

**2011-2013 Officers
2011-2012 Commissioners/
Committee Chairs**

- President: Rochelle Wells
- Vice President: Grace LaMoureaux
- Secretary: Cristina Hite
- Treasurer: Fuji Vorseth
- Northwest Maricopa Region Director: Philis Kortgard
- Northeast Maricopa/Gila Region Director: Elaina West
- Northern; Southwest Maricopa; Southeast Maricopa; and Western: Grace LaMoureaux, acting Region Director
- Southern Arizona Region Director: Jackie Chavez
- Parent Involvement Chair: Jenni Brasington
- Education Commissioner: Chris Lineberry
- Health & Welfare Commissioner: Richard Perry
- Safety Chair: Megan Roberts
- Membership Chair: Anne Gabriellini
- Bylaws Chair: Paula Kay Purkhiser
- Reflections Chair: Darlene Shaffer
- Scholarship Chair: Beth Simek
- Past President: Betty Garcia-Pendley
- Youth Representative: Andrew Miller

Emails address for all state officers and chairs are posted on website, www.azpta.org

Compliance Incentives

2012 SHINING STAR AWARD

Tied to the **Reach for the Stars** convention theme, Arizona PTA is offering the following list of recognitions for units that have reached their "Good Standings" status by **March 1st**.

To be in Good Standings, your unit should submit a copy of current year:

- Officers List
- Insurance Premium Payment
- Current year's budget
- Financial Review of last year's budget
- IRS tax filing for 2010
- Review form indicating adoption of June 2011 Unified Local Unit Bylaws & Standing Rules (amended due to increase in membership dues)
- Minutes that show the adoption of unit budget, financial review, bylaws and standing rules by your general membership
- Membership Report with one copy of member roster and dues payment

1st Prize:	Two (2) registrations to the 2012 Annual Arizona PTA Convention	\$240 value
2nd Prize:	Nikon Coolpix Camera	\$140 value
3rd Prize:	PTA "Meeting Tonight" Vinyl Banner	\$ 60 value



If you have questions as to whether you are in Good Standing, contact your Region Director or email office@azpta.org for details.

Membership—Important Information & Date

Membership has its privileges. Once you are a member of PTA you have a voice and your voice is needed and your opinion matters. However, you **must** be a member by **March 1st** in order to vote on the items being brought forward and any decisions being made at the 2012 State and National Conventions. **ALL** officers should be on their unit's roster submitted into the State office otherwise you are not able to vote on decisions within your own unit board meetings.

Membership may be submitted into the State office monthly, if you wish.

The next report date is March 1st.

Take Your Family to School Week — February 12-18, 2012

PTA Take Your Family to School Week is celebrated each February to pay tribute to PTA's legacy of building family-school partnerships. PTA Take Your Family to School Week will be held February 12–18, 2012 with the purpose of expanding and enhancing family engagement in schools across the country by welcoming families into their schools. This week's events helps PTAs build stronger partnerships with family and brings focus to the impact family engagement can have on student success.

National PTA® offers grants to PTAs to implement programs that engage families in the school community. These grants can be used to build positive partnerships with teachers and families, connect parents to their children's school experiences, and give children fun ways to share what they are learning and doing in class with their families.

PTA Take Your Family to School Week is sponsored by the AXA Foundation, the philanthropic arm of AXA Equitable. The [AXA Foundation](#) is a Proud National Sponsor of PTA. The AXA Foundation provides more than \$1.3 million a year in scholarships to make college a reality for students across the country.

Need a Good Example of Projects?

* Family Game Night * Family Dance—children dress up, wearing corsages, with dads in suits and moms in party attire * Week long events the morning, lunchtime and evening events to provide a convenient time for everyone. * Parent Donuts & Coffee * Ice Cream Social * Lunchtime with Parent * Book Bingo Night * Mentor time—parents come and learn how their children learn so they can carry the lessons home * Family Reading Night * Karaoke Night—sing off competition and refreshments* Movie Night * Arizona Field Trip—parents and children take a punch card and stop at stations that feature fun facts about Arizona

Need Resources to Implement Your Project?

Visit www.PTA.org/take_your_family_to_school_asp to download tools to help you plan, promote and implement an event.

Share your Event

Arizona PTA would love to receive photos of how you promote family engagement on your campus. Please send photos to office@azpta.org so we can post them to your website and in our publications.

