Governor Parkinson signed a Proclamation declaring September 2010 PTA Membership Month in the state of Kansas. Representing the Kansas PTA Board of Managers at the Proclamation signing were: Jackie Waters, President-Elect and Patty Jurich, Vice President of Member Services. Also in attendance were Keri Renner of Kansas Family Partnership and Jane Groff with Kansas Parent Information Resource Center.

The 26th Annual Turner Days Festival was held October 9th and 10th in Kansas City, KS, Turner School District. There were more than 60 entries that participated in the parade. School floats, marching bands, cheerleaders, politician’s, and children’s’ clubs made up the various entries that drove past the crowds lining the street. Kansas PTA President Debbie Lawson had the opportunity to be part of the parade as well, being driven in a convertible. When asked what she enjoyed most, she stated “It was great to hear people applaud PTA and the work that we do for children”.

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Quality—What Is It To You?
- Keys To Leadership Reminder
  - PG 2
- Healthy Students
  - Don’t Forget the 990!
  - PG 3
- KLFA 2010-11 School Year
  - PG 4
- PTA Grassroots History
  - PG 5
- 2010-2011 PTA Takes Action Challenge
  - PG 6
- Just Between Friends
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- Professional Standards Board
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- PTA Reflections
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- Outstanding Educator/Student Communities in Schools
  - PG 11
- Pheobe Apperson Hearst Award
  - PG 12
- Importance of Involvement
  - PG 13
- Nominating & Leadership Development Committee...
- PTA Membership Proclamation
  - PG 14
- Kansas PTA Board of Managers Roster
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Quality – What is it to you?

What does the term quality mean to you? If something is rated 75%, is that good enough for you? Would you feel better about something rated 90%? And would you feel better still about a 99.9% rating?

If 99.9% is good enough:

- 12 newborns would be given to the wrong parents daily.
- 114,500 mismatched pairs of shoes would be shipped each year.
- 2,000,000 documents would be lost by the IRS this year.
- 880,000 credit cards in circulation would turn out to have incorrect cardholder information on their magnetic strips. (Scannell & Newstrom, The big book of presentation games, 1998).

The same ideas about quality apply to afterschool programs. Afterschool programs keep kids safe and healthy, strength academics, help working families, build youth workforce skills, and empower youth voice. Research has proven the benefits of quality afterschool, which include:

- Greater growth in reading and math (Municcucci Associates, 2002)
- Increased school-day attendance (Huang, Gribbons, Kim, Lee, & Baker, 2000).
- Higher reading comprehension; overall reading achievement gains (Chaplin & Capizzano, 2006).
- Significant gains in standardized test scores, better work habits, and reductions in behavior problems among disadvantaged students (Vandell, Reisner, & Pierce, 2007).
- Declines in negative behaviors and drug use as well as increases in self-confidence and self-esteem (Durlak & Weissberg, 2007).

In addition, research has found that self-care and boredom greatly increase the likelihood that a young person will experiment with drugs and alcohol (National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse VIII, 2003). Moreover, juvenile crime peaks between 3 and 6 p.m. as does experimentation with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, and sex (Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 2002). Steps to provide prevention, such as quality after-school programs, are more favorable than intervention.

The Kansas Enrichment Network, an organization whose mission is strengthening afterschool in the state, recognizes the importance of quality out-of-school programs. Thanks to the generosity of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, the Network is currently working to create quality guidelines, desired student outcomes, and a self-assessment tool for programs. The final guidelines will be available free of charge on the Network’s website. Additionally, you can show your support for afterschool programs by celebrating National Lights On Afterschool Day on Oct. 21.

For resources or other assistance: www.kansasenrichmentnetwork.net.

Marcia Dvorak, Project Coordinator, Kansas Enrichment Network

Keys to Leadership Passports

Reminder that Keys to Leadership passports are due into the state office by March 15, 2010 so you can receive your pin and certificate at convention.

If you need a passport, please contact the Kansas State PTA office at 1-888-311-5782

Toni Miller
Kansas PTA Leadership Chair
HEALTHY STUDENTS ARE HAPPY STUDENTS

Flu season is here again and I would like to take this opportunity to review five simple steps to help keep our students healthy at home and at school.

