This year is beginning like no other! In previous years as a PTA leader you made lists and got things done. Our leaders were used to being in motion and having a routine…. then came COVID. The best laid plans had to be altered or completely changed. Many of you struggled to elect officers and complete the year. End of the year parties and spring fundraisers were not able to take place. What would the fall look like and how do we plan for the unknown? PTA felt like it was stopping!

It was a struggle at MO PTA too. It took us three separate convention plans before it could be held successfully. I will admit I had to stop and rethink how I thought this term was going to start and what we would be focusing on. How can we support our members? How do we let them know they are not alone? What can we do to promote membership? What programs can be suggested to our units and councils when a lot of our schools are virtual and/or volunteers are not allowed in the school.

PTA has not stopped! Our mission is more important now than it has ever been. Parents need to be engaged and who better to provide the bridge between school and home than PTA. Instead of carnivals think about offering webinars bringing your families information about mental health. We know our students are struggling with being away from friends, school and activities that they are used to. Parents and caregivers are struggling with working from home and also trying to assist their children with school work. Units should consider hosting webinars around these topics. PTA can be the resource your families have been looking for.

Just like you can be the resource to your families, MO PTA can be the resource for you. We can help! In a year like no other, we have gone back to the basics of how to engage our units and councils. Reach out and let us know what you need. Have a story to share about something great your PTA has done. We want to hear those, too. From how to grow your membership, virtual or socially distanced family fun events, no contact fundraisers, virtual assemblies, guest lecturers let us share your vision and help you plan. Now more than ever, PTA matters! How do we PTA? LOUD!! LOUD, in our purpose, LOUD with our mission, LOUD with one voice! It is definitely a year like no other but my friends we will come out stronger, let’s all support one another and have an AMAZING year!
MISSOURI PTA STRONGLY ENCOURAGES ALL MEMBERS TO RESEARCH THE CANDIDATES AND ISSUES AND VOTE!

On the next page, you will find a printable sign to bring with you when you vote! Take a picture and tag @MissouriPTA on Facebook or Twitter!

You can also use one of our MOPTA Votes frames on your Facebook profile picture.

Click Frame one or Frame two

Click List of books to share with your children about the Election & Voting Process LINK
I Support Public Schools!
LEADERSHIP SERIES

Special Session Wednesday Nov 4th at 7:00 pm

Back to School and Germ Prevention in the "New Normal" with Lysol

Special Guests:
Joe Robino, Lysol
Dr. Vincent Hill, CDC
Dr. Jen Zubler, pediatrician

RSVP here: [LINK]
Keep families engaged on social media and use #MOPTALoud!

Your unit/council might be featured in a future Contact.

Boone County Family Resources has gathered together some informational resources that may be helpful during COVID, such as a Distance Learning Education and Advocacy Resource Guide for Families. Check out the guide (and more!) on their website here: https://www.bcfr.org/2020/03/information-on-covid-19/

Hazelwood PTA Council
October 7 at 2:59 PM

Hazelwood PTA Council is pleased to facilitate the Board of Education Community Forum. Join us tomorrow night!

Springfield Council of PTAs
October 3 at 10:11 AM

The PTA Clothing Bank

- Jeans
- Coats
- Shoes
- Socks
- Undies
- Hoodies
- Gloves
- Sweatshirts

Free clothing available to any enrolled SPS student PreK-12
OCTober Awareness Month Topics

Please click on the photos for more information and resources

**DOWN SYNDROME**

Each person with Down syndrome has different talents and the ability to thrive.

**HEAD START**

Head Start and Early Head Start programs offer a variety of service models and are based in centers, schools and some programs offer home-based services.

**DYSLEXIA**

About 5% to 10% of Americans have some symptoms of dyslexia, such as slow reading, trouble spelling, or mixing up words. Adults can have this learning disorder, as well. Some people are diagnosed early in life. Others don’t realize they have dyslexia until they get older.

**BILINGUAL CHILD**

**BREAST CANCER**
Practice healthy habits with your family: practice good hygiene habits like covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and avoiding close contact with people who are sick.

Wear a facial covering: CDC recommends masks to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the mask coughs, sneezes, talks, and raises their voice. Teach your children the importance of wearing facial coverings to help prevent the spread of germs whenever they are at school. If there are specific instances when wearing a mask may not be feasible, consider adaptation and alternatives whenever possible (source).

Talk to your school about utilizing the Welcome Back Packs: talk to your school administration about the Lysol Welcome Back Packs to help ensure safety measures and protocols are being implemented.

Keep children home if they feel sick: if your child displays signs of illness or had recent close contact with a person with COVID-19, make sure to keep them home to avoid spreading germs to other students.

Back to school looks different this year for students nationwide, and it is as important as ever for healthy habits to be taught and practiced both inside and outside of the classroom. That’s why Lysol created Welcome Back Packs as part of the brand’s HERE for Healthy Schools Initiative to help curb the spread of illness. Welcome Back Packs are designed to help schools reopen safely and include fun and educational resources and materials such as posters, mirror clings, floor decals, and more to help schools educate students on healthy habits. Physical Welcome Back Packs are being distributed to Title I schools across the U.S., and digital packs are available for download so all schools can safely reopen.

Here are some ways that you can help encourage healthy habits among your children and their schools:

- **Practice healthy habits with your family:** practice good hygiene habits like covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and avoiding close contact with people who are sick.

- **Wear a facial covering:** CDC recommends masks to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the mask coughs, sneezes, talks, and raises their voice. Teach your children the importance of wearing facial coverings to help prevent the spread of germs whenever they are at school. If there are specific instances when wearing a mask may not be feasible, consider adaptation and alternatives whenever possible (source).