National PTA Award

The Arizona unit recognized and receiving the National PTA \$1,000 grant is **Vista Verde Middle School PTSA, Phoenix** for their “college info” night event to host a variety of great informative sessions that are open to students and parents. Congratulations Vista Verde!

McDonald's Take Your Family to School Week Grant Awards

Lindsey Shirley, The Grundemann Group

Congratulations to the following ten PTAs that will receive a \$500 grant award to be used for their campus Take Your Family to School Event. Thank you McDonalds for supporting parent involvement.

Aguilar PTA (Tempe)

Bulldog PTA (Buckeye)

Desert Heights PTSA (Glendale)

Eagle College Preparatory PTA (Phoenix)

Islands Elementary PTA (Gilbert)

Longview PTA (Phoenix)

Paseo Hills PTSA (Phoenix)

Santa Fe Elementary PTSA (Peoria)

Sonoran Heights PTA (Surprise)

Trailside Point PTA (Laveen)



Save the Date notice was included in last month’s News. Registration will open March 19, 2012.

Convention Dates: June 1-3, 2012, registration open at 7:30 a.m. and first workshop starts at 8:30 am.

Location: Hilton Phoenix, East Mesa, Arizona, 1101 W. Holmes Avenue, Mesa
Group rate \$86.00 per night (single/double)

Registration Cost:

Early Registration deadline is April 30, 2012	\$170.00
Regular Registration deadline is May 21, 2012	\$200.00
Late and On site Registration	\$225.00
Extra Saturday night event tickets	\$ 35.00
Extra Sunday <i>All Star</i> Award Breakfast tickets	\$ 40.00

Registration includes: All Workshops, General Sessions, Keynote Speakers, Lunches Friday and Saturday, Saturday Continental Breakfast, entrance to Exhibition Hall, Saturday Night Event, Sunday All Star Award Breakfast.

Exhibition Hall: Dedicated time in schedule to visit over 50 vendors and services.

Scholarship Fund: Create a themed basket to donate for the silent auction.

Volunteers: Interested in volunteering to help before or during convention to monitor a workshop, PTA store, page in General Session, and other tasks? Email convention@azpta.org.

Questions: Email convention@azpta.org or leave message at 602-279-1811.

Mark your calendar

Local Unit Awards due March 30

Philis Kortgard, NWM Region Director

Recognize those great individuals on your campus that are doing exceptional jobs to support education and advocate for children. The guidelines and forms for the Arizona PTA local unit awards can be found on line at www.azpta.org, Members Only section. Submit completed forms into the state office by March 30, 2012. Finalists will be recognized on Sunday, June 3rd at the Arizona PTA Convention *All Star* Award Breakfast.

List of Awards:

- Outstanding Unit for Parent Involvement
- Volunteer of the Year
- Educator of the Year
- Support Staff of the Year
- Local PTA Unit of the Year
-



HONOR THE GREAT PEOPLE IN YOUR PTA THAT SUPPORT THE MISSION AND VISION OF PTA!

Arizona PTA

Outstanding Unit for Parent Involvement Award

Application Form

2010-2011

Goal of the Award

The goal of the Arizona PTA Outstanding Unit for Parent Involvement Award is to recognize local units that demonstrate a commitment to the Six National Standards of Parent and Family Involvement and the Mission and Purposes of the PTA.

State _____ Local Unit ID # _____

Local Unit Name _____ E-Mail Contact _____

School Name _____ Phone _____

Local Unit President _____ Signature _____

Local Unit President's Address _____ Phone _____

Early Childhood PTA ____ Elementary PTA ____ Middle School PTA ____
Junior High PTA ____ Senior High PTA ____ Other PTA _____

Total students in your school _____ Total members in your PTA _____

Selection Criteria -Describe your most successful parent involvement program/project.

