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 20, 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
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).

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.

Treasury 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.

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.
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!

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**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.

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"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

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**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.

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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!

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15th District PTA
16th District PTA