



everychild.one voice.

# ONE VOICE

*Fall 2008*

## **PTA Take Your Family to School Week Awards**

The PTA is offering awards of \$1,897 to local PTAs with plans to celebrate PTA Take Your Family to School Week 2009.

The week, February 8–14, is a special opportunity for schools to open their doors to all families and give parents a unique perspective on students' school days, give educators openings to build positive partnerships with families, and give kids fun ways to share their school experiences.

Promoting family involvement in children's education has been at the heart of PTA since its founding in February 1897. Take Your Family to School Week and the \$1,897 Awards honor and continue that legacy.

Tell us your plans to celebrate PTA Take Your Family to School Week 2009 and your unit could win \$1,897 to support its work.

The awards are funded by AXA Foundation, Proud National Sponsor of PTA.

For more information, go to:

[http://www.pta.org/take\\_your\\_family\\_to\\_school\\_awards.asp](http://www.pta.org/take_your_family_to_school_awards.asp)

## **PTA Mission**

PTA is...

- ❖ A powerful voice for all children
- ❖ A relevant resource for families and communities
- ❖ A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child

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Dues must be sent to the Iowa PTA office by the end of each month for any new memberships sold during that month. Include a Dues Remittal Form and Membership Roster along with payment. Membership forms may be found on the Iowa PTA website at <http://www.iowapta.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=memberships.committee>

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**Get all your PTA instructions and forms at**  
[www.iowapta.org](http://www.iowapta.org)

## **INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE**

- **A message from National PTA**
- **Homework help**
- **Bullying issues**
- **Computer safety**
- **PTA programs**
- **Statistics on U.S. Schools**
- **Iowa PTA Scholarship info**

**"What feeling is so nice as a child's hand in yours?"**

*- Marjorie Holmes*

## A Message from the National PTA President . . .

### Get Ready (for Back-to-School)

You could say that back-to-school time is the “busy season” for parents (but really, it’s *always* busy season for parents, isn’t it?). With the beginning of the school year comes all sorts of preparation. For parents, it’s getting their kids ready to return to the classroom. For PTA leaders, it’s ensuring that students will be able to learn and families able to participate in the life of the school.

While establishing the programs and policies that will define your coming school year, remember that the underlying intention of all PTA work is to get families, schools, and communities to work together. The *National Standards for Family-School Partnerships* can be your guide as you work with the entire school community in support of student achievement.

This fall will also bring some great PTA programs and events—many of which you can start preparing for now. PTA Start the Art Week will be celebrated again the first full week of October, and followed shortly by the National Student/Parent Mock Election at the end of October and PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month in November. You can learn more about all these wonderful initiatives on [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org), which itself will be an exciting new site just in time for back-to-school this year.

Of course the best way to prepare for the school year is to take advantage of all the resources in the *2008 PTA Back-to-School Kit*. The *PTA Quick-Reference Guides* have been updated, and the *Program and Advocacy Resource Guide* and *Membership Marketing Templates and Tools* CD-ROMs are packed with calendars, handouts, fliers, and more.

PTA is prepared to give you all the support you need for the 2008–2009 school year, and with nearly 50 million students expected to enroll in U.S. public schools—a record-setting number—we’ll need all the help from parents, schools, and communities that we can get. Ready or not, here they come!

Jan Harp Domene  
PTA National President

### *Prepárese (para el regreso a la escuela)*

Usted podría decir que la temporada del regreso a la escuela es la “estación muy ocupada” (pero, de verdad, *es siempre* una estación muy ocupada para los padres. ¿No es así?). Con el inicio del año escolar llegan todo tipo de preparaciones. Para los padres es, el hacer que sus hijos estén listos para regresar al salón de clases. Para los líderes de PTA el trabajo es asegurarse de que los estudiantes podrán estudiar y las familias estén dispuestas a participar en la vida escolar.

Mientras se establecen programas y políticas que definirán el año escolar que empieza, recuerde que la causa de todo el trabajo de PTA es hacer que las familias, las escuelas y las comunidades, trabajen unidas. *La National Standards for Family-School Partnerships* puede ser su guía mientras trabaja con toda la comunidad de su escuela en el apoyo del éxito del estudiante.

En esta temporada también traeremos grandes programas y eventos en PTA –muchos de los cuales pueden empezar a prepararse desde ahora. PTA Start the Art Week se celebrará también este año en la primera semana de octubre y seguirá el National Student/Parent Mock Election en la parte final de octubre y luego el PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month en noviembre. Usted puede saber más de estas maravillosas iniciativas en el [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) que por sí misma actuará como el nuevo sitio justo al inicio del regreso a la escuela de este año.

Por supuesto, le mejor forma de prepararse para el año escolar es tomar ventaja de los recursos del *2008 Back-to-School Kit de PTA*. El *PTA Quick-Reference Guides* ha sido actualizado y el *Program and Advocacy Resource Guide* y *Membresía Marketing Templates and Toll* CD-Roms han sido empacados junto con calendarios, panfletos, volantes y más.

PTA está preparado para dar a Usted todo el apoyo que necesita para el año escolar 2008-2009, y con cerca de 50 millones de estudiantes que, se espera, se inscriban en las escuelas públicas de los Estados Unidos –un número récord- necesitamos toda la ayuda posible de padres, escuelas y comunidades. ¡Listos o no, aquí vienen!

Jan Harp Domene  
Presidente Nacional de PTA



It is critical that all PTA members demonstrate their role as child advocates by becoming educated about candidates for public office and their positions on legislative issues that are important to children and public schools. By exercising our democratic right to vote, we are able to give children a voice. This is especially critical in the upcoming elections on November 4, 2008.

In the 2008 federal elections, voters will determine our president, our vice president, all 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives, and 35 U.S. senators. In state elections, voters will elect 11 governors, more than 6,500 state house and senate members, and countless mayors, regents, city council members, boards of supervisors, county officials and school board trustees.

