



Mission: To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children

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Leadership Messages

Kentucky PTA President Message Edward Squires

This is an excellent time to conduct a mid-year review in order to begin planning for next year:

- Think about which programs have been successful and why.
- Is there anything you would do differently next year?
- Does your budget need to be amended?
- Check your bylaws and see when your nominating committee is to be elected and when you should hold your officer elections.
- It is important to identify new leaders in order to keep your PTA growing.



This year's Kentucky PTA Student Recognition Award Ceremony will be on Saturday, May 16 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Elkhorn Middle School in Frankfort. Please put this on your calendar so you can help us celebrate the many accomplishments of our students.

Make plans to attend the Annual Kentucky PTA Convention on July 10-11 at Fort Knox. More information about the Convention is included in this issue.

All of you play an important role in the educational lives of our children and we appreciate your efforts. Happy Spring!

National PTA President Message Otha Thornton

Last week, U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, joined by National PTA President Otha Thornton and Rayburn Elementary PTA President Norma Cavazos, announced that more than \$30 million in grants will be awarded to help schools prepare healthy meals for students. Of the grants, \$25 million will be provided to help



schools purchase needed equipment to make preparing and serving healthier meals easier and more efficient, and \$5 million will provide additional training for school food service professionals. [Read the full press release here...](#)

Kentucky Commissioner of Education Message Terry Holliday

No matter how busy my schedule gets as Kentucky's education commissioner, I am always interested in receiving feedback. That's one of the many reasons I meet regularly with staff, connect through social media and visit schools around the state. The comments, questions and ideas I receive from all of these and many other activities are invaluable, and I believe help Kentucky continue making gains toward its goal of every child graduating from high school college and career ready. Public engagement is critical for our education initiatives and efforts to succeed. That's why I want to encourage you to take advantage of upcoming opportunities aimed at engaging educators, parents and others in efforts to improve student success. [Read more...](#)



Convention

2015 Kentucky PTA Convention

Mark your calendar for the 2015 Kentucky PTA Convention from Friday July 10 to Saturday July 11. It's an excellent opportunity for leadership training, networking with fellow PTA/PTSA leaders from across Kentucky, accepting awards on your association's behalf, and making connections with numerous vendors! [Download the information packet](#) to check out the workshop agenda and get registered. [Download the Grant application](#). [Visit the convention website](#).

Leadership Information and Resources

Upcoming Events

- 3/31 - Outstanding Awards and Membership Report due to Kentucky PTA
- 4/15 - Membership dues payment due to Kentucky PTA
- 4/27 - Kentucky PTA chartered in 1918
- 5/4-5/8 - Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5/15 - Membership dues payments to Kentucky PTA
- 5/16 - Student Recognition Program
- 6/26 -6/28 - National PTA Convention, Charlotte, N.C.
- 7/10-7/11 - [Kentucky PTA Convention](#), Fort Knox, KY

Leaders' Notebook

The Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook is available on the [KY PTA website](#). Click on the tab at the top called "Publications" and then find the Leaders' Notebook for 2014-15.

E-Learning with National PTA - Free Learning Opportunity

The e-learning courses offered by National PTA are divided into three categories:

- PTA Essentials
- PTA Nuts and Bolts
- Leadership Enhancement

National PTA also has two courses in Spanish, Local Unit President and Board Basics. Check out these courses - only 20 to 40 minutes each - and enhance your PTA knowledge and leadership skills. The courses are located at www.pta.org. Go to the PTA Leaders tab at the top, click on for a drop down menu and look for e-learning.

New Local Resource Bank

Wondering what other State PTA Congresses are doing? Wonder no more! Why reinvent the wheel when you can adapt something that has already been built by one of your peers? The [Local Resource Bank](#) contains 300 documents from various local PTAs including newsletters, financial documents, bylaws and info on starting a new PTA. Use these documents to enhance and grow your PTA.



Want to contribute to the Resource Bank? Send submissions to PTAtraining@PTA.org for consideration. Access the [Local Resource Bank](#) today!

Executive Committee

- President - Eddie Squires at kypta.president@gmail.com
- President Elect - Cherie Dimar at kypta.preselect@gmail.com
- VP Leadership and Outreach - Mark Hartman at markohartman@frontier.com
- VP Organization Services - Kelly Capps at kelly.capps@uky.edu
- VP Programs - Leann Myers at Leamyers1@aol.com
- Secretary - Liza Holland at liza@lizaholland.com
- Treasurer - Brian Wampler at bwampler68@gmail.com
- Legislative Commissioner - Sharon Whitworth at sharon.whitworth@jefferson.kyschools.us

Membership

Membership Awards and Drawing

Kentucky PTA has many awards your PTA may be eligible to receive. Make sure to take a look the [Leadership Notebook](#) under Membership to see **all** of the awards and incentives Kentucky PTA offers! The list of awards includes four drawings that are held throughout the year:

- **Back to School** - PTA sending in payment for 100 members by **August 15**
- **Early Bird** - PTA sending in payment for members equal to or greater than the total membership from last year by **September 15**
- **Strive for Five** - PTA with a 5% increase by **January 15**
- **Reaching High for Kentucky Kids** - PTA with a 10% membership increase by **March 15**

The **Strive for Five Award** drawing was recently completed. There were 108 local units that qualified by having a 5% membership increase by January 15! **Roby Elementary, in District 11**, was the winner of this drawing. Congratulations to all of the units who achieved this goal. [Click here](#) to view the units that were entered into the drawing.

Reaching High for Kentucky Kids drawing will be held soon!

