



“People who give the best are those who give of themselves – your time, talents, words, knowledge.” – Omoakhuana Anthonia

Membership Services

Twelve Days of PTA

by Angie Warner
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Consider a Twelve Days of PTA Membership Benefits during December.

Here are some sample ideas to help you celebrate your members:

1. Every teacher/staff member who is a member receives a Free Sonic Drink (contact corporate offices for donations)
2. Hot chocolate bar for teacher/staff members during lunch



3. Send home candy cane grams to each PTA member
4. PTSA units provide treats for student members during lunch each day (nachos, popcorn, ice cream, candy, hot cocoa)
5. Raffle for a free school t-shirt for parent members in each grade level, or students for PTSA units
6. Coupons for various businesses (This is a great opportunity to reach out to your business members)
7. Raffle for a designated spot during car rider pick-up
8. Reserved seats at school programs
9. Donuts or muffins for parent members during drop off in the morning
10. Goody bags for teachers with a little something more for members, along with a handwritten note thanking them for their support
11. Coupons for the school holiday shop
12. Coupons for school carnival

Above all else this holiday season, remember to celebrate the many gifts you and your members have. Be an encouragement to all of your parents, not just those who are members. Remember that some might be apprehensive about joining. Shower them with kindness and care to help them see the mission of PTA. Every Child One Voice



Celebrating Family Engagement

For over 120 years, National PTA has been encouraging families to get more involved in their child's education. Help us celebrate PTA's long legacy of family engagement during National PTA's Take Your Family to School Week—Feb. 10-17, 2019 by hosting an event at your school.

2019 Take Your Family to School Week Toolkit

Choose one of the National PTA program

categories to plan your event and create a theme for your week:

- Health & Safety
- Literacy
- Digital Learning
- STEM

You have the freedom to design whatever type of event works for you and your school community! Check out the resources here to better plan and promote your event.

<https://www.pta.org/home/events/PTA-Take-Your-Family-to-School-Week>

Field Services

by **Mandy Mitchell**
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Seasons Greetings Ozark Region! As we enter the hustle and bustle of the holiday season take a moment to enjoy the season and give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done!

Always remember there are lots of resources if you or your unit is needing help. One thing I am enjoying lately is the National PTA Facebook live every week.



[Catch the next PTA Live! here.](#)

Occurs: Every week on Wednesday

Time: 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Time zone: (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

[Watch previous PTA Live! recordings here.](#)

by Christine Kent
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President Checklist January:

1. Promote membership drive
2. JC/DC sign up drive
3. Voter registration drive for April election
4. Pass along JC/DC alerts
5. Committee reports for finished work
6. General membership meeting (if didn't hold one in Nov/Dec)
7. Review awards applications – adjust if needed
8. Plan to apply for individual and membership awards by March 1
9. Student Safety Award (\$150 awarded for unit/council)
10. Advocacy Through Legislation – individual and unit/council
11. Leaders Project
12. Advanced Leaders Project
13. Membership awards



Reflections

by Doty Hoffman
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It's an exciting time in the world of Reflections! There has been some incredible artwork created by our students across Missouri!

Reflections chairs, make sure to submit all artwork on the National PTA website, PTA.org by December 15th. Judging at the State level will start soon, your unit will be notified of winning artwork mid March 2019. Contact reflections@mopta.org with any questions or concerns, we are here to work for you!



Students from Shoal Creek Elementary



Legislation & Advocacy

by **Kristina Wilmoth**
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The 2019 Legislative session is here! First day of the 2019 Session convenes on Wednesday, January 9th, 2019 with new energy and new faces representing The Show-Me State. As Missouri PTA representatives, we have attended meetings, trainings, summits, and round-table discussions and here's the buzz surrounding Missouri's 100th General Assembly.

Budget

We have heard talk about Missouri's budget and that's no surprise to us as budget matters reach all legislative matters. Missouri PTA and National PTA are closely watching budget matters that may affect public educational funding.

Vouchers and School of Choice

Private School Vouchers and School of Choice are issues that Missouri PTA is keeping close tabs on. National PTA has a clear message and official position statement related to these issues: "The National PTA opposes education voucher proposals for public and nonpublic preschool, elementary and

secondary school students. The National PTA opposes tax credits and deductions for elementary and secondary school tuition and other education-related expenses for public and nonpublic school students.” Vouchers and School of Choice may not make it to the floor (other matters passed by voters in November’s mid-term election are expected to take up floor time) but we will keep a close eye on them and keep you informed.

Gun Violence

It goes without saying that we all want to prevent gun violence but how do we do that from a legislative platform? There are many advocates for multiple solutions to this emotional issue. Missouri PTA and National PTA are very clear regarding firearm violence in schools: “School safety is a critical priority for all parents, educators, students and community members that cannot be taken for granted. We must make every attempt to reduce violence, especially incidents that involve firearms.” –National PTA Position Statement on Gun Safety and Violence Prevention. We are also proud to serve as the only parent organization member of The Center for Education Safety. While there are no upcoming legislative pieces addressing the prevention of gun violence at this time, that could change. If we see a change, we will let you know.

From children’s mental health issues to college preparation we are hearing chatter. From addressing poverty to career readiness we are letting our voice be heard. All of these issues affect Missouri children and their families. Although Missouri PTA and National PTA may not have official positions on ALL of the issues, we care and our voice matters. We encourage all of our members to familiarize themselves with our legislative platform and our position statements. We also ask that you subscribe to JC/DC Alerts at mopta.org today! You don’t want to miss any of this session’s updates!

As your fellow advocate, I’m excited about the passion behind our collective voice. We are loud, our voice is strong, and together we are making a real difference for our children!



Parenting in the digital age is complex. **PTA Connected** strives to help children act safely, responsibly and thoughtfully online. National PTA has been a partner to parents on digital parenting topics for over 5 years, exploring in-depth the issues that are on the minds of today's families, and connecting parents with tools, research and supports to make the best decisions for their children. <https://www.pta.org/home/programs/connected>

With PTA Connected, you are:



Connected to programs that help PTA leaders facilitate event nights designed to increase the knowledge of digital well-being in your community.



Connected to best practices, expert resources and tools that provide parents with the information they are looking for on how to have conversations with their children about living a healthy and safe life online.



Connected with each other as we navigate and adapt together to build and grow as a digital community.

Did You Know?

by Sara Sinks

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Longview Farm Elementary PTA, located in Lee's Summit, has been offering Parent Hot Topic seminars for the last two years. Our goal has been to bring forward topics to help parents become better parents and educators. In order to capture a new audience, we held an Emergency Preparedness talk specifically geared toward Dads and Grandfathers. The event was held at a local restaurant and our speaker discussed natural and man-made emergency situations. There have been 1,217 Presidentially-declared disasters in the US in the last decade. Were we ready? Did we know what to do when disaster strikes? Did our families? Several people admitted they had fire escape ladders in their home – under a bed, in a box and never actually tested to make sure everyone knew how to use them! My family included in this! The speaker, from Game Plan Experts discussed simple ways to prepare our families. The LFE PTA has planned two more Parent Hot Topic seminars for the 2018-2019 school year. Our next one will be a self-defense class for parents and students held in February.

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