## **Your vote can make a difference for our children and communities!**

PTA feels a candidate who supports public education should support providing students with the tools and guidance they need to achieve academic success, and should also have a clear position on a wide range of children's issues.

Elected officials at every level have some say in how schools are run and who is held responsible for student achievement. Strong education candidates understand the role their offices play in public education and should be able to articulate what they do to improve school quality.

Most candidates for office support improvements to ensure quality public education, but their proposals for how to pay for public education vary widely. A strong education candidate should have developed a viable plan for school funding.

Some key PTA issues you may wish to ask candidates:

- ✓ What is your position on bilingual education?
- ✓ What is your stance on using public funds to provide vouchers for students to attend private or religious schools?
- ✓ What is your position on increasing funding to promote school construction and renovation, and to promote healthy schools?
- ✓ What are your plans for increasing parent involvement in education?

*PTA, a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization, does not endorse the election or defeat of any candidate or party.*

### *A little reminder....*

It was not until 1920 that women were granted the right to go to the polls and vote. The women were innocent and defenseless, but they were jailed nonetheless for picketing the White House, carrying signs asking for the vote. And by the end of the night, they were barely alive. Forty prison guards wielding clubs and their warden's blessing went on a rampage against the 33 women wrongly convicted of 'obstructing sidewalk traffic.'

Among the travesties the women endured were being beat, then having their hands chained to the cell bars and left bleeding for the night, having their head smashed against the iron beds, given only water and slop infested with worms for weeks, and in one case, being forced fed by a tube forced down her throat and liquid poured in until she vomited.

## WHY WOMEN SHOULD VOTE



So, refresh my memory. Some women won't vote this year because - why, exactly? We have carpool duties? We have to get to work? Our vote doesn't matter? It's raining?

*We need to get out and vote and use this right that was fought so hard for by these very courageous women. Whether you vote democratic, republican or independent party -*  
**REMEMBER TO VOTE.**

## ***Membership Mutterings...***

Can you believe it, the school year has started, and you have had your first PTA meeting, met all the new members and have gotten their membership information sent to the State PTA office. Yes, these are the joys that come with belonging to one of the nation's largest and most involved organizations that put their passion into taking care of and being advocates for the children of our nation.

I hope that you are enjoying this time of new and exciting membership involvement to this organization. There is so much the National PTA does for our children with the help of your membership dollars, things that most of us have no idea. To read more about what the PTA has done and continues to do go to the National PTA website, [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) and this will offer you many ideas to share with those that ask "why PTA" and they will be amazed at all that has been accomplished because so many have said yes to PTA.

So keep working on your membership and make sure that you send in the information to State PTA office so that your unit can qualify for some of the awards that are offered to honor your members' hard work.

So keep Racing 4----- your students and memberships! If anyone has questions please contact the State office by email at [www.iapta.org](http://www.iapta.org) - there are people there that care about you and your concerns - or email me at [famleonard3@ImOnMail.com](mailto:famleonard3@ImOnMail.com) and I will try to help.

Thanks for all you do for your children!

- Claire Leonard, Membership V.P.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TREASURER**

From the Iowa PTA Treasurer...

The treasurer is the authorized keeper, elected by the members, of the financial records of the PTA organization. It is the treasurer who ensures that the unit finances are properly handled. This is a critical job, since proper handling of the unit's money will keep the unit in good standing, as well as maintain its credibility with the school and the public.

Duties of the treasurer include:

- Keep up-to-date on nonprofit financial issues by reading relevant materials and pursuing appropriate training.

- Assist in developing the budget.

- Manage the funds of the unit – keep an accurate and detailed account, in the treasurer's permanent book, of all monies received and paid out.

- Submit a report at regular meetings of the association. The report should include the total balance on hand at the beginning of the month covered by the report, the separate amounts received and credited to the general fund, the state and national portions of dues, other receipts, itemized disbursements, the balance on hand in each fund, and the total balance on hand at the end of the month. Be prepared to answer all questions regarding your report at the meeting.

- Receive all monies for all accounts – local, state, and national per capita dues, Founders Day gifts, etc.

- Receipts should always be issued for amounts of cash received.

- Deposit all monies in a bank approved by the executive committee/board of the association in the name of "(NAME OF YOUR SCHOOL) " Parent Teacher Association." Night deposits and 24-hour banking can and should be used as needed.

- Liz Mink, IPTA Secretary/Treasurer

## ***A Message from the IPTA Bylaws Chair...***

Bylaws, bylaws, bylaws, How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.

1. They aren't as difficult as they may sound.
2. The models are easy to use.
3. The models can be attained several ways- website, office or me.
4. Most questions are easily answered or answers found.
5. If you don't know if your unit's bylaws are due, contact the office or me to find out.

Lets get all the Iowa PTA units bylaws up to date this school year!

For more info: [http://www.iowapta.org/en/leadership/resources\\_for\\_officers.cfm](http://www.iowapta.org/en/leadership/resources_for_officers.cfm)  
(Scroll down to bylaws information)

Heidie Bates  
Iowa PTA Bylaws Chair

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## **Council News**

### **Cedar Rapids PTA Council**

*A heart-felt message from the Cedar Rapids PTA Council President...*

I had the perfect set up. I was following in the shoes of a great dual term president. Tammy Koolbeck led the Cedar Rapids City PTA with compassion, values and vision. We finally had all of our committee chairs filled with people who actually wanted to accomplish things. In May, I stepped in as president of this well run machine with a great team, big ideas and the thought of cruising through the 2008-2009 school year. Then the surge of the century hit Cedar Rapids in early June, the water was unimaginable, it was too much to fathom, people were fleeing their homes, their livelihoods, and their lives to the devastating waters that overtook our community. It was a surreal experience and every moment there was something new someplace improbable that the water had gone. On the very same day that the waters rose, it was as if skies had no other choice to but to break loose too. Seven and half inches of tears from I suppose heaven fell. Which in retrospect was a good thing because then no one could cry - no one could release that emotion. The shock, the anger, the worry was great, too deep, too disconcerting. Our friends, our families, our neighbors where were they? Were they safe? Had they gotten out? Oh, what about all the businesses downtown, the courthouse, the sheriff's building, the churches, no, not the community theatres, the Educational Service Center, Taylor Elementary school? One just kept asking how could it be, how could it be? Parts of town were shut off from other parts, completely surrounded by water. All that made sense was shock and awe at the massive amounts of water that just kept coming.

