

fast **FACTS**

New York State PTA

November 2009

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Attachments:

- ▲ Legislative Briefs... November 2009
- ▲ Advocacy Newsletter - November 2009

NYS PTA Calendar:

Calendar

November 2009

- 1 First Membership payment due to state office
- 1 Youth Humanitarian (Stanley Marcus) applications available
- 1 Jenkins Scholarship applications available
- 6-8 National PTA Emerging Minority Leaders Conference 2009, Atlanta, GA
- 13-15 NYS PTA Annual Conventions, Saratoga Springs, NY

Did You PARP TODAY?

Nothing is more precious than seeing the excitement on a child's face when they have participated in a Parents As Reading Partners Program (PARP)!! PTA units throughout the state are participating in the love of picking up a book and reading. Drop everything and read can be seen in many school districts within our State. We are so lucky in NYS to be able to promote this program and encourage PTA units/councils and libraries to participate. The idea is to raise awareness of literacy and student achievement while children learn to enjoy books and reading. Parents are encouraged to read with their child for at least 15 minutes a day. A memory that a child will never forget.

NYS PTA can provide you with the materials and tools you need to help you get started. Currently we have a PARP Resource Guide available for purchase through the NYS PTA web site (www.nyspta.org) or through our book store at our events. We are working on a tool kit which will be launched in the summer of 2010. Although NYS PTA will not be holding our annual LI PARP Conference this year, we will have PARP type programs at our annual NYS PTA Convention, November 13-15, 2009 in Saratoga and training workshops at our Summer Leadership Conference in August 2010.

Save the Date - National Legislative Conference

On March 9-11, 2010, PTA will hold its annual National Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. This three-day conference will inspire and provide in-depth analysis on PTA's latest federal public policy priorities affecting families, schools and communities through skill building trainings, workshops, panel discussions, guest speakers, and Capitol Hill visits with congressional leaders. Join us and the many PTA child advocates making their voice heard on Capitol Hill.

Applications for the Outstanding Advocacy Awards and Shirley Igo Award

In recognition of the hard work and dedication to child advocacy, PTA is proud to present two Outstanding Advocacy Awards (state and local level advocacy awards) and the Shirley Igo Award (presented to an individual advocate working on federal policy). Applications for the Advocacy Awards are available online at www.pta.org. The deadline for both applications is December 4, 2009. Outstanding Advocates chosen for these awards will be honored at the National Legislative Conference.

Stepfamilies

How does one prepare for being a stepparent? It's never easy when a marriage breaks up. It becomes confusing to everyone, including the children. There are many ways to help your child become more understanding of what's going on around them. With your help they can understand the benefits that a new family can offer in unique ways. Most of all, its important to make sure that your child feels a part of that extended family. Check the Advocacy Newsletter in this mailing for helpful websites.

Convention 2009

There is still time to make the important decision to attend Convention! You can register onsite for Convention November 13-15 in the lobby of the Saratoga Hilton. You will have to make your own hotel reservations, but can join in the exciting events happening at this year's Convention. Go to our website at www.nyspta.org for additional information. Join us!

Save the Date

NYS PTA, as a member of the Educational Conference Board, encourages its PTAs to put together a team that includes parents, administrators, teachers & students to attend ECB's 4th Annual Policy Conference:
The Bullying Stops Here
December 10, 2009
8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Desmond Hotel & Conference Center
Albany, NY

fastFACTS

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Susan Lipman, President

MEMBERSHIP...MEMBERSHIP...MEMBERSHIP

Have you made your first dues payment? If not, please do ASAP! First payments were due November 1st.

Are you still selling memberships? You should be. A good idea is to set up a membership and information table at Winter Concerts or at any other event taking place at your school.

Fact: You should send membership payments in to the State Office monthly. Just a reminder that there needs to be 2 signatures on every PTA check and your unit number should be written in the memo of the check.

**Find out
wwwwhat's happening
at www.nyspta.org**

Watch the Home Page - News Headlines for:

- Annual Convention 2009 Information with Proposed Resolutions and Check List
- Membership Card Confirmation
- 2009-2010 Reflections Program Packet
- 990 Tax Form Reminders

Watch the Home Page News Briefs for:

- Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) Update
- Save the Date! December 10, 2009 - ECB Policy Conference
- 2010 Jenkins Memorial Scholarship for Teacher Education Application
- Public Service Announcements from EPIC
- Swine Flu Alert - NYS PTA shares in the concern

Quick-Links:

- Upcoming Events
- Advocacy Survey
- Annual Unit/Council Updates for 2009-2010
- Just Between Friends
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Sponsorship Opportunities
- Virtual Exhibit Hall
- Take Action
- ESRB Video Game Ratings
- Let's Fight Flu Together
- Also find new items just a click away from the Main Table of Contents (Blue Box on left)

Under Publications:

- Advocacy Newsletter - current and past issues
- Fast Facts - current and past issues
- Legislative Briefs . . . - current and past issues
- Education Terms Guide
- Insurance and Loss Prevention Summary
- Thirteen Steps to Updating Bylaws

The website is updated almost daily, so do check it on a regular basis to find new and up-to-date information.