



everychild.one voice.

ONE VOICE

Spring 2009

Important Events!

Reflections Recognition Ceremony

April 18, 2009

Des Moines location TBA

http://www.iowapta.org/en/state_pta/programs/reflections.cfm

113th Annual National PTA Convention

June 26-29, 2009

Greater Fort Lauderdale

Broward County Convention Center

www.pta.org/annualconvention

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

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/en/membership/membership_committee.cfm

Calendar

April 18	Reflections Recognition Ceremony
Apr. 30	Deadline for dues to the Iowa PTA office (for memberships sold in April)
May 3-9	PTA Teacher Appreciation Week http://www.pta.org/teacher_appreciation.asp
May 10-16	Iowa School Board Recognition Week www.ia-sb.org
May 25	National Missing Children's Day http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/PageServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=1992
May 31	Deadline for dues to the Iowa PTA office (for memberships sold in May)
Jun. 26-29	National PTA Convention
Jun. 30	Deadline for dues to the Iowa PTA office (for memberships sold in June)

Get all your PTA instructions and forms at www.iowapta.org

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

- Information on the *OFFICIAL PTA KIT*
- IPTA Reflections winners
- IPTA Scholarship recipients
- 2009-2010 New Officers Form
- Sun safety
- Evaluating your school library
- 21st century careers
- Think green!
- Passing the Gavel

"It's not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings."

- Ann Landers

The Official PTA Kit

Register for Yours!

The *PTA Back-to-School Kit* is now *The Official PTA Kit* - PTA's Big Box of Possibilities.

Along with the change in name, there is a change in the kit's delivery. This year, all local, council, district, and region PTAs must register to receive their kit. The registration form allows your incoming PTA president or other authorized leader to provide your unit's preferred shipping address and date.

This new process will help ensure that the kit gets into the right hands at the right time. And the kit is still free!

Look for a postcard and e-mail with your unit's registration link starting at the end of April. Kits will ship weekly June 19 through the end of October (kits shipped after October 1 will incur a handling cost).

For more details about the delivery and contents of *The Official PTA Kit*, go to PTA.org/OfficialKit.

The Official PTA Kit is available exclusively to PTAs in good standing.



**113th Annual PTA
National Convention
& Exhibition**

**Friday, June 26–
Monday, June 29, 2009**

**Greater Ft. Lauderdale
Broward County
Convention Center**

[2009 PTA National Convention](#)

Join thousands of parents, teachers, students, and leaders who come to national convention each year to enhance their skills, connections, and success!

Education — Choose from 50+ workshops.

Pre-convention workshops are now FREE!

Exhibits — Visit more than 200 exhibits.

Issues — Raise your voice on national business and emerging issues.

Resources — Gather 100s of ideas, handouts, giveaways – interact with 1,000s of other PTA leaders from around the nation.

Ft. Lauderdale — Stay and play in this great family vacation destination.

New in 2009! Student and group discounted registration rates available online. **Save up to \$90** if you register online before **May 22, 2009** and with a group of four members from your local unit. For more information to help you plan, please e-mail nptameetings@pta.org

2008-2009 State Reflections Winners

A huge number of Iowa students participated in the National PTA Reflections Program this year! This year's Reflections Committee, Kathy Roat, Geneieve Lifka-Reselman and Tracy Levine, along with the judges thoroughly enjoyed the artwork, photography, literature, music, dance choreography and film/video production submitted by the students. The first place winners in each grade level for all six (6) categories have been forwarded on to National PTA. Iowa PTA congratulates the following 2007-2008 State Reflection winners:

Literature

Primary

- 1st – Daniel Lopez-Sanders
(Aurora Heights Elementary - Newton)
2nd – Grace Todtz
(Johnson School of the Arts/Cedar Rapids)
Honorable Mention – Claire Davison
(Hubbell Elementary School – Des Moines)
Honorable Mention – Mackenzie Frazer
(Cody Elementary School - LeClaire)
Honorable Mention – Armando Pantoia
(Jefferson Elementary – Clinton)

