

Missouri Parent Teacher Association

# CONTACT

Volume 92, Issue 6  
May 2011

*Together*



# **“Together We Can . . .”**

## **Photography and Visual Arts 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winners**



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



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



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



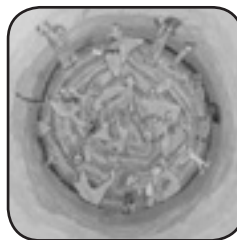
Kayla Decker, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Park Hill Plaza Middle School PTSA  
Park Hill/Pony Express Region



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



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



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

*Congratulations!*

**Cover photo:**

Reflections 1<sup>st</sup> Place winner in Photography, Intermediate Level, by Danielle Cobbett, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Greenwood Elementary PTA, Lee's Summit/Three Trails Region

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PLEASE SHARE THIS MAGAZINE.

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

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MO PTA 800-328-7330

**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

# National PTA rolls out Parents' Guide to Student Success

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

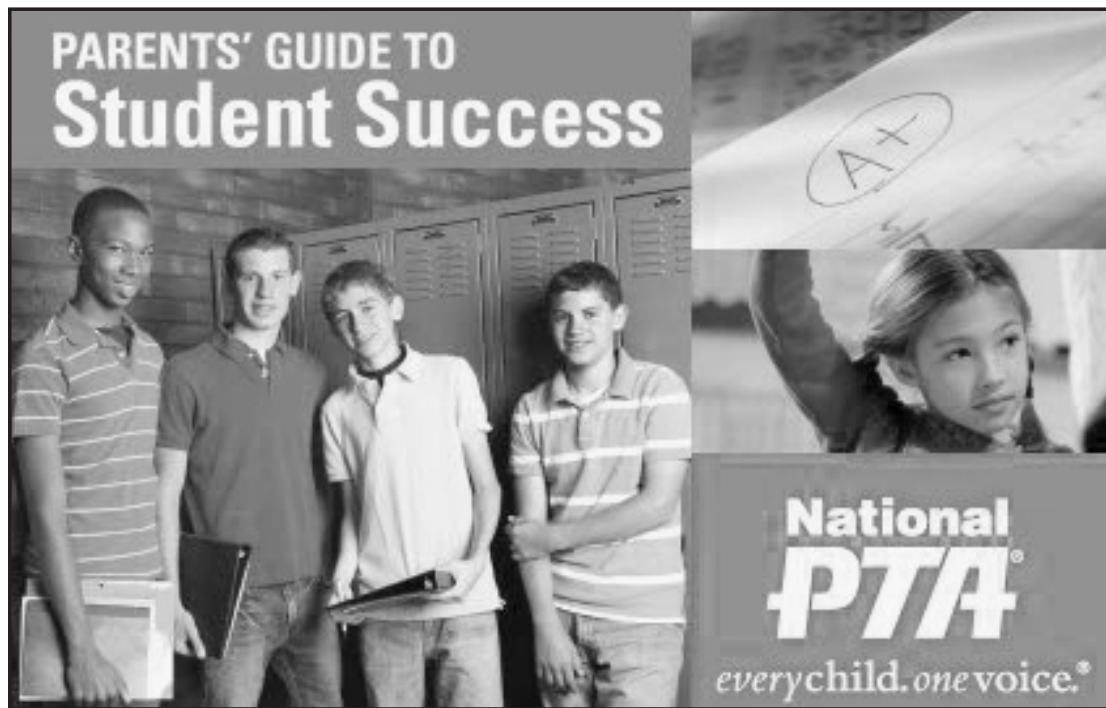
Advocacy can sometimes prove to be a challenge. Many say they don't have the time, some just do not understand why. Then there is the PTA; an Association of parents, teachers, administrators and communities working to improve the educational experience of our students. Common Core State Standards has 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](http://PTA.org/parentsguides).

*Charles J. "Chuck" Saylor is the President of National PTA.*



## MOPTA's Kathy Nevans Nominated for National PTA Position

Former Missouri PTA President, Kathy Nevans, is a nominee for the National PTA Board of Directors. The election will take place during the National PTA Convention in June. Kathy is a valuable member of the MOPTA family and we are so pleased and proud for her to have the opportunity to serve at the National level. Congratulations!

## Correction

The "Love and Logic" article in the March 2011 Contact was written by Barb Gilmore, Public Relations Chair.

# 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  
Patty 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

# 2010-2011 Reflections Program

By Michele Reed, Missouri PTA Reflections Chair

Missouri PTA would like to thank all students and PTA units for participating in this year's Reflections program entitled, "Together We Can". In the forty-first year of one of National PTA's largest 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 7,711 entries, representing 168 units. These local units forwarded a total of 1,382 entries to the state level for judging, which included: 39 Dance Choreography entries, 51 Film/Video Production entries, 369 Literature entries, 90 Musical Composition entries, 283 Photography entries, and 550 Visual Arts entries. The top winners are listed on the following page and a complete list of winners can be found at [mopta.org](http://mopta.org). 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 should be announced sometime 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: Dr. Leslie Evans; Literature: Mrs. Mary Oyler, Mrs. Sarah Cohalla, Mrs. Kelly Bever, and Mrs. Wanda Mayfield; Musical Composition: Mrs. Rebecca Morales; Photography: Mr. Dan Ascherman; and Visual Arts: Ms. Cheryl Metzger, Mr. Eric Winter, and Ms. Georgia Mueller.

