2008 Kansas PTA Convention
April 18 – 20, 2008
Salina Holiday Inn and Convention Center
1616 West Crawford, Salina, KS 67401
785-823-5606

2008 Convention Speakers include:

Mr. Larry Scott—Rachel Scott’s uncle—Rachel’s Challenge—Friday Evening
Secretary Bremby—Kansas Department of Health and Environment—Saturday Morning
Mr. Larry Huse—WatchDogs—Sunday Morning
Mr. Todd Haiken—National PTA—will be with us all weekend!

$40.00 Early Bird Registration
(postmarked on or before 2/28/08)

$45.00 Advanced Registration
(postmarked on or before 3/24/08)

$50.00 On Site Registration

Great Workshops! Silent Auction! PTA Store!
Network with PTA friends from across the state!

Convention registration packets will be mailed toward the end of January.
Watch your mail!
Happy New Year and Happy Birthday, PTA!

February 17th will be here before we know it. How have you planned to celebrate the 111th birthday of PTA? This is a time for us to let others know of our wonderful heritage – of the extraordinary work and vision a few courageous individuals had back in 1897! Their vision – their mission – the PTA mission has galvanized millions to work with one voice for ALL children. Our society has PTA to thank for kindergarten classes, child labor laws, hot lunch programs and so much more. This is the power of PTA! Thank YOU for the work you are doing to carry on this legacy. You are making a difference for EVERY child!

This is an important time for the future of your PTA and the legacy you will leave for future generations. The election of your nominating committee is a critical component. Your bylaws and standing rules will tell you when and who elects your nominating committee. Once new officers are elected it is essential that both the outgoing and the incoming officers plan for a smooth and seamless transition.

The Kansas PTA Convention Committee has been hard at work planning excellent training for you at the state convention, April 18th through 20th. We look forward to seeing you and other leaders from your PTA in Salina for the convention.

Thank you for all you are doing for the children in Kansas. By working together we are providing a strong voice for all children.

Jan Long
Kansas PTA President

What Does It Mean to Be Part of a Community?

Is a community defined by geography? Sometimes. Is there a community when people are associated by like interests? That’s closer. But a better definition for community might be “a group of individuals who are connected.”

It is not a common membership card or even the mutual desire to advocate for children that truly unites PTA members as a community – it is how we connect with each other, how we support and engage and share with each other. Building upon this idea is so important that PTA has recently updated its National Standards to put even more emphasis on the community – of PTA members, of schools, and of the public at large.

The new National Standards for Family-School Partnerships serve as a guide for how families, schools, and citizen leaders can best form a community that works toward a common goal of student achievement. The first step in creating these stronger communities is ensuring inclusivity. Do your local units have plans in place for how they will reach out to all the families who are not yet involved with their school? Do they have strategies for drawing in civic partners from their neighborhoods and towns? If not, there’s no better place to start than with the National Standards.

There’s also no better time to begin than right now – with PTA’s second half membership drive. This winter we have an excellent opportunity to bring fresh voices and important contributors into our PTAs and schools. Let’s make sure we are extending membership invitations to new families transferring at semester break, to champions of education, and to business owners in the area – they are all welcome in our community of advocates. For those potential members not familiar with our organization, the Showcase DVD that arrived with your fall state allotments is a terrific introduction to the value of PTA in schools.

For over 110 years, PTA has represented a community of people dedicated to the health, education, and well-being of America’s children. As inheritors of that great tradition, it’s now our job to keep this community strong, and growing.

Jan Harp Domene
PTA National President
REFLECTIONS
Tuesday January 08, 2008 to Local Unit Chairman
Tuesday January 22, 2008 to Council President**
Tuesday February 05, 2008 to Region Vice President
Tuesday February 12, 2008 to State Chairman

OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD
Friday March 07, 2008 to State Chairman

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD
Friday March 07, 2008 to State Chairman

Application postmark deadline for Phoebe Apperson
Hearst
Friday March 07, 2008 to State Chairman

The State Chairman will notify all winners at the state level for each award.

