

CONTACT



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Missouri Parent Teacher Association | 2101 Burlington Street | Columbia, MO 65202 | 800-328-7330 | office@mopta.org | www.mopta.org

Photo credit by Marilyn Aikins

New Year!

Every day is a new beginning, take time to notice the special moments around you, no matter how small, and enjoy each day.

Just the Beginning



Christine Kent

Missouri PTA Health & Safety Chair | christinek@mopta.org

With the New Year comes new resolutions. I would like to invite each unit and council to get on board with Healthier and Safer lifestyles and ideas to bring to your school and community. With the semester just beginning it is a great opportunity to start thinking of ways to bring healthy activities or events to all kids. If you have already been working on things, please share with Missouri PTA your plans or events so that we can get your news out to others.

Starting is just the beginning but keeping good choices going is the end goal. The benefits of an active and healthy lifestyle are endless. What you begin today can and will show for many years to come. I don't mean just what's on the outside but really it is all about what is happening inside of us that counts the most. With the continued rise in obesity, diabetes and heart problems to name a few, we really can't afford to be complacent about these topics any longer. That's why the National PTA and Missouri PTA have been planning for more impact on the Health and Safety Committees in the New Year.

Bonnie Cannon is a member of the National PTA Health and Safety Committee for the next two years. She stated on our first correspondence, "The Health and Safety of our nation's children is the reason PTA exists. The National PTA Health and Safety Committee is committed to tackling some, often times, tough issues like STDs and safe dating and to re-vamping the Health and Safety page to include some "hot topic" items like "What's Going Around?". Topics ranging from crazy teen fads like the cinnamon challenge or car surfing to hitting on what diseases/ailments doctors' offices are seeing a lot of. We plan to increase our resources for states and local units and to open our ears to hear what you need or want. We want to know how we can assist you in implementing those programs or ideas that you feel best suit your states' needs."

Heather Parker is another member of the National PTA Health and Safety Committee. She is doing great things for the year with a webinar on "How to engage families to create a healthier school". That webinar was conducted in cooperation with the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention). The webinar gave an opportunity for state Health and Safety Chairs to get acquainted and to learn about National PTA's Health and Safety Committee plan of work. "It is our charge to bring health and safety to the forefront", claimed Heather.

If you have a Health and Safety chair in your unit/council, please let Missouri PTA know your contact information to receive future email news and correspondence. As the Health & Safety Chair you will play a role in developing new programming, continuing existing programs, and acting as a resource person in the areas of child health and wellness. The programming and initiatives should parallel the efforts of National PTA's Healthy Lifestyles Program. You don't need special skills just a desire to help kids live a healthy and safe life, a desire to get involved, have an interest in childhood health, wellness and safety and a "can do" attitude. Plus, it's not too late to get started and apply for the Health and Safety Award or the Student Safety Award through Missouri PTA and be recognized at the 100th Annual Missouri PTA Convention.

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When I was first asked to write about my goals for 2016 of course my first thoughts were: to become better organized, to lose weight, gain fame and fortune, travel more with my family, etc. Then after I thought about it over several weeks I started to think twice about those goals. I decided I didn't want them to be about me and mine but more about you, our PTA member and advocate. What goals do I wish for you?

My first goal is for you to enjoy the experience, to know that the many, many hours you will volunteer and sacrifice for your PTA will make a difference in the life of a child, in the schools in which you volunteer and in the community you reside. By joining PTA and stepping up to become a leader you have served notice that you care. That you want to make it better for those that need it the most, our children. That you are not afraid to speak your voice to better improve the lives of children everywhere.

My second goal for you is to be a PTA realist. It is not always going to be easy and there will be challenges and many obstacles. Know that not everyone will agree with you and see things the same way you do, but work it out, come together as a group, discuss it and make decisions that will impact the ones that need it the most, our children.

My third goal is for you to find a person to share this ride with you, whether it is your spouse, a good friend, neighbor, or a new friend you make serving in the PTA. Find that person that will support you, laugh when you laugh and cry when you cry. Remember, this should be a fun, rewarding experience; maybe not every day but there should be happier ones than sadder ones and having those special someone's in your PTA life will make the experience that much more enjoyable.

These are actions we should be doing already but if not, make these goals too:

Read the 2016 Legislative Priorities of Missouri PTA, then write your local legislator with the talking points we suggest, letting him or her know you are a PTA advocate and will be watching from afar what he or she is doing at the Capitol to support our children, their education and wellbeing.

Attend a school board meeting or raise your hand at the next PTA meeting you attend and offer to help or chair a committee or event. Even better, raise your hand for nomination for an officer position in the 2016-2017 membership year.

