

“Ensuring Every Child’s Future by Engaging Each Child’s Community”

Featured Articles:

- [Back To School Preparation](#)
- [Better Treatment For Youth](#)
- [Focusing on the "T" in PTA](#)
- [Illinois PTA University](#)
- [Making a Difference... One Member at a Time](#)
- [Making It Real For Kids?](#)
- [MORE Environment and Outdoor Opportunities and Resources for Teachers, Parents, and PTAs](#)
- [Treasurer’s Corner: Fundraising Debate](#)

PTA CALENDAR



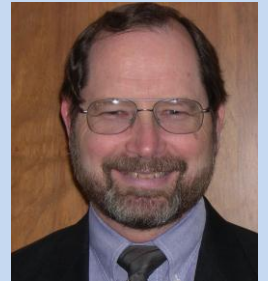
A Message from our President...

PTAs work in partnership with the schools. Working together will provide the best education, environment, and opportunities for our children.

When working with the school’s administrators, try to walk in their shoes. They are under tremendous pressure from continued budget cuts, unrealistic goals set forth by No Child Left Behind Act, and ever increasing unfunded mandates.

As with any partnership, there will be issues that develop between the PTA and the administration, here are a few recommendations for working through these challenges, because these people will probably be around longer than the individuals in the local PTA.

1. Talk to the right person at the right level. You never want to start at the top.
2. Research the District policies that pertain to the issue. If the policy is the problem then you may need to change the policy first.
3. If the policy is not part of the issue then start by asking the administrator for their viewpoint. At this point, just listen. Don’t try to respond. Take notes and ask clarifying questions. Once you feel you understand their viewpoint then explain yours. Look for areas where you have agreement and start from there.
4. Keep in mind that administrators have to always remember the big picture. So if a parent asks for something special for their child, the principal has to consider what this means if every parent asks for the same thing. Similarly, if a PTA wants to do something for their school, the superintendent or School Board has to consider what this means for the other schools.
5. Always stick with the facts and present a logical argument to help the administration see your side. This is not a time for a lot of emotions.



Bruce Bohren
Illinois PTA
President

6. If you cannot reach agreement then you need to determine how important the issue is and if you should go up the administration ladder. Remember that you want to maintain a working relationship so you rarely want to go to someone’s boss.
7. Don’t hesitate to ask the State PTA for help. We can help mediate the situation and explain how PTAs are separate from schools.

Always remember that the administration and PTA have the same goal, to provide the best education for the children. This can best be achieved when PTAs work together with the administration.

Bruce



“There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots, the other, wings.”

- Hodding Carter

PTA CONNECTIONS

[\(Click Here for Board of Directors’ Contact Information\)](#)



**The National PTA
Official Back to
School Kit**

Register Today!

[\[Click Here for Details\]](#)

Articles of Interest:

- [115th Annual National PTA Convention & Exhibition](#)
- [Dues and Deadlines for Illinois PTA](#)
- [Helmets for Kids](#)
- [Juvenile Protective Association’s Third Annual 5K Run/Walk](#)
- [Webonauts – PBS](#)
- [Year End REMINDERS](#)

Back To School Preparation

*Submitted by Annette Czech
Chairman, Parental Engagement*

PTA's mission to be a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child starts with making sure that children and their parents and caregivers are prepared for the new school year. Back-to-school

time can be stressful for parents and kids. These resources aim to reduce the stress by providing important information on back-to-school preparation and helpful tools to make the transitions easier. You can find information on adjusting kids from a summertime schedule back to a school time schedule, tips for safe routes to school, ways parents can help teachers, as well as a list of resources on other websites.

Please refer to these resources and check back on the Illinois PTA website: www.illinois.pta and the National PTA website: www.pta.org frequently for more relevant content to help make your life a little easier.