DON’T FORGET
The 2007-2008 Phoebe Apperson Hearst-National
PTA Excellence in Education Partnership Award recognizes PTAs whose collaborative efforts with parents, families, educators, and community members promote parent/family involvement in ongoing programs that support and encourage student success.

ANY LOCAL PTA in good standing with state and national PTAs may apply. Local PTAs may submit applications to their state PTA and they will be forwarded for national consideration.

The National Winner will:
★ Receive two expense-paid trips, one for the PTA president or designee and one for a representative of the collaborative partner, to the 2008 National PTA Convention.
★ Participate in convention activities designed to recognize award winners.
★ Be featured in national PTA publications.
★ Receive $2,000 for PTA program promoting parent involvement.

There will be up to four honorable mention recipients; each of who will receive $500.00. The National winner and four honorable mentions will each receive a commemorative award. All qualified applicants for the award will receive a certificate of participation.

The national winner and honorable mention recipients will be notified in Early June 2008. Award money will be distributed in July 2008. All applicants will be notified of their status by the end of July 2008.

The 2007 Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Art Enhancement Grant Program
There are a limited number of matching grants awarded each year awarding up to $1,000.00 to local PTAs for student-centered programs focused on arts education. Special consideration is given to children whose environmental, familial, and or socioeconomic situation may effect their academic success or ability to learn.

Completed application must be received by the national PTA office on or before April 15, 2008 for consideration. Grant recipients will be notified in early June, and grants will be distributed beginning October 2008. All applicants will be notified of the status of their applications by the end of July 2008. PTAs must be in good standing to apply.

THE TIME FOR CELEBRATING IS COMING SOON
JOIN US WHILE WE HONOR OUR YOUTH OF KANSAS at the

CITIZENSHIP AND REFLECTIONS
AWARDS CEREMONY
Saturday March 8, 2008 at 1pm
Mill Creek Middle School
8001 Mize Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66227

All winners will be notified by letter from Kansas PTA.

Peg Newton
KS PTA Arts in Education Awards Chairperson
A Powerful Voice

Resolution. A scary word to most. It is a word with a powerful voice that can be your best friend. We all make New Year’s Resolutions. Your local unit can make a resolution by putting it into writing for their local unit or to send on to state.

Resolutions can make a big difference. It can make government officials take a better look at a problem before they vote on a bill. Resolutions show that there are people out there that believes there is a good solution to a problem.

It is an official way for a group of people to state intended action. It is an original motion that because of its importance, length, or involvedness is submitted in writing. It is then brought forward on the floor of your local unit general membership meeting, or at a state or National PTA Convention for wider adoption.

There have been many important issues that have been put into resolutions.

Each one of us can contribute an important voice to the resolution process, even if we are not actively involved in legislative efforts. Each one of us has an important standpoint on what children in our communities need.

There is work involved, but when you believe in your cause, it isn’t nearly as complex as it seems. You have the power to address a point, problem, or situation that affects children nationwide.

You need to encourage others to help:

- Resolutions are your opportunity to address problem, situations, or concerns that effect children and require serious action to reach a solution.
- It is a way to be heard. It is a way to bring the issues forefront and educate all involved.

Resolutions are an excellent tool to use when advocating a position with legislators. It says you believe in the issue, but also others. A resolution shows that you have done your research and/or have statistics to support your proposal.

Simple Process for Writing a Resolution

1. Identify and define your issue.
   - Develop a concise statement of the problem. Stick to one sentence.
   - Know what it is you wish to accomplish
   - Can you clearly articulate why your issue is important.
   - Set specific goals for addressing your concerns

2. Research your issue.
   - Do initial research, then present the issue.
   - If everyone agrees on the issue, continue your research.
   - Form a committee to help
   - Use the problem and turn it into a one page overview called a narrative summary.
   - In the strong Narrative Summary
     - State the problem situation that the resolution will address
     - Cite the causes of the problem
     - Describe the severity or the extent of the problem
     - Explain how the proposed resolution will help solve the problem
   - Make the resolution you have in mind is in accordance with the PTA objects and policies.
   - Make sure the issue is not already covered by a resolution or position statement from your state or national PTA. Ask for guidance.
   - Explore whether the same issue exists elsewhere in your state, or perhaps in another part of the country. This will help to determine whether the issues is regional or national in range.
   - Plan enough time to collect strong background material. You will need to submit background data with your resolution.
Your Benefits as a National PTA Member - The Unsubscribe Dilemma

