Each year, Kansas PTA sends the state Award of Excellence winners on to National PTA for competition with the winners from all of the 53 congresses of PTA. One entry in each of the six categories is named the Outstanding Award recipient and those students and their entries will be invited to the National PTA Convention in San Jose, California in June. Then 12 Award of Excellence winners and 19 Award of Merit winners are announced in each of the categories. We have been notified that five Kansas entries have been named either Award of Excellence or Award of Merit recipients in the National Competition.

Kansas PTA sends congratulations to the following students of a Kansas PTA school:

Andrew Liu, Bentwood Elementary PTA in Overland Park, KS. Andrew was awarded an Award of Excellence in the Music Composition category for "Our Lives."

Griffin Keeter, Belinder Elementary PTA in Prairie Village, KS. Griffin was awarded an Award of Excellence in the Film Production category for "Three Brothers".

Krista Hill, Shawnee Mission Northwest PTSA in Shawnee, KS. Krista was awarded an Award of Merit in the Film Production category for "Who Am I."

Mason Close, Brookwood Elementary PTA in Overland Park, KS. Mason was awarded an Award of Merit in the Literature category for "A Diversity Poem."

Palek Panchal, Pleasant Ridge Elementary in Overland Park, KS. Palek was awarded an Award of Merit in the Visual Art category for "Embrace Cultural and Religious Diversity."

Please join us in congratulating our talented Kansas artists.

National PTA has announced that the theme for the 2012-2013 school year is "The Magic of a Moment". We are looking forward to honoring even more of our Kansas students in the years to come.

Denise Sultz
Vice President - Member Services
Can you believe that the school year is about over? I ask myself where this year has gone. A lot has been accomplished, but there is still a lot of work to do.

Children are the gold at the end of the rainbow was the theme for the 98th Annual Kansas PTA Convention held on April 20, 21, & 22 in Wichita. Denise Sultz and her convention committee did an outstanding job. It was great to see the large group of First Timers at the convention. It was a wonderful time of learning and networking opportunity for delegates.

The National PTA Convention will be held on June 21, 22, 23, & 24 in San Jose, California. This is the time of the year for installing new officers and transitioning boards. Don’t forget to mail in the new officer form to the state office. As we receive the new officer form, we will be mailing out the summer packet.

As you meet and plan for next year, use the information in the summer packet to put your board members’ procedure book together. There is valuable information on the summer packet CD that will be benefit all board members. If you have any questions or would like specific training, please don’t hesitate to call your Region Vice President or any person on the Board of Managers. We are here to help you.

Keep watching for legislative updates and checking out our Legislative website. Thank you to all of you who are working for Kansas Children.

You are doing an astounding job!

Jackie Waters
Kansas PTA President

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**2012 Membership Contest**

It is time to start thinking about joining your local unit PTA/PTSA. The new membership year for PTA has begun and we have a new slogan and flyer to assist you in your endeavors to increase your membership. The new slogan for the 2012-2013 school year is “Branch Out with PTA”. You will see the mighty Oak Tree with its trunk, branches, and leaves as a sturdy structure standing tall and being a symbol of strength that can weather either storms or heat. Our children are the fruit of the Tree of Life and you can assist them by becoming a PTA/PTSA member and being involved in the education of not only your child, but of all the children in Kansas. We ask you to join us in being an advocate for all children and a voice to speak to their education, safety, and well-being. The new membership flyer was unveiled at the recent Kansas PTA State Convention and will be available on the summer CD. It is never too early to start asking your families, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and church and business members of your community to become a member of your PTA/PTSA.

Diana Fabac
Membership Chairman
Experience

In the last couple of months, I have had the privilege of working very closely with the leadership from Region 1 with opening a new PTA Unit in Mark Twain Elementary School in Kansas City, Kansas. In the six years that I have been volunteering with PTA, this is the first Unit where 90% of the Board Officers are Hispanic. It has been an unbelievable experience for me to work with such individuals that want to make a difference in their kids' education. They show their passion and dedication for PTA. They are willing to do anything to make it happen. I look forward to working with them and I encourage other units to reach out to their communities to have a successful year. I hope I have the privilege of working with all of our new and existing units in the future. I know they will enhance the well-being in their communities.

Josefina Gutierrez
Inclusiveness/Diversity Chairman

Experiencia

En los últimos meses tuve el privilegio de trabajar con Monica y Cory de la Región 1. Empezamos una nueva Unidad de PTA en la Escuela Mark Twain Elementary. A sido una experiencia inolvidable porque es la primera Unidad de PTA que la mayoría de los Miembros Oficiales son Hispanos. La Presidente es bilingüe y la Tesorera es Americana. Tengo 6 años de voluntaria de PTA y nunca Había trabajó con un grupo muy dedicado y determinado en trabajar duro para los derechos de los niños. Esta Unidad está determinada en hacer hasta lo imposible para que los niños tengan la mejor educación. Deseo trabajar con mas escuelas en un prospero futuro en la comunicación y bienestar de la comunidad hispana.

