

Connecticut
PTA[®]

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Dates to Remember

May 2– May 8

Teacher Appreciation Week

April 22

Earth Day

May 6

Reflections Ceremony

June 10-12 Memphis

National PTA Convention

CT PTA

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A Letter From Our State President– Marne Usher



Recently I was in Washington DC for our National PTA Legislative Conference and State Presidents' Training (yes, training is important at all levels of our association.)

It was my great good fortune while there to have our First Lady speak to us. She spoke to us, one parent to another, about the epidemic of childhood obesity in our country and her new campaign to combat that epidemic called "Let's Move". National PTA has always been a leader in promoting children's health and wellness. As far back as 1923 we worked to insure hot lunches in schools. Here in Connecticut we were one of the supporting organizations for the healthy schools legislation that removed soda from our schools and

provided incentives to offer children healthier snack and ala carte items. We were also at the table when the guidelines for the federally required wellness policies were created by our State Department of Education. I know that many PTA members serve on their school or district Wellness Committees and I applaud your efforts. I find it deeply disturbing in a nation as rich as ours that we have children who are both morbidly obese and malnourished because the foods that contribute to their weight gain are also surprisingly low in vitamins and essential nutrients.

The First Lady's goals for her Let's Move campaign are simple and achievable.

Helping parents make healthy food choices

Providing healthier food in schools

Helping kids be more physically active

Providing greater access to healthy, affordable food.

I urge you take a look at your school and your community and see where you can make a difference. Do you need sidewalks in part of your town so that students who live close to school have a safe walking route? Can you sponsor a fresh fruits and vegetables education program for your students? Would your school like a community garden?

There is a wealth of small steps that we can take to make sure that this generation of children isn't the first to have a lower life expectancy than their parents.

For lots of great ideas visit www.pta.org/HealthyLifestyles.

Here's wishing you a very happy spring! Let's all get outside with our kids and enjoy the weather.



LEGISLATIVE Conference of National PTA in Washington DC

From Mike Taylor, VP of Legislation

March 3, 2010 was our Day on the Hill in collaboration with CAFE. Members met with their legislators, members from CAFE's staff and members of Boards of Education from several communities throughout CT to promote our legislative priorities. As a result of these visits, our number one priority (allowing non partisan Boards of Education) was introduced as part of SB 425 by the Joint Committee on Government Administration and Elections. We would like to thank Senators Slossberg and Meyer for their help in getting this through. The bill passed by 12-3 and will now move forward to the Education Committee for their approval. You can follow the progress of this bill using the following link : http://www.cga.ct.gov/CGAPBTS.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=SBO0425.

On March 9-11, Mike Taylor, Don Romoser, Marne Usher and Holly Goodwin attended the Legislative Conference of National PTA in Washington DC. Over a period of three days (four for Marne and Holly), National PTA held informative sessions on topics such as IDEA, the re-authorization of ESEA (NCLB), PIRCS, and several other key issues. At the luncheon on Wednesday the 10th, the keynote speaker was First Lady, Michelle Obama, delivering a message about the epidemic of childhood obesity and her plans to combat it. Also presenting at this meeting was a group representing the Common Core Standards for Education that was introduced that day in Washington.

On March 11th, we were able to meet with each of CT's Federal legislators staff, with the exception of Congressman Jim Himes, who met with us personally. We presented to the aides and Congressman National PTA's legislative agenda, and offered CT PTA as a resource for them to use in the future. It is vitally important that as members of PTA, you continue to advocate for your children on all levels. Now more than ever, PTA must remind all forms of government that our children are our most precious resource and cannot be ignored.

Pictured below is CT PTA Vice President of Legislation, Mike Taylor, National PTA CEO Byron Garrettt, CT PTA State President, Marne Usher and National State President, Chuck Saylor.

First Lady Michelle Obama speaks about her "Let's Move!" initiative.