Time passed, and it was time to clean up, to survey the damage, to support businesses, friends, neighbors, strangers put the pieces of their lives back together. It was time to cry and cry we did but with a passion, a passion to rebuild this city, to rise above the waters; to expand our understanding of neighbor, of community, of city. Many hands have made that possible, people from all over the country showed up with food, supplies, and people. Churches welcomed other churches, people worshipped together, prayed for our futures and hoped against hope that all could be rebuilt.

The rebuilding continues... Cedar Rapids City PTA became involved in a collaborative effort that brought many entities together to provide school supplies for the many displaced school children. This event was an awesome sight to behold, many hands truly makes light work.

Our dreams and goals for 2008-09 have not ended instead we are stronger for the time we have spent together, supporting, helping and remaining steadfast in rebuilding our community. I am proud of my leadership team and proud to be a part of the Greater Cedar Rapids Area. Thanks to all from across the state and country who continue to support growth for Cedar Rapids and the surrounding areas.

Goals for 2008-2009 for Cedar Rapids City PTA

1. Support After-school programming already in progress and encourage other opportunities for cooperative learning.
2. Support an active anti-bullying program, working with the CRCSD to teach, encourage and promote a safe and positive environment for all students.
3. Continue supporting flood affected neighborhoods, families, and Taylor school.
4. Be positive role models and aid in the re-opening of Taylor Elementary school for the 09-10 school year.
5. Keep lines of communication open between district leaders and City PTA leaders to keep the educational progress of our children our most important endeavor.

Kim Vogel - Cedar Rapids City PTA President 08-09

## **Council News (cont.)**

### **DES MOINES PTA COUNCIL**

*Greetings from the Des Moines PTA Council!* We are so excited to start another year and we have over 30 active PTA schools in the Des Moines School District! We are pleased to welcome to the Des Moines PTA Council this year Edmunds Academy and Capital View Elementary this year as our new PTA Schools! They are wonderful examples that it only takes a few dedicated parents and school officials to make PTA work! Watch for future updates as the possibilities are endless with these schools! The Des Moines Council works with each of the PTA schools to help provide guidance and support through guest speakers, mentoring, training, and sharing of ideas. The Des Moines Council kicked off the year with our guest speaker Dr. Nancy Sebring, Superintendent of Des Moines Public Schools! The Des Moines Council this year has implemented the mentoring program as well as a new Des Moines Council monthly newsletter which features a "Did You Know?" section that will highlight and feature all the great work our PTA's are doing around the district. The Council has also planned other wonderful speakers and opportunities for our PTA's this year and we look forward to another successful year in PTA and getting to know all our volunteers. Without your support and dedication it would not all be possible!

The Des Moines Council –  
Amy Keiderling  
Kathy Roat  
Barb Hildebrandt  
Beth Pargulski

### **NEWTON PTA COUNCIL**

*Newton Council PTA Goals 2008-2009*

- 1) Develop and nurture relationships with the six individual unit PTAs.
- 2) Develop and nurture ongoing relationships with the building principals, superintendent, cabinet, and the school board.
- 3) Continue to improve our roll of overseeing the fall/spring concessions at HA Lynn Stadium which provide the funding for the following programs in our budget:
  - RIF
  - Reflections
  - Red Ribbon
  - Newton High School Book Club
  - After Prom
  - Dollars for Scholars Awards
  - Leadership Training
  - Teacher/School Board Appreciation
  - Unit Grants
  - Big Brothers Big Sisters
  - Open Your Heart
  - Carnival Game Closet
  - Special Projects

Steps to reach these goals.

- 1) The council officers will visit each of the six unit PTAs in October/November at their regular meetings and explain our purpose.
- 2) Host a dinner with council, principals, unit presidents, superintendent and school board president on November 3, 2008 to open up dialog among the individuals.
- 3) Continue reviewing how the concessions are run and where to distribute the profits among our programs.

Kathy Ellis  
Newton Council PTA President

### **New home for Iowa PTA**

**The Iowa PTA office has moved. Please inform your members and update your address books!**

Iowa PTA  
5619 NW 86<sup>th</sup> #600  
Johnston, IA 50131-2955

## Conquering the 'Homework Divide'



The middle school workload poses a challenge to both students and parents. A National Education Association report, "The Great Homework Divide," shows that middle school demands are both heavier and more varied than what students typically experience in elementary school. NEA suggests solutions for meeting middle school homework challenges:

**Make yourself available during homework time.** While you've probably had a long day, just like your child, and may want to watch a TV show or run errands, it can benefit you both if you are nearby while they do homework. Use this time to read, pay bills, or do paperwork that you can easily set aside if your child needs assistance. Once everyone's work is done, enjoy a favorite family activity.

**Check in while your child does homework, offering your support and advice.** Teachers believe parents are the best source of motivation for students. You may serve as a sounding board as your child works through interesting ideas or challenging problems.

**Show interest in your child's schoolwork and discuss what your child is learning.** Although they might not admit it, middle school students still like to know that their parents are interested in what they do. Ask questions about school that day, new homework assignments, or what your child likes or does not like about a particular lesson, class, or subject.

