

Kentucky PTA[®]

everychild.one voice.[®]

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

November 2018 Bulletin of the Kentucky PTA

In this issue

A Message from KY PTA President

Legislative Information

Membership News

Treasurer Information

For PTA Leaders

KY Education Commissioner

PTA Connected Grants

Honorary Live Recognition

PTA Store

Important Dates

Parent Involvement Month

Healthy Lifestyle Month

Kentucky PTA Executive Board

A Message from Kentucky PTA President

Traditionally, November is the month when we express thanks for all of the good things in our lives. Many gather with family and friends, eat more food than we need, watch football games, and prepare for the next holiday. Far too many of the children in Kentucky will not be able to do these things this Thanksgiving. I urge you to remember that we must work together to help all of our students. Many will go to shelters, food banks or community centers.

Your November Checklist:

* It is important to remember that you must file your 990 with the IRS by November 15, 2018 for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018. Make sure to use www.file990.org.

* Reflections is due to the Kentucky State PTA Office by December 15, 2018. This is a Saturday, so remember our office hours are Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST. If you are mailing your entry it must be postmarked by December 15, 2018 and send entries to Kentucky PTA; PO Box 654 in Frankfort KY 40602-0654.

* Awards and Scholarships are right around the corner. Check out our website <http://kypta.org/programs/awards/> for more information. It is never too early to start.

* November 19, 2018 is "Unity Day". The purpose of Unity Day is to celebrate the differences that make us unique and contribute to what unifies us. We appreciate your willingness to serve in a leadership



Heather Wampler

Important Dates

November- KY PTA Parent Involvement Month & Healthy

Lifestyle Month

November 12-16, 2018

American Education Week

November 19, 2018

Unity Day

position on your school's PTA/PTSA board. Thank you for the countless hours you volunteer and the sacrifices you make on behalf of

the children and the families in your school and community.

Sincerely,

Heather Wampler

502-671-9451

hkwappler@gmail.com

Parent Involvement Month

Tips for Promoting Your "Get Off Your Apps" Physical Activity Event

General Tips

One of your most important tasks is to encourage as many families as possible to participate in your event.

- Don't forget to recognize your grant program sponsor.
- Consider creating information and materials in multiple languages, to welcome all families in your school community.

Tips for Engaging Students and Families

Research shows that parents are more likely to attend your event if they receive a personal invitation from someone they know and trust.

- It is especially important to identify and invite underrepresented families. Ask for the school's help in identifying and reaching out to these families.

Other ways to engage families:

- Announce the event at a school-wide assembly. Feature a fun, engaging demonstration to spark students' interest.
- Send an invitation letter or flyer home with students.
- Include messages in students' morning announcements and announce the event at PTA meetings.
- Hang posters and flyers in visible locations.
- Post event reminders on signs near student drop-off and pick-up locations.
- Post announcements and updates on the school and/or PTA website and via social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).

Tips for Engaging Teachers and Administrators

Legislative Information

National PTA LEGCON 2019

March 12-14, 2019 - Arlington, VA

Early Bird Registration Opens this Fall!

At LegCon You Will:

Hear from experts and leaders in education policy

Advocate on Capitol Hill for important policy priorities

Network and build relationships with PTA leaders from across the country

Visit PTA.org/LegCon for more details and highlights from 2018.

The 2019 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly is scheduled to begin on January 8 and will last 30 legislative days. The Kentucky PTA Legislative Team will be monitoring the session and representing your view on those issues important to the education, health and safety of the children in Kentucky. We will keep you informed as the session progresses. If you are interested in receiving action alerts please contact the office at 502-226-6607 or kentuckypta@bellsouth.net.

Mark your calendars for Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol on February 13, 2019. Everyone is invited to attend this event and show their support for Kentucky's children.

Did You Know?

Theodore Roosevelt chaired the PTA's Advisory Council of Fathers.

PTA's mission is the same today as it was more than 100 years ago-to better the lives of all children.

Membership News

Listening to Your Community

Growing membership is an intentional and continuous effort to build positive, productive relationships, beginning with your PTA Board and continuing with families, teachers and school staff.