Parent Guides

Tips for Communicating With Teachers Effectively

Ways to enhance communication between you and your child's teachers
<http://www.pta.org/2610.htm>

10 Ways for Parents to Help Teachers

Tips for preparing students for learning and life lessons
<http://www.pta.org/2543.htm>

**LET'S HELP START THE
2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR
OFF GREAT! SHARE THESE
RESOURCES WITH YOU
MEMBERS.**

Cost-Cutting Tips for Back-to-School

Save money with these helpful hints
<http://www.pta.org/3318.htm>

Third Party Resources

Education.com SchoolFinder
<http://www.education.com/schoolfinder>

PTA Publications & Presentations

PTA Parent: Transitioning from Summer to School

E-newsletter article with advice on getting kids prepared to move from a summer schedule to a school schedule

<http://www.pta.org/3061.htm>

PTA Parent: Getting Kids Excited About School

E-newsletter article with advice on creating an exciting launch for back-to-school time.

<http://www.pta.org/3054.htm>

Additional Resources

Tips for Safer Routes to School

Ways to make your child's route to school safer.

http://www.pta.org/topic_tips_for_safer_routes_to_school.asp

Bullying

Resources on bullying prevention.

<http://www.pta.org/bullying.asp>

NICKELODEON'S 8TH ANNUAL

worldwide DAY of PLAY

SAVE THE DATE

9.24.11

NICKELODEON GOES DARK FOR 3

TO CELEBRATE, THOUSANDS OF ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE WORLD HOST LOCAL WORLDWIDE DAY OF PLAY EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

YOU CAN JOIN THE CELEBRATION AND HELP KIDS BE ACTIVE AND HEALTHY ALL SUMMER LONG!

CHECK OUT NICK.COM/THEBIGHELP TO

1. Access resources to plan a local Worldwide Day of Play event in your community
2. Register your event to access posters, resources, grants and more
3. Find out more about how to get kids active all summer long with the PALA Challenge

POWERED BY



SUPPORT OF

Making a Difference... One Member at a Time Submitted by Jen DeFranco Chairman, Membership and Marketing

There is an African proverb that states: “It Takes a Village to Raise a Child.” As a local Parent Teacher Association, you know that family engagement matters to education. Research shows that when educators, families and communities work together, students actually do better in school. The data also shows that regardless of income or background, students with involved parents are more likely to get higher grades, attend school regularly, have better social skills, be better behaved, and, in the end, have higher levels of success. Knowing that today’s children will be our future leaders, educators, and citizens, puts urgency into getting all families involved in our schools. And the PTA is the perfect association to involve everyone. The investment we make now is just that, an investment in our future. Schools with involved parents, and active parent organizations, have already figured out that helping children achieve at their highest levels is a huge job that can be best attained when the whole community is involved.

When recruiting your members this year, it is crucial to involve entire communities in the PTA. Members of your local PTA don’t have to be just parents of the students in your school. When deciding who to ask to join your PTA do not forget to include the following groups:

- Parents, Teachers, and School Staff members
- Grandparents/Local Seniors
- Bus Drivers
- Local School Board members
- Local public officials (mayor, aldermen, etc.)
- Local businesses and associations
- School Administration (superintendents, assistant superintendents, business managers, etc.)

Each of these groups of people has a vested interest in the students who attend your schools. If they are not related to the students, or work directly with them on a daily basis, they are supporting the future of their own communities where they personally live and work.

Some of you may be asking, “How do we grow our membership?” There are a few easy steps that will help you ultimately grow that membership:

- Set Goals – set a realistic goal to work toward so you can track your progress

- Educate your potential members on what the PTA does for children in Illinois – make them understand we are an advocacy association and show them the importance of their membership for all children in Illinois. Be sure to let them know that hot lunches in schools are because of PTA; let them know that school bus safety arms on busses are because of PTA; let them know that all children are attending Kindergarten because of PTA; let them know that PTA is working tirelessly to improve the education of their children at both a state and national level every day...
- Hold membership drives and continuously recruit – never stop recruiting, dues can be submitted monthly and members can join anytime during the year
- Send reminders – parents often forget to join.
- Hold a secondary drive in January – statistics show that 18% of all PTA members join after January 1, so don’t miss the opportunity to add that percentage to your local PTA

Regardless of the external factors that our schools face on a daily basis, family engagement in education is vital to our future’s success. You don’t need to be an educator, a community leader or a politician to have a say. You can be “just a mom” or “just a dad” and make an impact that can change a school, a community, a state or even a nation. With PTA it IS possible...but first we all have to be willing to ask everyone to join us on our journey to raise our children in the villages where we live.

