“Diversity Means . . .”

Photography and Visual Arts 1st Place Winners

Primary Photography Winner
Elizabeth Ralston, 1st Grade
Chapel Lakes Elementary PTA
Blue Springs/Three Trails Region

Middle/Jr. Photography Winner
Andrew Reardon, 7th Grade
Liberty Middle School PTSA
Liberty/Pony Express Region

Senior Photography Winner
Rebecca Stevick, 11th Grade
Lee’s Summit High School PTSA
Lee’s Summit/Three Trails Region

Intermediate Visual Arts Winner
Adeline Aube, 5th Grade
Bridle Ridge Intermediate PTA
Raymore/Three Trails

Middle/Jr. Visual Arts Winner
Fallon Connors, 8th Grade
Delta Woods Middle School PTSA
Blue Springs/Three Trails

Senior Visual Arts Winner
Shannon Brouk, 10th Grade
Park Hill South High School PTSA
Park Hill/Pony Express

Primary Visual Arts Winner
Addison Bramlage, K
Eugene Field Elementary PTA
St. Joseph/Pony Express

Congratulations!
President’s Message

By Donna Petiford, Missouri PTA President

Passing the Gavel

One of the most difficult and stressful times of the year can occur during the transition of one PTA board to another as they change leadership. If you are an outgoing president, please make time to take the next president out for coffee or meet at the local library and share information that may not be included in your procedure books. Also, keep in mind that all procedure books and all mailings from National PTA and Missouri PTA are the property of the local PTA and you are obligated to give these to your successor. Be especially mindful of finishing your job before you move on. Make sure all outstanding bills are paid for your term. You or your secretary (at the time of the election) should have forwarded the names of the newly-elected officers to Missouri PTA. Also, make sure that your current treasurer completes the fiscal year-end report, has the books turned over to the auditor (or financial review committee) and the proper IRS forms are completed on time. Some of these things will occur after you leave office, but it is in your best interest to assure that these are taken care of.

If you are a new president, recognize that this can be a difficult and sometimes emotional time for the current president.

Everyone should make it their common goal to build a bridge from year to year.

One of the most frequently asked questions that I receive at this time of year is “How much money should remain in our account to be carried over to the next year?” While there is no hard and fast rule, you should at least keep a reserve balance that would carry your PTA through the beginning of the next school year until the next PTA fundraiser. This also helps in the event a fundraiser doesn’t do as well as expected. Many times a “reserve” line is established in the budget and approved at the beginning of the year. According to the National PTA (Money Matters Quick Reference Guide 2011-2012), “as a rule, this reserve should not exceed one-half of a PTA’s budget for an average year. If it does, the indication is that the PTA is not giving as much service to children and youth as it should.”

As PTA leaders, I know you are thanked a million times by the students in the schools that you serve. I once received an unexpected hug from a boy who recognized me at a Springfield Cardinals ballgame. I consider this my “PTA paycheck”! I hope the return on your investment of time is just as sweet, but just in case you haven’t heard it lately…THANK YOU…for all you are doing to help make every child’s potential a reality.

Have a wonderful summer!

CONTACT is the official publication of Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers. We are a branch of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. CONTACT is published bi-monthly, six times a year. Subscriptions are $7 per year.

Missouri PTA Office, Editorial and Publication Office: 2101 Burlington St., Columbia, MO 65202.
PHONE: 800-328-7330 FAX: 573-445-4163
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.

National PTA Office: 1250 N. Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 800-307-4782 (4PTA), www.pta.org
MO PTA 800-328-7330

www.mopta.org
Child Health and Nutrition
By Betsy Landers, PTA National President

One of PTA's founding principles is our dedication to engaging parents in the education of their children. Since our inception, PTA has championed every child, regardless of socioeconomic background, and worked to address societal ills such as child labor, childhood diseases, and the unfair and punitive treatment of children involved in the justice system. More than 115 years later, PTA continues to work with policymakers to bolster one of our founding principles — family engagement in education from birth through high school graduation. In 2012, PTA will continue to advocate for all children to have the opportunity to grow and achieve success through quality education and ensure that all children reach their highest potential.

As the oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy association in the United States, PTA's legacy of influencing federal policy to protect the education, health, and overall well-being of children has made an indelible impact on the lives of millions of children and families. Within the federal public policy arena, PTA is fighting to ensure opportunity and equity for all children. We invite you to join with us in advocating on behalf of every child with one voice.

Each year, National PTA sets their Federal Public Policy Agenda to advocate for all children. The 2012 Public Policy Agenda covers general education, special education, early childhood education, education funding, child health and nutrition, and juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. This month, Missouri PTA highlights National PTA's recommendations for child health and nutrition. The entire Public Policy Agenda is available at pta.org under the “Public Policy” tab.

Child Health and Nutrition
Federal Policy Recommendations
• Support the implementation of the USDA's proposed update of nutrition standards for the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs, as intended by the Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.
• Support language in the Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 that requires the USDA to set nutrition standards for competitive foods.
• Ensure USDA competitive foods regulations protect school-based fundraisers that have historically played an integral role in fundraising opportunities for student-based school organizations.
• Ensure the comprehensive implementation of updated Local Wellness Policy (LWP) requirements that improve schools’ engagement and accountability to families in the development and execution of LWPs.