Your PTA will increase in membership if every aspect of your PTA - every event, every communication, and every interaction - is viewed as a way to achieve strong, positive, two-way communication with your community.

To do this effectively, you need to listen deeply to what families, teachers and community members want and need.

Since PTAs are for everyone, units should seek to understand and support the needs of a wide variety of members - from future parents to senior citizens. Imagine how strong your community could be if every parent, every community member

Invite teachers to serve as PTA Health and Safety event co-chairs, committee members or volunteers.

- The more involved they are in planning, the more likely they will be to serve as "champions" of the program among other faculty and staff, as well as to students and family members.

Other ways to engage school staff:

- Request time at a staff meeting to present the "Get Off Your Apps" event to teachers.
 - Use the Health and Safety Talking Points for PTA Leaders to highlight the benefits of exercise, less screen time, and the importance of family involvement.
 - Invite their ideas about how they might encourage their students to participate.
- Ask teachers to encourage the attendance of all students.
- Consider rewarding teachers who attend for their above and beyond help with gift cards.
- Encourage school staff to offer ideas and suggestions to help plan your school-wide "Get Off Your Apps" Physical Activity Event to build excitement.

Tips for Engaging the Community
Your community can offer you a lot of support in planning and executing your "Get Off Your Apps" Physical Activity Event, from pre-event promotion to door prizes.

Ways to involve your community:

- Local universities or high schools might have health organizations, clubs or groups that will come out and help lead the hands-on activities.
- Other businesses and organizations might promote the event or donate food or prizes.
- Work with school officials to customize media releases to invite local coverage.
 - Don't forget smaller, local media outlets such as neighborhood association blogs and newsletters.
- Community bulletin boards can be good places to promote the event.

and every business leader found a reason to get involved in PTA! ([read more](#))

Treasurer Information

Fall is here and pumpkin spice is in the air. That means it is time to file the 990 form for your PTA/PTSA. Each local unit is required to file taxes for the 2017-2018 school year. The filing deadline is November 15th. Failing to do so could cause you to lose your tax exempt/501 ©3 status. If your local unit had less than \$50,000 of income, the Kentucky PTA pays for a service called file990.org. This service you to easily file the 990-N taxes within minutes. If you click on the following link it will give you step by step directions, in case you need it. http://kypta.org/wp-content/uploads/How-to-File990.org_.pdf

For those local units who had greater than \$50,000 in income, you are required to file the 990 or 990EZ tax form. This can NOT be done through file990.org. The return needs to be postmarked by November 15th and mailed to:

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service Center
Ogden, UT 84201-0027

It's important that you remember to send a copy to the Kentucky PTA office at kentuckypta@bellsouth.org or fax 502-226-6610.

If you have questions about filing using file990.org (for under \$50,000) you can reach out to the Kentucky PTA office at 502-226-6607 and they can help answer questions. If you have questions about filing your 990EZ (for units above \$50,000) please contact State PTA Treasurer, Liz Hill at lizzhill53@gmail.com

For PTA Leaders

Kentucky PTA Convention

We had such a great time last year, we're going to be in Frederick Douglass High School, Lexington Kentucky for our 100th annual state convention!

Convention will be July 19-20, 2019 so mark your calendars now!

Unity Day

The purpose of Unity Day is to celebrate the differences that make us unique and contribute to what unifies us. Unity Day is the Monday of Thanksgiving week and all PTAs/PTSAs are encouraged to work with their school and community to promote this special day. Celebrate cultural differences through art, music, and performances. Ideas for Unity Day:



Multi-Cultural Meal -Have a meal and invite each family to bring a tradition family food. Plan to teach a game or dance unique to each culture represented.

