

KANSAS PTA

Bulletin

September - October 2014

Newsletter of the Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers

Volume 83, Issue 5



Kansas PTA has added a Vote Tab to the legislative website! Please visit www.kansas-pta.org and click on the legislative tab at the top. You will be taken to the legislative site where you will find MythBusters, Issue Briefs, articles from across the state on education, and other information for your use. The Vote Tab at the top will bring up information for you and your PTA unit on Voting and Elections, how to host a candidate forum, candidate appearances, permissible activities for nonprofits and voter timeline.

If you should have any questions about PTA and voting/elections, please call the Kansas PTA office at 785-234-5782 and they will direct your call to one of the legislative team members.

Debbie Lawson
VP of Advocacy

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General Election 2014 – Important Dates & Information

Last Day to register to vote - Tuesday Oct 14th

Advance Voting by Mail Begins – Wednesday, Oct. 15th

Advance Voting in Person Begins – Monday, Oct. 20th

Election Day - Tuesday, Nov. 4th, 2014

Polls Open: 7:00am – 7:00pm

What can YOU do this election?

Check out the new VOTE tab on the Kansas PTA Legislative Website for all you need to successfully **Get Out the Vote** this election. The following is just a quick summary of what you will find in the new Vote section of the website.

PTA Guidelines for Candidate Forums

A candidate forum is a powerful tool for achieving the public policy goals of PTA and to build awareness of our association and our work. Sponsoring a candidate forum demonstrates to the candidates that your community cares about what the candidates' positions are and the election outcome. It shows that your association is a leader in local civic affairs. Candidate forums require a time commitment to recruit the attendance of candidates and your audience.

Among factors that make a candidate forum nonpartisan are:

- All candidates for an office are invited. (Even if all are invited, there is a risk that the event could appear partisan, if some candidates refuse to participate.) If only one candidate agrees to attend, it is no longer a forum.
- The rules of the forum don't favor any candidate over another. (Consider using an independent moderator, setting time limits for replies, etc.)

Correction to the July - August 2014 Bulletin!!!

On the 2014-2015 Awards and Contest Information, we had information concerning the Pheobe Apperson Hearst Family School Partnership Awards being submitted to Kansas PTA. This is not the case. Local PTA units will need to submit an application to National PTA for the Schools of Excellence award.

Note from National PTA: "Beginning in August 2014, this award is given to one PTA that has earned the National PTA School of Excellence designation and successfully engaged families in a specific school improvement goal"



Jan. - Feb.

- Designate a project lead – an internal champion who will coordinate your voter engagement efforts
- Establish buy-in and support from your unit or state leaders



June - July

- Meet with your local elections office to establish a relationship
- Train and motivate volunteers who will interact with voters
- Plan and execute 1-2 summer voter registration events
- Develop and test a system for retuning completed voter registration forms
- Gather materials and resources to raise program visibility and engage voters



September

- Intensify your voter registration and pledge campaigns
- Celebrate National Voter Registration Day on September 23, 2014



Nov. 4th

~ Election Day!

- Create visibility and opportunities to celebrate with ideas like an Election Day party
- Have a appropriate volunteer identified and prepared to answer voting questions

Voter Registration & Engagement Timeline for Your PTA

March - May

- Create a voter engagement plan, including goals and a timeline
- Review the voting rules and deadlines in your state
- Identify potential partners to help provide training and/or resources



August

- Kick off your voter engagement programs
- Inform your community and supporters about your voter registration and education activities
- Hang signage throughout all facilities to create positive reminders and to affirm your organization's commitment to voter participation



October

- Continue intensive voter registration and voter pledge efforts through the registration deadline
- Include get-out-the-vote and voter education activities, primarily during the final two weeks before Election Day
- Promote early voting and vote-by-mail opportunities



Nov. - Dec.

- Review, debrief, and evaluate your voter engagement efforts



Welcome Back To School All you wonderful PTA people!

I just want to thank you for all that you do for “our Kids” in Kansas. As the VP of Extension Services for Kansas PTA, I am very happy to announce that we have received several requests from various schools across the state asking about PTA. I am even happier to announce that we have already started our first New Unit. On August 21st Denise Sultz, Lauri DeNooy and I went to meet with these enthusiastic ladies and we are please to say that USD 232 Early Learning Center PTA is now a part of Kansas PTA. Susan Mohn is the President of the newest PTA unit. So if you know Susan, please welcome her to our Organization.

