

Contact



OCTOBER 2021

ASK, ASK, ASK

BY CARLA WIESE
Missouri PTA President

I think if you would have told me when I first joined PTA that someday I would be president of Missouri PTA, I probably would have laughed. I joined PTA because I wanted to be involved in my children's school and I was lonely. We had just moved to Missouri and I missed my friends.

Why did you first choose to become involved? Were you asked by someone? Were you just curious about what PTA is or were you like me looking to make some friends?

I can remember my first meeting not really sure what I was getting involved with. I was the new fundraising chair in a new school and community. I took a deep breath and walked into a room filled with parents and teachers. I just happened to sit down next to the treasurer, who became a very dear friend. During the meeting, I felt the comradery of the members and the enthusiasm they had for our school. I left excited and with several new friends.

After many, many years in the PTA, I am still so thankful for the wonderful friends I have made along the way. These friends have become my PTA family. We laugh and cry together and work very hard toward the mission of PTA. I am continuously looking for new PTA members and asking people to join me. Some have said yes to joining me on this journey, but I have been turned down, too and that is okay. I have planted the seed and who knows next time I ask (yes, I have asked potential members more than once) the response will be YES. Are you asking? I don't mean a mass email or fliers to all families at your school, but personally asking? I challenge you to ask someone.

I am hearing from many of you that membership is hard this year. Consider changing up your membership:

1. Host a "bring a friend" meeting
2. Reach out to former members
3. Encourage members to share your newsletter and post it to their social media and/or website
4. Invite members' families to events
5. Help members develop an "elevator speech" about membership (*I am happy to share mine or to listen to yours*)
6. Invite your grandparents to join

Ask, ask then ask again. Don't be afraid to promote all the amazing things you have done in your building. I know of a school whose membership campaign featured the entire Executive Board getting a pie in the face during the fall carnival when a membership goal was passed. Guess what? That goal was made and surpassed. Another unit reached out to kindergarten and new to the school parents for a special morning coffee to welcome them to the school and explain their PTA. Guess what? Every attendee joined PTA. I happen to think we are an amazing organization that does amazing things in our classrooms, Jefferson City and Washington DC. Who wouldn't want to be part of our group? Sometimes all it takes is a personal ask. Who knows you may be inviting the future president of your unit.

Submit your membership due to Missouri PTA now, we will be drawing a \$50 gift certificate to the PTA shop on Nov. 1st!

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AND MORE!

MISSOURI PTA

REFLECTIONS

it's not too late

WHAT IS THE REFLECTIONS PROGRAM?

One of the great things about the PTA network is the sharing of information.

Check out the youtube video to the right that explains what this program is all about.

Also, see this school's Reflection info video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihPbKexNBNQ>



HOW DO I GET MY UNIT STARTED?

Start with registering for the program by [clicking here](#)

WHERE DO I FIND PROGRAM RESOURCES?

The MOPTA website has many resources including customizable ones so you can update them with your contact information and deadlines.

<https://mopta.org/reflections/>

Be sure to utilize the 2021-2022

[Missouri PTA Reflections Local Leaders Guide](#)

WHEN IS THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ENTRIES TO MISSOURI PTA?

The deadline to advance entries to the State Round of Reflections is December 15, 2021.

Remember your unit must be in good standing to participate at the state and national levels.

[Here are the Good Standing requirements.](#)

Check with your unit president or treasurer to make sure these are taken care of on time

CAN SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS PARTICIPATE?

Yes, they can! Check out the [Special Artist's Division Guidelines](#)

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT AGE DIVISION WE FALL UNDER?

The age division is the grade levels housed in the school your PTA is a part of. It may be more than one.

Primary - PreK-Grade 2 Intermediate - Grades 3-5

Middle School - Grades 6-8

High School - Grades 9-12

CAN GROUP PROJECTS BE SUBMITTED?

Yes, but it can only be submitted under the name of one student. This one student is the producer, the composer, or the choreography. That student is the one that will be recognized if the entry is selected for prize or advancement. Reflections is about the original work of an individual. The entry may have "performers" who may not necessarily be the student who has created the entry.

This often occurs in the Film Production, Music Composition or Dance Choreography art categories.

ARE THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN SPANISH?

Yes, they are! Some are posted on our website

<https://mopta.org/reflections/>

If you need something different just email reflections@mopta.org

HOW MANY ENTRIES CAN EACH UNIT SUBMIT TO STATE?

Remember the 3-1-1 rule!

Three entries per age division for each art category.

For example: Turney PTA can submit 3 entries in the Primary division of visual arts and 3 more in Intermediate.

I'M SO CONFUSED. WHO CAN I EMAIL FOR HELP?