Multi-Cultural Panel Discussion -Give parents an opportunity to

How Families Can Drive Social and Emotional Learning

AUGUST 17, 2018
BY MAKEBA GILES



Think back to the many wonderful moments of summer break as a child. Having the freedom to play, lead, think, and simply exist in your own unique way, testing your limits and sharing your imagination and ideas without the filters and regulations of the academic environment. Now, imagine losing all of that in an instant. All of the joy. All of the freedom. All the imagination. That can be what it's like for youth to begin the school year and shift into an environment where their social and emotional well-being is not adequately encouraged or supported. As an active parent in the educational system for nearly two decades, I have witnessed firsthand how competing pressures on schools and educators have drawn attention away from students' individual abilities, needs, strengths, and circumstances. It seems that the learning environment has become less focused on each student's success and personal growth.

The time has come to place social and emotional learning back at the forefront in our schools - and it is now more important than ever. Families, schools, and communities working together are the key to making social and emotional learning and development in school the norm for every child. That's the central message of the Family Call to Action from the Aspen Institute's National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development. Developed by parents, for parents, the Call to Action lays out what we need from our schools - and each other: We Need Our Schools to Know and Teach the Whole Student

Schools need to move away from one-size-fits-all policies to better meet the needs of each and every student. When a student's comprehensive development is fully supported, they are free to build critical life skills such as responsibility, respect, teamwork, self-control, and strength

discuss their own school experiences and create a venue for parents and teachers to share with each other their views and expectations regarding education.

"We Are One" Poster -Create a "We Are One" poster using photos and construction paper. Have participants decorate the poster with photos of their friends or pictures of children of all races interacting together. Display the posters for all to see. Linking Hands -Using construction paper, have children draw outlines of their hands. To make a long chain, have the children do this multiple times. Cut the hands out of paper and glue them together to make a chain. Let the children decorate the hands with markers, stickers, and glitter. Hand the hands around a room or along a hallway.

Unity Quilt

-Students used squares of paper and wrote something unique about themselves. The squares were connected to make a quilt that was hung in the hallway with a banner.

KY PTA Board Application

Do you want to make a difference on a larger level? Are you interested on how PTA is just not part of your school but a part of the bigger picture in the state of Kentucky or Nationally? We invite you to join the KY State PTA board. We are now accepting applications for all positions. To apply - Please go <https://goo.gl/forms/xM5KA1i9LWFGH2n1>

Time to break down educational barriers in Kentucky's rural schools

Almost half of Kentucky's population lives in rural areas. That means a significant portion of Kentucky's students are being educated in rural school districts. Our rural schools face unique challenges compared to our suburban and urban schools. A recent report by the Center for Public Education called "Out of the Loop," noted poverty rates are higher and more persistent in rural areas as compared to urban areas. Students in rural areas are less likely to have access to advanced courses and their teachers also are less likely to have an advanced degree.



Wayne Lewis

This lack of access was a major topic of discussion at last month's National Forum to Advance Rural Education, which brought together educators from around the country to share and collaborate on ways to improve learning for rural students. I had the pleasure of attending a pre-conference event, and I came away more committed than ever to work with communities, P12 educators, postsecondary institutions and others to break down learning barriers for our rural students. ([read more](#))

PTA Connected Grants

PTA Connected is National PTA's new initiative to connect PTA members to the best resources in digital safety, literacy, wellness, access and equity. Our goal is to help local PTAs facilitate conversations between parents and children about how families can grow together in the digital world.

in the face of adversity. They are better able to overcome intellectual and personal challenges they may face in life.

We Need to Be Partners in Our Children's Learning

Students need to see that their families are involved and invested in their educational well-being in positive ways. This includes attending meetings, conferences, after-school activities, and supporting homework and outside enrichment opportunities. It also means engaging directly with your child about whether their social, emotional, and academic needs are being met.

Be relentless in challenging policies that stifle personal growth and well-being. Collaborate with teachers, administrative staff, and district leaders to ensure that programs and policies are tailored to individual social and emotional needs. Demand that school leaders communicate clearly and often.

We Need a Whole Community Approach

Extend your efforts beyond the school walls and into the community.

Families, local businesses, and community organizations all have a role to play in educating our children. Programs such as mentoring, career shadowing and internship opportunities, and after-school tutoring services are essential to a complete education.

