

Missouri Parent Teacher Association

CONTACT

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Today



Parents

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- Learn How Careers are Presented to Students
- Access Your Child's Portfolio
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Getting on the right path for career success is important. That's why *Missouri Connections* was developed as a free resource for Missouri middle school and high school students, their parents, and educators to aid educational and career planning. Aligned to the Missouri Career Paths and the 16 Career Clusters, students are able to explore postsecondary options and careers, plan their educational courses, and build a lifelong portfolio.

We know that **parents** are the #1 influence on their child's education and career plans.

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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

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

We are well into spring and fast approaching summer. Our units are fast approaching the end of the year and should be well into their plans of organizing for the next school year. I recently had the opportunity to attend the meeting of a unit determined to organize for the next year. This unit had many struggles as they worked through their first year as a PTA. But, the entire school community was willing to partner to make sure the unit succeeded and continued to work towards making sure every child in their school was given the opportunity to reach their potential.

As I spent the evening visiting with parents, teachers and the administration in this school community, it brought me back to the true reason why I am involved in PTA and have been for over twenty-five years. These dedicated members of the school community reminded me of the hours, days and years I spent involved in my children's school community. It reminded me of the looks of accomplishment on children's faces when their parents and teachers worked together to share their joy and accomplishments. It reminded me of the dedicated teachers that truly want what is best for each family. It reminded me of the families that support their children and their education. It reminded me of the many friends I made throughout those years. This evening reinforced the reason why family school partnerships are so important as we strive to help our children succeed and form strong bonds within our communities.

Every leader in a school community should take the opportunity to just spend some time with the students, families and teachers. Take time to observe and reflect on all the good things that are happening. Just for a little while forget about the test scores, the budget and all the business of operating a school, PTA or other educational entity and enjoy the great relationships and bonding that are occurring everyday in our schools across the state. You will be

amazed at how quickly you are rejuvenated and ready to start planning for a new and exciting year for these precious children and their families.

The public schools across Missouri will succeed and grow stronger as we continue to spread the word about all of the wonderful things that happen in our public schools – the successes, the accomplishments and the pride that each of us must feel as we watch “our” children grow into educated, caring members of society. We must also remember that the schools cannot do this alone – they must have the support of every adult in the community. Through PTA, we offer the programs, training and tools needed for parents, teachers and community members to work together to advocate for our schools and children.

I want to thank each of you for your hard work this past year and ask you to take some time before the end of the year to sit back and enjoy all of the great things that are happening because you care and are involved. As this school year comes to an end, remember that with some reflection on the past and a great vision for the future, your school community can grow stronger and move one step closer to making every child's potential a reality.

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or www.moapta.org

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

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

PLEASE SHARE THIS MAGAZINE.

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

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Phone: 312-670-6782 (670-NPTA), www.pta.org, MO PTA 800-328-7330

Fundraising the (ONLINE) Community Way

By Jan Harp Domene, PTA National President



Perhaps the most important thing to realize about fundraising is that you can't think about it as collecting money. Money is essential if you

want to provide your students with new computers, or finance their field trip to the Capitol—but money is simply the end result of fundraising, and not necessarily the focus of the process. If it were as simple as asking everyone “Can I please have \$10 for PTA?” we wouldn't hold school fairs, host large scale dinners, or organize walks. We do these things not only to raise funds, but to reinforce the idea of community—

that people, and not just parents, have a role in supporting the education of our youth.

This idea of community is no less important when fundraising online. Sites like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Fotki let you share pictures and videos with people as if you were sharing photo albums and home movies with friends—they help you tell a story, and keep you connected on a personal level. The individual who is introduced to your PTA through online media might then start reading your blog. Next, they could be commenting on your posts and participating in your polls and petitions. Once that person feels like they are a part of your community, when you ask them to support you with

a donation, they're going to be much more likely to say yes. The advantage of websites and other social media is that when you share your story with the members of your online community, they can they easily share it with others, and that's how your entire community grows.

The goal never was, and never will be, the money itself. We plan dances, sell cookbooks, and play bingo because we want to help create the greatest school community we can. As long as you never lose sight of that, your fundraising efforts are guaranteed to be a success.

And the award goes to

...REPRESENTATIVE JEFF GRISAMORE

The Missouri PTA Board of Managers recently named Representative Jeff Grisamore of Lee's Summit, MO as the recipient of the “A Better Missouri For Children” Award for the 2008 legislative session. The award was presented to Rep. Grisamore at a legislative rally co-hosted by Missouri PTA and Lee's Summit Council of PTAs held in Lee's Summit on February 12, 2009. The award recognizes Representative Grisamore's efforts to champion health and safety initiatives for the children and youth of our state.