Intermediate

- 1st – Grace DeValois
(North Polk West – Polk City)
2nd – Roger Pavey Jr.
(Cody Elementary School – LeClaire)
Honorable Mention – Dalton Bowers
(Horace Mann – Ottumwa)
Honorable Mention – Ryan Constant
(Woodrow Wilson Elementary- Newton)
Honorable Mention – Jaelyn Miller
(North Polk West- Polk City)
Honorable Mention – Abigail Hammer
(Pleasant View – Bettendorf)
Honorable Mention – Ayla Mcgruder
(Whittier Elementary School – Clinton)
Honorable Mention – Jonathan Facio
(Jefferson Elementary – Clinton)

Middle/Junior

- 1st – Madison Helton
(Merrill Middle School – Des Moines)
2nd – Kierstyn Feld
(Pleasant Valley Jr. High – LeClaire)
Honorable Mention – Catherine Mullen
(Pleasant Valley Jr. High - LeClaire)
Honorable Mention – Abby Walker
(Horace Mann – Ottumwa)
Honorable Mention – Rieley Rodman
(North Polk Central – Polk City)
Honorable Mention – Sarah Bubbers
(Pleasant View – Bettendorf)
Honorable Mention – Eileen Garken
(Emerson Hough Elementary – Newton)
Honorable Mention – Caitlin Staver
(Pleasant Valley Jr. High – LeClaire)
Honorable Mention – Taylor Hester
(Pleasant Valley Jr. High – LeClaire)
Honorable Mention – Emily Schwake
(Pleasant Valley Jr. High – LeClaire)
Honorable Mention – Elizabeth Nesmith
(Franklin Middle School – Cedar Rapids)
Honorable Mention – Alice Lind
(Lyons Middle School – Clinton)
Honorable Mention – Shania Horton
(Lyons Middle School – Clinton)

Literature (cont.)

Senior

- 1st – Brianna Martinez
(Pleasant Valley High – Bettendorf)
2nd – Amanda Boyer
(John F. Kennedy High – Cedar Rapids)
Honorable Mention – Noura Yahia
(Roosevelt High – Des Moines)
Honorable Mention – Brooke Larson
(Clinton High – Clinton)
Honorable Mention – Erik Morales
(Pleasant Valley High – Bettendorf)

Photography

Primary

- 1st – Hannah Payne
(Neil Armstrong Elementary – Eldridge)
2nd – Erida Farwell
(Whittier Elementary – Clinton)
Honorable Mention – Avery Johnson
(Hubbell Elementary School – Des Moines)
Honorable Mention – Rebecca Liebsack
(MG Clarck Elementary – Sioux City)
Honorable Mention – Ethan Vasconex
(Horace Mann – Ottumwa)
Honorable Mention – Connor Flinn
(Cody Elementary School – LeClaire)
Honorable Mention – Mackenzie Frazer
(Cody Elementary School – LeClaire)
Honorable Mention – Peyton Rea
(Bryant Elementary – Sioux City)

Intermediate

- 1st – Katie Sickerson
(North Polk Elementary – Polk City)
2nd – Delaney Arnold
(Neil Armstrong Elementary – Eldridge)
Honorable Mention – Madison Derby
(Horace Mann – Ottumwa)
Honorable Mention – Madison Paine
(North Polk Elementary – Polk City)
Honorable Mention – Sydney Frazer
(Cody Elementary School – LeClaire)
Honorable Mention – Jaclen Boysen
(Whittier Elementary – Clinton)
Honorable Mention – Dalton Matthew
(Jefferson Elementary – Clinton)

Middle/Junior

- 1st – Quinten King
(Thomas Jefferson Elementary – Newton)
2nd – Amy DeHaven
(Callanan Middle School – Des Moines)
Honorable Mention – Rachel Prendergast
(Woodrow Wilson – Newton)
Honorable Mention – Courtney Johnson
(Merrill Middle School – Des Moines)

2008-2009 State Reflections Winners (cont.)

Photography (cont.)