I hope that you all have a fabulous school year!

Monica Crowe
VP of Extension Services
Kansas PTA



Kansas PTA wants to congratulate Oak Grove PTA - they have been selected to receive a Healthy Lifestyles: Energy Balance 101 Grant for \$2,000 from National PTA!

Watch your email for many exciting National PTA grant opportunities!

Take Part in #ShareAwesome

Today's families use digital technology in every aspect of life—from learning and socializing, to gaming and shopping! Here you can share awesome ways families can create an open, evolving conversation about positive, safe decisions when using digital tools. Everyone benefits when you #ShareAwesome pics on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter. Go to PTA.org for details!

Step 1



Snap it

Take a pic to share YOUR awesome with #ShareAwesome Instagram, Facebook or Twitter and win a scholarship!

Step 2



Tag it

Step 3



ENTER

KS PTA Family Engagement Article for the Bulletin – Aug/Sept. 2014 - rev



Your school can become a School of Excellence

Enroll today at PTA.org/Excellence - Deadline 10/1/14

The National PTA School of Excellence is a recognition program that supports and celebrates partnerships between schools and families to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students. Becoming a National PTA School of Excellence starts with a joint commitment of PTA and school leaders who want to work together to welcome all families, communicate effectively, support student success, speak up for every child, share power and collaborate with the community. Your school will be judged only on the improvements it makes, not against other schools. This free program is only available to PTA schools. Let's make every PTA school a School of Excellence!

National PTA and Kansas PTA will help you through each step:

1. Enroll your PTA between April 1 and October 1, 2014 at PTA.org/Excellence after first discussing this with your PTA and your principal. You will receive the *Getting Started Guide*, which describes the program components, including your first steps to gather feedback from families and set goals with your school partner.
2. Conduct a Family-School Partnership Scan and share your results with National PTA.
3. Receive a customized *Roadmap to Excellence* containing recommendations that respond to your specific results from the Family-School Partnership Scan.
4. Complete the National PTA School of Excellence application before June 1, 2015.
5. Celebrate your excellence!! All National PTA School of Excellence recipients will receive a toolkit to support celebration activities.

Below are some statements from Kansas 2014-2016 School of Excellence Award Recipients:

"Creating strong school-family partnerships not only ensures the success of the student and/or child but the success of the school and community for many years to come. This is our future."

Rachel Henderson,
FWE PTSA President

Shawnee Mission South High School PTSA is very proud to be a School of Excellence recipient. The process is very straight forward, and the *Roadmap to Excellence* supplied by the National PTA made the process understandable and easy to navigate. Going through the process helped us to identify and address areas of family engagement we hadn't thought of before. Starting work on our Diversity Committee helped our PTSA to reach out to various other organizations in the school. We encourage all PTAs to go through the process!

Diane Johnson, 2012-2014 S.M. South H.S. PTSA President

Participation in the National PTA School of Excellence Program was a terrific experience for Comanche PTA. It afforded us the opportunity to gather information from our community about their perceptions about our PTA and the school itself. The *Road Map to Excellence* that we received back from National PTA contained a lot of terrific ideas on how to increase family engagement in our school. We were able to implement many of the ideas with the support of a terrific principal and dedicated volunteers. The program really helped us to see where we were and to find out where we needed to go to better support our families.

Dawn Lalumondier, Past Comanche PTA President

Laura Kaiser, Kansas PTA Family Engagement Chairman



Dad's: 5 Ways to Help Your Kids Adjust to a New School

Starting a new school for your kids is a major event in their lives. Whether they are going from elementary to middle school, middle school to high school in the same school district, or you've moved and they will attend a new school in a new district...your kids may have a lot of nervous feelings.

Moms are great at sensing when their kids have some anxiety, and they usually handle it pretty well. However, you may be a single dad. Whether you are married or single, you play an important role when it comes to helping your kids adjust to a new school. Here are 5 ways you can help your kids adjust.

