

CONTACT



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



Planning for a great school year



Paula McKinney | Missouri PTA Event Planner | paulam@mopta.org

Summer is in full swing and I hope you and your family are enjoying the long hot days. This time of year is my favorite! I enjoy spending time with my husband and daughter swimming and going on vacation. I also love this time of year because planning for the upcoming year in PTA begins.

I have served on my local PTA unit's board in several positions - Programs Chair, Recording Secretary, Fundraising, and President. I have also served on the Independence Council board in leadership positions. My daughter will begin Kindergarten this school year and I am looking forward to joining their PTA and offering my help.

Making a plan will provide your board and unit with important information and events to look forward to for the upcoming year. Here are some quick tips to help get you started -

1. List your goals for the upcoming school year for your PTA. This will help guide your planning of programs for families.
2. Decide on a theme for the year - use a quote that will guide the work you will do. You can also use an image for your logo. Last year our Council's theme was "Who Can Make a Difference? You!" The image we used for our logo was owls in a tree, with each branch containing the name of each individual school/unit in our district.
3. Grab a calendar and start planning your events with the help of your Executive Board. Be sure to include programs, fundraising, membership drives, celebrations, nominating for the next year's board positions, installation of officers, etc.
4. Think about the best time to hold your events. Consider what may affect your attendance - the time of year (daylight hours, weather), any holidays, availability of organizers/performers/guests, and other activities that may clash with the date, for example sports and community events.
5. Now is the time to make changes. Eliminate events/activities that have low family and volunteer participation or are time intensive with little benefit.
6. Review your unit's Bylaws and standing rules.
7. Plan your budget with your Budget Committee. Review last year's budget and make needed changes.

Planning ahead will only help create a more successful school year and PTA involvement. Remember the most important thing is that people enjoy themselves and feel part of the school community. Happy planning!!

Missouri PTA

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.

Mark Your Calendar

Contact us! contact@mopta.org

 MissouriPTA  MissouriPTA  @MissouriPTA

School of Excellence Enrollment
April 1 – Oct 1, 2016

Deadline to submit Resolutions to Missouri PTA
Oct 21, 2016

Unit in Good Standing fiscal year-end report, annual financial review, and copy of IRS filing due to state office
Dec 1, 2016

Reflections Entries due to Missouri PTA
December 17, 2016

National PTA Legislative Conference
March 7-9, 2017



Save the date and budget now!
Friday, April 28 to Sunday, April 30, 2017
Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center
2601 S. Providence Rd., | Columbia, MO 65203

Missouri PTA 2017 Convention

Visit www.MoPTA.org for more information

10th Annual

MO Safe Schools and Colleges Conference



September 27 - 29, 2016 Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach

Learn more ways to keep your students safe at the 10th Annual MO Safe Schools and Colleges Conference hosted by MSBA's Center for Education Safety.



Featuring Keynote Speaker:
Lt. Col. Dave Grossman

An internationally recognized scholar, author, soldier and speaker who is one of the world's foremost experts in the field of human aggression and violence.

Session topics will include:

- Crisis Communication
- Mental Health
- Behavioral Risk Assessments
- Severe Weather
- Cyber Security
- Radicalization

See Lt. Col Dave Grossman on Thursday, September 27 with a Special One-Day Price of \$99.

MSBA's Center for Education Safety

CES
www.moces.org

Registration opens June 13 at www.moces.org or call 800-221-6722.

From the Missouri PTA President

Contact me! dorothyg@mopta.org

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I was invited to attend the Shoal Creek Elementary PTA's final meeting of the year and they were installing their new officers, wrapping up the treasurer's report AND sharing all the committees recap reports for the year. What made this so wonderful was that each committee chair was asked to share a high and a low. This, in my opinion, really expanded the conversation by challenging the chairs to think a little more in depth. The reports given by the committee chairs were thoughtful and heartfelt. By the end of the meeting I came away with the notion that I had heard their PTA story.

So what will be your PTA's story? This year the Reflections program is challenging kids with that very theme "What is your Story". Everyone has a story and each story is unique. PTAs also have their own story and the story of every individual PTA is unique and should be celebrated.