REFLECTION WINNERS 2010

CT PTA APRIL NEWSLETTER 2010



Visual Arts
Photography

Exceptional Winners

First Place

Kaitlyn Bednaz
Jessica Marchett



Second Place

Christopher Johnson
Christopher Johnson

Photography Winners

First Place

Primary
Intermediate
Middle/Junior
Senior

Kira Moran
Erik Mastalerz
Taylor Hudak
Max Berger

Guilford PTA
Guilford PTA
Guilford PTA
Staples PTA

Second Place

Primary
Intermediate
Middle/Junior
Senior

Bryan Higgins
Kiley Stackpole
Gloria Davey
Hayley Nicholas

Stratford Academy PTA
Peck Place PTA
John Reed PTA
Wilton PTA

Third Place

Primary
Intermediate
Middle/Junior
Senior

Nathaniel Kalapir
Allisandra Passanti
Sophie Eng
Erica Bower

Jennings PTA
Cider Mill PTA
Easton PTA
Fairfield Ludlowe PTA

Honorable Mention

Primary
Intermediate
Middle/Junior
Senior

Emma Davies
Christina Maldonado
Kaylyn Bettencourt
Lindsey Gilson

Calf Pen Meadow PTA
North Stratfield PTA
East Shore PTA
Trumbull High PTSA

Visual Arts Winners

First Place

Primary
Intermediate
Middle/Junior
Senior

Eugene Jung
Olivia Somo
Emily vanDerMaelen
Carmen Chen

Six to Six PTA
Guilford PTA
Guilford PTA
Fairfield Warde PTA

Second Place

Primary
Intermediate
Middle/Junior
Senior

Mackenzie Hughes
Rachana Yetkuri
Karen Yang
Connie Zhou

Hawley PTA
Turkey Hill PTA
Dodd PTA
Staples PTA

Third Place

Primary
Intermediate
Middle/Junior
Senior

Kaitlyn Jones
Ellie Riedman
Angela Yu
Michelle Penney

Middle Gate PTA
Cider Mill PTA
West Shore PTA
Trumbull PTA

Honorable Mention

Primary
Intermediate
Middle/Junior
Senior

Cassidy Jones
Jonathan Larson
Isabella Ferraro
Cariann Dominquez

Guilford PTA
Chapel Street PTA
Race Brook PTA
Stratford High PTSA

Reflection Artwork on Note Cards!

*New this year, we
are offering
Packages of Note
Cards with our
First, Second, Third
and Fourth Place
Visual Arts or
Photography
winners on each card.
The cards come blank
so you can use them
for any
occasion!*

*Order an assorted
pack or special order
a pack
with just the photo
you choose!*

*Call CT PTA for more
information @
203-281-6617 or
email us @*

ab_connecticut.pta@snet.net



Film/Video Winners

First Place

Primary	Elizabeth Richard	North Stratfield PTA
Intermediate	Luci Gorman	Redding ES
Middle/Junior	Mike Kiaunis	Harry M. Bailey
Senior	Sophie Warnick	Fairfield Warde

Second Place

Primary	Max Monson	Redding ES
Intermediate	Brenden Sawyer	Riverfield School PTA
Middle/Junior	Samantha Calzone	John Read MS
Senior	Daniel Trock	Newtown HS

Third Place

Primary	Madeline Plumb	Middlebrook
Intermediate	Julia Lawlor	Mill Hill School
Middle/Junior	Max Galassi	Newtown MS

Honorable Mention

Primary	Evan Kane	Gillead-Hill/Hebron PTA
Intermediate	Alex Ashear-Freed	Trumbull PTA
Middle/Junior	Alexa Charney	Peck Place

Dance Chorography Winners

First Place

Primary	Nicole Mongillo	Race Brook School
Intermediate	Maximiliano Cano	Holland Hill School
Middle/Junior	Giana Forte	Easton PTA
Senior	Nadia Waski	Staples High School



Second Place

Primary	Lucy Carlos	Jane Ryan Elementary
Intermediate	Vivian Petrecca	Burr Elementary School
Middle/Junior	Caroline Prezioso	Madison PTA

Third Place

Primary	Siena Harper	Middle Gate School
Intermediate	Riana Picagli	Race Brook School

Honorable Mention

Primary	Ava MacNeal	Redding Elementary
Intermediate	Tyler Bailey	Stratford Academy

Literature Winners

First Place

Primary	Ben Steele	Jennings ES
Intermediate	Brenna Petrelli	Middle Gate School
Middle/Junior	Olivia Belliveau	Stratford Academy
Senior	Carolyn Sohmer	Fairfield Ludlowe HS



Second Place

Primary	Charlie Prather	Redding ES
Intermediate	Cory Babineau	Chapel Street School
Middle/Junior	Julia Turgeon	GHS/HES
Senior	Laura Hunter	Newtown HS

