Utah PTA—
Creating Connections
that Count
A COMBINED EFFORT

A Combined Effort - For the New Year!!

Often, we think of January as a time to start new traditions, start new goals and letting go of not-so-good (bad) habits in our personal lives. January is a great time to re-energize your PTA life too!

Did you do a needs assessment last spring or fall????
• If Yes, look at the goals that you made from that assessment and see how you are doing and what you need to do before the end of the year to complete your goals.
• If No, it’s not too late! Create a short needs assessment, send it out and make goals based on the answers and plan the rest of your year!

What programs are you thinking about hosting at your school for the rest of the school year??? The programs that your PTA does should always enhance student learning and build family relationships.
• Do the programs meet the needs of the community? In other words, are these the activities the community thinks are needed and wanted?
• Do you have the funds to pay for the programs?

Do you want to do programs and events but don’t know how to get one started!
• Utah PTA Commissioners are here to help!
• We can come to you and present a program or help you work out the details to get a program or event started
• Or we can connect you with some of our great outside resources to help you put on some fantastic programs!
• Contact one of us! Our info is at the end of this newsletter!

Connect with Commissioners… and Other Leaders of Utah PTA

www.utahpta.org

Facebook - Utah PTA Page, Utah PTA Excellent Elementary Group, Utah PTA Super Secondary Group, Utah PTA Advocacy Group

Instagram Utah PTA
Twitter @UtahPTAOneVoice
Pinterest Utah PTA
YouTube Utah PTA One Voice
Community Engagement Commission

The Community Engagement Commission has set a goal to do booths at different locations across the state to promote PTA-in January we have several booths we will be setting up In Salt Lake City, Tooele, Grantsville, Magna, Wendover, Midvale, Kearns, and St. George.

Resolution: Protecting Utah’s right to direct democracy through protecting Utah’s right to direct democracy through initiatives and popular referenda will be updated this coming year.

Come Play with PTA

--Sesame Street Live January 11th and 12th
--Grizzlies February 19, 24, and March 11
--Disney on Ice March 4-8
--Utah Jazz on April 1st and/or April 14th. The Jazz are having an incredible season, and we fully expect these last few games will be BIG games for the Jazz in determining home court advantage for the playoffs. Get all of the details, and your tickets, at https://www.utahpta.org/jazz-basketball. To earn FREE tickets to these games be sure to participate in the Discovery Family Adventures. There are lots of new, fun Adventures for winter fun along with new Adventures and old favorites designed to help kids develop new skills and families bond. You can find the Adventures and earn free tickets at https://mydiscoverydestination.com/Discovery/

The statewide ‘Be Internet Awesome’ initiative in February. This statewide focus on helping kids and parents alike be safe, confident explorers of the online world, make smart decisions, and learn the fundamentals of digital citizenship and safety. Governor Herbert will be signing the proclamation at PTA Day at the Capitol, and we have lots of exciting ways for families to be involved and benefit from this statewide focus. You can get all of the details at https://mydiscoverydestination.com/BIA/

Inclusivity and Diversity Specialist

Diversity and Inclusivity has an Essay Contest going on. Information and the form are found on the Community Engagement area of the Utah PTA website. Learn and write about the Importance of Multiculturalism, including how people of different races, ethnic groups, countries of origin, genders, abilities and beliefs have contributed to history and to culture. 3, $50 awards will be given. Essay of 500 words or less on the theme "Why Diversity and inclusivity are Important to Me" DUE April 3, 2020

Marianne McGregor Guelker inclusivity@utahpta.org
Family Life Commission

Teaming Up for Families

Parents, families, educators and communities—there’s no better partnership to assure that all students, pre-K to high school, have the support and resources they need to succeed in school and life.

Research shows that students tend to earn higher grades, have better attendance, are more motivated and less likely to drop out when their families are involved in their education.

