

# PTA News You Can Use

## A message from the Massachusetts PTA president...

The end of the school year is rapidly approaching! The kids will be home, the sun will be shining and the beaches will be calling you. Believe it or not, the summer can be an excellent time to organize your PTA for the upcoming year. Here are a few suggestions:

**Set goals with your board.** Let everyone's voice be heard on your board by using this simple goal setting strategy: (a) have each person individually list three goals for your PTA during the next year; (b) go around the table and ask each individual to state their *most* important goal, followed by next important and so on (someone can write these on a large paper or white board for everyone to see); (c) based on the community generated goals, have each person pick their *new* most important goal. You may be surprised by the variety of ideas that can be generated with this approach. Once you prioritize your goals, the team can decide to achieve as many as you choose. Let us know what works for you and how you have succeeded so we can share with other PTA members in the state.

**Start recruiting members.** When school starts, people are overwhelmed and busy with new schedules and routines. Instead of waiting to recruit members and volunteers in September, start in the summer. Send a letter or email to each current member with a new membership form attached. Invite them to join early. Maybe hold a drawing for prizes for anyone who returns their membership form over the summer. Think of new and creative ways to get a head start on membership recruitment.

**Attend the Massachusetts PTA Leadership Conference on July 22.** The Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield has generously agreed to give each family who attends four free admission tickets for the day; children must be accompanied by an adult. We will have exciting workshops, membership awards, and more great ideas for you to help your PTA succeed during the 2006-07 school year. If you register early, your name will be put in a raffle to win fabulous prizes. A PTA insurance expert will be on hand to answer questions and a representative from the Basketball Hall of Fame will fill you in on the educational experiences available for your school.

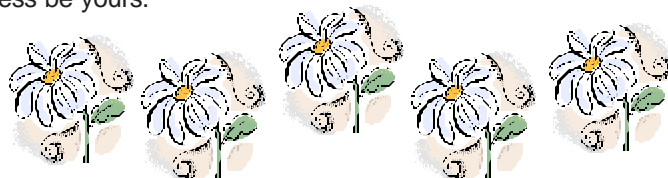
**Submit the Change of Officer Form to the MA PTA office.** This is how we keep in contact with you. National PTA uses this information also to send you information and resources throughout the year.

**Check out our new website** — [www.masspta.org](http://www.masspta.org) The website contains information, links and updates. The new website and these great newsletters would not be possible without the efforts of Linda and Tim Hodge. Thanks to both of you!

**Join us for Building Successful Partnerships training on June 3.** Did you know that National PTA is responsible for the definition of parent involvement and the parent involvement requirements in the *No Child Left Behind* law? Massachusetts PTA has secured a National PTA trainer to train Massachusetts presenters to help our PTAs learn how to involve more parents, families, and community members in your PTA. **You** are invited! The eight-hour training will take place at the Sturbridge Host Hotel in Sturbridge and is free. We have space for only 25 participants, so sign up quickly! If you are interested or have any questions, please call me at 508-252-4976 .

**Have a great time!** The summer is a wonderful time to dream and plan. Enjoy the time you have with your family and friends. Find opportunities to create joy for yourself and those around you. May happiness be yours.

Sincerely,  
**Michelle**  
 Michelle Tremont  
[president@masspta.org](mailto:president@masspta.org)



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No "Out of Bounds" calls or missed shots.

A winning year for the entire team.

Perfect PTA lay-ups and shots from center court!

Learn "what to do" .... Share ideas of "how to make it happen" .... Grow with others  
Make *Your Team* a Winning Team for Children

### What's Happening ....

9:30 and  
11:30 a.m.

#### **Two chances — running simultaneously!!**

Learn about Educational Programs available through the Basketball Hall of Fame

Is your PTA at risk? This 15-minute informational briefing will provide you with questions every board member should be asking and information to consider about insurance. Are **you** covered?

9:00 a.m.  
to 1:00 p.m.

