Hello to all of Our Wonderful PTA members!

This is a special invitation to an amazing event, Our 100th Annual Convention!

We are going back to Kansas City, where it all started, so mark your calendars, adjust your budgets, grab your PTA friends and make plans to be there!

May 3rd thru 5th at the newly remodeled Hilton Garden Inn, Kansas City, KS

We will have Wonderful Workshops, a happening Hospitality Room, a variety of vendors, spectacular speakers, and even grandiose guests, including National PTA President Otha Thorton!

You will once again have many options to register like the Buy Three Get One free registrations and the Super Saturday Pass!

There will be a 100th Anniversary PTA Booth, A Common Core Luncheon, and Special Celebration on Saturday night, these are just a few of the special things in store for those who attend. Watch for the Call to Convention in January for more details!

I look forward to see all of you in Kansas City KS in May at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Monica Crowe, 2014 Convention Chair!
Kansas PTA is Turning 100! Are you ready?

Kansas PTA will be hosting its crowning celebration May 2-4 in Kansas City, Kansas.

Are you ready?

Checklist for celebrating this special milestone:

☐ Now that you’ve looked at the amazing 100th Anniversary Toolkit (on your Summer Packet CD) – utilize it. It contains great suggestions on how you can celebrate Kansas PTA’s history AND your history all year long.

☐ Make sure you’ve purchased at least one Kansas PTA 100th Anniversary book. These make great gifts. The price has been kept low due to the generous underwriting by Lifetouch. Currently, hardcover books are $15 and soft cover books are $10. But these prices will go up by $5 after Feb. 24, 2014. The easiest way to purchase your book is online at ybpay.lifetouch.com (enter code 11756613). Order forms are also available online on the Kansas PTA website and on your Summer Packet CD.

☐ Budget to attend the 2014 Kansas PTA Convention May 2-4 in Kansas City, Kansas. You won’t want to miss this historic celebration!

CATCH THE EXCITEMENT OF KANSAS PTA’S 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Flash from the Past - Fun information from the April 1949 Kansas Parent-Teacher:

- From Corinth PTA in Johnson County – “The fathers presided at our January meeting; the topic was on “World Understanding.” A film, “The House I Live In,” was shown and enjoyed by many.”
- “The Men’s Club of Corinth has sponsored playground equipment for the school.” Mrs. Glenn Copeland, of our unit, Librarian for the Johnson County Council, has been doing excellent work for the promotion of libraries in N.E. Johnson County. She was instrumental in promoting a course in Children’s Literature through the University of Kansas City.”
- St. Francis – “A report from the Reading and Library Committee was given on the Comic Book situation and a display of acceptable, passable and highly objectionable comic books that we find on sale at magazine stands today was shown.” “World Understanding” was the theme of the March meeting.
- “A Father’s Advice to His Son – My boy, treat everybody with politeness, even those who are rude to you. For remember that you show courtesy to others not because they are gentlemen, but because you are one.”
- “A GOLDEN RULE OF FIVE: If your lips would keep from slips: Five things observe with care – Of whom you speak, To whom you speak, And how, and when and where.”
- “LET’S HAVE SOME FUN at the life Membership Breakfast at the state convention in Wichita. Each “lifer” is requested to wear a hat depicting some phase of the P.T.A. program – office, committee, project or quote. Remember the fun we had last year? Mary Dawdy our M.C. promises more fun but needs your “hats” for “props” – HAT CHARADES that is –”

Kansas PTA 100th Anniversary Chairmen:
Laura Kaiser, LGKaiser@SWBELL.NET and
Debbie Taylor, ltdtaylor@embarqmail.com
From 1942-1943 – KANSAS P.T.A. Song

In the heart of good old U.S.A.
We are here to stay, Kansas P.T.A.
Parents, Teachers, go hand in hand
For we have the best in the land.

Chorus
We’re the Kansas Parent Teachers,
On the job, we’ll have you know,
Oh, it’s onward, upward, trying with a smile,
To equip for your nations, lads and lassies
Worth your while;
Kansas Parent, Kansas Teachers always
Tried and true
We’ll work in love and harmony for Aye,
Always we’ll stand by you.

