“Together We Can . . .”

Photography and Visual Arts 1st Place Winners

Primary Photography Winner
Emma Vincent, 2nd Grade
George Espy Elementary PTA
Nixa R-II/Ozark Region

Middle/Jr. Photography Winner
Bekah Casey, 6th Grade
Sunny Vale Middle School PTSA
Blue Springs/Three Trails Region

Senior Photography Winner
QinQin Yu, 12th Grade
Rock Bridge High School PTSA
Columbia/Heritage Region

Intermediate Visual Arts Winner
Aashree Gandhi, 4th Grade
Lewis & Clark Elementary PTA
Liberty/Pony Express Region

Kayla Decker, 6th Grade
Park Hill Plaza Middle School PTSA
Park Hill/Pony Express Region

Senior Visual Arts Winner
Jennie Obermeier, 12th Grade
Park Hill South High School PTSA
Park Hill/Pony Express Region

Primary Visual Arts Winner
Bela Gard, 1st Grade
Greenwood Elementary School PTA
Lee’s Summit/Three Trails Region

Congratulations!
President’s Message

By Wendy Jackson, Missouri PTA President

On a recent trip to the National PTA Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. I found myself thinking about advocacy. After spending a day meeting with Missouri’s Senators and Congressmen, on behalf of all children and families, it became very clear to me that we can and do make a difference. We were among many other groups there to advocate for one thing or another. What was the difference? Was what we had to say more important than their objectives? Why should our cause be funded, or furthered? In advocating for children and families on behalf of National PTA and Missouri PTA, we were truly unique. There exists no other advocacy group whose sole purpose is to speak out on behalf of children and families. We advocate, not as a profession, but because we have passion and a deep-set belief in our cause. Because of this passion, we have nothing to lose, but everything to gain. I have never considered myself to be a professional lobbyist. In fact, in my eyes, I am mediocre at best. However, I choose to do what I can to make a difference. What a unique perspective. I have the experiences of my childhood to draw upon and the experiences of my family to help me bring a personal touch to what I am doing. All around us, there are families just like mine and yours. Families who laugh together, play together, and sometimes struggle together. Through PTA, we are in the distinct position to bring what each of us has learned through trial and error to those who are the decision-makers. We speak for those who can’t, those who don’t, and those who won’t, regardless the reason. So we may not be Abraham Lincoln, or Thomas Jefferson, but we can and do make a difference. We must choose to do what we can, and work to further the mission and purposes of PTA. So ask yourself this: Am I doing all that I can, or at least as much as I can?

“Alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much”. Helen Keller

Wrapping up another school year, please remember to spend some time to prepare and equip your new board with the resources they need to begin the next school year. Finish those procedure books and plan some time to spend with the person that will be stepping into your role. Make a point to visit and share all those things that can’t be written down. Then step back and let them take the reigns, give yourself a pat on the back and support the new officers with your wisdom.

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

Contact Information
www.mopta.org
MO PTA 800-328-7330

President/Publisher Wendy Jackson
Editor Ava Payne
Graphic Designer Brenda Lajolette

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or www.mopta.org

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

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.

Legislative Conference
National PTA rolls out Parents’ Guide to Student Success
By Charles J. “Chuck” Saylors, PTA National President

Advocacy can sometimes prove to be a challenge. Many say they don’t have the time, some just do not understand why. Then there is the PTA; an Association of parents, teachers, administrators and communities working to improve the educational experience of our students. Common Core State Standards has been an initiative of the PTA for more than a year now and it has taken our advocacy efforts to a new level.

For example, National PTA rolled out the Parents’ Guide to Student Success. Individual guides have been created for parents, in both English and Spanish, for grades K-8 and two for grades 9-12; one for English language arts/literacy and one for mathematics. Eleven Guides in all.

These Guides help parents better understand what their children should be learning in English language arts and math in each grade after their state implements the standards. At this writing more than 40 states have already adopted the standards. Although the standards will take some time to be fully implemented in most places (1-3 years), the time to act is now for PTA leaders.

The Guides are a powerful advocacy tool that State and Local PTA Presidents can use to partner with their state departments of education and their school districts to ensure that parents are knowledgeable about the standards and can support their implementation. With this tool, PTAs can stand ready to work with their education administrators to develop a plan to share the Parent Guides with parents in their communities once the standards are in place.