Shoal Creek Elementary PTA truly celebrated their achievements, their story. There were smiles at the highs and nods acknowledging the lows. Everyone left that meeting knowing they had done great things for children in their school and their community. Their story, told a chapter at a time by each committee chair, demonstrated that families, teachers and the community, when they come together engaged under the single purpose of making sure every child has the opportunity to reach his or her full potential, can achieve great heights.

So again I ask – What is your story? I know mine is still being written. But I have great aspirations to spread the message that membership in PTA is a game changer for kids. It's both worthwhile and relevant. Remember when you plan out your goals and events for this coming year that you are actually beginning the outline of what will become your PTA story.

Memorialize your commitment to children: Pave the Path to Education!

We invite you to support National PTA by [donating an engraved brick](#) to the courtyard of PTA's headquarters in Alexandria, Va. To learn more, visit our website, PTA.org/BricksPaveThePath.

Building a Better Meeting

Proper parliamentary procedure works in your favor to keep a meeting running smoothly. This workshop is presented by professional registered parliamentarians and includes a Q&A session. October 15th, 9am-noon. At Independence Hilton Garden Inn, \$30 (includes continental breakfast and workshop materials) [Register Here](#)

Enrollment is open for the School of Excellence

Through the [School of Excellence Program](#), your PTA and school will gain new ways to engage families in school decision-making, such as improvements to programs, practices and policies related to education, health, safety or the arts. Contact excellence@pta.org or call (800)307-4782 for more info. [Enroll](#) before Oct. 1 for the 2016-2017 school year.

THERE ARE 3 MAIN TYPES OF distraction

- visual**: taking your eyes off the road. Icon: a yellow eye.
- manual**: taking your hands off the wheel. Icon: a yellow smartphone with text messages: "when's dinner?" and "at 6|".
- cognitive**: taking your mind off what you are doing. Icon: a yellow thought bubble with text: "BUY FOOD... GET GAS... PICK UP KIDS...".

POTENTIAL DISTRACTIONS WHILE DRIVING

Dorothy Gardner | Missouri PTA President | dorothyg@mopta.org

July marks a 10-year anniversary for me. But, this anniversary isn't one I'll mark with celebration or look back on fondly. Ten years ago on July 1st a drunk driver crossed the center line and hit the vehicle, in which I was a passenger, head on. Thankfully, I have very spotty memories of the events that took place after looking up from chatting with a friend to see a truck directly in front of us. It's weird the things you do and don't remember.

However, one thing I remember very clearly – my nurse in the Trauma room at North Kansas City Hospital telling me my kids were there in the waiting room. I distinctly remember telling him to not let them come back to see me. I absolutely didn't want them to see me like that. In the end I recovered from my injuries. I had great doctors, physical therapists, and supportive family to help me. In fact, my regional director (I was actually Council President for Liberty Council PTA at the time) helped me get around convention that year – she even cut my food for me.

Unfortunately, there is nothing remotely unique about my story. Stories like mine happen every day. The majority of people have experienced the effects

of distracted drivers first hand or at least know of someone who has.

Summer marks months of celebrations and vacations. It also marks the 100 deadliest days for teen drivers. But it's not just teens who are driving distracted on the roads. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 8 people are killed and 1,161 injured each day due to distracted drivers. Sure you could argue that the drunk driver who hit me was more distracted than someone on their cell phone. But then again were they really? Driving at speeds of 55mph, the amount of time an average text message takes your eyes off the road is equivalent to the length of a football field. My accident happened in seconds – the amount of time it took to merely cross the center line on the highway.

This summer as you venture out to enjoy BBQs, vacations, and celebratory gathering, please remember to take note of your actions when driving. Be a good example for your kids, talk with you teen drivers about how important it is to arrive safely, and be mindful of others who might be distracted and sharing the road with you and your family. I wish you all a safe and statistic free summer.

Transmission: Success

Contact us! communication@mopta.org

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Amy Blakemore
Missouri PTA VP of
Communications
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I hope you are having a fantastic summer - taking some time to relax and spending time with family and friends. I know my family is trying to cram in as much activity as we can this summer.