Key Facts
• More than 31 million students participate in the National School Lunch Program each day.
• Nearly 60 percent of students participating in the National School Lunch Program receive a free or reduced-price lunch.
• More than 11 million students participate in the National School Breakfast Program daily.
• Nearly 10 million students receive a free or reduced-price breakfast.
• Childhood obesity rates in America have tripled over the last thirty years, with nearly one-third of children in America overweight or obese. In African American and Hispanic communities, this figure increases to nearly 40 percent.
• Nearly 70 percent of obese children suffer from either high blood pressure or high cholesterol.
• Approximately half of all students receiving free or reduced lunch though the School Lunch Program participate in the School Breakfast program.

Registration for the 116th Annual National PTA Convention and Exhibition in San Jose, California, is available at pta.org until June 1st. Onsite registration will also be available.

Participants will be able to:
• Attend dozens of workshops led by dynamic presenters to enhance your confidence and leadership skills;
• Gain practical ideas and best-practices on how to run your state, regional or local unit PTA;
• Receive advocacy, education, and program updates about how you can make a difference in government and family engagement;
• Network with hundreds of peers and exhibitors from around the country, and
• Check out the great attractions and activities San Jose has to offer by visiting the San Jose Convention and Visitors Bureau website, SanJose.org.

More information about registration fees, hotels and travel arrangements is available at pta.org.
How Pizza Became A Veggie

By Dorothy Gardner, VP & Director Legislation and Advocacy

On December 13th 2010 President Obama signed into law the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act. Child advocates, including PTA whose members were instrumental in encouraging legislators to sign on to the Act, had long awaited this major revision in school meal standards. Currently approximately one-third of youth are overweight or obese and one-fourth are at risk of hunger. This Act was designed to address obesity concerns and provide greater access to a higher quality of nutritional foods. Therefore, many were baffled when the news came out just this past November that ketchup, pizza and fries would be considered vegetables with regard to the school nutritional standards. Wasn’t the point of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act Reauthorization to limit such items as the mainstay of school lunches? How could this have happened?

 Actually, this isn’t the first time ketchup has been in the limelight with regard to its status as a vegetable. Thirty years ago, the Reagan administration attempted to have both ketchup and relish classified as vegetables in order to cut costs and give states more latitude. This action was met with ridicule and outrage. Even the late Senator John Heinz, whose company owned Heinz ketchup, thought the proposal was absurd. He was quoted as saying “Ketchup is a condiment. This is one of the most ridiculous regulations I ever heard of, and I suppose I need not add that I know something about ketchup and relish . . . “. The administration quickly withdrew the proposal.

Now fast forward to the passage of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. Once the act was signed into law it became the responsibility of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to revamp the Child Nutritional Programs, one of which is the National School Lunch Program. And this is where things get interesting, or messy, depending on your point of view.

The USDA specifically updated the classifications and standards to limit the amount of sodium, starches and sugars allowed in school lunches. For instance, only non-fat or low fat milk (nothing higher than 1%) is allowed under the plan. Saturated fat must be no more than 10% of total calories. And, effective July 2013, no trans fats are allowed. This looked great to parents and nutritionists. However, food companies producing frozen pizzas, the salt industry and potato and tomato growers were unhappy and began lobbying Congress. These industries were requesting changes be made to the school lunch standards proposed by the USDA. However simply pressuring the USDA to rewrite the standards did not change the Act. Only an Act of congress could do that.

Into the picture steps the House Appropriations Committee. This Committee is responsible for allocating funding for various departments. The ability to outline funding is a powerful tool in Congress. Lobbyists and special interest groups are no strangers to this Committee and it was to them they pleaded their case. Charged with the responsibility to allocate funds, this Committee crafted a bill that would fund the operations of the USDA, and one of those operations happened to be the School Lunch Provisions. The Committee stated that their bill would prevent difficult and costly regulations while providing school districts with an increased flexibility with regard to improving nutritional quality. The bill passed both the House and Senate and was signed into law by President Obama on November 18th, 2011.

So exactly what sort of flexibility did this Bill provide? Well, it removed the limit on starchy vegetables. French fries everywhere no longer lived in fear they would lose their place as a main staple on school lunch trays nationwide. Originally, the intent of this limitation was to do just that – cut down on the amount of French fries served daily in many schools. The Bill also allowed for two tablespoons of tomato paste to be considered a vegetable serving, thus allowing pizza and ketchup to take their place in the vegetable world alongside green beans, salads, peas and broccoli. Despite food industry lobbying and the Congressional revamp, this revision is still an immense improvement with regard to school nutrition. To view the Final Rule of Nutrition Standards in the National School Food program visit www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/Legislation/dietaryspecs.pdf.

