January 2018 Bulletin of the Kentucky PTA

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Save the Date!
It's the annual Kentucky PTA Convention
July 20-21, 2018
Seneca High School
Louisville, KY

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

A Message from Kentucky PTA President

The 2000 men and women who met in Washington D.C. on February 17, 1897 (to found what is now the National PTA) shared two concerns: the conditions under which children were living and the future on the nation. These two basic beliefs - that children are the future and that everyone needs to care about children - have guided PTA programs, projects and advocacy efforts for the last 120 years. We are united by a common concern, which is to improve the lives of all children within and beyond our own communities. Take time to celebrate what our founders did and what your PTA has done to help better the lives of children and youth. [read more]

Cherie Dimar

5 Wellness Resolutions

Did you know that nearly 80% of New Year's resolutions are forgotten come February? Right now, in my own family, we are reflecting on the goals we set in 2017 and thinking about where we'd like to see ourselves in 2018.

Click here to read five healthy living resolutions for your family to try in the new year.

Jim Accomando
are invited to attend. Leadership training is legitimate PTA expenses so include this in your budget.

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

Rally for Education
The Kentucky PTA is holding a Rally for Education and the community is invited to join us, Tuesday, February 13, 7:00 pm, at Westport Middle School, 8100 Westport Road, Louisville, KY 40222.

Take your Family to School Week

National PTA's Take Your Family to School Week is February 11-17 this year, and your PTA can be instrumental in encouraging the connection between school and families. Visit the National PTA website for ideas on events about Health and Safety, Literacy and Digital Learning, plus a detailed tool kit to use in planning your event.

If you come up with your own great idea, be sure to share with PTA so it can be shared with others.

Help create excitement about school by ensuring all family members feel a part of the learning community. These events are also great ways to grow your volunteer base!

Kentucky PTA Position on Proposed Pension Plan

National PTA and Microsoft have partnered to offer the 2018 National PTA STEM + Families Tech Grants to support events to bring families and students together to learn exciting tech skills focused on coding and

Pushing Forward

January is a time of new beginnings and taking stock. That's why I want to use my column this month to share my thoughts on where we stand in K-12 education in Kentucky.

During the past year, we have set the stage for real improvement in public education and decreasing the achievement gap by half by 2030. In tandem with Senate Bill 1 (2017) and the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, we have restructured our accountability system to push schools to move beyond testing as the primary measure of their success. The new system also encourages schools and districts to focus on opportunity and access for all children, as well as meeting the needs of the whole child. [read more]
The project will award $1,000 to 35 local middle school PTSAs to host events. The PTA will provide all training and support necessary to host a successful program. Deadline to apply is February 9, 2018. Information is available at this link. Apply today!

**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 20 - 21, 2018**
Kentucky PTA Convention, Louisville, KY

Kentucky PTA is non-partisan and does not endorse a candidate but it does support policies that further our mission of helping every child reach their potential.

**Kentucky PTA Legislative Priorities**

Following is a list of legislative priorities for the Kentucky PTA in 2018:

1. Support teacher retirement pension funding.
2. Support funding for public education.
   - maintaining or increasing funding for adequate K-12 public school education;
   - fully funding transportation;
   - fully funding all day Kindergarten;
   - increasing funding for early childhood programs; and
   - fully funding Family/Youth Resource Service Centers.
3. Oppose any reduction in authority and/or dismantling of school-based decision-making councils.

**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.
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.*