Section 1:

- **Standard I -Communication** Describe how the program/project integrates and promotes two-way, meaningful communication between home and school. **(1-10 points)**
- **Standard II -Parenting** Describe how the program/project has initiated or supported communication between parents and students and between parents and educators. Be specific and give examples. **(1-10 points)**
- **Standard III – Student Learning** Describe how the program/project assists parents in playing an integral role in student learning. **(1-10 points)**
- **Standard IV -Volunteering** Describe how the program/project makes parents feel welcome in the school, and how their support and assistance are sought. **(1-10 points)**
- **Standard V -Advocacy** Describe how the program/project fosters parents as full partners in the decisions that affect children and families. **(1-10 points)**
- **Standard VI -Community** Describe how the program/project links the classroom with the community. How does it involve community members in the life of the school, draw on community resources, and encourage students to participate in the community? **(1-10 points)**

Section 2: How did you evaluate the effectiveness of your program/project? (1-25 points)

Section 3: Describe the impact your program/project had within your local unit? (1-15 points)

Technical Requirements

- Use separate sheet for the narrative, typed, or computer generated.
- Attach this **application** form to the entry – **typed or computer generated**.
- For copying purposes, use no binders, covers, colored paper, brochures, flyers, or newspaper articles.
- Use one-inch margins on all sides.
- Type should be black ink, 12-point pitch or larger; standard font (computer type-sizes or equivalents).
- Use no more than two double-sided or four single-sided pages, double-spaced.
- Use 8 ½ x 11-inch plain, white paper. Number pages.
- Facsimiles (fax) will not be accepted.
- Include a principal's or director's letter of support on letterhead stationery, single-sided. Letter must be signed.
- You may not apply for this award and the "Local PTA Unit of the Year" Award in the same year.
- Any unit winning this award two consecutive years may not apply again for this award for one year.
- Mark the outside of the envelope: AWARD APPLICATION -CONFIDENTIAL
- **Include original and four copies of entry.**
- **YOUR UNIT MUST BE IN GOOD STANDING.**

Mail to Arizona PTA, 2721 North 7th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona, 85007, MUST BE POSTMARKED BY March 30, 2012

Arizona PTA

Local PTA Unit of the Year Award

Application Form

2011-2012

Goal of the Award

The goal of the Local PTA Unit of the Year Award is to recognize local units that demonstrate a commitment to the mission and purposes of the PTA. This award focuses on the activities and programs from the entire year.

Nominee Information

Local Unit Name _____

School Name _____ Phone _____

Local Unit President _____ Signature _____

Local Unit President's Address _____ Phone _____

School District _____ E-mail contact _____

Application Submitted By _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Selection Criteria

- Overview of activities, projects, and programs of your unit. (1-30 points)
- Goals set and successes met. (1-20 points)
- Explain the involvement of parents, staff, students, and community in your unit. (1-20 points)
- Resources used by your unit (Arizona and National PTA materials, community agencies, speakers, etc.) (1-15 points)
- Publicity given activities/programs/projects within the PTA school, school district, and general community. (1-15 points)

Technical Requirements Checklist

- Use a separate sheet to write nomination, must be typed or computer generated.
- Attach this **application** form to the entry – **typed or computer generated**.
- For copying purposes, use no binders, covers, colored paper, brochures, flyers, or newspaper articles.
- Type should be black ink, 12-point pitch or larger; standard font (computer type-sizes or equivalents).
- Use no more than two double-sided or four single-sided pages, double-spaced, one-inch margins on all sides.
- Use 8 ½ x 11-inch plain, white paper. Number pages.
- Facsimiles will not be accepted (fax).
- The name of the PTA unit, school, school district, or city cannot appear anywhere except on this application form.
- Any unit winning this Award two consecutive years may not currently apply again for this award for one year.
- Mark the outside of the envelope: AWARD APPLICATION -CONFIDENTIAL
- You may not apply for this award and "Outstanding Unit for Parent Involvement" in the same year.
- **Include original and four additional copies of entry.**
- **YOUR UNIT MUST BE IN GOOD STANDING.**

Mail to Arizona PTA, 2721 North 7th Avenue., Phoenix, Arizona, 85007 and **MUST BE POSTMARKED BY**

Arizona PTA Educator of the Year Award Application Form 2011-2012

Goal of the Award

This award recognizes a professional educator currently working with students. This person must be a member of the PTA and exemplify the mission and purposes of the PTA.