♦ GET VACCINATED! The 2010 – 2011 flu vaccine will help protect you against three different flu viruses: an influenza B virus, an H3N2 virus and the 2009 H1N1 virus that is expected to be a threat again this year. While everyone is encouraged to get the flu vaccine, it is especially important for children 6 months to the age of 5 years, anyone with any long term health conditions, women who are pregnant, and anyone 65 years of age or older.

♦ ALWAYS COVER UP! Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Make sure that you throw the tissue into the trash after you use it. If a tissue is not available cough into your elbow not your hands.

♦ WASH UP! Wash your hands often with soap and water. Make sure that you suds up for at least 20 seconds or the time it takes to sing “Happy Birthday” twice. If water is not available use an alcohol-based hand rub.

♦ DON’T TOUCH YOUR FACE! Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. This is one of the biggest ways to spread germs.

♦ KEEP YOUR DISTANCE! Stay away from people who are sick. If you are sick stay home from school, work or day care for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine. A fever is defined as a temperature at or above 100°F or 37.8°C

Symptoms to look for can include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea. If your child exhibits any combination of these symptoms make sure that they get lots of rest and drink plenty of fluids. If you are concerned about the severity of the symptoms or if the length of time your child is sick contact your doctor.

Remember that making healthy choices at school and at home are the best defense against illness. For more information on the flu, how to avoid it, and how to treat it I recommend visiting the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s website at http://www.cdc.gov/flu.

Sarah Baker, Kansas PTA Health & Wellness Chair

DON’T FORGET TO FILE YOUR 990!!!

This is a reminder that all Kansas PTA Units need to file their 990-EZ or 990-N by November 15th. Please file online and then send your copy of the 990-EZ or 990-N to the PTA State Office to remain in compliance. A confirmation email from IRS is acceptable and lets us know that you filed your 990 Form. It is important that you file your 990 form! Please contact me for assistance if needed!

Please remember to remit your dues monthly to the State Office. Please make sure to fill out the Treasurer Remittance Form. Don’t forget to fill out the back of the form and check any awards that pertain to your Unit!

Marie Thomas
Kansas PTA
Treasurer
Webinar, meeting kick off KLFA’s 2010-11 school year

The Kansas Learning First Alliance held its first meeting of the 2010-2011 school year Friday, Aug. 27, at the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) office. Almost three dozen participants representing 18 member organizations attended. This marks the twelfth school year education organizations, agencies and institutions have worked together to improve teaching and learning in Kansas under the KLFA banner. One of the first actions taken was to approve the membership request of the Advocates for High Ability Learners (AHA) as the 27th member organization. As part of the opening meeting, a Webinar was staged the night before. Almost 30 people came online to learn about the activities of the Kansas Education Commission, which was formed by the Kansas State Board of Education to help review and prepare for the next reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The Act is currently known as No Child Left Behind. The reauthorization is being referred to as the Blueprint for Reform.

The opening part of the meeting included updates on the status of the Kansas Learning First Alliance Education Foundation; the executive summary of the Watch and Talk parties held in conjunction with Reading, Writing and a Worthwhile Education for Kansas Kids, which was shown statewide last fall; and an overview of the comments gathered the night before during the Webinar. Those comments were grouped by the Blueprint priorities the Commission is using to direct its work. The comments were also made available to the three workgroups KLFA uses to accomplish its work.

Key questions, of the almost 80 posted, included:

What does it mean to be "career ready"? Or are we truly only thinking about college ready? How about those who are heading toward other forms of post-secondary formal education?

What/where are the data-driven dialog/authentic conversations that occur around college/career readiness that will change our everyday practice in everyday classrooms?

Will QPA regulations be revised to match the reauthorization and will KSDE then revamp the school improvement process?

The questions were shared with all those participating on the KEC the following Monday.

The three groups work toward improving student achievement; strengthening the professional development of educators; and engaging the public in school improvement and student achievement efforts. To focus their work, three general goals offer guidance. They are:

KLFA will broadly disseminate its work to influence practitioners.
KLFA will increase its visibility among policy makers.
KLFA will strengthen and increase its organizational capacity.

The meetings for the rest of the 2010-11 school year are: Thursday, October 28; Thursday, January 6; Thursday, March 24; Thursday, May 12. All the meetings will start at 10:00 a.m. and will be held at KASB. KLFA will celebrate its twelfth birthday at the January meeting.