For child welfare, there we take our stand.
We’re a mighty band in our sunny land.
Better, higher our goal will be.
School, and home and community.

Interested in Kansas PTA coming and giving a presentation on Common Core, Family Engagement, How to Advocate, or other topics?

Go to Kansas-pta-legislative.org and look for the image above!

National PTA’s Every Child in Focus Campaign

http://www.pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3755 (under “Parents” tab on National PTA website).

The following comes from the National PTA website:

National PTA’s Every Child in Focus is a campaign to strengthen Family Engagement in Schools by celebrating the achievements and reporting the disparities within diverse populations, and sharing resources and advocacy tools to help understand the needs of every child. The campaign is a school-year-long series that provides educators, families and PTAs with the information they need to deepen family engagement in schools through the PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships.

To help with this effort, National PTA will spotlight the educational issues surrounding a particular group, highlight their accomplishments and focus on ways to help foster Family-School Partnerships.

Every Child in Focus reinforces National PTA’s mission to advocate for every child—with one voice—so all families feel invited and welcomed within PTA, and are equipped with the tools to support their child and improve the school, which makes a difference for every child.
FACTS: The Kansas Department of Education is not adopting invasive student data reporting practices. Rather, Kansas merely updated the state education standards, which it does routinely, and is revising the associated state tests accordingly. Kansas would be engaged in this process whether we implemented the Common Core mathematics and English language arts standards or some other college and career ready standards and will do so again in 2017 in compliance with State statute. Implementation of the CCSS did not have federal data collection requirements.

MYTH: Kansas must prohibit further implementation of the 2010 Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in order to avoid invasive student data collection. Kansas can just continue to use the pool of existing assessment items currently housed by the University of Kansas.

Fact 1 – Data Privacy. The Kansas Department of Education (KSDE) and local school districts maintain student records for a variety of reasons, ranging from instructional purposes, to determining eligibility for special programs (free/reduced lunch, special education), forwarding transcripts for college applications, to meeting state accountability reporting requirements. Data elements include date of birth, race/ethnicity, gender, program participation including status related to English language proficiency or special education, performance on state assessments, as well as students who qualify for free/reduced priced meals. Any KSDE reports with student data are first aggregated into groups, such as district and building level data, before disseminated; no student level data are shared. The adoption of the CCSS has no impact on the State’s data collection requirements. The KSDE DOES NOT collect information on political affiliations or beliefs; sexual behavior or attitudes; religious practices, affiliations or beliefs or income of the student or family. Furthermore, the Family Educational Right to Privacy Act protects the privacy of student education records.\(^2\)

Fact 2 – Kansas Assessments. Kansas has worked with the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation (CETE) at the University of Kansas for over 30 years to fulfill summative evaluation goals for K-12 public education.\(^3\) The Center has continually analyzed and revised their bank of assessment test items for quality and security purposes. Rigorous assessment necessitates that some degree of new items and tests will always be needed. At present, Kansas is collaborating with a consortium of states, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)\(^4\) to develop new assessments for mathematics and English language arts standards. Because Kansas is a governing state in the SBAC, the state has a vote on all major decisions. The SBAC has no membership fees – a significant savings to our state and those in the consortium. Over one million students participated in the field test of items in the spring 2013 and another million are anticipated to participate in spring 2014.

www.kansas-pta-legislative.org

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1. See KSDE Fact Sheet on Data Collection and Common Core
4. Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) http://www.smarterbalanced.org/about/
MYTH BUSTERS
Common Core State Standards—Not a Federal Takeover

FACTS: The federal government is not taking over Kansas schools. Nor have Kansas schools lost local control of K-12 education. The initiative to develop the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) was a voluntary effort on the part of states leaders to raise education standards. The Kansas College and Career Ready Standards in mathematics and English language arts & literacy were adopted, as part of a routine seven-year cycle to update and realign Kansas K-12 education goals with the demands of a rapidly changing global society.

MYTH: Common Core State Standards are a federal government takeover of K-12 public education and must be stopped.