Dues and Deadlines for Illinois PTA

DUES: When recruiting your PTA members, don’t forget that the dues for 2011-2012 are **\$4.25 per person**. This is a \$.50 increase from last year, so be sure you collect the correct amount from your members during your recruitment. You will be responsible to pay the correct amount, even if you collected the wrong amount.

DEADLINE: Your first dues payment must be postmarked no later than October 1, 2011. However, you do not have to wait until October 1 to turn in your first payment. You can certainly send your dues any time in September if you have dues to turn in. If you do not have your first dues payment postmarked by October 1, your local unit will not be eligible for membership awards at the end of the year.

Treasurer's Corner: Fundraising Debate Submitted by Rhonda Jenkins Immediate Past Illinois PTA Treasurer

Program and Project Funding Sources

Annual membership dues are the primary source of funds for PTAs; some PTAs are able to do excellent work with no financial resources other than their dues. However, special projects and programs may require additional funds. If dues are not sufficient to finance a PTA's work, supplementary funds may be raised within the context of the mission and purposes of the PTA.

The framework for how a PTA should conduct its fundraising is determined by the policies of the National PTA and IRS regulations for 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organizations.

Any funds generated by a PTA, including the local portion of dues (not state or national portions of dues), should be budgeted for purposes that advance PTA work.

PTAs should begin each year with specific goals in mind, and should identify strategies for reaching those goals before determining the dollar amount needed in a fundraising event. Only those funds necessary to meet the needs of the year's activities and projects, as outlined in the PTA's budget, should be raised.

One well-planned fundraising project will usually raise whatever funds are needed to finance the year's activities. ***If the fundraising event is to reflect the high principles of the association, it will have educational, social, or recreational value in itself.***

Before undertaking any financial enterprise, a PTA should check with school, local, and state authorities to determine whether the planned activity is prohibited by state or local law or by school policy, or whether the PTA requires any special permit.

Selecting Appropriate Fundraising Activities

The following questions should be used as guides in selecting and planning fundraising project(s) that will be both successful and worthy of the PTA:

- Does it adhere to the PTA mission and the purposes of PTA?
- Does it conform to the noncommercial, nonsectarian, and nonpartisan policies set forth in the PTA bylaws?
- Does it refrain from using or exploiting children?
- Will it create goodwill for the PTA?
- Does it serve as a positive example for children and youth?
- Will it provide the revenue to help meet the PTA's goals?
- Did the fundraising committee provide a budget of expenditures as required by bylaws and standing rules?
- Is the PTA required to collect and remit sales tax?
- Are special permits, licenses, or health permits needed?
- Is the liability of the PTA and its members protected through sufficient insurance?
- Did the president sign the contracts for vendors and/or manufacturers? Do the contracts for products cover who is

The 3-to-1 Rule

When planning the year's activities, it is suggested, PTAs should use the 3-to-1 rule. For every fundraising activity, there should be at least three non-fundraising projects aimed at helping parents or children or advocating for school improvements.

responsible for spoiled or damaged goods? For unclaimed goods?

- Is the PTA using volunteers, or does it have to pay or contract workers?
- Have procedures been established to safeguard the handling of products and money?
- What are the costs for using a facility? How long is the event going to be held? Are there special requirements or restrictions for using

the facility? Are fire laws and safety precautions strictly observed? Is the facility accessible to people with disabilities?

- Is it an infrequent or ongoing activity? Be aware that unrelated business activities could result in some federal or state taxation of the income earned or, in the extreme, the loss of your tax-exempt status.
- Are there local, state, or federal laws that apply? Is care taken to see that no law is violated?

Depending on the PTA and the activity, there may be other questions that arise. Please feel free to connect the Illinois PTA for assistance or guidance.