Visit the KLFA Website at www.klfa.org for more information, including agendas for upcoming meetings as they are developed.
PTA GRASSROOTS HISTORY

PTA – The Parent Teacher Association had its beginnings in 1897 when Alice McClellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst decided to start an association dedicated to working for children. The 1890’s were described as the “gilded decade” but for millions of children conditions were deplorable. Education rarely went beyond the 5th grade and children worked unbearable hours in horrible conditions. Children often died from complications of whooping cough, measles and rheumatic fever. Many youths ended up in adult prisons due to a justice system that cared more about punishment than rehabilitation.

Alice McClellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst were united in the cause of working for a better life for all children and thus began the National Congress of Mothers, now called the Parent Teacher Association or PTA. The first meeting was held in Washington DC in 1897 and more than 2,000 people attended. Not an easy feat back then with travel conditions not being ideal. Mrs. McClellan and Mrs. Hearst wanted to start an association that would address the needs of the nation’s children. After the first convocation, work began in earnest across our nation.

In 1899 PTA passed the historic resolution calling for the “establishment of a National Health Bureau, which shall disseminate knowledge tending towards the health of humanity”. The idea was nurtured for 14 years by the National Congress of Mothers (now the PTA) until 14 years later in 1913, the federal government created the United States Public Health Service.

PTA is responsible for programs that we take for granted today. Mrs. Hearst personally supported several kindergarten classes across the country. PTA is responsible for advocating for and securing kindergarten classes being formed in schools and for the hot lunch program in schools, immunization programs for all children for the dreadful diseases of polio, tetanus, diphtheria and smallpox.

PTA is also responsible for advocating to get child labor laws in place and by 1954 most states had passed child labor standards that required a minimum age of 16 for employment, higher minimum age for hazardous occupations and a minimum wage for minors. PTA had effectively used its know how for working at all policy levels to effect crucial change for child-related laws and regulations.

PTA has been involved in such issues as transportation safety, guidelines for parents on TV and internet usage for children and a TV ratings system, bicycle safety, anti smoking campaign and drug and alcohol guidelines for minors.

We continue to work on issues today such as family engagement laws (as test scores prove that students achieve more when parents are involved in their lives and education), juvenile justice laws (as we believe minors should not be put in prisons with adult offenders), the child nutrition act (all children deserve good nutrition and regular exercise) and a quality education for each and every child as we work to support the Common Core Standards of Education, and teacher quality and retention in our schools.

We work with military families to ensure their families have smooth transitions on their moves to new schools and communities. We encourage male involvement in schools. We have numerous programs in place such as Three for Me, which encourages parents to donate 3 hours a year to their child’s school and the Million Hours of Power program that encourages men across the country to donate 1 million hours volunteering in schools this year. Please visit www.pta.org for more information on programs available.

Be proud to be a PTA member! Stand up and support our children and public education by being a member of the oldest and largest child advocacy association in the United States. Together we can make changes for the better happen for our children. Encourage your friends, neighbors, aunts, uncles, grandparents, sisters, brothers and community members to join PTA as Together We Can Make A Difference in the lives of each and every child!

Debbie Lawson
President, Kansas PTA

Information for this article obtained from The PTA Story, A Century of Commitment to Children by National PTA.
The 2010-2011 PTA Takes Action Challenge!

By Nancy Niles Lusk, V.P. of Advocacy

Major change in the National PTA  Two years ago with changes in their government affairs staff, the National PTA revitalized their advocacy efforts. They really got their act together. Their renewed focus on supporting federal legislation which will improve the lives of children was made complete with the move of the National PTA headquarters from Chicago to the Washington, D.C. area. (Google Earth the new address at 1250 N. Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314).

A terrific team doing terrific work  We are fortunate to have on our current PTA legislative public policy team a group of dynamic, young, very smart, and--to top it off--extremely nice people. Those of you who attended Kansas PTA's last state convention had the opportunity to meet Mishaela Duran, the Director of Government Affairs, and recognize the excellent qualities which make her so good at her job. Three other standouts on the National PTA team are Elizabeth Rorick, Senior Policy Strategist; James Vanderhook, Health Policy Analyst; and Lela Spielberg, Education Policy Analyst.

They have made PTA an active player in Washington, D.C. Their voices are respected and being listened to on many issues. A measure of this is they are often being sought out by members of Congress and the administration for their participation in helping to draft legislation. They have also built several effective working coalitions with non-partisan entities such as the Harvard Family Research Project.