FACT 1 — LOCAL CONTROL. Local school boards across Kansas have full authority to determine the curriculum. Adoption of the new state standards does not override the constitutional right of “local public schools under the general supervision of the state board of education [to] be maintained, developed and operated by locally elected boards.” Kansas school districts continue to make the decisions regarding how students are taught. The State Board of Education also has complete authority to change the state’s education standards as warranted, regardless of federal incentives.

FACT 2 — STATE INITIATIVE. The process of revising and updating education standards is the responsibility of the Kansas Department of Education, under the leadership of the State Board of Education. The process involves input from experts and key stakeholders, through critical analyses, public forums, and online comment periods, along with repeated presentations and updates by the Department of Education to the Board, often extending over a period of years (see Science standards for example). While Kansas was an active member of the CCSS development teams, enhancements were made for our own state under the ‘15% addition rule’. For example, the Kansas mathematics standards review committee added two major topics (probability and statistics, algebraic patterning). The committee further recommended that local school districts retain the authority to decide in what grade levels to incorporate these additions. In essence, Kansas considers the CCSS as a ‘floor not a ceiling’ and enriched the expectations of the Common Core to best fit the State’s priorities.

FACT 3 — ROLE OF FEDERAL FUNDS. No federal money was attached to the State’s 2010 adoption of the CCSS in mathematics and English language arts. While the U.S. Department of Education requires that each state have an accountability system in place for K-12 public education, the federal government does not dictate how Kansas educates students or how we assess our public education system; the specifics are up to each state. The majority of federal education funds Kansas does receive (less than 10% of Kansas education budget, and underfunded) are for mandated instructional support to special needs students (disabled, poor, second language) and program support to feed hungry students during the school day (free/reduced lunch program). The associated federal rules and regulations are in place to ensure that the funds are used for the intended purposes.

www.kansas-pta-legislative.org

1 Common Core State Standards Initiative; PTA on CCSS; Conservatives for Higher Standards
2 KSDE, Kansas College and Career ready Education standards
3 Kansas Constitution, Article 6, Sect 5
4 KSDE Common Core Fact Sheet
5 Kansas Constitution, Article 6, Sect 2
6 Adoption of new Science Standards (March 2013)
7 The Common Core 15% Rule
8 Kansas input on Common Core Mathematics Standards, see p. 9
9 See ESEA Flexibility
10 KSDE Content Standards: English Language Arts, Mathematics, History/Government, Science

KANSAS PTA BULLETIN
September 2013 Issue 6

KANSAS PTA
everychild. everyvoice.
Advocacy
Engaging All Families

PTA is a key partner for continuous school improvement.

Much of the following content comes directly from National PTA materials.

What a great way to start the school year – partnering with your principal and your school’s families to ensure families feel welcomed and prepared to support student success! Research shows that there is a positive and convincing relationship between family engagement and student achievement. This holds true regardless of race/ethnicity, class, or parents’ level of education. In a 2010 study on school improvement family engagement was identified as a key ingredient for school turnarounds. ... Elementary schools with strong parental involvement were 10 times more likely to improve in math & 4 times more likely to improve in reading then schools weak on this measure.

PTA is a key partner for continuous school improvement - strengthening the family-school partnership. Your school will welcome PTA’s help in this important area. And, National PTA has a wealth of resources that your PTA can use.

PTA, in partnership with the National Family, School, and Community Engagement Working Group, defines family engagement as:

- A shared responsibility—Where 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 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.

National PTA recognized years ago that “one size does not fit all” when it comes to family engagement. There’s no “cookie cutter” solution. It’s also important that everyone working on this important topic use the same definition and framework. Thus, the National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs were developed in 1997. In 2007, the Standards were updated to expand the focus from what schools should do to involve families to what families, schools and communities can do together to support student success. It is a shared responsibility. To reflect this, the Standards were renamed the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships. In January of 2008, the Kansas State Board of Education endorsed the PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships. They appear on page 71 of the current QPA manual and in many documents produced by the Kansas State Department of Education.

The National Standards for Family-School Partnerships are: Welcoming All Families, Communicating Effectively, Supporting Student Success, Speaking Up For Every Child, Sharing Power and Collaborating With Community. These Standards (which are guidelines) can be used in EVERY school. They create an environment where effective family engagement will flourish. Each Standard strengthens the others, so together they are stronger than any one Standard alone.