My last and final goal, make it your goal to join me at the 100th Annual State Convention in Columbia, on April 22-24, 2016 and let me know how the goals are going.

PTA Vision: Making Each Child's Potential A Reality

PTA Mission: PTA is a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for all families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

The **Purpose of PTA** is to promote the welfare of the 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 close relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth; to develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

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Be Part of PTA's Reflections® Program



2015-2016 Theme:
Let Your Imagination Fly

Entries from all grades and all abilities welcome.

Dance Choreography • Film Production • Literature
Music Composition • Photography • Visual Arts

Let Your Imagination Fly:

PTA Reflections Program

by **Kat Sarafianos**

from <http://www.bearingnews.org/>

Join Us!

Missouri PTA Reflections Showcase

Saturday, April 9, 2016

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Blue Springs High School Performing Arts Center

2000 North West Ashton Drive

Blue Springs, MO 64015

The 2015-16 National PTA Reflections program has ended again and this year the theme was "Let Your Imagination Fly".

According to their website, the National PTA Reflections program is an arts program that encourages students to explore new and different facets of their personality and creativity. The Program has inspired millions of students to create original work, showcasing their thoughts and emotions.

"Reflections definitely allows artists to evolve since it's held annually. They can try to improve and advance further in the competition each year. The new theme each year also helps artists consider and explore topics they normally wouldn't think of," senior Wendy Zhang said. "The contest provides the opportunity to win awards at the local, state and national level, so the recognition is a plus. However, I think the main benefit comes from the opportunity to examine fresh ideas and develop as an artist. I regret not entering the contest more, because I think participating annually makes the experience more valuable."

The structure of the annual competition is students in grades Pre-K through 12 are given a theme to "bring to life" using dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts. Local PTAs are responsible for initial judging and then local winning entries advance to the State PTA round.

Top entries from Missouri PTA Reflections contest advance to National PTA for the final round of judging. National PTA awards are announced each May, according to RBHS PTSA Reflections Co-Chair, Deb Linneman.

"Students must fill out an Artist Statement which describes how their artwork relates to the specific theme for that year. This is a very theme-based competition and the theme for 2015-16 is 'Let Your Imagination Fly'," Linneman said. "Our students did an outstanding job at the state level last year and we were very proud."

The contest not only offers rewards and recognition, but a time for artists to develop their skill. Junior Dzung Nguyen is participating in the art contest this year for the first time and feels that the contest has helped her see past a shallow view of her own art.

"The process of creating my acrylic painting helped me improve my acrylic techniques and changed my thoughts on the medium. At first, I thought that acrylic was an inexpensive medium that artists use if they don't have access to more advanced medium, such as oil paint," Nguyen said. "After working with acrylic, I realized that it can be just as effective in producing an amazing piece of artwork as oil paint, as long as the artist puts effort and heart into the creating process."

Nguyen believes the competition can help her improve not just with the practice it offers but the feedback it offers to all young artists participating. "I have never participated in the PTA Reflections before. But, aside from helping me improve as an artist, the PTA Reflections program is an opportunity for me as a young artist to present my artworks to professional judges and see where I stand among my peers in terms of artistic talent and creativity," Nguyen said. "The vast variety of fine art categories that participants can choose from is my most favorite part of this contest. From filmmaking to dancing to painting and drawing, students are encouraged to enter as many categories as they desire."

The Semi-Official PTA Nominating Committee Guide

You asked,
MoPTA
answered!
Question from
the field.



Shonte' Bell

Hazelwood PTA Council, Legislation and Advocacy Chair
Hazelwood PTA Council, Area Vice President

It's the most WONDERFUL time of the year,...time to form your yearly nominating Committee! Let's be honest, it's hardly something we all look forward to. Though few things are more important than growing your organization

with quality, hard-working people. The good news is that the Nominating Committee process doesn't have to be as painful as you may think. Follow a few simple steps, (avoid a few common mistakes) and you'll be sleigh-riding your way toward a more effective, organized and successful team.

Don't Just Put Butts In Seats: The most common mistake with Nominating Committees is the tendency to simply fill empty, critical positions with random bodies. The reason this mistake is commonly made is simple: You're already busy with other obligations to your team, and your organization's election day is looming. So you grab the person sitting next to you and slap a brand new title on them. There! Job done. Unfortunately, as a wise person once said, **"We often inherit 100 percent of the problems we have in our organizations simply by failing to put the right people in the right positions."** So resist the temptation to be a "seat-stuffer." Have patience with the nominating committee process. Commit to finding the right people for the jobs. Don't accept anything but the best when it comes to incorporating new members into your team. After all, you will be stuck working with whomever you choose to work on your team for at least a year, - and possibly for SEVERAL years.