National provides many member benefits that we would like all of our members to know about and we either e-mail this information to members or send it by U.S. Mail if the benefits provider pays for the postage. National handles this mailing through a third-party mail house so the sponsor never has access to our mailing list. Several of the offers also include rebates for the state PTAs and the local PTAs. This additional income will help prevent a dues increase in the immediate future. Please use this information in your newsletters to keep members informed and to prevent some of the confusion that might be generated by these e-mails or mailings.

You are entitled to PTA national member benefits because you are a member of a dynamic organization. Most often you will be notified of these benefits by e-mail, the most efficient way to notify numerous members at one time. You may not be interested in every offering you receive so you can delete the e-mail when it arrives. However, selecting unsubscribe will prevent you from receiving future offers that are of interest to you. National PTA tries to present a variety of benefits throughout the year since we know all of our members do not have the same interests. We do ask you to unsubscribe for any of your family PTA members less than 18 years of age since it is not our intention to solicit to children. You may contact the national organization at info@pta.org with suggestions for member benefits or to tell us how you have enjoyed the current benefit offerings.

This article was written by National PTA to share with our members. There has been some concern with students receiving offers from our member benefit providers. This is a simple solution that will still allow adult members to receive valuable information from National PTA.

Jan Long
Kansas PTA President
Please plan to attend the
94th Annual Kansas PTA Convention
April 18 – 20, 2008
Salina Holiday Inn and Convention Center
1616 West Crawford, Salina, KS 67401
785-823-5606

Larry Scott, Rachel Scott’s uncle will give a convention workshop and will be the keynote speaker Friday evening. Rachel was one of the students killed in the Columbine shootings and she left a message that everyone should hear. Make plans to be on hand to hear this very powerful presentation.

Kansas PTA will offer a wide choice of workshops for the 2008 convention. Topics will include safety issues to parenting tips to PTA leadership training. We will offer two pre-convention workshops on Friday afternoon.

In the general meetings delegates will conduct the business of the state PTA, as well as hear from a variety of wonderful and informative keynote speakers.

Golden Oaks State PTA unit will hold their annual meeting at convention. If you are a member of the Golden Oaks unit, please plan to attend. If you are not a member and would like to support the state unit, please check the Kansas PTA website for a membership form at www.kansas-pta.org or call the state office at 785-234-5782.

We have a wide variety of exhibitors available during convention to help with your fundraising and program needs. The Silent Auction and the PTA Store will be open for business during convention. The Dollars for Scholars Silent Auction has become a huge hit at convention! Each PTA unit or delegate may donate an item (or items) to be featured in the auction area during convention. Items to be donated can be craft items, books, gift baskets, collectibles and will be displayed for delegates attending convention to bid on. The PTA Store will have lots of new items for sale. Join in the fun!

Registration packets will be mailed to all unit Presidents in January.

Make plans now to attend!

Have you returned your uniform unit bylaws postcard?

In October, the Kansas PTA Board of Managers voted to make things simpler and less stressful for the units by approving uniform bylaws for the units. This would help to ensure that all units are in compliance with the IRS as a Non-Profit Organization.

On October 18th the uniform bylaws were mailed to each unit. Included in this mailing was a self-addressed stamped postcard to be returned to me. We need to have a record that the bylaws were received by each unit. If you have not returned the postcard, please do so as soon as possible. If you do not have the postcard and received the bylaws, please email me at lauri.denooy@gmail.com stating that you have received the bylaws and this will be the verification that we need. Thank you in advance for your reply.

In the future you will not have to submit bylaws for approval. Any changes made to the unit bylaws will be done by the state and then mailed to each unit. If at any point you have questions about the bylaws, please contact me.

Working for all Children

Lauri DeNoooy
Kansas PTA Bylaws Review Chairman
PTAs, Schools Nationwide Get 500 Reasons to Promote Healthy Lifestyles in November

Part of national effort to call attention to child health, wellness

CHICAGO (October 24, 2007)—PTA’s national office today announced it will award $500 to 39 PTA schools, and a grand award of $1,000 to one PTA school, to help thousands of students and families celebrate PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month, November.

