

**POINTS OF
INTEREST**

Splashing into PTA!

Getting Your Ears On!

Got Milk?

Making Stars

**INSIDE
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President's Perspective

Happy Spring PTA'ers,

As a reminder, it is not too late to register to attend the 102nd Wisconsin PTA Convention & Business Meeting, April 29-30, 2011 at the Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan. This convention promises to be informative, educational, exciting, family oriented and a great time for all that attend. By-laws amendments, resolutions, elections of officers for the 2011-2013 term, workshops, and the fabulous water part at the resort are samples of what will take place. The Reflections luncheon, which is the heart of what we do for all children, will give us an opportunity to experience what our children accomplish with their creative minds every day. We talk about membership, and we will celebrate the accomplishments of our local units across the state. Last, but not least, is the recognition of all of the award winners – teachers, scholarship winners, honorary life, volunteers, just to name a few. I invite all you to pack your bags, grab your children and spouses and join us as we continue on this road of endless possibilities, making a huge splash along the way.

With the onset of Governor Walker's budget bill, public education will be deeply hurt. We've had unprecedented cuts that are coming to public education following the unprecedented cuts of the last budget plus 18 years of snatching quality educational opportunities out of the hands of our children throughout the state. As I talk to folks the nation, I have said that there is clearly a lack of respect from the Governor and a lack of respect by the people that control the purse strings, which shows no respect for public education. Folks, we have now entered the "Twilight Zone". Although we have doom and gloom, we can't give up the fight. Now more than ever we must unite across this great state of Wisconsin as well as in our own communities to make our concerns known. Parents, educators, support staff, community, administrators, our children and youth must step up to the plate and speak loud and clear. We must let our elected officials know from the local level, the state and national level about our concerns. This is what PTA was founded on; taking action. Although, we are in fight, and we have never had to fight so hard previously. It is my belief we will be victorious, but all of us have to take ownership and do what is



right for every child in our state. We must keep alive PTA's vision, making every child's potential a reality, as well as the mission of this great association, a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well being of every child.

Until next time,
be strong,
there is a light at the end of
this craziness!.

Roxanne Starks

President, Wisconsin PTA

To receive Legislative Alerts send your email address to:

wi_office@pta.org

Please Thank WI PTA Business Members:

PTA PARTNERS:

Dvorak Landscape Supply, Janesville

El-Ra Bowling Lanes, Janesville

Legislatively Speaking

Jill Gaskell, WI PTA BOD, State Legislative Chair

By now, most of the state, if not the country, have heard about the cuts schools will face if Governor Walker's budget passes as proposed. This budget will hurt schools so badly that it makes the "regular broken" that we thought we would be facing feel like it might be ok. The devastation that we are facing now feels like an assault on public education and the core values that it represents.

A quick list of categorical aids that are eliminated in the proposed budget ([thanks to DPI for compiling this information](#)) are listed below:

- Aid for children at risk grants
- Alternative education grants
- Grants for Advanced placement
- Grants for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse prevention and intervention programs
- Grants for improving pupil academic achievement (MPS)

- Grants for nursing services
- Grants to preschool to grade 5 programs targeted to high poverty needs
- Grants for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math programs
- Supplemental aid.

Among those programs getting a 10% cut in funding are: 4K start-up grants, Head Start supplements, school breakfast grants, school milk, sparsity aid, aid to CESA, aid for AODA, Bilingual-bicultural programs, and gifted and talented grants.

One of the more twisted ideas in the budget is that all students will be reading at grade level by the end of third grade. That is not the twisted part. The twisted part is that the assessment will be developed by the Department of Administration, not the Department of Public Instruction. And to top it off, it eliminates the requirement that districts employ a reading specialist. So, who will work with

the students who are struggling with reading?

The proposed budget takes direct aim at the Milwaukee Public School District through the voucher program. It removes the cap on the number of students participating in the voucher program, the income requirement to participate in the voucher program, expands the voucher program to all of Milwaukee County rather than just MPS, and removes the requirement that voucher schools administer the WKCE annually to assess the students. And the program gets sum sufficient appropriations, meaning the state will pay what ever it costs to support the voucher program while students in MPS schools will see their funding reduced by \$500 per student.