As a parent, I know these guides will be helpful to me once the standards are implemented. Not only will they help me know what to expect my child to learn, but will help me know what the most important topics my boys will learn about in each grade.

You can find the guides and more information about the Common Core State Standards at PTA.org/parentsguides.

Charles J. “Chuck” Saylors is the President of National PTA.
Budget ABC’s

By Patty Buckholz, Missouri PTA Treasurer

Why do we need a budget? What is a budget? Whose responsibility is it to plan one? Who must keep track of it? Do we include just expenses? What if we change our minds?

A budget is a plan that becomes the cornerstone of your PTA finances. It should reflect how the money of the membership is used to promote the purposes of PTA through the many things a PTA does each year. Usually the budget follows the fiscal year of a PTA as defined in the bylaws. The bylaws may also state which chair or committee is assigned to draft a budget and that the membership must adopt the budget.

Begin by looking at how funds were both brought in and spent in the last year or two. Those previous years’ Fiscal Year-End Reports and/or year-end budget reports should be very helpful. The new budget should reflect the funds left from the year that is just ending. Any incomplete business from the previous year, such as cash not deposited or bills not paid, should be factored into the new budget.

In addition to considerations from the previous year, the budget will be largely composed of financial activities for the coming year. The budget committee should have input from all the committees who will have financial need. The budget should include anticipated receipts of funds such as local membership dues, spirit wear sales, book fairs, admission fees and fundraiser sales, donations, miscellaneous refunds and any other receipts. Then the budget should include anticipated expenses for all activities for the PTA for the year such as all the events/activities that have costs involved plus the costs for spirit wear sales, book fairs and fundraiser sales. Many individual events/activities may be grouped together under broad budget lines, others will be better served being outlined individually. A balanced budget will have total anticipated receipts that match the total anticipated expenses.

In most cases fundraisers are needed for the PTA to afford all the planned activities. It is not advisable to raise a lot of money and then decided what is to be done with it. It is advisable to calculate your anticipated expenses and then calculate total funds that will need to be raised to provide for those expenses. Some sales will be of nominal profit but they should be listed as well as those activities or sales that are expected to garner a hefty profit. The gross receipts from any fundraiser are included in anticipated receipts and the cost of any fundraiser should be included in the anticipated expenses.

Many PTAs find a need to carry some funds from year to year to bridge the financial needs that fall between the end of one fiscal year and the adoption of the budget for the new fiscal year. A PTA can itemize a line for start up funds or reserves, or at the end of the year they may approve that remaining funds from one year be approved as start up funds for the coming year.

Budgets are plans and plans often change. A PTA should have its membership adopt the budget at the first membership meeting of the year. As plans change the budget should be amended and such amendments approved by the membership.

The treasurer should present a budget report at each meeting of the membership. Such reports should build each month; by the end of the year the report reflects the actual amount of receipts for each line and the actual amount of expense for each line. This becomes that annual financial report or Fiscal Year-End Report. A copy of this report is due to Missouri PTA by December 1st as one of the requirements for unit in good standing.

A well run PTA is much like a small business. Taking a business approach to the financial aspects of the PTA is critical for its success. Keeping the membership involved in the budget will bring confidence to the association.

Donations

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

Building Fund
Belton Council PTA
Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA
St. Joseph Council PTA
Winnwood Elementary PTA

Scholarship Fund
Belvidere Elementary PTA
Indian Creek Elementary PTA
Belton Council PTA
Sherwood Elementary PTA
Voy Spears Elementary PTA
Gracemor PTA
Cameron PTA
Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA
St. Joseph Council PTA
Party Buckholz
Winnwood Elementary PTA

Founder’s Day Donations
Stonegate Elementary PTA
Belton Council PTA
Belton High School PTSA
Kentucky Trail Elementary PTA
Gracemor PTA
Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA
Christian Ott Elementary PTA
Winnwood Elementary PTA
Summer Safety Tips for All Ages!

By Dani Riley, Health & Safety/Juvenile Services Chair

Safety Tips for Babies

- Babies under six months old should avoid direct sunlight and only use tiny amounts of sunscreen if needed. Your baby might need additional fluids, so increase nursing or formula. Water is discouraged for babies under 6 months of age.

