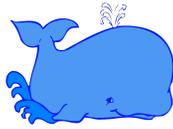


Suffolk Region

PTA[®]

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November 2019

In this report-

- ***NYS PTA Convention highlights***
 - ***Family Engagement Workshop***
 - ***FE Vendor Highlights-part 1***
- ***AWARD Programs and Grants***
- ***Key Dates to Remember***
- ***Family Engagement Themes of the Month***
- ***Advocacy Calendar***
- ***Coming up in This Month and Next***
- ***Resources and Links for parents and students-***

NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION highlights for Family Engagement-

National PTA President Leslie Boggs gave a workshop on Family Engagement resources and she also gave some tips for engaging families. Here are some of her suggestions. First join the PTA local Leaders Facebook Group. Sign up for the PTA Leaders Kit. Next go through the PTA Programs on your local, State and National PTA sites. (SuffolkPTA.org, NYSPTA.org and PTA.org). Sign up for the Leaders Boot Camp. Check out the various E-Learning offerings on the National site.

Check out the various programs offered: from STEM to Healthy lifestyles; From Take Your Family to School Week to Schools of Excellence; From Pick A Reading Partner (PARP) to Reflections Art Contest and so much more; there is something for everyone! Be creative. The programs are flexible enough to make your own. For Healthy Lifestyles, for instance, you could do a Basketball Mini Tournament or a Family Tastings Night. It is up to you to make it fit with the needs, demographics and interests of your individual community.

Make sure you are aware of all the resources on all three websites, national (PTA.org), New York (NYSPTA.org) and Suffolk Region (suffolkpta.org). Also, make sure that your members are aware, through

your newsletter or your eblasts and Member Hub, about parent resources by age and grade that will help them understand what is expected, what the goals are and how they can help their own child thrive at each stage of the student's school career.

Another suggestion from National PTA President Boggs was to host FB Live meetings. This would need to be done in a private FB group that all parents at the school would be invited to join and approved by your Principal and School Board. For areas where it is difficult to get to regular meetings because of geography, work schedules or demographics this is one way to supplement your in-person meetings. And it makes it possible for people to watch it on the replay.

Another way to supplement regular meetings is to use Zoom (zoom.us), a video conferencing technology or any another technology that you are familiar with. Video conferencing allows for more engagement and can be free or low cost. It has features that allow certain people to be on camera and others to be off for a portion of the meeting. It also allows everyone to be on at once. The Moderator (PTA president) would have the option to mute everyone during the meeting and open it up for questions and comments later; choose to have chat or not, or choose it for some portions of the meeting and then not at other times. It is also possible to break people out into individual "virtual committee rooms" to work on specific topics.

Video has some drawbacks. The free versions typically only allow for 40minute calls or you have to call back in. With a large group, calling back in is cumbersome. There is an added feature of a password that ensures just your local members are in the meeting, but if you have to call back in after 40 minutes, it is clunky. There are number of participant caps for the free version. The membership format has much higher numbers of participants allowed. It is reasonably inexpensive. If a PTA decides to use any of these or other interactive technologies, it always recommended that the PTA President, Principal, School board and Superintendent meet to design Shared Agreements as to the protocol for these meetings, sort of a Roberts Rules of Order for the video age. Lastly, prior to each meeting, sending a demonstration video or email explaining how to connect is useful in cutting down on first time user frustration. Even holding a few "get to know you" informal video calls prior to the first meeting can make things run more smoothly. Video is great for people who wouldn't otherwise be able to participate to join in, but nothing beats face to face.

Family Engagement Vendors from the NYSPTA Convention- More to come

Here are some highlights from some of our vendors that specifically relate to Family Engagement and family engagement programs. More will be highlighted next month.

Read for My School- This literacy program pairs nicely with Pick a Reading Partner Program for a double bonus for your school-

Read for My School connects Family Engagement and community giving through literacy. Supporting literacy-based programs- including reading aloud to children- is one of the best long-term investments a family can make. It provides a connection with your child that transcends education and economic barriers and provides the building blocks for a successful life. This program offers a free literacy program that establishes the connection as well as community message to teach our children the value of giving back to their school. This program provides the support, the trackers and mobile flexibility that make for a successful literacy and fundraising program. Read for My School provides 1:1 support focused on what

matters most- getting kids excited about reading while teaching the importance of giving back! This program can be adapted to whatever size event you are planning, big or small. www.Readformyschool.com

Read to Them-

Read to Them is a national non-profit whose mission is to help make every home a place where reading happens regularly- where families read together- where students grow up to be healthy, regular readers-a place where books are present, shared, and talked about in the home, we do that through our unique family literacy programs. They offer recommended reading lists, broken to 5 categories- Intro Titles, Sweet Spot Titles, Tweener Titles, Middle school Titles, Spanish Titles. www.readtothem.org

Gaggle

Gaggle uses both artificial intelligence and trained safety experts to proactively assist districts to avoid tragedies and save lives, while also protecting their liability. Their mission is to help ensure the safety and well-being of all students. Children today learn on technology that navigates both their private and public lives, as well as their future educational and professional careers, A child left unattended in a park and a child online can face the same dangers: bullying, suicide, drug and alcohol addiction, and acts of violence.