The Student Showcase was held on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Missouri PTA Leadership Conference in Independence, Missouri. Winning students and their families attended.

It's not too early to start planning now for your artwork in next year's competition when the theme is "Diversity means . . .". Missouri PTA is sure the entries will be as fabulous as this year's.

## 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

#### PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

Rank	Name	Grade	Local PTA Unit	School District/Region
1st	Jace Easley	1st	Ozark North Elementary PTA	Ozark R-VI / Ozark
2nd	Ella (Eleanor) Scott	2nd	Ozark North Elementary PTA	Ozark R-VI / Ozark
3rd	Payton Elliott	2nd	James Lewis Elementary PTA	Blue Springs / Three Trails

#### INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

1st	Alyzza Vitug	5th	Shoal Creek Elementary PTA	Liberty / Pony Express
2nd	Mikayla Dixon	4th	William Southern Elementary PTA	Independence / Three Trails
3rd	Halle Robbins	4th	Sequiota Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark

#### MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

1st	Megan Bishop	6th	Delta Woods Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
2nd	Jaimeson Braden	6th	Woodland Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails (Jaimé)

#### SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

1st	Courtney Day	9th	Blue Springs High School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
2nd	Alexis Krepps	9th	Blue Springs High School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails

### FILM – VIDEO PRODUCTION

#### PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

1st	Aden Pyle	K	Ozark East Elementary PTA	Ozark R-VI / Ozark
2nd	Hunter Burton	2nd	Lone Jack PTA	Lone Jack/ Three Trails
3rd	Janac Jacobs	2nd	Alice Pittman Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark

#### INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

1st	Jacob Schmitt	4th	Eugene Field Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark
2nd	Jason Epps	3rd	Voy Spears Jr. Elementary PTA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
3rd	Warren Barge	3rd	Warren Hills Elementary PTA	Liberty / Pony Express

#### MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

1st	Ben Gruenbaum	8th	Bernard C. Campbell Middle School PTSA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails
2nd	Marissa Wood	7th	Moreland Ridge Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
3rd	Emily Watts	6th	Central High School PTSA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark

#### SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

1st	Brady Brock	10th	Belton High School PTSA	Belton / Three Trails
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### LITERATURE

#### PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

1st	Tia Rawat	2nd	Mill Creek Elementary PTA	Columbia / Heritage
2nd	Jade Vanatta	K	John Nowlin Elementary PTA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
3rd	Eva McAnally	2nd	Mill Creek Elementary PTA	Independence / Three Trails

#### INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

1st	Kaili Miller	5th	Blackburn Elementary PTA	Independence / Three Trails
2nd	Benjamin McShane	4th	Eugene Field Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark
3rd	Almina Dizdarevic	4th	Oakwood Manor Elementary PTA	North Kansas City / Pony Express

#### MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

1st	Adriana Cok	6th	Cedar Creek Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails
2nd	Trenton Turner	8th	Delta Woods Middle School PTA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
3rd	Christopher Young	8th	Delta Woods Middle School PTA	Blue Springs / Three Trails

#### SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

1st	Michelle Munch	12th	Rock Bridge High School PTSA	Columbia / Heritage
2nd	Lauren Lambert	11th	Rock Bridge High School PTSA	Columbia / Heritage
3rd	Dallas Herrmann	10th	Blue Springs South High School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails

### MUSICAL COMPOSITION

#### PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

1st	Emily Flowers	2nd	Union Chapel Elementary PTA	Park Hill / Pony Express
2nd	Landon Inmon	2nd	Sequiota Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark
3rd	Lily Prescott	1st	Sequiota Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark

#### INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

1st	Hunter Webb	3rd	Ozark East Elementary PTA	Ozark R-VI / Ozark
2nd	Gabe Roulier	4th	Mill Creek Elementary PTA	Columbia / Heritage
3rd	Channing Bullock	4th	Laura Ingalls Wilder Elementary PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark

#### MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

1st	Quinn Mosier	8th	Summit Lakes Middle School PTSA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails
2nd	Ryan Ganahan	8th	New Mark Middle School PTSA	North Kansas City / Pony Express
3rd	Quinlan Pulleyking	7th	Central High School PTA	Springfield R-12 / Ozark

#### SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

1st	Haley Myers	12th	Rock Bridge High School PTSA	Columbia / Heritage
2nd	Dylan Pope	10th	Blue Springs South High School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
3rd	Stewart Duncan	12th	Liberty High School PTSA	Liberty / Pony Express

### PHOTOGRAPHY

#### PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

1st	Emma Vincent	2nd	George Espy Elementary PTA	Nixa R-II / Ozark
2nd	Zoey Coleman	1st	Hawthorn Hill Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails
3rd	Emma Dawson	K	Cordill Mason Elementary PTA	Blue Springs / Three Trails

#### INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

1st	Danielle Cobbett	3rd	Greenwood Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails
2nd	Jessica Ragsdell	4th	Mary Paxton Keeley PTA	Columbia / Heritage
3rd	Riley Satterfield	3rd	Ozark West Elementary PTA	Ozark R-VI / Ozark

#### MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

1st	Bekah Casey	6th	Sunny Vale Middle School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
2nd	Anna Wright	7th	Bridger Middle School PTSA	Independence / Three Trails
3rd	Sheridyn Broussard	8th	Ozark Jr. High PTSA	Ozark R-VI / Ozark

#### SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

1st	QinQin Yu	12th	Rock Bridge High School PTSA	Columbia / Heritage
2nd	Fred Byrd	12th	Central High School PTSA	St. Joseph / Pony Express
3rd	Stephanie Nachtrab	12th	Central High School PTSA	St. Joseph / Pony Express

### VISUAL ARTS

#### PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)

1st	Bela Gard	1st	Greenwood Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails
2nd	Eva McAnally	2nd	Mill Creek Elementary School PTA	Independence / Three Trails
3rd	Tia Rawat	2nd	Mill Creek Elementary School PTA	Columbia / Heritage

#### INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)

1st	Aashree Gandhi	4th	Lewis & Clark Elementary PTA	Liberty / Pony Express
2nd	William "Leyton" Manky	3rd	Lewis & Clark Elementary PTA	Liberty / Pony Express
3rd	Allene Lux	5th	Meadow Lane Elementary PTA	Lee's Summit / Three Trails

#### MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)

1st	Kayla Decker	6th	Park Hill Plaza Middle School PTSA	Park Hill / Pony Express
2nd	Wynn Clemons	7th	Hazelwood West Middle School PTSA	Hazelwood / Gateway
3rd	Alyssa McMahan	7th	Ozark Jr. High PTSA	Ozark R-VI / Ozark

#### SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

1st	Jennie Obermeier	12th	Park Hill South High School PTSA	Park Hill / Pony Express
2nd	Alaina Aylward	9th	Blue Springs High School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails
3rd	Michelle Pace	10th	Blue Springs South High School PTSA	Blue Springs / Three Trails

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 now 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!

## 10 Ways To UNLEASH THE POWER OF PTA INCREASE NEXT YEAR'S PTA MEMBERSHIP

1. **DEVELOP** a month-by-month membership plan. Use your school's calendar to get you started.
2. **PROMOTION:** Make sure your budget includes money for the promotion of membership.
3. **HOLD** a poster or slogan theme contest for students with a PTSA membership. Plan the contest with cooperation of the teachers at the end of this year for next August or September's membership drive.
4. **CONTACT** local businesses to establish good working relationships and pave the way for them to be members and/or donate incentives.
5. **FORM** your committee now & start planning your membership campaign so you are ready before the first day of school.
6. **SEND** home a "See You in the Fall" flyer the last week of school recapping achievements, thanking volunteers and business members' support.
7. **ASK** local realtors to include welcome letters from PTA to new buyers with children.
8. **ATTEND** or hold a School of Information.
9. **VISIT** the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Optimist Club or other groups' meetings to share the good work of your PTA and to invite them to join.
10. **COUNCILS:** Plan a Council membership contest - Base awards on a criterion established at the planning meeting.

## Welcome!

Please join us in welcoming our newest units, Paris R-II PTSA in the Mark Twain Region and Ozark High School PTA, Ozark Region.



# 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  
 Boyd School 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. Gifted & Talented PTA  
 Cordill-Mason Elementary PTA  
 Creekmoor 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  
 Hazelwood West Middle School PTSA  
 Hickory Hills Elementary PTA  
 High Pointe PTA  
 Hillcrest Elementary PTA  
 Holland Elementary PTA  
 Indian Creek Elementary PTA  
 Indian Trails Elementary PTA  
 Iveland 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 PTA  
 Liggett 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 PTA  
 Raytown High School PTSA  
 Raytown Middle School PTSA  
 Richardson Elementary PTA  
 Ridgeview Elementary PTA  
 Robberson 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 PTA  
 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  
 Weller 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

# National PTA Legislative Conference

By Angel Davis, Resolutions Chair

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](http://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 (JJDP) 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.



From left MOPTA President Wendy Jackson, Resolutions Chair Angel Davis, President-Elect Donna Petiford, Rep. Roy Blunt, and MOPTA VP of Communications Dorothy Gardner.

# 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 McCarter. 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 Report-



ing 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 11:00a.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](http://mopta.org)



Rep. Charlie Denison and MOPTA President-Elect Donna Petiford

# 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.

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# 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:

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Membership Lunch sponsor



Breakfast Club Members

(sponsors of Leadership Breakfast)



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 28<sup>th</sup>, 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<sup>®</sup> Convention and Exhibition



115th Annual National PTA<sup>®</sup> 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](http://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
- Dues to State Office
- 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

Missouri Congress of Parents & Teachers  
Missouri PTA  
2101 Burlington St.  
Columbia, MO 65202



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## 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](http://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](mailto:patb@mopta.org) to answer any questions or provide you with more detailed information.