Don't Re-invent the Wheel: When I'm working with PTA units, I'm often surprised at how unfamiliar they are with their own bylaws. So when they form committees, the units are often confused as to how the committees should actually run. The Nominating Committees are no exception. The team members come together with this vague goal in mind: nominate people for positions. But they are often clueless as to how they should go about doing so. **Here's some good news: the answer to how to run your nominating committee may be as delightfully simple as this: READ YOUR BYLAWS.** Unless your organization was formed within the last 365 days, then your predecessors have most likely left you a very clear and organized set of guidelines by which you can run your nominating committee. Make use of these. Tweak as you go along if necessary. After all, times change and we have to adjust accordingly. But there's no need to fly blindly. Educate yourself regarding your organization's bylaws and commit to following them.

Resist "Cronyism": We've already made the point that you will most likely be working with the new team members for an extended period of time. You've read through your bylaws, so you know how you should proceed. By now, your organization may be FULLY trusting you to find the right people for the job,...right at the exact moment where you are feeling very tempted to enlist the people you personally enjoy working with the most: Your cronies. RESIST this temptation! I'm sure that your buddies are great people with their own gifts and talents. However, you CANNOT afford to overlook the talents and abilities of other qualified candidates to give preference to your pals. This is where our ethics rubber truly hits the road. As you've most likely read in your unit bylaws, there is a highly necessary interview and selection process that EVERY potential applicant should go through. No exceptions! So say it with me, "I will not just enlist my friends...I will not just enlist my friends." Repeat this 100 more times and you'll be on your way.

Stick To Your Guns, but Don't Be A Maverick: So you've committed yourself to finding the right people for the job. You've gotten cozy with your bylaws. You've opened the door to all interested candidates. So now what? Engage! Proceed exactly as your bylaws direct you, but be careful. If your team is not accustomed to actually following its own set of bylaws, you may begin to appear as a maverick to other team members. Raised eyebrows and distrustful questions may begin to arise as you attempt to follow your organization's actual nominating rules, -- rules that have gotten dusty over the years with underuse. So be warned: If you proceed as directed in your bylaws without COMMUNICATING the new, necessary but unfamiliar changes to your team members, they will become distrustful of your process. The way to defeat this is to communicate frequently. Educate your team to help them acclimate to the new changes. But STICK TO YOUR GUNS! If the bylaws say that the names of potential candidates cannot be shared outside of the nominating committee, then DO NOT share the names of candidates until the appointed times. Stick to your plan and play by the rules. But communicate as much as possible,...you maverick, you.

Welcome and Train Your Newbies: Once your new team members are elected, it should remain an objective of the nominating committee to make connections between the outgoing officers and incoming officers. This can be as simple or as difficult as one can imagine. If the old officers are leaving on good terms, then chances are they will be happy to share their notes, connections, hard earned lessons and anything else they can share in order to help the new person acclimate. However, if the outgoing officer is leaving under less than ideal circumstances, they may not share as much as a crumpled sheet of paper. In these cases, it can be a real challenge to help the new officer connect with the old. You can't force anyone to be a team player, so try to work around non-cooperative members that are leaving. Host a "Welcome Aboard" party for the new team members. Share your own do's and don'ts. Give the new members your contact information, and remain available to them. After all, the faces of the nominating committee will be the most familiar faces to the new team members. So they may look to you for guidance and encouragement in the short term. Lastly, arrange to have training workshops as soon as possible. Contact the regional directors if you aren't positive as to how training workshops should be run. They'll be happy to help you.

Congratulations! You've done it. Here's hoping the best to you and every one of your PTA family members, old and new!



Human Trafficking: Our children are at risk

The words, human trafficking, don't really paint the picture that they should in our day to day lives. Most of us think that this type of crime is happening far away in other countries when in reality it is happening right here at our doorsteps. Cases of human trafficking have been reported in all 50 U.S. States; anyone can be trafficked regardless of race, class, education, gender, age, or citizenship when forcefully coerced or enticed by false promises. Potential target spots could be via social media, schools, park playgrounds, malls and party gatherings. Other common phrases that you might find associated with this crime are: trafficking in persons, forced labor, forced prostitution, the commercial sexual exploitation of children, or modern-day slavery.

