

ECCPTA Board, 2016-17

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Brittney Cruise
Immediate Past President –
Brigette Brooks

PTA[®] matters

December 2016/January 2017
Vol. X Issue No. 3

The newsletter of the Escambia County Council of PTAs/PTSAs

~ Calendar ~

December

- 16 Half day – early release
- 20 School Board meeting, 5:30 p.m.,
J.E. Hall Center, Room 160
- 19-30 Christmas Break

January

- 1-2 Winter Break
- 3 Students return to school
- 16 MLK Holiday – no school
- 17 ECCPTA Board meeting, 11:30 a.m.,
J.E. Hall Center, Room 140
- 17 School Board meeting, 5:30 p.m.,
J.E. Hall Center, Room 160
- 27 Golden Apple Awards: Teacher of the
Year, 6 p.m., New World Landing
- 31 County Reflections Awards
Ceremony, 6 p.m., J.E. Hall Center,
Room 160

February

- TBA We Believe in Children 5K & Walk,
8 a.m., Cordova Park Elementary

SAVE THE DATE!

Founders Day Luncheon

Friday, Feb. 17, 2017

11 a.m.

The Wright Place

80 E. Wright St.

\$20 per person

SPEAKER: Sue Straughn

Questions? Please contact
Anessa Flannigan at 850-686-2635 or
email bnafannigan@cox.net

**PTA Matters is a publication of the
Escambia County Council of PTAs/PTSAs.**

It is published bimonthly.

Submissions are welcome. Send to:

kirsteneefirdpta@gmail.com.

The next deadline is Jan. 30.

ECCPTA • J.E. Hall Center • 30 E. Texar Dr.
Pensacola, FL 32503

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Enjoy the break, come back for more!



**Michelle
Salzman**
president@
eccpta.org

Hello fellow adventurers,

Happy holidays! We are halfway through our school year and going strong! Our PTAs have supplied parent representation for many different committees for our school district this year. We hosted a roundtable at Pensacola MESS Hall. County Council also wrapped up our healthy grant initiative for bringing healthy cooking to our inner-city school families (see below).

Last school year, our local PTAs raised more than \$817,000 for our local schools through fundraising efforts! This is amazing! Each of you should be very proud of what we do collectively, not just through fundraising, but through all of your volunteer efforts.

Please take time over the holidays and do a mental assessment of your local unit. Are you constantly scouting your membership for talent and recruiting? Are you delegating duties, so others can learn

how to do PTA and feel successful?

Finally, please consider serving on ECCPTA next year and see our school district in a whole new light. We attend breakfast with the superintendent, host PTA leadership training, host the Reflections Art and Gallery Night, host Founders Day, Student of the Year Awards, and our own PTA Awards Night. We provide training and support to our local PTA units, ensuring we remain PTA strong in Escambia County! Interest forms can be obtained by emailing me or by going online to escambiapta.org and downloading the form there.

Have a blessed holiday, and I look forward to seeing each of you at Founders Day.

Cooking Matters grants awarded to 3 schools

ECCPTA announced the recipients of three \$600 grants for Cooking Matters, a program that challenged PTA units to partner with a school that does not have an active PTA chapter or a community center. The winners were: McArthur Elementary School, Pleasant Grove Elementary School and Hellen Caro Elementary. All were present at the School Board meeting on Nov. 15 to receive their awards.



Connect with us:

Website:
www.EscambiaPTA.org



Facebook:
www.facebook.com/ECCPTAFL/



Twitter:
[@eccptanews](https://twitter.com/eccptanews)



ECCPTA thanks Lee Hansen, director of **The Global Corner**, for coming to speak to us at our November board meeting. The Global Corner provides opportunities for schoolchildren to learn about world languages, cultures, and geography through innovative educational programs.

The Global Corner's in-school Passport Program is designed to help you (as a parent or teacher) spark an interest in learning and further exploration, while helping children enjoy and understand the world around them. Each year a different country is highlighted, and this year, for the group's 10th anniversary, it is China.

To find out more or to schedule the two-hour presentation for your classroom, contact them at 850-332-6404, or visit the website for more information: www.theglobalcorner.org

Deadline to apply for PTA Scholarships is Feb. 1

Florida PTA offers scholarship opportunities funded by money derived from Honorary Life Memberships, Scholarship Fund functions and other contributions.

Four scholarships are offered, one each in the following categories: University, Fine Arts, Community College, and Vo-Tech, to a student graduating in the 2016-2017 school year. This is a one-time (non-renewable) award of \$2,000.00 and will be awarded to a worthy student who is interested in getting a start in life through higher education.

This award is specifically for a student who wishes to pursue their education at a University, Fine Arts School, Community College, or Vo-Tech.

Students must be a member of their high school's PTA/PTSA or the Sunshine State PTSA.