**Watch for signs of failure or frustration.** If you sense that your child is getting frustrated or discouraged, try to provide guidance without necessarily providing answers. Sometimes suggesting that your child take a short break can be the best advice you can give. Offer to talk through the problem following the break. Your positive attitude about working through frustrations also can be part of the learning process. You will be helping your child to develop a healthy ability to stick with problems until they can be solved.

**Don't hesitate to line up extra support if needed.** If your child is having regular problems completing the homework for a certain subject, it may be time to schedule a conference with the teacher for you and your child. A teacher may be willing to offer suggestions for tutors or small-group study sessions in your area. Some schools offer peer tutoring or, in some instances, local high school students or community members may volunteer as tutors at the middle school.

**Get to know the guidance counselors and other school employees.** Education support professionals generally know all of the students in the school, and their relationship with your child will continue as they advance from one grade to the next. In addition to teachers, other school employees can be great resources for homework assistance.

**Encourage your child to find a homework buddy**—someone they can call with questions or if they miss class.

For more information, go to <http://www.nea.org/parents/index.html>

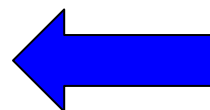


Invite a  
**WORLD**  
of DIFFERENCE  
into your classroom

515-273-8569  
explore@worldofdifference.us  
www.worldofdifference.us

Need an idea for  
a PTA program?

Check this out!!



# BULLYING

Hundreds of thousands of children dread going to school each day to face the taunts, jeers, and humiliation inflicted by bullies. Bullies are children who intentionally and repeatedly inflict psychological or physical damage on other, less-powerful children in order to inflate their own sense of self-worth.

Bullying has profound negative effects on a child's development and it can be a real distraction in school. In fact, it is estimated that 160,000 children in the United States miss school each day as a result of being bullied.

Many adults aren't aware that a child is being bullied because many children don't tell their parents or teachers. They might be worried that they won't be taken seriously, or that the adult will respond inappropriately.

## **HELPING YOUR CHILD RECOGNIZE BULLYING**

The following questions may help you and your child recognize bullying:

- Did the child hurt you on purpose?
- Was it done more than once?
- Did it make you feel bad or angry? *or* How do you feel about the behavior?
- Did the child know you were being hurt?
- Is the other child more powerful (i.e. bigger, scarier) than you in some way?

*(Adapted from "Your Child: Bully or Victim," Peter Sheras, Ph.D., 2002)*

## **PARENTS NEED TO BE PREPARED**

- *Listen.* It is the child's story; let him or her tell it.
- *Believe.* To be an effective advocate parents need to react in a way that encourages the child to trust.
- *Be supportive.* Tell the child it is not his fault and that he does not deserve to be bullied. Parents need to empower their child by telling him how terrific he is. Parents need to avoid judgmental comments about their child or the child who bullies.
- *Be patient.* Children may not be ready to open up right away. Talking about the bullying may be difficult as they may fear retaliation from the bully or think that even if they tell an adult that nothing will change. The child might be feeling insecure, withdrawn, frightened, or ashamed.
- *Provide information.* Parents should educate their child about bullying by providing information at a level that the child can understand.
- *Explore options for intervention strategies.* Parents can discuss with their child options they may have in dealing with bullying behavior.

**ALL CHILDREN DESERVE TO GO TO SCHOOL FREE OF INTIMIDATION.  
HELP MAKE YOUR SCHOOLS AND NEIGHBORHOODS BULLY-FREE!**

### **National PTA Resources**

National PTA provides information on identifying and stopping bullying in your community. We offer the following Parent Guides to assist parents help their children with bullying issues:

#### **Life After Bullying**

Real-life accounts of how to survive bullying episodes.

#### **Safeguarding Children from Bullying, Gangs**

Ways to protect your children from bullying, gang activity and sexual harassment.

#### **Strategies to Protect Your Children**

Ways to protect your children from the effects of bullying.

#### **Understanding Bullying**

A parent guide on understanding and dealing with the impact of bullying

For more information, go to: <http://www.pta.org/bullying.asp>

## KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE ONLINE

Millions of kids use the internet every day – to do homework, play games, to download music, to watch videos or to visit with friend either through email, IM or in chat rooms. And while the internet is a great educational and social tool, it can also be a vehicle from predators that can put kids at risk.

Parents and guardians need to take an active role in monitoring kids' internet usage. Below are a few tips to for parents:

- **TALK TO YOUR KIDS.** Ask them what sites they like and don't like – and then check those sites out yourself. No matter how internet savvy they are (and chances are; your kids may know more about the internet than you do!) they still need your guidance.
- **MAKE SURE THEY KNOW THE RISKS.** Teach your kids not to reveal personal information such as name, address, phone number, parents' information or school information without your permission.
- **ASK THEM WHAT FRIENDS THEY COMMUNICATE WITH ONLINE.** Make sure your kids don't agree to meet face-to-face with someone they met online.
- **CAUTION KIDS ABOUT FILE SHARING.** Sharing files can lead to legal issues and the loss of personal information that may be stored on your computer.

Getting involved in your kids' online activities can greatly minimize the potential risks of being online. Sites such as [www.getnetwise.org](http://www.getnetwise.org) and [www.netsmartz.org](http://www.netsmartz.org) offer both parents and kids information on internet safety.