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- **Keep children home if they feel sick:** if your child displays signs of illness or had recent close contact with a person with COVID-19, make sure to keep them home to avoid spreading germs to other students.

Earlier this year, Lysol announced plans to invest more than $20 million over three years to expand HERE for Healthy Schools into every Title I school in the U.S., reaching 15 million children by 2022. Through education, research funding and strategic partnerships, the program aims to minimize the spread of germs in the classroom. For more information on HERE for Healthy Schools and to download the Welcome Back Packs, please visit lysol.com/here.
Dedicated to Helping Curb the Spread of Illness in Classrooms

Germ prevention lesson plans from Lysol and NEA available at www.lysol.com/healthy-classroom
MOPTA reached a historical milestone by hosting the first virtual convention in Missouri PTA's 100+ year as an organization in October 2020.

Thank you for sponsoring the 2020 convention!

Missouri PTA greatly appreciates the technical support provided by MSBA that helped make the 2020 Virtual Convention possible.
Thank you Advocacy T-Shirt Sponsor

I am proud to serve on the Missouri PTA Board of Managers because I get to help train our state's next PTA leaders. Leadership development is vital in maintaining the success of our association. I enjoy mentoring others and through my experience on the BOM I've had the opportunity to meet new friends across the state.

CONSIDER JOINING US. WE CAN SEE YOU ON OUR TEAM!

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WRITTEN BY ANGIE WARNER, VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS
Thank you!

DONATIONS TO MISSOURI PTA

Many units, councils and individuals have donated to Missouri PTA since Convention 2019. We would like to recognize these generous donors

BUILDING FUND

Missouri PTA owns the building that is located at 2101 Burlington Street in Columbia where the office has been located for many years. Donations to the building fund assist in the care and maintenance of our largest physical asset are greatly appreciated. The following units and councils donated to the building fund:

Columbia Council PTA
Delta Woods Middle School PTA
Eastwood Hills Elementary PTA
Greenwood Elementary PTA
Lee's Summit Council PTA
Lee's Summit North High PTSA
Longview Farm Elementary PTA
Mark Twain Elem. PTA - St. Joe
Mason Elementary PTA
Meadow Lane Elementary PTA
North Kansas City Council PTA

Oak Grove Elementary PTA
Prairie View Elementary PTA
Richardson Elementary PTA
St. Joseph Council PTA
Summit Intermediate School PTA
Summit Lakes Middle School PTA
Summit Pointe Elementary PTA
Sunset Valley Elementary PTA
Trailridge Elementary PTA
Westview Elementary PTA
FOUNDERS DAY GIFTS

National Founders Day has been observed by National PTA since 1910 and continues strongly today. Traditionally held on February 17, it is designed to raise awareness of PTA achievements. Many PTA Units and Councils hold yearly celebrations in observance of this day to honor all of the outstanding accomplishments and milestones that PTA has reached. It is also an opportunity to examine current concerns and set future goals. With everyone’s help we will continue to go forth and make the lives of our nation’s children better by working on legislation and advocacy to promote the health and welfare of our youth.

Founders Day donations are used to help enhance the field service work by Missouri PTA to ensure ever stronger and more effective local, state, and national parent/teacher action for children.

Bolivar Primary School PTA  Mark Twain Elem. PTA - St. Joe
Columbia Council PTA  Mason Elementary PTA
Conn-West Elementary PTA  Meadow Lane Elementary PTA
David Harrison Elementary PTA  Oak Grove Elementary PTA
Delta Woods Middle School PTSA  Prairie View Elementary PTA
Eastwood Hills Elementary PTA  Raymore Peculiar South Middle PTA
Greenwood Elementary PTA  Richardson Elementary PTA
Jarrett Middle School PTSA  Summit Lakes Middle School PTA
Kellybrook PTA  Summit Pointe Elementary PTA
Kickapoo PTSA  Sunset Valley Elementary PTA
Lee's Summit Council PTA  Tiger Pride Clinton County R-III PTSA
Lee's Summit North High PTSA  Trailridge Elementary PTA
Longview Farm Elementary PTA  Westview Elementary PTA

MOPTA BOARD OF MANAGERS

Individuals serving on the Board of Managers are reimbursed for expenses they incur while doing Missouri PTA business, such as mileage. The following volunteers are not only giving of their time but have donated back their reimbursements to Missouri PTA.

Angela Warner  Jessica Broadway  Paula McKinney
Carla Wiese  Katherine Sartain  Sarah Sawhan
Christine Kent  Kristina Wilmoth  Stefanie Adair
Doty Hoffman  Mandy Mitchell  Steven Cook
Janette Laubscher  Matthew Hendel  Susan Rupert
Pat Higginbotham
**MOPTA SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Missouri PTA cares about quality in education and helping those who want to make a difference in children’s lives through teaching. The Missouri PTA Scholarship fund awards Teacher Education Scholarships for the purpose of educating students of outstanding ability and sincerity of purpose who will enter the teaching profession.

Donations help make the scholarship fund possible each year and help us continue to believe in those that want to help children succeed. The Missouri PTA Distinguished Service Award is a great way to honor someone in your unit, school or community for their service and dedication to the Purposes of PTA.

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<tr>
<th>Angela Warner</th>
<th>Mason Elementary PTA</th>
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<td>Christine Kent</td>
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<td>Mary R. Flatt</td>
<td>Westview Elementary PTA</td>
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**WE NEED YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS**

for future issues of *Contact*

**SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS OR ARTICLES ABOUT THE FOLLOWING:**

- Advocacy & Legislation
- Communications
- College Readiness
- Health & Wellness
- Membership
- Programs
- Best Practices
- Engagement
- Social Media

*This list is not all-inclusive, if it's PTA: we're interested!*

**EMAIL:** FELICIAB@MOPTA.ORG