Even as busy as we are, it's easy to forget how quickly the summer will fly by. It's important to start thinking about a plan for a great year, because it doesn't happen by accident.

It is a great idea to meet with your team over the summer to finalize plans and get everyone on board so you hit the ground running. Also, take time to discuss your communication plans. Visit your website to get it ready for the new school year.

Take a look at your newsletter and social media. Are there changes you can make now before your schedule gets too crazy? Don't forget to plan how you are going to utilize social media to advertise your first events and your membership campaign. With some planning and forethought, you will be well prepared for a fantastic year.



FACEBOOK TIPS



Did You Know?

A study from the Pew Research Center revealed that three-quarters of online parents use Facebook, as do 70% of non-parents.



Facebook is a great way to do social media marketing for your PTA, especially parents. The platform allows you to promote your PTA, connect with people online and share what is important to your members.

Post a Disclosure Statement

Set up rules of etiquette for your PTA's Facebook page so that everyone knows the rules and can help make it a safe place for sharing information. Check out [National PTA's Social Media Policy](#) for a sample policy disclosure.

Facebook Page or Group Page

National PTA recommends every unit [create a page](#) because they are much easier to update and reinforces our brand.

Unlike pages, groups do not allow you to add applications for promotions or advertising. Groups are often created for personal discussion rather than representing your PTA's brand as a whole.

Don't have a Facebook for your PTA yet? [Learn how to create a page](#) and be sure to assign at least two admins for the platform.

Promote Posts

With Facebook's [new algorithm](#), engagement on your Facebook page may be low. If you have budget to spare, try ["boosting" your posts](#), or create an ad campaign for special annual events or tools that you want to promote.

Schedule Your Posts Strategically

Too many posts will cause people to hide or unlike your Facebook page. Ideally you should not post more than twice a day. However, your [Facebook's Insights](#) will show when your audience is most active during the time of the day. Use it to your advantage.

Be Fun and Informative

Need inspirational ideas for posts? Try these different types of posts for your Facebook:

- PTA announcements
- Behind-the-scenes
- Question of the day
- Inspirational quotes
- Infographics
- Holidays/current events
- Discounts/freebies
- Blog posts & news articles



Building a Website

Stephanie Wade | Missouri PTA IT Chair
stephaniew@mopta.org

When you are not having to focus on planning events, running membership drives, or running fundraisers, summer is a great opportunity to work on creating your PTA website. Wordpress is a great tool for website building. There are two versions: [Wordpress.com](#) and [Wordpress.org](#). Wordpress.com is a free option to create a website. It is a very user-friendly tool; it takes you step by step through picking your theme and setting everything up. After the initial setup, they have tutorials that allow you to learn how to manage your website and add to it. Wordpress.org is for serious website-builders. It is a paid version, and has more options for plug-ins and website upgrades. If you aren't sure if your website will be worth investing in, you can start with the free version at [wordpress.com](#) and then move it over to [wordpress.org](#) if it takes off. Happy building!



Make Sure Your Unit is in Good Standing

Michele Reed | Missouri PTA VP Field Service | micheler@mopta.org

As we start our school year, we always encourage our children to start the year on the right foot to have a good school year. As a unit leader you need to make sure your unit starts their school year off on the right foot also – to do this you need to make sure your unit is a unit in good standing. What does it mean to be a unit in good standing?

1. Adheres to the Purposes and basic policies of PTA;
2. Remits national and state dues to the state PTA monthly;
3. Your Bylaws have been reviewed in the last three years and are current. If you don't know what your bylaws review date is you can contact the office, the Vice President and Director of Field Service, or the State Procedures and Bylaws Chair to determine your bylaws date. If your bylaws are out of date, you can contact your regional director for assistance in amending and submitting updated bylaws.
4. Missouri PTA must have received your unit's fiscal year-end report by December 1st, 2015.
5. Missouri PTA must have received a copy of your annual financial review by December 1st, 2015.
6. Missouri PTA must have received a copy of your IRS submission by December 1st, 2015.
7. Missouri PTA must have received your officers for the 2016-2017 school year. Even if your officers are returning, you must submit

8. them to Missouri PTA. The easiest way is to use the incoming officers form.
8. Meets other criteria as may be prescribed by the state PTA.