Nominee Information

Name of Nominee _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Local Unit _____

PTA President _____ Phone _____

School District _____ E-mail Contact _____

Application Submitted By _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Selection Criteria

- **Educator's Relationship with Students** Describe how the educator interacts with students. Be specific about such things as how the educator builds on student strengths, helps students overcome weaknesses, recognizes and provides for individual differences among students. **(1-15 points)**
- **Educator's Relationship with Parents** How does the educator support the Six National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs? Describe how the educator has initiated or supported communication between parents and students and between parents and educators. How accessible is the educator to parents? Does the educator provide evaluations of student progress and notify parents promptly of student achievements or problems? Are parents involved and informed about decisions? Be specific and give examples. **(1-15 points)**
- **The Educator's Relationship with PTA** Summarize the educator's involvement with the PTA. How does she/he demonstrate commitment to the Purposes of PTA? **(1-15 points)**
- **The Educator's Relationship with the Community** Describe how the educator links the classroom with the community. How does the educator involve community members in the life of the school, draw on community resources, and encourage students to participate in the community? Is the educator accessible to community leaders and other community members? **(1-15 points)**
- **The Educator's Relationship with the Profession** Describe the nominee's professional preparation and participation in continuing education. Describe specific professional activities and accomplishments such as development of curriculum, development of assessment processes, sponsorship of student activities, mentoring of new teachers, and/or participation in professional associations. Note any relevant honors. **(1-15 points)**

Technical Requirements Checklist

- Nominee must be a member of your local unit. Submit only one name per school.
- Use a separate sheet to write nomination. It must be typed or computer generated.
- The name of the nominee, PTA unit, school, school district, or city cannot appear anywhere except on this application form.
- Attach this application form to the entry **-typed**.
- For copying purposes, use no binders, covers, colored paper, brochures, flyers, or newspaper articles.
- Type should be black ink, 12-point pitch or larger; standard font. Use one-inch margins on all sides.
- Use 8 ½ x 11-inch plain, white paper. Number pages.
- Use no more than two double-sided or four single-sided pages, double-spaced.
- Facsimiles (fax) will not be accepted.
- Mark the outside of the envelope: AWARD APPLICATION -CONFIDENTIAL
- **Include original and four copies of entry.**
- **YOUR UNIT MUST BE IN GOOD STANDING.**

Mail to Arizona PTA, 2721 North 7th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona, 85007 MUST BE POSTMARKED BY March 30, 2012.

Arizona PTA

Support Staff of the Year Award

Application Form

2011-2012

Goal of the Award

This award recognizes an outstanding Support Staff (is any employee of the school district who is not certified or does not fall under a certified contract) who has given consistent and outstanding service through the PTA. This person must be a member of the PTA and exemplifies the mission and purposes of the PTA.

Nominee Information

Name of Nominee _____ Position at School _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Local Unit _____

PTA President _____ Phone _____

School District _____ E-mail Contact _____

Application Submitted By _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Selection Criteria

- Describe the outstanding efforts and accomplishments of the nominee in fostering the following Purposes of PTA. Give examples and be specific. (1-50 points)
 1. To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship.
 2. To raise the standards of home life.
 3. To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
 4. To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.
 5. To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.
- How nominee has worked to provide leadership. (1-20 points)
- Goals nominee has accomplished. (1-10 points)
- Examples of programs and activities encouraged, participated in, and/or planned by nominee. (1-20 points)

Technical Requirements Checklist

- Nominee must be a member of your local unit. Submit only one name per school.
- Use a separate sheet to write nomination.
- The name of the nominee, PTA unit, school, school district, or city cannot appear anywhere except on this application form.
- Attach this **application** form to the entry – **typed or computer generated**.
- For copying purposes, use no binders, covers, or colored paper.
- Use one-inch margins on all sides.
- Type should be black ink, 12-point pitch or larger; standard font (computer type-sizes or equivalents).
- Use 8 ½ x 11-inch plain, white paper. Number pages.
- Use no more than two double-sided or four single-sided pages, double-spaced.
- Facsimiles will not be accepted (fax).
- Mark the outside of the envelope: AWARD APPLICATION -CONFIDENTIAL
- **Include original and four copies of entry**
- **YOUR UNIT MUST BE IN GOOD STANDING.**

Mail to Arizona PTA, 2721 North 7th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona, 85007 MUST BE POSTMARKED BY March 30, 2012.

Arizona PTA Volunteer of the Year Award Application Form 2011-2012

Goal of the Award

This award recognizes an outstanding volunteer who has given consistent and outstanding service through the PTA. This person must be a member of the PTA and exemplifies the mission and purposes of the PTA.