You can also view a full weekly lunch menu with comparisons before and after the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act at http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/Legislation/cnr_chart.pdf

---

Before/After Elementary School Lunch Menu

Before
- Cheese Pizza (4.8 oz)
- Canned Pineapple (1/4 cup)
- Tater Tots (1/2 cup)
- With Ketchup (2 T)
- Low-fat (1%) Chocolate Milk

After
- Whole Wheat Cheese Pizza (1 slice)
- Baked Sweet Potato Fries (1/2 cup)
- Grape Tomatoes, raw (1/4 cup)
- Applesauce (1/2 cup)
- Low-fat (1%) Milk (8 oz)
- Low Fat Ranch Dip (1 oz)
School Lunches
By Meagan, Student Representative

Every day you send your kids to school, expecting them to learn new information that will help them succeed later on in life, and assuming that while doing that, they will receive a good nutritional meal… but is that really what’s happening? Are the meals at your school, which are being fed to your children as a source of fuel and energy, up to par? If you say yes, then you might want to think again. Being a student in eighth grade that receives these meals every day, I see firsthand just how bad they can be. Also being the child of an advocating mother who goes to and listens in on meetings and town halls regarding education, I very well understand that not a lot of school districts have much budget money to just go around spending it on whatever they want. This though is not in any way an excuse for the food they try and feed us.

When I walk into my cafeteria on any given school day my choices are usually limited to the pizza and chicken nugget section, the Mexican food section, the pasta section, and the salad bar. Now just hearing these options, most people would think, “Well that’s not bad. I mean they are given a nice variety.” In taking a closer look though you’ll see just how appalling these choices start to seem.

The pizza has been left out so long the cheese is hard and cold. Also the whole thing is coated in grease. Then don’t get me started on chicken nuggets. I mean leftover parts from a chicken, cleansed in ammonia and filled with artificial colors and flavors, battered and fried, is in no way nutritional. In all of the Mexican food the meat has a weird orange look to it and doesn’t taste right, by any stretch of imagination. The pasta had been left out so long the noodles are hard and the sauces are either Alfredo, with probably no actual cheese in it, or meat that I don’t even want to try and imagine what is in it. The salad bar though is not that bad. You have your lettuce, toppings, and dressing.

The meals, though sadly, are not the worst part of our school lunches. The A La Cart options are what really put the icing on the cake for how bad it is. The drinks I must say are a nice, and not a bad way to give students a break from having milk every day, offering water, tea, juice, and sport drinks. All of the extra snacks that are offered are what makes A La Cart so unhealthy for students. They can buy cookies, potato chips, candy, Cheetos, and 500-calorie Otis Spunkmeyer muffins.

Now going back to the whole money thing. First off I understand that schools make quite a bit of money off of all the A La Cart items, but really, in what world do 13 and 14 year olds need to be offered a 500-calorie muffin with their lunch! I mean yes, money is money but childhood obesity is on the rise, and offering so much junk food in schools is no way even the slightest bit close to being a solution to that. Second, do you really think saving the school some money is a good exchange for giving your child a good healthy meal?

With all of this talk about how bad school lunches can be, you might be starting to freak out a little. Well it’s okay because there are ways that you can help keep this unhealthy food from being eaten by your kid. First off is just getting yourself educated. Learn what the lunches are like in your school. Talk to your children. What do they think about the school lunches? If your child is in the elementary level, see if eating lunch with them is an option. Just make sure you understand everything before you go diving in. Next you need to take action. See if your district gives you the option to restrict the foods your child gets at lunch. Talk to your kid about making healthy choices when it comes to eating. Also, there’s always the choice to send your kid to school with a sack lunch. It’s not enough to just know what the lunches are eaten by your kid. First off is just getting yourself educated. Learn what the lunches are like in your school. Talk to your children. What do they think about the school lunches? If your child is in the elementary level, see if eating lunch with them is an option. Just make sure you understand everything before you go diving in. Next you need to take action. See if your district gives you the option to restrict the foods your child gets at lunch. Talk to your kid about making healthy choices when it comes to eating. Also, there’s always the choice to send your kid to school with a sack lunch. It’s not enough to just know what the lunches are like if you’re not willing to do something about it. Then last but not least, spread the word. Tell everyone you know about all of the things you learned. Alone we can do so little, but together we can accomplish the impossible.

2011-2012 Reflections Program
Michele Reed, VP and Director of Programs

Missouri PTA would like to thank all students and PTA units for participating in this year’s Reflections program entitled, “Diversity Means . . .”. In the forty-second 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 6,171 entries, representing 177 units. These local units forwarded a total of 1,324 entries to the state level for judging, which included: 30 Dance Choreography entries, 60 Film Video Production entries, 296 Literature entries, 69 Musical Composition entries, 281 Photography entries, and 588 Visual Arts entries. The top winners are listed on the following page and the complete list of winners can be found at 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 will be announced in May.
# Missouri PTA Reflections Program

## “Diversity Means…” 2011-2012 Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Local PTA Unit</th>
<th>School District/Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Vani Patel 2nd Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Krishan Ghosh 2nd Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Amy Surface 2nd Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Tyler Redford 5th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Natalie Temple 5th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Emily LeBlanc 4th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Haileen Haddad 7th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Harrison Meeks 8th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Lauren Wagner 6th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Jace Easley 2nd Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Hallie Comer 4th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Ava Renzulli 4th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Dance Choreography