Common sense positions  The National PTA's policy priorities are in three key areas: parent engagement in education, equity and opportunity for all children, and child health. The 2010 National PTA Public Policy Agenda is available online and gives easy to understand outlines and rationales of PTA's positions.

Their common sense approach on behalf of the best interests of children enables them to function largely above the fray of the polarized paralysis of Washington. For instance, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) is the primary law regarding juvenile justice, and it is currently being considered by Congress for reauthorization and possible changes, and the PTA is promoting a provision to have children who are simply runaways or truant to be housed in appropriate facilities for juveniles, NOT in adult jails and lockups. Not only would this change insure that children would not be exposed to threats or abuse from adult offenders, it also would save money!

Recognizing the importance of parent engagement in a child’s education, National PTA is also working to strengthen parent involvement and family engagement in the upcoming reauthorizations of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (No Child Left Behind) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Your role and your unit's role  Our posse at Capitol Hill needs us, if their efforts are to make it to fruition! The children whom PTA is dedicated to serve need our involvement!! Go to the National PTA website and join the PTA Takes Action Network: Federal Policy Update and PTA Action Alerts. PLEASE SIGN UP!

On October 1st, the National PTA folks initiated a competition among all of the state PTAs to have the most members sign up and it ends May 1st. It is called the 2010-2011 PTA Takes Action Challenge! Signing up is easy. You will receive email Action Alerts informing you of the federal issue at hand and timed so your voice, united with the rest of our voices, will have the most impact on the legislation being considered. It is totally your choice each time whether to respond, and the alerts are not that frequent, so don't fear that they will fill your email mailbox.

It feels good to care. Encourage your fellow PTA members to be a part of the team, too.

The PTA motto:  Every Child -- One Voice!
Exciting News from Just Between Friends – Volunteer Management

New for this school year!
Just Between Friends has introduced a Volunteer Management module to their system which is suitable for tracking PTA® Three For Me hours.

The Volunteer Management module was developed to enable members of your entire school to easily sign up for volunteer activities. Parents and administrators can also track their volunteer and participation hours.

This is another way Just Between Friends simplifies your life and strengthens your PTA.


Learn Just Between Friends Visit www.LearnJBF.com for lots of “how-to” information, instructional PDFs and a schedule of training sessions.

Have questions? Visit www.JustBetweenFriends.com and click on the Contact button. One of Just Between Friends’ friendly and knowledgeable Customer Service Representatives are there to answer your questions and help you use the system.

The Easy Way to Run your PTA!
Last year, National PTA selected Just Between Friends as the official PTA membership management and communications system. Today, thousands of PTAs all over the country use the system to manage members; print membership cards; communicate with their entire school; create paper or online directories and manage volunteers.

System Enhancements – The Next Generation
Just Between Friends has been listening to comments of units using the system, and this year you’ll discover numerous system upgrades and enhancements such as:

- Dramatically increased speed
- Fewer clicks to accomplish tasks
- Easier, more streamlined member entry
- Quick start videos and instant access online help
- Better PTA identification
- Revenue sharing opportunities
- A friendlier look and feel
- Volunteer reporting capabilities suitable for tracking Three for Me hours
- PTA Reflections Wizard that will help to streamline your Reflections Program

It’s Easy to Print Membership Cards with Just Between Friends!
Using Just Between Friends, you can easily print member-specific PTA cards or blank cards with PTA unit information only. Visit www.LearnJBF.com. Scroll down the page and you’ll see -- “Here are some important instructions for working in the Next Generation of Just Between Friends.” Click on the 3rd item – “Printing PTA Cards without Member Names.” This is a PDF with step-by-step directions for printing blank membership cards. Or, click on the 4th item – “Printing PTA Cards with Member Names.” This PDF provides step-by-step instructions for printing membership cards with member names. If you still have questions, just click on Contact.

Enter a Drawing for an iPad (Valid until October 31st)
Visit www.JustBetweenFriends.com/PTAkit to watch a 5-minute video about how Just Between Friends can strengthen your PTA and simplify your life.

After you watch the video, you’ll be entered into a random drawing to get an iPad.
If you’re using Just Between Friends, after watching the video you can transition your officers and you’ll get another entry into the iPad drawing. If you’re not using Just Between Friends, after watching the video you can enter your unit and you’ll get another entry into the drawing. If you have questions, please visit www.JustBetweenFriends.com and click on Contact.
Professional Standards Board (PSB) and Kansas Department of Education’s TEAL (Teacher Education and Licensure)

Educators! Your feedback is needed!
Please send your feedback to Laura Kaiser (email listed below), Kansas PTA representative on PSB and she will share it at the next Professional Standards Board meeting November 15th.