These PTAs are receiving cash awards to recognize PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month activities they have planned to promote health and wellness and parent involvement in their schools; emphasize the link between involvement and student achievement; and further PTA’s mission. Hundreds of PTAs submitted proposals describing different family activities they have planned, such as walkathons, and health fairs, as well as yoga and cooking classes.

"For decades PTA members have worked to improve child health and wellness by supporting child nutrition legislation, providing resources to parents on how to create healthy lifestyles at home and school, and by calling attention to child health through special campaigns like these," said Jan Harp Domene, PTA national President.

Research has shown that a healthy child is more likely to achieve in school, and PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month gives schools and parents a way to strengthen their health and wellness activities.

After much deliberation and evaluation, PTA national officials chose schools from 21 different U.S. states and one from a U.S. Department of Defense school in Germany!

Note: The award-winning KS PTA was Harmony Middle School, Overland Park, Kansas.

If you are no longer a PTA president, please notify the Kansas PTA State Office. Forward this and all mailings immediately to your successor.

KANSAS PTA BULLETIN
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National PTA Website: www.pta.org

President: Jan Long
Editor: Shelly Pennington

The KANSAS PTA BULLETIN is an official publication of the Kansas PTA (Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers Association). Subscription rate is $10 per year (six issues). Contact the Kansas PTA State Office to subscribe.

Permission granted to local, council, region, and state PTAs to reprint articles for PTA use. Credit must be given to the Kansas PTA. All others requesting permission to reprint articles from this publication must contact the Kansas PTA State Office.

Whenever PTA is used it also refers to PTSA. PTA and PTSA (Parent-Teacher Student Association) are registered service marks of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. National Parent Teacher Association is also a registered name, as is the National PTA and Kansas PTA. Only organizations chartered by the PTA may use its name.
Your PTA should always keep this quote handy.

It is not your money, it has been entrusted to you.

It is your responsibility to keep it safe and working toward the PTA mission and purpose. Here is a basic list of internal controls.

1. **Have and follow Internal controls that discourage fraud.**
   a. The trusting environment of a non-profit organization is exactly what a dishonest individual exploits.
   b. Any system that can be abused will be abused.

2. **Preventing fraud involves constant supervision of the PTA’s assets and inventory.**
   a. Protect checks in a secure area with limited access.
   b. Never pre-sign checks.
   c. Limit the number of bank accounts and authorized check signers.
   d. Make bank deposits daily when money is received.
   e. Scrutinize all expense reports before reimbursement.
   f. Require timely prepared and reviewed bank reconciliations.
   g. Compare the amount spent on annual activity with previous years and investigate variances.
   h. Adequately secure inventory and supplies.

3. **Devise a plan to eliminate or minimize fraud during fundraising events.**
   a. Revisit the PTA’s fraud prevention procedures prior to all scheduled fundraisers.
   b. Consider pre-selling or pre-registering event participants to limit access to cash on the day of the event. (e.g., the use of tickets for fun fairs.)
   c. Establish a set of controls to double-check the money raised, for instance, have pre-numbered tickets that must be accounted for at the end of the event.

4. **Develop and adhere to vendor selection policies.**
   a. Fraudsters set up fictitious vendors and conspire with dishonest vendors.
   b. Run vendor addresses through a review process to see if any match each other and/or a volunteer’s addresses.
   c. Require that vendors supply tax identification numbers.
   d. Review the accounts payable list of vendors and look for duplicate vendors for the same supplies, or unusual vendors, addresses or mailing instruction (e.g., “deliver check to employee”).
   e. Do not pre-pay. Use COD.
   f. Use local vendors.
   g. Make sure vendors know they have competition.