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Local PTA Unit</th>
<th>School District/Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Daphnie Yu 11th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Dylan Pope 11th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Julia Schaller 11th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Elizabeth Ralston 1st Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Alexus Jones 2nd Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Griffin Burroughs 2nd Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Bailey Brewer 5th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Dylan Reiter 5th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Gianna Durante 3rd Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Rebecca Stevick 11th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Mason Howell 12th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Samantha Olive 12th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Literature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Local PTA Unit</th>
<th>School District/Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Matty Brook 12th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Kayla Windes 8th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Julia Schaller 11th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Morgan Boening 7th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Eliana Hain 6th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Jane Despain 5th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Addie Welke 7th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Madison Keene 6th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Aashree Gandhi 5th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Shannon Brouk 10th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Sarah Carney 12th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Laura Caraway 11th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Film – Video Production

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Local PTA Unit</th>
<th>School District/Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Daphnie Yu 11th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Dylan Pope 11th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Julia Schaller 11th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Elizabeth Ralston 1st Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Alexus Jones 2nd Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Griffin Burroughs 2nd Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Bailey Brewer 5th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Dylan Reiter 5th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Gianna Durante 3rd Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Rebecca Stevick 11th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Mason Howell 12th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Samantha Olive 12th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Musical Composition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Local PTA Unit</th>
<th>School District/Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Sam Garvin 2nd Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Abigail Schiwberger 2nd Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Lola Esserman 2nd Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Gabe Rodimer 5th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Tristan Handy 5th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Noah Zahn 5th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Lauren Weber 6th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Megan Bishop 7th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Aki Anand 6th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SENIOR (Grade 9-Grade 12)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Shannon Brouk 10th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Parker Miller 11th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Aaliyah Smith 11th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Photography

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Local PTA Unit</th>
<th>School District/Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Daphnie Yu 11th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Dylan Pope 11th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Julia Schaller 11th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Elizabeth Ralston 1st Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Alexus Jones 2nd Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Griffin Burroughs 2nd Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Bailey Brewer 5th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Dylan Reiter 5th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Gianna Durante 3rd Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Rebecca Stevick 11th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Mason Howell 12th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Samantha Olive 12th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Visual Arts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Local PTA Unit</th>
<th>School District/Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRIMARY (Preschool – Grade 2)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Addie Welke 7th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Madison Keene 6th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Aashree Gandhi 5th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTERMEDIATE (Grade 3 – Grade 5)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Adeline Aube 5th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Madison Keene 6th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Aashree Gandhi 5th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MIDDLE / JR. (Grade 6 – Grade 8)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Addie Welke 7th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Madison Keene 6th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Aaliyah Smith 11th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SENIOR (Grade 9 – Grade 12)</strong></td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Shannon Brouk 10th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Sarah Carney 12th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Laura Caraway 11th Grade</td>
<td>Local PTA Unit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 from PTA to new buyers with children.

8. ATTEND or hold a school of information.

9. VISIT 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.

NPTA Member Benefits

- HERTZ - The world’s largest airport general use car rental brand, operating from approximately 8,500 locations in 146 countries worldwide is proud to offer PTA members benefits that include up to 20% off rentals and special promotions in addition to your discount. Members get the Hertz #1 Club Gold enrollment fee waived—a $60 savings! Earn free rental days and receive expedited service on all your rentals.

- METLIFE - MetLife Auto & Home® has special group discounts now available to PTA members.

- SHARP ELECTRONICS - The PTA/Sharp Electronics member store offers valuable discounts to PTA members.

- T-MOBILE - 14% discount off your monthly service charges for new and existing T-Mobile subscribers, plus additional savings for new subscribers.

- OfficeMax® - Save on supply essentials and more! Find everything from notebooks, binders and pens to paper, art supplies and furniture. Make copies and print flyers and student presentations—all in store at the OfficeMax ImPress® Print Center. Get the current deal now and check back often for exclusive savings throughout the year.

Make sure the details on benefit access are provided only to your PTA members. Check out the National PTA, www.pta.org website for further information on how your members access these benefits. Click the “Member Benefits” tab and then the “Exclusive Member Benefits” section.
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, 2012.