In addition to his legislative duties, Rep. Grisamore is a humanitarian leader that engages in care for orphans, widows and the poor. He has also been active in writing, speaking and consulting. In addition to serving as a former pastor and missionary, his professional career over the last 30 years has included broad involvement in the corporate, civic, governmental and faith communities.

“A Better Missouri For Children” Award was created in 1999 by Missouri PTA as a means of giving thanks and showing appreciation to those legislators who have distinguished themselves as champions for Missouri's children and youth, legislators who have been advocates for children and

youth through their legislative efforts and who have tried to build a better Missouri for children. Past recipients of this award include Senator Charlie Shields (St. Joseph), Representative Will Kraus (Raytown), Brian Baker (Belton) and Judy Baker (Columbia).



Quilt Raffle

Congratulations and thank you to Hall PTA, St. Joseph for selling the most tickets for Missouri PTA's 100th Anniversary Quilt raffle. Great Job! Kudos to Hosea Elementary, St. Joseph, for selling the second highest number of tickets. Fantastic! Hall received a free registration to the 2009 Leadership Conference and Hosea received a \$25 gift certificate to the PTA Shoppe. Brenda Ruckman of Independence was the lucky winner of the quilt. Thank you to all who helped the 100th anniversary committee raise \$1,543.00.



The Lonely Ember

A member of a community service organization, who previously had been attending meetings regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, a friend decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The friend found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his friends' visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited.

The friend made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the friend took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination. As the one lone ember's flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and "dead as a door nail."

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. Just before the friend was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the friend reached the door to leave, his host said, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery reminder of the importance of being part of something bigger than myself."

~ author unknown

A Round of Applause Please

Often you hear quality is more important than quantity, and, for the most part, this is usually true. However, every so often we run across an individual who has packed superior quality into their vast quantity of PTA volunteering. Wendy Jackson, current MO PTA President-Elect and Nixa Council of PTA's President, has inspired many, students and adults alike, over the past 19 years. This past February the Nixa Council of PTA's honored their President with the National PTA Life Achievement Award. Join us in congratulations and thanks to Wendy for all she has and continues to contribute to our kids.



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Member's Only!!

In an effort to better serve you, a member's only section will be coming soon to the MOPTA website.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS

Scholarship Fund

Rock Bridge Elementary PTA &
Blue Springs PTA Council

Founder's Day Gift

Belton High School PTA & Blue
Springs PTA Council

Building Fund

Blue Springs PTA Council

2009 PTA National Convention

Registration is now open online for the 2009 PTA National Convention & Exhibition in Fort Lauderdale, FL; you can take advantage of discounted rates until May 22, 2009. Join thousands of other PTA members and leaders from around the country to exchange ideas, participate in workshops, hear from Olympic medalist Dara Torres and multi-platinum singer CeCe Peniston, and witness the induction of PTA's first ever male national president. Register online, or learn more about the national convention, at pta.org/annualconvention <<http://www.pta.org/annualconvention>> today!

Treasurer's End of Year Responsibilities

By Pat Brune, MO PTA Treasurer

With the year just about wrapped up 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, or founder's gifts that were approved in your budget. Make sure you have paid all outstanding bills, gifts, etc. Then you can start preparing for your annual financial report and getting the books ready for the audit (annual financial review). Copies of these reports need to be sent to the state office by December 1st.

The annual financial report is a summary of all income and expenses incurred throughout your fiscal year. If you have done a monthly treasurer's report that included budget total line items, monthly income and expenses line items, and a total year to date line item, then this report will be easy to compile. Make sure a copy of your annual financial report is given to your audit committee for their annual financial review. Check your bylaws to determine how the audit (annual financial review) committee is formed and when your fiscal year ends.

Even if you will be continuing on as Treasurer, the books should be audited (annual financial review done) each year. And, if you are the new Treasurer you should never take over the books unless they have been audited (annual financial review completed). Ask your President for their winter packet if they haven't already given it to you. Pages 35-38 explain how to perform these procedures. Page 36 provides a sample of the annual financial report and page 37 a sample of the audit report (annual financial review) that should be sent to the State Office by December 1st, 2009. An additional resource for all your treasurer needs, PTA Money Matters. Every president received a hardcopy of PTA Money Matters from National PTA, but an electronic copy can also be found online at www.PTA.org. Also remember that you cannot pay any bills after you have closed the books for the audit (annual financial review).