Josefina Gutierrez
Inclusive/Diversidad

Reminder to our units: Your unit’s 990 is due to the IRS on November 15th and to the Kansas PTA office by January 15th. You do not need to wait that long to get it done. Your fiscal year ends on June 30th. It is our suggestion to go ahead and get that 990 done immediately after your year ends. It is also our suggestion that the 990 be the responsibility of your outgoing treasurer since the financial records are familiar to them. Units that have total deposits of $50,000 or less during your fiscal year will only need to file the 990N, an online filing. If your unit has total deposits of more than $50,000 within its fiscal year, you will need to file the 990EZ. This form can be found on the IRS website and there is a step-by-step guide on how to file this form in your “Money Matters” book that your President received in the “Big Box of Possibilities” at the beginning of the school year. It can also be found online at www.pta.org.

If you have any questions about filing your 990, please feel free to contact me.

Also, if your unit has received any notifications from the IRS stating that you are not in compliance because of not filing your 990, please contact me immediately so we can everything worked out.

Dawn Lalumondier
Kansas PTA Treasurer 2011-2013
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Johndawn0703@gmail.com
“Diversity Means” was the theme for 2011-2012. Kansas PTA is pleased to announce the winners of the Reflections Program. They were recognized at the 2012 Kansas PTA Arts in Education Awards ceremony on March 31, 2012.

### LITERATURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Mason Close</td>
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<td>Rachel Mallozzi</td>
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<td>Michaela Crowe</td>
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<td>Erica Biven</td>
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<td>Madeline Clark</td>
<td>Lansing Elementary</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Brianna Empson</td>
<td>Eisenhower Middle School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle/Junior Award of Merit</td>
<td>Madeline Clark</td>
<td>Christa McAuliffe Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Gina D’Amato</td>
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### Dance Choreography

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<td>Middle/Junior Award of Excellence</td>
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<td>Westridge Middle School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle/Junior Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Rayshawn Thompson</td>
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### Musical Composition

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<td>Mill Creek Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intermediate Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Andrew Liu</td>
<td>Bentwood Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intermediate Award of Merit</td>
<td>Sara Holscher</td>
<td>Pleasant Ridge Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intermediate Award of Merit</td>
<td>Alexander Erwin</td>
<td>John Diemer Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle/Junior Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Renny Ma</td>
<td>Westridge Middle School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Regina Yan</td>
<td>Shawnee Mission South High</td>
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### Photography

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<td>Primary Award of Excellence</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Sara Holscher</td>
<td>Pleasant Ridge Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intermediate Award of Merit</td>
<td>Nya Smith</td>
<td>Brookridge Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle/Junior Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Miles Wood</td>
<td>Monticello Trails Middle School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle/Junior Award of Merit</td>
<td>Johnathan Muirhead</td>
<td>Brookridge Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Award of Excellence</td>
<td>JeriAnn Ward</td>
<td>Shawnee Mission South HS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Get Out the Vote
By Nancy Niles Lusk and Mary F. Sinclair, PhD, Kansas PTA State Legislative Co-Chairs

The Challenge. The best advocates for children are often under-represented in the August primary vote. Parents hustle year round to keep up with the busy demands of raising their families, and late summer is no exception with the extra chores of shopping for school supplies and clothes to get the kids ready to go back to school. Teachers return ahead of the kids to make preparations for the upcoming school year. And busy or not, many just forget to vote the first Tuesday of August.

The Risk. Low voter turnout can be problematic for pro-public education candidates in Kansas. The primary elections in particular draw only a small fraction of eligible voters. In many districts across the state, however, the August primary election, not the general election, tends to determine who will become the state senator or representative.

The Solution. Increase voter turnout in the primaries among public school parents, teachers and other PTA members. We can make a difference. And for the first time, the PTA will have get-out-the-vote yard signs available for the elections. The PTA yard sign will serve as a visual reminder to parents and grandparents to make the time to vote. We recommend putting the signs out in early July before the primary election August 7, and then again in early October for the November general election.

Vote for candidates who will support Public Education. Consider these policy positions to determine who is a pro-education candidate:
- Supports restoration of cuts to public education
- Supports balanced tax policy to maintain reliable revenue
- Opposes the use of voucher, scholarships or tax credits toward tuition of non-public schools
- Opposes constitutional amendments to eliminate our state’s non-partisan infrastructure for public education
- Supports policies that promote the recruitment and retention of quality teachers

A resource you can trust. The Legislative tab of the Kansas PTA website (http://www.kansas-pta-legislative.org) is a non-partisan source of reliable information on education policy and the votes made by our legislators this session (Vote Counts).