Alexander Doniphan PTA
Alfred L. Renner PTA
Ann Hawkins Gentry PTSA
Armstrong Elementary PTA
Belair Elementary PTA
Bell Prairie PTA
Bernard C. Campbell Middle School PTSA
Bissell Elementary PTA
Blackburn Elementary PTA
Blue Hills Elementary PTA
Blue Ridge Elementary PTA (Columbia)
Blue Ridge Elementary PTA (Raytown)
Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA
Bode Middle School PTSA
Boone Trail Elementary PTA
Briarcliff Elementary PTA
Bridle Ridge Intermediate PTA
Brittany Hill Middle School PTSA
Bryant (Geo.S) Elementary PTA
Buckner PTA
Butcher-Greene Elementary School PTSA
Cambridge Elementary PTA
Carver Middle School PTSA
Cedar Creek Elementary PTA
Center Senior High School PTA
Century PTA of Nixa
Cold Water Elementary PTA
Coleman Elementary PTA
Conn-West Elementary PTA
Creekmoor Elementary PTA
Crestview Elementary PTA
Crossroads Elementary PTA
David Harrison Elementary PTA
Diamond R-4 PTSA
Eagle Glen Intermediate PTA
Eastgate Middle School PTSA
Edison Elementary PTA
Eugene Field Elementary PTA
Fairview Elementary PTA
Fleetridge Elementary PTA
Franklin Elementary PTA
Hall Elementary PTA
Harold L. Holliday, Sr. Montessori School PTSA
Harry S Truman Elementary PTA
Harry S Truman Middle School PTSA
Hawthorn Hill Elementary PTA
Hazel F. Dobbs PTA
Hazelwood Central Middle School PTSA
Hazelwood East Senior High PTSA
Hickory Hills Elementary PTA
Hillcrest High School PTSA
Holman Middle School PTA
Humboldt Elementary PTA
Hyde Elementary PTA
John J. Pershing Elementary PTA (St. Joseph)
John J. Pershing Middle School PTSA (Springfield)
John J. Pershing PTA (Springfield)
John Nowlin Elementary PTA
Jury Elementary PTA
Kellybrook PTA
Lake Contrary Elementary PTA
Laurel Hills Elementary PTA
Lee Expressive Arts Elementary PTA
Lee's Summit North High PTSA
Lewis & Clark Elementary PTA
Liberty Junior High School PTSA
Liberty North HS Eagle Club PTSA
Liberty Oaks Elementary PTA
Lindbergh Accelerated Elementary School PTSA
Linden West Elementary PTA
Lone Jack PTA
Lower Elementary School of the Osage PTA
Lusher Elementary PTA
Manor Hill Elementary PTA
Maple Park Middle School PTSA
Mark Twain Elementary PTA (St. Joseph)
Mathews PTA
McNair Elementary PTA
Meadow Lane Elementary PTA
Mill Creek Upper Elementary PTSA (Belton)
New Mark Middle School PTA
Nixa Early Learning Center PTA
Northview Elementary PTA
Noyes Elementary PTA
Oak Park High School PTSA/ Booster Club
Osceola Grade & High School PTSA
Ozark High School PTSA
Ozark Junior High PTSA
Ozark North Elementary (O.N.E.) PTA
Ozark South Elementary PTA
Park Hill Early Childhood Ed. Center PTA
Parkview High School PTSA
Parkway PTA
Parkwood PTA
Pickett Elementary School PTSA
Pipkin Middle School PTSA
Platte County R-III High School PTSA
Pleasant Lea Elementary PTA
Portland Elementary PTA
Potosi Elementary PTA
Prairie View Elementary PTA
Raymore Elementary PTA
Raymore Peculiar East Middle School PTSA
Raytown South Middle School PTSA
Reed Academy School PTSA
Ridgeway Elementary PTA
Robberson PTA
Robidoux Middle School PTSA
Rountree PTA
Russell Elementary PTA
School of the Osage Upper Elem PTA
Scott Elementary PTA
Shoal Creek Elementary PTA
Show Me State PTA
Skyl ine Elementary PTA
Smith-Hale Middle School PTA
Sni A Bar Elementary PTA
South Valley Jr. High PTSA
Southwood Elementary PTA
Spring Branch PTA
Spring Garden Middle School PTSA
Stonegate Elementary PTA
Strafford PTSA K-12
Strafford R-VI Preschool PTSA
Study Middle School PTSA
Sunny Vale Middle School PTSA
Sunshine Elementary PTA
Thomas B. Chinn PTA
Thomas Hart Benton PTA (Independence)
Topping Elementary PTA
Twillman Elementary PTA
Underwood Elementary PTA
Wanda Gray Elementary PTA
Warford Elementary PTA
Washington Elementary PTA
Wentzville Middle PTSA
Westport Elementary PTA
Westridge Elementary PTA
Westview Elementary PTA
William Chrisman High School PTSA
William Yates Elementary PTA
Winnwood Elementary PTA
The Elementary and Secondary Schools Act (ESEA) has been due for reauthorization since 2008. During the last reauthorization process, sweeping changes were put into play that many agree have resulted in unintended negative consequences. What were these changes? They can pretty much be summed up with one phrase ‘No Child Left Behind’. The notion behind No Child Left Behind (NCLB) was ambitious, but in practice unattainable. For several years now, PTA has gone to Capitol Hill and lobbied members of congress to reauthorize ESEA. Reauthorization allows members of Congress to revisit an Act and make changes.

Needed changes, with regard to ESEA, and the lack of action by Congress, recently resulted in the Waiver program. With the 2013-2014 school-year deadline of 100% proficiency quickly approaching, the Department of Education knew something needed to be done or states would lose federal funding. The Waiver program allowed states to submit their own accountability program and goals. An accepted program will grant the state a waiver when the effects of the deadline will come into play. This sort of localized control at the state level, formulating individual accountability standards and goals, is one of the changes PTA would like to see with reauthorization.

But to really fix the problems brought on by NCLB congress needs to come together in a bipartisan fashion and re-vamp the Act. However, it now looks like another year will go by and nothing will have been accomplished. Currently, there exists a stalemate between the House and the Senate over reauthorization of ESEA.

