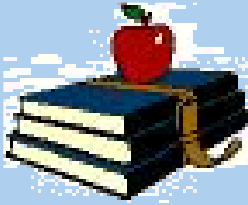


**September
2010**



LIVONIA PTSA COUNCIL

Council Courier

Letter from the President

What an exciting start to another great year! I would like to take this opportunity to thank the officers and volunteers of the 24 local PTA/PTSA units for the great work you do as PTA/PTSA members and officers in supporting your schools, Livonia Public Schools district and community. The success of LPS kids is due in large part to your dedication in providing programs and events for every child—so thank you!!!

Livonia PTSA Council is proud to be one of the largest PTA groups in Michigan. In fact, our membership last year comprised over 10% of the state’s total membership! This year, LPTSAC will continue its mission of “Advocate, Communicate, Support” by providing assistance to the local PTA/PTSA units in the Livonia Public Schools District. Each unit is assigned a Council board member who acts as liaison between the unit and Council and provides direct support to that unit, including answering questions, addressing issues, and connecting the unit to the resources it needs to be successful. Units can find liaison contact information on Council’s website at www.livoniaptsaouncil.org. Please do not hesitate to contact your liaison if your unit needs assistance.

Council will hold a number of general membership meetings this year. Meeting dates are posted to LPTSAC’s website and I encourage you to attend. We’d love to have one of our meetings at your unit’s school; please let me know if your principal and school would be willing to host a Council meeting. It’s a great opportunity to get community members into your school so they can see the great work your PTA/PTSA, staff, administrators—and KIDS!—are doing. Council is also working on other programs and events for the year, including Reflections, Youth Making a Difference, Founder’s Day, Early Literacy Volunteers (ELVs), and much more. Info will be posted to the website and we will communicate updates in the coming months.

As Council president, one of my goals this year is to increase and improve communication within our community regarding the importance of PTA/PTSA and the role of Council. I will be working with our officers and public relations chair to communicate the benefits of PTA to community members and business leaders, to and form PTA partnerships with them. If we all work together toward a quality education for every child, we give our future leaders the skills they need to build stronger communities—and that is something from which we all benefit.

I encourage you to contact me or your unit liaison with any questions, concerns or comments you may have. Your questions and opinions are valued and help shape the future of PTA/PTSA in your school and community. Thank you for your continued support of PTA/PTSA!

Heather Broos
President, Livonia PTSA Council

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The Council Courier is the newsletter of the Livonia PTSA Council. Send articles, comments and questions to the Council Courier at councilcourier@gmail.com.

Follow Livonia PTSA Council online!

Website: www.livoniaptscouncil.org

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/Livonia-PTSA-Council

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/livoniaptsc>

Reflections Packet Links

MPTSA - Reflections Packet - Part 1 – Revised:
http://mptsa.orbro.com/mailmerge/654/1285011318_MPTSA__Reflections_Packet__Part_1__Revised.pdf

MPTSA - Reflections Packet - Part 2:
http://mptsa.orbro.com/mailmerge/649/1284922485_MPTSA__Reflections_Packet__Part_2.pdf

MPTSA - Reflections Packet - Part 3:
http://mptsa.orbro.com/mailmerge/649/1284922500_MPTSA__Reflections_Packet__Part_3.pdf

Livonia
PTSA Council

Reflections 2010-2011

“Together We Can....”

We have a great theme this year, “Together We Can...” Several schools are using it for the school theme this year! Many school chairs are already getting started with making flyers, decorating bulletin boards and planning assemblies.

Livonia Council had a Reflections workshop for school chairs on September 13 at Stevenson. It seems we are off to a great start! Go to www.pta.org/reflections to see last year’s winners, download rules and entry forms.

MPTSA Reflections packets will be emailed to all school chairs soon. Here is a preview of the dates for Livonia Reflections:

Nov 15 - School chairs grades 5-12 turn in entries for judging. Stevenson 6:30-8 pm.

Nov. 30 - Chairs email lists of entrants for program

Dec. 1 - Good Standing Day!

Jan. 5 - K-4 Reflections Celebration at Stevenson. Chairs meet at 4pm.

Jan. 6 - Grade 5-12 Celebration at Stevenson. Chairs meet at 4pm.

Tip of the Month:

Students are more likely to enter if you give them an entry form rather than post it on the website. Don’t forget to fill in the local chair information on the bottom of the entry form, it saves time later!

Kathy Bilger
Kathy.bilger@livoniaptscouncil.org



Rise and Shine!

Livonia Public Schools PTA/PTSA units are very active and have much to be proud of. Based on your success and accomplishments, your unit may be eligible to receive an award from Michigan PTSA. Now is the time to document the activities and events that lead to that success.

Does your PTA have a unique idea for Membership drive? The Bright Ideas Award application is what the membership chair would submit to MPTSA.

