

President's Update...

Greetings Wake PTA Leaders,

In this season of celebration, we celebrate YOU! Our schools individually and collectively are much stronger because of your leadership and hard work. Take a minute to think about all of the programs, support for students and teachers, and advocacy work that wouldn't exist if your PTA didn't make it happen. We are grateful for you and the difference you and your leadership make in the lives of our students, teachers, schools, and community.

As we move into the new year, it's time to start setting your PTA up for a successful transition to the 2017-18 school year. Yup, already. Take a look at the great training opportunities that our [Wake PTA Council](#) and the [North Carolina PTA](#) have lined up. By getting your nominating process going now and identifying and tapping new leaders in advance, you can ensure that you won't be scrambling to arm-twist or beg for folks to take on crucial leadership roles at the last minute. Keep recruiting new folks to volunteer and participate in committees now so that they are tapped into what PTA is all about and might be willing to increase their involvement in the coming year.

Strong, engaging communication is critical for PTA success. We're proud to be partnering with MemberHub, a local digital communication and engagement platform, to support WCPSS PTAs in building their communications capacity. MemberHub helps you streamline your communications and provide parents with a one-stop way to know what's happening and how they can contribute. MemberHub is allowing WCPSS PTAs to use this tool free of charge and they're providing implementation support to schools to help you get started.

Take a look at what they have to offer: <http://memberhub.com/>

Anything that makes it easier to lead and easier for parents to engage is a win-win!
Happy holidays to all of you. Thank you for all you do to support kids, families, and our schools.

Best,

Hardin Engelhardt



Wake County PTA Council Monthly Leadership Training

Mark Your Calendars for our 2017 Leadership Training Sessions and New Officer Training

How can leadership training courses help you improve your leadership skills and take your organization from good to great?

1. They build self-confidence and wisdom.
2. They empower you to succeed.
3. They teach valuable skills
4. They encourage introspection.
5. They surround you with other leaders.
6. They help lead you to the next level.
7. They help you clarify your vision.
8. They teach you how to influence people.
9. They teach you how to build a team.
10. They teach you how to avoid mistakes.

(from www.allbusiness.com)

Leadership training is an invaluable tool for improving your PTA unit, and strengthening your skills as a leader and volunteer. Be sure to mark your calendars for our ongoing monthly leadership training sessions, all held at 10 a.m. at Crossroads II, 110 Corning Road in Cary.

Tuesday, February 7: Advocacy is the Heart of PTA

Wednesday, March 1: Health, Safety and Wellness in your PTA

Monday, April 18: End of Year Financial Boot Camp

Wednesday, May 3: Becoming a PTA School of Excellence: What it Means to Your Community

Our annual New Officer Training will be held during **TWO** sessions this year, for your convenience! We will be conducting identical training during an evening session on Thursday, June 1 and a daytime session on Friday, June 2. Pick the session that works with your schedule! Be sure to attend this important workshop to get the next year off to a great start.

