### 2015 Convention Highlights

#### ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Convention Sponsors**
  - Page 2

- **2014-2015 Membership Awards**
  - Page 3

- **Citizenship Winners**
  - Page 6

- **Reflections Winners**
  - Page 7

- **Legislative Priorities**
  - Page 9

- **Legislative Platform**
  - Page 10

- **2015 Membership Flyer**
  - Page 11

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**Kansas PTA**

*everychild.onevoice*
Kansas PTA Thanks Our 2015 Convention Sponsors

It is through the generosity of our sponsors that Kansas PTA is able to keep our convention affordable for all Kansas PTA members.

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“THANK You”
2014-2015 Kansas PTA Membership Awards List

**Early Bird Award:**
Region 1- Schlagle PTSA, McKinley PTA, New Stanley PTA, Parker Elementary PTA, Stony Point South PTA, Stony Point North PTA, Wyandotte High School PTSA

Region 2- Eisenhower PTA, O'laughlin PTA

Region 3- Allen Magnet, Eisenhower Elementary PTA, Freeman Elementary PTA, Marshall PTA, Nelson Elementary PTA

Region 5- Galena PTA

Region 6- Blue Valley Early Childhood PTA, Clear Creek Elementary PTA, Cottonwood Point Elementary PTA, Forest View Elementary PTA, Mill Creek MS PTA, Monticello Trails MS PTA, Pleasant Ridge Elementary PTA, Prairie Park Elementary PTA, Golden Oaks PTA

Region 7- Junction Elementary PTA, Lansing Elementary PTA, Leavenworth HS PTA, Midland Trail Elementary PTA, Oak Grove Elementary PTA, Piper Elementary PTA, Turner SEPTA, Turner Elementary PTA, THS PTSA, Turner MS PTSA


**Meadowlark Award:**
Region 7- Midland Trail Elementary PTA, Oak Grove Elementary PTA

Region 8- Hocker Grove Middle School PTA, Indian Hills MS PTA, Indian Woods MS PTA, John Diemer Elementary PTA, Nieman Elementary PTA, Pawnee PTA, Rosehill Elementary PTA, Shawnee Mission East High School PTA, Shawnee Mission North HS PTA, Shawnee Mission South HS PTA, Westridge MS PTA

**Golden Apple Award:**
Region 6- Forest View Elementary PTA

Region 7- Oak Grove Elementary PTA, Turner MS PTSA

Region 8- Santa Fe Trail Elementary PTA, Merriam Park PTA, Belinder Elementary PTA
2014-2015 Kansas PTA Membership Awards List (cont.)

**One Voice for every child Award:**  
Region 8- Trailwood Elementary PTA

**Challenge Award:**  
Region 1- Stony Point South PTA  
Region 3- Eisenhower Elementary PTA, Freeman Elementary PTA, McLean PTA  
Region 5- Galena PTA  
Region 6- Golden Oaks PTA  
Region 8- Tomahawk Elementary PTA, Ray Marsh Elementary PTA, Indian Woods MS PTA, East Antioch PTA

**Making a Difference Award:**  
Region 1- Stony Point South PTA  
Region 3- Allen Magnet, Eisenhower Elementary PTA, Freeman Elementary PTA  
Region 5- Galena PTA  
Region 6- Golden Oaks PTA  
Region 8- East Antioch PTA, Indian Woods MS PTA, Tomahawk Elementary PTA

**Kansas Honor Roll Award:**  
Region 1- Stony Point South PTA  
Region 6- Cottonwood Point Elementary PTA  
Region 8- Westwood View Elementary PTA, Trailwood Elementary PTA, Ray Marsh Elementary PTA, Oak Park Carpenter PTA, Mill Creek Elementary PTA

**Community Outreach Award:**  
Region 1- Stony Point South PTA, Eugene Ware PTA  
Region 3- Freeman Elementary PTA  
Region 6- Golden Oaks PTA  
Region 7- Midland Trail Elementary PTA, Oak Grove Elementary PTA  
Region 8- Shawnee Mission North HS PTA, Rushton Elementary PTA, Rising Stars Elementary PTA, Merriam Park PTA, East Antioch Elementary PTA
*Thriving Units Awards*

**Masters in PTA Award:**
Region 1 - Stony Point South
Region 6 - Mill Creek MS PTA, Golden Oaks PTA
Region 7 - Turner MS PTSA
Region 8 - Hocker Grove MS PTA, Westridge MS PTA, Westwood View Elementary PTA

**PhD in PTA Award:**
Region 1 - Stony Point South
Region 7 - Turner MS PTSA, Golden Oaks PTA
Region 8 - Hocker Grove MS PTA, Westridge MS PTA

*Special Membership Awards*

**Council Achievement Award**
Region 7 - Turner Council PTA
Region 8 - Shawnee Mission Council PTA

**Tomorrow’s Leaders Today Award**
Region 7 - Turner Middle School PTSA

**Leaders of the Future Award**
Region 8 - Shawnee Mission West High School PTSA

**Male Involvement Award**
Region 7 - Turner Middle School PTSA

**Male Engagement Award**
Region 8 - Trailwood Elementary PTA

**President’s Challenge award**
Region 3 - Allen Magnet
Region 6 - Blue Valley Early Childhood PTA
2014-2015 Kansas PTA Membership Awards List (cont.)

