

Together Everyone Achieves More

# Kentucky PTA Bulletin



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

September/October 2015

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## PTA Websites

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## Leadership Messages

### Kentucky PTA President Message Cherie Dimar

If experience has taught me anything, it is that we can only achieve our goals through collaboration. Decades of research highlight the importance of the partnership between parents and educators to ensure that our children are academically successful. This partnership increases the chances that every child has equal access to a high quality education and the opportunity to have a safe, healthy childhood. When parents and educators work as partners, many things can be accomplished that could not be done otherwise. Children and our schools not only benefit, but also our communities. As the school year begins, it is important that we nurture the parent and educator partnership.



### 2015 Convention Wrap up

Kentucky PTA 's 96th Annual Convention 2015 was held on July 10 - 11 at the Saber & Quill at Fort Knox, KY. PTA leaders from across the state attended leadership development workshops and had the opportunity to meet and network with other leaders. Leaders also were able to visit with a variety of vendors. We were happy to welcome National PTA's Advocacy Chair, Shannon Sevier to our convention.

At the convention Dr. Terry Holliday was

- [National](#)

recognized with the Paul Mason Advocate of Children Award in recognition of his service for the children of Kentucky. Dr. Holliday served as Kentucky's Commissioner of Education from 2009-2015.

We wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Save the Date:  
Kentucky PTA Convention  
July 15 & 16, 2016 - Louisville, KY



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### **National PTA President Message**

#### **Laura Bay**

Back-to-school is a stressful time. There are new people to meet, and there is pressure to fit in. There is new material to learn, and it seems to get more challenging every year. Then there are the stakes, which couldn't be higher. And I'm just talking about the parents. The elephant in the room for many parents is that the expectations for our children are different than when we were in school. Students are now focusing more on critical thinking, analyzing, and problem solving, and some parents have grown unsure about how-and whether-they can help their children in this new environment. The answer for parents is clear-yes, we can.

[Read more...](#)



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### **Interim Kentucky Commissioner of Education Message**

#### **Kevin C. Brown**

With the start of a new school year comes the first pages of a new chapter in the lives of 50,000 Kentuckians. It is a time for them to begin laying the foundation for a lifetime of exploration, learning and achievement.

Those 50,000 Kentuckians are the new kindergartners who enter the Commonwealth's schools each year. While each of those children has the opportunity to achieve great things in their school careers, the truth is that about half of them won't be fully prepared to succeed.

Every child entering kindergarten in Kentucky is screened for several developmental milestones, such as can they sort and classify objects, can they count up to 30, do they know their full name and do they show curiosity about the world around them. This assessment-known as the Kindergarten Screener-determines whether a child is what we commonly refer to as "school ready." School readiness means a child is ready to engage in and benefit from early learning experiences that best promote the child's success. Knowing whether children are ready to learn when they enter school helps educators better serve students and also helps parents gauge their child's strengths and weaknesses. [Read more..](#)



## **Data can help parents make sure their child stays on track** **By Kelly Foster**

October is an important month in Kentucky education. It presents an opportunity for all of us to take a look at how our public schools, districts and students are performing.

This month, the Kentucky Department of Education is releasing the results from state testing in the 2014-15 school year, which are used to determine how schools and districts are progressing toward various goals such as proficiency, closing the achievement gap, student growth, high school graduation and college and career readiness. As part of the Unbridled Learning Accountability System, schools and districts also receive an overall determination on how well they are doing.



At many schools across the state, there will be reason to celebrate. At others the mood will be much more subdued. But for all, the numbers provide a roadmap of sorts for how they can continue to improve. [Read more..](#)

## **Leadership Information and Resources**

### **Upcoming Events**

- 10/15 - Required membership dues payment
- 11/15 - File 990 with the IRS
- 11/6 - Speaking Up For Children Advocacy Training

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### **Leaders' Notebook**

The Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook is available on the [KY PTA website](#).

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### **Deadline Extended**

Good news! The *new deadline* for School of Excellence (SOE) enrollment for 2016-2018 is **10/15/15**. To enroll go to <http://www.pta.org/programs/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3584>.

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### **New Officer and Chairmen Information Form**

It is important that KY PTA has the contact information for the new officers of your PTAs so we are able to send relevant information throughout the school year. Download the New Officer and Chairmen Information form [here](#).

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### **Back to School Kit**

We are excited to announce that the [2015-2016 National PTA Official Back to School Kit](#) is completely digital. It includes interactive resources to help your local PTAs kick-start a winning school year. The kit contains the same advice and quick-reference-guides that you have come to expect, that will help PTAs deepen their impact and venture into new territory.

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### **E-Learning with National PTA - Free Learning Opportunity**

Learn best practices to fire up your PTA!