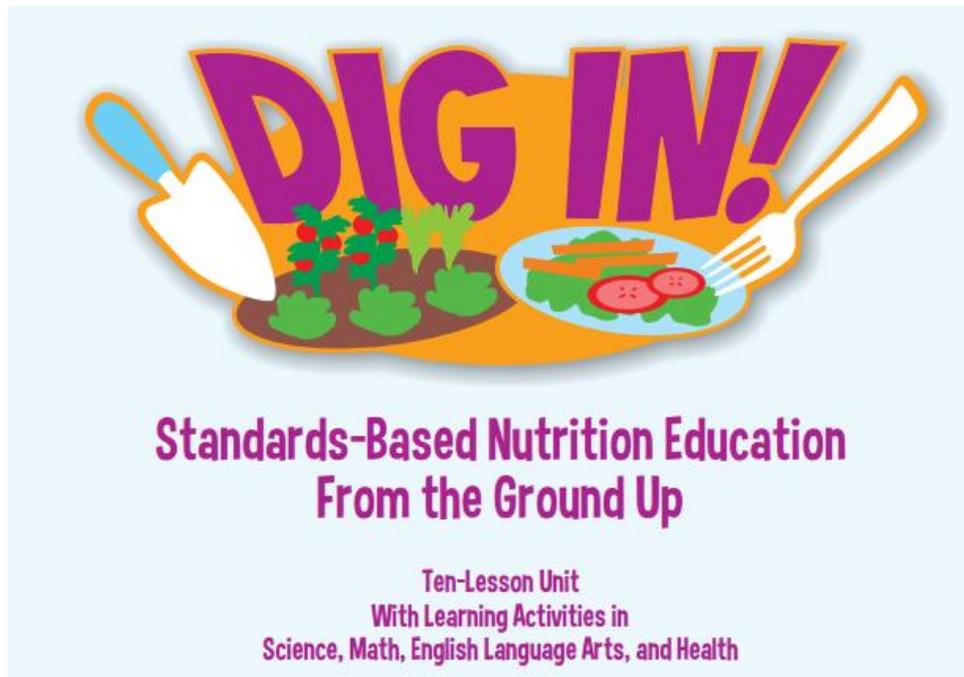
Don't forget... our past Leadership Training videos are available on our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/wakepta>. All of our 2017 sessions will be live streamed on our Facebook page, using Facebook Live. If you can't attend in person, be sure to tune in! You can ask questions or make comments throughout the live stream.

We look forward to seeing you in 2017! Questions? Contact Julie von Haefen, Vice President of Leadership and Training at leadership@wakepta.org.



Save the Date! “Dig In” to School Gardening on March 4 in Raleigh

Parents, teachers and school administrators are all invited to the [8th Annual Dig In!](http://www.advocatesforhealthinaction.org/) hosted by Advocates for Health in Action (AHA) in Raleigh on Sat., March 4, 2017. Dig In! is all about how to start and maintain edible school, community and child care gardens, as well as how urban ag fits into our communities. Mark your calendar now and visit <http://www.advocatesforhealthinaction.org/> for agenda details and registration in January!



#HealthIsAcademic: Have You Assessed Wellness at Your School?

Healthy students are better students. Period. They perform better academically and have fewer disciplinary problems. Your school can assess wellness at your school by completing the [Brains and Bodies Award application](#), which uses evidence-based criteria in the Alliance for a Healthier Generation’s Healthy Schools Program. Schools that complete 3 specific modules of the Alliance’s 8 modules have an opportunity to win AHA’s Brains and Bodies Award and local recognition, while schools that complete all 8 modules may earn national recognition. Regardless of winning award accolades, assessing the environment and practices at your school will improve wellness ... starting with determining where your school is now. [Start the assessment! Here’s how.](#)



SPECIAL EDUCATION INCLUSION COMMITTEE

www.wake-seic.org www.facebook.com/wake-SEIC <mailto:wakeseicpta@gmail.com>

The Wake County PTA Special Education Inclusion Committee (SEIC) is here to support PTA programs by offering ideas that facilitate the inclusion of the whole school community. SEIC also supports the needs of students receiving special education by serving as a link to resources and related community services.

The 8th Annual Special Education Open House

On November 3rd, the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) hosted their annual Special Education Open House. In WCPSS, there are over 21,000 students receiving some level of special education. This annual event is an opportunity for parents and community members to learn about how WCPSS delivers these services. Session topics included programming (preK, elementary, middle, high school), Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), and transitioning to post-school adult living. ALL SESSION HANDOUTS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE SEAC WEBSITE: wakeseac.org/open-house

SEIC is a member of SEAC.



Do you have someone in your school who would like connect with SEIC and share our resources with your PTA and school community? She or he could be your SEIC Liaison.

We have streamlined our Liaison Program and our goal is to have a liaison on every school PTA to help 'Connect the Dots'. SEIC PTA Liaisons have two roles:

- 1.To assist PTAs by offering ideas for accommodations to PTA programs that facilitate the inclusion of the whole school community.
- 2.To serve as a link to resources for parents and educators on special education and related community services.