National PTA has developed a number of excellent resources to help you and your school strengthen family engagement. I am also here to help you. One of the best (and most comprehensive) of those resources is the PTA National Standards Implementation Guide (found on the National PTA website under the “Programs” tab). This guide contains everything you and your school will need (first steps, definitions, a family survey and tools for objectively assessing the family engagement in your school).

With your help, and in partnership with school leadership, school staff and community members, we can make every child's potential a reality.

PTA wants to see every child succeed in school and in life. We must all work together to make that vision a reality.

Consider the following questions: How family-friendly is our school? How well is our school meeting the goals of the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships? What can we do to help make a difference in bridging race, income, and cultural differences in our school?

PTA is proud of its efforts to remove barriers to family engagement and help make all families feel welcomed and valued, but we’re more excited about the possibilities of what you will achieve together through a stronger partnership between families and schools.
We believe making every child’s potential a reality is the best investment of time and energy your school community can make.

Please contact me if I can be of assistance,
Laura Kaiser, Kansas PTA Family Engagement Chairman
LGKaiser@SWBELL.NET

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Jan Harp Domene Diversity and Inclusion Award

PTA members come with their own views, experiences, cultural heritage and traditions, skills and abilities, values and preferences. The nation’s public schools are a rich weave of these diverse threads, and their PTAs must be as well. The Jan Harp Domene Diversity and Inclusion Award will be presented to one local, council, or district, and one state PTA. The recipient selected will be one that best demonstrates outstanding achievement in the areas of diversity and inclusion, as well as efforts to end discriminatory practices.

Request for award nominations begin Friday, January 10, 2014, and nominations are due Friday, March 14, 2014.

Email programs@pta.org for more information on how to apply.

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2014 National PTA®

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

MARCH 11-13, 2014 ★ ARLINGTON, VA ★ CRYSTAL GATEWAY MARRIOTT
National PTA's Reflections Program and Family Engagement

The arts—and the PTA Reflections Program, in particular—can be a valuable tool for building stronger partnerships in your school community. Consider the following ways to apply PTA’s National Standards for Family-School Partnerships to your Reflections activities.

Below are examples of how the Reflections program can fulfill each of the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships.

**Standard 1: Welcoming All Families into the School Community**

Promote PTA Reflections to all families in the school. Emphasize that every child’s participation is valued, and offer tips on how parents can support their children’s artistic expression. To reach everyone, translate program information into families’ native languages. To get parents in the school doors, invite them to exhibits and performances of PTA Reflections entries.

**Standard 2: Communicating Effectively**

Share Reflections Program information and reminders through a variety of channels: school or PTA website, newsletters, and social media sites. Always provide contact information for questions and feedback. Communicate key dates and other information with a PTA Reflections calendar. Use an end-of-year survey to ask for feedback and help measure your successes and challenges.

**Standard 3: Supporting Student Success**

Use PTA Reflections as an opportunity to educate parents and caregivers about the benefits of arts education for children’s academic, social, and lifelong success. Emphasize that PTA Reflections is designed to support students’ learning by enhancing quality arts education. Work with your school’s classroom and arts teachers to coordinate efforts. PTA Reflections entries can be created in or outside of school, and the program can help support the curriculum.

**Standard 4: Speaking Up for Every Child**

Use PTA Reflections to rally families to speak up for the value of arts education—to reach out to teachers, school administrators, and legislators to fight to keep the arts in your school, despite budget cuts. Arts education is a fundamental part of learning for grades K–12 and allows students to hone the skills that will prepare them for the highly competitive labor market of the 21st century. Showcase the benefits of the arts for students, and demonstrate your school community’s commitment to preserving arts education, by publicizing your PTA Reflections Program.

**Standard 5: Sharing Power**

Give your students a voice; encourage them to enter the annual the PTA Theme Search. Give parents and caregivers a voice by inviting them to volunteer with the PTA Reflections Program.