Source: National PTA Money Matters Quick Reference Guide

Better Treatment For Youth Submitted by Gretchen L. McDowell Consultant, State Legislation

NEGATIVE RESULTS OF PLACING YOUTH IN THE ADULT PRISON SYSTEM

The new report released by the 'Campaign for Youth Justice titled *State Trends...*' helps us understand the consequences of trying youth as adults. Two issues discussed in the report include:

- Removing Youth from Adult Jails and Prisons
- Raising the Age of Juvenile Court Jurisdiction

One of the serious consequences of adult court prosecution of youth (for crimes that cause transfer to adult court) is that youth can be housed in adult jails and prisons. This report shows that in 2009 Illinois held 106 youth under 18 in adult prison for some period of time. Warehousing youths in the adult system if convicted of a crime as an adult, per this report, "ensures that the teens will *not* have guidance from responsible adults, or have access to age-appropriate programs, services, and punishment to help build positive change into their brains during this crucial developmental period."

Although federal law requires that youth in the juvenile justice system be removed from adult jails or be sight-and-sound separated from other adults, these protections do not apply to youth prosecuted in the adult criminal justice system. Sometimes youth are held in isolation in adult systems to protect them. This is very hard on youth.

Basically, prosecuting youth in the adult system leads to more crime, not less. Statistics show that youth who are transferred from the juvenile court system to the adult criminal system are approximately 34% more likely than youth retrained in the juvenile court system. (Ed. Note: *The Illinois PTA has long had a position for retaining all youth under 18 as juveniles in the juvenile court system*).

Since youth in the adult system receive limited services, and often become socialized into a culture where their role models are adult criminals and violence can be a part of institutional life, the cost to society can be great.

The Illinois PTA's positions, as stated particularly in the report "Ten Years of Progress" which can be found on the PTA website, www.illinoispta.org, urge that whenever possible, youth should be kept out of confinement, and instead be provided social services in their own community, and only when a danger to themselves or others, be confined in facilities designed especially for youth.

Information in this article comes from the following report:

Arya, Neelum (2011). *State Trends: Legislative Changes from 2005 to 2010 Removing Youth from the Adult Criminal Justice System*, Washington, DC: Campaign for Youth Justice. The complete report can be accessed at www.cfyj.org. Click on latest research on the home page.

Year End REMINDERS

Submitted by Nan Tharp
Illinois PTA Treasurer

Welcome to the new school year! This is just a friendly reminder to all PTA Presidents and Treasurers that your financial audits on your checking accounts need to be done before beginning your new year.

Now is the time to get your budget set according to what you want to accomplish in the next school year. Then fundraise accordingly. If you do not need to fund raise this year, GREAT!!

Also, do not forget to file your PTA's 990 tax return. It is as simple as a 990 e-postcard for PTAs having gross income below \$50,000. For PTAs with income of \$50,000 to \$200,000, file form 990EZ. For PTAs with income over \$200,000, a full 990 will need to be filled out. PLEASE, PLEASE fill these out every year. Failure to do this does result in loss of your tax exemption status.

[Back to Top](#)

Focusing on the "T" in PTA Submitted by Derrick W. Byrd, M.P.A. Chairperson, National PTA Membership Committee

Hello PTAs,

On behalf of the NPTA Membership Committee, Karen Dade, Rick Mendiondo, and I announce the launch of a new webpage dedicated to teachers at www.pta.org.

Putting the "T" back in PTA has been a response from state and local PTA leaders to recruit, retain, and engage teachers and develop standards for teacher involvement, partnership and membership in PTA. We are excited to introduce the creation of the website for teachers and those entering the profession to access PTA membership information, resources and e-learning opportunities.

We encourage you to promote the use of this resource to your local units and councils. We hope that this will further assist in developing and strengthening the parent-teacher partnership that will result in higher student achievement and PTA advocacy.

To view *Focusing on the "T" in PTA* web page, visit: <http://www.pta.org/4439.asp>

115th Annual National PTA Convention & Exhibition Submitted by Rhonda Jenkins June 9-12, 2011 Orlando, Florida Illinois PTA Vice President of Program Services

I had the privilege of attending National PTA Convention this year. I took workshops on issues such as developing parent leadership in urban communities, healthy kids, healthy schools, parent engagement, Common Core Standards, and much more. I also represented Illinois PTA at National PTA's Health Chairman Breakfast. I attended all General Sessions.