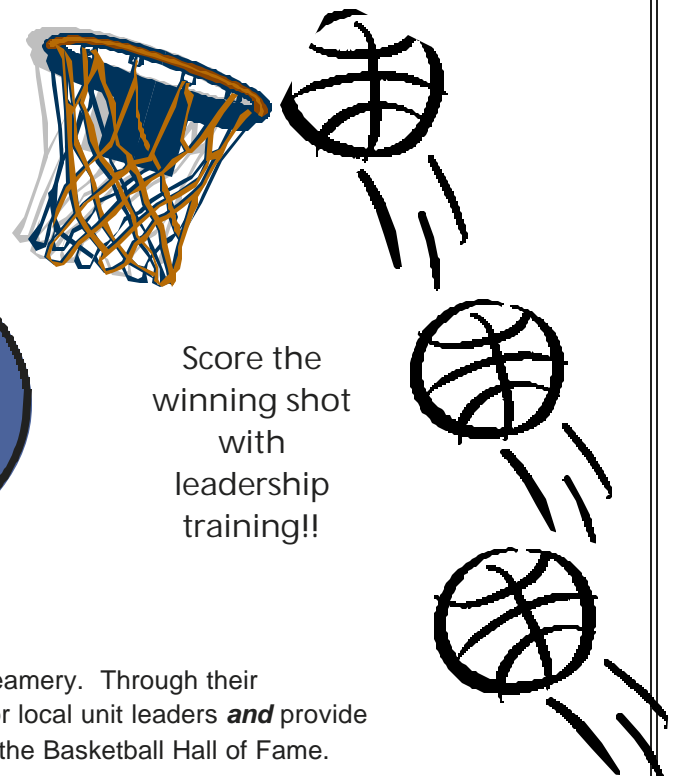
Visit informational tables, chat with Massachusetts PTA board members, National PTA staff, and PTA leaders from other states. Get your questions answered. Information tables available: Leadership, Membership, Advocacy, Bylaws, Treasury, Insurance

#### **Special Ice Cream Social by Cold Stone Creamery**

Please pass this  
information on to  
incoming officers!

Receive your PTA's *Summer Informational Packet*, including membership cards, Reflections information, and membership drive goodies.

Train your leaders and  
members so that their  
jobs are easier and  
their time spent more  
efficiently



Score the  
winning shot  
with  
leadership  
training!!

Thank you to our sponsors AIM Insurance and Coldstone Creamery. Through their sponsorships, MA PTA is able to keep the cost reasonable for local unit leaders **and** provide free ice cream to all! Thank you also to our newest partner, the Basketball Hall of Fame.



# Reflections REFLECTIONS

**“Who us? Participate in the Reflections program????”**

“Yes, **YOU!!**”

“Why?” you ask. Well there are a number of reasons.

- (1) As arts education is under attack by budget cuts, this program provides a hands-on artistic experience for your students.
- (2) Historically, children are given recognition for sports and academic achievement, with little emphasis on creativity.
- (3) Reflections is inclusive, focusing recognition on artistic merit from primary grades through high school.

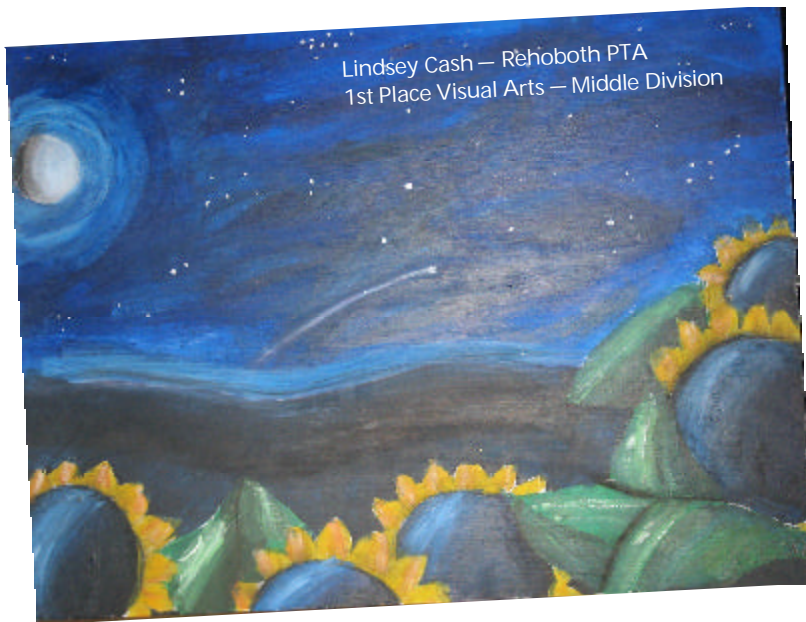
But, the greatest reason of all ...

If you can spark creativity in just one child,  
what a difference you will have made!

