

2010 NCPTA Emerging Leaders Conference

Over 80 people braved the cold weather on Saturday, February 6, to attend NCPTA's third annual Emerging Leaders Conference. It was a great day of learning, sharing and having fun. Thank you to our attendees, special guests, and workshop presenters for making our conference a huge success!

Workshops informed attendees about:



(From L to R) Donald Barringer, Teacher Advisor to the Governor, Kyle Robertson, NCPTA President, and Chuck Saylor, National PTA President



Healthy Schools



Best Practices of the NCPTA Parent Involvement Initiative



Rob Hines, Director, LEA Projects, Academics Services and Instructional Support, NC Department of Public Instruction, presented a workshop on School Improvement Teams.



Family, School, Community Engagement – A discussion of policy and practice



Male Involvement



Diversity



A big thank you to Deb Fritz, National PTA Service Representative (4th from left) and Chuck Saylor, NPTA President (right) for joining us.

2010 NCPTA Parent Education Conference

April 23-24, Embassy Suites Hotel, Winston-Salem

NCPTA will convene its annual Parent Education Conference and Convention on Friday, April 23, 2010 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Winston-Salem. We are looking forward to two days of great workshops, excellent speakers, sharing of ideas, meeting new people and having fun!!!

National Representative

Anna Weselak, PTA Past National President, will be our National PTA Representative. Anna served as NPTA president from 2005-07 and led the National organization in supporting parent involvement so children can succeed and learning environments can improve.



Attention Teachers!!!

NCPTA is working collaboratively with the NCAE to offer a workshop for teachers titled: ***Creating Strong Family-School-Community Partnerships***

Participants will:

- examine attitudes, actions, and behaviors regarding community involvement,
- receive strategies for implementing partnerships within the community or enhancing existing partnerships.

Register early since space is limited to 100 attendees.

Happy Birthday NCPTA!!!

We will be celebrating NCPTA's 90th birthday! Events and activities are planned to honor the 90 years of child advocacy efforts by our organization.

Register early!

On-line registration will begin by Friday, February 19th at www.ncpta.org. Mark your calendars and join us in Winston-Salem!

Schedule of Events:

Friday, April 23, 2009

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m.

Explore Winston-Salem and the surrounding areas prior to our Conference
Workshop: National Common Core Standards
Free Time
General Session I — Membership Celebration Dinner

Saturday, April 25, 2009

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
5:45 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.
6:30 p.m. –

Exhibit Hall Open
Workshop Session 1
General Session II – Business Session
 Panel Discussion – current educational issues
Workshop for Teachers – Creating Strong Family-School-Community Partnerships
Lunch, Visit with Exhibitors
PII Luncheon (by invitation only)
Workshop Session 2
Workshop Session 3
Focus Networking Groups (Elementary, Middle, High, Councils)
Reception
General Session III – Awards Celebration

Tentative workshop topics include:

Male Involvement
Family Involvement
Exceptional Children
Be Active NC
Academically Gifted

Gang Awareness
PTA Treasurer Part 1
Cultural Responsiveness
Conflict Resolution
Governance and Treasurer Part 2

News from National PTA ...

PTA: More than Ready for the Future!

By Chuck Saylor, National PTA President

As we enter a brand new decade this year, I can't help but think about how we have the awesome responsibility of setting the tone for PTA® the next 10 years – and what good shape we're in to do it. With more than 5 million motivated members, savvy leaders such as yourself, and an abundance of free resources for parents and teachers, we have the ability to make 2010 and beyond some of the best years the PTA has ever experienced.

For this reason, I encourage you to approach the events and celebrations this year with revitalized gusto. With Take Your Family to School Week approaching (February 7-13), we have a great opportunity to ramp up involvement, recruit new members and re-engage families in our communities. As always, our Take Your Family to School Week pays tribute to PTA's Founding Mothers, providing veteran members, new members and non-members with a passionate reminder of the principles that launched our association. What perfect timing for an inspiring look to the past to help guide us through our future!