Has your PTA reached its membership goal? Submit an application for the many membership awards Michigan PTSA offers.

Do you have an active Legislative chair who provides relevant information to your PTA/PTSA community? You can complete an application for a Legislative Advocacy award.

In addition to the above awards, a number of unit awards available. Description of all awards, forms, and eligibility criteria can be found at www.michiganpta.org. What a terrific way to celebrate your PTA/PTSA and recognize the efforts of many volunteers!

To qualify for any of the above awards, a PTA/PTSA unit must be in good standing. You must:

- * Send your budget to MPTSA
- * Send your audit to MPTSA
- * Remit monthly membership dues to MPTSA
- * Make sure your bylaws are up to date

Awards will be presented at the annual MPTSA Con-vention scheduled for April 8-10, 2011 in Lansing.

Heidy Nance
LPTSAC Awards Chairperson

Attention Treasurers!

REMINDER! All units are required to file Form 990-N or Form 990-EZ with the IRS. Units with the fiscal year end of June 30 should file their returns by November 15. For details on how to file the returns, please refer to the PTA Money Matters Guide. Please visit www.michiganpta.org and www.pta.org for lots of great information.

Save the Date!

Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 16, 2011. We will have a party to celebrate the founding of PTA. Yes, Founders Day is coming, and you won't want to miss it!

This year, we will be presenting special awards to PTA/PTSA units in Livonia, including awards for our PEP program. Will you win? There's only one way to find out!

More details will be coming. You will want to have everyone there to help us celebrate PTA in LIV!

Youth Making a Difference

Attention all PTA/PTSAs! The YMAD information packets have gone out to chairs or, if we don't have information for the chairperson, to the PTA/PTSA presidents. Please check your PTA/PTSA mailbox at the school.

Please forward your chairperson's name and address to me if you haven't already done so.

John Grzebik
Livonia PTSA Council
YMAD Coordinator



Money Matters Quick- Reference Guide Correction

A correction has been made to the PTA Money Matters Quick-Reference Guide regarding the requirements for filing Form 990/990-EZ. The error occurs on page 24. As of the 2010 tax year, for returns filed in 2011 or later, PTAs with an annual gross income of more than \$50,000 (formerly \$25,000) must file Form 990 and Schedule A. If a PTA's gross receipts are less than \$200,000 and total assets are less than \$500,000, the PTA may file Form 990-EZ instead of Form 990. If gross receipts are \$50,000 or less, the PTA must electronically submit Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard. Download the updated PTA Money Matters Quick-Reference Guide online version, as well as updated pages to insert into the print version of the guide. Please inform your local unit treasurer of this correction.



Reminder

Please send a list of your new executive board members to LPTSA Council as soon as possible. We will update our records, and award PEP points for the submission.

Also, please remember to submit your board members' names to the Michigan PTSA. You can most easily do this on-line at the MPTSA web site: <http://www.michiganptsa.org/eventreg/officerReg.html>. Standing committee chairs are also encouraged to register their names.

What is PEP?

The Livonia PTSA Council is introducing a new program for all Units to participate in. The new program is called "PTA/PTSA Excellence Program" or "PEP" for short. The idea behind this program is to reward units for their compliance as a unit, and their participation in events hosted by the Livonia PTSA and the Michigan PTSA throughout the year. Every unit should have received their PEP awards chart, a copy of the PEP Bylaws Acknowledgment, a copy of the Financial Best Practices, and corresponding Financial Best Practices Acknowledgment. *If you have not received the above materials, please let me know.*

The PTA / PTSA which has the most points on January 15 of each year will receive two free tickets to the Livonia PTSA Founder's Day Dinner. Units with the most points at the end of the school year will receive a monetary donation in their name to their unit's school.

Not only is this a very exciting new program, it provides outgoing PTA/PTSA Board Members a comprehensive list of items that the incoming board can use to make sure that their unit is in compliance. This is a great opportunity for the "old" board and the "new" board to ease their transition.

If you are submitting any acknowledgments, and thereby earning points for your unit, please send them to LPS Central Office – c/o LPTSA Council PEP Program, attention Stacey Dogonski. I want to make sure that every unit gets credit for their hard work, so please make sure your PTA / PTSA unit is clearly marked. You will want to designate someone from your Board to be the contact person in charge of submitting materials / points. Please note, many items on the PEP list have deadlines.

If you have any questions about PEP, or need more information, please contact me by e-mail at Stacey.Dogonski@livoniaptscouncil.org.

Thanks!

Stacey Dogonski,
LPTSAC PEP Chair

PTA/PTSA Excellence Program (P.E.P.)