So after years of lobbying for Congress to act, what does one do when you know they won’t, at least not this year? You lay the groundwork so when Congress does act your positions will be part of the process. Specifically, we focused on one very key aspect of reauthorization, family engagement. Both data and studies confirm effective family engagement accelerates student learning. When we talk about effective family engagement we are specifically referring to best practices – ideas and programs that have the highest impact. Sure potlucks, student programs and even the traditional parent-teacher conference do successfully connect the family to the school but the end result is not one of a high impact outcome. For effective engagement parents need to form a collaborate relationship with their school and teacher. When best practices such as positive phone calls home, home visits, weekly data sharing folders, and providing models of support learning strategies are utilized, parents of all socio-economic and cultural backgrounds actively become part of the their child’s education.

The Family Engagement in Education Act of 2011 (HR1821/S941) focuses on four main factors: ESEA Title 1 sections 1111 and 1118, the family engagement and responsibility fund, state-based technical assistance and capacity building infrastructures, and teacher preparation. This Act would result in no new spending. Inclusion of this act into the reauthorization process would assist in making sure family engagement is included as part of the final voted upon law. At the time of the conference none of Missouri’s congressmen had signed onto the Family Engagement in Education Act. One way to make sure an Act has wide support for passage is to amplify the number of Congressmen signed onto the Act.

PTA’s hope is to focus on this Act so when Congress finally starts making real progress toward reauthorization, family engagement will already be in place. This was the main focus of our ‘Ask’ when Missouri delegates went to the Hill. We attended meetings with both of our Senators and Congressmen Long, Luetkemeyer, Graves and Cleaver. During each meeting we outlined the importance of family engagement and the difference between low impact and high impact practices. We answered their questions about funding and the waiver program.

Our work with regard to ESEA reauthorization and the Family Engagement in Education Act does not, and should not, end with one trip to the Hill. As advocates for children’s welfare, it is our duty to continue to speak out and let our representatives know education is an important part of our community. Not only do all children deserve a quality education, but also society as a whole deserves a community comprised of educated independent people. “If you think education is expensive, try ignorance” – Derek Bok, former President of Harvard University.

Missouri PTA’s President Elect Kim Weber, State Legislative Chair Lou Hibdon, President Donna Petiford, Senator Claire McCaskill, Department of Legislation and Advocacy VP & Director Dorothy Gardner, and former MO PTA President and current National PTA Board member Kathy Nevans.
Sequestration
By Dorothy Gardner, VP Legislation and Advocacy

If you haven’t heard the term sequestration yet, you can bet this term will soon start popping up everywhere. Remember the Congressional Super Committee? They were charged with the task of finding a bipartisan way to reduce our Nation’s debt when Congress refused to raise the debt ceiling. This Super Committee failed miserably at their task. Congress now has until January 2nd 2013 to come to some sort of agreement on the Budget Control Act. If Congress again fails to act and fix the budget program, immediate sequestration triggers, slashing 9.1% from all discretionary spending. In a nutshell, basically all programs, with the exception of Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid, fall within the realm of discretionary spending. This is an across the board cut with no exceptions. For Missouri schools, this would mean a loss of $69.18 million, affecting 89,938 students and resulting in a loss of 1,542 jobs. These estimates are based on the Center of Budget and Policy Priorities.

Schools across the nation are looking at the very real possibility they will incur a sudden reduction by 9.1% in their budget mid school year. Our schools have already tightened their belts year after year due to decreased funding at state and local levels. Now our children could face cuts in funding to education simply because Congress failed to do their job.

Resolutions Travel to National Convention
By Dorothy Gardner, VP Legislation and Advocacy

This past March, MOPTA received exciting news. Both resolutions submitted to NPTA were approved by the National Board of Directors to be brought before the membership next month at convention for adoption. Interested in knowing just how these two resolutions – Improved Infrastructure Around Schools and Distracted Driving – originated? Each resolution’s path was unique but both started with an issue someone felt should be addressed.

Rewind back to St. Patrick’s Day 2010. The then superintendent of the Kansas City School District had just recently announced his ‘right size’ plan. Numerous schools would be closed as part of the district’s plan to consolidate services and reduce budget costs. Reaction was considerable. NBC Action news contacted MOPTA regarding a Town Hall they were planning and asked if we would sit in on the discussion. So I traveled down to the news station on St. Patrick’s Day’s and took part in the broadcast. At the conclusion of the Town Hall I was approached by the then Mayor of Kansas City, Mark Funkhouser. He simply said, “I want to meet with you”. I went away thinking he wanted to meet about the issues taking place in the KCMO School District. I was wrong.

During our meeting a couple of weeks later, Mayor Funkhouser explained to me that in his capacity as mayor there was nothing he could do regarding how the schools are run. However, he could do something about the neighborhoods surrounding the schools. Children and their parents should feel the areas around their schools are safe. With more kids walking to school, making sure the path to school was a safe one should be a priority in the community. The Mayor explained that he visualized a plan where parents and school districts worked with their local government to address areas that were in need of improvements. The local government would then prioritize those areas when allocating funds for projects. The money to pay for these improvements would come from a mix of general revenue and grant money available at both the state and federal level. Turned out there were already several grants dedicated to improving safe routes to schools available for local governments – they just needed to apply.