You feedback needed on the following documents (both documents can be found at: http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=314 under the PSB September 2010 minutes):

Code of Ethics for Kansas Educators
The current Code of Ethics for Kansas Educators was adopted by the Kansas State Board of Education in 1986. The Professional Standards Board will be discussing this at the November 15th meeting.

Draft of “Professional Educator Career Dossier”
The I2P Committee (Initial to Professional) has been working on this document. A web-based live document to manage the process (which could be tied to future professional development) is being considered. Once the document is finalized it will be presented to the Kansas State Board of Education.

Overview of draft:
Page 1
this page is completed for initial license
important to gather baseline data
needs to be a “living” online document
Page 2
intent is not to create new documentation, but, to use what the educator already has
collect evidence for a minimum of 2 years
Page 3
this in only a framework – needs input
how does this apply to school specialists or those from out of state?
Meant to help educators and support them. Not meant to add time or extra burden.
Additional questions:
What are your comments?
In your opinion, when are educators ready to be called a “professional?”

TEAL website – excellent resources for educators! A few of the wonderful resources are listed below:
Educator Licensure – links to frequently requested information
Licensure consultants – assigned by educator’s last 4 digits of their social security number
NOTE: Licensure information is open to the public
List of teacher education programs
Kansasteachingjobs.com

Proposed licensure regulation amendments (see pg 177 of Sept. 2010 Kansas Board of Education board materials) were presented to the Kansas Board of Education in August and September. These are edits to existing regulations. They have now been sent to the Kansas Attorney General’s office.

Parents – Did you know that teacher licensure information is public information? KSDE is working to have this information available via their website. In the meantime, please call the KSDE TEAL office at 785-291-3678 for this information.
PTA® Reflections unleashes your artistic talents

Dance Choreography  Photography
Film Production  Musical Composition
Literature  Visual Arts

2010–2011 Theme: “Together We Can”

Reflect on the theme. Create an original work. Be recognized.

Deadline for entries: Local Unit January 7, 2011

For details, contact Lauri DeNooy
Kansas PTA Arts in Education Chair
lauri.denoooy@gmail.com

Council President Deadline: January 21, 2011
Region Vice President Deadline: January 28, 2011
Kansas PTA Arts in Education Chairman
February 4, 2011

National Media Sponsor of PTA Reflections Program
Please Plan to attend the 97th Annual Kansas PTA Convention
April 29-May 1, 2011
Lawrence Holiday Inn
200 McDonald Drive, Lawrence, KS 66044

- A wide variety of workshops will be presented for the 2011 Convention including leadership training, advocacy, health and wellness, and parenting tips.

- Three general meetings are planned to conduct the business of your State PTA. There will be election of new officers for the 2011-2013 term, plus a variety of keynote speakers that will share insights with delegates.

- Exhibitors will be on site to help with your program and fundraising needs.

- Dollars for Scholars, Silent Auction, and the PTA Store will be available.

- The Golden Oaks State PTA Unit will hold their annual meeting.

- Complete registration packet will be mailed in early January. Early bird registration is $40 if postmarked on or before 3/15/11. Advanced Registration will be $45 if postmarked on or before 3/30/11. On Site Registration will be $50 if postmarked after 3/30/11.

- Come join the learning and fun with your PTA Friends from across the state---as we Embrace All Children and work for a quality education for all children!

Marie Thomas
2011 Convention Chair

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is a year-round task but that doesn't mean that it has to be a chore! Make membership fun! Offer your teachers/students/parents incentives for signing up. Older elementary and middle school students respond really well to a prize of cooperative play games (kickball, dodgeball, basketball, etc.). Maybe they could even compete against the staff....or the parents! If you are a PTSA leader in a high school, maybe your unit can compete with a rival high school to see who gets more student members. School Pride is a great motivator for high school students! Elementary school students respond well to receiving extra recess, special room parties, etc. Be creative, make membership fun! The Kansas PTA Membership Committee would love to hear from you! What is your unit doing to make membership fun?

Reminder: Please submit your membership dues to the Kansas PTA office monthly. The remit form can be found on the Kansas PTA website or I would be happy to email it to you. Don't forget to mark which membership awards your unit qualifies for!