Contact the Missouri PTA State Reflections Chair at reflections@mopta.org

Reflections Theme Search

Your idea could
inspire the nation!

Annual Theme Search Contest

The search is on for the 2023-2024 Reflections Theme!

Every year, one winning student's theme is selected by a team of National PTA volunteers. The winning student is awarded \$100, national recognition, and the honor of inspiring hundreds of thousands of artists across the nation.

Units can submit their student's ideas to reflectons@mopta.org by November 1st.

Go to <https://mopta.org/reflections/> to download the form. Direct links are also in the comments.

Missouri PTA will forward 5 themes to National PTA. Maybe a student at your school will be one of those 5!



It's not too late to start this year's reflections program at your school. Visit mopta.org/reflections to start

NATIONAL PTA[®] REFLECTIONS[®]

NATIONAL PTA[®] REFLECTIONS[®]

2021-2022 CALL FOR ENTRIES!

Learn more and get involved!
PTA.org/Reflections

EXPLORE THE ARTS AND EXPRESS YOURSELF!

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- PHOTOGRAPHY
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National Playground Compliance Group, “Your Compliance Partner”. We offer safe and accessible playgrounds, surfacing, overhead shades, full-service installation, and Missouri DNR Grant Assistance. Please contact us for a quote or to receive some information on our wide variety of Superior products.


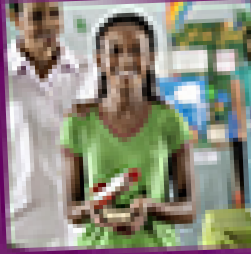






NATIONAL PLAYGROUND

Your Compliance Partner

Get your membership campaign tools from National PTA

The graphic is a dark blue rectangle containing a grid of 12 colorful boxes. Each box has a title at the top, a photograph in the middle, and the text 'FOR YOUR CHILD' at the bottom. The boxes are arranged in a 4x3 grid. In the center of the grid, the text 'PTA FOR YOUR CHILD' is written in large white letters, with 'MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN TOOLKIT' written below it in smaller white letters.

INVEST  FOR YOUR CHILD	JOIN  FOR YOUR CHILD	ADVOCATE  FOR YOUR CHILD
ENGAGE  FOR YOUR CHILD	PTA FOR YOUR CHILD MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN TOOLKIT	CHAMPION  FOR YOUR CHILD
ACT  FOR YOUR CHILD		VOLUNTEER  FOR YOUR CHILD
GUIDE  FOR YOUR CHILD	PROTECT  FOR YOUR CHILD	CONNECT  FOR YOUR CHILD

WHAT I LEARNED AT MY 18THish MOPTA CONVENTION

As I continue my PTA journey, I try to find ways to be helpful and relevant to the PTA leadership in Springfield, MO. PTA continues to be an important association in our community and worthy of my volunteer efforts. Through the years the vision of PTA has remained the same, but the way we "do" PTA has not. We've always been an organization that has carried out our mission in terms of ever-changing trends and the demands of our times. Working through the pandemic these past years has been exceptionally challenging. Constantly we must bring to our work new vision and new enthusiasm. One way to do this is to participate in the training offered by Missouri PTA and National PTA.

I've attended maybe 18 MOPTA conventions, 8 National PTA Conventions, and 9 National PTA legislative conferences. I've learned something valuable each time. I've made connections that are life-long friends. I've grown in confidence and leadership skills.

Things I learned during the 2021 Missouri PTA Convention:

- There is a new edition of Roberts Rules of Order. Since I serve as Parliamentarian for Springfield Council of PTAs, it's important for me to have the latest-greatest copy, so I ordered it from <https://www.parliamentarians.org/>.
- Non-profits can get a free pro-version of Canva with up to 10 team users.
- PTA Connected – a great program resource from National PTA <https://www.pta.org/home/programs/connected>
- Nixa PTA Council met with Nixa school administrators and made a plan to get PTA leaders back into the buildings. They wanted the OK to come from the top down, so that all buildings had the same confidence to invite parents back in. We can do this in Springfield.
- School board members are catching grief over mask mandates. As public school volunteers and advocates with similar missions, they need our support now more than ever. We should be confident to attend their meetings and let them know what PTA is about and what we are doing to help the district. They need to be educated about the "PTA Difference" and what we are doing on the federal, state, and local levels to support our schools. We should ask to be on the board of education agenda at least once a year, if not more.
- There is growing pressure to "politicize" Board of Education membership. We need to remain vigilant against this happening as it is an effort to disseminate our public education system.
- Our council's awards inspired other councils (at least one other) to up their game. We are looking forward to a little friendly competition – everyone should be bringing their A-game because our children deserve our best efforts!