If you would like to see changes to this budget, you can contact your elected officials.

Brookmire Hastings Scholarship Fund

Wisconsin PTA through the Brookmire Hastings Trustees helps two PTA high school seniors, entering the field of education. The funds used to provide these scholarships are raised through the kind generosity of the Wisconsin Alumni PTA, stars purchased for the Wall of Fame at convention and through donations from PTAs across Wisconsin.



The Wall of Fame takes place every year during convention. Stars on the Wall are available for purchase (\$5 each or 4 for \$10) up to and throughout convention. Once you have purchased a star for the educator who you feel most influenced your life, a star bearing his or her name will be placed on the Wall and during the 2011 Teacher Appreciation Week (May 2nd—6th) a card will be sent to the educator you have honored letting them know how much you appreciate them!

Pre-convention orders must be received in the State office before April 10th. Wisconsin PTA, 4797 Hayes Rd. Suite 102, Madison WI 53704. Please make checks payable to: Brookmire Hastings Fund.

LEADers Program

Kim Henderson, WI PTA President-Elect

Do you want to become a better leader? Is your PTA lacking in leaders? Leadership development is one of the most important things that helps a PTA remain strong over time. The Wisconsin State PTA has your solution: the LEADers program. The LEADers program gives PTA members the opportunity to try new things, learn new skills and develop the aptitude needed to become a strong PTA leader. Both leadership skills and a knowledge of PTA and advocacy are included. Some activities are required and others you can choose based on your areas of interest. A new updated LEADers program will be introduced at the convention in April. The new program has three levels: the first being for the new PTA member, the second for the more advanced local or council member, and the third for the state wide member. Come to convention to get a jump start on the new program. We look forward to helping each PTA member to reach their leadership potential.



Are you currently working on the existing LEADers program? Make sure if you have completed the program, you send in your information to our state office as soon as possible so that you can be recognized at convention. If you are in progress, you should try to complete your current level by convention. At the end of convention the existing program will be retired. Anyone who has not completed it will need to work with a state board member to transfer what they have done over to the new program. Those who have already completed phase 1 and 2 will not need to participate in the new program.

Theft Prevention for PTAs

Associated Insurance Management

The top ten ways to protect your PTA against embezzlement, according to Associated Insurance Management, AIM, are:

1. Money should never be kept at a treasurer's home.
2. Two people should always count the money, and both should sign the receipt verifying the amount.
3. Two signatures should be required on all checks.
4. Have someone who does not have check signing authority review and initial the bank

statement monthly before giving it to the treasurer. This person is looking for red flags including:

5. Never sign a blank check or a check made out to "cash."
6. The treasurer should arrange to deposit the money in the bank as



soon after the conclusion of the project as possible.

7. Money should be deposited into the bank account daily, even if a project is ongoing.
8. All bills should be paid by check, never cash.
9. Conduct an annual audit or review of the books.
10. Make sure that you have a Bond policy and make sure to follow the requirements to guarantee coverage.

WI PTA
is Making a Big  Splash at the

Sheboygan, WI

Join us for Convention!

Discounted Hotel Room Rates!
Rooms starting at \$124.00 a night!
Make your Reservation now!
Call 1-866-701-BLUE
Family orientated Convention!
Watch for more information!
Wisconsin PTA Convention

Making Your Way Through Alphabet Soup

Kim Henderson, WI PTA President-Elect

Congratulations!



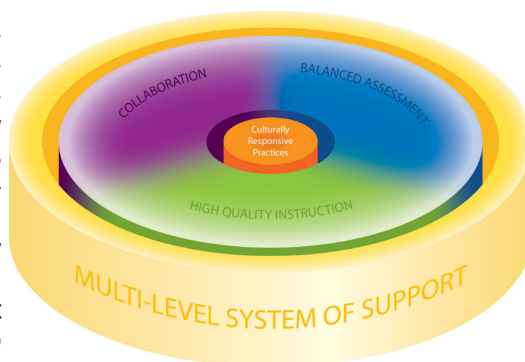
LEADers
II

Recipient,

Kirsten
Knickrehm

Education is famous for acronyms. There are two new ones you should become familiar with because they are being added to a school near you. Rtl and PBIS are ways of working with students to improve academic outcomes and behavior in school. Many of these ideas are not new, but Wisconsin is looking at making them more universal. Some schools have already been implementing PBIS or Rtl for a few years, some schools are developing their programs currently and some schools are still considering implementing them in the future. Your school may implement these without calling them by their acronyms. PTAs and parents as well as all school staff should be a part of this process. Talk with your school administrators to see what your school or district are doing and how you can be involved.