Dawn Lalumondier
Kansas PTA Membership Chairperson 2009-2011
(913)642-3340
johndawn0703@gmail.com
Outstanding Educator and Outstanding Student Award

Did you know that Kansas PTA presents the Outstanding Educator and Outstanding Student Award at convention every year?

What a perfect opportunity to recognize either a teacher, principal, para-educator, administrator or a superintendent for their outstanding contributions in the field of education with the Outstanding Educator Award. The Outstanding Student Award is presented to a student in Kindergarten through 12th grade and focuses on the accomplishments that the student has achieved during the year. There are many deserving students in the state of Kansas, be sure to nominate a student who shows leadership, academic ability and community awareness.

If you know someone who deserves one of these awards, I encourage you to go to www.kansas-pta.org and click the tab “Events” then click on “Awards and Contest” for the application(s) and guidelines for the awards. I ask that you begin thinking about that special educator and or student that deserves this special award. The honoree will be asked to attend the Kansas PTA State Convention to receive this award. The convention will be held April 29 to May 1, 2011 in Lawrence.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Lauri DeNooy
Arts in Education and Awards Chairman

Congratulations to Communities in Schools!

Communities In Schools has been recognized by TIME Magazine in its Annual National Service Issue as one of the organizations through which working adults can lend a hand in public education. In the September 20 issue Communities In Schools joins only four other national organizations in earning this mention.

The magazine’s cover story focuses on improving our country’s schools and calls on Americans to help by volunteering through organizations such as Communities In Schools, which had more than 57,000 volunteers contribute 2.5 million hours of service during the 2008-2009 school year. In the article, Communities In Schools is described as "the nation's largest dropout-prevention organization" that "coordinates a range of services, from health care to tutoring, to keep kids in school and get them to college." It also cites the organization's success rate of helping 91 percent of the students monitored reach the next grade. The article notes the wide range of volunteer opportunities available to adults who can lend their expertise to reach students in need.

"It is a true honor to be recognized by TIME Magazine, and we are grateful for each of our 2,400 volunteers in Kansas, many of whom provide essential one-on-one support that help our students achieve their goals," said Malissa Martin-Wilke, president of Communities In Schools of Kansas.

Communities In Schools has served students in Kansas since 1990 when an affiliate was started in Wichita. Today, more than 20,000 students and 83 schools throughout the state receive services from the CIS of Kansas network. A variety of volunteer opportunities are available at each affiliate. More information can be found on the CIS of Kansas website at www.ciskansas.org.
PHOEBE APPERSON HEARST AWARD
AND PARENT INVOLVEMENT

So you ask, what does an award and parent involvement have to do with each other? Well, it just so happens that the criteria for obtaining this award are very much parent and community involvement.

National PTA’s Phoebe Apperson Hearst Award is a Family-School Partnership Award that recognizes and celebrates PTAs that are effectively demonstrating the PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships.*

These standards are a framework for how families, schools and communities should work together to support student success. Each standard is based on the value of mutual respect, trust and courtesy. By using the National Standards you develop, evaluate and improve engagement practices in your schools.

There are 3 levels of recognition:

- **The Outstanding Family-School Partnership Award** is given to one local PTA for exemplary all-around achievement of the National Standards. The recipient receives a monetary award of $2,000.
- **The Family-School Partnership Award of Excellence** is given to six local PTAs, each representing the best in one of the six National Standards. The recipients receive a monetary award of $500.
- **The Family-School Partnership Award of Merit** is given to all local PTAs that apply to the awards program, in recognition of their commitment to building family-school partnerships.

The recipient of the Outstanding Family-School Partnership Award will receive two all-expense paid trips to the 115th Annual National PTA Convention in June 2011 in Orlando, Florida, and be recognized during one of the general sessions. The six Award of Excellence Award recipients will also receive recognition at the national convention.

To be eligible you must be a PTA in good standing. Applications for the 2011 award will be due around the first of March 2011.

Kansas PTAs have not taken advantage of applying for this award. All of the PTA units in Kansas are doing great work in the area of parent-school partnerships and we need to take advantage of the award and let others know what we are doing to improve our PTAs and be rewarded for the work that we are doing. I urge any local unit that has used the National Standards to bring our parents; teachers and communities together please consider applying for this award. You can find information and the application after the first of the year on the National PTA website under the PTA Programs tab, Awards Programs tab and Hearst Awards. If you have questions or need information you can contact me at fabacd@turnerusd202.org.