How to Recognize Potential Human Trafficking for Children

- Not going to school
- Presence of an older or adult boyfriend
- Sudden change in eating habits
- Eats away from other members of the "family"
- Lives apart from or in worse conditions than other children in the "family"
- Drug or alcohol dependency
- Nightmares or night terrors
- Suddenly has money, toys, or other gifts
- Has new words for body parts - not age appropriate
- Mimics sexual behavior with toys
- Wetting or soiling accidents unrelated to toilet training
- Refuses to talk about a secret shared with an older adult or child

Additional Red Flags for Adults

- Signs of physical abuse (e.g. bruising, burns)
- Living with employer
- Always accompanied by "friend"
- Fearful demeanor
- History of domestic violence
- Engagement in commercial sex through a pimp or manager
- Tattoos or branding
- Excessive work hours or working with no breaks
- No pay or very little pay
- Large debt
- High security measures at place of employment
- Poor physical condition/malnutrition
- Disorientation – individual does not know where they are/how they got there

What you can do to advocate:

Become informed

- Read about current news and events as it relates to sex trafficking.
- Join Facebook groups with the common purpose of exposing sex trafficking and get involved with the online discussions.
- Connect with the Office for Victim of Crimes Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC) for extensive information on local human trafficking task forces

Educate

- Converse about the issue of sex trafficking with people you know or meet.
- Host a briefing or training on the topic of sex trafficking in your community by bringing together local community leaders as well

as anti-trafficking experts.

- Educate your local law enforcement, medical institutions, churches and homeless shelters about sex trafficking.
- Hang an anti-trafficking poster in your church, business, or office.
- Protect your children. Inform them about trafficking and be involved with the friends they hang out with. All too often young girls are lured by traffickers because their friend life is a secret from their family.

Volunteer

- Work with organizations to support the operation of safe houses and shelters.
- Sponsor children/women who are in the care of a recovery center or safe house.

Become an Advocate

- Keep your eyes and ears open for reports of trafficking in your community.
- Report such matters to local authorities as well as the Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline (1-888-373-7888). This national center is maintained by advocates at Polaris Project and they advise this same number may be used "to connect with anti-trafficking services in your area; or to request training and technical assistance, general information, or specific anti-trafficking resources.

Know who you are purchasing from

- Believe it or not, merchant companies play a big roll in human trafficking. Declining purchases from them will help make an impact on the demand for trafficking people. Please visit the Free 2 Work website to see how your favorite companies rank. Download their app and use it anywhere, anytime.
- Purchase merchandise from Fair Trade companies.
- Boycott and write to companies who have a poor rating with The Better World Shopper. Download the app!
- Purchase handmade goods from survivors through organizations who support recovered victims. Quality jewelry, hand bags, linens and stationary make great gifts.

Contact Congress

- Demand that laws are changed, to support victims of sex trafficking, by calling, writing and emailing your legislators in the U.S. Congress.
- Organize to enforce zoning laws and to close strip clubs and "massage parlors" - the fronts for sex trafficking and prostitution - in your community.

Links to look at:

www.stoptraffickingmo-il.org

www.wakepeopleup.com/human-trafficking-on-the-rise-in-missouri

www.unicefusa.org/mission/protect/trafficking

IMPORTANT: This information is intended for informative purposes only. Under no circumstance do we advocate for individuals to confront a trafficker or place themselves in any danger whatsoever. If you believe you have encountered a victim of human trafficking and there is an immediate danger, call 911.

Because we promised.

Melissa K. Randol, MSBA Executive Director

In 1875, Missourians adopted their Constitution and made a promise - a guarantee - to our children that has been embedded in all subsequent versions of our state's most important document. This promise, found in Article IX, Section 1 of the Constitution, declares that our state will provide them with the opportunity for a free education. In fact, Missourians placed such a high priority on this guarantee that our forefathers included language in the Constitution that says that a free public education is "essential to the preservation of the rights and liberties of the people."

In order to determine how to fund our public schools, the General Assembly adopted a formula - often referred to as the "foundation formula." The current formula was drafted in 2005, after the previous formula was so underfunded that it was no longer functional. The current formula was built to ensure every school district in the state receives a basic funding amount necessary to provide an adequate education to each student. When the current formula was drafted, Missouri legislators declared that *this* formula would not be underfunded. They were so committed to this promise that they did not create a way to prorate the formula if it was underfunded. Unfortunately, the formula has been underfunded every year since 2010. This school

For a thorough overview of the formula, visit:
goo.gl/1CbApz

year, the formula is underfunded by close to \$500 million.

The next legislative session begins on January 6, and there will be much discussion about the funding of public education. It appears that the General Assembly will need an additional \$60 million simply to prevent some districts from suffering a reduction in state funding under the current formula. Categoricals, such as school transportation, also remain significantly underfunded. There will be criticism of public education advocates for seeking more money for our children. There will be arguments that the money is simply not there to fund the formula.