Advocacy

National PTA Legislative Conference

Four representatives from Kentucky PTA were in Washington, DC. at the National PTA Legislative Conference on March 10-11. They met with eight legislatures and talked about the Family Engagement in Education Act of 2015. Family engagement can raise student achievement so substantially that schools would need to increase spending by more than \$1,000 per student to gain the same results as an engaged parent or family member. Despite bipartisan support, there is no central mechanism in federal education policy to support effective family engagement at all levels.



At the local level, PTA's support the Family-School Partnership model welcoming families into

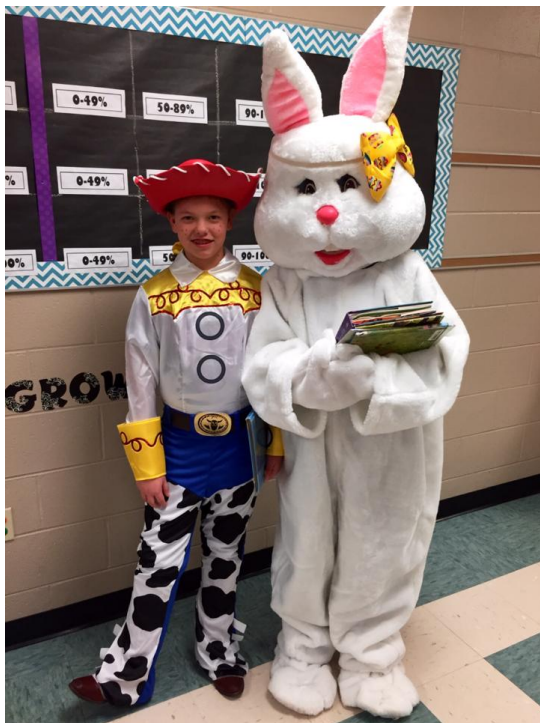
schools, encouraging two way communication, supporting student success, speaking up for every child, sharing power, and collaborating with the community. The Family Engagement in Education Act has strong bipartisan support and includes no new federal spending. It targets existing education dollars to where we know it works, family engagement. The Family Engagement in Education Act provides technical assistance from the Kentucky Department of Education to local districts around family engagement, but still allows local school districts to determine what family engagement practices will work best for them. SBDM (Site Based Decision Making Councils) are involved with these local decisions on budget, curriculum and hiring.

Representative GT Thompson (R-PA), Representative Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA), Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), Senator Chris Coons (D-DE), Senator Shelton Whitehouse (D-RI) all support the Family Engagement in Education Act of 2015 (S-622, H.R.1194) are the current sponsors of this bill.

PTA Spotlight

Family Reading Night at Calhoun Elementary

Calhoun Elementary School from the 4th District hosted Family Reading Night that was in conjunction with Parent Teacher Conferences. The school offered a free meal and PTA officers & volunteers decided to dress as a few storybook characters to get the kids excited. The characters walked the halls, posed with the kids for pictures and showed the kids books about their character.



Top Tips for Reading Together

1. Encourage reading in your home.
2. Spend 30 minutes each day reading together.
3. Sign your child up for a library card.
4. Become involved at their school.
5. Applaud your child for reading.
6. Give books as presents.
7. Help your child write their own stories.
8. Make flashcards to learn new words.
9. Take your child to the eye doctor.
10. Take turns reading books to each other.

11. Choose a word and ask your child to listen as you say it slowly, stretching out the sounds.
12. Practice storytelling on the go!
13. Have your child use a finger to trace a letter while saying its sound.
14. Print or write the lyrics from some of your child's favorite songs.
15. Create a family history book.

Check out the [National PTA's website](#) for more tips on reading together.

Programs

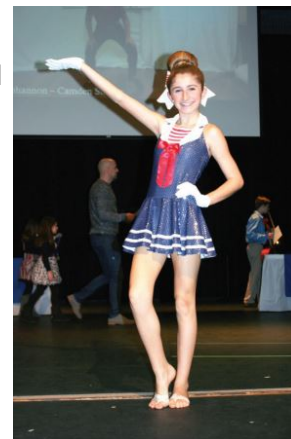
Save the Date for the Student Recognition Program

The Kentucky PTA Student Recognition Award Ceremony will be on Saturday, May 16 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Elkhorn Middle School at 928 East Main Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. State Reflections winners, scholarship winners, Self Esteem and Rising Star winners will be recognized. All artwork entries will be displayed and refreshments will be served. Cabo the Clown will be there to entertain everyone. Save the date to celebrate the many accomplishments of these students! If you have questions, please call the Kentucky PTA Office at 502-226-6607.

Reflections - 13th District PTA Honors Several Students

Each year, the national Parent Teacher Association holds the Reflections Arts Program, providing students of all ages an opportunity to create original works in a variety of categories. Students were asked to base their pieces on the theme "The world would be a better place if ..."

The 13th District PTA, which includes Oldham, Carroll, Henry, Owen and Trimble counties, hosts a celebration each year to recognize participants. The celebration was held on January 26 and included two student performances. East Oldham Middle School student Kelley Wetherton performed her dance choreography piece and Oldham County Middle School student Ben Crouch performed his musical composition on cello, accompanied by Bryce Cahill.



Kentucky PTA Honorary Life Recognition Award

Would you like to recognize a special person that has given outstanding service to children or youth? Check out the [Kentucky PTA Honorary Life Recognition](#). Have questions? Contact Veralyn Eyer mann, Awards Chairperson, at veralyn@roadrunner.com.

Financial

If you have financial questions concerning the 990 filing with the IRS, insurance, financial review forms, the KDE Redbook or any other financial related items, please contact your district president/contact or the Kentucky PTA Treasurer at bwampler68@gmail.com.

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