- Interactive and Engaging Content
- Downloadable Tools and Resources
- Guided Activities and Assessment

- Course Completion Certificates

### **PTA Essentials**

PTA Basics

Effective Advocacy for Your Child

National Standards for Family School Partnerships

### **PTA Nuts & Bolts Series**

Board Basics (Eng & Sp)

Local Unit President (Eng & Sp)

Local Unit Secretary

Local Unit Treasurer

Membership Basics

### **Leadership Enhancement**

Creating and Delivering a Speech

Cultural Competency

Ethical Leadership

Parliamentary Procedure

Planning Your PTA Year

Preventing Theft in Your PTA

Running a Successful Program

Writing and Proposing PTA Resolution

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### **Executive Committee**

- President - Cherie Dimar at [cbcdimar3@aol.com](mailto:cbcdimar3@aol.com)
- President Elect - Bekki Livingston at [rjslivingston@hotmail.com](mailto:rjslivingston@hotmail.com)
- VP Leadership and Outreach - Mark Hartman at [markohartman@frontier.com](mailto:markohartman@frontier.com)
- VP Organization Services - Maria Sorolis at [mns3230@gmail.com](mailto:mns3230@gmail.com)
- VP Programs - Leeann Myers at [Leamyers1@aol.com](mailto:Leamyers1@aol.com)
- VP Communications - Liza Holland at [liza@lizaholland.com](mailto:liza@lizaholland.com)
- VP Membership - Kathy Smiley at [kthysmiley@yahoo.com](mailto:kthysmiley@yahoo.com)
- Secretary - Heather McGovern at [hmcgovern01@bellarmine.edu](mailto:hmcgovern01@bellarmine.edu)
- Treasurer - Brian Wampler at [bwampler68@gmail.com](mailto:bwampler68@gmail.com)
- Legislative Commissioner - Sharon Whitworth at [sharon.whitworth@jefferson.kyschools.us](mailto:sharon.whitworth@jefferson.kyschools.us)
- Eddie Squires - Immediate Past President at [esquires@seniorhelpers.com](mailto:esquires@seniorhelpers.com)

## **Membership**

### **Build on your Momentum! (Membership Retention)**

- Membership renewal is important to ensure the vitality of every association. PTA is no exception.
- Membership recruitment introduces members to member benefits, yet membership renewal helps us to determine how well we meet the needs of our members by providing relevant resources.

- Set up a table at open house to display PTA materials and discuss the benefits of belonging to PTA/PTSA.
- A returning member who sees the value and impact of PTA can be your best asset for recruiting new members.
- Members will return each year if they are kept informed about the organization and feel part of a useful community.
- Set a membership renewal goal as part of your membership marketing goal.
- In order to provide successful programs and to have a healthy and strong PTA; it is important to gather feedback from your school community not only from members but also non-members.

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### Great Ideas from the Field

At Campbell Elementary their PTA decided to use apples and an apple tree as their visual for the 2015-16 Membership Drive. As students and staff members joined the PTA, an apple with their name on it was placed on an apple tree. They took a quote from the book *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein and tweaked it to fit their needs. "Once there was a PTA who loved their little Rams...very much." They use famous children's literature books as the theme for their monthly displays in the main hallway. They have 128 memberships on their apple tree. The kids are very excited to find their apple and know their families are helping to make CES a great place to learn and grow!




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### National PTA Membership Kit

Check out national PTA's quick reference guide which contains information about the value of PTA, membership planning for recruitment and retention. [Click here](#) to see all the great resources available.

### Membership Forms

Dues should be sent in to KY PTA by the 15th of each month. You can use the form on page 10 [Here](#)

## Programs & Awards

### Reflections

The National PTA Reflections Program theme for 2015-2016 is Let Your Imagination Fly! Students should be busy completing their submissions this fall. For more information about the program, visit the [KY PTA website](#). If you have questions, contact Jessica Merriman at [reflectionskypa@gmail.com](mailto:reflectionskypa@gmail.com).

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### The Smart Talk

National PTA-in collaboration with LifeLock-has announced [The Smart Talk](#), a new interactive online tool that lets parent-child duos set ground rules together about smart digital habits. For more info, please visit [TheSmartTalk.org](http://TheSmartTalk.org) and "Like" [#TheSmartTalk on Facebook](#)

## Advocacy

### Kentucky PTA Advocacy Workshop

Make sure to attend the Speaking Up For Children advocacy training for PTA Members on Friday November 6, 2015 from 9:30 a.m-5:00 [p.m.at](#) the Kentucky PTA Office in Frankfort. Download the registration form [here](#).

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### Resolutions Passed at National PTA Convention

- [Response to Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Affecting Students](#)
- [Restraint and Seclusion](#)
- [Preventing Solicitation of Adult Products to Minors](#)

## Financial

PTAs must file their 990s with the IRS by November 15. Get more information [here](#). If you have financial question, please contact your district president/contact or the Kentucky PTA Treasurer at [bwampler68@gmail.com](mailto:bwampler68@gmail.com).

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**Kentucky PTA** | 148 Consumer Lane | Frankfort, KY 40601  
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### Stay Connected

