



PRACTICAL PARENTING PARTNERSHIPS
Working Together for Our Children

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PARENT AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

by Janet Shepard, Director

Parent and Family Involvement in Education Week is observed the second week in September in Missouri as outlined by state statute. House Bill 2213, introduced by Representative Will Kraus of Raytown, was passed by the 2008 General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Matt Blunt. This year, Missouri's parent involvement partners are suggesting the week be observed September 6-12. The parent involvement partners include [Parent Information Resource Center \(PIRC\)](#), [Parents and Teachers National Center](#), [ParentLink](#), [Literacy Investment for Tomorrow](#) and [Missouri PTA](#).

Governor Jay Nixon will be signing this year's proclamation in September. You might want to plan a similar event with the mayor, your state senator or representative and /or your local board of education. Local proclamations might contain the wording from HB 2213 or you might create a local document.

Mo-PTA has created a brochure for Parent and Family Involvement in Education Week which includes their newly revised National Standards for Family-School Partnerships, suggestions for increasing parent involvement and more. The brochure is available for download from the [Missouri PTA website](#).

The Mo-PIRC Director, Phyllis Harris and retired NFL player and parent involvement spokesperson, Chris Martin are working with the Kansas City Chiefs on a family involvement promotion. Watch the PPP website and other sources for details to be announced later.

Many universities observe family weekend the second or third weekend in September. The PPP Center is contacting universities and other large community partners with suggestions for participation in the observance. We will let you know more details in the September newsletter.

We hope you will follow the example being set by the state partners, and create a partnership for planning in your area. You will find examples and ideas throughout this issue of the newsletter.

PPP CENTER UPDATE

by Janet Shepard, Director

Practical Parenting Partnerships is busily preparing to help you partner with the families of your students as we begin a new school year. It is a year of changes for many of us. Some will have new leaders and colleagues in the district and others will be missing programs and positions which were eliminated as budgets were trimmed. Some are working in new or newly remodeled space and others may be working in a different school because last year's school was closed.

PPP is all too familiar with changes due to budget issues. We moved from our center at the end of June and are temporarily working from our homes. If you call the main office number, 573-761-7770 you will reach Patty Stegemann, Office Manager. Shelly Lock can be reached at 573-761-7766 and Janet Shepard at 573-761-7767. The new fax number is 573-632-4601. Please be aware that none of us are working where the fax machine is located, so there will be a time delay in us receiving your fax.

Vickie Dickneite who served as our Resource Coordinator for five years will return to the classroom this fall teaching 4th grade at Maries County R-II in Belle. We wish Vickie the best. We know her students and their families will have a great year!

Our new fiscal agent is [Missouri Kids First](#). We are grateful to the staff and board of Missouri Kids First for believing in our work. Within the next few months, we hope to be sharing office space and collaborating on programs to serve children, families, communities and schools.

Missouri Kids First will host their second annual Child Abuse Prevention Summit on August 20 from 10:30 – 4:00 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Columbia. We hope some schools will be represented at this meeting. The PPP staff will be there! [Click on this link for registration details](#).

We hope your parent involvement team is geared up and ready to go with at least some planning done for this year! You will find information on celebration, implementation, and rejuvenation to support those plans or to give you a jump start on making plans. Please forward this newsletter to your colleagues in your building, other schools and districts and to your community partners. Remember to follow us on [Twitter](#) and to join us on Facebook.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, August 20	Child Abuse Prevention Summit – Columbia
September 6-12	Parent & Family Involvement Education Week
Wednesday, September 9	PPP Regional Workshop – Cape Girardeau
Tuesday, September 22	PPP Regional Workshop – Springfield
Wednesday, October 7	PPP Regional Workshop – Macon
Tuesday, November 10	PPP Regional Workshop – Webb City
Tuesday, November 17	PPP Regional Workshop – St Louis
Wednesday, December 2	PPP Regional Workshop – Blue Springs
Wednesday, January 6	PPP Regional Workshop – Rolla
Thursday, February 4	PPP Regional Workshop – St Joseph
Wednesday, February 10	PPP Regional Workshop – Jefferson City

GRANTS

by Janet Shepard, Director

Service learning grant applications are currently being accepted by DESE. School-based service-learning combines meaningful service to the community with classroom studies in a way that improves student learning and strengthens the community. Students work in collaboration with community members, teachers, and classmates to meet real community needs, while applying core concepts from the regular classroom curriculum. Students develop responsibility and citizenship while increasing academic achievement. Applications are due August 17. It is anticipated there will be a second opportunity to apply in September. Details are available on the DESE website at www.dese.mo.gov.