Rtl stands for Response to Intervention which systemizes high quality instruction, balanced assessment, and collaboration to allow every student access to the academic and behavioral support they need to be successful. Wisconsin's vision for Rtl is a multi-level system of support with culturally responsive practices which are central to the system. Rtl implements a school wide system to identify students who need additional help to be successful. Identified students could include gifted students that need more challenging coursework, students who are strong in most subjects but are behind in one area, students with learning issues, or students that are often tardy or absent to name just a few. Each school or district can look at the areas that they need improvement in. Once students are identified, research based strategies are implemented to help students. Data is constantly evaluated to make sure that progress is being made. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESAs) have partnered to create the Wisconsin Rtl Center, a statewide resource to provide the knowledge and expertise needed. For more information on Rtl please visit the Wisconsin Rtl Center's website at www.wisconsinRtlcenter.org



PBIS stands for Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports and is a systematic approach to positive proactive, school-wide behavior modification based on a Rtl model. Schools implementing PBIS build on existing school strengths, apply evidence-based programs, practices and strategies for all students to increase academic performance, improve safety, decrease problem behaviors and establish a positive school culture. PBIS establishes three levels of support:

- Tier 1 universal - for all students and all staff in all settings,
- Tier 2 supplemental - designed to address behavioral challenges of groups of students, and
- Tier 3 intensive - for those high-need students.

In the 2010-2011 school year, over 600 schools in Wisconsin are implementing or developing the universal level of support. Schools that have been working with PBIS are seeing dramatic improvement in areas such as office referrals, truancy, school safety and the overall culture of their schools. For more information on PBIS please visit the Wisconsin PBIS website at www.wisconsinpbisnetwork.org.

Dairyland Guidelines

*Christina Austin, Mount Mary College Dietetic Intern & Mary Andrae, MS, RD, CD,
Regional Program Manager at the Wisconsin Dairy Council/WMMB.*

What's New in the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans?

The 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans focuses on preventing and reducing the number of men, women and children who are overweight and obese. These guidelines stress two major themes: healthy eating and increasing physical activity. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the main goals are for Americans to consume fewer calories and to be more physically active to attain or maintain a healthy weight.

What are the key recommendations regarding healthy eating?

There are several recommendations for both children and adults to increase the consumption of nutrient-rich foods in their healthy eating regimen. These include increasing the intake of fruits, vegetables and whole grains, choosing from a variety of lean protein sources, and increasing the intake of fat-free or low-fat milk and dairy products such as yogurt, frozen yogurt and cheese.

It is recommended that Americans consume at least three servings of milk or dairy product every day. Milk contains essential nutrients such as calcium, potassium, vitamin D and magnesium to help strengthen and build strong bones and teeth. Milk consumed in America is frequently whole (full fat) or reduced fat (2%) milk. It is recommended that Americans increase their consumption of fat-free and low-fat milk because these provide the same nutrients with less solid fat and fewer calories. There are also many varieties of fat-free yogurt and reduced-fat cheese that have the same essential nutrients as their full fat counterparts, but provide fewer calories.

The Institute of Medicine has also proposed new standards for the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs in which they recommend allowing only fat-free milk (flavored and unflavored) and low-fat unflavored milk in school meal programs. All types of milk provide calcium and eight other essential nutrients.

Another recommendation is to reduce total daily sodium intake to less than 2,300 milligrams a day. It is also important to further reduce sodium intake to less than 1,500 milligrams a day among people that are older than 51 years and those of any age who are African American or have hypertension, diabetes or chronic kidney disease. Ways to lower sodium include eliminating the addition of salt at meals, reading the nutrition facts label and choosing lower sodium foods and eating less processed foods.