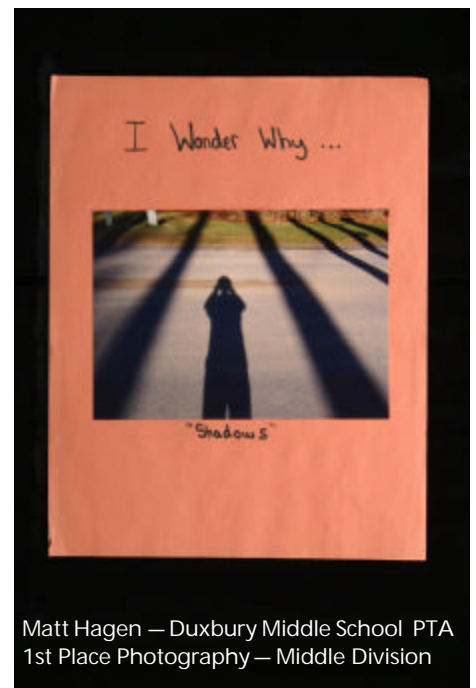


Amy Seligman — Mayo School PTA  
1st Place Photography — Intermediate Division

A few of this year's entries .....




Lindsey Cash — Rehoboth PTA  
1st Place Visual Arts — Middle Division



Matt Hagen — Duxbury Middle School PTA  
1st Place Photography — Middle Division

ALL participants in the Reflections Program are winners. Following are those who received recognition at the state level. Congratulations to all!



### Music

**Primary**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place: Charlie Thomas (Henry Wing)

**Intermediate**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place: Irene Bushko (Hopkinton)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Deanna Ronne (Alden)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Isabel Rummelhoff (Holliston)

**Middle**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place: Justin Morris (Holliston)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Charlotte Hovey (Duxbury Middle)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Andrew Coonan (Duxbury Middle)  
HM Kenny Jacobsen

### Visual Arts

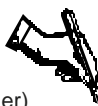


**Primary**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place: Jackson Meli (Bourne)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Emily Ko (Bridge)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Krysta Kraieski (Hopkinton)  
HM Juliana Cole (Hopkinton)  
HM Kerri Lehmann (Chandler)  
HM Jared Snyder (Sheehan)  
HM Kelsey Beck (Holliston)  
HM Maeve Cross (Hopkinton)

**Intermediate**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place: Jake Foote (Alden)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Joseph McMahon (Mayo)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Abigail O'Callaghan (Sheehan)  
HM Halley Husted (Sheehan)  
HM Stevie Schaeffer (Shirley)  
HM Gilliam Smith (Monson)  
HM Emily Mutkoski (Alden)  
HM Seigen Kubota (Mayo)  
HM Stefani Skerry (Holliston)  
HM Grace Petro (Alden)  
HM Haley Delahanty (Holden)

**Middle**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place: Lindsey Cash (Rehoboth)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Evan Katz (Hopkinton)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Chloe Patrick (Bourne)  
HM Danielle Daly (Holliston)  
HM Angela Cole (Hopkinton)

### Literature



**Primary**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place: Matthew Rubin (Chandler)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Josephine Underwood (Holliston)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Benjamin Brex (Rehoboth)  
HM Rachael Oliver (Chandler)  
HM Matthew Paolucci (Hopkinton)

**Intermediate**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place: Meghan Colpas Mayo  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Annika Quinones (Shirley)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Emily Katz (Hopkinton)  
HM Clare Robbins (Mayo)  
HM Chloe Snyder (Sheehan)  
HM Samuel Turner (Alden)

**Middle**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place: Julia Avera (Duxbury Middle)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Emily Hansman (Duxbury Middle)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Melinda Blankenship (Monson)

**Senior**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place: Theron Fussell (Monson)

### Photography



**Primary**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place: Maren Mellen (Chandler)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Carley Stebbins (Sheehan)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Julia Marple (Peter Fitzpatrick)  
HM: Sean Coyne (Sheehan)  
HM: Madeleine Walter (Sheehan)  
HM: Michael Lee (Monson)  
HM: James Harkins IV (Peter Fitzpatrick)  
HM: Isabella Santuefemio (Peter Fitzpatrick)

**Intermediate**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place: Amy Seligman (Mayo)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: James Chandler (Alden)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Carl Pieri (Bridge)  
HM: Kelly Cronin (Alden)  
HM: Karen Kubaska (Monson)  
HM: Hannah Mullen (Rehoboth)  
HM: Deanna Proko (Mayo)