## KNOWING THE "LINGO"

The number of kids ages 12-17 using Facebook more than doubled from May 2006 to May 2007. Now over 5.9 million people use Facebook as a means to stay in touch and to stay abreast of their friends activities. To ensure our kids' safety, parents need to understand the new jargon. Below is a primer ---

<u>Term</u>	<u>What it Means</u>
Block	(v.) to prevent someone from searching for and viewing your profile; you can ban access temporarily or permanently
(fluff)Friend	(n) a virtual pet you can download to your profile; you can even maintain a (fluff) Book profile for it
Graffiti	(n) an application that allows you to draw – rather than just write – on a friend's profile
Mini-Feed	(n) a list of your most recent Facebook actions (e.g. you changed your Relation Status to Single)
New Feed	(n) a constantly updating list of stories about your friends' Facebook activities, located on your homepage
Poke	(v) to virtually nudge, typically as a way to flirt or say hello
Status	(n) a message you update to tell friends what you are doing
SuperPoke	(v) to poke with pizzas; types include drop-kicking, headbutting, hugging, and throwing a sheep at friends
Tag	(v) to label friends in a photo and link to their profile pages; if tagged, you're notified so you can de-tag or stay linked
The Wall	(n) area on your profile where friends post comments

## 2008 PTA Back-to-School Kit

Use the customizable materials on the [Membership Marketing Templates and Tools](#) CD-ROM to reach out to elected officials, prospective donors, potential new units, and the general public. Find out the variety of ways to use the [Membership Marketing Templates and Tools](#).

\* Invite all elected officials, including school boards and other state and local education leaders, to join their local PTAs.

\* Ask the governor, mayors, etc., to [proclaim September PTA Membership Month](#). Often, local newspapers will pick up the story and feature an article about the [observance](#)—providing free publicity for PTA.

\* Use the [donation solicitation letter template](#) as a guide when requesting donations to support state events, or when seeking corporate sponsors and collaborative partners to further PTA's work in your state.

\* Use the [event flier](#) and [press release](#), along with other promotional methods, to inform families and other community members of state events. Be sure to invite elected officials.

\* Customize the [Join PTA letter](#) and [local brochure](#) to be part of a packet of information for non-PTA schools, or schools that have expressed an interest in learning more about PTA.

\* Encourage local units to take advantage of all the tools on the [Membership Marketing Templates and Tools](#) CD-ROM. [\[LR1\]](#)

*Local units requesting additional materials from the kit should be directed to [pta.org/bts](http://pta.org/bts). Extra kits can be purchased for \$24.95 + s/h, at [pta.org/buyakit](http://pta.org/buyakit). Replacements for lost or damaged kits are limited. You can also purchase extra 2008-2009 PTA Quick Reference Guides online at: <https://www.pta.org/ssl/b2sQRorder.asp>*

## PTA Video Store Kicks Off Back to School Movie Picks

Families can enjoy watching movies together while also supporting PTA. [PTA Video Store](#) carries movies for all ages including family favorites such as, [Elmo's World Summer Vacation](#), [The Sandlot](#), [Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse Of The Black Pearl](#), and [Under The Tuscan Sun](#). Also, pick up the latest new releases for kids including: [The Spiderwick Chronicles](#), [National Treasure 2: Book of Secrets](#), and [The Sword In The Stone \[Anniversary Edition\]](#). PTA Video Store is your store for all the family blockbusters. Encourage everyone to start shopping now at: <http://www.ptavideostore.com/>

## PTA Introduces Social Networking Channels

You can now connect to PTA through a variety of online social networks:

**Facebook** – Stay connected through PTA's **Facebook Fan Page**.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Parent-Teacher-Association/16682202028>

**YouTube** – Watch PTA videos and media moments.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/nationalpta>

**Fotki** – Photo galleries of PTA events and programs. <http://public.fotki.com/pta/>

**Twitter** – Quick updates, perfect for mobile devices. <http://twitter.com/ptaeditor>

## MAKING A GOOD THING BETTER

### *PTA.org Redesigned With YOU in mind!*

The recent PTA.org redesign will serve the crucial information needs of both PTA leaders and parents. The improved site structure, navigation and layout were developed with input from thousands of local leaders in surveys, focus groups and interviews. The new site addresses the core behavior of website users: they go to the site looking for answers. To help them find answers the new website will be:

**Easier to navigate** – Navigation is more intuitive and user friendly.

**Easier to search** – Users will find what they want more quickly thanks to an improved search engine and logical site organization.

**Easier to use** – The design is cleaner and more comfortable to users.

**Focused on parents** – The site is designed to attract a parent audience. By serving parents' needs, PTAs can increase participation and membership.

**A resource for leaders** - All of the valuable resources you need to run your PTA are more accessible.

**A living document** – The site will continually evolve as users' needs change. Future phases will include interactivity and building of online communities.

National PTA website: [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

# PTA WORD SCRAMBLE

S	P	S	N	T	C	O	N	O	T	I	N	O	I	T	N	E	V	N	O	C	L
C	A	T	O	H	T	I	N	O	N	P	A	R	T	I	S	A	N	M	A	H	E
H	R	I	N	R	H	N	O	S	O	E	I	P	E	R	S	H	I	L	D	I	A
O	E	F	P	A	R	E	N	T	I	N	V	O	L	V	E	M	E	N	T	L	P
O	N	E	R	V	E	V	S	L	T	K	X	O	L	A	E	R	Z	E	E	D	O
G	O	N	O	O	E	O	E	E	Q	I	S	R	I	C	E	C	L	A	M	R	O
R	N	E	F	O	F	L	C	A	U	D	A	G	N	C	R	E	D	O	S	E	B
E	P	B	I	L	O	P	T	D	A	F	N	S	T	U	E	V	D	N	G	N	R
E	A	P	T	T	R	A	A	S	L	O	D	I	R	L	O	B	O	N	R	S	E
F	E	I	H	E	M	R	R	Y	R	R	Y	O	O	C	K	I	I	A	E	W	W
R	D	H	R	E	E	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	A	T	T	N	K	J	E	E	T
E	U	S	T	G	A	I	A	H	H	M	H	C	M	C	R	W	H	E	B	L	H
W	B	R	U	X	G	S	N	I	O	E	Y	E	E	A	B	A	U	H	E	F	O
I	E	E	D	U	C	A	T	I	O	N	J	L	E	V	W	C	R	T	R	A	D
S	R	B	E	L	N	B	E	A	L	P	F	L	K	R	I	U	O	N	O	R	E
H	S	M	W	E	Y	P	V	D	D	E	E	R	N	E	E	D	V	E	W	E	B
O	S	E	A	N	I	N	I	A	R	T	P	I	H	S	R	E	D	A	E	L	Y
B	I	M	V	O	L	U	N	T	E	E	R	S	V	O	L	U	C	A	T	I	L
L	I	M	G	O	L	F	T	E	R	M	D	U	C	L	J	K	Y	S	T	E	N