- Older babies can be exposed to sunlight for short periods of time, but use sunscreen generously. You can begin to offer small amounts of water.

- Keep babies in the shade as much as possible, using hats and umbrellas when needed.

- Babies get fussy when they are warm so do not overdress them.

- Do not leave your baby alone near water even for a minute.

- Do not leave your baby in the car alone even for a minute. Put a stuffed animal or the diaper bag on the front passenger seat to remind you that she is in the back seat!

Safety Tips for Toddlers

- Use sunscreen and play in the shade as much as possible.

- Provide calm breaks during their long day of playing.

- Try to be indoors during the hottest hours of the day.

- Do not leave your toddler alone near water even for a minute.

- Touch the slide for heat before allowing your toddler to slide down.

- Teach your toddler to stay away from the BBQ grill even when it is cold.

- Teach your toddler to never pick berries, leaves or flowers without your permission.

Safety Tips for Kids

- Insist on sunscreen and offer a hat.

- Offer sports drinks, water, and popsicles.

- Do not call your child a “swimmer” until he truly can swim.

- Teach your kids where they can ride their bikes and to always wear their helmets.

- Have them call you when they arrive at their destination.

- Let them be lazy and have fun - it’s summer vacation!

Safety Tips for Teens

- Encourage sunscreen.

- Remind your teen to take their cell phone with them and to let you know when they change locations.

- If you have a backyard pool, make it a rule that they never swim alone.

- Summer = increased driving time. Continue to enforce your driving rules.

- Understand that summer is a time for your teen to unwind and have fun. But don’t ease up on your family rules and expectations.

- Allow your teen to sleep late sometimes - it’s summer vacation!
## Missouri PTA Reflections Program

### “Together We Can” 2010-2011 Winners

### Dance Choreography

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary (Preschool – Grade 2)</th>
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<td>1st</td>
<td>K</td>
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<td>Lone Jack's / Three Trails</td>
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<td>Alice Pittman Elementary PTA</td>
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### Junior / Middle School (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

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### Middle / Junior (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

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<th>Senior (Grade 9 – Grade 12)</th>
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### Primary (Preschool – Grade 2)

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<td>John Howlin Elementary PTA</td>
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### Literature

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### Musical Composition

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### Film – Video Production

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The First Place winning entries have been sent to National PTA for consideration at that level of judging.
Were YOU in the Picture?

Put Yourself in the PTA Picture . . . Join Today! This was the theme when we kicked the membership year off at Leadership conference in April 2010.

Being in the PTA Picture means:

- BE informed
- BE involved
- BE a part of the largest child advocacy association in the nation.

- Remember membership is the foundation of PTA at all levels.
- Membership in your unit reaches far beyond the walls of your school.
- When you join PTA, you are casting a vote of support for your school throughout the community.

It’s time to look back and review how the membership year went for your unit. Take a minute to ask some questions about your year.

How do you think your unit did?
Did you manage to reach 100% membership?
Did you increase your membership by one member or more, or even keep your membership equal with last year’s?
Did someone new join this year?
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. You were in the Picture! 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.

As you finish out the year it is important to record accomplishments and suggestions for next year. Hopefully your unit maintains a procedure book for membership, but if not, start one now! Even if your unit’s membership chair is the same person again next year, writing down what worked and what didn’t can be a huge benefit in starting out next year strong. A procedure book can help your unit either build on previous achievements or provide a valuable roadmap to future success.

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 that are beneficial

We look back each year and reflect about how much our children have grown, learned and achieved. 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 staying strong and successful in our advocacy for children. Good luck next year and let’s all stay in the big picture…The PTA Picture!
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, 2011.