We Need Schools to Integrate Social, Emotional, and Academic Growth into the School Culture and Climate Social and emotional development takes place all day, not during a 30-minute lesson. Encourage leaders in your school to shift resources that are being used inefficiently to instead support a whole student approach to learning.

We Need to Support Adults Who Support Our Children

The teachers and staff who educate our children are essential, and they need our support. Educators need ongoing professional development and mental health support to be as effective as they can be. Parents and families should have access to learning opportunities as well.

Make Your Voice Heard!

Sign the National Commission's Family Call to Action to urge schools to support students' comprehensive development, then share the sign-on message with families in your community.

Together, we can give future generations of students a solid foundation and the opportunity to

Can you help us spread the word by sharing these grant opportunities to your local PTAs?

1. PTA Connected - Digital Families Community Events, sponsored by Facebook, will provide 200 grants of \$1,000 each. PTA units in all 54 state congresses will be selected to host a workshop designed to provide families with best practices in digital safety and literacy.

2. PTA Connected - Smart Talk Conversation, sponsored by LifeLock, will award \$1,000 to 25 PTAs across the country to host an event in celebration of Safer Internet Day, during the week of Feb. 5, 2019. At this event, PTA leaders will invite local experts to discuss digital safety concerns of the community and introduce parents to The Smart Talk as a tool to facilitate ongoing conversations with their family.

National PTA will award over 400 grants, and \$400,000, through PTA Connected! Winning PTAs not only receive financial support, they also receive access to PTA's expertly designed programs, and full technical support for their event. This grant cycle, we are also excited to add a promise - that every state congress will have a winning PTA.

Don't let your PTA's miss out - encourage them to apply for a PTA Connected grant today!

Honorary Life Recognition

Did you know your PTA/PTSA may present a Kentucky PTA Honorary "Life" Recognition to a worthy person in the school, community or state? Every PTA/PTSA has many deserving members among its volunteers, teachers and staff. The honoree need not be a member of a PTA/PTSA nor a person well known beyond their own area of service. Example: PTA/PTSA member, past or present; teacher; principal; cafeteria worker; mayor; police officer; school board member; legislator. There is no better way to honor these special people who contribute so much to our children and youth than in presenting them with Kentucky PTA Honorary "Life" Recognition. Cost is \$25, which helps fund our Kentucky PTA Scholarship Fund. Plus an Honorary "Life" Recognition pin (\$20) that you can present to the person you are honoring.

Applications are in your Leaders' Notebook or online at kypta.org. Two weeks notice, or more, is needed before your event. Note: "Life" Recognitions are honorary. Recipients must join the PTA/PTSA each year to be a voting member.

"We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider these people my heroes." - Fred Rogers

PTA Store

practice vital skills every day to develop the self-confidence, compassion, and critical thinking needed to become the model citizens and leaders that they desire to be.

Makeba Giles is the mother of four children who attend public schools and a founding writer of FaithHealthHome.com , an online magazine featuring health, family, and current events for the positive lifestyle. She is a member of the Parent Advisory Panel for the National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development.

How do you let the world know you're part of the PTA? ShopPTA.com sells official PTA and PTSA logo merchandise, apparel, membership items, awards, gifts and more. All products are offered through each of the participating State PTA organizations. Check out ShopPTA.com today!



KY PTA Executive Board

President

Heather Wampler
hkwampler@gmail.com

President Elect

Kathy Smiley
kthysmiley@yahoo.com

VP Leadership & Outreach

Danielle Ashely
daniellekashley@yahoo.com

VP Organizational Services

Eddie Squires
esquires@seniorhelpers.com

VP Programs

Vicki Manning
vicmanning67@gmail.com

VP Membership

Ushanda Starks
ushanda01@yahoo.com

VP Communications

Adam Kesler
arkesler24@gmail.com

Secretary

Jessie Manco
bashamjessie@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Liz Hill
Lizzhill53@gmail.com

Legislative Commissioner

Cherie Dimar
cbcdimar3@aol.com

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PTA[®]
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visit our [website](#)
find us on [Facebook](#)
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148 Consumer Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601
kypta.bulletin@gmail.com

[15th District PTA](#)
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