Nominee Information

Name of Nominee _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Local Unit _____ E-mail Contact _____

PTA President _____ Phone _____

School District _____

Application Submitted By _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Selection Criteria

- Describe the outstanding efforts and accomplishments of the nominee in fostering the following Purposes of PTA. Give examples and be specific. (1-50 points)
 1. To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship.
 2. To raise the standards of home life.
 3. To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
 4. To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.
 5. To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.
- How nominee has worked to provide leadership in the local unit. (1-20 points)
- Goals nominee has accomplished. (1-10 points)
- Examples of programs and activities encouraged participated in and/or planned by nominee. (1-20 points)

Technical Requirements Checklist

- Nominee must be a member of your local unit, with their name appearing on the membership list. Submit only one name per school.
- Use a separate sheet to write nomination. It must be typed or computer generated.
- The name of the nominee, PTA unit, school, school district, or city cannot appear anywhere except on this application form.
- Attach this **application** form to the entry – **typed or computer generated**.
- For copying purposes, use no binders, covers, colored paper, brochures, flyers, or newspaper articles.
- Use one-inch margins on all sides.
- Type should be black ink, 12-point pitch or larger; standard font (computer type-sizes or equivalents).
- Use no more than two double-sided or four single-sided pages, double-spaced.
- Use 8 ½ x 11-inch plain, white paper. Number pages.
- Facsimiles (fax) will not be accepted.
- Mark the outside of the envelope: AWARD APPLICATION - CONFIDENTIAL
- **Include original and four copies of entry.**
- **YOUR UNIT MUST BE IN GOOD STANDING.**

Mail to Arizona PTA, 2721 North 7th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona, 85007 MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MARCH 30, 2012.

Benefits of Membership

Numerous benefits are available to dues-paying units and members.

- Non-Profit Status
- Grants—Reflections Arts Enhancement, PTA Healthy Lifestyles, Hearst Awards, Lifetime Achievement, PTA Take Your Family to School Week and so many more...
- *Our Children* magazine, PTA's flagship publication with parenting articles by experts on children's health, education, and well-being; and information on advocacy efforts; the latest news that affects children and youth.
- Professionally designed public service announcements (PSAs) to aid in membership recruitment.
- National PTA and Arizona PTA Annual Convention information.
- A Back-to-School kit containing recruitment ideas and other materials to get the year started.
- Teacher Appreciation Week ideas.
- Select resources developed in collaboration with PTA's national partners.
- The Great Idea Bank—a social network to enable parents to interact and learn from each other how to overcome the challenges of parenting today.
- National PTA's Membership Achievement Program.
- Numerous resources on parent involvement programs, fundraising, working collaboratively, and much more.

Discounts and special offers from a host of PTA Member Benefits Providers. Individual members have access to a number of exclusive benefits too, including:

- Online parenting resources, including select articles from *Our Children* magazine.
- E-newsletters on parenting and legislative issues.
- Exclusive National PTA member benefits and sponsor offers.
- Leadership training opportunities in-person and online.
- Discounted member rate for PTA's annual national convention, magazine subscriptions, and more.
- The Member-to-Member Network, connecting you to Congress when help is needed on issues important to children, schools, and families.

Because of the size of our organization, PTA is able to partner with businesses and negotiate special discounts, fundraising opportunities, and other valuable benefits exclusively for PTA members. When you make purchases from these companies, not only will you receive a discount, but National PTA will also receive a percentage of royalties from the sale.



Membership Awards—March 1 Report

Awards are an important part of building membership. A sense of pride comes from winning an award. It helps your members know how important they are to your PTA. Your membership works hard and deserve recognition. When you apply for awards you not only promote the purpose of PTA, you share your programs with other units. Remember to submit your Membership Form by March 1 and indicate the awards your unit is to be recognized to receive.

Building Block Awards will be presented at the Arizona PTA Convention. There is no application process for these awards. It is your unit's responsibility to mark on your March Membership Report form if you qualify for 100% Membership, 100% Teacher, 100% Staff, Grandparent, Focus on Father and Business Participation Awards. Membership records will be checked to determine and /or verify award winners.

