



National PTA's mission: to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

December 2017 Bulletin of the Kentucky PTA

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Save the Date!

It's the annual Kentucky PTA Convention

July 21 - 22, 2018
Seneca High School
Louisville, Kentucky

This is 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. Current and incoming board members, administrators, teachers, and students are invited to attend. Leadership training is legitimate PTA expenses so include this in your budget.

A Message from Kentucky PTA President

We are almost halfway through the school year. It's time to plan your winter membership campaign. Membership is not just a one-month campaign, or a slogan, or a contest for numbers. It represents the number of people who value what we value and share our passion. If you have never shared your PTA story, start by sharing with others why you do what you do. People are more likely to join an organization when they understand why it is important to you.



Cherie Dimar

The 2018 Legislative Session begins in January. The Kentucky PTA Legislative Team will be in Frankfort during the session, representing your view on those issues important to the education, health and safety of all children in Kentucky. We will keep you informed as the session progresses.

Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol is January 18. Everyone is invited to attend this event and show their support for Kentucky's children. More information about this day is included in this issue.

Your board has probably been working hard this fall so you may want to have a holiday party and simply enjoy yourselves. On behalf of the Kentucky PTA Board of Directors I want to thank you for all you do and wish you and your family a blessed holiday season.

Don't miss the special celebration as Kentucky PTA celebrates its 100th anniversary! More information coming soon.

2017-18 Reflections Program



All Reflections entries must be turned in to the Kentucky PTA office by December 15, 2017. For more information, contact Rhonda Willinger at 502.386.6697 or reflectionskypta@gmail.com.

Members of the Rineyville PTA, showing off our some of the posters and stickers available from the [Kentucky PTA online store](#). Be sure to order yours in time for your next open house or or mid-year membership drive!



File 990.org

PTA/PTSA Presidents, Kentucky PTA is offering a new free member benefit for local units. We have partnered with [File990.org](#) to conduct this free service for all units to efile their IRS 990 tax forms. As you know, non-profits including PTAs must file a 990 tax form with the IRS each year by November 15. This free service will remind you to file and link you directly to [File990.org](#)'s secure IRS approved filing site.

Student Input Vital in Education

As Kentucky's commissioner of education, I spend a lot of time talking and listening to people from across the Commonwealth.



Stephen Pruitt

But one of the curious things in education is while we tend to seek input from educators, parents and community members when making policy decisions, we don't always seek input from those who are affected most by those decisions - the students. Thankfully that is not the case in Kentucky. Student input is valued at the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and throughout the state by schools, districts and education advocacy groups.

In October, I held my first meeting of this year's Commissioner's Student Advisory Council. The council is made up of 22 students from across the Commonwealth - from urban to rural communities, and the Kentucky School for the Blind and the Kentucky School for the Deaf - who represent Kentucky's more than 650,000 public school students. I enjoy every minute of my time with this group. [\[read more\]](#)



Help us fill the rotunda and ask elected officials to prioritize kids in the 2018 session.

Register yourself or your group to attend the 2018 Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol. If you are bringing a group of youth, please contact Tina Agonva at tagonva@kyyouth.org to take a brief survey about youth activities we can help you coordinate throughout the day.

To learn more, visit kyyouth.org.

Children's Advocacy Day Webinar

Sign up to attend Advocacy 101 and Prep for 2018

Important Dates

January 18, 2018

Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol

February 11-18, 2018

Take Your Family to School Week

March 13-15, 2018

National PTA Legislative Conference

April 27, 2018

Happy 100th birthday, Kentucky PTA!

May 6-12, 2018

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 12, 2018

Kentucky PTA Student Recognition Ceremony

June 21 - 24, 2018

National PTA Convention, New Orleans, LA

July 21 - 22, 2018

Kentucky PTA Convention, Louisville, KY

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Children's Advocacy Day Webinar on January 4, 2018!

- What do I need to know to make the most out of 2018 Children's Advocacy Day?
- How do I advocate for kids during the 2018 legislative session?
- What are the Blueprint for Kentucky's Children policy priorities for 2018?
- Who are my legislators, and how do I set up a meeting with them?

Answers to these questions and more will be addressed at this webinar. [Sign up to attend.](#)

Note: A recording of the webinar will be available after the event.

What Can You Do About Bullying?

In school or at the park, you may have seen or experienced bullying. Bullying is hurting someone either by words or actions. Some feel that bullying is a part of normal growing up. It isn't. There will always be problems between kids. But bullying is done on purpose and is not right. We need to be aware of the bullying and stand up against it!

Did you know?

- One out of every four students report they have been bullied during the school year.
- Students who experience bullying have trouble sleeping, headaches, and stomach-aches.
- 58% of kids admit someone has said mean or hurtful things to them online.
- 90% of teens who report being cyber-bullied have also been bullied offline.
- One out of five kids admits to being a bully, or doing some "bullying".
- 58% of kids have not told their parents or an adult about something mean or hurtful that happened to them online.

What can you do? Bullying is a big problem, but there are ways you can help. [\[read more\]](#)

Awards & Scholarships

Each year, Kentucky PTA presents several awards and scholarships.

Kentucky PTA Scholarships

1. High School seniors who plan to attend a Kentucky accredited university and pursue a degree in education.



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2. A parent PTA member who is continuing his or her studies in a health field and will attend an accredited Kentucky college or university.

3. Teacher PTA members who are working toward a master's degree or Rank 1. Funding for the yearly scholarships comes from the fees from the Honorary Life Membership and other donations.

Rising Star Award

Kentucky PTA's "Christa McAuliffe" Rising Star Award recognizes students who have successfully worked through obstacles to improve performance in school, character and self esteem.

Grades P-1, Elementary 2-4, Elementary/Middle 5-8, High School 9-12, and Special Needs will be recognized.

Self Esteem Award - Elementary and Middle/High

The purpose of the Self Esteem Award is to allow students to express what makes them feel special.

Kentucky PTA Scholarship and Rising Star and Self Esteem winners are recognized at the Student Recognition in Frankfort, KY in the spring.

Applications for all of these scholarships and awards are due to the Kentucky PTA Office, 148 Consumer Lane, Frankfort, KY, by February 15, 2018. See your leaders packet or kypta.org for the application. *Participating PTAs must be in good standing as of October 15, 2017.*

Kentucky PTA, 148 Consumer Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601

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