While this seemed like a no brainer - PTAs both advocating to improved infrastructure around schools and encouraging local governments to make safe routes to school a priority – at the time neither MOPTA or NPTA had either a resolution or position on this issue.

A position statement was drafted and adopted during June of 2010 by the MOPTA Board of Managers. This solved the immediate issue but according to MOPTA’s standing rules, position statements have a one-year life span. If an issue is one of more than just an immediate concern then it should be passed by the general membership as a resolution. During the 2010-2011 school year, members of Sunny Vale Middle School PTSA in Blue Springs decided this was a position that should be a permanent fixture within MOPTA’s positions. This resolution, Improved Infrastructure Around Schools, was adopted by members during the general membership meeting at the 2011 state convention.

Kids, in general, don’t vote. However, each year, both elected officials and the public make decisions that directly affect their lives. But not being able to vote doesn’t mean student’s voices shouldn’t be heard. This was the topic of one of the student workshops at the 2010 MOPTA convention. Students can and should be part of the legislative process.

To bring this concept closer to home, the presenter brought up for discussion current MOPTA resolutions that have direct impact on their lives. One specific resolution, Teen Drivers and Cell Phones, resulted in lively debate. The presenter first asked them what they thought about the resolution. They all agreed it was dangerous for teens to use a cell phone while driving. But then they were asked if they thought it was fair the resolution was only restricted to teen drivers. Did it really matter if the driver was an adult or a teen if they were driving distracted? ‘Weren’t their actions just as dangerous? This resolution, the then Student Involvement chair, informed the students was heatedly debated before it was adopted on whether or not it should only be restricted to teens.

When it comes to PTA, units can include students as part of their membership. One of the perks of being a PTA member is the ability to exercise the right to vote on motions, position, elections and resolutions. The presenter brought this to the student delegate’s attention. This resolution had been voted upon and passed by the membership. Where were the student’s voices when debate occurred and the vote was taken? It might have made a huge difference.

It was during the discussion that took place between the students, presenter and Student Involvement Chair that everyone came to the realization that this current resolution should not only apply to all drivers but to all forms of distracted driving. The students collectively felt this issue should be addressed. “Then write a resolution,” they were told. They did just that.

Remember the blizzard of 2011? While students across the state were homebound due to what seemed like a never-ending onslaught of snow, three students, Amanda W., Amanda R., and Meagan G., under the direction of the then Student Involvement Chair, Mark Kempt, conducted research on distracted driving. They came together in early spring to draft the actual wording of the resolution that they then presented to other student delegates during the 2011 Leadership Conference. This resolution, Distracted Driving, was also adopted by the membership during the general membership meeting at the 2011 state convention.

All resolutions begin with someone recognizing an issue needs to be addressed. But it takes someone or a group of individuals to take that realization to the next level and actually do something.
**A Superintendent’s Perspective**

Below is a short article that Mike Brewer, Superintendent of Liberty Public Schools, wrote on the importance of membership in PTA. He joined, and encouraged the district’s assistant superintendents and board of education members to join EVERY PTA in the Liberty School District. What a terrific idea and show of support for PTA!

When it comes to preparing our students for life, schools cannot do it alone—it takes a team effort. A big part of the team in public education is most certainly PTA. As a former teacher and principal, and now as the superintendent of a growing district, I have been privileged to witness many inspiring and life-changing acts of service that have been made possible by PTA. Whether it is finding ways to encourage and support staff, organizing volunteers to help make a field trip possible, or communicating a special need to a caring community of adults, the PTA makes good things happen for kids.

It is important for us to remember that any organization is strongest when all members are actively supporting its mission. This is one reason I gladly choose to join every PTA in our district. I consider it an honor to be allowed to join this excellent group of individuals as they serve kids. It is through our collective best that students will be provided the best chance of succeeding in a rapidly changing world. We must never forget that PTA is not just a place where parents can “find their voice”...it is also a great way for staff members to join in a mission that fits seamlessly with their moral purpose. PTA is an organization that deserves to be supported and appreciated as it helps care for our nation’s most precious resource...our children!

**Build a Legacy for America’s Families with National PTA**

Without the millions of PTA volunteers our children would not have the same legal rights, protection and opportunities as they do today.

To honor that legacy and ensure that future generations of children are equally supported, we are inviting each member of our PTA family to help lead the fight for our children in the century ahead and become part of PTA’s permanent history via the “Our Home-Our Legacy-Our Future” campaign.

Just as every family needs a home, National PTA needs a home where volunteers and staff come together to develop the programs and services that enable PTAs around the country and around the world to meet our mission.

The new national headquarters makes it possible for PTA to:

- Have a permanent home in the Washington DC Metro area in close proximity to the US Dept. of Education, Congress, and other like-minded organizations to strengthen our strategic alliance partnerships and advocacy efforts.
- Consolidate all PTA operations in one facility to provide better communication, resources and service to PTAs and members.
- Host PTA leadership events, meetings and training opportunities for PTA volunteers.
- Develop a Learning and Research Center enabling PTA to research best practices to provide PTAs and families with new and cutting-edge programs and resources.
- Provide gallery space to exhibit PTAs amazing Reflections art work.
- Display the history of PTA through photos, documents and artifacts.
- Provide more stability and long-term fiscal health by owning rather than renting office space.