Membership awards include:

- The LARGEST UNIT in the state
- The LARGEST NEW UNIT in the state
- The NUMBER MEMBERSHIP INCREASE for a local unit in the state
- The LARGEST UNIT in each PTA region
- The LARGEST NEW UNIT in each PTA region
- The LARGEST NUMBER MEMBERHSIP INCREASE for a local unit in each PTA region
- FOCUS ON FATHERS
- 100% MEMBERSHIP: Any local unit with a membership total equal to the student enrollment. For example, there are 25 students enrolled in your school, and you have 25 members in your unit.
- TEACHER MEMBERSHIP AWARD: 100% of the teachers at your school are members of your unit. (Place **T** beside the appropriate names on your membership list to qualify, and mark it off on the report form.)
- STAFF MEMBERSHIP AWARD: 100% of all support staff are members of your unit. (Place **SS** beside the appropriate names on your membership list to qualify, and mark it off on the report form.)
- GRANDPARENT MEMBERSHIP AWARD: Any local unit with grandparents totaling 20 or more. (Place a **G** beside the appropriate names on your membership list to qualify, and mark it off on the report form.)
- BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP AWARD: Any local unit with business partners making 3% of its total membership. (Place **B** beside the appropriate names on your membership list to qualify, and mark it off on the form.)
- FOCUS ON FATHERS AWARD: To qualify for this award a PTA must have 10% adult male membership and a PTSA must have 20% youth and adult male membership.

LOCAL PTA UNITS MUST BE IN GOOD STANDING TO QUALIFY FOR AWARDS

(see page 1 for a list of what items are required to be in Good Standing)

Arizona PTA will monitor the this year's new campaign to increase each unit membership by 12 members from last year's total and receive additional recognition. However, don't feel you need to stop there, the more members the more we can create a stronger force of support to promote the mission and vision of PTA. This award will also be presented at convention.



PTA/PTSA Nominations and Elections

It's that time of year again to search for future leadership for your PTA/PTSA. The Nominating Committee is a special committee and holds the key to a successful PTA. Its responsibility is to present the best qualified nominees for office. According to the Unified Local Unit Bylaws, Article VII, Officers and their Election, Section 5: Nominating Committee:

- a. *There shall be a nominating committee composed of three (3) members who will be elected by this local PTA/PTSA unit at a regular meeting at least two (2) months prior to the election of officers. The committee shall elect its own chair.*
- b. *The nominating committee shall nominate an eligible person for each office to be filled and report its nominees at a general meeting in March. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the election meeting.*
- c. *Only those persons, who have signified their consent to serve, if elected, shall be nominated for or elected to such office.*

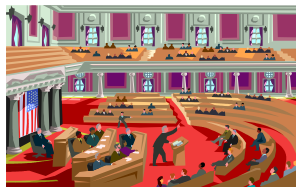
Units should review their calendar to determine when they will have their elections to create the Nomination Committee in time to find eligible individuals to fill the officer positions required based on the unit Standing Rules.

Visit the www.azpta.org website for an easy guide on nominations and elections.

If you have any questions, please contact your Region Director, or email office@azpta.org for assistance.



Legislation



Arizona Legislative session opened February 9, 2012. Stay connected on what is taking place in Arizona legislation on issues relating to education and our children's health and safety through www.azleg.org. Questions on any of the House Bills or other items, feel free to contact Rochelle Wells at president@azpta.org.

Happy Birthday Arizona!

The Centennial goal is to have all 22 tribes, 15 counties and 120 cities and towns represented with at least one officially designated Arizona Centennial Event and/or Legacy Project that is unique and meaningful to its community.

Many of our schools identified ideas and projects that they have and will continue to do to honor Arizona's Birthday. Schools planted trees, had storytelling events, attending individual city celebrations and participated in the Penny Drive to help fund the future Capital Dome copper recoating.



The biggest party of the century is planned at the Arizona State Capitol Mall and surrounding area along Centennial Way on Saturday, February 11 noon to 10 p.m. and Sunday, February 12 noon to 6:00 p.m.

This is a free event with cultural events, food, entertainment and arts and crafts.

For more information visit www.az100years.org.

Join in the fun as Arizona PTA partners with Peter Piper Pizza for a STATEWIDE fundraiser on **Tuesday, February 21, 2012!** Whether you are in Flagstaff, Tucson, Casa Grande, Yuma, Prescott, or Phoenix, visit your local Peter Piper Pizza from 11 am—10 pm, present the flyer and you can help raise money for our Arizona PTA Scholarship program!

There's something in it for all local units too! The school with the most participation at each Peter Piper Pizza store statewide will earn a classroom pizza party! Just write the name of your school at the top of the flyer when you distribute them at your school for your chance to win!