Senior

- 1st – Erik Krammer
(Clinton High – Clinton)
2nd – Katelyn Williams
(Roosevelt – Des Moines)
Honorable Mention – Catie Mullen
(Pleasant Valley High – Bettendorf)
Honorable Mention – Jason Shupp
(John F. Kennedy High – Cedar Rapids)
Honorable Mention – Erik Kommer
(Clinton High – Clinton)

Visual Arts

Primary

- 1st – Sebbie Lee
(North Polk West – Polk City)
2nd – Zac Moore
(Johnson School of the Arts/Cedar Rapids)
Honorable Mention – Brooklin Webb
(Bryant Elementary – Sioux City)
Honorable Mention – Gracie Miller
(M.G. Clark – Sioux City)
Honorable Mention – Caleb Saukko
(North Polk Elementary – Polk City)
Honorable Mention – Nathan Boleyn
(Pleasant View – Bettendorf)
Honorable Mention – Seth Briley
(Emerson Hough – Newton)
Honorable Mention – Caelyn Briley
(Emerson Hough – Newton)

Intermediate

- 1st – Matt Bleakney
(Thomas Jefferson – Newton)
2nd – Randi Freeborn
(Riverdale Heights – Bettendorf)
Honorable Mention – Deven Woubenberg
(Horace Mann – Ottumwa)
Honorable Mention – Emily Bollhoefer
(Thomas Jefferson – Newton)
Honorable Mention – Olivia Bechtel
(Eagle Heights – Clinton)
Honorable Mention – Audrey Smith
(Whittier – Clinton)
Honorable Mention – Zach LaCroix
(Jefferson Elementary – Clinton)

Middle/Junior

- 1st – Jacob-Allen Oldaker
(Washington Middle – Clinton)
2nd – Marcus Obren
(Washington Middle – Clinton)
Honorable Mention – Talrlha Ford
(Horace Mann – Ottumwa)
Honorable Mention – Cortney Johnson
(Merrill Middle – Des Moines)
Honorable Mention – Will Callan
(Washington Middle – Clinton)

Senior

- 1st – Ryan Meyer
(John F. Kennedy – Cedar Rapids)

Visual Arts (cont.)

Senior

- 2nd – Carolyn Shanks
(Pleasant Valley High – Bettendorf)
Honorable Mention – Alice Delaney
(Roosevelt – Des Moines)
Honorable Mention – Amy Hanson
(John F. Kennedy – Cedar Rapids)
Honorable Mention – Carrie Lane
(Roosevelt – Des Moines)
Honorable Mention – Mena Ramn
(Roosevelt – Des Moines)

Music Composition

Primary

- 1st – Brenna Morley
(Pleasant View – Bettendorf)
2nd – Siobhan Morley
(Pleasant View – Bettendorf)

Intermediate

- 1st – Kennedy Lewis
(Hubbell Elementary – Des Moines)
2nd – Chris Meunier
(Jefferson Elementary – Clinton)
Honorable Mention – Dalton Hill
(Jefferson Elementary – Clinton)
Honorable Mention – Emily Hammer
(Pleasant View – Bettendorf)

Middle/Junior

- 1st – Kate McGinty
(Horace Mann – Ottumwa)
2nd – Elizabeth Fisher
(Callanan Middle – Des Moines)
Honorable Mention – Abigail Kurth
(Pleasant View – Bettendorf)

Senior

- 1st – Tyler Mootz
(Clinton High – Clinton)

Dance Choreography

Primary

- 1st – Elizabeth Saunders
(Hubbell Elementary – Des Moines)

Intermediate

- 1st – Maya Miller
(Hubbell Elementary – Des Moines)
2nd – Sam Hanna
(Pleasant View – Bettendorf)
Honorable Mention – Terrineka Grant
(Jefferson Elementary – Clinton)
Honorable Mention – Bailey Hanna
(Pleasant View – Bettendorf)
Honorable Mention – Kate Saunders
(Hubbell Elementary – Des Moines)

Senior

- 1st – Parwan Kaur
(Pleasant Valley High – Bettendorf)
2nd – Samantha Zust
(Pleasant Valley High – Bettendorf)

2008-2009 State Reflections Winners (cont.)