Why don't we have the money? Let's look at our priorities.

For example, we give away hundreds of millions of dollars in inefficient tax credits and we recently passed a huge tax reduction package that will eliminate hundreds of millions of dollars in general revenue.

The time for excuses is over. It's time to develop a plan and stick with it, to provide our children with the resources they need to prepare them for their future. Because we promised.



Melissa K. Randol

National PTA Applauds Senate Passage of Every Student Succeeds Act

by Heidi May Wilson, National PTA

Recently the U.S. Senate passed the Every Student Succeeds Act, which would reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/No Child Left Behind (ESEA/NCLB). A comprehensive reauthorization of ESEA/NCLB has not been this close to being signed into law since 2002.

"National PTA applauds the leadership of Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) and their commitment to improving education for every child. The association is extremely pleased that the bill received overwhelming bipartisan support in the Senate.

"The Every Student Succeeds Act is a marked improvement over current law. The bill will ensure families are empowered to support their children's learning and that all students receive a high-quality, well-rounded education that prepares them for long-term success. National PTA urges the president to sign the bill as soon as possible to provide much needed certainty for students, families and schools."



College Decision-Making

Shanna Meyer Jefferson College, Enrollment Services Specialist

College decision making can be overwhelming for both students and parents. Through the years of being in my profession, I have gathered some ideas and tips on how to help ease this transition.

Ideally, parents and students would begin having conversations about college during the student's high school freshmen year or even before. This helps to get an idea of what both sides are thinking and gets everyone on the same page. Also, the earlier you start these discussions, the less stressful they may seem later.

Some ideas for early college discussion could include:

- What do you want to be when you grow up?
- What would be your dream college/university? Why?
- Financially, what is realistic?
- When are you taking the ACT/SAT test?

Here is a list of tips for seniors and their parents to help get through the next couple of months as you transition from high school to college:

1. Tour potential colleges/universities
2. Pick your top 3 school choices

3. Complete admissions and scholarship applications for your top 3 schools, be aware of all deadlines
4. Make sure all ACT/SAT test scores meet admissions requirements and are submitted to your college/university
5. Complete FAFSA when available and financially evaluate what college best fits your pocket
6. Create or complete a resumé and essays for high school and community scholarship applications
7. Apply for high school and community scholarship, again be aware of deadlines
8. Submit official college transcripts or Advanced Placement Scores for any dual credit coursework completed during high school to college/university
9. Submit final high school transcripts to college/university
10. Register for classes at the institution you will be attending

Remember, there is always help with the college process. Reach out for help when you are feeling overwhelmed. This should be a fun and exciting time in your life.



My Baby is going to College

Susan Rupert MoPTA Vice President of Programs | susanr@mopta.org

I have done this once already so what is the big deal? Three years ago when Amanda graduated I prepared for the event by denying it. I think subconsciously, I felt if I didn't think or talk about it or make any plans – it wouldn't happen. Guess what? It did anyway!

Luckily she knew where she wanted to attend and the career path she wanted to take. We were able to pull things together very late in the year. I believe it was mid March before we submitted her application and even later applied for housing. But, we got pictures taken, order announcements and had a celebration (most of which was done the week of and night before). Isn't the graduation party the only thing the parent needs to worry about the child's senior year? Fortunately because of her school activities, community service and PTA advocacy/leadership experience, Amanda was awarded several scholarships. Haphazardly we got through her senior year and preparing for the transition to College. She is now completing her junior year at Northwest Missouri State University majoring in Early Childhood Education.

I made a promise that I would not fall into the denial mode again and make the same mistakes with John Michael. As you may know, I am a school secretary. After seven years at the elementary school, I moved to the high school counseling center two years ago. It has been a very eye opening experience in many ways! I am seeing opportunities we as parents missed for Amanda by not being more informed, engaged and vigilant. As one parent to another – here are my suggestions:

Be informed. Make sure the school has your correct contact information including email address. Check the school's website and bulletin frequently for announcements of events,

scholarship deadlines, etc. Put these on your family calendar. Attend parent meetings and if you can't find out what you missed. Don't forget the post secondary deadlines – college application, housing, departmental scholarship applications, sports eligibility, FAFSA, etc.

Be engaged. Become a familiar face at your school and especially in the Counseling Center. School counselors are awesome. They are so knowledgeable and a wonderful resource. Students and their parents need to get to know their counselor. The more they know about a student's goals and needs, the better assistance they can provide along the path to college and career readiness. If you haven't met with your counselor this school year – pick up the phone, send an email, or make an appointment – do it today! Senior year is going to fly by! Do you realize it is already 2nd semester?

