

CONTACT

Volume 91, Issue 6
May 2010

Together



"Beauty is . . ."

Photography and Visual Arts 1st Place Winners



Primary Photography Winner
Lindsey Morris, 2nd grade
Underwood Elementary PTA
Lee's Summit/Three Trails Region



Primary Visual Arts Winner
Annika Jackson, 2nd grade
Platte City Schools PTA
Platte Co. R-III/Pony Express Region



Intermediate Photography Winner
Ian Cross, 5th grade
Ridgeview Elementary PTA
Liberty/Pony Express Region



Intermediate Visual Arts Winner
Myranda Abarch, 5th grade
Cordill-Mason Elementary PTA
Blue Springs/Three Trails Region



Middle/Jr. Photography Winner
Landon Allen, 8th grade
New Mark Middle School PTSA
North Kansas City/Pony Express Region



Visual Arts Winner
Caitlyn Lindstrom, 8th grade
Bode Middle School PTSA
St. Joseph/Pony Express Region



Senior Photography Winner
Sarah King, 11th grade
Rock Bridge High School PTSA
Columbia/Heritage Region



Senior Visual Arts Winner
Alyssa Calhoun, 12th grade
Nixa High School PTSA
Nixa R-II/Ozark Region

Congratulations!

Cover photo:

Scenes from the National PTA Legislative Conference in Washington D.C.

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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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President's Message *By Wendy Jackson, Missouri PTA President*

It is hard to believe that the school year is coming to an end. It is truly the end of an era for my family. After 19 consecutive years, we will NOT have an elementary-aged student.

Time flies. It seems only yesterday we were beginning in Kindergarten. In PTA, time flies as well, as you are now completing the end of a school year. Can you believe it?? I hope that it was filled with many successes, and a few less failures. Although, we sometimes learn more from those failures than all the successes put together. As the year winds to a close take the time to reflect on the accomplishments, assess where you are now, and decide what you still need to do to finish strong.

- Have you made sure that the newly elected or reelected officer's names and addresses have been sent to the state office?
- Have you selected a committee or person to conduct the annual financial review?
- Have you updated procedure books?
- Are your bylaws up to date?
- Has your unit finished up the year-end report?
- Have you arranged for a chance to have the seasoned officers meet with the new officers?
- Have you THANKED everyone for their service and contribution to the unit?

This is just a short list of things to do before going into summer break mode.

Missouri PTA cannot THANK YOU enough for your service. It is the local units and councils that are Missouri PTA. We are grateful for your commitment to the families of Missouri children. I am amazed when I am out visiting units/councils and hear of the awesome events you have planned and done.

Missouri PTA is committed to helping you be successful. Did you know that your unit is entitled to state representation yearly? The Missouri PTA Board of Managers is ready and willing to come and present a program, do training, or installations. Please contact us if you would like to schedule a representative to come to your unit. It is our pleasure to serve you. As well, please look for and take advantage of trainings that will be conducted this summer in the forms of Schools of Information and Regional Conferences. As a leader, it is up to you to set the tone for leadership and training.

Training to keep your units/councils strong is a must. Please mark your calendars, budget and plan to attend the Missouri PTA convention in Columbia on October 15-17 at the Stoney Creek Inn. It is sure to be filled with great speakers, workshops, awards, and networking. Training is a legitimate PTA expense.

*Did you know Wendy has a blog?
Follow it at www.missouripta.blogspot.com*

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

We Need Statesmen, not Politicians!

By Charles J. "Chuck" Saylor, PTA National President

I have a pop quiz for you! Name one community that is not facing serious funding issues with their educational system?

Educational funding is the focus of the day. As parents, teachers, administrators, school board members and supporters of education, we all share a common concern, when will the bleeding stop?

When we band together and seek support from our decision makers, usually those who serve in our state legislatures, we receive little comfort. In most cases we hear our elected leaders say "I don't know what to do." They say we have no money, yet they continue to fund local projects or cut taxes even more. An example from my state of South Carolina, a short time ago the state legislature traded a property tax source for a penny sales tax increase. This legislation, called Act 388, has been a disaster for education. School districts have suffered several multi-million dollar hits to our budget which, left un-addressed, will eventually have a painful impact on the classroom.

When we try to resolve these issues with the decision makers in our state capitals, we usually hear, "we need to use all available funds for economic development." What in the world is a high quality learning environment? Is it not seen as economic development?

You've probably heard me say this before, but . . .

When a business looks to build in a community, its leadership looks at the schools and roads. If both are not top quality they look elsewhere. Employers know that their employees are going to look for the best schools. They are going to look for a school that is safe; secure; healthy; technologically equal and modern; an environment that helps make learning fun and successful. That's economic development. Support schools and support growth.

Now, how does this tie into the title? The answer is easy. For far too many years we have been forced to elect politicians who choose to ignore the toughest issues of today. They would rather point fingers, and blame. Long gone are the days when we elected elder statesmen who would find solutions, not excuses. We, as parents and community supporters of education, need to start today in finding those who will take on the hard topics of today and deal with them. We need to elect officials who care more about dealing with problems head-on and not the next election or fund-raiser. Until we collectively address these issues year after year we're going to see education take a back seat to other interests. If left un-addressed everyone will suffer.

Find a statesman!