1. Be involved.

The tendency is to allow your wife, your kids' mom, to be there to handle the new school jitters. Don't be passive during this time. Be involved in the entire process. Talk about it, attend functions, and pay close attention to how your child is adjusting prior to school and after school begins.

2. Share some of your firsts.

Share examples of the first time you've done something. The examples may be from your childhood or they could be from your adulthood. An especially good example is being a dad for the first time.

3. Expect some ups and downs.

The emotions and feelings they experience may go from high to low. Connecting and meeting new friends may be a high, but getting lost in a new building may be a low. Be prepared to have conversations about each one.

4. Tune up your listening ears.

As men, we tend to want to solve problems. Turn down your problem solving senses and turn up your listening senses. With new friends your child may not feel comfortable discussing personal things, and you (or mom) may be the outlet. Don't just expect it to be mom. Be ready to be the listening ear.

5. Meet the teacher.

Depending upon your kids' age, there may be a meet the teacher night. Make sure you are there. It says something to the teachers, students, other parents, and most importantly your child when dad is there.

Huddle up with your kids tonight and ask them: What are you looking forward to most about starting in a new school and what are you most afraid of?

Kansas PTA Board Roster

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President	Tammy Bartels	504 Delaware, Tonganoxie, KS 66086	913-417-7031
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VP Extension Services	Monica Crowe	3047 N 65th Terr., Kansas City, KS 66104	913-961-5026
VP Member Services	Josefina Gutierrez	3803 Gibbs Rd. Kansas City, KS 66106	913-787-6367
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Treasurer	Sheila Bunnell	7028 Berry Rd., Kansas City, KS 66106	913-544-9072

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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 St, Overland Park, KS 66204	913-548-7277
Region 3 Field Service Rep.	Patty Jurich	3314 N 128th Ct., Kansas City, KS 66109	913-334-6051
Region 4 Field Service Rep.	Patty Jurich	3314 N 128th Ct., Kansas City, KS 66109	913-334-6051
Region 5 Field Service Rep.	Patty Jurich	3314 N 128th Ct., Kansas City, KS 66109	913-334-6051
Region 6 Field Service Rep.	Lauri DeNooy	6615 W 73rd St, Overland Park, KS 66204	913-548-7277
Region 7 Field Service Rep.	Sheila Bunnell	7028 Berry Rd., Kansas City, KS 66106	913-544-9072
Region 8 Field Service Rep.	Dawn Lalumondier	8907 W 82nd St., Overland Park, KS 66204	913-660-4763

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State Legislative Chair	Brian Hogsett	9705 Slater Lane, Overland Park, KS 66212	913-209-9620

Consultants/Committee Appointments

* Bulletin Editor	Robert DeNooy	9242 Newton St., Apt 2B, Overland Park, KS 66212	913-271-6892
* Nominating and Leadership Dev.	Jackie Waters		
* Website	Robert DeNooy	9242 Newton St., Apt 2B, Overland Park, KS 66212	913-271-6892

Council Presidents

Kansas City	Patty Jurich	3314 N 128th Ct., Kansas City, KS 66109	913-334-6051
Shawnee Mission	Linda Braly	7909 Outlook Ln., Prairie Village, KS 66208	913-449-0506
	Tash Davis	8345 Glenwood, Overland Park., KS 66212	913-558-2211
Turner	Jody Morris	4025 Locust Ave., Kansas City, KS 66106	913-530-1449

Office Support

* Office Secretary	Natalie Schweda	715 S. W. Tenth, Topeka, KS 66612	785-235-5782
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* Not a board position

This issue of the Bulletin is available on the Kansas PTA website @ www.kansas-pta.org

Kansas PTA State Office
715 S.W. Tenth Street
Topeka, KS 66612-1686
Phone: 1-888-311-5782 or 785-234-KPTA (5782)
Fax: 785-234-4170
kansaspta@gmail.com
www.kansas-pta.org

National PTA Headquarters
1250 N. Pitt Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: (800) 307-4PTA (4782)
Fax: TBA
E-mail: info@pta.org
www.pta.org

Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers
715 SW Tenth
Topeka, KS 66612-1686

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Forward this and all mailings immediately to your successor.