For requirements and application, visit floridapta.org/programs/scholarship. Deadline is Feb. 1.

Meet your ECCPTA adventure guides!

We will spotlight various board members and committee chairs in every newsletter so you can get to know your partners in your PTA journey.

Brittney Cruise, Area Vice President / brittneycruise@gmail.com



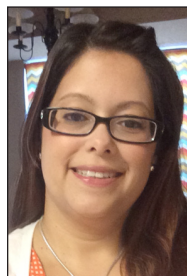
My name is Brittney Cruise. I grew up in Mississippi and attended the University of Southern Mississippi where I met my husband, Jamie. We have two amazing kids, Patton (10) and Olivia (6). We have lived in Pensacola in the Beulah Community for six years. When I am not volunteering for PTA, I enjoy going to the beach and Southern Miss football games with my family. I also LOVE to read when I have the chance. My favorite thing about PTA is seeing how big of an impact our work actually makes in all children's education even though it feels like our work is small.

Cat Grantham, Area Vice President / catpta@hotmail.com



I have been a PTA member since 2012 and am currently serving my second year as president at Pleasant Grove Elementary. Since my mother was an elementary teacher and administrator in Escambia County, it was natural for me to take an active role in my son's school. My son is in the fourth grade at PGE, and I have a 2-year-old daughter. In our free time we enjoy camping, kayaking and spending time with our many rescued animals, including a blue and gold macaw, two great danes and six pigs. The schools I serve as Area VP include Bailey Middle, Holm Elementary, McArthur Elementary, Myrtle Grove Elementary, Pine Meadow Elementary and Pleasant Grove Elementary.

Samarys Kervin, Treasurer / treasurer@escambiapta.org



Hi! I am Samarys Kervin and mother to three great kids, ages 16, 12 and 6. They each attend different schools within the county. My PTA adventures started a couple of years ago when my son started high school at West Florida. This past year I had honor of being the Reflections chair for the county and the chair at West Florida High School. This school year I am in a new position as the County Treasurer and as the VP 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 don't hesitate to email or call 850-291-5800.

Mary Engleheart, Ways & Means Chair / engy302000@yahoo.com



I was born and raised in Pensacola and attended public schools – Longleaf Elementary, Beulah Elementary, Bellview Middle and graduated from Pine Forest High School. I attended Pensacola Junior College before transferring to the University of Southern Mississippi. I graduated from USM with a degree in history and a minor in sociology. I married my college sweetheart Darrin, and we have two beautiful daughters. Madison is a 2016 graduate of West Florida High School and is now a student at UWF. Sydney Grace is a freshman at West Florida High, where I am an active member of the PTSA and also a parent volunteer with the SGA. I have been a member of PTAs since 2003. Last year, I served as vice president of Beulah Academy PTA. Currently I am the preschool director at East Brent Baptist Church. I have a passion for the children of our community.

Advocating: After the election



Now that the dust has settled after Election Day, it is important to address concerns and issues with our new policymakers. In order to achieve your advocacy goals at any level, it is important to have an engagement plan. The chart below poses the right questions in the right order and serves as a particularly useful tool for group discussions, as it maintains focus to the issue at hand. Use this chart as a guide for developing your strategy and revisit it to check your progress.


- Goals – the victory you want to achieve
- Organizational considerations – what you have to put into the fight (time, money, etc.) and what you want to get out of it organizationally (how other perceive you/the PTA)
- Constituents, allies, opponents – who else cares about this problem enough to join in doing something about it? Who will not agree with you on this issue? Whom does it impact?
- Targets – those who can give you what you want. Always a person.
- Tactics – the things that you and your constituents and allies must do to get the decision-maker(s) to make the decisions that will allow you to achieve your goal.

It is also important to include county/state level PTA board

members and school leaders into your discussion to ensure resolution at the lowest echelon first before elevating. The ECCPTA recommends championing one cause, but no more than three for each local chapter.

The ECCPTA engagement plan will include a preparation phase consisting of letters to our local area elected officials, district office visits, media correspondence, and community engagements in order to lay the groundwork for the upcoming 2017 Florida Legislative Session. Inputs or activities will be prioritized and aligned with our state and national affiliates so that it may achieve maximum effectiveness with lawmakers. Achieving success on one issue during a session is an achievable goal, so it is important to remember that not all concerns and issues will receive the same level of focus during the legislative process. Regardless, we look forward to creating a productive advocacy environment and addressing substantive issues that will benefit every child, their teachers, and each school in Escambia County.