Plus, each person that shows their PTA membership card will earn an additional 10 Free Tokens just for being a PTA member! Use this opportunity to build your membership and show your community that PTA membership does have its privileges!



Print and distribute the flyer and help further education.

(full page flyer can be found at <http://www.azpta.org/newsevents.html>)

Thank you Peter Piper Pizza!

ENJOY GREAT FOOD & FUN And RAISE SOME DOUGH!

15% of all food, non-alcoholic beverage and token sales benefit

Arizona PTA

Support the Arizona PTA Scholarship Program!

Receive 10 FREE Game Tokens!

With your purchase when you present your PTA Membership card to the cashier.

WIN A PIZZA PARTY FOR YOUR CLASS!

Complete the information below and present this flyer during the fundraiser to enter your school to win 8 large, 1-Topping Pizzas!

School _____ Teacher _____

*Minimum of \$200.00 in sales per location to qualify for pizza party and 10 flyers from your school to be eligible to win.



**Everyone
grab a slice.**

Date: Tuesday, February 21st, 2012

Time: 11:00 A.M – 10:00 P.M.

Place: Any Arizona Peter Piper Pizza
For your nearest location visit
www.peterpiperpizza.com

Present this flyer to the cashier when ordering. Not valid with any other offers. BOGO cards will not be accepted.

Reflections submittals are now closed. Thank you to all the Units that submitted entries for the 2012 Reflections Program. It was amazing how our students view and depict Diversity in their lives. Of course, we believe that all entries are WINNERS! Judging will be taking place with results being announced in the next News Report. Look for your invitation to the Award Celebration to take place at 10:00 a.m. on June 9, 2012. Thanks to all who participated.

**Positive Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Courtesy of Arizona Parent Information Resource Center

Parent-teacher conferences are an important first step in strengthening your child's learning. As your child's first teacher, you have unique qualities and skills only you can provide and the school needs to know about them.

Conferences are typically held twice a year and are usually 10-15 minutes in length. Should you need additional time to discuss your child's progress, you may request a follow-up conference at a later date. Due to the short duration of the conference, please be sure to let the teacher know if you are running late in case he/she needs to reschedule.

Your school will be glad to provide special accommodations such as telephone conferences, *translating/interpreting services** or alternative dates to ensure your participation and a successful conference.

The following are suggestions of important questions to ask during a parent-teacher conference:

- 1) What are my child's strengths/weaknesses?
- 2) What is my child's learning style?
- 3) Do you keep examples of my child's work in a folder/portfolio?
- 4) How do you assess my child's progress?
- 5) How does my child interact with other children?
- 6) What can we do at home to support classroom learning?
- 7) Are my child's assignments completed on time and accurately?
- 8) What is my child's behavior like in the classroom?
- 9) What books has my child read this year? Do you have a book list for his/her age & ability level?
- 10) What is the best way to contact you?

* Please be advised that you may bring your own translator/interpreter for the conference or request that the school provide one for you.



How Can I Help My Child?

Parents should help build a relationship with their child’s teacher. They can do this by talking to his or her teacher regularly about how your child is doing — beyond parent-teacher conferences.

At home, parents can play an important role in setting high expectations and supporting their children in meeting them. If the child needs a little extra help or wants

to learn more about a subject, work with his or her teacher in identifying opportunities for tutoring, to get involved in clubs after school, or to find other resources.

The Arizona PTA News Letter will feature “Help Your Child Learn at Home” tips and information specific to different grade(s) in each edition.

Help Your Child Learn at Home-Tips and information for other grades can be found at www.pta.org.

3rd Grade

English Language Arts & Literacy

- Make reading for fun a part of your child’s daily routine. Set aside quiet time, with no phones, computers, or other distractions, when your child can read for pleasure, books such as *Amos & Boris* by William Steig or *The Fire Cat* by Esther Averill. To find more books for your child to read, visit www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf.
- Encourage your child to find a picture from a newspaper or magazine, cut it out, paste it on paper, and write a story about it.
- Start a family vocabulary box or jar. Have everyone write down new words they discover, add them to the box, and use the words in conversation.

Mathematics - Look for “word problems” in real life. Some 3rd grade examples might include:

- ▣ Notice those everyday occasions when you find yourself using your times tables — such as to determine how many days there are in four weeks. Ask your child for the answer.
- Involve your child when you notice yourself using division to “work backward” in the times tables — such as determining how many candies each child will get if 36 candies are shared equally among nine children at a party, or determining how many six-inch lengths can be cut from a string 18 inches long.