Please note that all units are required to file some form of a 990. If you had gross receipts less than \$25,000 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. If your gross receipts are over \$25,000 you need to file a 990EZ with the schedule A.

Gross receipts means all money brought in to your books. Not how much money is in your account. So, if you had a fundraiser that took in \$26,000 then you are required

to file a 990EZ. Even if you had to pay the fund raising company \$20,000 and only made a profit of \$6,000.

Remember if you have given a treasurer's report each month, balanced the check book monthly, and prepared an annual financial 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.



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PTA Missouri State Office

The Audit vs. Annual Financial Review

For many years the PTA has referred to end of the year review as an audit. It is the use of the word audit that has created confusion as to what was intended by this annual requirement. Nothing can send a unit spiraling downward like the misuse or mishandling of PTA funds. With

that in mind, the PTA membership on a national level decided an additional check and balance was needed to keep our units financially 'healthy'. By performing a once a year review of the financial books, unit members can be assured things are running smoothly with regard to PTA funds.

In the world of accounting the word 'audit' has a strict meaning. Most of us may think we have been performing successful audits for many years, but when the definition of an audit is applied we find what we have been doing is rather a 'check-up' or review.



The Audit vs. Annual Financial Check-Up WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE...

By Kim Luken, CPA and Accounting Instructor at Metropolitan Community College

As required by the bylaws, each PTA must complete an annual audit. Although many of us often refer to this requirement as an audit this is in fact incorrect. Rather the intention is to require an annual financial Check-up. By using the word "audit" we imply that an external independent party is rendering an opinion as to the accuracy of our financial statements.

What is an audit?

A financial statement audit must be completed by an auditor who is familiar and well versed in the standards and guidelines (i.e., Generally Accepted Accounting Principles") that govern how transactions are to be accounted for and the accounting control procedures that should be in place. The auditor completes procedures to obtain independent verification that the information reported on the financial statements is accurate. The auditor determines the breadth and depth of the procedures necessary to reach an opinion.

The PTA bylaws are not written with the intention that you engage and pay a Certified Public Accountant to attest to the accuracy of your financial statements. Rather the intentions of the by-laws are to require that on an annual basis you perform a check-up to ensure the following which includes, but is not limited to:

- Information that is reported on your financial statements can be traced to and supported by original unaltered documents;

- All appropriate supporting documentation is being retained;
- All transactions are being recorded;
- Unusual or infrequent items have a proper explanation;
- Necessary filings such as the IRS Form 990 are being completed in a timely manner; and
- Appropriate controls, such as separation of duties, are in place.

The annual check-up is intended to have a

"fresh" set of eyes review the PTA's financial statements, supporting documentation, and required filings. Volunteers can complete the annual check-up, an entire committee established, or at the discretion of the PTA a CPA can be engaged. The current Treasurer and any members on the bank signature card cannot participate in the check-up and must be forthcoming and willing to provide any information for which a request is made. Checklists and procedures to be completed are provided to those individuals performing the annual check-up.



Membership Success Starts Now

By Shelly Throckmorton, Membership Emphasis Chair

The end of this school year is quickly approaching and it's time to look back and review how the year went. How do you think your unit did? 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. 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)

- Incentives/benefits offered
- All the ways you promoted membership
- Promotion budget (if any)
- Goals for the year & which ones were met
- Membership total for the year
- Membership roster
- Newsletter articles regarding membership
- Awards applications turned in
- Awards received
- Most successful thing you did
- Least 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

Half of the battle in conducting a successful membership drive is in the

planning. By having a membership chair in place for next year and utilizing the above information in planning your budget and putting together a preliminary game plan, you are already well on your way to achieving success. Looking forward, keep in mind these two great quotes:

“Success depends upon previous preparation, and without such preparation there is sure to be failure.”
Confucius

“Every minute you spend in planning saves 10 minutes in execution; this gives you a 1,000 percent return on energy!”
Brian Tracy

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Missouri PTA Honor Roll

CONGRATULATIONS

to the following units who qualified for the Honor Roll by meeting or increasing their previous year's membership by March 1st, 2009.