To receive legislative alerts regarding issues important to Missouri, please join the JC/DC network on the home page of the Missouri PTA website (www.mopta.org). Simply add your name and email to the boxes in the lower right corner. Don't forget to sign up for National PTAs legislative alerts as well. You will find the form for that at the following link: http://www.pta.org/member_to_member_network.asp.

DONATIONS

Thank you for your generous donations. With your continued support, we can do great things.

Building Fund

Nixa Jr. High PTSA
Indian Creek Elementary PTA
Espy PTA of Nixa
St. Joseph Council PTA

Founder's Day Fund

Nixa Jr. High PTSA
Indian Creek Elementary PTA
Belton High School PTSA

Scholarship Fund

Summit Lakes Middle School PTA
Nixa Jr. High PTSA
North Kansas City High PTA
Indian Creek Elementary PTA
Espy PTA of Nixa

Clip Coupons and Support Our Troops

The sacrifices made by our armed services members and their families are numerous. There are months and sometimes years spent apart, numerous relocations from base to base, and, unfortunately, low pay. If you are looking for a service project, the Overseas Coupon Program might not only fit the bill but provide our service members' families with much needed support. OCP serves military families by assisting you with forwarding manufacturer's coupons to overseas military bases. Often we wind up with numerous coupons we ourselves will simply not use. These coupons can go a long way in helping a military family stretch a tight budget. The program is relatively simple and you can choose to participate in the program as either an individual or as a group. First go to the OPC website, www.ocpnet.org, and either choose to adopt a base or find an open base needing coupons. Then you clip, mail and report what you sent. The entire process is completely self serve. OCP does keep an ongoing record of the total dollar amount in coupons that have been donated, so they do ask that you record the total amount in each mailing. Once the coupons reach the base, volunteers process them and then make them available to the families. Your unused coupons really can make a big difference. For more in-depth information, go to the OCP website, www.ocpnet.org.

Alma Schrader Elementary PTA Receives National PTA Award

By Ava Payne, Contact Editor

The Alma Schrader Elementary PTA in Cape Girardeau received \$1897.00 from National PTA's "Take Your Family to School" program for their parent involvement program "One Tiger Cub, One Village, Many Teachers." The weeklong program is designed to connect parents to their children's school experiences, create occasions for educators to build positive partnerships with families, and give kids fun ways to share what they're learning and doing in class.

Teresa Wilke was the chair of the project and got the idea for the theme while planning an upcoming trip to Africa. Throughout the week, parents were invited to school to volunteer, participate in classroom activities, and meet other parents, as well as the teachers and the principal. The week culminated in an African Festival, with an open house and musical celebration. During the week's activities, parents were given a "Village Resource Guide," filled with helpful parenting tips and resources, such as how to save for college.

"Take Your Family to School" week is a special opportunity for schools to promote family involvement in children's education, which has been at the heart of PTA since its founding in February 1897. PTA Take Your Family to School Week and the \$1,897 Awards honor and continue that legacy.

The awards are funded by AXA Foundation, Proud National Sponsor of PTA.



Safe Summer Fun

By Elaine Gerstenberger, Health/Wellness and Safety Chair

Summer is on the way and our children will be in all kinds of water, whether a private or public pool, river, ocean, or one of Missouri's many lakes. Drowning is a leading cause of death and injury in adolescents and children, but with prevention we can keep our children safe.

- Teach your child to swim, but remember that children shouldn't be left unsupervised around water even if they know how to swim.
- Always wear a US Coast Guard approved life jacket when on a lake, river or ocean while boating, water skiing, jet skiing or tubing.
- Warn your children about playing in canals or other fast moving water.
- Do not let your child play around any water (lake, pool, ocean, etc.) without adult supervision (even if he is a good swimmer).
- Don't allow running or rough play around the water.
- Don't rely on "floaties" to keep younger children safe.

- Childproof your swimming pool with a fence around your backyard and a fence (at least 4 feet high) around the pool, with a self-closing, self-latching gate. Also consider having a phone poolside and learning CPR in case of emergencies.
- Check the water for before diving, both for water depth and to make sure no one else is in the water.



For more information about water safety, go to the Safe Kids USA website at www.safekids.org/water.

2009-2010 Reflections – “Beauty Is . . .”

By Michele Reed, Missouri PTA Reflections Chair

It is often said that “beauty is in the eye of the beholder.” Well, this year “Beauty Is . . .” in the eye of Missouri students, and they have done an exceptional job! Missouri PTA would like to thank all students and PTA units for participating in this year’s Reflections program. In the fortieth year of one of the largest National PTA-sponsored programs, Reflections allows students in preschool through twelfth grade to express their creativity in six art categories: dance choreography, film video production, literature, musical composition, photography and visual arts.

Students from across our state submitted 8,499 entries, representing 197 units. These local units forwarded a total of 1,773 entries to the state level for judging, which included: 48 Dance Choreography entries, 67 Film Video Production entries, 425 Literature entries, 110 Musical Composition entries, 476 Photography entries, and 647 Visual Arts entries. A complete listing of all Missouri winners can be found on the page 5. Congratulations to all students who participated in this year’s program and to our state winners. Missouri PTA is allowed to send a total of 24 entries to National PTA and the first place winning entries from each category and age division have been sent to National

PTA for judging at that level. The National PTA winners will be announced in May.