**Middle**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Matt Hagan (Duxbury Middle)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Harrison Tobin (Holliston)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Riley Mackin (Duxbury Middle)  
HM: Matthew Brex (Rehoboth)

**Senior**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Elizabeth Savas (Holliston)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Katie Kubaska (Monson)

# Reflections

I Wonder Why  
2005-2006

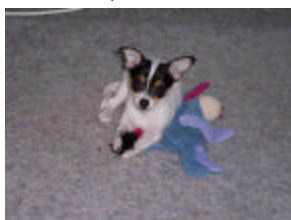
My Favorite Place  
2006-2007

# Theme

Note: Each student's name is followed by the name of his/her PTA in parentheses. "HM" = Honorable Mention

### Getting to Know Massachusetts PTA's Reflections Chair Heidi d'Ascoli

Outside of Heidi's volunteer PTA work, she is married and "Mom" to 11-year-old Arianna. Heidi has worked as a Registered Respiratory Therapist for the past 15 years - the past eight at the VA Hospital in Providence on third shift. In her "spare time," Heidi is finishing her certified dog trainer degree and volunteers at the RISPCA and NERR&R (Northeastern Rottweiler Rescue & Referral) and the Swansea Congregational Church Thrifty Shop. So, what does it mean that when asked for a picture of herself, this is the picture that Heidi submitted — it's the only one in her computer!! Heidi can be contacted at reflections@masspta.org.

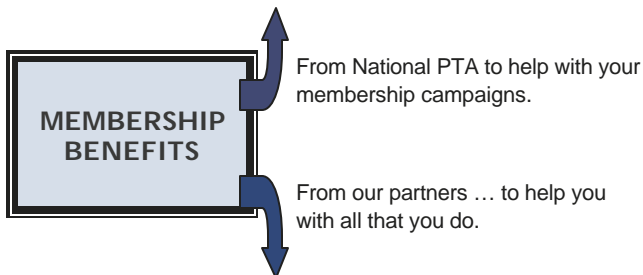




**National PTA**  
everychild.one voice.®

## Membership Marketing Templates and Tools

Jump-start the second half of your membership year with a new membership recruitment manual; customizable fliers, poster, and brochure; and award-winning membership recruitment advertisements.



# Office DEPOT

*Taking Care of Business*

Office Depot is proud to team up with National PTA to promote the importance of parent and community

participation in schools nationwide. **As National PTA's new Proud Community Partner**, Office Depot is committed to joining PTA leaders across the country in strengthening parent and public involvement. One of the many ways Office Depot lends support is by offering PTAs the opportunity to host special events, such as Back-to-School, membership drives, Teacher Appreciation Week, and other PTA activities at their 1,000+ retail stores. Office Depot also helped sponsor National PTA's 2005 Back-to-School program, making it possible for National PTA to distribute a Back-to-School Kit to every state and local PTA president. Also, every PTA member is eligible to take advantage of our special discounts on copies and printing at our Retail Stores.

Office Depot also offers a complete line of promotional fundraising products online. Inexpensive and convenient with plenty of choices especially designed for our partners at the PTA. Contact Wendy Rawitz for more information at (508) 460-5011 extension 319 or email [Wendy.Rawitz@officedepot.com](mailto:Wendy.Rawitz@officedepot.com)

## Membership is a Team Sport!!

Jude Porth, Membership Chair

Maryalice Foisy, Programs Vice-president

When you're talking membership you're talking about building a team of PTA supporters! Whether they support the PTA financially or by lending a hand at an event, program, or with a fundraiser – your members are part of your PTA Team!

You'll be working with folks who are team players, who have great skills and who end up working on their team building each time they work together. Your investment of time, energy, money, enthusiasm, and dedication, teamed with that of millions of PTA members across the country make a vital difference in the lives and education of all children. PTA's strength is in your numbers.

Everywhere you go, baseball, soccer, or cheerleading practice, play dates, etc, are great opportunities to recruit new members. And for retaining your current members for the next school year, it's as easy as creating a postcard with a renewal membership form on the back, letting them know that it's time to renew.

Get your community involved in your PTA! Recruit your local merchants as business members. Give them the opportunity to become a team player. They are a great resource for bringing in programs to educate parents on various topics for children.