Of course, this isn't the only thing we're honoring this year. This year we're also celebrating the 40th anniversary of the merger between the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers—today's National PTA. We're also excited about the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the PTA Reflections program, dedicated to allowing children to express themselves through the arts. Thanks to these efforts, diversity in both membership and academic endeavors, have enriched the lives of countless children across the country – something we must continue to develop as an association. In March, which we claim "National PTA Legislative Month," we'll take stock of these and other advocacy efforts to ensure our association is doing absolutely everything possible to take action on behalf of our children's education, health, and well-being.

So, as we move forward this year, let's use our impressive legacy to re-inspire ourselves and push through the next decade with passion, integrity, ambition and clarity. I could not be prouder of your efforts up to this point, and I thank you for all that you've done and will continue to do as a leader in PTA. Here's to another successful decade!



Is your PTA®:

- ★ Welcoming all families?
- ★ Speaking up for every child?
- ★ Communicating effectively?
- ★ Sharing power?
- ★ Supporting student success?
- ★ Collaborating with community?



If so, get national recognition and up to \$2,000 with the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Family-School Partnership Awards.

*Applications due 11:59 p.m. EST, Monday, March 1, 2010.**

Apply today at PTA.org/Hearst/

* Local PTAs in good standing may apply. All applications will be subject to competitive review.

Budget Now to Attend the 2010 NPTA Convention!



SAVE THE DATE
National PTA Convention

June 9-15, 2010

Memphis, Tennessee



Do We As Men Really Listen?

By Carl Serrette, Chair
NCPTA Male Involvement Committee

One of the many comments I hear from students in school is that my dad never listens to me or understands me. In order for men to be more effective as volunteers at schools and to make a difference for students, we need to learn how to communicate through listening. When we are able to do this, we will be welcomed, trusted, and appreciated more by the students and fellow volunteers. So the next time your kids or even your wife begin to talk to tell you about a problem or to talk about their day or any topic, take time to listen before responding. I believe we have two ears and one mouth, so that we listen twice as much as we speak. I found a wonderful article that I would like to share with you:

Proven Ways to Communicate with your Kids

By: Ken Canfield



I have no idea what's going on inside that boy's head!" "My little girl and I don't have much in common. What do I say to her?" "Why even try? My teens won't listen to me anyway." Communicating with your children can be one of your greatest challenges as a father.

But just imagine your children *looking forward* to sharing their lives with you; imagine them *wanting* to hear your opinions on a particular issue; imagine feeling comfortable discussing *anything* with your kids. That's the potential of positive communication!

Listening is in... Lecturing is out

The media trademark of the sensitive dad has been the wise and caring lecture, from Hugh Beaumont to Robert Young, clear up to Bill Cosby taking one of the kids into the kitchen for some apple juice and some hard truth. We've let the lecture become our stock and trade. It's what we aspire to: that one eloquent and learned speech which teaches our kids the secrets of life.

There is certainly room for a well-timed lecture, but also realize that quite often our children don't need our answers, and they don't need us mentally rehearsing our answers while they are speaking. They need the comfort of knowing we're there for them--and that isn't a result of wise lectures.

Seek first to understand--whether you're settling a dispute, offering comfort and counsel or just talking at the dinner table. Attentive

listening leads to understanding--a priceless commodity between a father and his children. It *informs* you in your fathering tasks and, perhaps more importantly, *expresses* your unconditional love for your kids.

Your daughter comes to you feeling uneasy about entering middle school in the fall. What do you do? You

could simply tell her that middle school is nothing to worry about and millions of people have passed through relatively unharmed--but that wouldn't meet her immediate need. She needs to know that her father loves her and believes in her, no matter what happens during the next school year. We show our love and concern by *listening*.

Learn to disagree without starting WWII

We hear a lot of talk about diversity these days--we should learn to appreciate people who are different than we are. But you probably never thought about diversity in your own household.

Of course, you won't want to give a toddler much room to disagree with you. But it's inevitable that your children will make choices with which you won't always agree, from how they spend their money, to the friends they choose, to the mates they choose, even to their basic philosophies of life.

You can disagree and still maintain an atmosphere of acceptance by learning to appreciate your children's unique gifts and perspectives. Expect their opinions to change from time to time, but be unchanging in giving respect to what they have to say. Avoid making heavy-handed dictates that leave no room for discussion; demonstrate that you do understand, and then state your case by saying, "The way I see it ..." or "From my experience"

You *are* the head of the household, but your children will be much more cooperative if they know Dad is willing to yield on some points. A good rule of thumb for disagreements may be to ask yourself, "Will this still be important to us three years from now?" If not, why cause any damage over it now?