What are the key recommendations regarding physical activity?

Not only do the Dietary Guidelines recommend eating well balanced meals but they also advocate that children and adults become more physically active. Children should limit their time spent in front of the television and computer and spend an hour each day participating in some form of physical activity. A great way for schools to help curb childhood obesity is to join Fuel Up to Play 60, a program that empowers youth to take actions to improve their nutrition and physical activity habits. Schools can find out more information at www.fueluptoplay60.com. Also, since adults lead more sedentary lives, it is important that they become more active and increase their physical activity to at least 30 minutes a day at least 5 days a week.

The new Dietary Guidelines are key recommendations for all Americans to follow. The guidelines emphasize the importance of healthy eating and the need to increase physical activity. Overall, the dietary guidelines highlight the importance of milk and milk products by focusing on low-fat and fat-free dairy products that provide key nutrients of concern such as calcium, potassium, Vitamin D and magnesium. The Wisconsin Dairy Council continues to be a resource to help schools meet the latest dietary guidelines and recommendations. If the Wisconsin Dairy Council can do anything to further assist you, please contact us at WDC@wmmb.org.

Elections at Wisconsin PTA Convention

Laura Startz, WI PTA BOD Committee to Nominate Officers Chair

Below are the biographies for the nominees for Wisconsin PTA officers submitted by the Committee to Nominate Officers. Nominations from the floor must be received by March 29, 2011

Special Note: Current Bylaws state we elect every other year, a President-Elect, Vice President and a Secretary-Treasurer. This convention, we are bringing to vote a change in the Bylaws which would change the nominee slate to, President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

This slate names candidates for positions in both circumstances. Contact the state office with any questions regarding the election.

Kirsten Knickrehm President-Elect

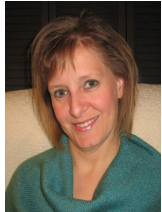
Kirsten is a life-long resident of Superior where she lives with her husband, Charles and son, Aaron, a freshman at Superior High School.



Kirsten's passion for PTA comes from her education in Early Childhood Development / Child Care Services and previous employment in Group Homes and State Hospitals for DD/MI adults. When her son, Aaron was young she operated a licensed daycare so she could be home with him after which she was a Teacher Assistant and her enjoyment of working with school age children became evident and so began her involvement in PTA.

Kirsten has been an active member of PTA for 7 years and a card carrying member for 12 years. She has served as Chair and President for local units and council. On the Wisconsin PTA Board of Directors, she has served as Region K Advisor and assisted with

Region J Advising, Reflections Chair and been part of the Membership, Family Involvement, Extension, Marketing and Member Inclusion Committees. Additionally, Kirsten has been trained by National PTA to be a TCBI Trainer.



Bev Thomas Vice President

For 14 years Bev has been married to her husband, Chris. They have two daughters, Kennedy 10 and Lexi 7, and reside in Eagle River.

Bev is the youngest of 11 children and Lexi is the youngest of 33 grandchildren. Thankfully, she is not old enough for her children to contribute to the pool of 10 great-grand children.

Her mother was a very talented cake decorator. Growing up Bev loved to pick up the tubes and play around with them. She started to get the hang of it and liked making her own cakes and some for friends. It turned into a career for Bev and she is now working as a cake decorator.

When her oldest daughter started first grade, Bev became involved in PTA. Serving as Vice President, Co-President, then President at her local unit. During that time she was introduced to life as a State Board member and she has been hooked since. As a Board member, Bev has served as Region Advisor and Resource Development Chair. She has also served on many committees including Reflections, State and Local Relations, Nominating, Endowment and Brookmire Hastings.

Andi Krizan Secretary-Treasurer

Andi is a mother of 3, Alysha 18, Rebecca 17



and Andrew 12. Her family moved to West Allis in 2001 where she became involved in PTA. Prior to PTA, participation in her community and children's education in Sun Prairie's School Community Organization was an important part of her life. The first few years of PTA, Andi volunteered at the local level. As her knowledge and experience grew she became more active at Council as well. Some positions Andi held were Secretary, Vice- President, Membership and Reflections Chair.