5. **Establish standard billing policies.**
   a. Billing schemes have been identified as the number one cause of fraud in nonprofits.
   b. Develop authorization procedures for purchase orders, invoicing and payments.
   c. All purchase orders should have a specific description of items, quantity price, terms, delivery requirements and dates.
   d. Establish a reimbursement policy that maintains original receipts for reimbursements.
6. Create a system of checks and balances.
   a. At minimum, a system of checks and balances will allow prompt detection of fraud.
   b. Separate duties between two or more individuals, so that no one person has complete control of any of the PTA’s cash.
   c. Involve a second person in cash receipts processing to verify incoming receipts.

   a. Many times, the fraudster is someone who is known, liked and trusted.
   b. There exists general reluctance among nonprofits to report and prosecute fraudsters due to a fear of notoriety, fear of legal action brought by the fraudster, concern about personal safety and compassion for the offender.
   c. In addition, to letting down donors, a decision not to prosecute fraudsters also lets down the children, parents and the PTA itself.
   d. When meeting with the fraudster a neutral private territory and request a council or state PTA member be present.

8. Don’t be afraid to talk about fraud.
   a. Make it well known that theft will not be tolerated and that prosecution will result.
   b. Stress the importance of maintaining awareness of the PTA’s exposure to theft.
   c. Promote the safeguards to reduce and mitigate fraud.
   d. Encourage whistle blowers to come forward by sharing the PTA’s written procedures that deal with fraud (as directed above).

9. Action steps to take to correct situation.
   a. Determine if insurance covers the loss.
   b. Consider whether to call the police and the district attorney.
   c. Consider whether to meet with the individual.
   d. Consider whether repayment is sufficient.

For more information on internal controls see Money Matters and the KS Treasurers Guide. Make sure you always review your insurance policy and loss control guide. There may be internal control requirements listed there as well.

Sharon Rakos
Kansas PTA Treasurer
Improve Grassroots Advocacy in Kansas

What a proud legacy our PTA organization has! Our founders led efforts that were central to the establishment of child labor laws, kindergarten classes, and a juvenile justice system. Other programs thru the years started by the PTA include the hot lunch program, the public health program, physical education classes in public schools and increased wages for teachers. Today, it is an honor for us to continue this tradition of advocacy for the education, health, and safety of children.

However, advocacy is often an afterthought to the other activities a PTA organization does. Currently, only 24% of PTA units in Kansas have a person serving in the role of a legislative or advocacy chairperson, if we do not count those presidents who are doing double duty in both roles; including them, we still have only 33%.

We at the state PTA level are striving to do more to help local units increase advocacy among our members. There are many things which can be done at the state level and shared to help make our efforts more efficient. For instance, with a few people tracking state legislature and education issue happenings and sharing such information thru email updates, the units will be spared the duplication of effort of doing it on their own, or worse—not having the information at all.

Our intended plans include sending out periodic updates and occasional action alerts during the Kansas Legislative session (which starts Monday, January 14th), and preparing “ready to go” pages with legislation and advocacy information that units may use in their newsletters. By supplying current legislative news information relating to education issues we are hopeful it will make it easy for each local unit to give brief legislative reports at their local unit’s monthly PTA meetings.

And let’s not forget the great support we receive from National PTA. Their website provides us concise background information and talking points on the issues, along with the “how to’s” of advocacy in their PTA Grassroots Advocacy Toolkit. If you haven’t signed up yet for the National PTA Member to Member Network, which does the work of keeping informed of federal issues for us, please do it today.

National PTA is starting the first annual PTA Advocacy Week, February 19–23, 2007. We strongly want to encourage all to contact their federal legislators during this week; it is an exciting opportunity to speak with one voice on the behalf of children. This would also be an ideal time to plan a visit from members of your unit to Topeka to see your area legislators, or—if that is not possible—to contact them by letter, phone or email.

There is no grassroots advocacy system if the grassroots parts of our organization do not engage. That’s YOU! Working together we can be successful.

Nancy Niles Lusk
Kansas PTA State Legislative Chair
913-648-2515, nnlusk@kc.rr.com

Calling all Unit Presidents!

Your Kansas PTA officers and the Executive Director have divided up the units and each of you will receive a call from an officer or the Executive Director this month just to say “Hi”. We look forward to speaking with each of you!

