA
- Blackburn Elementary PTA
- Bridger Middle School PTSA
- Cambridge Elementary PTA
- Chapel Lakes Elementary PTA
- Christian Ott Elementary PTA
- Cold Water Elementary PTA
- Fleetridge Elementary PTA
- Glendale Elementary PTA
- Hazelwood Central High School PTSA
- Hazelwood Middle School PTSA
- Heritage Elementary PTA
- Jana Elementary PTA
- Liberty High School PTSA
- Lucy Franklin Elementary PTA
- New Mark Middle School PTA
- Ozark West Elementary PTA
- Paxton Keeley Elementary PTA
- Raytown Middle School PTSA
- Robidoux Middle School PTSA
- Santa Fe Trail Elementary PTA
- Schumacher Elementary PTA
- Skaith Elementary PTA
- Sni A Bar Elementary PTA
- Stonegate Elementary PTA
- Sunny Pointe Elementary PTA
- Sunny Vale Middle School PTSA
- Sycamore Hills Elementary PTA
- Thomas Hart Benton Elementary PTA
- Truman High School PTSA
- Webster PTA

*Eligible units had dues turned into State Office by January 2, 2008 equal to at least 50% of their last year's (2006-2007) membership. New units chartered by June 30, 2007 were also eligible.

State PTA Leaders Visit Capitol Hill, TAKE ACTION FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION

More than 200 state PTA leaders from across the country represented children and families nationwide in Washington, DC, during the National PTA Legislative Conference February 26-28, 2008. Missouri PTA leaders Mary Oyler (President), Donna Petiford (VP-Advocacy and Legislation) and Stephanie Miller (State Legislative Chair) represented Missouri PTA's 80,000 members on Capitol Hill to bring attention to education and family issues.

Your state PTA leaders met with Senator Claire McCaskill and Representative Roy Blunt as well as aides to Sen. Kit Bond, Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, Rep. Ike Skelton, Rep. Sam Graves and Rep. Jo Ann Emmerson to discuss key topics including child nutrition and the School Lunch Protection Act, PTA's parent involvement legislative initiative as part of the reauthorization of the Elementary And Secondary Education Act-No Child Left Behind, and funding for education and child related programs.



COURTESY OF SEN. McCASKILL

In addition to taking on "the Hill", state PTA leaders received training on grassroots outreach efforts, and the basics of the legislative process.



COURTESY OF NATIONAL PTA

Another highlight of the event included keynote speaker Daniel Pink, author of the book *A Whole New Mind*, a *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and *BusinessWeek* bestseller. Pink, former chief speechwriter for Vice President Al Gore, spoke about the rise of right-brain thinking in modern economies. The following excerpt from Pink's book summarizes his discussion: "The last few decades have belonged to a certain kind of person with a certain kind of mind-computer programmers who could crank code, lawyers who could craft contracts, MBAs who could crunch numbers. The future belongs to a very different kind of person with a very different kind of mind-creators and empathizers, pattern recognizers and meaning makers. These people-artists, inventors, designers, storytellers, caregivers, consolers, big picture thinkers-will now reap society's richest rewards and share its greatest joys...We need to prepare our children for their future, not for our past".

National PTA presented the PTA Congressional Voice for Children award to Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Congressman James E. Clyburn of South Carolina. PTA's Outstanding Advocacy Awards were given to Utah PTA (for successfully defeating the state's Education Voucher Referendum) and San Ramon Valley (CA) Council of PTAs (for a comprehensive advocacy program that includes 31 PTA units). Missouri PTA was recognized as a state award nominee for the establishment of the Regional Kids First Rallies.

With nearly 6 million members, National PTA is the largest volunteer parent organization in the United States. Since its' founding in 1897, National PTA has prided itself on being a powerful voice for children, a relevant resource for parents, and a strong advocate for public education.

Special Thanks

Thank you to all of the delegates that attended Leadership Conference in April held in Independence.

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 George K. Baum & Associates for their sponsorship of the Membership Lunch.



If you build it they will come

By Dorothy Gardner, Editor

Wonderful things happen when great people get together and brainstorm. If it wasn't true we wouldn't have so many saying directly referring back to this notion, 'two heads are better than one', 'the more the merrier'. Last year, while Manor Hill's PTA board was brainstorming a fantastic idea emerged. Sure great ideas happen all the time, but often it ends there. Unwilling to let this great idea fall into oblivion, the Manor Hill PTA buckled down their thinking caps and went to work. With great care the board mulled the idea over, allowing it to grow and take shape, until at last it matured into what not only became Manor Hill's Healthy Kids Day but also the 2007 winner of the Missouri PTA Health and Safety Education Grant.