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Actions really do speak louder than words

We think of communication as verbal, and that is the kind most dads need to work on. But a father's *actions* go hand in hand with what he says.

One son gets punished by his father for sneaking out to an R-rated movie, but then one day finds his dad's adult magazines hidden in a drawer. Few things cause more confusion in children than fathers who spout moral absolutes and then live out a double standard.

Or there's the girl who hears her dad talk about obeying the laws of the land, and when he is driving on vacation she notices that the speedometer hovers right around 65. This father is teaching his daughter that there are clearly defined boundaries--some things are good and right, and some are not.

No matter what you *tell* your children, the life you *live* communicates what you're really made of.

Be open, honest and positive

As we communicate who we are and what we believe to our growing children, *method* is everything. We need to be open, honest and positive.



Open honesty tells you *what* to communicate. It means having those "hard talks" when you know you need to, whether you're dealing with sexual issues, confronting a child about some-thing he has done, or humbly asking for forgiveness when you have wronged him. Open honesty is carrying through on the responsibilities you have to those you love.

A positive approach determines *how* you communicate. When your child succeeds at something or shows kindness to someone else, encouragement is the natural response. But being positive gets harder when she makes a mistake or is insensitive to others.

Too many fathers react by insulting or shaming their children, but we need to affirm them in everything, even when correction is our ultimate goal. There is *always* a positive way to talk to your child. There may not be a big difference in the point being made, but to the child, a positive response makes all the difference in the world.

Effective communication demands large amounts of undivided attention, as well as creativity, perseverance and sometimes even courage.

But the ultimate question is not *will* we communicate with our children, but rather will we use communication to build them up or tear them down? Will our actions turn them against us, or will they validate and reinforce what we say? That's the true challenge of communication.



Male Involvement Class at Parent Education Conference in April:

Men; Get Ready, Get Ready, Get Ready, we will have a very powerful class and training on Male Involvement in Schools that you don't want to miss at our Parent Education Conference in April. PTA Presidents please try to send a male representative who is willing to lead this charge. Come ready to share, learn, engage and be energized.

MORE Alliance -- Contact Information

All Pro Dad:

Bryan Davis, Director, Family First
5211 West Laurel Street, Suite 102
Tampa, FL 33607
(800) 956-8300, email - Bryan@familyfirst.net

Black Star Project:

Phillip Jackson, Executive Director
3509 King Drive, Suite 2B
Chicago, IL 60653
(773) 285-9600, email: pjackson@blackstarproject.org

Strong Fathers, Strong Families:

J Michael Hall, Executive Director
P.O. Box 136188
Ft. Worth, TX 78136

(817) 301-4086, email: mikehall@strongfathers.com

National Compadres Network- The National Latino Fatherhood and Families Institute

Jerry Tello
3129 Hacienda Blvd. Suite 396
Hacienda Hts., CA 91745

National Fatherhood Initiative:

Ron Clark, Director of Community-based Programs
22 Bexley Lane
Hampton, VA 23666
757 224-0858 Office, 757 344-5685 Mobile,
rclark@fatherhood.org

Career and College: Ready, Set, Go!

Governor Beverly Perdue

I believe that the opportunity that comes with a top-notch education must be the birthright of every child born in North Carolina. Opportunity for each of them means opportunity for all of us. **When every kid has the chance to succeed, North Carolina succeeds** – in creating jobs, in growing businesses, in sparking innovation.

For too many, that opportunity is still out of reach. When 100 kids enter 9th grade, only 71 graduate – and many of them aren't ready for careers or college. A student entering high school in our state has about a **50-50 chance** of graduating fully prepared for what life offers.

I'm calling on North Carolina to re-focus our entire education system on a single goal: **Every kid – not matter where he or she lives in North Carolina – MUST graduate from high school with what it really takes to succeed in a career, in a two- or four-year college or in technical training.** That means no more losing out on jobs that require more than low skills and no more remedial course in higher education for our graduates.