Alexander Doniphan PTA
Alice Pittman Elementary PTA
Antioch Middle School PTA
Arrowpoint Elementary PTA
Barrington Elementary PTA
Barry Middle School PTSA
Belair Elementary PTA
Bell Prairie PTA
Belton High School PTSA
Belvidere Elementary PTA
Bingham Elementary PTA
Blue Springs High School PTSA
Bolivar Intermediate School PTA
Boone Trail Elementary PTA
Bowerman Elementary PTA
Bridle Ridge Intermediate PTA
Brown Elementary PTA
Buckner PTA
C. A. Burke Elementary PTA
Cameron PTSA
Cedar Ridge Elementary PTA
Central High School PTSA
Chapel Hill PTA
Chouteau Elementary PTA
Clardy/Gashland PTA
Cler-Mont PTA
Clinton County R-III PTA
Cold Water Elementary PTA
Columbia MO Assn. Gifed & Talented PTA
Cordill-Mason Elementary PTA
Crestview Elementary PTA
David Barton Elementary PTA
Davidson Elementary PTA
Delta Woods Middle School PTSA
Dixon PTA
Duello Elementary PTA
Eugene Field Elementary PTA
Franklin Elementary PTA
Franklin Smith Elementary PTA
Garrett PTA
Gentry Middle (Anne Hawkins) PTSA
Gladden Elementary PTA
Glendale Elementary PTA
Glendale PTSA
Graden Elementary PTA
Grannemann Elementary PTA
Greenwood Elementary PTA
Greenwood Lab PTA
Guy A. Cowden Elementary PTA
Halfway Grade & High School PTA
Hall Elementary PTA
Hawthorn Hill Elementary PTA
Hazelwood Northwest Middle PTSA
Hazelwood Southeast Middle School PTSA
Hickory Hills West Middle School PTSA
High Pointe PTA
Hillcrest Elementary PTA
Holland Elementary PTA
Indian Creek Elementary PTA
Indian Trails Elementary PTA
Ireland PTA
James Walker Elementary PTA
Jana Elementary PTA
Jefferson Elementary PTA
John J. Pershing Elementary PTA
John J. Pershing Middle School PTSA
Jury Elementary PTA
Kentucky Trail Elementary PTA
Kickapoo PTSA
Lakewood Elementary PTA
Larimore Elementary PTA
Lawson Elementary
Lee Expressive Arts Elementary PTA
Lee's Summit Elementary PTA
Lee's Summit High School PTSA
Lewis & Clark Elementary PTA
Liberty Middle School PTSA
Liggert Trail Education Center PTA
Linden West Elementary PTA
Logan-Rogersville Elementary PTA
Lone Jack PTA
Lower Elementary School of the Osage PTA
Manor Hill Elementary PTA
Maple Park Middle School PTA
Maplewood Elementary PTA
Marion C. Early G & H Schools PTA
Martin City K-8 PTA
Matthews Elementary PTA
McBride Elementary PTA
McNair Elementary PTA
Mill Creek Elementary PTA
Nixa High School PTSA
Nixa Jr. High PTSA
North Platte PTA
NRC Korte PTA
Oak Park High School Booster Club PTSA
Oakwood Manor Elementary PTA
Ozark East Elementary PTA
Ozark North Elementary (O.N.E.) PTA
Ozark Upper PTA
Park Hill Day School PTA
Park Hill High School PTA
Park Hill Plaza Middle School PTA
Parkade Elementary PTA
Parkview Elementary PTA
Parkview High School PTSA
Paxton Keeley Elementary PTA
Pioneer Ridge Middle School PTSA
Platte City Schools PTA
Pleasant View Elementary PTA
Potosi Elementary PTA
Prairie View Elementary PTA
Procter Elementary PTA
Raymore Peculiar East Middle School PTSA
Raytown High School PTSA
Raytown Middle School PTSA
Richardson Elementary PTA
Ridgeway Elementary PTA
Roberson PTA
Robidoux Middle School PTSA
Rock Bridge Elementary PTA
Rock Bridge Senior PTSA
Rock Creek Elementary PTA
Rose Acres Elementary PTA
Ruth Oliver Walker Elementary PTA
School of the Osage Jr. High PTA
Scott Elementary PTA
Shoal Creek Elementary PTA
Shull Elementary PTA
Smithton Middle School PTSA
South Valley Jr. High PTSA
South Valley Middle School PTSA
Southern Boone County PTSA
Staley High School Falcon Booster Club PTSA
Ste. Genevieve Elem PTA
Stony Point Elementary PTA
Sugar Creek Elementary PTA
Summit Intermediate School PTA
Sunny Pointe Elem PTA
Sunny Vale Middle School PTSA
Sunshine Elementary PTA
Thomas B. Chinn PTA
Thomas Jefferson Middle School PTA
Thomas PTA
Timber Creek Elementary PTA
Townsend Elementary PTA
Union Chapel PTA
Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA
Wanda Gray Elementary PTA
Warford Elementary PTA
Warren Hills Elementary PTA
Welller Elementary PTA
West Elementary PTA
West Englewood PTA
West Junior High PTSA
Westport Elementary PTA
William Bryant Elementary PTA
William Southern Elementary PTA
Williams (Ed.V) Elementary PTA
Winnetonka High PTSA
Woodland Elementary PTA
The National PTA Legislative Conference was held in March in Washington DC. The conference gives PTA representatives from around the country the chance to hear about and discuss the NPTA Legislative Priorities and to meet with their Senators and Representatives in Washington DC.