– Dennis Mills, ECCPTA Legislative Chair

 PTA STRATEGY CHART				
Advocacy is the cornerstone of PTA's mission. In order to achieve your advocacy goals at any level, it is important to have a strategic plan. This chart poses the right questions in the right order and serves as a particularly useful tool for group discussions, as it maintains focus to the issue at hand. Use this chart as a guide to developing your strategy and revisit it to check your progress.				
GOALS <i>The victory you want to achieve.</i>	ORGANIZATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS <i>What you have to put in to the fight (time, money, etc.) and what you want to get out of it organizationally (how others will perceive you/the PTA).</i>	CONSTITUENTS, ALLIES, OPPONENTS <i>Who else cares about this problem enough to join in doing something about it? Who will not agree with you on this issue? Whom does it impact?</i>	TARGETS <i>Those who can give you what you want. Always a person.</i>	TACTICS <i>The things that you and your constituents and allies must do to get the decision-maker(s) to make the decisions that will allow you to achieve your goal.</i>

Treasurers' notes

Hi PTA unit treasurers,
 Checking in with all of you with a few reminders!

- The 990 tax form was due Nov. 15, and all units must file taxes.
- Are you submitting monthly financial reports to your president and board?
- Are all checks being signed by TWO check signers (who are non-school district employees)?
- Remember to use the NEW audit form as a guideline to stay compliant.

Remember that all the money handling rules are in the Treasurer's Handbook that was in the Kit of Materials sent at the beginning of the year. It is online as well: <https://floridapta.org/running-your-pta/finance>

Let me know if you have any questions about anything! I'm here to help.



– Samarys Kervin, Treasurer

Celebrating local successes

■ **A.K. Suter Elementary PTA**, along with ECCPTA, hosted a cyber-bullying and safety class on Nov. 7. The presentation included the School Resource Officer team along with a representative from District 1T. ECCPTA provided door prizes and refreshments. The video of the hour-long class will be available on our website.

■ **Beulah Elementary PTA** had its Super Hero Theme carnival on Nov. 5. They raised more than \$14,000 for their school! They also recognized local emergency responders as heroes and held a canned food drive as well. Enough food was donated to feed five families in the community.

Beulah Elementary PTA also was on hand for the ribbon cutting and groundbreaking for the new Beulah Middle School on Oct. 28.

■ Newly elected District 1 Escambia County Commissioner Jeff Bergosh has appointed former ECCPTA President **Brigitte Brooks** to the Santa Rosa Island Authority. Congratulations, Brigitte!

■ ECCPTA Health and Safety Chair **Tori Woods** recently received the Chairman's Award from her workplace, IASIS Healthcare. She was also featured as "Mom of the Month" in Greater Pensacola Parents magazine for August, for which her son was also the cover model!

Submit news to kirstenefirdpta@gmail.com.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY'S 2018 TOP 10 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

- ***Lisa Bloodworth** – Workman Middle School
- ***Lacey Brown** – Jim Allen Elementary School
- ***Angelia Grimes-Graeme** – Hellen Caro Elementary School
- Jessica Kelly** – Cordova Park Elementary School
- Ursula LaMontagne** – Tate High School
- ***Emily McMillan** – C.A. Weis Community School
- ***Cassie Mense** – Myrtle Grove Elementary
- Bonny Shiflett** – R.C. Lipscomb Elementary School
- Nichaka Tribbey** – Global Learning Academy
- Christy Ueberroth** – N.B. Cook Elementary School

** Top five announced Dec. 6*

The winner will be announced at the Golden Apple Awards on Jan. 27 at New World Landing.

Then our county winner will compete to be the Teacher of the Year for the State of Florida.

Congratulations!

Coming in 2017:

We Believe in Children 5K:

Cordova Park Elementary School
Date: TBA

Founders Day:

Friday, Feb. 17, 11 a.m.
The Wright Place, First UMC, downtown



ECCPTA, PTA leaders help welcome new School Board members at Installation



The Escambia County School Board held an Installation Ceremony Nov. 28 for newly re-elected Superintendent Malcolm Thomas and board members Kevin Adams, District 1; Bill Slayton, District 5; and Patty Hightower, District 4.

ECCPTA board members and local PTA officers, above, hosted a reception at the event.

The board elected Linda Moultrie as chairman for 2016-2017 and Gerald Boone as vice-chairman.

Regular board meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the J.E. Hall Center, Room 160.

For more information on the school board, visit the website at www1.escambia.k12.fl.us/Board_Page/Home.html

Reflections Ceremony coming Jan. 31



PTA REFLECTIONS
40 Years of Achievement in the Arts

6 p.m. Jan. 31, 2017
J.E. Hall Center, room 160

Come see your local unit's winners receive their awards! The event will feature a Gallery Night and light snacks prior to the awards ceremony.

This year, the event is being sponsored by Blue Angels Music.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the ceremony. Please let us know if you would like to help at the event.

Escambia County Council of PTAs/PTSAs
J.E. Hall Center
30 E. Texar Dr.
Pensacola, FL 32503