Missouri PTA would like to thank this year’s judges! All of these professionals have donated their time and expertise to judge the many entries received at the state level. Our judges for this year were: Dance Choreography: Mrs. Katie Cowan, Film Video Production: Mr. Randy Thurman and Mr. Michael Doyle, Literature: Mrs. Paulette Baker, Ms. Mary Clark, Mrs. Kelly Bever, and Mrs. Mary Lou Turnbow, Musical Composition: Dr. Tim Allshouse, Photography: Mr. Dan Ascheman, Visual Arts: Ms. Cheryl Metzger, Mr. Eric Winter, and Ms. Georgia Mueller.

We enjoyed hosting winners from all over the state during the Student Showcase on Saturday, April 24th at the Missouri PTA Leadership Conference. Winning students and families, along with unit representatives, celebrated the talents of our Missouri students.

It’s not too early to start planning now for your entry in next year’s competition! Missouri PTA is sure the entries will be as fabulous as this year’s.

2010-11 Reflections

“Together We Can . . .”

It’s not too early to start brainstorming for next year!

The categories will remain the same --
look for rules and guidelines on next year’s program in your summer toolkit.



Missouri PTA Reflections Program

"Beauty Is..." 2009-2010 Winners

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Holland Easterla	2 nd	Sunset Valley Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails
2 nd	Shanley Silvey	2 nd	Mill Creek Elementary PTA	Columbia / Heritage
3 rd	Janae Jacobs	1 st	Alice Pittman Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Anna Fredrick	4 th	Eugene Field Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark
2 nd	Halle Robbins	3 rd	Sequoia Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark
3 rd	Sydney Muskopf	4 th	Mill Creek Elementary PTA	Columbia / Heritage

MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Lindsey Shipley	8 th	Cherokee Middle PTSA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark
2 nd	Christine Drake	6 th	Delta Woods Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
3 rd	Claire Davis	8 th	Delta Woods Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails

FILM – VIDEO PRODUCTION

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Ian Flowers	2 nd	Union Chapel Elementary PTA	Park Hill / Pony Express
2 nd	Logan Frahm	K	Hickory Hills Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark
3 rd	Emily Flowers	1 st	Union Chapel Elementary PTA	Park Hill / Pony Express

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Tanner Freed	4 th	Northview Elementary PTA	North Kansas City / Pony Express
2 nd	Ashley Gustaverson	4 th	Eugene Field Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark
3 rd	Becca Beall	4 th	Platte City Schools PTA	Platte Co. R-III / Pony Express

MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Whitney Wood	8 th	Pleasant Lea Middle School PTSA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails
2 nd	Megan Moore	8 th	Cherokee Middle PTSA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark
3 rd	Jacob Furgerson	7 th	Cherokee Middle PTSA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark

LITERATURE

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Laurel Burns	2 nd	English Landing Elementary PTA	Park Hill / Pony Express
2 nd	Graham Mortimore	2 nd	Eugene Field Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark
3 rd	Jeesian Kuykendall	2 nd	Fox Hill Elementary PTA	North Kansas City / Pony Express

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Emily Marsh	5 th	Longview Farm Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails
2 nd	Allene Lux	4 th	Meadow Lane Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails
3 rd	Max Penny	4 th	Eugene Field Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark

MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Cynthia Crise	7 th	John J. Pershing Middle School PTSA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark
2 nd	Martha Allen	8 th	Jarrett Middle School PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark
3 rd	Caroline Brown	7 th	Hickory Hills Middle School PTSA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Lisa Brockmeyer	9 th	Blue Springs South High School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
2 nd	Rebecca White	12 th	Belton High School PTSA	Belton / Three Trails
3 rd	Rachael Martin	10 th	Belton High School PTSA	Belton / Three Trails

MUSICAL COMPOSITION

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Hannah Bottarel	2 nd	Ozark West Elementary PTA	Ozark R-VI / Ozark
2 nd	Ashley Carroll	2 nd	Delaware Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark
3 rd	Brittany Perez	2 nd	Cedar Creek Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Eleanor Panico	5 th	Hawthorn Elementary PTA	Park Hill / Pony Express
2 nd	Holland Gugler	4 th	Clardy/Gashland PTA	North Kansas City / Pony Express
3 rd	Jaxon Adams	5 th	Main Street School of Nixa PTA	Nixa R-II / Ozark

MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Kaela Lawrence	7 th	Summit Lakes Middle School PTSA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails
2 nd	Jason Weinzierl	8 th	Yeokum Middle School PTSA	Belton / Three Trails
3 rd	Zachary Adrian	8 th	Antioch Middle School PTSA	North Kansas City / Pony Express

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Peter Shin	12 th	Park Hill High School PTSA	Park Hill / Pony Express
2 nd	Victoria Yu	12 th	Rock Bridge High School PTSA	Columbia / Heritage
3 rd	Kyle East	12 th	Lee's Summit West High School PTSA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails

PHOTOGRAPHY

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Lindsey Morris	2 nd	Underwood Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails
2 nd	Bailey Porter	2 nd	Ozark North Elementary PTA	Ozark R-VI / Ozark
3 rd	Charlie Woodworth	2 nd	Eugene Field Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Ian Cross	5 th	Ridgeview Elementary PTA	Liberty / Pony Express
2 nd	Sebastian Mann	5 th	Eastwood Hills Elementary PTA	Raytown C-2 / Three Trails
3 rd	Emma Willard	3 rd	Westview Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails

MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Landon Allen	8 th	New Mark Middle School PTSA	North Kansas City / Pony Express
2 nd	Lexi Jones	8 th	New Mark Middle School PTSA	North Kansas City / Pony Express
3 rd	Bailey Flavin	6 th	Greenwood Lab PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Sarah Kang	11 th	Rock Bridge High School PTSA	Columbia / Heritage
2 nd	Morgan Green	10 th	Southern Boone County PTA	Southern Boone County / Heritage
3 rd	Christina Eubanks	12 th	Hickman High School PTSA	Columbia / Heritage

VISUAL ARTS

PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Annika Jackson	2 nd	Platte City Schools PTA	Platte Co. R-III / Pony Express
2 nd	Vasco da Silva Sturtz	1 st	Platte City Schools PTA	Platte Co. R-III / Pony Express
3 rd	Whitney Rhodes	2 nd	High Pointe Elementary PTA	Nixa R-II Schools / Ozark

INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Myranda Abarch	5 th	Cordill-Mason Elementary PTA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
2 nd	Addison Shiver	4 th	Ozark North Elementary PTA	Ozark R-VI / Ozark
3 rd	Madisen Kanugawa	5 th	James Lewis Elementary PTA	Blue Springs / Three Trails

MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Caitlyn Lindstrom	8 th	Bode Middle School PTSA	St. Joseph / Pony Express
2 nd	Megan McFarland	8 th	Summit Lakes Middle School PTSA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails
3 rd	Shannon Brouk	8 th	Lakeview Middle School PTSA	Park Hill / Pony Express

SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1 st	Alyssa Calhoun	12 th	Nixa High School PTSA	Nixa R-II / Ozark
2 nd	Kelsey Pauley	12 th	Belton High School PTSA	Belton / Three Trails
3 rd	Laura Caraway	9 th	Southern Boone County PTA	Southern Boone / Heritage

Please Note:

The First Place winning entries have been sent to National PTA for consideration at that level of judging.

Membership – A Year in Review

By Shelly Throckmorton, Vice President & Director of Membership Services

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)
- 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

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.

It's Time to Enter Members into Just Between Friends

Jump-starting a membership campaign in the Fall is crucial to success in growing membership – something that is so important to maintain our advocacy voice!

Since membership recruitment seems to slow after March, now is a perfect time to add this year's members into Just Between Friends. Then, members will be in the system -- ready and waiting to be invited to re-join once the new school year begins.

So, this year you're encouraged to begin adding members into the Just Between Friends system for the 2010 – 2011 school year – **NOW**. This will help to ease your workload as you ease into the new school year.

Just Between Friends enables you to streamline your member management, communications, directories and volunteer management. It was developed to simplify your life and strengthen your PTA.

If you haven't been using Just Between Friends, a good way to get started is to use the system to communicate with your board. You're encouraged to enter your officers – either this year's or those soon to be elected. This will provide you with experience using the system and increase your confidence about using Just Between Friends for membership management, member communications, creating directories and managing your volunteers.

Just Between Friends offers live interactive training webinars and a training section of their website to help you learn how to use the system. They have an excellent customer support team. And, Just Between Friends has been working over the past year to increase speed and enhance the system based on requests they've received from local PTA units.

If you've been using OMDR, you'll be able to get your data from OMDR into Just Between Friends. You'll just have to make revisions to ensure that you have up to date data for the next school year.

If you're not currently using Just Between Friends, get started at www.just-betweenfriends.com/PTAquickstart. It'll only take you about 10 minutes to register – minutes that will save you hours of work in the future.

Then, for a list and schedule of Just Between Friends live interactive training webinars, go to http://www.learnjbf.com/online_training/index.html.

You'll also find lots of "how-to" information when you visit www.learnjbf.com.

Whether you're currently using Just Between Friends or will begin using the system, now's the time to start adding members for the next school year. It will simplify your life and help to ease the deadline pressures of the new school year.



Missouri PTA Honor Roll

CONGRATULATIONS

to the following units who have qualified for the Honor Roll by meeting or increasing their previous year's membership total by March 1, 2010.