Hawkins Gentry Middle School PTSA	Hickory Hills Elementary PTA	Platte City Middle School PTSA
Ava PTA	High Pointe PTA	Platte City Schools PTA
Belvidere Elementary PTA	Hillcrest Elementary PTA	Pleasant Lea Middle School PTA
Bessie Ellison Elementary PTA	Holman Middle School PTA	Pleasant View Elementary PTA
Bingham Elementary PTA	Horace Mann Elementary PTA	Portland Elementary PTA
Bissett Elementary PTA	Hosea Elementary PTA	Raytown High School PTSA
Blue Ridge Elementary PTA	Hyde Elementary PTA	Raytown South High School PTSA
Blue Springs Early Childhood PTA	Indian Creek Elementary PTA	Red Bridge Elementary PTA
Blue Springs High School PTSA	Inman PTA of Nixa	Richardson Elementary PTA
Bode Middle School PTA	Jamestown Elementary PTA	Ridgeview Elementary PTA
Bolivar Intermediate PTA	John J. Pershing Middle School PTSA	Robidoux Middle School PTSA
Border Star Montessori PTA	Kentucky Trail Elementary PTA	Robinson Elementary PTA
Bowerman Elementary PTA	Kickapoo PTSA	Rock Creek Elementary PTA
Briar Crest PTA	Lange Middle School PTA	Ruth Oliver Walker Elementary PTA
Bridgeway Elementary PTA	Lakewood Elementary PTA	Santa Fe Accelerated PTA
Brittany Hill Middle School	Larimore Elementary PTA	Santa Fe Trail Elementary PTA
Brown Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit High School PTSA	School of the Osage Jr. High PTA
Bryant Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit Preschool PTA	School of the Osage Lower Elementary PTA
C.A. Burke Elementary PTA	Lewis & Clark Elementary PTA	Sherwood Elementary PTA
Cedar Creek Elementary PTA	Liberty High School PTSA	Smith-Hale Middle School PTA
Cedar Ridge Elementary PTA	Liberty Middle School PTA	Smithton Middle School PTA
Center High PTA	Liggett Trail Education Center	South Elementary PTA
Center Middle School PTA	Linden West Elementary PTA	South Valley Jr. High PTSA
Central High PTSA	Line Creek Elementary PTA	South Valley Middle School PTA
Century PTA of Nixa	Lone Jack PTA	Southwest Elementary PTA
Chapel Hill Elementary School PTA	Longview Farm Elementary PTA	Spring Branch PTA
Cherokee Middle PTSA	Lucy Franklin Elementary PTA	Spring Valley Elementary PTA
Clardy/Gashland Schools PTA	Main Street School of Nixa	Stone Church Preschool PTA
Clever PTA	Manor Hill Elementary PTA	Stoney Point Elementary PTA
Cordill-Mason Elementary PTA	Maple Park Middle School PTA	Strafford K-12 PTA
Crossroads PTA	Marion C. Early G & H Schools PTA	Summit Lakes Middle High PTA
David Barton Elementary PTA	Mathews PTA of Nixa	Sunshine Elementary PTA
Delaware Elementary PTA	Mathews Elementary PTA	Sycamore Hills Elementary PTA
Delta Woods Middle School PTSA	McBride Elementary PTA	Trailridge Elementary PTA
Diamond R-4 PTSA	McGregor Elementary PTA	Truman Elementary PTA
Duello Elementary PTA	Meadow Lane Elementary PTA	Truman High School PTSA
Eagle Glen Intermediate PTA	Meadowmere Elementary PTA	Twillman Elementary PTA
Eastwood Hills Elementary PTA	Mill Creek Elementary PTA (Heritage Region)	Union Chapel PTA
Edison Elementary PTA	Mill Creek Elementary PTA (Three Trails Region)	Walt Disney PTA
English Landing Elementary PTA	Moreland Ridge Middle School PTSA	Washington Elementary PTA
Eugene Field PTA	Neely Elementary PTA	Watkins PTA
Ervin Middle PTSA	New Bloomfield PTA	Wentzville Middle PTSA
Franklin Smith Elementary PTA	Nixa Jr. High PTSA	West Englewood PTA
Garrett Elementary PTA	North Platte PTA	Westport PTA
Gladden Elementary PTA	Northview Elementary PTA	Westridge Elementary PTA
Grain Valley Middle/High School	Noyes Elementary PTA	Westview Elementary PTA
Grandview High School PTSA	NRC Korte PTA	William H. Johnson Elementary PTA
Greenwood Elementary PTA	Ozark West Elementary PTA	Wilson's Creek PTA
Greenwood Lab PTSA	Parkade Elementary PTA	Winnetonka High PTSA
Halfway Grade & High School PTA	Park Hill Congress Middle School PTA	Winnwood Elementary PTA
Hawthorn Elementary PTA	Park Hill Plaza Middle School PTA	York Elementary PTA
Hawthorn Hill Elementary PTA	Park Hill South High PTA	
Hazelwood East Middle School PTSA	Parkview High School PTSA	
Hazelwood East Senior High PTSA		
Hazelwood North Middle School PTA		