Teachers can submit a project idea to **Sonic**. Sonic has partnered with donorschoose.org so customers will have the opportunity to vote on the ideas beginning August 31. Ideas must be submitted by August 15. Details are available at www.limeadesforlearning.com. Parent involvement is not a requirement of this, but certainly could be included. Successful applicants will need the support of parents and the community in order to win.

RESOURCES @ MCCE

When we closed the PPP Center, we dismantled our demonstration resource library and many of our publications were transferred to the MCCE resource library. I asked Cathy Kahoe to share information with you about this great resource for Missouri educators:

A resource library for Missouri educators is funded through the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The resources are available for loan to elementary, middle, high school, area technical school and community college instructors. Borrowers pay only the cost of return shipping.

To use the library, borrowers can submit requests online at resources.mcce.org. Resources can also be requested by phone, or fax. Educators are encouraged to browse the web site and investigate the materials. A sampling of new acquisitions in the Education, Equity & Diversity, Family & Consumer Science, Guidance and Placement, Health, and Special Needs areas include:

E DVD ROM 47

A Visit to...Classrooms of Effective Teachers

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

ALEXANDRIA, VA, ASSOCIATION FOR SUPERVISION AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, 2004.

DVD ROM — This program visits the classrooms of two effective teachers to observe how they engage students in a challenging math and science curriculum in a large urban school for students who are mostly minority (African American and Hispanic). In a series of three lessons for middle school students, each teacher demonstrates qualities that are common to all effective teachers, including: How to organize instruction to reach every student; Why personal reflection on teaching practices is critical to improving teaching skills; How to choose instructional strategies that are most apt to be effective; When to monitor students to assess their progress. 40 minutes.

E&D DVD ROM 2

Giving Voice: Today's Kids Get Real About Bias

The Shoah Foundation

PRINCETON, NJ, FILMS FOR THE HUMANITIES & SCIENCES, 2004.

DVD ROM — Using video diaries and workshop discussions, today's teens explore issues of bias and tolerance in their own lives. Giving Voice weaves interviews with this diverse group of teenagers with the testimonies of Holocaust survivors and witnesses. Includes 25 minute Student Video Diaries & Workshop, 45 minute Survivor & Witness First-Person Testimonies and Teacher's Guide.

FCS DVD ROM 69

Newborn Care: A Guide to the First Six Weeks

Injoy Videos

LONGMONT, CO, INJOY VIDEOS, 2006.

DVD ROM — This program provides parents with the knowledge and confidence needed to establish a positive bond with their newborn that will last a lifetime. Topics include: Newborn Appearances, including senses and brain development; Crying and Comfort Techniques, including colic and Shaken Baby Syndrome; Eating, including hunger cues, breastfeeding, and formula feeding; Sleeping, including new SIDS recommendations; Step-by-Step Diapering and Cleaning, including cord and circumcision care; Infant Health and Safety, including physical exams, signs of sickness, dehydration, jaundice, and car seat and home safety; Parent Health, including staying connected, rest, and proper nutrition for moms. 32 minutes.

G&P DVD ROM 51

A Parent's Guide to MySpace.com

Sgt. Corey MacDonald

OMNI PUBLISHING COMPANY, 2006.

DVD ROM — This program takes parents and educators step-by-step through MySpace so they'll know how it works and how to protect children from its potential dangers. 40 minutes.

H DVD ROM 43

Straight Talk About STDs

Human Relations Media

MOUNT KISCO, NY, HUMAN RELATIONS MEDIA, 2009.

DVD ROM — Using a health clinic setting, teens present "peer to peer" information on the six most common STDs today: HPV (genital warts), Chlamydia, HIV, Gonorrhea, Herpes and Hepatitis B. Students will learn the symptoms and complications of each disease as well as the latest treatment options. Program presents a strong message that abstinence is the only 100% guaranteed safeguard. Includes Teacher's Resource book. Grades 7 - College. 20 minutes.

SN KIT 3

My Future My Plan

State of the Art

WASHINGTON, D.C., STATE OF THE ART, 2003.

KIT — My Future My Plan is a transition planning resource that includes a DVD, a planning and resource workbook for students, and a guide to the workbook for family members and teachers. This curriculum is designed to inform students with disabilities and their families about the transition planning process and encourage them to use this process to achieve their goals for life after high school.

Resources@MCCE will begin acquiring new resources for 2009/2010 after July 1. New materials will include DVDs, videos and books covering topics of interest to parenting educators throughout Missouri.

We at MCCE encourage instructors to visit the web site soon and often, to see what resources are available to supplement and enhance their educational materials. For additional information (or to make suggestions), please contact Cathy Kahoe, Coordinator, ckahoe@cmsu1.cmsu.edu, 800-392-7217, fax 660-543-8995.