Third Place

Primary	Julia Grich	Booth Hill School
Intermediate	Samuel Gaspar	John Read MS
Middle/Junior	Veronica Dykes	Stratford
Senior	Suzanne Kleine	Staples HS

Honorable Mention

Primary	Akshat Kulkarni	Race Brook School
Intermediate	Alexa Nelson	Plymouth Center School
Middle/Junior	Faith Chung	Western MS
Senior	Kimberly Canzoneri	Fairfield Warde HS

Music Compensation Winners

First Place

Primary	Dante Marino	Gillead-Hill/Hebron
Intermediate	Taylor Gourcier	Race Brook School
Middle/Junior	Cameron Belliveau	Flood MS
Senior	Kara Welch	Guilford PTA



Second Place

Primary	Noah Stein	Guilford PTA
Intermediate	Katarina Migon	Middle Gate School
Middle/Junior	Aimee Talbot	Reed Intermediate School
Senior	Andrew Castaldi	Wilton School

Third Place

Primary	Evan Wologodzew	Head O Meadow
Intermediate	Bari Lipper	North Stratfield
Middle/Junior	Zenia Banasi	Tomlinson PTA
Senior	Yossi Kohrman-Glaser	Newtown HS

Honorable Mention

Primary	Casey Heyman	Jane Ryan
Intermediate	Noah Hawks-Ladds	Bolton Center School
Middle/Junior	Blake Pritchard	John Reed MS
Senior	Matthew Miskin	Terryville HS

Annual Financial Review (Audit)

CT PTA APRIL NEWSLETTER 2010

Dear Unit President and Treasurer:

As your unit gets closer to the end of the fiscal year, it is time to make sure that one last report is Completed – **The Annual Audit (Financial Review)**. As president, it is your job to make sure this is completed by the audit committee and approved by the unit at the first general meeting of the new year. And, as treasurer, you should close the financial records and prepare an annual financial report covering the entire fiscal year. The purpose of an audit is to:

- To certify the accuracy of the books and records of the financial officer, and
- To assure the membership that the association's resources/funds are being managed in a businesslike manner within the regulations established for their use.

Information about audit procedures is included in the National PTA Money Matters Quick-Reference Guide which all unit presidents received months ago.

If your unit/council has any questions or concerns about this process, feel free to contact the state office or treasurer.

Because of their importance, CT PTA requires that each unit/council forward a signed copy of the Audit Report (Financial Review) after your unit/council has approved it along with copies required IRS Form 990 or e-Postcard on or before December 1. These documents will be held on file. If your unit/council should at any time need a copy of these forms they will be available to be forwarded to your unit/council.

Here is a sample of what the Audit Report should Look Like

Annual Financial Report/ABCD PTA

Fiscal Year Ending ____, 2010

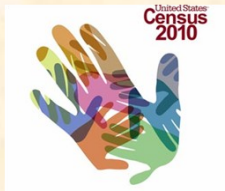
ACTUAL RECEIPTS

Membership Dues	625.00
(500 members at \$1.25 — local portion)	
Fund Raising (Total Gross Income)	3,300.00
(or any means used for money making)	
Balance brought forward	<u>850.00</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	4775.00

ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

Leadership Development	570.00
Membership Promotion	180.00
Programs	600.00
Reflections	420.00
District/Council Conference	300.00
State and National Conventions	500.00
Newsletter & Publicity	120.00
Bulletins/OC — Contact	200.00
Officer's Reimbursement	180.00
Chair's Reimbursement	150.00
Past President's Pin	40.00
Council Dues	50.00
Scholarship	200.00
Bonding/Liability Insurance	300.00
Supplies	150.00
Postage	<u>280.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	4,240.00
Amount remaining for next year	535.00

Counting Everyone will add up for services to children and youth



You can help ensure that your school gets every dollar to which it is entitled. The 2010 U.S. Census this winter will count every person in the United States. These numbers are used for disbursing money to communities and for determining how many elected officials will represent each community.

Take the time to alert every teacher, classified staff member and parent that not only should they participate, but that everyone they know should as well. The numbers will determine how more than \$400 billion is distributed. The \$400 billion includes Title 1, special education, college grants and loans, education programs, public transportation and community improvements. And that is just the start.

The census count occurs just once every 10 years. So, for some students it will never happen again while they are in school. Make this one exciting. For more information, visit www.2010.census.gov.