Thanks to the Missouri PTA units and councils that have already contributed. For more information on how your PTA can contribute, please see the National PTA website: http://www.pta.org/5013.htm
Empowered and inspired by attending the conference, past delegates have returned to their states to create significant change in their school systems, affecting the lives of thousands of children nationwide. In 2010, delegates worked with Parenting editors at the conference to create the “Lesson Plan for Change”, a blueprint to empower parents to get more involved in their children’s education that appeared in Parenting School Years magazine and the bestselling companion guide to the documentary Waiting for Superman.

A total of fifty-one delegates, representing each state and the District of Columbia, were selected by Parenting from a record-setting number of applications submitted through Parenting.com. Each delegate received an all-expense-paid trip to the event, where they had the opportunity to connect with national leaders in education, Parenting editors, and past Mom Congress delegates to exchange ideas on how to improve our nation’s schools.

“I am both honored and humbled,” says Angela of her excitement to be a part of Mom Congress. “As a parent, I have one opportunity to influence my children; I hope to be an example to them serving as a volunteer during their education. This opportunity will enhance my continued volunteerism; I look forward to all that I will learn at the conference and what changes I can make for our schools. United we are one voice for our children.”

The theme of the 2012 Mom Congress conference, “Teach Me Something New,” is dedicated to fostering the crucially important relationship between parents and their children’s teachers. For the third consecutive year, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan headlined the roster of education and advocacy leaders scheduled to address the delegates at the conference. Others scheduled to appear include representatives from NBC News’ Education Nation, First Lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move!, Save the Children, National PTA, National Education Association, Teach for America, and more.

Driven by the ever-increasing role that parents play in advocating for positive change in the education system, Parenting magazine launched the Mom Congress initiative in 2009 to celebrate and connect parents working to improve our nation’s schools. Each month, Parenting and Parenting.com give readers and the 25,000+ Mom Congress members updated educational news and resources to help them make a difference and bring about positive changes for students. Parenting is the National Media Sponsor of PTA Reflections ProgramSM.
Short Takes

NEED OFFICIAL PTA PINS FOR YOUR OUTGOING OFFICERS?
Missouri PTA has Official PTA Pins! See the Winter Toolkit for ordering information.

PTA RADIO
National PTA has online broadcasts focusing on issues affecting families and child advocates and will provide real-life answers to everyday problems. Every episode is full of the latest headline news, issues and features that affect the lives of children. Check-in bi-weekly at ptanewsroom.org/pta_radio.html for updates and featured programming.

QUICK TIP FOR YOUR PTA’S BUDGET
Your PTA is not an ATM. Develop relationships and partnerships with teachers and administrators. Work together to achieve goals, not buy items. PTAs can do more than just raise funds. Create powerful partnerships to support student success.

Mark Your Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Due to State Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Missouri PTA Leadership Conference and 2012 Student Leadership Conference – Stony Creek Inn, Columbia, MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cinco De Mayo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-11</td>
<td>NPTA Teacher Appreciation Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-13</td>
<td>Children’s Book Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>National Teacher Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>School Nurses Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Mother’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-19</td>
<td>Food Allergy Awareness Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>National Women’s Health Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>National Missing Children’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Memorial Day - MO PTA Office Closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>June</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11-17</td>
<td>National Men’s Health Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Flag Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Father’s Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>July</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Independence Day - MO PTA Office Closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Missouri PTA extends its sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Jan Harp Domene, of Anaheim, CA, who passed away on February 27th. Jan served as National PTA’s President from 2007-2009. In honor of her service, National PTA has established the Jan Harp Domene Diversity and Inclusion Award to honor her commitment to reaching out to the many diverse families that call the United States home and bringing them into the PTA family.

Founder’s Day Donations
Nixa Council PTA  
Gracemor PTA  
Yeokum Middle School PTSA  
Underwood Elementary PTA  
Woodland Elementary PTA  
Columbia Council PTA  
Lee’s Summit West H.S. PTSA  
Prairie View Elementary PTA

Building Fund Donations
Nixa Council PTA  
Underwood Elementary PTA  
Woodland Elementary PTA  
Mark Twain Elementary PTA  
Lee’s Summit West H.S. PTSA  
St. Joseph Council PTA  
Prairie View Elementary PTA

Scholarship Fund Donations
Harold L. Holliday, Sr. Montessori School PTA  
Hickman Mills Council PTA  
Sherwood Elementary PTA  
Nixa Council PTA
~ Save the Date ~

And Make Plans to Honor 100 Years of Service

We invite you to attend –
The 97th annual Missouri PTA Convention
And Centennial Celebration
October 19th -21st, 2012
“Missouri PTA-100 Years”
Hilton Kansas City Airport
8801 NW 112th Street
Kansas City, MO 64153

Learning, networking and celebrations will be everywhere!

Don’t miss this opportunity to gain new ideas and a fresh perspective for your unit!
All PTA members are encouraged to attend!