“Try It...You’ll Like It”

By Peggy Preston, Missouri PTA Health, Wellness, and Safety Chair

We all understand the importance and health benefits of eating fruits and vegetables for children and families alike. With summer approaching, it’s a great time for our children and families to either try some new ones or revisit some they’ve tried in the past. In fact, June has been designated as Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Month. The hard part of getting them to actually do so can be a bit of a challenge.

Kids can help with creating menus, shopping, and preparing food; they are generally more apt to eat when they have made some decisions about the meals. Of course parents should guide their decisions. Children’s cookbooks are a great resource with kid-friendly recipes and basic cooking lessons. Great snacks include fruit pieces in yogurt, cut-up refrigerated veggies, fruit smoothies, fruit salad, chopped fruit in cereal or gelatin, frozen fruit, and dried fruits. Top broiled or grilled meats with a homemade salsa made with tomatoes, mangoes, avocados, red onions, cilantro, and lime juice.

Kids who participate in gardening are more apt to try fruits and vegetables. When they watch cherry tomatoes, strawberries, corn, or baby peas growing and then harvest them, they have “ownership” and are more likely to be interested in trying them.

Parents who try sneaking fruits and veggies into the foods they make have some success but a better idea is to get them gradually used to eating more fresh foods. The children’s taste buds need to be “trained”. Children can be very picky. It may take as many as 10 to 15 tries with a new food before a child is willing to accept it. Kids’ taste buds are far more sensitive than adults and many kids have a very strong negative reaction to bitter flavors, making foods like spinach, Brussels sprouts, and asparagus unpalatable. Consider color, smell, and texture when introducing a child to a new food. A child may enjoy raw crunchy broccoli but not cooked broccoli in casseroles; they might enjoy soft canned peaches but not freshly

sliced peaches. Note: Raw vegetables, such as grapes and corn, may pose a choking hazard for children less than four years of age. Always cut grapes in quarters, grate carrots, and remove strings from celery for younger children.

Lois Ehlert’s book “Eating the Alphabet” teaches the concept of alliteration to young children. It is great for beginning readers in their understanding of alliteration since it contains words of fruits and vegetables that start with the same letter.

Most importantly, parents must be a positive role model by eating a variety of fruits and vegetables themselves.

Important Resources

My Pyramid for Kids

<http://teamn nutrition.usda.gov/kids-pyramid.html>

5 a day (now Fruits and Veggies Matter)

<http://www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov/>

Reflections Goes to Washington D.C.



Katelyn poses with her 2008-2009 award winning Reflection entry in Washington D.C.



Students and National PTA president Jan Harp Domene cut the ribbon to the Reflections Gallery in the U.S. Department of Education.

Self Defense Program

By Jennifer Casey, VP Membership Services

The Ali Kemp Educational Foundation was established in 2004 to honor the memory of Kansas college student Ali Kemp who was murdered while working her summer job at a neighborhood pool. The program is also known as T.A.K.E. Defense and has traveled nationwide with its powerful message of education, safety and peace of mind. Since its beginning more than 35,000 females have been trained in safety awareness and the techniques for reality based hands on self-defense.

Moreland Ridge Middle School PTSA in Blue Springs hosted the T.A.K.E. Defense team for the second year in a row in January. One of the goals of the PTSA two years ago was to host a community service event. It was decided during their summer planning meeting that the event would be a self-defense training for females. Several training programs were considered before the decision was made to invite the T.A.K.E. team to Moreland Ridge. The goal was to host a minimum of one hundred females at the event. Promotion for the program was sent home with students at each of the Blue Springs schools. Even though females must be at least twelve years old to attend the training, information was sent home with elementary students in hopes to recruit moms, sisters, aunts, best friends, co-workers, etc. Information was also included in the local newspaper, the school district staff newsletter, and provided to the local chamber of commerce and family and friends of all Moreland Ridge board members.