Film/Video Production

Primary

1st – Roger Pavey Jr.
(Cody Elementary – LeClaire)

2nd – Cy Heck
(Bryant Elementary – Sioux City)

Intermediate

1st – Jaden King
(Thomas Jefferson – Newton)

Intermediate (Cont.)

2nd – Cassandra Cook
(Bryant Elementary – Sioux City)

Senior

1st – Edgar Rosa
(Roosevelt High – Des Moines)



2009-2010 Reflections Theme

“Beauty is...”



Iowa PTA Scholarships

The *Iowa PTA Scholarship Program*, also known as the *H.L. Taylor Scholarship*, was established in 1974 by Neva Taylor in memory of her husband, H.L. Taylor. Neva Taylor was a long-time supporter of PTA in Iowa. She served as a member of the Iowa PTA Board of Managers for 20 years and, then as Iowa PTA's executive secretary for 25 years.

The scholarships are intended as grants to assist deserving students in post high school education. To be eligible for consideration, a student must be:

- A graduating senior of an Iowa public high school with a PTA in the school district
- A resident of the state of Iowa for at least one year before graduation
- Planning to attend an accredited Iowa college, university or vocational school

***Iowa PTA Congratulates the
2009 H.L. Taylor Scholarship recipients:***



**Devin Cummins
Newton**



**Alex Koolbeck
Cedar Rapids**

no
picture
available

**Rachel Kem
Davenport**



Excellent Schools don't just happen...
they're created.

Excellent schools are created through the dedication of superintendents, principals, teachers, parents and community members who are passionate about student success.

The **Parent/Family Involvement Schools of Excellence Certification** recognized schools whose parent involvement programs are based on the *National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs*.

Iowa PTA is proud to announce the Iowa schools that received National PTA's *Schools of Excellence Certification* – the gold standard for parent involvement.

Hubbell Elementary, Des Moines (2005 & 2008)

Greenwood Elementary, Des Moines (2007)

Perkins Academy, Des Moines (2007)

Windsor Elementary, Des Moines (2007)

Eisenhower Elementary, Davenport (2006)

Clive Elementary, West Des Moines (2003)

Pierce Elementary, Cedar Rapids (2003)

Westridge Elementary, West Des Moines (2003)

To better celebrate PTAs for implementing the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships, the Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence Certification has merged with the Phoebe Apperson Hearst-National PTA Excellence in Education Partnership Award to create three new levels of recognition.

Three Awards

Outstanding Family-School Partnership Award – For exemplary implementation of the National Standards, one local PTA will receive a monetary award of \$2,000.

Family-School Partnership Award of Excellence – For representing the best in one of the six National Standards, six local PTAs will each receive monetary awards of \$500.

Family-School Partnership Award of Merit – For demonstrating commitment to building partnerships, all local PTAs that apply will receive a certificate of recognition.

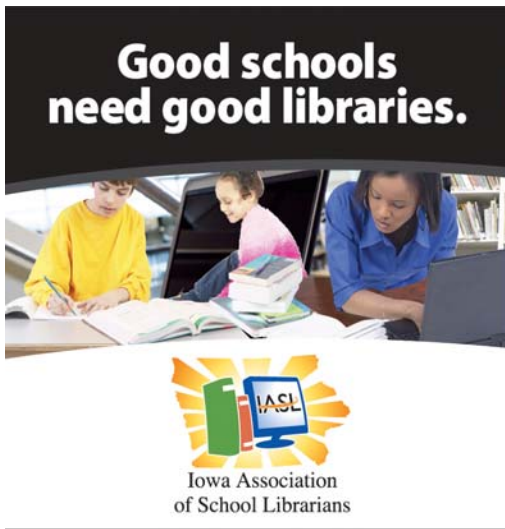
To apply for one of the awards, submit one application – no fees! All local PTAs and PTA councils in good standing are eligible to apply.

For more information go to: http://www.pta.org/phoebe_apperson_hearst_partnership_award.asp

School Libraries are important!

The Iowa Association of School Librarians was an exhibitor at the recent PTA Conference in Newton. School libraries have been cited in many national studies for their positive impact on student achievement, especially in reading. The following are some tips for parents about school library programs.