Jan Long
Kansas PTA President
2008 PTA January Membership Campaign

National PTA is promoting a mid-year membership campaign. I would like to encourage our units in Kansas to join in! Have you asked your neighbors, your co-workers? How about the grocery store clerk or your bank teller? It’s to everyone’s advantage to support our kids and their education.

Beth Brown
Kansas PTA Membership Chairman.

(letter from Jan Harp Domene, PTA National President)

2008 PTA January Membership Campaign
It’s time to plan your back-to-school PTA membership campaign!

New Year… New Opportunities

For PTAs, there is an important back-to-school period just around the corner: the return from winter break. January is a great time to recruit new members, as students are refreshed and parents are resolved to be more involved. New families may also have moved into your community for the start of the second semester. With so many chances to grow your PTA this January, I want you to have all the tools you need to run a successful membership drive.

The “New Year… New Opportunities” campaign features plenty of resources to help you and your membership committee build a stronger PTA—one that truly represents the school community and is a powerful voice for all children. There are stickers, handout cards, fliers, yards signs, newsletter ads, Web banners, membership forms, and a campaign guide to help you put it all to use.

When the new year comes, it will bring new families, parents determined to devote more time to their kids, and community members with resolutions to make a difference. If you start planning now for the PTA January Membership Campaign, you’ll be ready, with posters up and activities scheduled, when they all return from winter break.

Connect to parents’ resolutions to be more involved in 2008, and trumpet the new opportunities available in the new year! Let it ring forth that it’s never too late to join PTA and help strengthen the school community. We are America’s number one parent involvement organization, so let’s invite all of America’s parents to join us as we make every child’s potential a reality!

Have a great 2008!

Sincerely,

Jan Harp Domene
PTA National President
Top Ten Things Teachers Wish Parents Would Do

1. **Be involved.** Parent involvement helps students learn, improves schools, and helps teachers work with you to help your children succeed.

2. **Provide resources at home for learning.** Utilize your local library, and have books and magazines available in your home. Read with your children each day.

3. **Set a good example.** Show your children by your own actions that you believe reading is both enjoyable and useful. Monitor television viewing and the use of videos and game systems.

4. **Encourage students to do their best in school.** Show your children that you believe education is important and that you want them to do their best.

5. **Value education and seek a balance between schoolwork and outside activities.** Emphasize your children’s progress in developing the knowledge and skills they need to be successful both in school and in life.

6. **Recognize factors that take a toll on students’ classroom performance:**
   - Consider the possible negative effects of long hours at after-school jobs or in extracurricular activities. Work with your children to help them maintain a balance between school responsibilities and outside commitments.
   - View drinking and excessive partying as serious matters. While most parents are concerned about drug abuse, many fail to recognize that alcohol, over-the-counter drugs, and common substances used as inhalants are more frequently abused than illegal drugs.

7. **Support school rules and goals.** Take care not to undermine school rules, discipline, or goals.

8. **Use pressure positively.** Encourage children to do their best, but don't pressure them by setting goals too high or by scheduling too many activities.

9. **Call teachers early if you think there's a problem** while there is still time to solve it. Don’t wait for teachers to call you.

10. **Accept your responsibility as parents.** Don't expect the school and teachers to take over your obligations as parents. Teach children self-discipline and respect for others at home -- don't rely on teachers and schools to teach these basic behaviors and attitudes.

*From the National PTA*

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**IT’S TIME TO ELECT YOUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE!**

Many of you have already started thinking about this – it’s time to elect your nominating committee. It’s very important to have this committee in place early to allow them time to work. They will want to have time to ask for persons interested in serving in an officer position to contact them, to investigate to make sure the individuals asked are the best person suited for the position and then present the slate to the general membership per the Standing Rules of your unit. If you have questions on this process, contact your Region Vice President or the state office.
The research on the impact of parent involvement is consistent in one point: when parents are involved, children do better in school. Yet parents often face many challenges to being involved that include such things as a lack of time, lack of transportation, and difficulty in communicating their and their children’s needs to school personnel. Also many parents just don’t know how to become involved and feel helpless and unable to help their children. But to remedy this sense of helplessness, the National PTA has revised a set of standards that focus on quality family school partnerships to encourage and support parent involvement.