There were spirited General Sessions. The most spirited discussions surrounded the 50 cent dues increase proposed by National PTA. After much debate, the delegates approved the dues increase.



Delegates waiting in line to debate during a General Session at the 115th Annual National PTA Convention



Immediate Past Illinois PTA President Debra Strauss being congratulated by National PTA Chuck Saylor on her election as a Member Representative to the National PTA State Board of Managers

This Convention saw a new National PTA President elected: Betsy Landers
<http://www.pta.org/4661.htm>

A new President-Elect was also chosen: Otha Thornton <http://www.pta.org/4557.htm>

The highlight for me was the process of election of the Member Representatives for the National PTA Board of Directors. Our Immediate Past President, Debra Strauss, was elected as a Member Representative. Congratulations Deb!

The National PTA Convention is a wonderful opportunity for leadership development and networking with PTAs all over the country. Please consider sending a delegate in the near future!

Check the Illinois PTA Web site, www.pta.org, for more information on all National PTA conferences and events.

MORE Environment and Outdoor Opportunities and Resources for Teachers, Parents, and PTAs

*Submitted by Heather Miller
Chairman, Environmental Concerns*

Would you like to learn about new resources related to the environment and nature as we kick off the 2011-2012 school year? Students love hands on activities...experiential learning is one of the best ways to teach young people about the world around them, too! Take a look at the things available to you, including a grant opportunity to conduct your own project, and generate enthusiasm about nature and the environment as we head into fall---a beautiful time of the year in Illinois!

Nature Treasure Hunt Activity Resource—Downloadable Activity Ready To Use!



Studies show that children who play outside are happier, healthier and smarter. Help children connect with nature by taking them on a scavenger hunt -- in nature! The Nature Conservancy is making it easy for you: just download this fun and simple activity, which can be done in backyards, in nearby parks or at Nature Conservancy preserves near you...wherever families like to be in the great outdoors! What treasures will they find? <http://my.nature.org/kids/>

The North Face Explore Fund—GRANT OPPORTUNITY!

The North Face launched the Explore Fund as part of the company's mission to encourage an active healthy lifestyle and protection of the nation's natural landscapes. Through grants of up to \$2,500 each, the Explore Fund supports organizations that encourage youth outdoor participation, focusing primarily on creating more connections of children to nature, increasing access to both front & backcountry recreation, as well as providing education for both personal and environmental health. The proposed program or project should focus on a specific community or place of interest. The grant application process will open September 1, 2011, with applications due by October 5, 2011. For complete program guidelines, application procedures, grantee highlights, and ongoing updates, visit the Explore Fund web site at <http://explorefund.org/>

Field Trip Packs for Loan to Early Childhood Educators

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Division of Education has developed a new educator resource, and it's arriving just in time for the 2011-2012 school year. *Field Trip Packs* for loan to early childhood educators (grades prekindergarten through three) will be available within two weeks from lending locations throughout Illinois. Each pack is a backpack that contains hands-on equipment to encourage young children to engage in nature exploration. Suggestions for educators on how to incorporate natural-resources related topics into the curriculum are also included. To see the list of lending locations and the pack content list, visit: <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/fieldtrippack.htm>.



Assessing Inquiry Learning

The July issue of the National Science Teachers' Association Journal, *Science & Children*, focuses on assessing inquiry learning: both the learning of students and the effectiveness of the inquiry opportunities teachers provide them. Several of the articles, including a guest editorial by Richard Duschl about "The Changing Landscape of Assessment", are available free at:

<http://www.nsta.org/publications/article.aspx?id=Z349URi8cV6QnwtN3Q7TlxAji4gusIFK>

REMINDER: FREE Fishing programs for your school!

This popular **FREE** program offered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is a great opportunity to have a one-time event sponsored by PTA, or can be utilized to set up a P.E. segment! Kenwood PTA in Champaign, IL hosts a "Family Fishing Night" annually to kick off the school year—200+ children and adults attend! See June's Issue of the [Illinois PTA Bulletin](http://www.illinoispta.org/Bulletins/0611Bulletin.pdf) at <http://www.illinoispta.org/Bulletins/0611Bulletin.pdf> for more information.