Gaggle provides an early warning system for both students in dangerous situations and students with imminent and critical mental health issues. Using machine learning algorithms and trained safety experts, they identify students in crisis before a tragic situation occurs. Last year, Gaggle helped districts prevent 722 suicides and this year 222. Schools are informed immediately of students struggling with self-harm, substance abuse, cyberbullying, harassment, violence, and other credible threats. They do this using key word recognition and patterns determined by the district. www.gaggle.net

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Please submit your Nominations in for [Danielle Alduino Memorial Scholarship By Nov. 30, 2019](#)

[http://suffolkpta.org/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/Alduino Award application 2017-18.261105306.pdf](http://suffolkpta.org/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/Alduino_Award_application_2017-18.261105306.pdf)
[ftp://suffolkpta.org/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/Alduino Award application 2017-18.261105306.pdf](ftp://suffolkpta.org/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/Alduino_Award_application_2017-18.261105306.pdf)

Please submit your nominations for [The Jenkins Memorial Scholarship for Teacher Education By Dec. 15, 2019](#)

<https://nyspta.org/home/pta-leaders/awards-and-recognitions/jenkins-scholarship/>

Please submit your nominations for [The Youth Humanitarian Award~ In Memory of Stanley Marcus by Jan. 31, 2020](#)

<https://nyspta.org/home/pta-leaders/awards-and-recognitions/youth-humanitarian-award/>

Key Dates to Remember-

Advancing Artwork for Reflections Drop off – Dec 6 at Seneca Middle School from 5-9 pm

Advancing Artwork for Reflections Drop off- Dec 7- at West Babylon HS from 9 am-1 pm

NYSPTA GOGuardian Mental Health Conference- Dec 10, 2019 Albany New York, The Desmond

President and Principals Dinner- January 16, 2020 -Villa Lombardis Hollbrook- REGISTER BY DEC 16

Family Engagement Theme for November – Academic Writing Month- which is a project originally started by Charlotte Frost when she was a Provost International Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Center for 21st Century Studies at the University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee (UWM). It was aimed at pushing her and her colleagues to work on their academic writing projects and create a writing team among them.*

Why not take that on at the school level and create a project to write a certain number of minutes every day. Families could write together for 15 minutes a day. A fun project might be to give each family member 15 minutes to add to a story. One person starts the story and the next person adds to it, in a game format. The point is to write every day. For older students the writing could be about a nonfiction topic that has to be researched by the family(team) and written about for 15 minutes. Topics could be anything the family is interested in. Examples would be a vacation spot, a foreign culture, type of boats, skiing equipment, any topic of interest.

***wikipedia**

RESOURCES and LINKS-

NEW Resource for Parents and PTA on pertinent topics is *PTA.org's new Notes from the Backpack podcast*. <https://www.pta.org/center-for-family-engagement/notes-from-the-backpack> topics range across the grade levels from elementary to High School.- check out the episode-“Confident Parents-Confident Kids”

Child's Plan-Improving the Social and Emotional Wellbeing of New York's Children and Their Families

https://www.ccf.ny.gov/files/5013/7962/7099/childrens_plan.pdf

Apps for building Resilience in Children and Adults-

Pacifica Stress and Anxiety -4.4stars

Mindfulness Coach-gives tools for getting to sleep- 4.6 stars

HappiMe- 5.0 Stars- free and in app purchases

6 phase meditation- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRhrdm_1afQ

SEPTA-

Accessibility Service- Going on an excursion or day trip to local New York historic sites, Adventure parks, State and Local Parks, Museums? Wonder if they are Accessible for mobility challenges? Check out Destination Accessible to know before you go. This is a free service to make your trip more fun and enjoyable.

www.destinationaccessible.com

or call 917693-3420

<https://www.learning-styles-online.com/overview/>

<https://www.developgoodhabits.com/good-study-routine/>

Other Resources-

NYSED updated ESSA website:

<http://www.nysed.gov/news/2018/state-education-department-announces-updated-resources-ever-y-student-succeeds-act>

Parent Partnership Kit-

<https://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/parentpower/booklet.pdf>

Link to PTA Leadership webinars-

<https://nyspta.org/home/pta-leaders/trainingmaterials-webinars/>

Parent Workshop toolkit link-

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/planning-a-parent-workshop-toolkit-for-parent-engagement>

Link to Common Core Standards-

<http://corestandards.org/the-standards>

Prevent Opioid abuse

<https://www.operationprevention.com/#about>

New ESSA website and explanatory letter:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/FMfcgxwBTsXXqxCRwWHpSPdTQJSttFdI>