Alexander Doniphan PTA	Hazelwood West Middle School PTSA	Pipkin Middle School PTSA
Alma Schrader Elementary PTA	Hickman Mills High School PTSA	Platte City Middle School PTSA
Antioch Middle School PTA	Hickory Hills Middle School PTSA	Platte City Schools PTA
Ava PTA	High Pointe PTA	Platte County R-III High School PTSA
Barry Elementary PTA	Highland Park Elementary PTA	Pleasant Lea Elementary PTA
Belair Elementary PTA	Hosea Elementary PTA	Pleasant View Elementary PTA
Bell Prairie PTA	Humboldt Elementary PTA	Randall Elementary PTA
Belton High School PTSA	Indian Trails Elementary PTA	Ravenwood Elementary PTA
Belvidere Elementary PTA	Jefferson Elementary PTA	Raymore Elementary PTA
Bingham Middle School PTSA	John J. Pershing Elementary PTA	Raymore-Peculiar Middle School PTA
Blue Springs High School PTSA	John Nowlin Elementary PTA	Raytown Central Middle School PTSA
Bode Middle School PTSA	Jury Elementary	Raytown Middle School PTSA
Bois D'Arc Elementary PTA	Keeven Elementary PTA	Reed Middle School PTSA
Bowerman Elementary PTA	Lafayette High PTSA	Ridgeway Elementary PTA
Bridger Middle School PTSA	Lake Contrary Elementary PTA	Robinson Elementary School PTA
Buckner Elementary #265 PTA	Lakeview Middle School PTA	Rock Bridge Elementary PTA
Butcher-Green Elementary School PTA	Lakewood Elementary PTA	Rock Bridge Senior PTSA
Cameron PTSA	Lange Middle School PTA	Rock Creek Elementary PTA
Carver Middle School PTSA	Laurel Hills Elementary PTA	Rountree Elementary PTA
Cedar Creek Elementary PTA	Lee Expressive Arts Elementary PTA	School of the Osage High School PTSA
Center of Differentiated Education PTSA	Lee's Summit Elementary PTA	Shepard Blvd. Elementary PTA
Central High PTSA	Lee's Summit West H.S. PTSA	Skaith Elementary PTA
Central High School PTSA	Lindbergh Accelerated Elementary School PTA	Smith-Hale Middle School PTA
Chapel Hill PTA	Longview Farm Elementary PTA	Sni A Bar Elementary PTA
Cherokee Middle PTSA	Lower Elementary School of the Osage PTA	South School PTA
Christian Ott Elementary PTA	Luff (John W.) Elementary PTA	Southern Boone County PTA
Coleman Elementary PTA	Lusher Elementary PTA	Staley High School Falcon Booster Club PTSA
Conn-West Elementary PTA	Mark Twain Elementary PTA	Stony Point Elementary PTA
Creekmoor Elementary PTA	McCurdy Elementary PTA	Sugar Creek Elementary PTA
Daniel Young Elementary PTA	Meadowbrook Elementary PTA	Summit Pointe Elementary PTA
Delaware Elementary PTA	Nashua Elementary PTA	Sycamore Hills Elementary PTA
Delta Woods Middle School PTSA	New Bloomfield PTA	Thomas PTA
Eagle Glen Intermediate PTA	Nixa High School PTSA	Thomas Ultican Elementary PTA
Eastgate Middle School PTSA	Nixa Jr. High PTSA	Topping Elementary PTA
Eastwood Hills Elementary PTA	North Kansas City High PTA	Truman Elementary PTA
English Landing Elementary PTA	North Platte PTA	Truman High School PTSA
Eugene Field Elementary PTA	NRC Korte PTA	Twillman Elementary PTA
Faxon Montessori PTA	Osceola Grade & High School PTA	Union Chapel PTA
Franklin Elementary PTA	Ozark Junior High PTSA	Walt Disney PTA
Fremont Elementary PTA	Ozark Upper PTA	Watkins PTA
Gracemor Elementary School PTA	Park Hill Congress Middle School PTA	Weller Elementary PTA
Grant Elementary School PTA	Park Hill Early Childhood Ed. Center PTA	Wentzville Middle PTSA
Greenwood Elementary PTA	Park Hill High School PTA	West Elementary PTA
Harry S. Truman Elementary PTA	Park Hill Prairie Point Elementary PTA	William Bryant Elementary PTA
Hazel F. Dobbs PTA	Park Hill South High PTA	William Chrisman High School PTSA
Hazel Grove Elementary	Parkview Elementary PTA	Williams (ED.V) Elementary PTA
Hazelwood Central High PTSA	Parkwood PTA	Wilson's Creek PTA
Hazelwood Northwest Middle PTSA	Peculiar Elementary PTA	Winnetonka High PTSA
Hazelwood Southeast Middle School PTSA	Pickett Elementary School PTA	Wm. H. Johnson Elementary PTA
Hazelwood West High School PTSA	Pioneer Trail Elementary PTA	

National Legislative Conference

By Denise McCarter, Vice-President Legislation/Advocacy

The 2010 National PTA Legislative Conference was held in Washington, D.C. March 9-11, 2010. Missouri delegates who attended the Conference were Wendy Jackson, President; Donna Petiford, President-Elect; Denise McCarter, Vice-President of Legislation and Advocacy; Shelly Throckmorton, Vice-President of Membership; and Gwen Brune, Youth Representative.

The National PTA's three focus areas for 2010 are 1) engaging families, 2) championing the importance of equal opportunity for children, and 3) advocating for children's overall health and wellness. Missouri delegates attended workshops where they were trained in NPTA Public Policy, advocating for children, and specific legislative issues. The delegates then went to Capitol

Hill; met with Missouri Senators Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill, and Congressman Roy Blunt; and discussed issues concerning our nation's children. The delegates also visited the offices of Congressmen Sam Graves, Ike Skelton, and Emanuel Cleaver. It was a valuable opportunity to communicate the values and goals of PTA to our representatives.

A highlight of the conference was the Keynote Speaker, First Lady Michelle Obama. She spoke on the importance of good nutrition for our developing school-age children. She discussed how important it is for fresh and wholesome food choices to be available in the schools as well as the need to limit the amount of junk food provided in the school setting. She was warmly greeted by the delegates, and she stayed for

a brief time after her speech, speaking with NPTA Conference delegates.

NPTA has five million members nationwide. Missouri PTA has 72,000 members. With membership this large, we have a strong voice with which to speak for our children. With looming budget cuts in all areas, it is vitally important to let our legislators know now that funding for education should be protected. It is time for us to use our collective advocating power and speak up for our children. Please consider becoming an advocate. Visit www.mopta.org and join the JC/DC network, become educated about issues that affect education, and contact your state and federal representatives with your thoughts.