A current high priority for the NPTA is getting a federal budget passed that continues to include specific funding for Parent Information and Resource Centers (PIRCs). This funding is the only federal funding that specifically funds family engagement. There are currently 62 centers around the nation, which includes one in every state. The Missouri PIRC employs a number of strategies and activities to share information and resources, including parent and school staff training, workshops, toll-free information lines, print materials, and web sites. The Missouri PIRC also coordinates various Federal, state and local parental involvement initiatives to help bridge families, communities, and schools. You can find more information about them and their resources online at www.missouri-pirc.org

The Common Core State Standards Initiative was also discussed. This partnership between National PTA and experts on the Common Core State Standards created grade by grade guides that reflect the standards adopted by more than 40 states. Individual guides were created for grades K-8 and two were created for grades 9-12 (one for English language arts/literacy and one for mathematics). Eleven (11) guides were created in all. These guides and more information about the Common Core State Standards can be found on the National PTA website under the Public Policy tab.

A full copy of the National PTA Public Policy Agenda can be found on their website under the Public Policy tab. Current issues include Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) reauthorization, Early Childhood Education, and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) reauthorization.

When you visit the NPTA website, take a minute to join the PTA Takes Action Network. The PTA Takes Action Network includes a monthly newsletter and Take Action Alerts with breaking news items and information on how you can take action.
Missouri PTA

By Donna Petiford, MOPTA President-Elect

On Monday, February 28, 2011, I gave testimony before the House Committee on Children and Families in support of House Bill (HB) 565, which protects third parties who report child abuse. The committee had scheduled a hearing for the bill on Wednesday, March 1, 2011, at 8:00 am. Missouri PTA had requested Rep. Charlie Denison’s support of this bill during our December 1, 2010, Legislative Town Hall meeting in Springfield and Rep. Denison said he would support it. A few reminder phone calls later and the bill was filed and the House hearing was scheduled.

I prepared for my appearance before the committee with the help of our Vice President of Legislation and Advocacy, Denise McCarder. I left Springfield at 5:00 a.m. with talking points in hand, destined to Jefferson City to testify for the early morning hearing. I contacted Rep. Denison’s office to let them know of my arrival in Jefferson City and at 7:50 a.m., I found Hearing Room 1 in the basement of the Capital Building. I filled out the appropriate form, letting the committee know who I was and who I represented and of my desire to speak in favor of HB 565. I also remembered to bring a neatly typed copy of my testimony and a copy of Missouri PTA’s Resolution, “Third Party Child Abuse Reporting in Missouri Schools”, so that I could leave both with the committee’s secretary.

I was the only person present to speak in favor of the bill. The committee asked a few questions of me and I was glad to have gone over the talking points ahead of time and that my testimony was backed by a Missouri PTA resolution that had been thoroughly researched and voted on by our convention delegates in 2007. I felt confident that I had factual information and that I had the support of our approximately 70,000 members statewide. A single testimony was given in opposition to the bill and as this witness responded to the questions of the committee, I felt that he did not have the same preparation that I experienced.

After the hearing, I stopped by Representative Denison’s office to thank him for his continued support of this issue and of Missouri PTA. He had arranged for a photographer and we posed for a quick picture, which was included in his weekly email to constituents (which I feel might give our issue positive publicity with people in his legislative district).