***Be sure your Membership Chair attends the Summer Leadership Conference on July 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Basketball Hall of Fame along with your PTA officers. We'll have all the membership information you need to get your membership drive started and ideas to keep it going throughout the year. No Membership Chair? Be sure to send someone from your PTA to pick up your membership cards and materials needed to begin your PTA school year!***

Need a membership drive idea? Take some time to brainstorm with your board, friends, teachers or principal! Think about sports, your school, a mascot, fun events, and keep going from there! Be sure to choose a membership theme that everyone can identify with and one in which you can involve your school administrators. Check out our newly designed website ([www.masspta.org](http://www.masspta.org)) for membership theme ideas.

Choose incentives and award them by member, classroom, grade or school – be sure to make it fun! Just a reminder: Keep your school's new wellness policy in mind (which will be in effect when school begins in Aug/Sept), when thinking about "food" rewards.

I'd love to hear what you used as a membership drive this year and how you inspired people to join – please give me a shout anytime at [membership@masspta.org](mailto:membership@masspta.org) or by phone at 413-267-4150 x1400.

And remember, as you collect dues for the 2006 – 2007 school year and send them into the MA PTA, we're ready for you! We'll be sure they are credited for the upcoming membership year – no problem!

# Members Make a Difference

## GUEST COLUMN — Making a Difference

Deborah Walsh, National PTA Extension Liaison

Oxford English Dictionary defines a member as “any part or organ of the body.” Your members are your PTA’s eyes—they watch and give input. Members “nose out” opportunities for children and schools, and “mouth off” when children need something. Members’ hands dig into pockets to fund PTA programs, and their feet carry volunteers through your events. Members are the brains that run the organization and the heart of PTA, endorsing your work, providing moral support, letting you know you are on the right track.

Is your PTA suffering from “achy feet” or “muddled brains” or “arthritic hands”?

Revive your membership by re-energizing your base. Nourish your members with a healthy diet of recognition. “This event is possible because of our members,” or “Would all PTA members raise your hands so we can thank you for your help in making this event happen?” Communicate success. Let members know what you are doing and that you couldn’t do it without them. How many of your current members think the school is providing some of the services your PTA is paying for?

How about an instant make-over? Reach out to men. Men tell PTA that they do not respond to the word “parent.” They want to be asked to join in a different way. “Moms and Dads, come join XYZ PTA” or “Looking for a few good men.....to join XYZ PTA.” Men also want shorter meetings, programs where they can be involved with their children, and less fundraisers. If culture is an obstacle, reach out to individuals within a community and find out more about the groups you want to attract. Make PTA accessible, and communicate effectively all you do for families and children. To attract working and single parents, be relevant to their lives and run programs at varying times, allow volunteer opportunities outside the school day, provide child care and encourage carpools.

Finally, toot your own horn. Tell everyone your goals and ask them to join to help you get there. “We need you to ....” Tie your goals to membership, not fundraising. You never know when a potential member is present. Don’t devalue your PTA through negative public comments in parking lots, ball fields, etc. Instead, promote your PTA’s value to children and school, and ask people to join you in your efforts. Open and close *all* your events by thanking your members and asking anyone who hasn’t join to do so. And, since lack of time is cited as the single largest obstacle to membership, do not confuse the two. You don’t need time to *join* a winning team. Get the member first, find the volunteers later.

*Deborah is currently employed by National PTA, however she has served as a volunteer as CT PTA president, National PTA board of Directors member, and National PTA Membership Chair.*



Springfield is the third largest city in Massachusetts. Every school in this western Massachusetts city used to have a PTA, but there hasn’t been one there in nearly two decades. Springfield, like other financially strapped cities, is struggling to find ways to improve their schools. One parent group believes they’ve found one way to accomplish that. In March, the Massachusetts PTA chartered Glickman Elementary School PTA. The energetic, hard-working board of Glickman began building their membership by challenging themselves. Each board member was challenged to bring in five new members. Before you knew it, they had the minimum 25 members required to start a PTA unit, and, understanding that their power is in their numbers, they continue to steadily build membership. They are thrilled to be the first PTA in Springfield — the first of many!



Congratulations  
and  
Welcome

Glickman  
Elementary  
PTA



Important \*\* Important \*\* Important \*\* Important \*\* Important

MASSACHUSETTS PTA
2006-2007 OFFICER & CHAIR CONTACT FORM

Congratulations to many of you as you end or begin your term of office in your PTA. Thank you so much for all that you have done or will do to make our communities and state better for children.