In 2006, she joined the Board of Directors as Middle School and High School Outreach Chair. Since then she has been a part of many committees at the state level: Endowment Fund, Reflections, Leadership, and State & Local Relations. Currently Andi now serves as Region C Advisor. She has a strong belief in what the power of a parent or involved adult can do for the academic life of a child.

Heather A. Leckey Secretary

Heather has lived in Janesville for 14 years with her husband, Jim, and her sons Keegan (15) and Duncan (12). She earned a degree in psychology from the University of South Dakota and is currently working for the Janesville School District as a clerical aide.

Heather has been involved with PTA for 9 years holding the positions of president, treasurer and secretary for elementary and middle schools. She has also served the Janesville Area Council PTA as vice president and liaison from Wisconsin PTA. She's also served the Wisconsin PTA as Region D Advisor for 6 years and Vice President for 3 years.

Continued page 7



**You are cordially invited to the
115th Annual National PTA® Convention and Exhibition
Thursday, June 9–Sunday, June 12, 2011
Disney Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center
Orlando, Florida**

Join thousands of parents, teachers, students, and leaders who come to national convention each year to enhance their skills, connections, and success!

- ✦ Education—choose from 50+ workshops
- ✦ Exhibits—visit more than 200 exhibits
- ✦ Issues—raise your voice on national business and emerging issues
- ✦ Resources—gather 100s of ideas, handouts, giveaways
- ✦ Connections—interact with 1,000s of other PTA & parent engagement leaders from around the country
- ✦ Orlando—bring the entire family and enjoy all that Walt Disney World has to offer

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

www.pta.org

Please note that is a legitimate expense for your PTA. Don't be afraid to ask for funding from other sources (elected officials, businesses, etc.)

We hope to see you there!

Slated Officers *Continued from page 6*

Continued from page 6

Heather is experienced in many areas including: spirit wear coordinator, fundraising, book fair sunshine, and welfare chairperson, teacher and volunteer of the year selection, teacher appreciation, membership, picture day coordinator, carnival chairperson, children's arts council coordinator, volunteer coordinator, volunteer appreciation, budget committee, audit committee, scholarship selection, nominating committee, and mentoring.

PTA is her passion and she looks forward to serving local units during her term as an officer of Wisconsin PTA.

Linda Dubiak Treasurer

Linda has been a PTA member for over 17 years, serving as treasurer at elementary, middle, high school and council levels, and as president and vice president. For 5 years, Linda has been on the Wisconsin PTA as Secretary/Treasurer, Region F Advisor and committees including: convention, bylaws, and Honorary Life.

Linda has been active in Girl Scouting as a leader for 7 years volunteering at scouting events, serving on a committee



for leadership weekends for adults. Linda is a recipient of: PTA's Honorary Life Award, Friend of Education Award, Leadership and Appreciation Award from Girl Scouts.

Linda lives in Merton with her husband Richard, and children Heather (24) and Richard (21). She is in accounting at the Associated Industries for the Blind and has 35 years experience in the accounting field.

Now Linda has more time to devote to PTA, her husband and their new home while looking forward to her first grandchild.



everychild.one voice

Wisconsin PTA
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Madison, WI 53704

Phone: 608-244-1455
Fax: 608-244-4785
Email: wi_office@pta.org

Reminder to PTAs:
Update Board Rosters on OMDR
with all:
***Additions, Deletions
or Changes
throughout the year!***



WI PTA Calendar

April

- 29-30 Wisconsin PTA Convention, Sheboygan
 - Elections
 - Bylaws Amendments
 - Workshops
 - Exhibitors
 - Networking Opportunities
 - Awards Ceremonies



**Is your PTA traveling down the road
of endless possibilities?**

June

- 9-12 Annual National PTA Convention & Exhibition
Disney Coronado Springs Resort & Convention Center,
Orlando, Florida

**Check the Wisconsin PTA
website: www.wisconsinpta.org
For more Convention
Details**

**...the amazing possibilities there
are also endless!**