*Reference National PTA website

Diana Fabac, Parent Involvement Chairman

EXTENSION CORNER! WELCOME NEW UNITS!

I hope you all will join me in welcoming our newest PTA units into Kansas PTA. Black Bob Elementary PTA in the Olathe School District; Parker Elementary PTA in the Kansas City, KS School District and the Shawnee Mission Early Childhood Instructional Center PTA. We welcome these new PTA leaders and wish them good luck in their first year as a local unit PTA.

Denise Sultz, Kansas PTA, Vice President Extension Services
The Importance of Involvement

Research shows that students do better when their families are involved both at home and at school. Grades are higher. Test scores rise. Self-esteem grows. Schools improve.

PTA has been connecting parents to their children’s education for more than 100 years. It is the defining organization for parent involvement. See what it can do for you.

5 Great Reasons to Be Part of PTA

1. Be in the know. PTA helps you keep up with what’s happening in your school and how you can support your child’s education.

2. Access great resources. PTA provides information on topics ranging from homework help to bullying prevention to media safety to child health and more.

3. Build relationships. PTA connects you to other families through meetings, events, and communications, and helps build a sense of community.

4. Hone your skills. PTA offers opportunities for you to use your talents to benefit children and the school. PTA can help you expand your skills too.

5. Speak up. PTA can be a way to more effectively suggest changes at your child’s school and in your community, and to be involved in making them happen.

PTA Member Benefits

As part of PTA’s national network of families, educators, and leaders, PTA members receive many great benefits:

- A monthly e-newsletter addressing parenting issues
- Special offers and discounts from PTA’s corporate supporters (go to PTA.org/Benefits for details)
- Leadership training through conferences, workshops, and free e-learning courses
- Discounted rates for PTA conventions and on subscriptions to PTA’s Our Children magazine
- PTA Takes Action Network, with updates on legislative issues affecting children, families, and schools, as well as alerts that give you an opportunity to weigh in on key federal policy issues with your members of Congress

Team Up with PTA

Everyone is invited to join PTA: moms, dads, teachers, principals, students, aunts, uncles, grandparents, caregivers, businesspeople, advocates, community members.

To join, or to learn more:
- Visit PTA.org/Join
- Call (800) 307-4PTA (4782)
- Contact your local PTA

ABOUT PTA

The National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) comprises millions of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of family engagement in schools. PTA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit association that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health, and welfare of children and youth.
A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN to serve on our State Board of Managers or as a committee member. Your skills are wanted and needed! Interested volunteers are encouraged to submit a “Talent Bank” form that is located on the Kansas PTA web site: www.kansas-pta.org then click the tab “resources” from there you will find the Talent Bank Form tab.

Questions can be directed to Lauri DeNooy, Nominating & Leadership Development Committee Chairman.

Committee Members are Nicci Waters Region 3, Vicki Needham Region 6, Monica Crowe Region 1, and Julie Howard Region 7. Alternates Marie Thomas Region 6 and Toni Miller Region 4.

Lauri DeNooy
Kansas PTA NLDC Chairman
lauri.denooy@gmail.com
Kansas PTA Board Roster

State Officers

President    Debbie Lawson  15719 West 86th St., Lenexa, KS 66219  913-541-0806
President-Elect   Jackie Waters  1417 Loring, Haysville, KS 66706  316-522-0706
VP Advocacy   Nancy Niles Lusk  7700 West 83rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66204  913-648-2616
VP Extension Services  Denise Sultz  9311 West 81st Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66204  913-381-7824
VP Member Services  Patty Jurich  6125 Kimball Ave, Kansas City, KS 66104  913-334-6051
Secretary    Lauren Meyer  14139 West 84th Terrace, Lenexa, KS 66215  913-599-0656
Treasurer    Marie Thomas  22833 West 44th Street, Shawnee, KS 66226  913-302-6178