It was important to the Moreland Ridge board that this program was offered to the community free of charge. Two local businesses, S&T Enterprises and Casey

Electric, Inc., each made a generous donation to the T.A.K.E. Defense program so that it could be offered at no charge. More than 550 females took advantage and have been trained in the two years the program has been hosted by the PTSA at Moreland Ridge.

Many emails of thanks and praise were received by the PTSA following both of the trainings:

“The program Saturday was awesome! I hope I have enough physical strength to perform the moves we learned if I ever may have to use them.”;

“It was AWESOME ! I wish we could make it mandatory for all BS District girls”;

“The self-defense training through the Ali Kemp foundation is THE BEST training I have ever taken. I hope that it is a yearly event!”

“It made me feel so powerful and safe. Every woman should have this training it is absolutely priceless.”

Moreland Ridge Middle School PTSA is a proud recipient of the Missouri PTA Health and Safety Grant for their efforts and promotion of self-defense throughout their community.

Empower yourself and the females in your life by attending one of the trainings. Trainings are offered year round on the T.A.K.E. website at www.takedefense.org. The workshops last approximately two hours and a Student Handbook for convenient reference is sent home with each participant.



Missouri PTA 2008-2009 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 entitled, "Wow!." 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 our state submitted 10,490 entries, representing 188 PTA units. The number of entries forwarded to the state level of judging included: 315 Literature entries, 453 Visual Arts entries, 79 Music Composition entries, 344 Photography entries, 31 Dance Choreography entries, and 53 Film Production entries. A listing of the top Missouri winners can be found on page 11. Congratulations to every student participant and to each student winner at the state level! The first place Missouri state entries have been sent for judging

at the National PTA level. The listing of National PTA winning entries should be distributed in May.

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: Ms. Alyssa Keleher, Mrs. Rachel Vasko, Ms. Angela Marquis, Dr. Bryan McDonald; Musical Composition: Mr. Reid Atkinson; Dance Choreography: Mrs. Rachel Drummond; Visual Arts: Mrs. Hallie Pals, Mrs. Angie Smith, Mrs. Kathy Argotsinger, Mrs. Tracy Plummer; Film Production: Janice Overman; Photography: Ms. Shelley Penrod, Mr. Ron Anderson, Mrs. Tammy Wall. Thank you, also, to Mr. Ron Anderson of Ron Anderson Photography for the digital photography of our first

place state winning entries in the categories of Visual Arts and Photography.

We look forward to hosting all of our state winners at the Student Showcase on Saturday, May 2nd from 3:00 to 4:30 pm at the Missouri PTA Leadership Conference in Independence, Missouri at the Hilton Garden Inn. Winning students and families, along with unit representatives are all invited to attend!

It's not too early to start planning now for your artwork in next year's competition (school year 2009-2010) when the theme is "Beauty Is...." Missouri PTA is sure the artwork will be just as beautiful!



Missouri PTA Reflections Program

“WOW!” 2008-2009 WINNERS

LITERATURE

PRIMARY (Preschool – 2)

- 1st Savannah Smith, Union Chapel Elem PTA
- 2nd Kersten Laughlin, Kentucky Trail Elem PTA
- 3rd Mya Writer, Ozark North Elem PTA
- 4th Joey Andrews, Kentucky Trail Elem PTA
- 5th Olivia Slatinsky, McGregor Elem PTA

INTERMEDIATE (3 – 5)

- 1st Maryn Burns, English Landing Elem PTA
- 2nd Grace Kubart, Southeast Elem PTA
- 3rd Collin Nill, Chapel Lakes Elem PTA
- 4th Phoebe Alpern, Franklin Elem PTA
- 5th Nicole Gore, Ozark Upper Elem PTA

MIDDLE/JUNIOR (6 – 8)

- 1st Jessica McGowan, Delta Woods M.S. PTA
- 2nd Lily Hobbs, Gentry M.S. PTSA
- 3rd Madison Herrington, Robidoux M.S. PTA
- 4th Chaunceel Goins, Jefferson Jr H.S. PTA
- 5th Joanna Zou, Smithton M.S. PTSA

SENIOR (9 – 12)

- 1st Bridget Bellinghausen, Blue Springs H.S. PTSA
- 2nd Michaela Smith, Belton High School PTSA
- 3rd Shelby Bammer, Belton High School PTSA
- 4th Hannah Rettman, Lee's Summit West H.S. PTSA
- 5th Ellen Sherman, Blue Springs H.S. PTSA