A major goal of the Manor Hill PTA had been to pay for the installation of a walking trail wrapping around the school. Envisioned as a means to promote healthy lifestyles, the PTA worked hard fundraising and planning with the Liberty School District to make this goal a reality. Once reached, the board then set down in a brainstorming session to come up with a way to officially introduce the walking trail, one might say, create a grand opening event. Looking to their motto as a guide, "building a community for our children", the board aspired to include not only the school's children and their families but also the entire community. For the walking trail was never indented solely for school use. PTA and District leaders saw this addition to their school as an opportunity to provide a resource to benefit the entire community for many years to come.

As we all know great ideas don't just become great events. The board drew up a plan of what they wanted to include, focusing on activities centered around the subjects of children's health and safety. Numbers were crunched until a budget was formulated providing the monetary means to back up the plan. Committees were developed and volunteers rounded up. Looking to their neighbors to the west, they contacted Alexander Doniphan PTA and invited them to get involved and join in the celebration. Promotional flyers were designed and distributed, announcements broadcasted and articles in both PTA's newsletters were written. If there was a family at Manor Hill or Alexander Doniphan who hadn't heard about the upcoming Healthy Kids Day they surely must have been living under a rock. Come rain or shine, on April 28th, 2007, the place to be was the Manor Hill Elementary School playground.

Donning their trusty sneakers and bubbling with anticipation, students from both schools kicked off the event with a bang participating in a "kid's fun run." Utilizing the newly paved

walking trail as the track, the run's focus was shifted from the traditional 'winning' to a new way of thinking, promoting exercise as fun. However this was just the beginning. Ensuing was two hours of non-stop activities.

Pedometers, budgeted into the plan, were given away to the first 100 families. Intended as a catalyst to get those families moving and make use the walking trail, the pedometer would show them exactly how many steps it would take to really walk a mile. Ident-i-kid had a station on site for those parents who wished to utilize the service. Stressing the importance of properly placed and secured car seats, the Liberty Fire Department was on hand to provide car seat checks. Two-wheel safety was also addressed. Liberty Mutual along with the Liberty Police Bike Patrol teamed up to first give a presentation on Bike safety and then provide a Bike Safety course for willing and eager participants. Donated by the Brain Injury Association, the PTA was able to give away fifty bicycle helmets for those children who did not already have one.

And then there were the games and entertainment. Loads of fun games from an obstacle course to a Hula hoop contest all designed to mix exercise with fun. Both the Liberty High School Cheerleaders and the Kansas City Brigade Cheerleaders were on hand to keep spirits high. This was definitely a 'no coach potato zone'.

Of course what is a PTA event without food? Also budgeted into the event, the PTA provided healthy snacks and beverages for the hungry participants. However, the focus on healthy snacks didn't end there. Sometimes one not only needs the proper guidance but also the correct tools to make a healthy lifestyle change. Problem solved. Recipes chopped full of healthy 'after-school munchies' ideas were made available.

Whew, what a day! Even though it took a lot of time and hard work to pull off the Healthy Kids Day, the way in which this event impacted the lives of those community members who attended is unequivocal.

Mark Your Calendar

MAY National Fitness & Sports Month
 1 Resolutions due to State office
 1 National PTA Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grant Deadline
 4-10 Teacher Appreciation Week
 5 Cinco de Mayo
 6 National Teacher Day
 6 School Nurse Day
 11 Mother's Day
 12-18 Reading is Fun Week
 17 Armed Forces Day
 25 National Missing Children's Day
 26 Memorial Day (State office closed)

JUNE Fireworks Safety Month
 9-15 National Men's Health Week
 14 Flag Day
 15 Father's Day
 21 Summer Begins
 21-23 National PTA Convention (San Diego, CA)
 24 National Council of The States Meetings
 22-28 Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week

JULY
 4 Independence Day (State office closed)
 27 Parents' Day

Looking Ahead

AUGUST
 1 Parent Education & Involvement Grant Deadline

OCTOBER
 18-19 Missouri PTA Convention (Kansas City)

Thank You for Your Generous Gifts!

Founders Gift

Sycamore Hills Elementary PTA
 Lange Middle School PTA
 Peculiar Elementary PTA
 Yeokum Middle School PTSA
 Delta Woods Middle School PTSA
 Parkade Elementary PTA
 Paxton Keeley Elementary PTA
 Bingham Middle School PTSA

Building Fund

Sycamore Hills Elementary PTA
 St. Joseph PTA Council
 Delta Woods Middle School PTSA

Missouri Congress of Parents & Teachers
Missouri PTA
2100 I-70 Dr. S.W.
Columbia, MO 65203

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**PLAN NOW to Attend the 2008
Missouri PTA Convention**

PTA...The People's Choice

**October 18-19, 2008
KCI Expo Center**

(Just east of the Kansas City International Airport)

**Convention Saturday-Sunday. Pre-convention
activities Friday evening.**

**Workshops, networking, awards, advocacy,
inspiration and yes, even lots of fun! It's all here
for you at the 2008 Missouri PTA convention! All
PTA members are encouraged to attend... be sure
to include convention in your 2008-2009 budget!**

Go to www.mopta.org for more details