HOW TO GET YOUR PTA YARD SIGN
The most immediate way to get signs will be to come to the 2012 Kansas PTA State Convention on April 20-22 in Wichita at the Doubletree Hilton by the Wichita airport and purchase them. Information on how to purchase yard signs after April 22 will be posted to the Kansas PTA website. Local PTA units are strongly encouraged to purchase a batch of signs for their membership. The yard signs are priced at $3 each.
ARE YOUR CHILDREN READY?
Marcia Dvorak, Kansas Enrichment Network

Are our children and youth going to be prepared for the careers available to them after they graduate? Georgetown’s Center on Education and the Workforce predicts that by 2018, **64% of Kansas jobs** will require some type of science, technology, engineering, and/or math (STEM) skills,* not including health-related careers. For these jobs, **91% will require more than a high school diploma.**

What can you do? Now is the perfect time to consider how you can improve your children’s lives today and in the future. One way to do that is to identify the opportunities available, beyond the school day, that offer STEM activities. Get them interested in fun science experiments, math games, or junk robotics. Many of these opportunities are found in afterschool, weekend, or summer programs. Watch your children’s curiosity grow as they experiment with cake chemistry or build pinball games or discover with balloon cars.

The Kansas Enrichment Network (The Network) is working to increase these types of opportunities. The Network is a statewide coalition collaborating with organizations devoted to expanded learning opportunities, where youth can gain skills and prepare for the workforce. Our goal is to provide train for staff, especially in informal science education, so they can increase exposure to fun, engaging STEM opportunities.

But, we need your help. We are gathering information on Kansas programs that offer science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) activities. These can be after school, before school, weekends, summer; faith-based, community-based, or school-based programs – any type of expanded learning settings. We plan to create a map of programs available to our children and youth and put it on our website for parents. This information will assist the Network in building a professional development and support systems for groups interested in STEM curriculum and training.

If you know of an out-of-school program in your area, please pass on the survey link. We would greatly appreciate your assistance. In an effort to present the most accurate picture, we request that only one member of the organization complete the survey. Questions can be directed to Marcia Dvorak at mjdvorak@ku.edu (785-864-9665). Click on the following link or copy into your browser for the survey: https://kansasedu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_6ET5XluxsQVbV3e

Be sure to check out our website, [www.kansasenrichment.net](http://www.kansasenrichment.net). If you would like to receive our electronic newsletters that provide information on resources, trainings, etc., send an email to mjdvorak@ku.edu to request to be put on the mailing list. We are committed to helping ready our children and youth for the future!

Start Now to Frame Your PTA’s Programs Around the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships and Help Your Students Succeed

Background:
Family Engagement is the heart of PTA’s core mission. Family engagement is defined as:

- **A Shared Responsibility**
  > A shared responsibility in which schools and other community agencies and organizations are committed to engaging families in meaningful and culturally respectful ways, and families are committed to actively supporting their children’s learning and development.

- **Cradle to Career**
  > Continuous across a child’s life, spanning from preschool programs such as Early Head Start programs to college and career.

- **Across Contexts**
  > Carried out everywhere that children learn – at home, in pre-kindergarten programs, in school, in after-school programs, in faith-based institutions, and in community programs and activities.

Schools, parents, and communities need to work together in partnership to support student success. Now is the time for local PTA Leaders to focus greater attention to supporting their units’ capacity to take action and celebrate their success by planning and implementing programs, practices, and policies that align with the National Standards.

Why?
- PTA’s National Standards for Family-School Partnerships are the foundation for all of PTA’s family involvement programs, grants, and awards. Whether it’s Three for Me, The Phoebe Apperson Hearst Family-School Partnership Awards, Take Your Family To School Week or other local- or state-initiated programs, aligning your work under the umbrella of PTA’s National Standards helps to energize and focus the PTA message and purpose to its members, strategic partners, sponsors, and the general public.
- The National Standards for Family-School Partnerships are flexible enough to address the unique needs of each school or school district – at their own pace.
- Research shows that when parents are involved, students have better test scores and higher grades, enroll in higher level classes, attend school and pass their classes, develop better social skills, graduate from high school, attend college, and find productive work – regardless of family income or background!
- In a recent study, elementary schools with strong parental involvement were ten times more likely to improve in math and four times more likely to improve in reading than schools weak on this measure. Parent involvement is so significant that it has been shown to be equivalent to an extra $1,000 in additional per-pupil spending, which can make a difference especially in underserved communities.

How?
National PTA has put together the perfect tool to help you frame your programs around the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships. It’s called the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships Implementation Guide – it is downloadable as a PDF on the PTA website, www.pta.org (under the “Programs” tab). The Implementation Guide will take you through the process - step by step (there are 6 steps). It provides definitions, resources and best practices. It also includes a family survey (one of the first things you should do) as well as an assessment tool and action step template.