MUSICAL COMPOSITION

PRIMARY (Preschool – 2)

- 1st Tristan Handy, Daniel Young Elem PTA
- 2nd Connor Henry, Chinn Elem PTA
- 3rd Samuel Aubuchon, Lucy Franklin Elem PTA
- 4th Grant Bentinganan, Mill Creek Elem PTA
- 5th Bradley Snyder, Rock Bridge Elem PTA

INTERMEDIATE (3 – 5)

- 1st Cecelia Cook, Glendale Elem PTA
- 2nd Eleanor Panico, Hawthorn Elem PTA
- 3rd Ethan Wegner, Voy Spears Jr. Elem PTA
- 4th Jackson Riggs, James Walker Elem PTA

MIDDLE/JUNIOR (6 – 8)

- 1st Spenser Pulleyking, Central H.S. PTSA
- 2nd Kaylee Osborne, Brittany Hills M.S. PTSA
- 3rd Ryan Ganaban, New Mark M.S. PTSA
- 4th Jason Weinzierl, Yeokum M.S. PTSA
- 5th Mingyu Kim, Smithton M.S. PTSA

SENIOR (9 – 12)

- 1st Michael Putthoff, Blue Springs H.S. PTSA
- 2nd Victoria Yu, Rock Bridge H.S. PTSA
- 3rd Haley Myers, Rock Bridge H.S. PTSA
- 4th John Faaborg, Hickman H.S. PTSA
- 5th Kyle East, Lee's Summit West High PTSA

PHOTOGRAPHY

PRIMARY (Preschool – 2)

- 1st Eleanor Scott, Ozark North Elem PTA
- 2nd Grace Andrews, English Landing Elem. PTA
- 3rd Anna McNay, Greenwood Laboratory PTA
- 4th Sam Engelmyer, Logan-Rogersville Elem. PTA
- 5th Ava Scott, Ozark North Elem PTA

INTERMEDIATE (3 – 5)

- 1st Kennady King, Parkway Elem PTA
- 2nd Katelyn Low, James Lewis Elem PTA
- 3rd Andrew Sheehy, Sunny Pointe Elem PTA
- 4th Sammy Morris, Underwood Elem PTA
- 5th Tara Fowler, Greenwood Lab School PTA

MIDDLE/JUNIOR (6 – 8)

- 1st Katie Hunt, Hickory Hills M.S. PTSA
- 2nd Tessa Riley, Bernard Campbell M.S. PTSA
- 3rd Sarah Moratz, Congress M.S. PTA
- 4th Katie Hunt, Hickory Hills M.S. PTSA
- 5th Austin Jones, Highland Park Elem PTA

SENIOR (9 – 12)

- 1st Taylor Bronson, Central H.S. PTSA
- 2nd Hannah Amzem, Kickapoo H.S. PTSA
- 3rd Andrew King, Central H.S. PTSA
- 4th Jenna Warmund, Blue Springs South H.S. PTSA
- 5th – Kyle Richardson, Truman H.S. PTSA

VISUAL ARTS

PRIMARY (Preschool – 2)

- 1st Hayden Bentley, Richardson Elem PTA
- 2nd Lei-Isa Falig, Bingham Elem PTA
- 3rd Morgan Miller, Pleasant Lea Elem. PTA
- 4th Abby Humston, Woodland Elem PTA
- 5th Carlie Cunningham, Mark Twain Elem. PTA

INTERMEDIATE (3 – 5)

- 1st Alec Rodgers, Platte City Schools PTA
- 2nd Julie Sharpe, Laura Ingalls Wilder PTA
- 3rd Allene Lux, Meadow Lane Elem. PTA
- 4th Gracie Stapleton, Lewis and Clark Elem. PTA
- 5th Cydney Cherepak, John Nowlin Elem PTA

MIDDLE/JUNIOR (6 – 8)

- 1st Seth Yarber, Ozark Jr. High PTSA
- 2nd Alex Merrifield, Nixa Junior High PTSA
- 3rd Benjamin Allgeyer, Delta Woods M.S. PTSA
- 4th Samantha Bennett, Delta Woods M.S. PTSA
- 5th Katherine Bernhard, Summit Lakes Middle High PTAS

SENIOR (9 – 12)

- 1st Charles Henderson, Lafayette H.S. PTSA
- 2nd Samantha Goff, Blue Springs H.S. PTSA
- 3rd Emma Lettera, Park Hill South High PTA
- 4th Anna McMurry, Hickman H.S. PTSA
- 5th Tiffany Miller, Belton H.S. PTSA