**Standard 6: Collaborating with Community**

Seek community partners to support PTA Reflections with prizes, exhibit space, and more. Partner with the community on programs to enhance arts education in the classroom or other learning environments.

**Take it a Step Further – Apply for the Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grant**
I WILL THRIVE

RSC shares the PTA's commitment to educational success by encouraging strong parent involvement in their children's education. The RSC Knowledge Base Program includes monthly email reminders for parents and students to help keep you on track and in the know.

FREE TO PTA MEMBERS
Visit www.pta.org/benefits and look for the sign-up link for RSC. Your subscription to the RSC Knowledge Base is absolutely free and includes invaluable workbooks for each grade level, 8th through 12th. You'll also have complimentary access to the RSC College Cost Calculator for accurate, personal cost estimates on each college you're interested in attending.

Don't delay, get signed up TODAY!
Ideas You Can Use

In an effort to help local units Kansas PTA will try to share information on different fundraising opportunities on this page as space allows. This is not an endorsement of any company or product — simply sharing information that may be helpful. Companies have not paid any fee to be included.

**Easy. Practical. Profitable.**

*A Smarter Fundraiser* is an ideal way for people to support your school and invest in their own community. Plus, you are promoting good health and these powerful advantages:

**It's Easy**
- No door-to-door selling.
- Easy distribution process.

**It's Practical**
- A healthier alternative over candy and snack foods.
- Two unique, premium household products people already purchase and use regularly.

**It's Profitable**
- A way to generate ongoing funding, year after year, versus a one-time event.
- 33% of the purchase price goes back to the school.

**It's Better**
- *Myclyns*® Laundry Detergent* with Pure-Cross™ Technology* eliminates the spread of germs, prevents mold and mildew, and works in both high efficiency and traditional washers.
- *Union Springs*® alcohol-free Hand Sanitizer is safer, more effective and lasts longer than other hand sanitizers.

To learn how to boost your school's funding power, contact one of our account representatives today at 1.877.462.5967 or visit unionspringsfundraising.com.
**Kansas PTA Board Roster**

**State Officers**

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
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<td>VP Advocacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>VP Extension Services</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Sarah Baker</td>
<td>8006 Widmer, Lenexa, KS 66215</td>
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**Region Vice Presidents**

| Region 1 Field Service Rep      | Allen Bradley                 | 1516 N 85th Place, Kansas City, KS 66112    | 913-208-8762 |
| Region 2 Field Service Rep      | Lauri DeNooy                  | 6615 W 73rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66204 | 913-548-7277 |
| Region 3 Field Service Rep      | Patty Jurich                  | 3314 N 128th Court, Kansas City, KS 66109   | 913-334-6051 |
| Region 4 Field Service Rep      | Patty Jurich                  | 3314 N 128th Court, Kansas City, KS 66109   | 913-334-6051 |
| Region 5 Field Service Rep      | Patty Jurich                  | 3314 N 128th Court, Kansas City, KS 66109   | 913-334-6051 |
| Region 6 Field Service Rep      | Lauri DeNooy                  | 6615 W 73rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66204 | 913-548-7277 |
| Region 7 Field Service Rep      | Sheila Bunnell                | 7028 Berry Road, Kansas City, KS 66106      | 913-544-9072 |
| Region 8 Field Service Rep      | Dawn Lalamondier              | 8907 W 82nd St, Overland Park, KS 66204     | 913-642-3340 |

**State Chairman**

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>2013 Convention Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Wellness</td>
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<td>Inclusiveness / Diversity</td>
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<td>Rep. of Council Presidents</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
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<td>Resolutions Committee</td>
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<td>Resource Development</td>
<td>Debbie Lawson</td>
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<td>State Bylaws</td>
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<td>State Extension</td>
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**Consultants / Committee Appointments**

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<td>*Parliamentarian</td>
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<td>*DeSoto</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
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**Office Support**

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<tr>
<td>*Office Secretary</td>
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</table>

*Not a board position.*

This issue of the Bulletin is available on the Kansas PTA website at www.kansas-pta.org.
If you are no longer a PTA president, please notify the Kansas PTA State Office. Forward this and all mailings immediately to your successor.