How do you know if you have a good school library program?



- ✓ *Is there a teacher librarian in the building full time (or at least half time in smaller schools)?*
- ✓ *Is the library open and the teacher librarian available whenever students are in school?*
- ✓ *Is the library inviting and attractive?*
- ✓ *Do materials on the shelves look appealing? Would students want to read them?*
- ✓ *Is the teacher librarian involved in collaborative teaching of information skills and technology?*
- ✓ *Is there adequate, up to date technology for teaching and learning in the library?*
- ✓ *Do you receive information about programs in the library?*

How can you help your school's library program?

- ✓ *Assist with special events such as book fairs, visiting authors, family literacy nights, reading promotions*
- ✓ *Help with fundraising including grant writing*
- ✓ *Volunteer in the library: reading to students, checking books in and out, shelving, preparing bulletin boards, mentoring students*
- ✓ *Form a "**Friends of the Library**" group to support your school library.*

Mary Jo Langhorne
Iowa Association of School Librarians
mjlanghorne@mchsi.com



Practice Sun Safety at Home and at School

Knowing how to keep your children's skin healthy and safe from the sun's burning rays is an important part of helping them live a healthy lifestyle.

Sadly, most people value time in the sun more than they value healthy skin. Iowans are at risk for skin damage due to seasonal sun exposure. In spring, summer, and fall we spend a lot of our leisure time outdoors. During the school year, your children are outside during recess during the most dangerous sun hours of the day. The sun's rays are the most intense between 10am and 2pm.

Be alert to the dangers of sun exposure. Tanning shows that skin has suffered permanent damage from too much time in the sun's unsafe ultraviolet rays. Too much sun can cause skin cancer and wrinkles. Reducing sun exposure keeps skin young-looking, healthy and may help prevent skin cancer.

As a parent, you can help protect your child's skin from sun damage and skin cancer. You can make good choices about the clothing and hats your child wears when playing outside, and you can show your children how to use sunscreen to help protect his or her skin when they are outside during the middle of the day.

You may already practice sun safe behaviors at home, but does your child's school have sun-safe policies?

Are outdoor school activities scheduled when the sun is not at its peak intensity?

Does the school follow building or grounds codes about providing shade in frequently used spaces?

Are students urged or required to wear protective clothing, hats, and sunglasses?

Do students apply sunscreen before going outside for recess, class or after school programming?

Does the school support health education activities to prevent skin cancer?

Through your PTA involvement, you can promote and support sun safety policies and practices. PTA members can:

Work with school nurses, wellness committees and staff to build recommendations that include having students wear hats and sunscreen outdoors;

Recommend that outdoor activities be scheduled at times that will reduce students' sun exposure,

Help build shaded places on the grounds by purchasing and installing shade structures and planting trees; and

Encourage staff and parents to model sun safety behaviors at school and at home.



For more information, contact Jolene Carver, RN, at the Iowa Department of Public Health Cancer Control Program. She can be reached at 515-242-6200 or jcarver@idph.state.ia.us.

Preparing Our Youth for the Challenges of the 21st Century **A Perspective for Parents & Educators: Part 2**

By Lon Jordan (guest columnist)

One common goal of parents and educators in our society is to prepare our children to meet the challenges which will face them in the 21st century. As our world evolves, so must our approach to education. How do you effectively guide a child who is very different and unique from you? How does one navigate a child towards a career path that may be unfamiliar and unconventional?

Parents and educators must be willing to sacrifice some of their biased opinions about their children's chosen career paths or interests in order to assure a healthy development of the child's imagination. We must be open minded to our children's out of the box career ideas, become great listeners, and never stop encouraging and building up our children's self-esteem.

When I was in elementary and junior high school I was one of those children in the classroom who the teacher either loved or with whom the teacher was extremely agitated. I must confess that most were agitated. I was hyper with the tendency to day dream, and I constantly challenged my teachers, especially when they tried to help me with my grades. It wasn't uncommon for my teachers to tell my mother during parent teacher conferences, that I needed to focus more on my studies and stop talking in class.