ATTENTION UNIT PRESIDENTS!

ITS TIME FOR YOU TO TELL US WHO YOUR NEW OFFICERS ARE FOR 2010-2011

This year, CT PTA is going paperless. We have added the Annual Officer Information Sheet Form online. It can be found on our website . Go to www.ctpta.org click on the Officer Information Sheet sub-page underneath the Membership Navigation tab.

Remember, your Annual Officer Information Sheet is due to the CT PTA office by June 15, 2010....



Attention All Unit Presidents, Membership Chairs, JBF is ready for your new school year!

Strengthen your PTA and Simplify your Life.

Last year, National PTA selected Just Between Friends as the PTA management and communications system. Today, Just Between Friends is being used by PTAs in 48 states for member management, communications, volunteer (participation) management and directory creation.

Phasing out OMDR.

You're encouraged to use Just Between Friends because in the near future, OMDR for local PTAs has been phased out.

System Enhancements. New Features. Increased Speed.

Based upon comments of units using the system, enhancements have been made to Just Between Friends that will improve your experience, save you time and reduce frustration you may have encountered with traditional OMDR.

Why use Just Between Friends?

The system provides tools you need to run your PTA *efficiently*. And, it's provided to PTA units *free* from National PTA and Just Between Friends' sponsors. It'll help you to manage your members; communicate effectively with your entire school; create directories; and recruit & retain volunteers/participants.

Get Started Today

www.JustBetweenFriends.com/PTAquickstart and entering your unit.

Learn Just Between Friends

Participate in live, interactive training webinars. You'll find a list and schedule of webinars and lots of *how-to* information when you visit www.LearnJBF.com.

Already Using Just Between Friends?

If your unit is currently using Just Between Friends and has elected new officers -- or if you know who your next President will be, now's the time to enter the name of your next President and an alternate group administrator to the system. Visit www.JustBetweenFriends.com, click on the *Contact Us* button -- then, click on *JBF Customer Support*. We'll get back to you with instructions that'll enable you to accomplish this task.



From: Chuck Saylor National PTA President

To: State Presidents, President-elects, state Offices

Re: "Give a Day. Get a Disney Day." Program



Friends,

We have received several inquiries from states and local PTAs about Disney's *Give a Day. Get a Disney Day* program which provides individuals/families a chance to receive a free voucher at a Disney theme park by volunteering for an approved opportunity listed on: www.disneyparks.com.

Many are unclear whether PTA's and members are eligible to be part of this program. The simple answer is YES—as long as they follow the guidelines and meet the requirements of the program.

There are two opportunities associated with this program.

- 1) PTAs can apply to have their event/activity listed on the Disney Day program website as a volunteer opportunity to create awareness and help recruit volunteers. Simply complete the online application at: <http://vop.handsonnetwork.org>
- 2) An individual or family can register to volunteer at one of the opportunities listed on the Disney Day program website.

This program runs through December 15, 2010 or until the vouchers run out whichever comes first. Only one voucher is given per person even if you volunteer more than once. A family that volunteers together can receive no more than 9 total vouchers.

More details about the program, guidelines and eligibility requirements can be found here: [http://www.handsonnetwork.org/files/GADGADD Organizational QA Faq.pdf](http://www.handsonnetwork.org/files/GADGADD%20Organizational%20QA%20FAQ.pdf).

EARTH DAY



Earth day is a wonderful opportunity to not only teach about the environment, but also make school facilities healthier and more energy efficient. As you work with your teachers, parents and student leaders in preparing for Earth Day 2010, please encourage them to register for our free Educator's Network at earthday.org/education. Our online curricular and learning tools will enable your schools' leaders to incorporate environmental education into the classroom and community. Our school greening resources also provide information and ideas on improving facilities can enhancing learning environments.



2011-2012 PTA REFLECTIONS THEME SELECTED

National PTA is proud to announce the 2011-2012

Reflections Program theme:

" Diversity Means....."

This winning theme was submitted by a student at Ozark North Elementary PTA in Ozark, Missouri and will inspire all the art works for the 2011-2012 program year. Please join us in celebrating this outstanding contribution.

Remember, the 2010-2011 theme is **" Together We Can. "**

To learn more about the PTA Reflections Program and theme search, go to www.pta.org and search Reflections Theme Search.