[Back to Top](#)

Helmets for Kids

*Submitted by Matthew Rodriguez
Chairman, Juvenile Protection and Safety*

**A Free Helmet for Every Child**

“Only by making protection available can we start to prevent brain injuries.” – Stephen M. Smith

As a father and advocate for those that have suffered a head injury, Mr. Smith has launched the “Free Helmet for Every Child Program” in an effort to prevent mild and traumatic brain injuries. These injuries, which are most common in people under the age of 19, are typically attributed to a fall in which a helmet could have prevented the injury. Most of these occurrences happen on a bicycle or skateboard. *The Brain Injury Law Center is giving away CPSC-certified helmets for persons 19 years old or younger, anywhere in the United States for free through December 31, 2011.*

<http://www.brain-injury-law-center.com/about-us/helmets-for-kids.html>

Making It Real For Kids?

*Submitted by Barb Quinn
Chairman, Legislation*

Reflecting on our experiences as PTA leaders gives us an opportunity to ask the very real question: Are we making a difference for kids? Far too often, we find ourselves in the position of addressing administrative details that cause us to turn our attention away from the advocacy work we do for children. We get caught up in some of the day-to-day functions of many PTAs--back to school picnics, book fairs, setting schedules and recruiting volunteers--and perhaps we lose sight of the bigger picture, the WHY of these activities.

Understanding that puzzle is the impetus behind the revision of the Legislative Partners Award. This new *Making It Real For Kids Award* is especially designed to help each PTA evaluate the advocacy work they are doing for kids every single day. Some of the activities we undertake don't seem to have a direct connection to kids and classrooms, but if we examine the big picture, we find that they do have impact on outcomes in our children's lives.

Knowing that the goals of *local* PTA units may differ from the goals of PTA councils and districts, we are encouraging each of you to look at this new award as a way to help you plan future events and evaluate your goals. Have you undertaken some of these activities, projects, or programs without thinking about how they fit into the ‘big picture’? Have you stopped participating in certain activities, projects or programs because you don't see the value for kids? Have you been unsuccessful in recruiting a “legislation chairman” because the task seems overwhelming?

Take some time to review the new *Making It Real For Kids Award*. Use some of the criteria to help you establish an “action plan” for the new school year. Sometimes the smallest step reaps the biggest reward! If you need help, the Legislation Team is just a phone call or e-mail away.

This is YOUR opportunity to **MAKE IT REAL FOR KIDS!**

Back to Top

Webonauts – PBS

Source: <http://pbskids.org/webonauts/about/>

About the Webonauts Internet Academy

Webonauts Internet Academy is a web original game for PBS KIDS GO! that gives kids 8- to 10-year-old an opportunity to have some fun while exploring what it means to be a citizen in a web-infused, information-rich world. It is an engaging experience on its own but becomes all the more powerful when parents and teachers use game play as a springboard for conversations about media literacy and citizenship in the 21st Century.

Tips for Parents

Webonauts Internet Academy is more than a game. It's an opportunity to engage your child in what it means to be a "digital citizen" — someone who respects others on the web and in everyday encounters away from the screen. To get the most out of the game, consider doing the following:



Play along. Though you don't want to take over, jumping into game play is the best way to get to know what Webonauts Internet Academy is about — and what it feels like to be up against The Great Static. It also will help you have genuine conversations with your child about the themes that run through the game.



Get your child talking - while you do the listening. You may have specific ideas about the game's big topics, privacy and proper web etiquette, but first find out what your child thinks about the characters and the dilemmas she encounters on Planet lungo. This will allow you to find out what caught her attention and what she took away from the experience.



Clarify the difference between public and private. Aside from a clear reminder to not share passwords and other personally identifiable information, it's worthwhile to discuss the value of privacy in your home. Because your child may be most familiar with people around him, he may not understand how Information he shares online can be seen and shared by others he does not know. He may need your guidance to recognize the importance of being selective about what information he's releasing, how and with whom. This is true in general and also for information in his PBS KIDS GO! Account,



Talk about the overlap between screen activity and offline behavior. The way you behave offline should be similar to the way you behave online. Just because something is happening on a screen doesn't mean it's not real. Encourage your child to see how she treats people online translates to her face-to-face encounters with people she knows.