A Student's Perspective

By Gwen Brune, Youth Representative

I was lucky enough to attend the first ever Youth Leadership and Policy institute held in Washington D.C. during the National PTA's Legislative conference. Eleven students from across the nation participated in a two-day personal workshop talking about many issues. During the workshop I was able to learn about working with adults as allies, and building movements in schools all through policy making. On the last day, we were able to take what we learned and actually visit with Missouri's own members of Congress. In the Capitol Hill visits, I was able to understand how every student can be essential to the policymaking procedure by getting their voices heard.

Many students in schools are afraid of their teachers, but in reality they are there to help their students succeed. Being able to connect with teachers is the number one obstacle that students need to overcome. Children in our schools are our greatest untapped resource. They need to be able to reach out to these adults whenever an issue of importance arises. Faculty in schools need to be able to go to the students whenever they have policy changes occurring to make sure that it's a fit for both them

and their students. Many students do not realize that they can actually voice their opinion and get things changed. With the ability to go to adults and consider them allies instead of nemeses, policies in schools will succeed.

I realize that it is not a simple task to change policies in schools, and yes, some of the students requests might be a little bit out there, but having a student voice in policy changes, along with the adults, will benefit the schools in the long run. Education systems are organized in different ways to make actions happen in varying times and places. Simple actions such as community organizing, student mobilization, and even a student action committee could get the students and adults in there and working as one. This is what each school needs in order to succeed: students, teachers, faculty, and parents working as one. Meeting the members of Congress, I realized the importance of my voice and how a student from Missouri can get things done.

Representing PTA and their agenda on the Hill was amazing. Being able to meet our representatives and talk about the importance of the Elementary and Secondary

Education Act, as well as other things, was an eye-opening experience. The children of our nation are our future and advocating for those who are not able to express their voice is something that will stay with me for the rest of my life. My generation and the generations that follow, with the help of the PTA, will be able to aid and support our greatest assets in life: our children.



MO PTA Youth Representative Gwen Brune, MO PTA President Wendy Jackson, MO PTA VP of Legislation/Advocacy Denise McCarter, Senator Claire McCaskill, MO PTA VP of Membership Shelly Throckmorton, and MO PTA President-Elect Donna Petiford

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for Childhood Cancer Announces Student Leadership Academy

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation teams up with Learning to Lead Inc. to offer Summer Leadership Experience for Junior and Senior High School Students

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for Childhood Cancer (ALSF), in partnership with Learning to Lead, Inc., today announced the addition of a Student Leadership Academy to its repertoire. The event, slated for August 4-6, 2010 at Villanova University, is a dynamic leadership experience where high school juniors and seniors learn to become motivated leaders and make a difference in their communities. Among the several leadership skills that will be examined: teamwork, motivating others, effective communication, decision making, values and ethics, time management and personal leadership styles.

The ALSF Leadership Academy will offer a free, hands-on experience for participants, complete with activities, classroom sessions and workshops designed to teach students what it means to be a leader. The interactive program, which is currently accepting applications, will admit 60 participants into the program. Students from all corners of the United States are encouraged to apply, and dormitory lodging and meals will be provided at Villanova University as part of this free leadership experience.

"Dating back to Alex's very first front yard lemonade stands, we have always felt that kids have a large impact on their community and making a difference in the lives of others," says Liz Scott, Alex's mom. "We wanted to foster leadership in these promising young people who will affect

not only the communities in which they dwell, but have the capability to change the world in which we live."

The Learning to Lead staff has been teaching leadership skills for over five decades. The staff includes experts from a wide variety of backgrounds including secondary education, higher education, athletic leadership, and in corporations.

"Building and acquiring leadership skills are essential to an individual's success in life. We are thrilled to be partnering with ALSF to ensure that students have the tools and skills to pursue and lead service endeavors. We have designed and developed an exciting curriculum that is like no other – teaching the critical leadership skills which allow teens to make an immediate impact in their schools and community," states Camp Director Beth Mooney.

For more information, or to apply, please visit www.AlexsLemonade.org/leadership-camp or call (866) 333-1213.

About Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) emerged from the front yard lem-

onade stand of cancer patient Alexandra "Alex" Scott (1996-2004). 2010 marks 10 years since 4-year-old Alex announced that she wanted to hold a lemonade stand to raise money to help find a cure for *all* children with cancer. Since Alex held that first stand, the Foundation bearing her name has evolved into a national fundraising movement, complete with thousands of volunteers across the country carrying on her legacy of hope. To date, Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, a registered 501(c)3 charity, has raised more than \$30 million towards fulfilling Alex's dream of finding a cure, funding over 125 research projects nationally.

About Learning to Lead

Learning to Lead, Inc. is a non profit education/consulting company focusing on developing and enhancing leadership skills. The company's directors have been successful educating countless high school students, college level students and corporate professionals on the values of leadership. The company's directors Dave Archer and Beth Mooney are a father/daughter team with a combined experience of over forty years in leadership education.



Attention New (and Returning) Presidents!

By Ava Payne, CONTACT Editor

Congratulations on your leadership role in PTA/PTSA! In the coming weeks, you will be receiving informational mailings from both MO PTA and National PTA: the National Convention packet and Back-to-School Toolkit, State Toolkit, and Reflections and Awards packets. As a former Unit and Council President, I

know this avalanche of information can be overwhelming, especially for a new President. Know that you have support from MO PTA through your Council (if you have one) and your Regional Director. Many things will come to you that need to be passed on to other officers or chairs in your Unit, such as the incoming offi-

cers' guides – don't forget, as you are the only person in your Unit who will get this information. Planning resources are also available at pta.org and mopta.org (in the "members only" section). Thank you for your service to all of Missouri's children.