Region 6 - Forest View Elementary PTA
Region 7 - Turner Elementary PTA
Region 8 - Briarwood Elementary PTA
Region 8 - East Antioch Elementary PTA
Region 8 - John Diemer Elementary PTA
Region 8 - Shawnee Mission NW High School PTSA

Gold Award
Region 8 - Shawnee Mission NW High School PTSA

Silver Award
Region 8 - Shawnee Mission NW High School PTSA

The 2014 - 2015 Citizenship Program

Theme: “How can you help impact your community that will be remembered 100 years from now?”.

Kansas PTA sponsors the Citizenship Program for students in the 5th through 9th grades. There are two categories: essay and poetry. The theme changes each year, but is designed to encourage students to think about good citizenship. The content of the piece could encompass an event that has happened in the past, what is currently happening, or something in the future that will make a positive impact on the community or the world.

Poetry Winners

5th Grade
Award of Excellence
Ainsley Smyth, Rising Star Elementary

6th Grade
Award of Excellence
Aly Horne, Turner Sixth Grade Academy
Award of Excellence
Elizabeth Kuffour, Mill Creek Elementary

7th Grade
Award of Excellence
Grace Hughes, Hocker Grove Middle

8th Grade
Award of Excellence
Carols Jaime, Trailridge Middle

9th Grade
Award of Excellence
Sydney Burns, Shawnee Mission South
Essay Winners
5th Grade Award of Excellence
Lucy Harrison, Briarwood Elementary
6th Grade Award of Excellence
Allison Schessman, Turner Sixth Grade Academy
Award of Excellence
Eric Dusek, Turner Sixth Grade Academy
Award of Excellence
Ryan Nolan, John Diemer Elementary
7th Grade Award of Excellence
Alyssa Murray, Westridge Middle
8th Grade Award of Excellence
Jennifer Kindred, Turner Middle
Award of Excellence
Katelyn Buckler, Turner Middle
Award of Excellence
Jacob Wallace, Trailridge Middle
Award of Excellence
Hunter Bremenkamp, Trailridge Middle
9th Grade Award of Excellence
Nathan Del Rio, Turner High
Award of Excellence
Gabriel Lopez, Shawnee Mission South

The 2014-2015 Reflections Program

Theme was “The world would be better place if…”

The 2015-2016 Reflection Program them is: “Let Your Imagination Fly”

National PTA believes all children deserve a quality arts education and encourages students to pursue artistic expression through participation in its annual arts Reflections Program. The program offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. Students in preschool through grade 12 are encouraged to create and submit works of art in six areas: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Musical Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts (which includes art forms such as drawing, painting, print making, and collage). For nearly 40 years, the program has encouraged millions of students across the nation and in American schools overseas to create works of art. The Reflections Program was started in 1969 by then Colorado PTA President, Mary Lou Anderson.

Literature
Primary Award of Excellence
Murphy Weiss, Christa McAuliffe
Primary Award of Merit
Adam Holscher, Pleasant Ridge
Intermediate Award of Excellence
Cassidy Randolph, Mill Creek Elementary
Intermediate Award of Merit
Hannah Parvin, Lansing Elementary
Intermediate Award of Merit
Maddie Anderson, Riverview
Middle School Award of Excellence
Sara Holscher, Pleasant Ridge
Middle School Award of Merit
Leah Flint, Brookwood Elementary
High School Award of Excellence
Elizebeth Oliver, Shawnee Mission North
High School Award of Merit
Angel Mora, Wyandotte High School
High School Award of Merit
Gary Bradley-Lopez, Wyandotte High School
High School Award of Merit
Nathan Del Rio, Turner High School
Dance Choreography