Be vigilant. Senior year is not a free ride or a year to blow off! Keep your student focused. Even though it is his or her last year in high school they still need to have good school attendance and complete their assignments. Class rank and final GPA are still to be determined. Work together in searching for grant and scholarship opportunities. There has to be a good balance of hard work and senior memories. It will pay off in the end!

I recently found a Grown and Flown: Parenting from the Empty Nest written by Mary Dell Harrington and Lisa Endlich Heffernan, <http://grownandflown.com>. Their blogs cover topics that are involved with raising kids 15-25.

I particularly enjoyed their version of a parent's bucket list entitled The Parent's 'Last Call' List for Senior year and 13 Things I Will Never Have To Do Again In My Empty Nest as I begin to prepare for the next stage.



Ever feel like technology is too overwhelming to tackle? Wonder what your kids mean when they say “Snapchat story”? Want to learn more about technology, but just don’t know where to start, and are afraid you will mess something up? These are all thoughts that parents, grandparents and caregivers all face today when trying to keep up to date with the latest technology information our children already know about.

Let me give you a few stories to help: Several years ago, my mother changed jobs after about 20 years of being the secretary at our church. When she went to work at her new job, instead of that “old” electric typewriter, she now had to learn how to use a PC, and was quite afraid. She and I would have nightly conversations about her experience that day, and I would give her pointers on what might help her solve her latest problem. Even though she was afraid of switching, she embraced the need and now types better than I do most days.

A very dear friend of mine, once told me she is not tech savvy, and does not tweet or use technology very well. At a recent convention even she began using twitter and even sent me a photo to let me know she was “tweeting”, and is now one of my best “students”, just because she has a willingness to learn.

Below are my top four things you can do to become “tech savvy”.

You can be tech-savvy this year!

Michele Reed

MoPTA Vice President of Communications
micheler@mopta.org

1. We all use technology in the workplace and usually know some “technology geek” that comes to fix our computer when something doesn’t work right or just plain doesn’t work. Use them as a resource to allow you to learn something new. Ask them for help – you know usually they are more than happy to help and will be patient with you while you learn.
2. Make an effort to get on your computer an hour each day. Open your web browser and “google” something – you want to know about. Go to the library and check out one of the books they have.
3. Don’t be afraid – you can’t hurt it and it won’t hurt you. Even if you do, believe me there is someone around that can fix it and likes to do just that.
4. Ask a kid for help. Many of us spend all day working for the better of our student’s education, and while they might struggle with spelling, or algebra; 9 out of 10 of them don’t struggle with technology – they have grown up with it and to them it is a “no brainer” – just be prepared for them to not be as patient.



Founders Gift Donations

- Prairie View Elementary PTA
- Delta Woods Middle School PTSA
- Davidson Elementary PTA
- Mason Elementary PTA
- Greenwood Elementary PTA
- Timber Creek Elementary PTA
- Woodland Elementary PTA
- Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA
- Nixa Jr. High PTSA
- Cherokee Middle School PTSA
- Richardson Elementary PTA
- Stonegate Elementary PTA
- Trailridge Elementary PTA
- Raytown Middle School PTSA
- Summit Lakes Middle School PTA
- Lee's Summit Council PTA
- Longview Farm Elementary PTA
- Cedar Creek Elementary PTA
- Underwood Elementary PTA
- Meadow Lane Elementary PTA
- Pleasant Lea Elementary PTA
- Oak Grove Elementary PTA

Thank You to the PTAs/PTSAs who have donated to MoPTA

Donors listed are from August 2015 to December 2015

Scholarship Fund Donations

- Prairie View Elementary PTA
- Delta Woods Middle School PTSA
- Mason Elementary PTA
- Greenwood Elementary PTA
- Woodland Elementary PTA
- Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA
- Richardson Elementary PTA
- Trailridge Elementary PTA
- Raytown Middle School PTSA
- Sherwood Elementary PTA
- Summit Lakes Middle School PTA
- Lee's Summit Council PTA
- Longview Farm Elementary PTA
- Cedar Creek Elementary PTA
- Underwood Elementary PTA
- Meadow Lane Elementary PTA
- Oak Grove Elementary PTA
- Hazelwood Council PTA
- Glendale PTSA