While your children’s schools may not even be aware of these standards, the reality is that the standards were the basis of parent involvement in the federal education legislation – No Child Left Behind – and the legislation requires that school personnel find effective means to communicate with, and involve, all parents. Listed below are the national standards for parent involvement and questions you might ask to determine to what extent your own school embraces and supports quality parent involvement:

**Welcoming all families into the school community** – families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.

**Questions to ask:**
1. How welcome does my child’s school make me feel?
2. Am I greeted in a friendly way by teachers, administrators, and school staff?
3. Is my principal open and available to meet with me?
4. Does my school have a family center where I can access resources and information on how to help my child?

**Communicating effectively** – families and school staff engage in regular, meaningful communication about student learning.

**Questions to ask:**
1. Do teachers avoid educational jargon when communicating with me?
2. Do teachers use a wide variety of communication techniques such as telephone calls, personal notes, email, newsletters, etc.?
3. Do teachers listen to me and my concerns?
4. Do teachers communicate academic and behavioral expectations to me?

**Supporting student success** – families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students’ learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

**Questions to Ask:**
1. Do teachers share information on how I can help my child at home with reading and math and other content areas?
2. Do teachers provide homework tips on how I can better monitor my child’s homework and study habits at home?
3. Do I receive regular reports on how well my child is doing and what I can do to support his/her learning?

**Speaking up for every child** – families are empowered to be advocates for their own children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities.
that will support their success.

Questions to ask:
1. Am I being made aware of school and district policies and practices that affect my child?
2. Am I asked to participate on school committees that focus on student advocacy?
3. Does my school have a parent involvement policy that parents have been asked to help develop?
4. Does my school have an active parent group that focuses on issues of advocacy?

Sharing power – families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices and programs.

Questions to ask:
1. Does my school involve me in decisions that affect my student?
2. Does my school welcome parent participation and decision making concerning school policy, the budget, school reform, safety, and hiring personnel?
3. Does my school offer training to help parents understand the data on school performance and how to interpret the school’s annual report card?

Collaborating with community – families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

Questions to ask:
1. Does my school provide me with information about available community resources to assist me in helping my child to be more successful?
2. Does my school encourage a variety of partnerships with businesses and community members?

For further information on how the National Standards on Parent Involvement could be integrated into your school, please contact the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC) at 866 711 6711 (toll-free). The KPIRC is a federally funded resource for parents to help you make sense of No Child Left Behind and provide you with resources on how you can help your children be successful in school. Please visit our website – www.kpirc.org – where we have hundreds of resources available to parents.

Nancy P. Kraft, Ph.D.
Senior Project Consultant
Kansas Parent Information Resource Center
Kansas PTA Board Roster

State Officers

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Region 2 Vice President ........................ Vacant .................................................................................................................  .....................................................................
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Region 7 Vice President ...................... Monica Crowe ............. 3047 N. 65th Terrace, Kansas City, KS 66104 ........................................... 913-299-3583 ........ crowemonica@yahoo.com
Region 8 Vice President ..................... Cynthia Jarrold ............. 9107 Reeds Drive, Shawnee Mission, KS 66207 ........................................... 913-381-1543 ........ cjarrold@sbglobal.net

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*Not a board position.

This issue of the Bulletin is available on our website.

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January—February 2008

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- **Jan Long** President
- **Debbie Lawson** President-Elect
- **Jackie Waters** Vice President of Advocacy
- **Tammy Bartels** Vice President of Extension Services
- **Beth Brown** Vice President of Member Services
- **Patty Jurich** Secretary

**Important Dates**

- **January 1**: New Year’s Day / PTA Offices Closed
- **January 15**: Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday
- **January 21**: Martin Luther King Jr. Day (observed)

**February**

- **February 3**: Super Bowl Sunday
- **February 3-4**: African American Read In
- **February 10-16**: Take Your Family to School Week
- **February 14**: Valentine’s Day
- **February 17**: PTA Founders Day
- **February 18**: President’s Day
- **February 18**: PTA Advocacy Week begins
- **February 27-28**: National PTA Legislative Conference
- **February 28**: Kansas PTA Convention Early Bird Deadline