While I was a challenging student for many of my teachers, there was no teacher that I caused more pain than my own mother. My mother is a highly educated and gifted school teacher who strongly believes in the public school system. My seeming lack of academic interest and commitment was a constant source of frustration, and sometimes, anger for my mother.

What troubled my mother even more were conversations about my future. Whenever she would ask me what I wanted to do with my life. I would tell her that I wanted to be a professional dancer and travel around the country speaking to youth. Then she would ask me how I expected to support my future family, and I would tell her not to worry about it, and that everything would be fine. Now you can imagine my mother at this point beginning to pull out her hair about my perceived lack of conventional ambition.

As the years went by, my grades improved which made my teachers happier. I graduated from college, and my dream of traveling around the country entertaining and motivating youth became a reality. My mother gained a better understanding of the person that I am and allowed me to pursue my unconventional dream. I am sure many of you are probably saying to yourselves, "It couldn't have been that easy." Well it truthfully was not. It took a great deal of sacrifice and hard work by my teachers and my mother to learn how to encourage academic progress with out killing my creative spirit.

Here are five tips that will help you guide your child's unconventional career path in the 21st century:

1) **Research extensively with your child about their chosen career path or interest:**

It is important that you be open minded and not pre-judge your child or students career interests without first learning more about it. By researching with your child, it not only shows them that you care about their interests, but it can also erase some biases you may have about their chosen path. By researching, you can also see what types of additional educational resources your child may need to be successful in their field of interest.

2) **Encourage your child consistently:**

I firmly believe that the spoken word can either propel someone towards their destiny or destroy one's dream. It is very important that parents and educators consistently encourage and build up their

children's self-esteem, even if their child's career interests are against what they desire for them. Low self-esteem is one of the main reasons for misbehavior not only in children, but also in adult life. Instilling confidence in your child will better help position them for success in the future, and in life.

3) Become a great listener:

When I speak to our youth, one of the main complaints I hear is the feeling that adults refuse to listen and ignore them when they are speaking. By genuinely taking an interest and listening to your child you will be amazed how they will open up and respond to you. Listening will also help build a healthy bridge of communication between you and your child during times of extreme disagreement.

4) Do not allow fear of the unknown to pressure you into forcing your child down a road that could lead to heartache:

Every parent wishes to prevent their child from making what they believe to be mistakes or taking roads that they believe will lead to failure. A parent or educator must be on constant guard to be open-minded regarding the path of the child. Patience is an essential quality to have in any parent or educator that is guiding a child through the developmental process. Every child develops at a different pace and just because one might seem underdeveloped in one area, does not mean the child is not making progress. Allowing fear and anger to drive your every action will only push your child away. Forcing a child to change will quickly lead to resentment which is counterproductive. There is a difference between giving your child constructive criticism, and trying to shape him or her into being someone they were never meant to be. No child will ever completely think and act as you may wish, but you can help them to be critical and effective thinkers while still nurturing their imagination and ambitions. By accepting this, you will be able to effectively sharpen your child's rough edges without harming their unique design.

5) Encourage the development of your children's unique design:

Every child has been blessed with a special anatomy, personality and mind. As parents and educators we have a vital responsibility to help nurture and protect our children's unique design. It is very easy for children and teenagers to succumb to peer pressure and wind up doing or becoming something contrary to their makeup. It is our responsibility to always encourage them and remind them that they are special and to never give up on themselves and their dreams.

Hopefully this information has made your job of guiding your child a more fruitful experience.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.LONJORDAN.NET

NEW Iowa PTA Officers

2009-2011

President: Claire Leonard

First Vice President: Karen Rowan

Vice President for Leadership: Pam Dunlap-Johnson

Vice President for Legislation: Stacy Bredbeck

Vice President for Membership: Jennifer Austin

Secretary/Treasurer: Liz Mink

The new Iowa PTA Leadership Team takes office June 1.

We look forward to seeing YOU next year!