Sometimes It Just Takes A Little

By Dorothy Gardner, VP Communications

How can a child learn if they struggle to see what they are trying to read? How can a child succeed if they fail to clearly hear the words spoken in the classroom? Just as we as adults find our own jobs exceedingly difficult when medical problems interfere, children should not be expected to excel in the school setting when medical problems are left unaddressed. As PTA members our actions have historically been and still do focus on advocating for children. How we choose to advocate for our children looks different depending on the circumstances. Initially, I only thought of advocacy for children as it related to legislative issues. However, over the years I have come to understand advocacy can take on many forms, especially with regard to PTA endeavors.

Last month I was extremely fortunate to attend St. Joseph Council PTA's Founder's Day Banquet. Dinner, catered by a local favorite, was superb but it dimmed in comparison to the awe-inspiring efforts honored during the evening. One award in particular captured my attention in such a manner I knew I couldn't leave without learning more. All around me schools were being honored for their own success stemming from the "Help a Child to See" drive. Not only were they recognized for meeting their goal this year, but also, we were all informed of how many past years they had continually met their goal. I listened with a humbled admiration as school after school received acknowledgement for multiple years of achievement.

Meeting this yearly goal sounded easy enough. During the "Help a Child to See" drive each school is challenged to encourage all full-time personnel to donate at least \$1 to the drive. Now any membership chair can tell you it might sound easy to obtain 100% participation, especially considering it is for an outstanding cause, but in practice a 100% goal is often difficult to achieve. Still, achieve they did and not just this year but they have been meeting this goal year after year.

So where does the money go? What drives these schools to promote and achieve successful fund drives year after year? The "Help a Child to See" campaign directly supports The Clarence J. Carpenter Memorial Fund. Founded in 1937 by the St. Joseph PTA, the fund was created to address the needs of children with vision and other medical problems. Medical needs that desperately needed to be addressed. However, for one reason or another assistance from other sources proved unavailable. This form of advocacy, supporting children and enabling their continued success, fills a need present in almost every community in our nation yet often proves difficult to overcome. They found a way to support those children who had fallen through the gaps elsewhere. Personally I cannot imagine how many lives the fund has touched in the past 73 years. Individuals who were given much needed support so they could supersede one ailment or another and reach their potential.

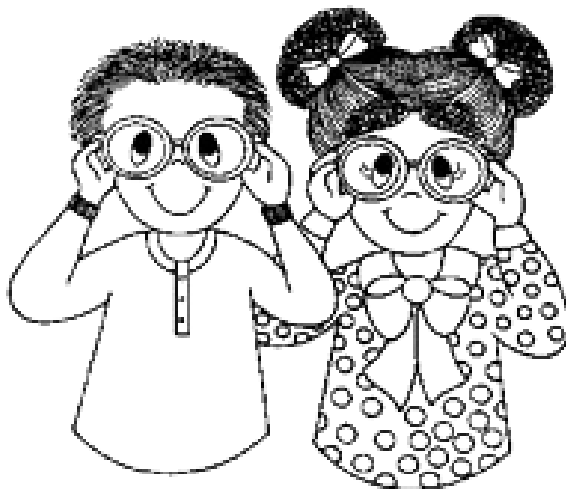
More often than not, a successful endeavor is the outcome of a strong organizational structure and a clear focus. Thirteen volunteers manage the Clarence J. Carpenter Memorial Fund Board. On the board sits the St. Joseph PTA Council President, the St. Joseph School District Coordinator of Health Services, the Missouri PTA Regional Director assigned to the PTA Council and individuals elected

by the St. Joseph PTA Council. In addition there are three Honorary Trustees, and the St. Joseph School District Superintendent serves as an advisor to the board.

To be eligible, students are first initially screened by the school nurse, who in turn, informs school principals and/or the Coordinator of Health Services of the needed assistance. Every case is considered on an individual basis and specific protocols are followed to ensure the student's privacy. Once it is determined the student meets the eligibility requirements, they are referred to qualified medical professionals. A variety of medical professionals work with the fund to address the student's needs not only by the services they provide but also by providing those services at reduced rates. The generosity of these professionals enables the fund to serve as many children as possible.

During the 2008-2009 school year The Clarence J. Carpenter Memorial Fund assisted 111 students at a cost of \$9,149.99. This was an increase of 27 students and \$3,447.20 over the previous year. A great deal of this stems from individuals being encouraged to donate only \$1. Sometimes a little really does mean a lot.

If you would like more information regarding this program contact the Carpenter Board Chair, Sandy Frazer, at 816-279-5502 or email frazer@ponyexpress.net.



What is a SEPTA?

By Lisa Slattery, Secretary, Springfield SEPTA

A Special Education PTA (SEPTA) is not a new idea; there have been strong SEPTAs across the country for years. However, we do not want to be the only one in our area. We would be delighted to help other PTA Councils or School Districts throughout Missouri to plan, organize and bring into fruition new SEPTAs.

Our focus is on any child who receives any type of alterations to their work, instruction or day to help them succeed. Springfield SEPTA is committed to supporting all children, but we also see a need to provide additional support and attention to children receiving special services in the district. This organization and its members are working to build connections and support between parents, teachers, programs and community members/organizations. By building the relationships and working to coordinate the services provided in and outside the school, our children will flourish.