Training and supports are provided. Liaisons do not give advice on individual issues or attend IEP meetings. Our SEIC Liaisons are a passionate group of people who believe in the power of inclusion.

If you want to find out more information about SEIC or be the Liaison for your school, email us at wakeseicpta@gmail.com.



UPCOMING EVENT

Workshop: Critical Elements of Collaboration

For families of children receiving special education

TUESDAY, December 13th from 12-1:30 pm

At the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC (conference room) - 1924 Capital Blvd, Raleigh 27604

The Special Education Inclusion Committee (SEIC) is hosting a Lunch & Learn for parents of children receiving special education. This event consists of a 1-hour workshop on the Critical Elements of Collaboration, as well as social networking with other parents of children with special needs. The workshop is free. (Bring your own lunch.)

As a parent, you are called on to be a leader in so many ways. As a parent of a child with special needs, your leadership abilities are put to the ultimate test.

How would you approach your next group meeting if you understood the elements of an effective collaborative teaming process?

Join us to reflect on your past experiences and hone your leadership skills while spending time with people who "get it".

This workshop is part of a nationally recognized, research-based curriculum called Parents as Collaborative Leaders. It is for parents who have children with a variety of special health care needs and/or developmental needs. The workshop on December 13th will cover one of the curriculum modules. (There are 10 modules in total.) This workshop is facilitated by Kerry McCarthy Adams, the current chair of SEIC and a parent of two precious boys, one of whom has special needs.

Module #3: Critical Elements of Collaboration

- Define collaboration as it related to parent leadership and collaboration in a variety of settings.
- Learn about the defining characteristics and principles of collaboration.
- Define the elements of an effective collaborative teaming process.
- Identify the stages of team development.

**SEIC is a committee of the Wake PTA Council

You're Invited! Let's Have Lunch! Signup: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/seic-lunch-learn-critical-elements-of-collaboration-tickets-29878283751>



Wake PTA – We NEED You!

Are you a current PTA leader thinking about what your next iteration of yourself will be? Are you looking to develop your leadership skills in a new realm? Or maybe you're not a current leader, but you think that involvement at the District level suits your interests at the moment. Let's explore that idea! Please share this lunch invitation with your fellow leaders and folks that might have an interest - we're happy to have some no-commitment conversations about opportunities!



**What's Next
For You?**

We'd love to hold a casual (no-commitment!) conversation about how to take your leadership skills to the next level in Wake PTA Council for 2017-2018.

Even if you're just curious and wanting to "kick the tires," please consider having lunch with us & chatting about it.

Interested in learning what we can offer?

Join us for a free lunch & opportunity to learn about Leadership Opportunities with Wake PTA for 2017-2018

Wednesday, Jan 25, 2017
11:30am
North Carolina PTA Office
3501 Glenwood Avenue
Raleigh

Please RSVP by visiting
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LeadershipDevLunch1-25-17>

**Have No Fear!
It's lunch & conversation,
not commitment.**

Direct link to registration:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LeadershipDevLunch1-25-17>

We hope you'll join us. In the meantime, if you have questions or comments, don't hesitate to contact Nominating Committee Members Sarah Martin (sbmmom@gmail.com), Julie von Haefen (leadership@wakepta.org), or Lauren van Hemert (onlylaurenart@gmail.com).



Wake PTA Leadership Twitter Chats

We held our first ever Twitter Chat during our Leadership Training on December 2! Thanks to all who participated.

Never participated in a Twitter Chat? It's easy! Tweet your questions or comments using our designated hashtag "#WakePTAChat" during the session. We may also ask questions using "Q" with the number of the question. To respond, simply type "A" with the number, and include the hashtag, making it simple to follow along. A great website to use to follow or participate in Twitter Chats is <http://www.tweetchat.com>

Wake PTA will be conducting monthly Twitter Chats in 2017! Mark your calendars for the first Monday of every month from 8-9 p.m., starting on January 2. It's an opportunity to ask questions and share ideas with Wake PTA leadership, as well as other PTA leaders from across the county. Just follow #WakePTAChat!