Region Vice Presidents

Region 1 Vice President  Eve May  8708 Walker Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66112  913-328-1219
Region 2 Vice President  Vacant
Region 3 Vice President  Nico Waters  220 Alice, Haysville, KS 67060  316-554-8011
Region 4 Vice President  Janet Wood  148 Florida Avenue, Salina, KS 67401  785-827-8635
Region 5 Vice President  Vacant
Region 6 Vice President  Vicky Needham  20918 West 71st Street, Shawnee, KS 66218  913-441-0110
Region 7 Vice President  Julie Howard  134 North 71st Street, Kansas City, KS 66111  913-299-4877
Region 8 Vice President  Lauren Meyer  14139 West 84th Terrace, Lenexa, KS 66215  913-599-0656

State Chairman

2011 Convention Chair  Marie Thomas  22833 West 44th Street, Shawnee, KS 66226  913-302-6178
Arts in Educations & Awards  Lauri DeNooy  7410 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS 66204  913-548-7277
Budget Committee   Marie Thomas  22833 West 44th Street, Shawnee, KS 66226  913-302-6178
Unit Bylaws Review  Diana Fabac  5607 Crest Drive, Kansas City, KS 66106  913-375-1644
Bulletin Editor  Robert DeNooy  7410 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS 66204  913-271-6892
Federal Legislative  Nancy Niles Lusk  7700 West 83rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66204  913-648-2616
Health & Wellness  Sarah Baker  10710 West 92nd Street, Overland Park, KS 66214  913-307-0036
Inclusiveness / Diversity Leadership  Michelle Sierant  1015 South 49th Drive, Kansas City, KS 66106  913-287-5313
Leadership  Toni Miller  813 Merrily Drive, Salina, KS 67401  785-819-4684
Male Involvement  Allen Bradley  1516 N. 85th Place, Kansas City, KS 66112
Member Outreach/Family Engagement  Patty Jurich  6125 Kimball Ave, Kansas City, KS 66104  913-334-6051
Membership  Dawn Lalumondier  8907 W 82nd St, Overland Park, KS 66204  913-642-3340
OMDR  Tammy Bartels  504 South Delaware, P.O. Box 393, Tonganoxie, KS 66086  913-417-7031
PTA Store / Meeting Assistant  Sheila Bun nell  7028 Berry Road, Kansas City, KS 66106  913-375-1652
Publicity / Marketing  Vicki Whisenant  2901 N 51st, Kansas City, KS 66104  913-334-9075
Rep. of Council Presidents  Tammy Wake  5417 Oliver Street, Kansas City, KS 66106  913-831-3868
Resolutions Committee  Tammy Bartels  504 South Delaware, P.O. Box 393, Tonganoxie, KS 66086  913-417-7031
Resource Development  Jackie Waters  1417 Loring, Haysville, KS 66706  316-522-0706
State Bylaws  Jackie Waters  1417 Loring, Haysville, KS 66706  316-522-0706
State Legislative  Mary F. Sinclair, PhD  5801 Locton Lane, Fairway, KS 66205  913-513-3126
State Extension  Rae Ann Kobylniski  8530 Barkley, Overland Park, KS 66212  913-341-9124
Website  Robert DeNooy  7410 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS 66204  913-271-6892

Consultants / Committee Appointments

*Nominating & Leadership Dev Lauri DeNooy  7410 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS 66204  913-548-7277
*Parliamentarian   Laura Kaiser  5222 West 98th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66207  913-341-3078

Council Presidents

*DeSoto  Chris Akin  4820 Millridge, Shawnee, KS 66226  913-422-3756
*Kansas City  Monica Crowe  3047 North 65th Terrace, Kansas City, KS 66104  913-299-3583
*Shawnee Mission  Lauren Meyer  14139 West 84th Terrace, Shawnee Missions, KS 66215  913-599-0656
*Turner  Tammy Wake  5417 Oliver Street, Kansas City, KS 66106  913-831-3868

Office Support

*Office Secretary  Sharon Julius  715 S.W. Tenth, Topeka, KS 66612  785-234-5782

*Not a board position.

This issue of the Bulletin is available on the Kansas PTA website at www.kansas-pta.org. Email addresses for all board members are available on the website.
Return Service Requested

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Debbie Lawson  President
Jackie Waters  President-Elect
Nancy Niles Lusk  Vice President of Advocacy
Patty Jurich  Vice President of Member Services
Denise Sultz  Vice President of Extension
Lauren Meyer  Secretary
Marie Thomas  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.

REMINDER!!

Please remember that the Pledge of Allegiance should always be a part of your unit meetings. The Pledge of Allegiance is an honored activity, one that sets the United States apart. It should always be included on your meeting agenda. Thank you!