These are the criteria as written in your bylaws, you as unit leaders are responsible for making sure your unit meets these criteria each and every year. If you have missed one of the deadlines your unit is not in good standing until you have submitted the required item(s). So for example, if you missed the deadline of March 31st, you can submit your officers to the Missouri PTA office now and once those have been received your unit will be back in good standing. Remember, to be in good standing your units must have turned in all required documentation.

Missouri PTA has implemented a system of online notification, that allows each of our units the ability to review your status at any given time. If you need your login ID to our website, which will allow you to see all of this information, you can contact the office, your regional director or the Vice President and Director of Field Service.

Just like you ask your students to do the best that they can in regards to their school work, so must we do our due diligence in making sure we put our best foot forward in running our PTA.

Read the directions
and directly you will
be directed in the
right direction

Lewis Carroll
PICTURE QUOTES.COM

Your 2016-2017 Back-To-School Kit Is Officially Live!

It's that time of year again! The 2016-2017 National PTA Official Back-To-School Kit is finally here! As always, it's jam-packed with tools, resources and info—all specially designed to help you run your PTA. It's a one-stop click for everything you need to know.

For the second year, the kit is completely digital and mobile-friendly. This means you can view the website from your phone, tablet or other mobile devices. Having the Back-To-School Kit with you while you're on the go is a big perk. We guarantee it will help you be more efficient and productive as a PTA leader.

Registration is a very simple process. Starting June 27, here is the process to get access to the kit:

1. Go to PTAKit.org. President Laura Bay's welcome video and the homepage are open to everyone.
2. Once you begin to use the site, you'll be prompted to register. There is also a "REGISTRATION" tab on the top right corner of the homepage.
3. Fill out all of the required information.
4. Once you've completed your registration, you'll receive an email with a link. Click the link to set a username and password.
5. After your username and password are set, you can access all areas of the Back-to-School Kit.

Questions? For a Back-to-School Kit FAQ, log onto PTA.org/BTSKit or contact us at BackToSchool@PTA.org.

Elections 2016

Take the time to research all the candidates running for office. **Remember these officials will hold a stake in the education and safety of our children.** Do your part, do your homework, ask questions and most importantly **VOTE!**

Missouri Bill Updates

The Missouri Legislature has wrapped up this term. Missouri PTA has been following Bills pertinent to the children of Missouri. We were successful in the passage of several bills (and had our amendment added to a Bill we opposed) that are currently waiting Governor Nixon's signature. I would like to highlight those Bills that may be signed into law. I have included actions Missouri PTA took on each. Thank you to everyone who called and emailed our elected officials and please continue to do so in the coming year.

HB 1995, Comejo (R-064), would amend the current law regarding 1st degree murder and youth under 18. Currently Missouri's law is in violation of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Miller V. Alabama (2012) that ruled mandatory life without eligibility for parole for youth was unconstitutional for individuals under 18. The U.S. Supreme Court extended this ruling retroactively on January 25, 2016. HB 1995 eliminates life without parole for children, establishes sentencing terms between 25-40 years, requires judges and parole boards consideration of youth-related mitigating factors, and creates a procedure for those previously sentenced to petition for review. We do not support **SB 590** and **HB 2084**. These bills sentence those who are 16 and older to a minimum of 50 years and those under 16 a minimum of 35 years. PTA sides with the long-standing Juvenile Justice philosophy that rehabilitation should take precedence over punishment. SB 590 and HB 2084 both essentially impose a life sentence. PTA's position on these issues is based on the [Position Statement Child Safety and Protection](#). Missouri PTA testified at the committee hearing in the house in support of HB 1995. Missouri PTA issued a JC/DC action alert in opposition to SB 590 and a JC/DC action alert in support of HB 1995. **SB 590 passed the Senate. End of Session: SB 590 passed both houses. While it contained amendments from it's original form, MoPTA has concern over the language and has issued an alert asking Governor Nixon to veto SB 590.**