As you know both Massachusetts PTA and National PTA use the information you give us to provide your local unit officers and chairs with timely and useful information throughout the year. We know that many of you either have already had or will have elections in the near future. We are asking for your help to ensure that next year's officers and chairs receive information they need. Please complete and send in this form immediately once elections are held. You can update the form any time throughout the year as needed. Even if the same people are returning to the same office, please let us know. You can also get this form on our website. Thank you for helping us to help you.

Mail to: Barbara Bailey, Leadership Vice-President, 84 Reed Street, Lexington, MA 02421 or email to admin@masspta.org. Questions? Need your ID number? Email info@masspta.org or call 508.347.7055.

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PTA NAME (AS FOUND IN YOUR BYLAWS): \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL PTA ID # (8-DIGITS): \_\_\_\_\_

President (term begins: \_\_\_\_\_ term ends: \_\_\_\_\_)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

President-elect or Co-President (term begins: \_\_\_\_\_ term ends: \_\_\_\_\_)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary (term begins: \_\_\_\_\_ term ends: \_\_\_\_\_)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer (term begins: \_\_\_\_\_ term ends: \_\_\_\_\_)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Massachusetts PTA 2006-7 Officer & Chair Contact Form

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**PTA NAME (AS FOUND IN YOUR BYLAWS):** \_\_\_\_\_

**State PTA Liaison**

**Job Description:** This position is a very important one to ensure two-way, meaningful communication between local units and Massachusetts PTA. The state liaison is given 3-5 minutes at each PTA meeting to (1) provide updates to members on Massachusetts PTA and National PTA activities, and (2) distribute information from Massachusetts PTA and National PTA. The liaison then, in turn, provides feedback to Massachusetts PTA from the local unit regarding activities, benefits, ideas, thoughts, etc. Hopefully, the local unit will consider someone other than the president or an existing officer to serve in this position in order to distribute some of the work. The local unit president and state liaison will receive the same mailings.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice-President (term begins: \_\_\_\_\_ term ends: \_\_\_\_\_)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Duties: (i.e. fundraising, volunteer coordinator) \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice-President (term begins: \_\_\_\_\_ term ends: \_\_\_\_\_)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Duties: (i.e. fundraising, volunteer coordinator) \_\_\_\_\_

**Member-to-Member Rep (term begins: \_\_\_\_\_ term ends: \_\_\_\_\_)**

**Job Description:** Member-to-Member representatives will receive information from Massachusetts and National PTAs regarding current issues and legislation relating to children and families, and are asked to contact their state representative and/or congresspersons to support PTA's position. PTA provides background briefs, rationale, talking points, and sample emails and letters.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**Member-to-Member Rep (term begins: \_\_\_\_\_ term ends: \_\_\_\_\_)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Massachusetts PTA 2006-7 Officer &amp; Chair Contact Form

Page 3 of 3

PTA NAME (AS FOUND IN YOUR BYLAWS): \_\_\_\_\_

**Legislative/Advocacy Chair** (term begins: \_\_\_\_\_ term ends: \_\_\_\_\_)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Chair** (term begins: \_\_\_\_\_ term ends: \_\_\_\_\_)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Arts/Reflections Chair** (term begins: \_\_\_\_\_ term ends: \_\_\_\_\_)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**Program Chair** (term begins: \_\_\_\_\_ term ends: \_\_\_\_\_)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please attach contact information for any additional officers or chairs you may have. Thank you!*

## SCHOOL INFORMATION

If your PTA unit includes more than one school, please list all schools.

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



# Resources for You

## Picture PTA Photo Contest Underway

Show off your local events, PTA projects, program accomplishments, and even your funny faces—enter the Picture PTA Photo Contest! The contest, which is open to all, is designed to showcase the images of PTAs and families everywhere, having fun and helping their schools. Prizes include \$50 gift certificates to major retailers. Go to the [Picture PTA](#) webpage for more details and to get an application. Deadline for submission is May 31, 2006.

## Literacy Events and Parent Resources for PTA Parents

PTAs are collaborating with schools and communities to help children recognize the joy of reading. Literacy and reading programs help our students succeed. Families and community-based resources can support the work of teachers to motivate children to read outside of the school day. Every opportunity for children to explore and enjoy their experiences with books is valuable, and parents can play a positive role by reading to or with children.