BY DONNA PETIFORD

*Missouri PTA Past President, Legislative Chair &
Parliamentarian - Springfield Council of PTAs*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

CONVENTION

ON THE LAKE

CAMDEN ON THE LAKES AT
THE LAKE OF THE OZARKS

OCT 21-23, 2022

AIM Insurance specializes in providing insurance to PTAs. With a focus on helping PTAs for over 30 years, AIM understands the risks involved in running your organization and can help you choose the right coverage for your PTA. We have an excellent customer service team providing everyday support and guidance on best practices and clear answers to all the questions that come up around protecting your PTA.



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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

10 MINS TO TRANSFORMATIVE PTA

 Let's Talk about Putting the "T" in PTA



Watch on  YouTube

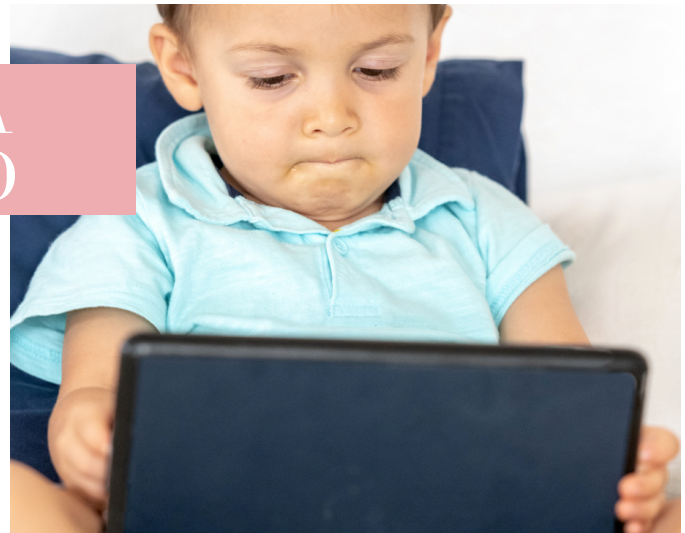


Season 2 of our fan-favorite YouTube Learning Series just launched! First up, let's talk about putting the "T" in PTA. Teacher and PTA Leader Donald Barringer shares his advice for how PTA leaders can more meaningfully connect and work with their school's teachers.

[Watch here](#)

PARENTING IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Tailored Info to Keep Your Family Safe. Get tips and advice on parenting your connected kids in the digital age. [Brought to you by Verizon.](#)