HB 1562, Haahr (R-134), would expand the definition with regard to child trafficking by adding the word 'advertising the availability of'. PTA addresses the issue of child trafficking through the [Resolution Child Trafficking](#) and supports such measures to deter recruitment. Missouri PTA issued a JC/DC action alert to support this bill. **HB 1562 passed the House and Senate. This bill is now moving through the conference process. End of Session: Passed both the House and Senate and is currently waiting Governor Nixon's signature**

SB 748, Nasheed (D-5), **HB 1583**, Allen (R-100), **HB 1384**, English (I-068), and **SB 728**, Sifton (D-1), would strengthen the current bullying law by expanding language to include actions that interfere with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits. Additionally it requires the law be applied to all students without exception. Cyberbullying is also defined and included in this act. PTA supports this action through both the [MOPTA Resolution Bullying](#) and the [NPTA Resolution Against Bullying](#). MOPTA issued a JC/DC Action Alert for HB 1583. **HB 1583 passed the House. End of Session: 1583 passed both House and Senate is currently waiting Governor Nixon's signature.**

SB 646, Schupp (D24), **HB 1546**, Lauer (R-032), and **HB 1656**, Dunn (D-023), requires school districts to develop a suicide awareness plan and directs the department of elementary and secondary education to develop guidelines for schools to adopt a youth suicide policy. PTA supports plans that work to provide special preventative services in school through the [Child Safety and Protection](#), and the [Resolution Youth Suicide Prevention](#). Missouri PTA testified at a senate committee hearing in support of SB 646. A JC/DC Action Alert was sent to support both HB 1546 and SB 646. **HB 1546 passed the House and SB 646 passed the Senate. End of Session: Passed by House and Senate awaiting Governor Nixon's approval.**

Data Privacy

What happens to our personal data has become a hot topic.

We read about mass security compromises with our personal information with many conflicting reports about how to best protect your identity from those who seek to use it for illegal purposes. Our data is shared among companies and can be purchased.

How many of us stop to think about how data is used when it comes to our school districts, state or federal governments concerning our children? What data does our school system keep and what does it send to state and federal government?

As a parent you have the right to review and approve what data and with whom your child's information is shared. School districts must directly notify parents before their children participate in activities involving the collection, disclosure or use of personal information collected from students for marketing purposes, or to sell or otherwise provide that information to others for marketing purposes.

Parents must be given the opportunity to opt-out of these activities. Missouri PTA's website has great information to educate you and your local Unit about data privacy, for more information visit <http://mopta.org/student-data-privacy/>.



Missouri PTA
Department of
Membership

Power of PTA

Contact us! membership@mopta.org



Award Awareness: Outstanding Membership Campaign Award

Membership is our voice as the largest child advocacy group speaking for the children of Missouri through our work as PTAs.

It is through the [Outstanding Membership Campaign Award](#) that we wish to recognize the unit that has best met all the challenges of a successful year long membership drive.

The PTA unit with the best overall membership campaign will receive the [Outstanding Membership Campaign Award](#) at the Missouri PTA Convention.

#MembershipMondays

It is strongly encouraged that your PTA develops a member value proposition. The value proposition helps determine what the value of membership is to the individual member.



PTAKit.org/Membership



Talking points for joining PTA

Christine Kent | Missouri PTA Student Involvement Chair | christinek@mopta.org

Membership doesn't and shouldn't just end with a child's school career, it should continue well after and for all children, supporting future generations to come. By being a PTA/PTSA member, our voices are heard collectively and increased member numbers aid in legislative strength on the State and National PTA levels.

Membership gets you a seat at the table with school decision-makers and legislative chairs. If you are committed to improving your school, you should be a member. And as an added perk, there are also bonus benefits that each member is entitled to just for being a PTA/PTSA member - like TeenSafe, LifeLock and Staples to name a few.

Wondering how to join your local PTSA? Contact the PTSA president or board at the school.