*Find the following words in the grid above*

Advocacy

Children's Welfare

Convention

Education

E-Learning

Leadership Training

Member benefits

Mission

Non-partisan

Non-profit

Non-sectarian

One Voice  
(IPTA Bulletin)

Parent Involvement

Parent resources

Reflections

Three for me

Volunteers



*everychild.onevoice.*

*everychild.onevoice*



*everychild.onevoice.*

# ~Think Green~

## Ways to Improve Your Gas Mileage

- ✓ Drive at a moderate speed
- ✓ Drive smoothly – jackrabbit starts burn excess gas
- ✓ Reduce any unnecessary drag – keep luggage inside car if possible. If not using a luggage or bike rack, remove them
- ✓ Group errands together – avoid crisscrossing all over town
- ✓ Keep tires properly inflated
- ✓ Avoid idling for long periods of time (If you are idling, you are not going anywhere = 0 mpg!)

**The #1 way to improve your gas mileage?**

**Invest in a bicycle or a good pair of walking shoes ...and then use them!**

## COOL WEATHER ENERGY SAVING TIPS

*At little or no cost!*

Set your thermostat no higher than 68 degrees when you are home and lower the temperature when you go to bed or when you are not at home. This will ensure optimal home heating and save energy. For every degree you lower your thermostat you save about 2% off your heating bill. Use locks on your windows to make them tighter and draft resistant. Cover through-the-wall air conditioners to prevent cold air from leaking into your home. Foam insulators can greatly reduce air leaks caused by electrical outlets. Keep shades and curtains open during the day on the south side of your home to allow solar heating. Close them at night to retain heat. Don't block your radiators or heating vents with furniture or draperies. Keep your radiators, registers and baseboard heaters dirt and dust free. Close vents and doors in unused rooms. Close the fireplace damper when not in use. Turn your water heater down to 120 degrees Fahrenheit to save money on your energy bill. If you have children in the house, this is also a safety measure.

## HATE TO DO DISHES? - THAT COULD BE A GOOD THING!

Here's some good news for busy families: It actually costs more to wash dishes by hand than to run full loads in the dishwasher! Studies show you can save \$36 a year by opting to use the dishwasher rather than scrubbing the dishes yourself. The savings can go up to \$42 a year if you own an Energy Star model.



**REDUCE – REUSE - RECYCLE**



## Put PTA *Three for Me* to Work for You



Help make the new school year a great success.  
Increase family involvement with PTA Three for Me.

PTA Three for Me:

Asks parents to dedicate three hours to their children's schools, in any way they can—from home, at the school, or in the community. Once they see how easy involvement can be, parents tend to volunteer even more time!

Makes all parents feel welcome in the school, and valued for their time and talents.

Organizes and shares school and teacher needs with parents, helping everyone work together to support student learning.

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3:

1. Invite parents to sign a promise card and dedicate three hours of their time to meeting the needs of the school. Provide a list of involvement opportunities, and collect information on parents' skills and interests to match parents to the best opportunities.
2. Keep track of volunteer hours, and continually provide updated involvement opportunities.
3. Recognize parents for completing their three hours of involvement.

For more information, and materials to start Three for Me at your school, go to:  
[www.three4me.com](http://www.three4me.com)

## PTA Partners with All Pro Dad

The PTA is proud to work with All Pro Dad as part of its MORE (Men Organized to Raise Engagement) initiative to get dads more involved in schools, PTA's and in the lives of their children. Learn more about All Pro Dad at [www.AllProDad.com](http://www.AllProDad.com). Everything a PTA needs to start and run a monthly dads and kids breakfast is provided at no cost. Please note the All Pro Dad brochure provided in your Back-to-School Kit.

### **Why is the PTA Working with All Pro Dad?**

Research shows the enormous impact that fathers have on their children. The PTA is committed to the best possible father-child relationship, to benefit children, their schools and encourage men to join the PTA.



*Our partnership with All Pro Dad gives us a new way to encourage fathers to join the PTA, get involved with their local schools and take a more active role in their children's education.*

- Jan Harp Domene, National PTA President  
- Chuck Saylor, National PTA President Elect



***PTA looks forward to working with you to increase male involvement and advocate a father's #1 job:***

***being a great dad!!***

## Something Special for the Moms too!

*In the last issue of ONE VOICE we announced the official launch of National PTA's newest male involvement initiative – Men Organized to Raise Engagement (MORE).  
Now NPTA announces a program for Moms!*

PTA understands that in today's world, moms are busier than ever, and so are their kids. That's why PTA is please to announce a brand new program called **iMom Morning**. This is a monthly school-based program that brings moms a chance to connect with their children over a fun casual breakfast at their school — and all the while, strengthening families and encouraging parental participation in their children's education. It's an opportunity to spend time with your child, and other moms and kids, to discuss with clarity a variety of interesting and relevant topics, like bullying, peer pressure, friendships, and many more. *AND*, just like All Pro Dad's Day, everything you need to launch the **iMom Morning** program at you school is provided at *no charge!* So, whether you are a PTA president, principal, guidance counselor, teacher, coach or a motivated Mom, why not consider starting and **iMom Morning** program at your school!