The Implementation Guide should be your “go to” resource. Get started now to truly partner with your school, parents and community to help all children succeed!

Laura Kaiser, Kansas PTA Family Engagement Chairman
Coming Soon.......  

Coming Soon, in the Kansas PTA Summer CD Packet, is our newly updated Keys to Leadership Program. Just like before, you will begin your journey at the Bronze Level and then proceed through the Silver, Gold, Platinum, and then, finally, the newest level, Crystal. Each level requires the same amount of points but now you get to choose what to accomplish at each level which makes the leadership program more individual. Of course, as with anything, there are a few rules. Point levels for each leadership task vary and are based on the level of difficulty. Some items are repeatable and some are not. If you have already worked on levels from the current program, you will start with the last level you have finished. If you have started a level recently with the current program, what you have accomplished so far will transfer to the new program. We hope that these few simple changes will allow more people to be able to participate. So get started on your Journey!!!!!

Sheryl Peak  
Kansas PTA Leadership Chair

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Congratulations!

Kansas PTA is proud to announce the 2012 Virginia Peak Outstanding Leader award winner: Debbie Lawson. Debbie has been a long time advocate for the children of Kansas both through PTA and other groups. She co-founded the Dare to Care parent program at Shawnee Mission West High School (Dare to Care is an organization whose aim is to raise awareness and educate parents and students to the harmful effects of under age drinking). She has also given many classes and seminars on the problems associated with underage drinking. In addition to PTA work she has been a Boy Scout leader for all three of her sons, taught religious education classes and served on the homes association board of her neighborhood. In PTA Debbie has been an example of the power of involvement. She currently serves as the Vice President of Advocacy and is the Immediate Past President. As the VP of Advocacy Debbie heads the Kansas PTA Legislative Team which has done amazing things this year, including creating the Myth Busters documents, revamping the Legislative tab of the Kansas PTA website, organizing a Legislative Day that included meetings with several law makers and Governor Brownback, and sending out action alerts so that members can be informed and take action on current (real time) events that effect the children of Kansas. Perhaps most importantly Debbie has served as a friend and mentor to many of PTA’s current and upcoming leaders. Kansas PTA congratulates Debbie Lawson and thanks her for all her years of service.
Kansas PTA Knitting Group

Kansas PTA Knitting Group showcased their knitted caps at the Kansas PTA Convention in Wichita. Patterns were available for those who wanted them. We also gave away a basket of knitting needles, yarn, and book Saturday evening at convention.

We hope to have many knitted hats to give to our homeless children in the state of Kansas by next fall. Please let us know the name of the homeless liaison in your school district that we can get in contact with. We would love to come to any part of the state and give the hats to that contact person.

We are asking for donations of yarn. If you have any yarn or would like to donate yarn, please contact Marie Thomas at 913-302-6178. If you know how to knit or crochet or if you want to learn how to knit or crochet, please come and join us! Some of us are making fleece scarves to donate, too. Currently, we are meeting in the Kansas City area. If you live in other parts of our state and want to help, you can start a group there, too.

Marie Thomas
Kansas PTA Secretary
Kansas PTA Knitting Group Representative

It is the time of year that our local units and councils need to start thinking about performing a financial audit of their accounts. The audit must be performed before the Treasurer books are turned over to the new Treasurer. An audit must be performed even if the Treasurer will be returning next year. An audit committee should be formed to complete this task. There is a sample audit checklist in your summer packets that your President received at the beginning of the school year. If you cannot locate that, please feel free to contact me and I will gladly forward you one. There are a few key people that are NOT to be on the audit committee…..the current Treasurer and anyone who is on the signature card at the bank. An audit is performed to insure that the unit’s finances are in good order and to keep the finances transparent to the membership. Remember, this is the kids’ money and should be taken care of as such. If you have any questions about performing an audit, I am here to help you. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Dawn Lalumondier
Kansas PTA Treasurer 2011-2013
(913)660-4763
Johndawn0703@gmail.com

KLFA shares Resource for Parents

CONVENTION 2012 HIGHLIGHTS
Kansas PTA Board Roster

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Vacant

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Region 5 Vice President
Vacant

Region 6 Vice President
Vacant

Region 7 Vice President
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Rep. of Council Presidents
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*Parliamentarian
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*DeSoto
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*Office Secretary
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*Not a board position.

This issue of the Bulletin is available on the Kansas PTA website at www.kansas-pta.org.
January - February 2012

Return Service Requested

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Jackie Waters President
Tammy Bartels President-Elect
Debbie Lawson Vice President of Advocacy
Denise Sultz Vice President of Member Services
Patty Jurich Vice President of Extension
Marie Thomas Secretary
Dawn Lalumondier Treasurer

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