Here are four tips for what parents can do outside the classroom to help their child succeed:

1. Create a home environment that encourages learning and schoolwork. Establish a daily routine of mealtimes with time for homework, chores and bedtime.
2. Reinforce learning at home and show your child the skills they’re learning are applicable to everyday life. For example, if your child is learning about measurements, solicit help with a recipe.
3. Model the habits of a lifelong learner. Let your child see you reading, writing and using technology.
4. Become an advocate. Sign up to speak to the school board about resources your child’s school and schools in general need to be successful.

Studies also show that parent involvement drops dramatically as students move from elementary school into middle and high school. Yet given the complexities of today’s high schools, this is a time when many students are most in need of parental support and involvement.

You might not understand all the classes your teen is studying, however listening to what is happening outside of class is important. Listen to what your teen is trying to say without immediately judging or offering advice. Encourage your teen to join a club or sport at school. Outside activities are educational and often increase students’ interest in school. Help your teens put their concerns or problems into words and encourage them to try and figure out possible solutions or coping strategies.

The ultimate goal is to help students become self-sufficient managers of their time and resources in order to get the most out of high school. They may need your help even if they don’t realize it. Help them to develop habits and strategies for greater achievement while encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their work.

Digital Citizenship Specialist

Linda Zenger
linda@utahpta.org
Military Family Specialist

Military Service = Family Service

When a spouse joins the military, the family joins also! It is not like kissing the family good-bye in the morning and returning in the evening after a day of work. In the military it is a 24/7 proposition that affects not just the service member, but the family as well. In the past 17 years, our American military service members have been asked to shoulder a heavy responsibility in the defense of our national values. Shouldering these values is as hard on the family as it is on the service member.

The responsibility can entail frequent moves and absences, all involving the family. It has been often said that “the deployed family member isn’t the one serving the ‘hardship’ tour, it is the family at home”. That family carries a significant burden when their military member is away from home.

One of the community institutions that can support the family when the military spouse is deployed is the local school. Schools have a great impact, mostly for good, on the children and families of those ‘left behind.’

In 2001, Utah PTA made a decision to establish a Military Family position on their state board. The purpose of this board member was to reach out to Utah PTA schools and help them better understanding the issues facing children and families who are affected by military service. This had a significantly greater impact on local communities as those serving in National Guard and Reserve units were being activated for service as well as those who were already serving on Active Duty.

Through the effects of a dedicated board member, local PTA units were asked to actively involve military families in their programs. Their activity was found to be a tremendous asset to the working of the local Utah PTA because they found some very unique characteristics of military families that provided benefit to both the PTA and the local school.

Some of the characteristics demonstrated by military families are; (1) a broader knowledge of world events due to the fact that they have moved around considerably, (2) military children have a more positive attitude toward others due to the fact that their life experiences have been broadened by their associations with other cultures and people, and (3) families members are more willing to volunteer their time and efforts in support of school and community due to their experience in service-oriented activities.

Utah PTA developed activities that directly related to military families to provide significant support and diversity to local and state PTA programs. One such program is the annual recognition of the Month of the Military Child each April. Local PTA’s are encouraged to conduct Patriotic activities during the month and the Utah PTA provides an appropriate banner to recognize the value of military children in their schools. Due to the diversity of military children, this is also an excellent way to recognize the diversity of children in Utah PTA schools.

Utah PTA is proud to be a partner and sponsor in activities that promote recognizing the value of military children and families.

Individual Development Commission

Arts Grants are due February 1, 2020
Reflections Awards Ceremony
Friday, March 27, 2020
Safety Commission

As it is winter and there are often poor driving conditions, I want to encourage everyone to wear a seat belt and to keep your children properly buckled in an approved car seat, even on quick trips. We should be doing this all the time.