For more information on **iMom Morning** and to register your school to receive the *free* **iMOM Morning** Starter Kit, please visit <http://www.imom.com/morning/start/index.php>



### OPPORTUNITY FOR COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS

The **AXA Foundation**, a **Proud National Sponsor of PTA**, offers a signature program, AXA Achievement<sup>sm</sup>, which provides resources that help make college possible: access and advice.

**Access: more than \$1.3 million a year in scholarships**

**Advice: a comprehensive resource for information to help students and parents plan for college.**

On August 25, our 2009 AXA Achievement<sup>sm</sup> Scholarship in association with U.S. News & World Report launches:

52 scholarships of \$10,000 and \$25,000 to students across the nation

Application deadline is **December 15, 2008**

The winners, known as AXA Achievers, are ethnically and economically diverse, but share these qualities:

Ambition and drive

Determination to set and reach goals

Respect for self, family and community

Ability to succeed in college

Encourage graduating high school seniors to apply. More information and downloadable applications, which can be filled out online, are available at [www.axa-achievement.com](http://www.axa-achievement.com).

A key element of AXA's partnership with PTA is AXA's offer of free workshops to PTA units on topics such as planning for college and other financial issues facing families. Visit the AXA website designed exclusively for PTA members, [www.axa-achievement.com/PTA](http://www.axa-achievement.com/PTA), to learn about the workshops that are available, and speak with your local PTA leadership about having a workshop presented to your PTA unit

# STATISTICS ON U.S. SCHOOLS

*Projected numbers are denoted by (x)*

## **Racial and Ethnic Makeup of Public Schools**

- 1972: 78% white, 15% black, 6% Hispanic, 1% other
- 2005: 57.1% white, 17.2% black, 19.8% Hispanic, 5.8% other

## **Public School Enrollment in Pre-kindergarten through grade 12**

- 1997: 46.1 million
- 2007: 49.6 million (x)

## **Percentage of Fourth-graders (by Race & Ethnicity) Attending Highest Poverty Schools**

- White: 5%
- Asian: 16%
- American Indian: 36%
- Black: 48%
- Hispanic: 49%

## **Percentage of 3,4, and 5 Year-olds Enrolled in School**

- 1965: 10%
- 2006: 66%

## **Children Age 3-5 Who Were Read to by Family Member at Least Three Times in Past Week**

- 1993: 78.3%
- \*2005: 85.7%

## **Percentage of Children 5-17 Who Spoke a Language Other Than English at Home**

- 1979: 8.5%
- 2006: 20.3%

## **Number of Children With Disabilities Receiving Special Education**

- 1977: 3.7 million
- 2007: 6.7 million

## **How People say the U.S. is Doing in Education Against Other Countries**

- Getting ahead: 4%
- Just keeping up: 44%
- Falling behind: 50%

## **What People Say is the Best Way to Measure Student Achievement**

- Test scores: 28%
- Classroom work and homework: 70%

## **What People Say About Teacher Pay**

- Should be based at least in part on student performance: 61%
- Should not be based in any way on student performance: 37%

*Sources: AP-Knowledge Networks Poll, Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics, College Board, American Association of University Professors.*



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# IOWA PTA H. L. TAYLOR SCHOLARSHIP

The H. L. Taylor Scholarships are intended as grants to assist deserving students in post high school education. Applicants are not limited to any specific field.

### To be eligible for consideration,

- An individual must be a graduating senior of an Iowa public high school (or equivalent of an accredited Iowa public institution).
- The student's high school must be in a PTA school district. The student's high school need not have a PTA (or PTSA), but it must be in a school district that has a PTA (or PTSA) within the district.
- The student must be a member of a PTA (or PTSA) in Iowa or be sponsored by a member of a PTA (or PTSA) in Iowa. The sponsor may be a parent, guardian, or any other PTA (or PTSA) member.
- The student must have been a resident of the state of Iowa for at least one year prior to graduation.
- The scholarship must be used for full-time study at an accredited Iowa college or university, Iowa area vocational school, or other post high school training institution. Students attending institutions that train for specific professions are considered eligible as long as the institutions are licensed by the state of Iowa and have proper professional recognition.

Eligible persons may request applications from:

Iowa PTA  
8345 University Blvd., Suite F-1  
Des Moines, IA 50325

or access the application online at:

<http://www.iowapta.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=iowaPTA.scholarships>

The completed application, with the necessary personal letter, achievement example, transcripts, and personal reference letters, must be **MAILED ALL TOGETHER IN ONE MAILING** and postmarked no later than February 1; no faxes accepted. Winners will be notified by April 1.

**Grants will not exceed \$500.** Checks will be made payable to the institution the recipient has designated as his/her choice of school or to the institution's book store, whichever the student prefers. The number of grants given each year and the amount will depend on funds which are available to the Iowa PTA in any given year.

Final selection will be made by a committee of five people, one of whom shall be a member of the Iowa PTA Leadership Team. Two of the five judges shall be educators or guidance counselors serving at either the high school or college level. Appointments to the selection committee are to be made by the President of the Iowa PTA.

### Selection of recipients will be based on the eligibility requirements listed at the left and on:

- Financial need.
- Academic record.
- Potential for success.
- Involvement in extra curricular and community activities.
- References and complete application materials.

**Three letters of reference are required.** Letters may come from, but are not limited to: teachers, principals, counselors, superintendents, community leaders and employers. Letters of reference must be mailed with the application to the Iowa PTA Office and postmarked no later than February 1, no faxes accepted.

**Candidates must attach a personal letter** giving a short biography and an explanation of why the candidate is applying for a scholarship. Information also must be included regarding why the candidate has selected his/her chosen vocation.

**Candidate must attach one example of their ability in any field**, i.e., an award in extracurricular activities, a project for academic classes or outside activities, a written assignment from a class (copies only as these will not be returned).