Our children will have the opportunity to blossom if they experience the best possible foundation of education in their elementary and secondary schooling. Although this goal is no different than what any parent wants for their child, the non-typical child's needs to reach those goals are greater. Therefore, the parents, through a SEPTA, can become more knowledgeable on the issues that affect schools, special education departments, student achievement and funding. Parents become empowered and can become more effective in participating in local and district school decisions, and can speak up to our legislators when there is a need to allocate more funds or change legislation. We work to represent the children who have special needs, giving them a voice in the educational decisions made at every level and giving parents a way to be actively involved in the education of their children.

A SEPTA is open to anyone who has an interest in, or a passion for, the lives of the children who have special needs in the community. Our children will become a member of the community and deserve the support afforded any other child. We work with our School Board Members, our Superintendent and with our Special Education Director to promote our common goal, the success of our children.

For more information on forming a SEPTA in your Council or District, go to springfieldsepta.org.

"GET MOVING" Night a Big Success

Thomas Ultican Elementary School PTA in Blue Springs, Missouri, hosted their second annual family "Get Moving" night in February. Over 200 people came out on a blustery night to play, have a healthy snack, and learn about healthy lifestyles. Representatives from the U.S. Marines, YMCA, and local martial-arts studios, soccer clubs, and grocery stores were on hand to educate the kids (and parents) about eating well and staying fit. Tug of war, Simon Says, and push-up contests kept everyone moving! PTA President Rob Thomas asked that any business who wanted to participate also make a donation for door prizes, such as gift certificates or free lessons.



Springfield Council Awards National PTA Life Achievement Award



Springfield Council awarded Earl Newman, Springfield Traffic Engineer, with the National PTA Life Achievement Award for his commitment and devotion to children and youth. For over 30 years, Mr. Newman has worked with PTA members, school administration, city, state, and

county officials and law enforcement as part of the School Crossing Protection Committee. The Committee develops policies and procedures to ensure a uniform school crossing protection program throughout the Springfield R-12 School District.

Springfield Council of PTAs is pleased to present this prestigious award to Earl," said Donna Petiford, President, Springfield Council of PTAs. "Countless school chil-

dren have a safe trip to and from school due to Earl's leadership, expertise, and initiative to provide programs and projects designed to protect and educate young pedestrians."

The National PTA Life Achievement Award is the highest honor a PTA can bestow to pay tribute to those who have demonstrated exemplary service in support of children.

Short Takes

CREDIT CARD CHANGE

MO PTA is unable to accept credit card payments at this time. We hope to offer this form of payment again in the future.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PSAs) AVAILABLE

The PSAs you may have read about in your "Local Leader News" from National PTA are being closely followed in our state by our Communications Department. We are charting what part of the state has aired the PSAs, and contacting news media to make sure they know we think the announcements are important. If you would like more information on the PSAs, please contact Barb Gilmore, Marketing Chair, Communications Department at barbg@mopta.org

INSTALLATION IDEAS ON WEBSITE

The "Installation Now" MO PTA publication is now available in the "Member's Only" section of mopta.org. This publication is also available in hard-copy form from MO PTA.

WE'VE MOVED!

Please note our main office in Columbia has moved. Our new address is: 2101 Burlington St. Columbia, MO 65202. The phone numbers will remain (800) 328-7330 and (573) 445-4161.

FREE TIME AT BIG SURF WATERPARK

Big Surf Waterpark in Linn Creek (near Lake of the Ozarks) is pleased to offer their Alpha Program again in 2010! This program allows students from Kindergarten through 5th Grade to bring in their final report cards only once during May or June and get in FREE if they have an "A" or "A" equivalent in any subject.

MEET US IN THE VIRTUAL WORLD

Did you know MO PTA is on facebook? Add us to your "fan of" list!

PUT YOUR UNIT OR COUNCIL IN CONTACT

We want to spread the word about your unit or council. Please send event information to the CONTACT editor at avap@mopta.org.

Mark Your Calendar

May

- Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month
- Hepatitis Awareness Month
- Mental Health Month
- National Bike Month
- National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
- National Teen Pregnancy Awareness Month
- 1 Membership dues to state office
- 2-7 National PTA Teacher Appreciation Week
- 4 National Teacher Appreciation Day
- 5 Cinco de Mayo
- 5 Resolutions Deadline
- 6 National PTA Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Art Enhancement Grant Deadline
- 10 Mother's Day
- 11-15 Children's Book Week
- 12 School Nurses' Appreciation Day
- 16 Armed Forces Day
- 25 Memorial Day
- Missouri PTA Office Closed
- National Missing Children's Day

June

- Fireworks Safety Month
- National Safety Month
- 10-13 114th National PTA Annual Convention, Memphis, TN
- 14 Flag Day
- 15-21 National Men's Health Month
- 21 Father's Day
- Summer Begins
- 22-28 Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week

July

- National Parks and Recreation Month
- 4 Independence Day
- 20 Special Olympics Day
- 26 Parents Day

Missouri Congress of Parents & Teachers
Missouri PTA
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Columbia, MO 65202



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National PTA Convention

June 10-13

Memphis, TN



Group discounts are available

Register in advance to save – mail-in registration ends May 14

On-site registration begins June 10 in Memphis

Visit pta.org/annualconvention for more information!