4th Grade

English Language Arts & Literacy

- Urge your child to use logical arguments to defend his or her opinion. If your child wants a raise in allowance, ask him or her to research commonsense allowance systems and, based on that research, explain reasons why, supported by facts and details.
- Talk about the news together. Pick one story in the news, read it together, and discuss with your child what it means.
- Keep books, magazines, and newspapers at home. Make sure your child sees you reading.

Mathematics - Look for “word problems” in real life. Some 4th grade examples might include:

- Ask your child to compare numbers using phrases like “times as much.” For example, if the family cat weighs 8 lbs. and the family dog weighs 56 lbs., how many times as much does the dog weigh?
- Ask your child to help you compare fractional amounts — for example, if one recipe calls for $\frac{2}{3}$ of a cup of oil, but another recipe calls for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cup of oil, which recipe calls for more oil? (In 5th grade, your child will learn ways to determine just how much more oil.)

Council Health & Safety Event

Beth Simek, Surprise-El Mirage PTA Council President

The Surprise-El Mirage PTA Council, representing 16 PTA Schools of the Dysart Unified School District and surrounding community, hosted its inaugural **Walking Together For Youth 5K Run/Walk** on Saturday, January 21, 2012 in El Mirage to raise awareness about the childhood obesity epidemic and the importance of physical activity. Participants from as young as 5 and as old as 81 years old came from far and wide to be a part of this event. Proceeds from the event are being donated to the Dysart Unified School District to be earmarked for district-wide physical education use and the school with the most participation, Carden PTA, earned an additional \$500 toward their PE department.

Thanks to all the PTAs that participated: Canyon Ridge PTA, Desert Moon PTSA, Countryside PTSA, Parkview PTA, Surprise Elementary PTSA, Kingswood PTSA, Marley Park PTA, Sonoran Heights PTA, Thompson Ranch PTSA, Western Peaks PTSA, Carden PTA, Luke PTA, and Riverview PTSA as well as the Dysart High School Key Club and Ashton Ranch Elementary NJHS students!

All the PTAs, community members and volunteers including El Mirage's Police and Fire Department worked together toward the success of this event! What a great example of what PTA is about--communities working together to make a difference in the lives of children! Great job, SEM PTA Council!



Consumer Reports Safety Tip: Kids Shoe Recall

National PTA

National PTA and Consumer Reports have partnered together to keep your kids safe at home and at school. Read more for this month's safety tip and a free safety newsletter offer.

With the winter season approaches, children are participating in indoor and outdoor physical activities. Making sure that your child has the proper equipment to participate in these activities is the first step in keeping your child safe. Keds® recently recalled 45,000 units of shoes due to reports of cuts and scratches from metal stars that loosened from the heel of the shoe. This recall involves KEDS® girls' rubber soled shoes. The shoes are black and pink with white trim and a pink loop on the heel.

The shoes were sold at various retailers and online from June through October 2011 for about \$23. For more information on these recent recalls and for more safety information go to: www.clickcheckandprotect.org.



In partnership with National PTA, Consumer Reports is launching a Weekly Safety Newsletter to help families stay safe and healthy at home and at school. The newsletter provides weekly safety and recall information for parents, teachers, caregivers, schools and organizations. To find out more, visit www.consumerreports.org/clickcheckprotect.

Postal Mail to AZ PTA Office

Office Management Team

Thank you to all units that submit their compliance and other unit information via the US post office. Arizona PTA is also supported by only volunteers and request that Certified or Registered Mail not be used, if possible. The postal carrier will not leave packages that require a signature and our board then needs to make special arrangements to pick up the packages. Feel free to include a post card that will be returned to you as an acknowledgement of receipt of your package. It's also less expensive for you. We appreciate your support and understanding.

Arizona PTA

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We're on the Web!

See us at www.azpta.org

Please don't forget to share the information in the unit mailer with the other members of your board.

Address Correction Requested

If you are no longer a PTA President, please forward this and all mailings IMMEDIATELY to your successor and forward the current President's name and address to the Arizona PTA Office. Thank you!

Want to Advertise in the Arizona PTA NewsLetter? Contact office@azpta.org for ad rates and information!

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