

PTA[®] matters

The newsletter of the Escambia County Council of PTAs/PTSAs

Dubbing the PTA Way



Brigette Brooks
President

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In the rock world, "dubbing" refers to the technique of adding instrumental, vocal or other sounds to a recording. Dubbing requires a multi-track machine to allow one track to be heard while the new one is being recorded. In many ways, this is reminiscent of PTA; at the state and national level, PTA has more than 100 years of developing programs that are born from both research and feedback. We have the opportunity to take advantage of such knowledge and expertise while adding our own unique spin to customize for our school and students. Similarly, as with dubbing, we work as a team, but effective teamwork requires that we listen, and hear, each person individually and respect the contribution they make to our team. In this season of appreciation, let's show each other that we value each individual member's part in making the whole a success.

Thanks for your commitment to continuing to learn, and in turn, improve your PTA. The **October Leaders Roundtable** was a

success, with tips shared on advocacy by current ECSD School Board Representative and former ECCPTA and FPTA President, Patty Hightower. Sharing tips and techniques on being a consummate professional was Jo McArthur, ECSD Community Involvement Coordinator. The exchange of ideas between leaders was a high-

light, as we worked on dubbing ideas that work best for our area and students.

Reflections, another tried-and-true PTA program, was a success with nearly 160 entries in all categories. (See more information on page 3.)

As you wrap up Santa shops, Christmas plays, band, chorus and orchestra concerts, take a minute to pat yourself on the back for the beautiful addition you make to the PTA mix tape. PTA ROCKS!

– Brigette

ECCPTA Board, 2015-16

President – Brigette Brooks
1st Vice President – Michelle Salzman
2nd Vice President – Anessa Flannigan
Secretary – Nichole Collins
Treasurer – Amber Graham
Area Vice Presidents – Leticia Dennis,
Deanna Neal, Pamulia Nelson
Immediate Past President – Sally Bergosh

www.EscambiaPTA.org

Looking to Founders' Day!

Friday, February 19
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
The Wright Place
First United Methodist Church
\$20 per person

Speaker: Ashton Hayward
Mayor, City of Pensacola

Mark your calendars for you and your board to attend this event that will celebrate the 119th birthday of PTA and the vision and mission its founders had. That vision and mission that is still being carried out today, in large part through the efforts of local units just like yours.

Make plans now for the PTA "Battle of the Baskets." Create a gift basket for attendees to have a chance to win. Let your imagination be your guide!

Beulah Elementary PTA funds school technology



Beulah PTA President Brittney Cruise and Mat Taylor show off the Apple TV and Chromecast sets PTA bought for five classrooms. PTA was able to buy these from the monies raised this fall from their Fall Carnival, Turkey Trot, and spirit nights at Jersey's Mike and Domino's.

2014-15 Awards

These awards were presented at ECCPTA's Awards Banquet on May 15.

Outstanding Principal of the Year:
Monica Silvers,
Beulah Elementary

Volunteer of the Year:
Debbie Malsberger,
West Florida High

Promoting Communications Excellence:
N.B. Cook Elementary

Outstanding Mentors of the Year:
Cordova Park Elementary

Local Unit Volunteer Hours: Beulah Elementary

Outstanding Newsletter:
Ferry Pass Middle,
"Eagle's Eye"

Health and Safety:
Warrington Middle

Outstanding Program of the Year:
Warrington Middle

Local Unit of the Year:
R.C. Lipscomb Elementary

Outstanding Citizen of the Year: Michelle Salzman,
Warrington Middle

ECCPTA "Sharp Shooter" of the Year:
Brigette Brooks

ECCPTA "Major Mission Accomplished" Award:
Sally Bergosh for the
Leadership Boot Camp

Be thinking about your award entries all year! Brag about what great things your PTA has done!

Attend the Lunch and Learn to get great ideas for getting donations for programs!

Get to know your ECCPTA Board ROCK STARS!

Dedicated to serving YOU, the local PTA/PTSA units of Escambia County



Susan Kennedy
Health and Safety chair
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 skennedyhealthykids@gmail.com

I have been ECCPTA Health and Safety Board Chair for eight years. During this time I have represented ECCPTA at the Florida PTA convention, Florida Coordinated School

Health Partnership, Action for Healthy Kids, Escambia County School Health and Wellness Advisory Committee, Integral Quality Care Fall 2015 Newsletter, Florida Association of School Nurses Convention, and other local and state events. I coordinate the Annual We Believe in Children 5K Health Fair, the Annual Day of Play at the Community Maritime Park and the Cooking Matters Program benefiting low-income parents in our schools funded through a grant I received on behalf of ECCPTA.