See you on Twitter January 2 at 8 p.m.!

National PTA Leadership Resources

Did you know the National PTA has fantastic leadership resources available online? Go to www.pta.org/elearning to access courses on board basics, membership basics, advocacy, officer duties and responsibilities, cultural awareness, ethics, Reflections and many, many more!

Are YOU Looking for Future Leaders for Your PTA Unit?

By this time of the year, your PTA should have a Nominating Committee established and working toward identifying and recruiting future leaders for your unit. If you are struggling to just find volunteers, it may be overwhelming to think about finding your next President or Treasurer. During our Nominating Committee workshop in November, we shared some ideas for identifying future leaders.

There are a number of signs that a parent may be ready for a leadership role in helping to develop and improve the organization and services. Look for parents who:

- * Show initiative and don't shy away from asking for help
- * Ask questions about the mission, policies, and/or operation of the PTA
 - * Volunteer to take on more tasks or responsibilities
- * Ask about other parents or families involved in the PTA
 - * Voice another family's concerns and/or goals
- * Notice and encourage progress and growth within themselves and others
 - * Share ideas for activities, fundraisers, or other projects

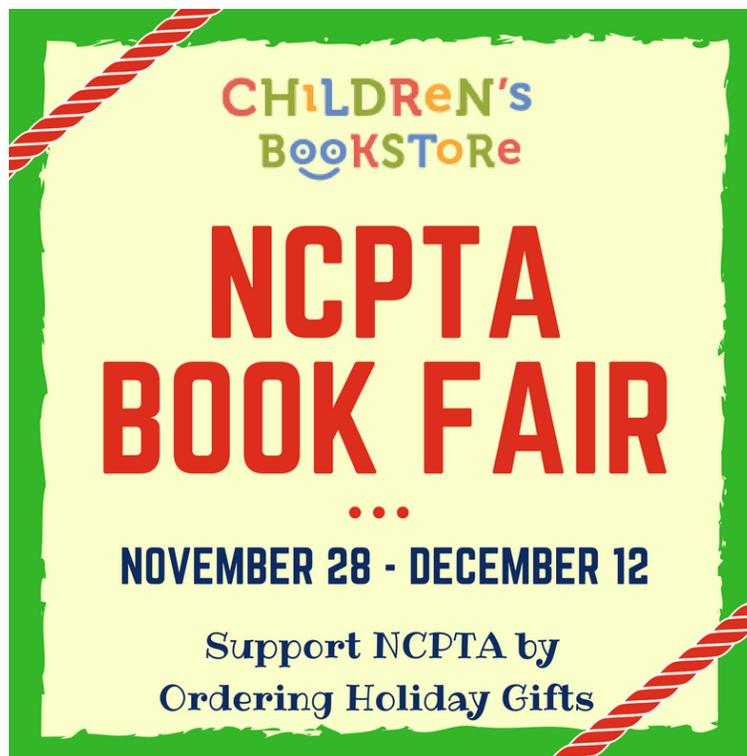


- * Share information and resources with others in their family or community
 - * Encourage other parents to take advantage of opportunities
 - * Respect and model the rules or policies of the program
- * Take on leadership roles in the community or at other programs or agencies

Some parents may take the first step in seeking a leadership role in your organization. For others, you may need to initiate the relationship by recruiting them into partnering with you. Once you have identified individuals who demonstrate qualities that set them apart as potential parent leaders, have further conversations with them about opportunities at your school.

We will share other ideas and tips for increasing parent involvement and identifying leaders at your school in future newsletters. As always, feel free to contact us with any questions at leadership@wakepta.org.

North Carolina PTA Book Fair



Need ideas for holiday gifts? Visit NCPTA's online book fair to raise funds for PTA programs now through Dec. 12. Go to <https://www.childrensbookstore.com/go/ncpta/>