How to be an active member -

- Ask what they are planning for the year.
- Obtain the PTSA calendar of events and meeting dates.
- Volunteer to help in a committee or a board position.
- Read articles and news provided on www.mopta.org and www.pta.org websites.
- Subscribe to the JC/DC network (Advocacy action alerts)
- Take part in surveys
- Go to a meeting or ALL of the meetings

As a Student, Why should I join PTA/PTSA?

At all grade levels, but especially the secondary grade level – student voices are an important part of the conversation as equal members with an equal vote. Having a PTSA membership can also be a helpful part of your leadership resume, developing leadership skills in your school and community. Membership provides an opportunity to learn and act upon advocacy issues that affect your education – now, and in the future. As a student leader, you will learn essential skills like public speaking, teamwork, event planning and more.

As a Teacher/School Administrator, Why should I join PTA/PTSA?

As a teacher or a school administrator, you are already doing so much for students. Teachers are the bridge between parents and students in developing meaningful life skills and education, that's why the "T" is in the middle of PTA. Why not show further support of our future leaders in advocating for children, as well, by joining a PTA/PTSA?

As a Parent or Family Member, Why should I join PTA/PTSA?

As a family member, supporting and caring for your child's well being and education is a given during school, however, there are more issues concerning children outside of school that PTA/PTSA continues to tackle on a grander scale. Topics that include Powdered Alcohol, children in adult prisons, texting while driving and many more serious child related issues.

As a Community Member/Business, Why should I join PTA/PTSA?

Community businesses also have a vested interest in joining and supporting their local PTA/PTSA. Every child is a potential customer and/or employee.

From the Membership Services Team



Burchell McGhee
Missouri PTA Diversity Outreach
& Engagement Chair
burchell@mopta.org

I'm Burchell McGhee from the Gateway Region. I've been involved in PTA for 13 years, but I'm new to the Board of Managers. My title...Diversity Outreach and Engagement Chair is a mouthful.

It sounds like an overwhelming challenge and responsibility that I've accepted. Our units face grade level challenges and what works in the elementary schools will not work in the high schools.

Evaluate your unit's successes from the past and build on those strategies. Ask other units within your district (your council) what worked for them and what didn't.

I suggest small steps and events to encourage participation from all groups within your schools and communities. After all, Rome wasn't built in a day.

I'll be in touch. Smooches!

PTA Swag & Pizzazz

Missouri PTA Department
of Programs

Contact us! programs@mopta.org

[f MissouriPTA](#) [p MissouriPTA](#) [@MissouriPTA](#)

Plan PTA Programs with Pizzazz

Nothing sparks up a membership meeting more than mixing it up with a program. Sure we need to conduct business but what really gets members in the door is something exciting or informative. Everyone's busy and if we are going to ask them to squeeze another event into their schedule they better be getting some bang for their time. **Check out the Missouri PTA Programs and Special Events section of the Tool Kit when you sit down to plan out the upcoming year.**

October marks Bullying Prevention Month. **This is the perfect time to bring in the [PTA Connect For Respect program](#).** This Step-by-Step program is designed to engage students, parents and educators. Using the PTA created C4R Toolkit your unit will have all the resources needed to put on a great program that will leave an impact on all those attending.

When February rolls around and it's cold outside but you still need to elect officers how about hosting a PTA birthday party. **February 17 marks PTA's Founders Day.** The mission Alice Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst (a Missourian) began in 1897 should be both revered and celebrated. Before them children had no voice. Bring cake to the party and honor exemplary volunteers with the Distinguished Service Award. Recognize the students who participated in the Reflections program. Make it a PTA birthday party to remember.

And remember the PTA Reflections Program. **Both parents and teachers can support the arts by encouraging students to express their creative side by addressing the Reflections theme "What Is Your Story?"** Challenge parents to share their story with their own child in an effort to get the conversation rolling on the topic. Ask teachers to hold a brief brainstorming session in class followed up by all the different avenues they could utilize to express their story through the arts. And celebrate all the wonderful work the students create. This award winning program awes and amazes.

Students Design Their Own Greeting Cards— You Fundraise!