Samarys Kervin
Reflections chair
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I am Samarys Kervin and mother to three great kids ages 15, 11 and 5. They each attend different schools within the county. My PTA adventures started last year when

my son started high school at West Florida High School. This year I have the honor of being the Reflections chair for the county and the chair at West Florida. As you can imagine, being a mom of three and working PT from home for Amec Foster Wheeler keeps me pretty busy, but never too busy to help. If you have any questions about Reflections don't hesitate to call me!



Deanna Neal
Area Vice President
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Eighteen years ago, I became involved in PTA to help make a difference in my children's elementary school. This year, I serve on the Florida PTA board as the Cultural

Arts Chair (Reflections and all things related to arts in education), on the ECCPTA board as an Area VP, and on my youngest daughter's high school PTSA board as membership chair. I additionally volunteer as the props mistress for the Pensacola Children's Chorus and work full time as a teacher, K-5 gifted itinerant. I am married with two sons and three daughters. We also have two grandsons and one granddaughter. My favorite thing to do in my spare time is to take photographs. I look forward to working with everyone this year. Please don't hesitate to contact me for questions, concerns, and celebrations!



From left, Sally Bergosh, Brigitte Brooks, Larry Brooks and Tori Bergosh represented ECCPTA in the Oct. 31 Making Strikes for Breast Cancer Walk at Cordova Mall. PTA ROCKS!

ECCPTA supports teachers at grant reception

On Oct. 22, I, along with ECCPTA officers Brigitte Brooks, Sally Bergosh and Michelle Salzman, attended the Grants for Excellence Awards Reception at the J.E. Hall Center. More than 100 teachers applied for the Foundation for Excellence Grants from the Escambia County Public Schools Foundation Committee for up to \$2,000.

Fifty-nine Escambia County School District educators received grants totaling \$91,284.87. The teachers were given the opportunity to invite their principal, other staff members, and family members to partici-

pate in this wonderful occasion.

The Grants for Excellence is a competitive program through which the foundation awards funding for classroom projects to enhance curriculum and drive student achievement in Escambia County classrooms. A full list of recipients can be found on the Pensacola News Journal's site here: <http://tinyurl.com/gt5y585>.

Congratulations to all the grant recipients for 2015-2016! The Awards Reception was AWESOME!

— Deidre L. Young, ECCPTA Teachers Matter Chair
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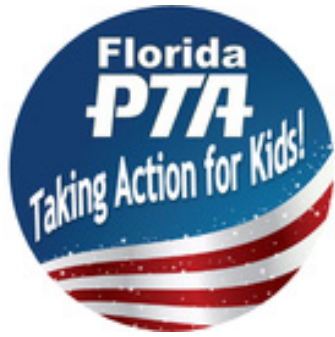
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Florida PTA Legislative Conference Jan. 24-26, 2016 Tallahassee

Registration is now open for the 2016 Florida PTA Legislative Conference in Tallahassee. This year's theme again is "Taking Action for Kids" ... something we as Florida PTA advocates do everyday. This year the conference will be nestled between the busy legislative session and Children's Week at the Capital. There will be thousands of children, families and other advocacy groups all "Taking Action for Kids."

Hot topics will include discussions of bills on Juvenile Justice, Guns on Campuses, Florida Assessments and other health and safety-related issues.

This conference is a great opportunity to learn about the issues affecting our children's education, as well as tour the Capitol and meet with legislators.

The event kicks off with a dinner at 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24. On Monday, Jan. 25, we will have speakers throughout the day; breakfast and lunch are provided. For those who are interested, we will be touring the Capitol on Tuesday, Jan. 26, with an opportunity to meet with legislators.

This is a great opportunity to learn about PTA's role in advocating for all children. You will add your voice to others who make sure your children get the best of what they deserve.

This event will take place at The Tallahassee Center, 215 S. College Ave.

Registration is \$55; you can register online at floridapta.org. Contact our Legislative Chair, Jenny Dyess, for more information.

News from Florida PTA

■ Florida PTA held a "Stand Up and Be Counted Day" on Friday, Nov. 13; the result was phenomenal! Local PTA units called, texted, emailed and Facebook messaged membership numbers by the thousands. We are PTA strong!

We heard from local units from 12 different counties throughout the state of Florida; from far north Escambia County to southern Dade County.

Membership recruitment is a year round initiative; local units have until May 1 to submit new members to the State Office. Keep up the great work!

