A Message from Kentucky PTA President

October To Do’s for President’s

October is a busy month with many deadlines, special observances, and fall festivals. One important deadline is all Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs)/Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSAs) must send in a membership payment to the Kentucky PTA by October 15 in order to remain in good standing. Remember that membership is year-round and doesn’t end after orientation. I challenge you to maintain last year’s membership total and then try to increase it! Parent-Teacher Conference Days are generally in October. This is your chance to see how things are going with your child and to partner with teachers on improving your child's performance.

Research shows that the arts contribute to creative thinking, emotional resilience, problem solving, and other important twenty-first-century skills. For more than 51 years, the National PTA Reflections Program has given students the opportunity to express themselves creatively and be recognized for it. Make sure you check out your District Leadership or contact the office for more information.

Kentucky PTA will hold its annual Grassroots Advocacy Training on Friday, November 8. If you are interested in learning more about advocacy, make sure to attend the Speaking Up for Children Advocacy Training at the Kentucky PTA Office in Frankfort. Download the registration form from our website.

Form 990 must be filed with the IRS by November 15. You should have been receiving emails from FILE990.org about this. It is something that Kentucky PTA has paid for each of our local units to file a 990EZ with, just eight simple questions and you are all done.

Thank you for all that you do for the children and youth of Kentucky.

Sincerely,

Heather Wampler

Advocacy

Kentucky PTA Advocacy Training

If you are interested in learning how to become a more effective advocate, then you are invited to attend our annual Kentucky PTA Advocacy Training on November 8th at the KY PTA Office in Frankfort, KY. You will learn how to advocate anywhere from your child's classroom to Capitol Hill. We will also visit our state capitol.

Please fill out this form and email to kentuckypta@bellsouth.net
If you want to pay online please do so here: https://kypta-00032502.memberhub.store/

And email kentuckypta@bellsouth.net upon completion to let them know.

We hope to see you there!

Here are some wonderful resources about vaping/e-cigarettes and Child Abuse:

- E-cigarette resources that were created by Kentucky or collaborated on please see the following list below.

- E-Cigarette Powerpoints for Youth and Parents
- I Just Didn’t Know Tv and Radio PSA
- Conversation Guide for Parents - In addition, we will continue to raise awareness about the dangers of e-cigarettes through The Vape Talk - an awareness campaign encouraging parents to talk to their kids about vaping before it's too late. I encourage you to watch and share the videos below, and share these new resources with your peers, partners and communities.
Why All Parents Should Talk With Their Kids About Social Identity

A majority of parents rarely, if ever, discuss race/ethnicity, gender, class or other categories of social identity with their kids, according to a new, nationally representative survey of more than 6,000 parents conducted by Sesame Workshop and NORC at the University of Chicago. The researchers behind Sesame Street say the fact that so many families aren’t talking about these issues is a problem because children are hard-wired to notice differences at a young age - and they’re asking questions.

“Why is this person darker than me? ‘Why is this person wearing that hat on their head?’ ‘These are just some of the social identity questions parents might hear, says Tanya Haider, executive vice president for strategy, research and ventures at Sesame Workshop. ‘We sometimes are scared to talk about these things. If the adults stiffen up and say, ‘Oh, you shouldn’t say that loudly,’ that’s sending [children] a cue that there’s something wrong.’

And there’s nothing wrong, Haider says, with a child’s natural curiosity. What’s risky is when kids are left alone to make sense of the differences they see, with little more than stereotypes, television and guesswork to guide them.

For the past year, NPR and Sesame Workshop have collaborated on a podcast for parents - part of NPR’s Life Kit project. Together, they’ve covered all sorts of subjects, from how to raise kind kids and navigate divorce to how to talk with children about death. Earlier this year, NPR and Sesame Workshop devoted an entire episode to the importance of talking about race and other social categories with kids and provided parents with some helpful strategies.

These new survey results raise an important question: Why are so many parents not talking about these big social categories with their kids?

The answer’s complicated. The vast majority of parents surveyed say they do feel comfortable talking about social identity. Many just don’t do it.

That doesn’t surprise Beverly Daniel Tatum, a psychologist and author of the classic, Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together In The Cafeteria. “My guess is, some parents - certain majority parents - might think, ‘What’s to talk about? You know? Maybe there’s this sense of, it doesn’t really need to be talked about.’