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

INTERMEDIATE (3 – 5)

- 1st Lia Fricke, English Landing Elem. PTA
- 2nd Brooklyn Wattenbarger, Lindbergh Accelerated Elem. PTA
- 3rd Elyssa Hallgren, Sherwood Elem PTA
- 4th Lauren Potts, Alexander Doniphan PTA
- 5th Eleanor Panico, Hawthorn Elem PTA

MIDDLE/JUNIOR (6 – 8)

- 1st Megan Lee, Brittany Hill M.S. PTSA
- 2nd Bailey Mills, Greenwood Laboratory PTA
- 3rd Elsa Kunz, Bode M.S. PTSA
- 4th Mariah Kelly, Delta Woods M.S. PTSA
- 5th Courtney Day, Brittany Hill M.S. PTSA

SENIOR (9 – 12)

- 1st Hannah Campbell, Rock Bridge H.S. PTSA

FILM PRODUCTION

INTERMEDIATE (3 – 5)

- 1st Darcie Kinnison, Mill Creek Elem PTA
- 2nd Kelsey Trapp, Chapel Lakes Elem PTA
- 3rd Connor Schmitt, Eugene Field Elem PTA
- 4th Cameron Chesick, Logan-Rogersville Elem. PTA
- 5th Derek Wang, Paxton Keeley Elem. PTA

MIDDLE/JUNIOR (6 – 8)

- 1st Callie Wyrsh, Hickory Mills M.S. PTSA
- 2nd Sydney Mathis, Richardson Elem PTA
- 3rd Aaron Grose, Cherokee M.S. PTSA
- 4th Camryn Parenll, Meadow Lane Elem. PTA
- 5th Diana Hunter, Park Hill Plaza Middle PTA



A Step to Helping Others

By Jordan Hoffman, 5th Grader, Highland Park Elementary School

When the students and staff at Highland Park Elementary learned that the brother of one of their cafeteria workers, Ms. Kimberly, was in desperate need of a bone marrow transplant, they stepped right in



to help. The principal of Highland Park, Mrs. Mallette, talked to each of the classrooms in each of the grades to inform them about a Walk-a-thon scheduled on December 12, 2008 to benefit Ms. Kimberly's brother, Mr. Bentrop, and his family. A course would be arranged inside or outside of the school on December 12, depending on weather, a track that all students would walk during their special class time. Each time they completed a lap, a staff member or volunteering parent would punch a hole on the student's punch card to keep track of the number of laps the students finished. After walking their laps, the exhausted students settled down for a snack of hot chocolate and cookies, and then set to work on cards to comfort and wish Mr. Bentrop well.

Some students collected pledges and checks after the Walk-a-thon, that were made out to Mr. Bentrop's family, while others collected their contribution according to the number of laps around the school that they finished. Either way, the contributions and thoughts of the students and staff of Highland



Park Elementary proved to provide a lot of hope for Ms. Kimberly and her family. As a school family, we raised a grand total of \$7534.15 for Mr. Bentrop. This event will become an annual tradition in Highland Park, and has become

known as the "Our Community Cares" experience. It was the thought of everyone at Highland Park Elementary that provided hope for people in need, and was a giant step to helping others in our community.

Mark Your Calendar

MAY

- Asthma & Allergy Awareness Month
- Hepatitis Awareness Month
- National Bike Month
- National Physical Fitness & Sports Month
- National Teen Pregnancy Awareness Month
- 1 Membership Dues to State Office
- 1 Resolutions Deadline
- 1-2 Leadership Conference
- 3-9 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 3-10 National Music Week
- 5 Cinco De Mayo
- 10 Mother's Day
- 11-15 Children's Book Week
- 15 PTA Day at the "K"
- 16 Armed Forces Day
- 25 Memorial Day
- 25 State Office Closed
- 25 National Missing Children's Day

JUNE

- Fireworks Safety Month
- National Safety Month
- National Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Month
- 14 Flag Day
- 15-21 National Men's Health Week
- 21 Father's Day & Summer Begins
- 22-28 Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week
- 26-29 National PTA Convention in Fort Lauderdale, Florida

JULY

- National Parks & Recreation Month
- 4 Independence Day
- 4 Missouri PTA Office Closed
- 20 Special Olympics Day
- 26 Parent's Day

SAVE THE DATE!

October 24th & 25th

MO PTA Convention

in Springfield

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



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