■ **Get On the Bus! Education Rally in Tallahassee on Jan. 14:** The Florida Education Association is coordinating a rally to be held from noon until 2 p.m. in the Capitol Courtyard between the Old Capitol and the new Capitol building. Lunch will be served at 2:15 p.m. at the Civic Center before attendees board the buses for the return home.

There is no recommended color scheme, so locals who already have shirts, hats etc., can wear them. A limited number of pre-printed rally signs and buttons will be provided at the bus drop off locations; however, you are encouraged to bring your own handmade signs (no sticks, please).

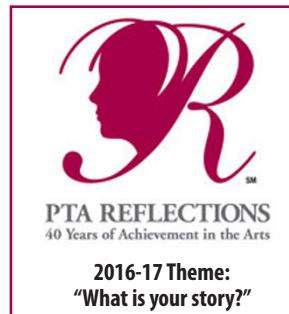
For more information, contact Linda Pate at 850-476-2906 ext 12.

Reflections Ceremony coming in January

Our county **Reflections Awards Ceremony** will be held at 6 p.m. Jan. 21, 2016, at the J.E. Hall Center in room 160. Come see your local unit's winners receive their awards! Volunteers are needed to assist with the ceremony. Please let me know if you can help.

Theme search update: We are proud that one of our elementary school students is a finalist for the Theme Search Contest! This year's submissions are being considered for the 2017-2018 Reflections program year. Each state PTA is allowed to submit five entries. The Cultural Arts Committee would like to present the top five themes:

"The way I see the world ..." by Beljee Jeanty of Boca Raton Community High



2016-17 Theme:
"What is your story?"

School PTSA in Boca Raton
"What if ..." by Victor Pasalagua of Andover Elementary PTA in Orlando

"I think ..." by Rebekah Tillery of R.C. Lipscomb Elementary PTA in Pensacola

"One day ..." by Edward Sieh of Ridgecrest Elementary PTA in Largo

"Make Your Move!" by Tristan A. Goodrich of Charlie Walker Middle Magnet School PTSA in Odessa

The winner will receive \$100, and the theme will be announced at the National PTA Convention in June 2016.

The theme for 2016-17 is "What is Your Story?" Lots of great ideas can come from this theme, so start thinking about it!

— Samarys Kervin, Reflections Chair
samarys.kervin@amec.com

Volunteer services available to PTA units

Academic Excellence Tutoring Services is volunteering their time to help PTA/PTSA units. Some of the services available are:

- Parental involvement workshops/presentations for parents at schools and/or short article for parent newsletter.
- Teachers' awards/recognition sponsorships
- Sponsorship of student activities/events
- Assistance with developing and organizing fundraisers
- Assist with articles for the parent newsletter

For more information, contact:

Hattie Grace, President
Academic Excellence tutoring Services
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ECCPTA Events Calendar

December

- 15 ECCPTA Board meeting, 11:30 a.m.,
Hall Center, room 140
- 15 School Board meeting, 5:30 p.m., Hall Center,
room 160
- 18 Half day for students
- 21-Jan. 3 Christmas break

January

- 4 Teacher Work Day
- 5 Students return to school
- 18 MLK Holiday – no school
- 19 ECCPTA Board meeting, 11:30 a.m.,
Hall Center, room 140
- 19 School Board meeting, 5:30 p.m., Hall Center,
room 160
- 21 Reflections County Awards ceremony,
6 p.m., Hall Center, Room 160
- Jan. 24-26 Florida PTA Legislative Conference
- 30 We Believe in Children 5K Run and Walk,
8 a.m., Cordova Park Elementary

Save the Date!

- Founders' Day Luncheon, 11 a.m. Feb. 19, The
Wright Place, First United Methodist Church
- ECCPTA Awards and Officer Installation, 6 p.m.
May 6, Heritage Hall, Seville Quarter

Lunch and Learn: **Ways & Means**

Tuesday, Dec. 8
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
J.E. Hall Center, Room 130

**Lunch
& Learn.**



Gift baskets, auction items and donation letters, oh my!

Come to our Dec. 8 Lunch and Learn to get the tools you need to put you on the road to building beautiful gift baskets, securing amazing auction items, and writing effective donation letters.

Bring your lunch and your calendar!
Dessert provided by ECCPTA

Questions: Contact Debbie Malsberger at debbie.pta@cox.net or (850) 450-6526



2015 We Believe in Children 5K Run

Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016

Cordova Park Elementary School

Registration: 6:30-7:30 a.m.

5K Run/Walk: 8 a.m.

One-Mile Fun Run: 9:15 a.m.

Information: Michelle Salzman
(850) 207-5024 or michelle@salzstudio.com

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PTA
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