I also took the time to stop by Senator Will Kraus’ office. Senator Kraus had filed an identical bill Senate Bill (SB) 112 in the Missouri Senate and I wanted him to express my appreciation for his support of Missouri PTA. While I was at the Capital, I took the opportunity to visit with my Senator, Bob Dixon, to make him aware of the bill that I was testifying for and to ask for his support of SB 112. Sen. Dixon is a member of the committee that SB 112 has been assigned to.

By 11:00 a.m., I was ready to make the 2 ½ hour return trip to Springfield. I felt confident that I had made a difference and hopefully this bill will help make the life of children in Missouri better, by giving caring adults the ability to speak on their behalf without the fear of civil liability.

Find the complete text of Donna’s testimony at mopta.org
Springfield Early Childhood Special Education PTA – National PTA Take Your Family to School Award Recipient

By Cheri Horst, Early Childhood Education Social Worker, Springfield Public Schools

Never could we have imagined in July 2010 that in six short months a neighborhood grocery store would now be a beautifully remodeled school just right for preschool age children! But by January 4, 2011, the engaging classrooms and bright hallways were alive with the sounds of the young voices of our earliest learners at the new Springfield Public Schools Early Childhood Center.

And then, before many of the boxes were even unpacked, we got word that the SPS Early Childhood Special Education PTA was awarded one of the 2011 Take Your Family to School Week from the National PTA! Dawn Rethmen of Springfield, Missouri SEPTA graciously applied for the national grant on our behalf. The grant, sponsored by AXA Foundation, supports events aimed at increasing parental involvement in schools.

So, within 6 weeks of opening our doors we were hosting our first family event! The timing could not have been better. We had been looking for a funding source to bring The Discovery Center into our school to provide our students and their families with a fun, hands-on educational experience. The Discovery Center brought two of their Science Sprouts Outreach-Early Learners programs based on the books Dinosaurumpus and The Very Hungry Caterpillar. The children were able to choose one of the programs to participate in.

Additionally, the children and their families were able to enjoy a special story-time and dental hygiene demonstration provided by some of the Early Childhood Center staff. Keeping in the health theme, we were even able to offer a few free haircuts for some of the children.

All the students took home a backpack filled with a book from their session, learning activities provided by our motor staff reinforcing some of what they had learned from the Discovery Center, a craft activity related to their session, a new toothbrush and toothpaste provided by the Greater Springfield Dental Society and healthy snacks.

Take Your Family to School Week helps PTA further its mission as schools build stronger partnerships with families and emphasize the link between family engagement and student achievement. The timing of the week - in February - and the amount of the grants - $1897 – honor the day and year PTA was founded: February 17, 1897.

Springfield Public School Early Childhood Special Education sincerely thanks PTA and AXA Foundation for making this evening possible for our students and their families. We truly believe “family engagement equals student achievement”. We are so honored to have been one of the 32 nationwide recipients of this very valuable grant.

Mill Creek Elementary PTA – National PTA Healthy Lifestyles Grant Recipient

By Ava Payne, Contact Editor

Mill Creek Elementary PTA in Independence received their National PTA Healthy Lifestyle Grant for a Olympics-themed Health Month. The February activities kicked off with a school-wide pep rally, hallway decorations and goal-setting in the classrooms. With help from the school’s PE teacher, the PTA planned health lessons, a Family Health Night, Spirit Week, and a Jump Rope for Heart event. Throughout the month, PTA sponsored “Lunch Buddies” to help the students make healthy food choices and learn to build extra activity into their day.

In April, the PTA sponsored a field day, promoting physical activity and family involvement. They continue to promote healthy lifestyles in their newsletter. Congratulations Mill Creek Elementary PTA!
Missouri PTA thanks the following proud sponsors of the 2011 “DESTINATION: Leadership” Leadership Conference:

**Friday All-Conference Workshop sponsor**

![Pride Fundraising Logo]

**Membership Lunch sponsor**

![George K. Baum & Company Logo]

**Breakfast Club Members**

(sponsors of Leadership Breakfast)

![Miche Bag Logo]  ![Plants for Profits Logo]  ![Beijo Logo]  ![Student Guard Logo]  ![Pride Fundraising Logo]

Thanks to these fine companies for their support of PTA.
Grandview PTA Founders Day Dinner PTA Stars.....
On the Red Carpet