And the survey data back that guess. Parents of color are much more likely than white parents to report that race/ethnicity not only shapes their child’s identity but also, according to the report, ‘Black (64%), Asian (64%)’, and Hispanic (51%)

PTA Takes Action for Kids

Join us March 10-12 for the 2020 National PTA Legislative Conference (LegCon) to network with fellow PTA advocates, meet with policymakers, hear PTA advocacy success stories and learn how to shape public policy on Capitol Hill and at home. LegCon will be held just steps away from Washington, DC. You’ll be joined by your fellow PTA members and other passionate advocates who will share advanced advocacy skills and tactics to help you meet your policy goals.

Don’t miss the chance to expand your knowledge of the ins and outs of federal law, grow your advocacy skills, explore National PTA’s legislative priorities for the new 116th Congress, and meet with your federal representatives on Capitol Hill.

www.pta.org/home/events/National_PTA_Legislative_Conference for more information or to register for the conference (Mid-November)

Family Engagement

There is a NEW E-Learning Course dealing with a different style of Family Engagement:

Parents know that they play an important role in their child’s success. But traditional family engagement practices don’t always meet the needs of each and every family, nor treat them as equal partners in ensuring their child’s success.

The solution? Transformative Family Engagement.

Transformative family engagement is a shared effort of families, schools and community leaders to advance programs, practices and policies that empower every parent to make their child’s potential a reality.

Transformative Family Engagement: Engaging and empowering families is at the heart of PTA’s mission. But how do you do it? Take this course to identify practical ways your PTA and school can engage families in more meaningful ways (~45 minutes).

What is Transformative Family Engagement?: featuring National PTA Family Engagement Fellow Tracie Potts (~5 minutes).

The Center for Family Engagement: Family engagement should transform the lives of every child in America. That’s why we are investing in our mission with the Center for Family Engagement.

Source and more information: www.pta.org/center-for-family-engagement

Membership

Listening to Your Community

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

Your PTA/PTSA will increase in membership if every aspect of your PTA/PTSA - 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 and every business leader found a reason to get involved in community decision-making.
parents are more likely than White parents (41%) to say that race and ethnicity shape how other people treat their child a lot or some."

No wonder families of color are more likely to talk with their kids about race/ethnicity than are white families. Sixty-one percent of black parents, 56 percent of Asian parents and 46 percent of Hispanic parents say their families discuss race/ethnicity often or sometimes. Just a quarter of white parents say they talk about it with any frequency. The survey results for how families discuss other categories were not broken down this way.

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School Report Card Designed to Drive Change Through Knowledge

In last month’s column about Kentucky’s new 5-star accountability system, I noted that the release of test scores and school accountability data does not represent the end of our collective work to ensure all children are learning at high levels. Instead, the release of accountability data is an opportunity to engage in data-informed dialogue with schools and school staff about the strengths and areas for growth for both schools and students.

PTA/PTSA!

Questions to Consider

Do your Board and membership reflect the diversity of families at your school (including race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, language preferences and cultural norms)?

How do families and staff think PTA/PTSA should support student success and well-being, or school improvements?

What limits families and school staff from supporting or volunteering with PTA/PTSA?

Ways to Learn More

On GREATSCHOOLS.org or your school district website, you can find the following information about your school:

- Racial/ethnic make-up
- Percentage of families receiving free/reduced-price lunch
- Percentage of English language learners
- Survey
- Listening sessions
- Invite feedback

When your PTA/PTSA has shifted gears or improved something because you listened, share that! It reinforces the message that feedback is important and new ideas are welcome. For example:

- PTA/PTSA heard from our members … and in response we will …
- Thanks to your suggestions … we will …
- Our survey results showed … and as a result we are …

If you want more information on how to grow your membership go to www.pta.org/local pta leader kit/Membership. We have also attached a sample of an Membership Survey.

Source: www.pta.org
With the recent release of testing and accountability data based on student performance during the 2018-2019 school year, I want to highlight a few areas to pay attention to on the Kentucky School Report Card and talk briefly about why this data matters.

Read More

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Announcing National PTA's New Podcast for Parents

It's #PTABackToSchool Week, our official kickoff for the exciting school year ahead! As part of our celebrations, we are thrilled to introduce Notes from the Backpack: A PTA Podcast for busy parents (like you!) who have a lot to keep up with at home and throughout the school year.

Just search for 'Notes from the Backpack' on your favorite podcast app. Don't forget to leave us a review if you love it! Listen now!

Today is all about giving you, our PTA Parents, everything you need to help your child succeed! Below are a few more highlights just for you-check out our special back-to-school webpage for parents and don't forget to use #PTABackToSchool in all of your posts this week.

PTA Store

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!

"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