Students love sending their [personalized cards](#) to friends and family; they can be kept as a memory forever. Meanwhile, your PTA raises money for EVERY pack purchased, plus it's a fun Autumn activity with no upfront costs.

- Each student designs their own picture—iQ turns them into quality greeting cards.
- If 200 pupils order one pack each, the PTA will raise \$800
- If 200 pupils order 2 packs each, the PTA will raise \$1,400

Request a [free sample pack](#) by visiting this website: iqcardsschoolfundraising.com.



PTA Fundraising Marketplace

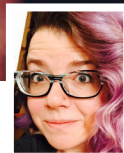
While PTA's main purpose is not one of fundraising, we understand the need for PTAs to fundraise. Shortfalls in both federal and state budgets have placed the burden on PTAs to fill the gap. Especially when it comes to providing programming. The [PTA Fundraising Marketplace](#) is full of fundraising options you may not have heard before. You'll find information on:

- The 0 Calorie Fundraiser which helps you raise funds by collecting gently worn, used or new shoes.
- The Children's Bookstore gives you all the benefits of the

traditional book fair without the hassle of set up, collections, and delivery.

- Flower Power Fundraising ships directly to your supporters with no minimum order.
- Race for Education is a turn-key race event that not only raises funds but promotes a healthy lifestyle.

These are just a few of the great fundraisers available. If you need to raise funds but just aren't sure which fundraiser would best fit your needs, or you are just tired of doing the same fundraiser and want to try something new, check out the [PTA Fundraising Marketplace](#).



Kristina Wilmoth | Missouri PTA PR Chair | kristinaw@mopta.org

My day job entails managing programming for a poverty-addressing project in Springfield, MO. I work to engage our community to be part of the momentum built as a result of the rehabilitation and opening of a community hub (a former elementary school, left empty for years). It's an inspirational story (you can conduct an internet search and find newscasts, articles, and videos about The Fairbanks/Amy Blansit/Drew Lewis Foundation/Northwest Project) but the big picture has never been my inspiration. My inspiration lies in the hugs I receive from children each week when neighbors arrive for programming. My inspiration is the conversations I have with those that have less, yet give more. I'm inspired by the mom that makes me laugh by simply seeing joy in each program while her child's unnamed disability takes over his body more each week. I watch families as they leave and go home after programming and I miss them immediately.

I watch my own children serve, create friendships, and ask questions that I have no answer for. I don't know why some families struggle with generational poverty. Sure, I know the research and I've read the books, but I still don't know why. I don't know why my childhood was so different but I know my place now and it's to live where I'm inspired. Saturday, 6/25/16, we moved our family of 8 to one of the most impoverished and crime-saturated neighborhoods in Springfield and I've never felt more welcomed and inspired. I've had neighbors over for meals, 20 people volunteered to help us move, and gifts have been left at my doorstep each day since moving. I've never felt so immediately absorbed into the fabric of neighborhood.

I'm inspired by people who trump adversity with tenacity and live to tell me their stories. What's your inspiration?

I'm independent and driven.
Supportive and empathetic doer.

My favorite dinner out is Japanese Hibachi vegetables and sushi. As a vegetarian, I appreciate restaurants that cook in front of me so I can see the prep.

What makes you stand out? **Many times, my brightly colored hair stands out...but most people look twice when I walk by with a kid, and then another, and then four more.**

What are you learning this year?
Creating peace as a "default" so it's effortless for my house and home.

What is a goal you have this year?
Purge 50% of my household items. I am at about 25% right now.

What is a proud accomplishment?
Receiving my Master's Degree.

Something interesting you've done this year? **In the last 12 months, my husband and I have adopted 3 children from foster care.**

Favorite TV shows: I Love Lucy, Sex In The City, and Dr. Who

Favorite Movies: You've Got Mail, Notting Hill, and Legally Blonde.

Favorite Music/Band: Norah Jones, Diana Krall, Christina Perri

Favorite Books: Twilight Series and Harry Potter Series

Favorite Activities/Hobbies: Writing, blogging, volunteering as PR manager for non-profit organizations



Take time to gain perspective. If your goals are set up right, life will feel successful and your soul at peace. -Kristina Wilmoth