**Include high school transcript.**

MAIL ENTIRE APPLICATION INCLUDING REFERENCES AND TRANSCRIPT IN ONE MAILING.

For more information contact Iowa PTA at (515)225-4197 or (800)475-4782 or Email: [ia\\_office@pta.org](mailto:ia_office@pta.org)



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# Iowa PTA - H.L. Taylor Scholarship

(Please type or print clearly)

**Deadline: February 1 - No faxes accepted**

Applicant must be a graduating senior of an Iowa public high school that has a PTA in the school district and must be a resident of the state of Iowa for one year prior to graduation. Applicant must be a PTA or PTSA in Iowa or be sponsored by a PTA member (parent, guardian, teacher or other PTA or PTSA member. The scholarship must be used for full-time study at an accredited Iowa college, university, vocational school, or other post high school training institution. Students attending institutions that train for specific professions are considered eligible as long as the institutions are licensed by the state of Iowa and have proper professional recognition. Grants will not exceed \$500. The number of grants given and the amount will depend on funds available to Iowa PTA in any given year. Selection is based upon financial need, academic record, candidate's potential to succeed in chosen field, references, extra-curricular involvement, community activities and parental PTA involvement.

IF ANY OF YOUR RESPONSES REQUIRE ADDITIONAL SPACE, YOU MAY ATTACH EXTRA SHEETS.  
BE SURE TO LABEL CLEARLY AND ATTACH FIRMLY.

## PERSONAL DATA

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
(last) (first) (middle)

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Date and place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been a resident of Iowa \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_  
(years and months)

Family's adjusted gross income (from last year's tax return) - **REQUIRED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of siblings still at home \_\_\_\_\_ Total of family members in college next year (including applicant) \_\_\_\_\_

Father or guardian's name and occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Mother or guardian's name and occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a current PTA Member? Yes No

If not, please list current PTA sponsor member and school: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution you are planning to attend for the coming year \_\_\_\_\_

Address of institution \_\_\_\_\_  
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

State briefly your future educational plans and goals \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## EDUCATIONAL RECORD

High School \_\_\_\_\_  
(name) (address) (city) (zip)

Date of Graduation Grade Point Average ACT Score SAT Score Class Rank/Size

**4.0 SCALE**

Have you earned college credit while attending high school? Yes No If "yes", include information with transcript.

**PERSONAL LETTER**

Please attach a personal letter giving a short biography and an explanation why you are applying for this scholarship. Include a paragraph explaining why you have selected your chosen vocation. This must be typed to be considered for scholarship.

**ACHIEVEMENT EXAMPLE**

Please attach **one** example of your ability in any field. i.e. an award in extracurricular activities, a project for academic classes or outside activities, a written assignment from a class (**copy only as this will not be returned**). This is a requirement to be considered for scholarship.

**TRANSCRIPT**

A copy of your high school transcript should be included in the mailing with your application.

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND HONORS**

List top ten on a separate sheet. (Do **NOT** send copies or examples.) This must be typed.

**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN PTA**

List PTA membership years for parents and any leadership/committee positions throughout student’s school years.

**PAID WORK EXPERIENCE (Employment Record)**

Type of Work	Location	Dates
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**REFERENCES**

Three (3) letters of reference are required. Letters may come from, but are not limited to, teachers, principals, counselors, superintendents, community leaders, and employers. The letters of references should be included in the single mailing with all other application materials.

List the persons from whom you have requested letters of reference.

Name	Address	Title	Relationship to Applicant
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Send completed application form, transcript, achievement example, personal letter, list of extracurricular activities and honors, and letters of reference all in **ONE MAILING** to:

Iowa PTA  
5619 NW 86<sup>th</sup> #600  
Johnston, IA 50131-2955

If you have questions call: (515) 225-4197 or (800) 475-4782

**Deadline for all materials: FEBRUARY 1 -- POSTMARK - NO FAXES ACCEPTED**

Applicant’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# IOWA PTA BOARD OF MANAGERS 2007 - 2009

**President**

Johanna Bobenhouse  
[Hanna195844@aol.com](mailto:Hanna195844@aol.com)

**First Vice President**

Karen Rowan  
[amazonkaren@yahoo.com](mailto:amazonkaren@yahoo.com)

**VP Leadership**

Open

**VP Legislation**

Stacy Bredbeck  
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Claire Leonard  
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**Secretary/Treasurer**

Liz Mink  
[lizmink@hotmail.com](mailto:lizmink@hotmail.com)

**Immediate Past Pres.**

Kim Winterhof  
[Gwinterhof@cfu.net](mailto:Gwinterhof@cfu.net)

**Bylaws Chair**

Heidie Bates  
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**Convention Chair**

TBA

**Scholarship Coordinator**

Tammy Koolbeck  
[TKoolbeck@compassgmt.com](mailto:TKoolbeck@compassgmt.com)

**Executive Director**

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**Clinton Council**

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**Des Moines Council**

Amy Keiderling  
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**Newton Council**

Kathy Ellis  
[pkellis@iowatelecom.net](mailto:pkellis@iowatelecom.net)

**FREE on-line training:**

To reach as many members as possible, National PTA is proud to present e-learning, a computer-based training program. Each member's potential is just beginning to be tapped with e-learning. Check it out at:

[www.pta.org/local\\_leader/elearning/](http://www.pta.org/local_leader/elearning/)

***Get the E-Connection!***

Iowa PTA regularly sends news and updates via email to PTA units. If you are not receiving electronic communications, contact the PTA office with email addresses for you and your board.

**Stay In Touch!**

Let us know what your PTA is doing – send a copy of your newsletter or minutes to the Iowa PTA office at: [ia\\_office@pta.org](mailto:ia_office@pta.org)

**everychild.onevoice**

**Iowa PTA**

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(515) 225-4197  
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[www.iowapta.org](http://www.iowapta.org)

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[www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

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Select Newsletter