Here are some Car Seat Safety Tips:

- Never place a safety seat in the front seat of a car. Regardless of the type of safety seat you use, the front seat is dangerous, especially if your vehicle has air bags.
- Snugly secure the belt holding the safety seat in the car and the harness holding the child in the safety seat.
- Make sure your car seat fits properly in your car. Check the vehicle owner’s manual and the safety seat instructions for proper placement procedures.
- Send in the safety seat registration card. Doing so will keep you informed about any updates or recalls of the product.
- Destroy a child safety seat if it has been involved in a crash, even if it still looks like it is in good condition. Damage that affects a seat’s ability to withstand another accident is not always visible.
- Avoid secondhand safety seats. Use a secondhand seat only if it has instructions, the manufacturer’s date and model number on it, and has never been in a crash.
- Never use an expired safety seat. The life of a car safety seat is about six years.

If you would like to schedule a car seat check, please call (801) 662-6583 to make an appointment.

I also want to let everyone know that there is a Missing Children’s Day Poster Contest. The National Missing Children’s Day Poster Contest is a nationwide contest hosted by the Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The annual contest creates an opportunity for schools, law enforcement, and other child advocates to discuss the issue of missing and/or exploited children with youth, parents, and guardians and to promote child safety.

The Utah Attorney General’s Office will select a winner on the state level who will be honored in a ceremony with Attorney General Sean D. Reyes and will receive a certificate from the Department of Justice. Their poster will then be submitted to the national judging competition. The national winner will win a trip for themselves, their parents, and their teacher to Washington, D.C., to be honored at the National Missing Children’s Day Ceremony on May 20, 2020. Only children in the fifth grade are eligible to enter the contest. There are certain criteria that must be met for the child’s poster to be eligible for judging.

All entries must be received no later than February 21, 2020. Visit https://attorneygeneral.utah.gov/missing-childrens-day-poster-contest-2020/

The entries can be mailed, or dropped off to:
Utah Attorney General’s Office
Attn: Michelle Busch-Upwall
5272 College Dr., Ste. 200
Murray, UT 84123
Visit https://attorneygeneral.utah.gov/missing-childrens-day-poster-contest-2020/

If you have questions about the contest you can call Michelle at 801-281-1245 or email her at mbusch-upwall@agutah.gov
Student Leadership Commission

Happy New Year from the Student Leadership Committee. We hope your PTSA students are excited for our Student Days at the Capitol. They will be Feb 12 & 18, and we will have the opportunity to present a Thank You Resolution to the Utah Senate on the 12th, and the Utah House on the 18th. It should be a cool experience for our students to be a part of. Registration forms are available online.

Many of our high schools will be having Battle of the Bands this month as well. For those students who aren’t able to be a part of a band, make sure you check out the Open MIKE competition that is a part of that program this year for the first time. The updated rules packets for both events are on utahpta.org under Programs/Battle of the Bands. We’re excited to help showcase all of the great talent our students have.

Our next Student Leadership Committee meeting is January 11 at 10 AM, at the Utah PTA office.

Important Dates

Join us for the following Advocacy Events:

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<th>Dates in 2020</th>
<th>LAC Commission Meetings</th>
<th>PTA Day at the Capitol</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 8th</td>
<td>Commission Meetings</td>
<td>LAC</td>
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<td>January 29, 2020</td>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>April 22, 2020</td>
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<td>February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2020</td>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>May 14-15, 2020</td>
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<td>February 18th</td>
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Are you interested in knowing more about the advocacy work of Utah PTA!

The Member-to-Member (M2M) Network is a way for Utah PTA Commissioners and Directors to directly communicate with local PTA members on important and sometimes urgent items that pertain to the physical, emotional, and educational safety of children in our state. We also will share information on events, community resources and potential legislation/policies that can impact our children.

If you would like to receive information and calls for action (via email and/or text), please fill in the information at the link below. Your information will not be sold or shared with any third party. You will have the choice as to the topics you wish to receive information on.

You may request to be removed from any or all lists by replying to any M2M Network email with remove or unsubscribe.

https://goo.gl/forms/JAiSGs9JgJe4oEF12
Interested in a commission or have questions? Wondering about outside resources or partnerships that could help your PTA? If yes, contact one of the commissioners! We are happy to help, offer ideas, and share resources. We are here to support you!