To keep the enthusiasm high at home, Target, a Proud Sponsor of PTA offers a complete resource for parents to use with children any time throughout the year. Target's Ready.Sit.Read. program offers a free site with a special area for parents. Here parents find ideas to help encourage children to read, answers to frequently asked questions, plus coupons such as \$2 off any children's book (regularly priced \$5.99 or above).

## PTA in the News

Jill Butterfield, president of the Baldwin Elementary PTA in Quincy, Illinois, recently accepted the New American Dream Clean Schools Sweepstakes \$5000 grand prize. New American Dream designed the Sweepstakes to encourage and reward schools for using Green Seal and Environmental Choice certified green cleaners. Jill is now working with her school administrators to switch to green cleaners, and plans to use the Sweepstakes prize money to support school recycling programs.

***New Sweepstakes! New American Dream is repeating the Sweepstakes and offering another \$5,000 prize. Register for the new Sweepstakes prize by filling out the form at <http://www.newdream.org/cleanschools>. If you registered for the first Sweepstakes, you must register again to be eligible for the second Sweepstakes. The deadline is September 21,***

Thank you to our newest sponsor ..

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Massachusetts PTA's newsletters and  
informational postcards for 2005-2006!

## PTA President's Quick-Reference Guide Is on the Way!

The *PTA President's Quick-Reference Guide* has been mailed to all local PTA presidents for whom National PTA has a mailing address. Quick reference guides on programs, membership, and money matters will be included in the Back-to-School kits in July. Please make sure to pass your copy on to the next local unit president if you are not continuing in office for 2006-07. If you have not received your copy, please contact the Massachusetts PTA office.

***BE a resource!! Be a Massachusetts PTA Regional Advisor — liaison between Massachusetts PTA and local units. Primary responsibility is to communicate with local units within your region. Share local unit successes and issues with the state board. Help local units with their questions and issues, and to remain a unit in good standing. We need you!!***

***MySchoolOnline*** is discontinuing their website building and hosting services on June 30, 2007. For more information, visit the MySchoolOnline website at <http://myschoolonline.com/golocal/subscription>.

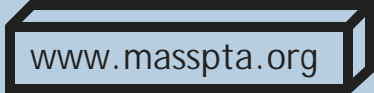
## Online Resources from PTA ....

- National PTA Member-to-Member Sign-up: <http://capwiz.com/npta2/mlm/signup/>
- National PTA Issues and Action: <http://capwiz.com/npta2/home/>
- Communicating with Elected Officials: <http://capwiz.com/npta2/issues/basics/?style=comm>
- National PTA Resolutions and Position Statements are official documents outlining the opinion, will, or intent of the association to address national problems, situations, or concerns that affect children and youth and require national action to seek resolution on the issue. [http://www.pta.org/ia\\_category\\_details\\_1141755338062.html](http://www.pta.org/ia_category_details_1141755338062.html)

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**If you are no longer an officer of this PTA, please complete the form on pages 8-10 of this newsletter and pass the newsletter on to the newly elected president. Thank you so much.**

**A ROUND TUIT**

At long last we have a sufficient supply for each of you to have your own! Guard it with your life. These Tuits have been hard to come by — especially the round ones. This is an indispensable item. It will help you to become a much more efficient worker. For years, we have heard people say ... "I'll do it as soon as I get a Round Tuit." Now that you have a Round Tuit of your very own, many things needing to be accomplished will be, Have fun!

**Help Wanted!!**

Jobs, jobs, and more jobs. Like to write? Take pictures? Stories and pictures are needed from local units to spotlight in this newsletter and on the website.

Interested in what's happening in D.C. and Boston? Want to learn more about becoming involved in issues? Join the Legislative Action Team today!

Want to receive cutting edge news in a variety of areas? Are you willing to speak on behalf of children and families and Massachusetts

PTA positions? Massachusetts PTA regularly receives invitations to participate in many partner and coalition meetings. Help include parents' voices into as many of these policy making groups as possible. Volunteer for one meeting or for many! Focus areas right now are health and computer technology. Have another interest? Let us know!

The pay? Knowing that you're making a real difference for kids!

To apply, contact Massachusetts PTA at info@pta.org or Michelle Tremont, president, at 508-252-4976.

**It matters not how long we live, but how.**  
- Phillip Bailey

**It's Here!!  
It's New!!**

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Check it out

Complete the opinion poll

Let us know what you think