By Jeff Rogers, Male Involvement Chair

The Grandview Council held its annual PTA Founders Day Dinner on February 28th, 2011 at Grandview Middle School. There were parents, teachers, school administrators, school board members and special guests present for the PTA Founders day dinner. The evening was kicked off by the Grandview High School Jazz band followed a welcome by Grandview’s PTA Council President Jeff Rogers. A hearty meal, some amazing carrot cake and many words of wisdom from the Missouri PTA State President Wendy Jackson were next on the agenda. Now it was time for the Grandview Council and Grandview PTA units to present their Distinguished Service awards. All the award winners were excited to receive their well-deserved awards but one award winner had special reasons to be thankful. Patsy Duhon graduated from High School 50 years ago and upon graduation Patsy received a scholarship from her high school PTA. Patsy would not have been able to attend college without the PTA’s help and now 50 years later the same organization rewarded Patsy for her outstanding service to the PTA. The evening concluded with a sparkling cider toast to the founders of PTA.

Springfield Council PTA’s Founder’s Day Banquet

By Dawn Thompson, SCPTA President

A fun time was had by all who attended the 2011 SCPTAs Founders Day Banquet hosted by Hillcrest High School. The theme this year was "A Night at the White House". Hillcrest really played up their theme with guest appearances from Hillary Clinton, Sarah Palin, Theodore Roosevelt and the presidents "secret service". (All are Hillcrest students dressed up for the parts.) The JROTC performed the Presentation of Colors and the Hillcrest Madrigal Choir sang the National Anthem beautifully, while the Chamber Orchestra played during dinner. Volunteer of the year recipients were awarded their certificates and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Norm Ridder threw a "hail Mary" pass (Nerf football) to the “All Pro Dads Day” leaders.

Becky Morgan was the recipient of the Missouri PTA Distinguished Service Award for her endless dedication to the children of Springfield. Thank You Becky! Congratulations to all of Springfield’s Volunteers of the Year!!

115th Annual National PTA® Convention and Exhibition

115th Annual National PTA® Convention and Exhibition
Thursday, June 9–Sunday, June 12, 2011
Disney Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center
Orlando, Florida

Group discounts are available
Register online to save until May 13th!
On-site registration begins June 9th
Visit pta.org/annualconvention for more information!

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 Resolutions Deadline
1-8 National Music Week
2-6 National PTA Teacher Appreciation Week
2-8 Children’s Book Week
5 Cinco De Mayo
8 Mother’s Day
9-11 National Women’s Health Week
11 School Nurses Appreciation Day
21 Armed Forces Day
25 National Missing Children’s Day
30 Memorial Day
Missouri PTA Office Closed

June
Fireworks Safety Month
National Safety Month
9-12 115th National PTA Annual Convention & EML Conference, Orlando, FL
13-19 National Men's Health Week
14 Flag Day
19 Father's Day
21 Summer Begins
21-27 Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week

July
National Parks and Recreation Month
4 Independence Day
Missouri PTA Office Closed
24 Parents Day

August
National Immunization Awareness Month
Children’s Eye Health and Safety Month
1 Dues to state office
Wanted: Regional Directors

So just what is a Regional Director?
A Regional Director serves as a personal liaison between the units in their region and state PTA.

What are the job requirements?
- Keeping in touch with assigned units via meetings, phone calls and emails
- Working with other Regional Directors to provide training for units
- Attending 4 Board of Managers meetings a year
- Representing Missouri PTA at our annual Convention
- Assisting with Leadership Conference and Reflections Showcase

Do you think you have what it takes to be a Regional Director?
If you have served as a unit or council officer you probably already possess many of the skills needed to fulfill the job. No one expects anyone to know everything. With that in mind Missouri PTA will work with you to provide the resources and training needed. In addition, we understand that volunteering for Missouri PTA should not be a financial burden for you. Your expenses are covered during board meetings, Convention, Leadership Conference and the Reflections Showcase. In addition, mileage is paid for travel related to you duties.

Interested? Simply fill out the Talent Bank form on mopta.org and submit it the state office. You can also contact our Vice President and Director of Field Service, Pat Brune, at patb@mopta.org to answer any questions or provide you with more detailed information.