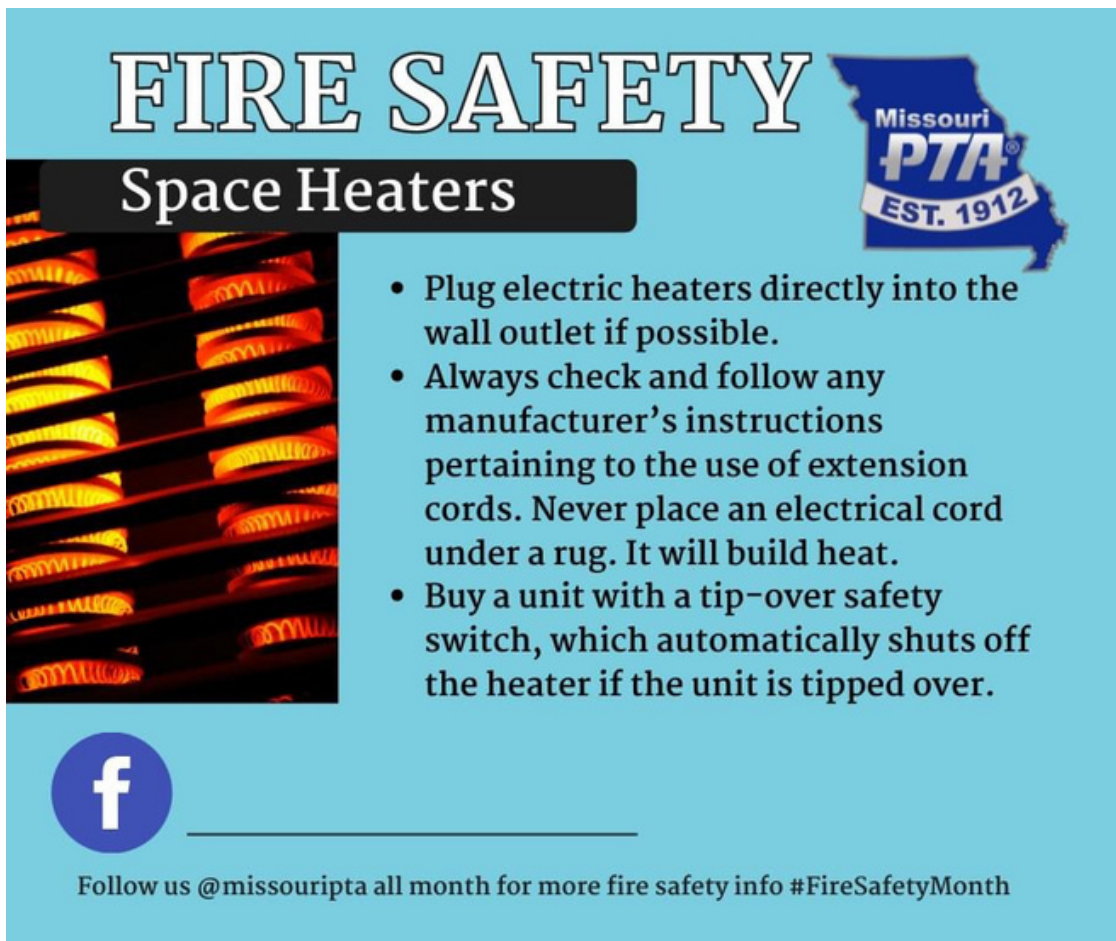
SHIFT INTO DEEPER LEARNING

Our school is revamping the way we approach learning. We are in the painful—and slow—but necessary process of unlearning superficial, compliance-based instructional patterns in order to rework how we present students with opportunities to deeply learn the most transferable and enduring concepts. To shift into this deeper learning, we have focused on the leverage points of identity, creativity, and mastery. [READ MORE](#)

COLD WEATHER IS UPON US. LET'S TALK SPACE HEATERS. MOST FIRES DURING THE WINTER MONTHS ARE CAUSED BY THESE. DID YOU KNOW, SPACE HEATERS NEED TO GO INTO THEIR OWN PLUGIN IN THE WALL, NOT A POWER STRIP OR MULTI-OUTLET PLUGIN?


LEARN MORE HERE:

[HTTPS://DFS.DPS.MO.GOV/SAFETYTIPS/SPACE-HEATER-SAFETY.PHP](https://dfs.dps.mo.gov/safetytips/space-heater-safety.php)




FIRE SAFETY


Space Heaters



Missouri
PTA
EST. 1912



- Plug electric heaters directly into the wall outlet if possible.
- Always check and follow any manufacturer's instructions pertaining to the use of extension cords. Never place an electrical cord under a rug. It will build heat.
- Buy a unit with a tip-over safety switch, which automatically shuts off the heater if the unit is tipped over.



Follow us @missouripta all month for more fire safety info #FireSafetyMonth

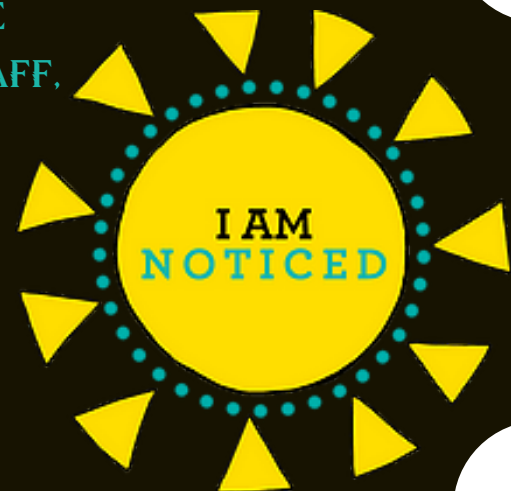
OUR MISSION IS TO CREATE SUSTAINABLE POSITIVE CULTURE WHILE BUILDING CONFIDENT STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FAMILIES K-12.

[HTTPS://WWW.IAMNOTICED.ORG/](https://www.iamnoticed.org/)

CONTACT@IAMNOTICED.ORG

630 SE 4TH STREET

LEE'S SUMMIT, MO 64063



TAKE YOUR PTA VIRTUAL

eLearning for your PTA

learn about the PTA's mission and history, leader's training, nonprofit management skills & so much more!

Local PTA Leader Kit

targeted training for each area of your PTA Board

Log in or create your profile on [PTA.org](https://pta.org) to view these additional resources:

- *Virtual Membership Campaign tools
- *Effective Virtual Meetings
- *Talking to Principals about PTA Value



Ovation Fundraising Group combines over 75 years of school/group fundraising experience with cutting edge innovation to create high-impact, efficient, and exciting opportunities to encourage schools, communities, and stakeholders to be the change they want to see. We are committed to helping you make a difference.

October is National Bullying Prevention Month

1 out of **5**
students is bullied

5 out of **5**
can help prevent that

 PACER's
National Bullying Prevention Center.
Create a World Without Bullying | PACER.org/bullying

Today's Tip:

Recognize and respond to bullying and all forms of intolerance: Make rules and expectations clear. Publicize reporting protocols. Train all staff and students on safe methods to prevent bullying.



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