That's our agenda – **Careers and College: Ready, Set, Go!**

READY	SET	GO
<p>Students must be ready from the start and stay ready as they progress year by year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that as many kids as possible benefit from Smart Start, More At Four, good prenatal and family health care that lets them enter school healthy • Giving teachers, parents and students clear, continuous information about how kids are progressing, not simply at the end of the year, and let teachers monitor it with hand-held technology 	<p>Students must be set up for success by aiming our expectations higher and getting the best teachers and principals to help kids reach them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining what graduates must know and be able to do based on what careers and college demand and determining the grade-by-grade steps to get there • Getting a great teacher in every classroom and effective principal in every school regardless of what county they're in • Listening to what students say about their learning conditions • Preparing students using technology they will undoubtedly use on the job or in higher education 	<p>Students must have a clear path to a career, a two- or four-year college or technical training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placing adults in schools who can coach kids who may have trouble reaching graduation • Offering kids <u>more</u> in high school – more career-specific and rigorous courses, more information about their actual readiness for college and more access to college credit • Ensuring the kids go the distance – not only enter a two- or four-year college, but leave with the degree or certification they enrolled to earn



North Carolina PTA Night

To benefit the Parent Involvement Grant Program



Carolina Hurricanes vs. Phoenix Coyotes
Saturday, March 13, 2010 - 7:00 p.m. - RBC Center



The North Carolina PTA has teamed up with the Carolina Hurricanes to bring you a special opportunity! Purchase a deeply discounted ticket for the Saturday, March 13th Hurricanes vs. Coyotes game and support the NC PTA. A portion of every ticket purchased through this special offer will benefit the NC PTA Parent Involvement Grant Program.

To purchase tickets through this special opportunity visit:

www.carolinahurricanes.com/pta

Tickets can easily be purchased and printed via the comfort of your home/office computer by visiting the link above

North Carolina PTA Night Pricing			
Seat Location	Gate Price	Your Price	Donation Back
Upper Corners	\$40	\$30	\$7.50
Balcony Premier	\$45	\$35	\$7.50
Lower Level North	\$80	\$50	\$10
Lower Level South	\$80	\$50	\$10

North Carolina
PTA[®]
everychild.one voice.

Furtal Delivers for Local PTAs

Garner Magnet School PTA lead the way in October with the first registration competition from our new partner Furtal.com.

The competition was pretty simple; add an image to your furtal with a message to your supporters and the best, as voted on by NCPTA Executive Staff would receive the \$250 award. A few minutes of work delivered a great boost to Garner's fundraising for the year.

Furtal also sent over \$2,000 back to our local PTA's over the Christmas season and continues to make money for the PTA's that are currently registered!

Furtal has released their latest version of the application this week. This new version of furtal can be used as your actual PTA website! You can supply updates, images, engage local businesses, and they have new tools and features to engage your supporters and membership. It is very easy! It just takes a few minutes and a couple of clicks of your mouse and you can inform everyone of this great tool.

Participation in the program is entirely free. It's NOT a one-time fundraising opportunity, the program is built to bring in consistent money from your supporters each month at NO cost to them!

Go check out the new features. If you have any questions, contact the furtal team at info@furtal.com or go the website at www.furtal.com

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www.ncpta.org

President: Kyle R. Robertson

WOW!!!! LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY & MARCH

February

- Black history Month
- 7-13 – PTA Take your Family to School Week (www.pta.org/familytoschool)
- 15 – President's Day
- 17 – PTA Founders Day (National PTA's 114th Birthday)

March

- Women's History Month
- Music in our Schools Month
- 1 – State Deadline for Awards
- 2 – Read Across America (www.nea.org/readacross)
- 15 – Membership deadline to qualify for State membership awards
- Register to attend the Parent Education Conference

Health and Welfare Update

The Child Health Assessment and Monitoring Program (CHAMP) surveillance reports show that other North Carolina parents are as concerned about health as you are! Of the surveyed parents, 85% think that only healthy foods should be included in school, and most strongly or moderately agree that healthier items should replace high fat and unhealthy foods in vending machines. 90% of parents also believe that it is important for schools to provide regular physical activity to students throughout the day. For more information, visit www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/champ. Share these results with your PTA unit and your school!