Connect to PTA through a wide variety of online social networks:



Passing the Gavel

Now that you have written your last report and sent in all the necessary paperwork, you are probably thinking you are done and “outta here!” Not so fast! There are crucial steps you need to take to ensure a smooth transition from one administration to the next:

- Turn over all files of records, activities, and most importantly your 3-ring binder procedure book.
- Encourage new officers and committee chairs to take advantage of all training opportunities.
- Make sure that the list of officers for next term is sent to the Iowa PTA office. Find the form at:
http://www.iowapta.org/files/documents/pdf/New_Officer_Form.pdf
- Make certain that books are audited. Remember, only the new officers can write checks and make deposits once the books are closed for audit.
- Thank your volunteers!
- Go through the activities month by month and make brief notes of what’s to be done and when. Note the activities, timelines, and contact information.
- Not everything in the notebook or file can be helpful. Pass on reports, samples of programs, National and Iowa PTA materials, and anything else that would be helpful. Asking yourself, “Would this have been helpful to me?” might be a good guide. Toss the rest.
- Support the new leadership in two ways: *backing away* and *being available*. Backing away lets new leaders gain confidence, try new ideas, improve on past good work and become stronger. Being available as a resource provides practical guidance and continuity. Continue to support PTA by remaining a member.

PTA

Great Idea Bank

The Great Idea Bank is updated regularly and contains successful ideas used by some of our 26,000 local units. If you wish to submit a great idea, please use the

the [PTA Great Idea Bank Submission Form](#).

PTA 2009 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

Founded in 1897, the PTA is comprised of more than five million members, including parents, students, educators, school administrators, and community leaders. With more than 25,000 local units, PTA flourishes in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Department of Defense schools in Europe and the Pacific.

As the oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy association in the United States, PTA’s legacy of influencing federal policy to protect the education, health, and overall well-being of children has made an indelible impact in the lives of millions of children and families. PTA continues to be a voice for children within federal policy, in 2009, PTA will focus primarily on three policy priorities:

- ❖ PARENT INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT
- ❖ OPPORTUNITY AND EQUITY FOR ALL CHILDREN
- ❖ CHILD HEALTH

For more information about the public policy agenda, visit: http://www.pta.org/public_policy_agenda.asp

~THINK GREEN!~

Teaching Kids the **GREEN** Way to do Chores

We all know that chores can teach children responsibility, but did you know you can also teach them to be responsible for the environment at the same time? Below are some ideas to slip “eco-language” into everyday chores.

- **LOADING THE DISHWASHER**
Tell the kids there no need to rinse the dishes if you scrape them well before putting them in the dishwasher. Explain that by doing so, no water will be wasted – and by waiting until the dishwasher is full, a little water will wash the entire load.
- **LAUNDRY**
Whenever possible, air-dry your laundry. Tell the kids that the wind is “Mother Nature’s” dryer. Explain that not only are you saving electricity, but air-drying is free!
- **YARDWORK**
Use a broom instead of a hose to clean the driveway and sidewalks. Explain that washing debris away with the hose wastes a lot of water.
- **RECYCLING TRASH**
Take the kids to the recycling center with you. Most kids enjoy helping sort recycling items and placing them into the correct bins. Explain that bottles, cans and paper can be made into new things. Perhaps challenge each other to think of ways the family can use fewer disposable containers.

One Minute Green-Overs

Got a minute? Below are some fast, simple ways to “go-green.”

- Change your traditional incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Instead of letting your car idle while waiting for your kids to come out of school, dance lessons, soccer practice or whatever, turn off your car if you expect to wait for more than 30 seconds. The gas your car uses while idling contributes to the greenhouse gas pollution.
- Just say “NO” ... to ATM or gas pump receipts. One study showed that if everyone in the U.S would say no to ATM receipts, in a year’s time it would save a roll of paper long enough to circle the equator 15 times!
- If you must use paper towels, please purchase 100% recycled ones. If every household in the U.S. replaced one roll of typical virgin fiber paper towels (70 sheet size) with a 100% recycled one, over 500,000 trees could be saved.
- Paper or Plastic? Your choice should be ***neither!*** The United States uses approximately 30 billion plastic bags and approximately 10 billion paper bags each year – requiring about 12 million barrels of oil and about 14 million trees. Do your part by keeping a reusable bag for shopping trips.