FACILITATION TIPS

by Janet Shepard, Director

Parent and Family Involvement in Education Week provides the perfect opportunity to celebrate early in the school year. Add celebration planning to your back-to-school parent involvement team meeting and get the new year started off with bang. Here are some ideas your planning team might want to consider:

- Host a district-wide celebration at the Friday night football game.
 - *In the community where I live a church near the school hosts a family tailgate party for the community prior to the game.*
 - *Hayti and Caruthersville High Schools and Gear-Up hosted a post high-school information fair for families prior to a game last year.*
- Ask business members to recognize the week on marques, in advertising, or with student decorated windows
- Proclamation signing
- Host a county-wide Family Fair such as our 2009 [Founders Award Winner](#) did last year.

- *Lincoln Elementary planned and hosted a Benton County Family Fair.*
- Partner with another celebration - host a booth, float or event at a community or county festival
- Invite the local racetrack, university or minor or major league sports team, or cultural center to host a special day for families
- Encourage members of the ministerial alliance, Chamber of Commerce, civic clubs and more to help you promote Parent and Family Involvement in Education Week. You want to prepare a paragraph that can go in weekly church bulletins and other publications

Remember to share your successes with us. We are always looking for your best practices to share in the newsletter. Join us on the PPP Facebook page and share network with one another.

Plan now to attend one of the 2009-1010 PPP Regional Workshops!

The topic for this year's regional workshops is organizing, maximizing and utilizing school volunteer programs. These workshops will support schools in their efforts to utilize volunteers, especially in the challenging times we now face. This workshop will explore the value of volunteer programs, discuss how to establish a program, strengthen volunteer skills, look at working with students, teachers, and parents, review management and legal issues and provide tips and resources. The workshop should be attended by:

- school staff members and/or volunteers who are interested in taking the information back and training volunteers in their school community;
- volunteers interested in receiving training.

Participants will receive a training notebook. Come join us and others in your region for support in strengthening parent and community involvement in your school, thus improving education for students!

Follow the link for registration:

[Click Here for PPP 2009-10 Regional Flyer](#)

A newsletter published by the PPP Center for parents and educators participating in the PPP program.

Practical Parenting Partnerships was created by MO Department of Elementary & Secondary Education to provide resources and training for family involvement in education, K-12.

For information on the PPP program, please contact:

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BACK TO SCHOOL

by Shelly Lock, Program Development Coordinator

It is the time of the year when students, teachers, and parents begin thinking about going back to school. This transition time can come with some anxiety and nervousness. Discussing what to expect and getting prepared not only builds excitement but it reduces anxiety. Here are some back to school tips:

- Let children know that it is normal to feel back to school jitters and that teachers will do things on the first few days to build a comfortable environment such as sharing about themselves, telling about what to expect during the school year, discussing classroom and school rules, and perhaps allowing time for students to share and get to know each other.
- Point out the positive aspects of school starting back up. There will be fun activities during the school year. Students will get to see old friends and meet new ones.
- Attend school open house or back to school functions to get energized and reacquainted with school families and staff. This is a great way to get children excited about the new school year and an opportunity for them to see familiar faces as well as meet new ones.
- If starting a new school, whether it be a transition to a new building in the district or to a whole new school district, a visit to the school building ahead of time can reduce fears.
- Getting supplies for school can be a way to get children excited. New crayons or fun colored notebooks are enticing. When possible, allow children to take part in the selection and buying. When choosing a backpack, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that you choose a one with wide, padded shoulder straps and a padded back and for children to always use both shoulder straps to reduce muscle strain. They recommend that the backpack should never weigh more than 10 to 20 percent of the child's body weight.
- Discuss logistics such as how the child will get to and from school (walk, bus, car). If he or she is going to an after school program, discuss where it is held and who will be with them.
- Review safety guidelines for transportation such as:

Bus:

- Wear a seat belt if the bus has one.
- Wait for the bus to stop before approaching it from the curb.
- Stay seated on the bus.
- Watch for traffic when crossing the road.

Car:

- Wear a seat belt and/or use an age- and size-appropriate car safety seat or booster seat.
- Children under 13 years old should ride in the rear seat of the car.
- For teen drivers, limit the number of teen passengers, do not allow eating, drinking, cell phone conversations or texting while driving.

Bike:

- Always wear a bicycle helmet.
- Ride on the right, in the same direction as auto traffic.
- Use appropriate hand signals.
- Respect traffic lights and stop signs.

Walking:

- Designate a safe route with well-trained adult crossing guards at every intersection.
 - For younger children, a parent or older student should walk with them the first week to make sure they know the route and can do it safely.
 - Discuss safety rules of the road for walkers.
- The night before the first day of school:
 - Pack the backpack
 - Choose clothes to wear the first day of school
 - Plan a healthy breakfast for the next morning
 - Get to bed early

Schools and parents can do things to lead to a great start of a new school year not only for the students but for the school staff and families as well.