MONTH	ACTION	POINTS
• May	Submit Unit Dues Remittance Form (orig. to MPTSA, copy to LPTSAC)	500
• Before June 1	Submit copy of Bylaws and the Acknowledgement form (see attached)	500
• August	Attendance at MPTSA Leadership Academy	100 per attendee
• Aug/Sept	Attendance LPTSAC Leadership Workshops	100 per attendee
• Before Sept 1	Submit signed Financial Best Practices form (see attached)	500
• Before Sept 1	Submit completed LPTSAC survey	500
• Before Oct 1	Submit contact information for Council Directory	500
• Before Nov 1	Submit copy of Policies & Procedures Guide	50
• Before Dec. 1	Submit Audit from previous school year (orig to MPTSA, copy to LPTSAC)	50
• Before Dec. 1	Submit Budget from current school year (orig to MPTSA, copy to LPTSAC)	50
• February	Attend Livonia PTSA Council's Founders' Day Celebration	500
• Spring	Attend MPTSA Advocacy Day	100 per attendee
• April/May	Attend MPTSA Convention	100 per attendee
• Sept thru June	Offer a Legislative Advocacy program to members (send notice to LPTSAC)	500 per program
• Sept thru June	Offer a Parent-Oriented program to your members (send notice to LPTSAC)	500 per program
• Sept thru June	Invite your Council Liaison to a unit meeting	100 per invite
• Sept thru June	Achieve Membership that reaches last year's total	500
• Sept thru June	Achieve Membership that exceeds last year's total	50 per add'l member
• Sept thru June	Submit Membership dues to Council by 28th of each month	50 for dues, 10 for submitting a blank form if no members enrolled that month.
• Sept thru June	Attend LPTSAC's board meetings	100 per attendee
• Sept thru June	Attend LPTSAC's general meetings	100 per attendee

Points will be tallied from May 1 through April 30. Each member may represent multiple units. The unit points leader as of January 15 will receive two free Founders' Day tickets. Progress of all units will be recognized at the Founders' Day Celebration. The top three units will be awarded a graduated monetary gift from Livonia PTSA Council for use by their school. Correspondence to LPTSAC may be sent through inter-school mail c/o LPS Central Office.

All Around Town

Welcome Back to School

The LPS Foundation sponsored Welcome Back to School Socials at all K-4 elementary schools and Perrinville Early Childhood Center. Inflatable picnics and party games were generously donated by Camp Mirage (www.campmirage.com) and included an inflatable obstacle course and moon walk. It was a memorable way for the kids to wrap up summer, and bounce back into school.

Board of Education Meetings on Web

Did you know you can review a Board of Education Meeting at your leisure from LPS' Web Site? Simply look for the School Board tab on their homepage and choose Board Videos. You will be shown thumbnail versions of the latest board meetings for viewing. Board Meetings are usually posted one to two days after the cablecast of the live meeting.

Agendas, minutes of meetings, and meeting dates can also be found under the School Board tab.

What's Going on at Your Place?

Is there great stuff happening at your school? Is your PTA off to a great start, and doing wonderful things? We want to hear about it! Send an e-mail to councilcourier@gmail.com, with "All Around Town" in the subject line. We will help you toot your horn!

LPS Calendar

2010-2011 School Year

SEPTEMBER 7: First day of school
OCTOBER 7: Secondary P/T conferences
NOVEMBER 2: Elementary Workday/Secondary Prof. Development - NO SCHOOL
NOVEMBER 10-11: Elementary P/T conferences
NOVEMBER 12: Elementary P/T conferences - NO SCHOOL elementary only
NOVEMBER 24-26: Thanksgiving Recess – NO SCHOOL
DECEMBER 20-31: Winter Recess – NO SCHOOL
JANUARY 17: Martin Luther King Day – NO SCHOOL
JANUARY 28: Teacher Workday (end of semester) – NO SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 21-22: Midwinter Recess – NO SCHOOL
MARCH 17: Prof. Development – NO SCHOOL elementary only
MARCH 24: Secondary P/T conferences
APRIL 1: Elementary Workday/Secondary – NO SCHOOL
APRIL 18-25: Spring Recess – NO SCHOOL
MAY 19: Prof. Development – NO SCHOOL
MAY 30: Memorial Day Recess – NO SCHOOL
JUNE 16: Last day of school

LPTSAC Calendar

October 6	Executive Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Conf. Rm. A Bounce Back to School - Grant Elementary School (Rain Date)
November 3	Executive Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Conf. Rm. A
November 15	Submit Reflections entries grades 5-12 for judging. 6:30-8:00 pm. Stevenson High School
November 30	Reflections chairpeople e-mail lists of entrants for program
December 1	Good Standing Day! Executive Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Conf. Rm. A
January 5	Reflections Program (Grades P-4) 7:00 p.m. Stevenson High School
January 6	Reflections Program (Grades 5-12) 7:00 p.m. Stevenson High School