Building Fund Donations

- Prairie View Elementary PTA
- Delta Woods Middle School PTSA
- Mason Elementary PTA
- Greenwood Elementary PTA
- Eugene Field PTA-Springfield
- Woodland Elementary PTA
- Blue Springs Early Childhood Preschool PTA
- Nixa Jr. High PTSA
- Richardson Elementary PTA
- Trailridge Elementary PTA
- Raytown Middle School PTSA
- Summit Lakes Middle School PTA
- Lee's Summit Council PTA
- Longview Farm Elementary PTA
- Cedar Creek Elementary PTA
- Underwood Elementary PTA
- Meadow Lane Elementary PTA
- Pleasant Lea Elementary PTA
- Oak Grove Elementary PTA
- North Kansas City Council PTA

If you would like to donate to these funds, simply donate by sending extra money when you send your membership dues, or complete the online membership dues form (<http://mopta.org/wp-content/uploads/2007/08/2015-2016MembershipDuesForm.pdf>) or donate on the front page of the website and designate your donation to one of the funds.



Carla Weise

MoPTA Procedures and
Bylaws Chair
carlaw@mopta.org
Meremac Region

Years in PTA: 11 years BOM 2 years

PTA is important because education is important. Our children do not have a voice in education. That is what is so amazing about PTA.

PTA has become that voice. Children are our most valuable asset they must be given every opportunity to succeed. PTA advocates for all children striving to provide a better tomorrow today!

I got involved in the BOM honestly because we did not have a Regional Director for the Meremac Region and I felt the work of Missouri PTA was important and being lost in our district. It has become one of the best decisions I have made. I love being able to effect positive change for Missouri's children.

I am the Missouri PTA Procedure and Bylaws Chair. I review and approve all of our Unit's Bylaws. I also help Unit's create Standing Rules.

PTA changes the lives of the children and adults it touches. Even if you only have one hour to help out at your child's school volunteer, your time given to the school does matter.

Children matter, PTA matters!

I am an avid reader. My favorite book is actually the Outlander series. Which has now become a TV series that I LOVE!!

I love Tex Mex the spicier the better!

I am a huge advocate for adoption. Our youngest daughter is adopted. It is my passion and something I encourage everyone to look into.

Myself in 5 words: dedicated, loyal, ambitious, compassionate and religious

I have four kids: Will 16, Alex 13, Ben 11 and Katie 3

I have a new driver in our house. Letting go and giving him more freedom has been hard for me. We have started college visits which are almost to much for me to take. I just keep telling myself we have given them roots and now it is time for them to develop wings! I then look over at my free spirited 3 year old and remind myself we have many years left before an empty nest!

Meet Your MoPTA Board of Managers Members

Salad Nicoise with Seared Tuna

Share your favorite recipe with us! Email contact@mopta.org



Directions

To make the vinaigrette: combine all ingredients and whisk vigorously to emulsify. Set the dressing aside while preparing the salad.

Cooking the potatoes and eggs in the same pot cuts down dishes and clean up. Place the potatoes in a large saucepan, add water to cover and a nice pinch of salt; bring to a boil over medium heat. Simmer the potatoes for 12 minutes to give them a head start, and then add the eggs. Place green beans in a steamer basket and steam for about 5 minutes until crisp-tender. When the potatoes are fork tender drain out the water and put the potatoes, eggs, and green beans in a colander; rinse briefly under cold water. Peel the shells off the eggs and cut them in 1/2 lengthwise.

Place a skillet over medium-high heat. Rub the tuna on all sides with olive oil, and a bit of the vinaigrette; season with salt and pepper. Lay the tuna in the hot pan and sear for approximately 2 minutes on each side (personally I prefer my tuna on the very rare side so I only sear on each side for maybe a minute). Transfer the tuna to a cutting board and slice.

To assemble the salad: combine the potatoes, green beans, tomatoes, olives, capers, and chives in a large mixing bowl. Drizzle the salad with enough vinaigrette to fully moisten and toss gently to coat; season with salt and pepper.



Dorothy Gardner
MoPTA President Elect
dorothyg@mopta.org

Ingredients

Vinaigrette:

- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 3 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1/2 lemon, juiced
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh tarragon
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil

Salad:

- 1 pound small red new potatoes, scrubbed and halved
- 8 large eggs
- 1/2 pound fresh green beans, stems trimmed
- 2 pounds fresh sushi-quality tuna
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 pint teardrop or cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 cup nicoise olives
- 2 tablespoons of capers, drained
- 1/2 bunch fresh chives, snipped in half

Servings: 8
Prep time: 0:20
Total time: 0:45
Calories: 495



Students from Smith Hale Middle School (Hickman Mills School District) - Attended the National Junior Honor Society Conference in Tan-Tar-A in 2015.