Saving the Earth can save you big \$\$\$!!!

Many utility companies offer rebates for energy-saving appliances and improvements to your home. Air conditioners, furnaces, water heaters, boilers, heat pumps, attic insulation, and exterior windows and doors are some examples. On top of the rebates, many offer low cost loans so customers can pay out-of-pocket costs for energy conservation over time. You can also receive federal tax credit on many of the same energy-saving appliances and home improvements.



2009-2010 OFFICERS FORM

REMIT THIS FORM TO THE IOWA PTA OFFICE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING YOUR ELECTIONS.
THIS FORM IS DUE BY MAY 31, 2009 TO RECEIVE MEMBERSHIP CARDS AND OTHER MATERIALS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO REMIT A NEW FORM EVERY YEAR, EVEN IF YOUR OFFICERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION STAY THE SAME.

MAIL OR FAX TO: IOWA PTA – 5619 NW 86th Street, Ste 600, Johnston IA 50131-2955
 QUESTIONS CALL: 800-475-4782 OR 515-225-4197 FAX 515-225-6363

Full Name of your PTA or PTSA: _____

EIN (Employer Identification Number): _____ 1099 IRS Form sent for last tax year? Yes No

Insurance Carrier: _____ Types of Coverage(check all that apply)
 Liability Bonding Property Directors & Officers Liability

Name of School District: _____

Type of School (check all that apply) Elem. Middle Jr. High Sr. High

Name of School: _____

Name of Principal: _____ Principal's E-Mail _____

School Address _____

OFFICERS

President _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Phone Day _____ Eve. _____
 E-Mail _____

Vice Pres. _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Phone Day _____ Eve. _____
 E-Mail _____

Secretary _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Phone Day _____ Eve. _____
 E-Mail _____

Treasurer _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Phone Day _____ Eve. _____
 E-Mail _____

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Phone Day _____ Eve. _____
 E-Mail _____

Legislation _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Phone Day _____ Eve. _____
 E-Mail _____

Reflections _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Phone Day _____ Eve. _____
 E-Mail _____

Iowa PTA sends information via email. Please include email addresses whenever possible. Attach another sheet with email addresses of additional board or committee members if you would like them to receive Iowa PTA information and the newsletter, *One Voice*.

IOWA PTA BOARD OF MANAGERS 2007 - 2009

President

Johanna Bobenhouse
Hanna195844@aol.com

First Vice President

Karen Rowan
amazonkaren@yahoo.com

VP Leadership

Open

VP Legislation

Stacy Bredbeck
Sdbre1987@gmail.com

VP Membership

Claire Leonard
famleonard3@imonmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Liz Mink
lizmink@hotmail.com

Immediate Past Pres.

Kim Winterhof
Gwinterhof@cfu.net

Bylaws Chair

Heidie Bates
Donbates1@juno.com

Convention Chair

TBA

Scholarship Coordinator

Tammy Koolbeck
tkoolbeck@venuworks.com

Executive Director

Alda Helvey
(515) 225-4197
(800) 475-4782
ia_office@pta.org

Cedar Rapids Council

Kim Vogel
ktvogel66@hotmail.com

Clinton Council

Maribeth Bousman
mbousman@asac.com

Des Moines Council

Amy Keiderling
keiderling4@msn.com

Newton Council

Kathy Ellis
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/

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

everychild.onevoice

Iowa PTA

5619 N.W. 86th Street
Suite 600
Johnston, IA 50131-2955
(800) 475-4782
(515) 225-4197
(515) 225-6363 Fax

ia_office@pta.org
www.iowapta.org

National PTA

541 N. Fairbanks Ct.
Suite 1300
Chicago IL 60611-3396
(800) 307-4782
(312) 670-6782
(312) 670-6783 Fax

info@pta.org
www.pta.org

Iowa PTA *One Voice* is published quarterly.

Past issues of *One Voice* can be found on the Iowa PTA website at:

<http://www.iowapta.org/en/newsletter.cfm>