Tackle cyberbullying directly. There is no avoiding aggressive behavior on the web just as there's no getting around it at school and other places where many people gather. Think out loud with your child about what inappropriate behavior looks and feels like on the web and what she can do in different situations to deal with it.



Raise the issue of credibility and why accuracy in speech and writing matters. As appealing as rumors are, they often stem from speculation and guessing at truths. Get your child to talk about what a reliable source is and when it's helpful to cite a source of information, whether it's on the Internet, in a book or something overheard on the playground



Round out game play with a conversation about "digital citizenship." A good place to begin is by thinking about specific behaviors and a code of right and wrong. Web safety = not sharing your street address, for example. Once you and your child have generated a list of dos and don'ts, you can expand the conversation by talking about what it means to be a good contributor to a group or community and how civic participation requires giving consideration to others. As a conversation starter or wrap-up, you may want to ask your child the best place for hanging the game diploma — perhaps as a reminder of the house rules you have made together.



Juvenile Protective Association's Third Annual 5K Run/Walk

What: A 5K (3.1 mile) fun run/walk in support of preventing and treating child abuse

Where: Grant Park, Chicago

When: Thursday, August 18 at 6:30 pm

http://www.juvenile.org/cgi-bin/WebObjects/JPA_Content.woa/wa/a?p=109

Illinois PTA University Submitted by Brenda Diehl Director, Leadership Development

The Illinois PTA University Degree Program is an incentive program intended to encourage leadership development. The program has three components, a “Bachelor’s Degree,” “Master’s Degree,” and “Doctoral Degree.” At each level, participants are required to complete a number of courses or workshops, attend PTA-sponsored events, and, at the doctoral level, coordinate a “thesis project.”

Unveiled at the 2009 State Convention, this program replaced the Gold and Platinum Card program.

Requirements for the Bachelor’s Degree are:

- Completion of PTA Road to Success;
- Completion of PTA Money Matters 101;
- Attending a District or Council meeting or workshop;
- Attending a State conference or workshop (not at convention); and
- Attending the Illinois PTA State Convention.

Requirements for the Master’s Degree are:

- Completion of Bachelor’s Degree;
- Four of the following “Electives”:
Money Matters 201
Council Course
PTA President’s Course
Legislation/Advocacy Conference
National PTA Convention

Requirements for the Doctoral Degree are:

- Completion of Bachelor’s Degree
- Completion of Master’s Degree
- Train the Trainers (by recommendation only)
- Thesis Project (by prior approval of Leadership Development Director)

Requirements for the Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees may be fulfilled simultaneously—that is, someone may attend and receive credit for the Council Course or any other elective under the Master’s Degree before receiving the Bachelor’s degree. However, the Master’s Degree cannot be awarded before fulfilling all the requirements of the Bachelor’s Degree.

PTA University Transcripts are available from the course leaders. Upon completion of a given course, the course leader or state board member will sign and date the requirement on the Transcript form. The completed forms are then returned to the Leadership Development Director. Those who complete the requirements for a degree will be recognized.

The first two Doctoral Degrees were awarded to Gayle and Rich Guzik by President, Deb Strauss at the 2011 Illinois PTA Convention.

Many Bylaws require the completion of PTA University Courses by officers of the association.

Contact your District Director to schedule PTA University Courses.

Illinois PTA PO Box 907, Springfield, IL 62705-0907

Bruce Bohren, President

Jolene Lowder, Executive Director

Office e-mail address: ilpta@ameritech.net

Website: www.illinoispta.org

Phone: (800)-877-9617 Fax: (217) 528-9490

Illinois PTA Bulletin Editorial Board

Carolyn McCarty, Editor

Mary Ann Daugherty

Debi Harris

Rhonda Jenkins

Darcy Killigrew

Deb Scollard

Peg Staehlin

Heather Miller

To subscribe to *the Illinois PTA e-Bulletin*, send an email to: ilpta@ameritech.net. Please put “Bulletin” in the subject line and include your name, PTA, city, state, and email.

[Back to Top](#)