Send us pictures, brags and stories. **We want to hear from you!** Send everything to contact@mopta.org

The Missouri PTA Board of Managers support Missouri PTA operations and initiatives and many Board of Managers members work closely with our officers and membership to serve as a valuable resource for PTA units and councils in Missouri. As opportunities arise, members throughout the state with interest in serving as a Missouri PTA Board of Managers member are encouraged to complete the Talent Bank Interest Form and submit it to Missouri PTA. Prospective members of the State of Board of Managers should support National and Missouri PTA positions and programs. It is helpful for applicants to have held an elected office in a council or local unit.

We'd love to have you! To apply for a Missouri PTA Board of Managers position

Complete the MoPTA Talent Bank Interest Form found ON THE NEXT PAGE or at <http://mopta.org/wp-content/uploads/2007/07/Talent-Bank-Interest-Finder.pdf> and email it to office@mopta.org with any supplemental or supporting documents you'd like to include. The MoPTA Executive Board will review your application and contact you about the remaining steps in the process.

We Need You!

Consider joining MoPTA as a Board of Managers member!



Talent Bank Interest Finder

The Missouri PTA Talent Bank is a file of members who are interested in serving Missouri PTA in various ways. As opportunities arise, Missouri PTA makes appointments to the Board of Managers. Names entered in the Talent Bank are not guaranteed an appointment; however, this listing does afford an opportunity for consideration for appointment. Therefore, members throughout the state with interest in serving are encouraged to complete this form and submit it to Missouri PTA. Interested members may be asked to submit letters of recommendations.

Missouri PTA bylaws charge the executive committee with appointing all chairmen and members of the regional teams. Prospective members of the State of Board of Managers should support National and Missouri PTA positions and programs. It is helpful to have held an elected office in a council or local unit.

DATE: _____ REGION: _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Initial _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____ Fax _____

Email _____

City _____ School District _____ Council _____

PTA Unit Membership _____ Years Involved in PTA _____

List PTA offices/positions held at local and council levels:

(If you have served in PTA positions in other states please list those also.)

Have you completed the Missouri PTA Leaders Project? No ___ Yes ___ (date) _____

Why are you interested in becoming a member of the BOM? _____

Check areas of Interest: (see next page for description of positions)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Technology (Website) | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Outreach Chairman | <input type="checkbox"/> Health/Wellness & Safety Chairman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations Chairman | <input type="checkbox"/> Resource Development Chairman | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Representative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONTACT Editor | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Emphasis Chairman | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Engagement Chairman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Legislative Chairman | <input type="checkbox"/> State Procedures & Bylaws Chairman | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Involvement Chairman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male Engagement Chairman | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Chairman | <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions Chairman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Reflections Chairman | |

Return to: Missouri PTA 2101 Burlington Street, Columbia, MO 65202 or fax to (573) 445-4163 or email office@mopta.org.



**MoPTA
Convention**
is the best time to
train your unit &
council with
MoPTA officers,
resources & ideas.
Join us in April!

Bringing it Home

Missouri PTA Convention

**Friday, April 22 to
Sunday, April 24, 2016**

**Stoney Creek Hotel and
Conference Center**

2601 S. Providence Rd.,
Columbia, MO 65203

\$180 adult registration

\$180 student registration

Deal! Buy one student registration, get one free

visit www.MoPTA.org
for more information

It's time to starting thinking about sending each and every one of your board members to the 2016 Missouri PTA Convention. This wonderful event is going to be held in Columbia, Missouri at the Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center.

Missouri PTA is part of the largest child advocacy association in the Nation and we invite you to come to convention and learn about all the wonderful opportunities to be involved. It is also a time to renew friendships with other PTA members from all over the state and see what has been successful in their local units.

What you need to do to prepare for Convention this year:

1. Get all your membership dues sent into the state office by March 1. This determines how many voting delegates you receive at convention.
2. Check your budget. How many can you send?
3. When your "Call to Convention arrives", please open and share it with your members.
4. Make your hotel reservations early, Stoney Creek 1-573-442-6400
5. Get your registrations sent in on time

New! MoPTA Bootcamp: Tools You Need To Succeed

Missouri PTA is proud to host first-ever interactive coaching sessions to help PTA leaders of all levels, new and seasoned, build an effective PTA from the ground up. Sessions include hands-on training of PTA resources including website & communication resources and awards, programs and membership, bylaws and budgets. This is a training session you and your PTA officers don't want to miss.

This year! MoPTA State Officer Elections

Missouri PTA will hold State Office elections during Convention this year. Meet the officers running for leadership positions, share your ideas with the upcoming state leaders and use your voice and vote to impact the future of MoPTA.