Middle School Award of Excellence
Jaydyn Butterfield, Westridge Middle

High School Award of Excellence
Hanna La Londe, Shawnee Mission West

Musical Composition

Primary Award of Excellence
Ishya Bhavsar, Briarwood Elementary

Intermediate Award of Excellence
Rachel, Rothmeyer, Lansing Elementary

Intermediate Award of Merit
Grace Piper Fields, Corinth Elementary

Intermediate Award of Merit
Cienna Crabtree, Pleasant Ridge

Middle School Award of Excellence
Emma Jo Mathieson, Westridge Middle School

High School Award of Excellence
Hanna Patterson, Shawnee Mission North

High School Award of Merit
Mathew Anthony, Wyandotte High School

Photography

Primary Award of Excellence
Sophia Boshart, Ray Marsh Elementary

Primary Award of Merit
Mahi Panchal, Pleasant Ridge

Intermediate Award of Excellence
Alexis Buchholz, Lansing Elementary

Intermediate Award of Merit
Andrew Middleton, Rising Star Elementary

Intermediate Award of Merit
Madeline Holscher, Pleasant Ridge

Middle School Award of Excellence
Sophia Olivera, Mill Creek Elementary

Middle School Award of Merit
Sara Holscher, Pleasant Ridge

High School Award of Excellence
Hayley Neff, Shawnee Mission North

Film Production

Intermediate Award of Excellence
Tatum Swanwick, Rising Star Elementary

Middle School Award of Excellence
Sophia Terian, Westridge Middle

Visual Arts

Primary Award of Excellence
Scarlet Given, Oak Grove Elementary

Primary Award of Merit
Alexander Hillebrand, Christa McAuliffe

Primary Award of Merit
Mahi Panchal, Pleasant Ridge

Intermediate Award of Excellence
Palak Panchal, Pleasant Ridge

Intermediate Award of Merit
Madylyn Gregor, Lansing Elementary

Intermediate Award of Merit
Maggie Merckens, Brookwood Elementary

Intermediate Award of Merit
Nina Kulikov, Indian Woods Middle

Middle School Award of Excellence
Aliyah Peery, Turner Sixth Grade Academy

Middle School Award of Merit
Michelle Chan, Shawnee Mission South

High School Award of Excellence
Jonathan Song, Wyandotte High School

High School Award of Merit
2015 Kansas PTA
Legislative Priorities for Education

In alignment with the 2015 Kansas PTA Legislative Platform, adopted by the 2015 convention delegates, the Kansas PTA Legislative Priorities for the 2015-2016 Kansas legislative session are the following:

EDUCATION

PLATFORM—CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION. The Kansas PTA will recommend, initiate and support legislation and appropriation for public schools that will ensure all children and youth in Kansas a high quality, adequately funded education.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

1. Kansas PTA will support efforts to strengthen and improve the Kansas public school finance system, which includes legislation and policies that:
   a. uphold Kansas Constitutional obligations to make suitable provision for the finance of the Kansas public schools that is equitable for every child.
   b. restore state cuts to base state aid per pupil, back to levels comparable to those deemed suitable by the legislature - actual costs identified in research studies requested and authorized by the Kansas legislature (e.g., Legislative Post Audit 2006 Cost Study).
   c. pursue solutions to fully fund state and federal educational mandates, including the new uniform financial accounting and reporting act, without disproportionately shifting the burden to local communities.

2. Kansas PTA will support efforts to restore an equitable and balanced tax policy to maintain a reliable revenue stream for public education. A policy which draws upon a combination of income, property and sales taxes has been proven by history to be a secure and sustainable approach. Kansas PTA opposes provisions limiting the growth of government before public education is fully funded to the statutory levels.

3. Kansas PTA will support efforts to preserve the Kansas Constitutional infrastructure for education, including nonpartisan elections of Kansas school board members and their appointment of our Education Commissioner, as well as, retaining the primary responsibility of defining the phrase intellectual, educational, vocational and scientific improvement with the education governance structure (Kansas School Board, Kansas Department of Education, education scholars and practitioners).

4. Kansas PTA supports the State Board of Education’s adoption of new education standards including the College and Career Ready Standards (derived from the Common Core States Standards Initiative) and the Next Generation Science Standards. Kansas PTA opposes legislation that would defund efforts to implement curriculum related to Common Core and/or the Next Generation Science Standards.

5. Kansas PTA opposes the use of vouchers, scholarships or tax credits toward the tuition of non-public schools that can discriminate in admissions, provide sectarian religious instruction or “compete” under different rules than public schools; we affirm Governor Brownback’s position that vouchers would not be effective in the state of Kansas.

6. Kansas PTA will advocate for evidence-based prevention and early intervention programs, including early childhood programs (e.g., Parent as Teachers and Pre-K Pilot), allocating state funds for all-day kindergarten, Head Start, and student engagement programs that reduce dropout rates and increase school completion.
Where Kansas PTA Stands:

EDUCATION

BASIC POLICY: The Kansas PTA will recommend, initiate and support legislation and appropriation for public schools that will ensure all children and youth in Kansas a high quality, adequately funded education. Recognizing that quality education for children is directly related to the effectiveness and efficiency of school personnel, the Kansas PTA will recommend, initiate and support legislation and appropriations to encourage, recognize and provide incentives for school personnel that will improve and benefit the education of children and youth in Kansas. The Kansas PTA recognizes no educational system can be of the highest quality without the support, involvement and cooperation of parents, legislators, and the community.

HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY

BASIC POLICY: The Kansas PTA will support legislation and appropriations that safeguard and/or relate to the health and safety of children and youth.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

BASIC POLICY: Kansas PTA will support high-quality early childhood education programs that are affordable and accessible, characterized by high standards for teaching, training, health and safety and incorporate strong family engagement components.

Adapted by the 2015 Kansas PTA Convention delegates.
2015-2016 Kansas PTA Membership Theme

When we come together to support our youth we build strong foundations for them to grow and thrive at home, at school and in the community.

The Kansas PTA office is here to help your PTA unit succeed. Contact us if you have any questions and visit kansas-pta.org for additional membership resources!
If you are no longer a PTA president, please notify the Kansas PTA State Office. Forward this and all mailings immediately to your successor.