

January 23 Training and Community Resource Event!

Don't forget to register and attend our Advocacy, Health, Wellness and Safety Expo and Training! It's on January 23, 1- 4PM at Leesville Middle School. Visit our resource fair from 12:30pm until 1pm before the main event starts at 1p. Dr. Julie Crain, VP of Policy and Research at WakeEd Partnership will then kick off the afternoon with her Keynote speech "**Building Relationships for Advocacy**" - **Let's get beyond the dictionary. How can you effectively advocate to improve education for your student, school and the Wake County Public School System?**

WCPS, Wake Ed and Wake PTA look forward to seeing you!! Registration link located [here](#)



Wake UP and Read!!

The 3rd annual WAKE Up and Read book drive is here! Last year, our community collected more than 100,000 books and provided home libraries for kids in our community in order to support our goal of having all kids' reading on grade-level by grade 3. Wake County PTAs were some of the biggest contributors to achieving this goal. This year, WAKE Up and Read hopes to collect 115,000 books in February – enough to share with children at twelve schools, as well as community centers and child care facilities across Wake County. We need your help so we can build stronger students and a stronger community.

GET INVOLVED! We need your help to make the book drive a success. We are asking each school to serve as a book collection site. We'd also like for you to have a team from your school volunteer to help sort books and help out at one or more book distribution events where you'll experience the joy of getting books into kids' hands.

Sign up for your school to be a collection site

here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1kE833QBEhrZpePTroB5P_rWd5FF2wqrgMMYkMPqs7nM/viewform?c=0&w=1

Feel free to reach out with any questions. Visit our website at www.wakeupandread.org. And follow us on:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wake-Up-and-Read/704727566208593?ref=bookmarks>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Literacy4Wake>



It's January – That Means Nominations!!!

By now, your PTA should have created its Nominations committee for 2016. This committee is a **required standing committee**, and the purpose of it is to discover, meet, interview and compile a Slate of Officers to serve in 2016-17. The candidates will be presented for election during the final PTA General Meeting of your school year.

PTAKIT.org offers this overview on Nominating Committee and Elections:

A Nominating Committee is a PTA's most important committee as it helps ensure your unit's future.

Your unit's bylaws will define how and when this committee is elected (never appointed) and when it reports the slate of candidates. Board service is not an entitlement. Who is on your board—and who serves as an officer—are very important!

Nominating Committees must be deliberate and selective as they vet and choose candidates. If your PTA does not have a process in place for identifying, interviewing and selecting potential candidates, consider the [Sample Interview Questions](#), [Sample Application Form](#), [Sample Board Checklist](#) and [Sample Board Checklist](#) in this kit.

Elections are held as outlined in your unit's bylaws. The president should never serve on the Nominating Committee.

If you have questions about elections, consult [Robert's Rules](#) or your state PTA for assistance. A well-run nomination and election process maintains your PTA's credibility in your community and assures members that their PTA is in capable hands.

Awards Opportunities...

Local Unit Leaders, would you like your PTA to receive an award for all the great work you are doing? Are you aware of the annual NCPTA Awards programs? Take a look at the following links to find out how you can submit your local PTA unit to receive one or more of these awards. If you have any questions about the awards programs, you can contact the NCPTA office at office@ncpta.org. The annual awards submission is now open and you have until March 1st to submit candidates for them. The Wake County PTA Council would love to see every one of our local units receiving at least one award this year!

Unit Membership record awards: <http://ncpta.org/index.php/awards/membership-record-awards/> - These awards are determined by the NCPTA membership records loaded into the NCPTA Database by each local unit. Local units do **not** apply for these awards, and award recipients are announced on the NCPTA website. These include the Blue Key, Gold Key, Honor Roll, Bronze Acorn, and President's Membership Awards.

Annual awards: <http://ncpta.org/index.php/awards/annual-ncpta-awards/> - These Award from the North Carolina PTA provides an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the exemplary efforts of PTA/PTSA units, councils and individuals throughout our state. Your participation in these award programs allows the NCPTA to share your outstanding accomplishments with other PTAs during the annual NCPTA Parent Education Conference. **You must apply online** for these NCPTA awards. There are numerous ways to honor an outstanding teacher, principal, school administrator, volunteer, or your PTA. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to say "thank you" to deserving people who have contributed greatly to improving the lives of children and youth.



Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grant

The National PTA is now accepting applications for the Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Grant. The grant provides up to **\$1,000** in matching funds to support local PTA arts projects within their school community. Funded projects will increase access to learning opportunities in the literary, media, visual and/or performing arts for at-risk or underserved audiences. Arts projects must actively engage families and community partners to strengthen family-school partnerships.

If you are interested in this grant for your school, please review the 2016 call for proposals and submit your application online by 8pm EST on **Friday, March 11, 2016**. You can also view last year's winners and past ideas. Eligible applicants must be a PTA in good standing, as determined by the State PTA.

To apply visit National PTA at: <http://www.pta.org/programs/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3101>

Honoring Healthy Change at Wake County Schools

Is your school fostering students' academic success by ensuring healthy lifestyles? Elementary, middle and high schools in Wake County are invited to apply for one or both of Advocates for Health in Action's (AHA) school awards: the [Brains and Bodies Awards](#) is an overall award recognizing schools for their culture of wellness, and [the Sneakers and Spokes Award](#) (formerly Wellness Star) recognizes schools that excel in ongoing walk/bike to/at/from school activities.

School staff and parents alike are encouraged to apply on behalf of schools by 9 pm, March 20, 2016. Application information is on [AHA's website](#).

AHA will recognize and celebrate winners on April 27 at the Wake County Public Schools Board Room.



ONLINE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND FOR PTA MEMBERS

PTA members across Wake County have plentiful opportunities to receive online and in-person training over the next several months. If you've never attended an online training webinar, we hope you'll consider registering for one of these upcoming events and trying it out!

Interested in learning about Nominating Committees and how leadership recruitment and development works at any level of PTA?

NCPTA Nominating Committee Webinar Thursday, January 28, 7pm

You can hear NCPTA's new Nominating Toolkit and learn about the opportunities available to engage at all levels of PTA. Get all your questions answered on Thursday, January 28th at 7pm. Check it out:

<http://ncpta.org/index.php/events/webinars/>

Interested in PTA Communications and how to develop a Social Media Plan for your PTA unit?

Check out the previously recorded NCPTA Communications webinar on this very subject, and view it at your leisure online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

<http://ncpta.org/index.php/events/webinars/past-webinars/>

Take a moment to scroll through all the archived webinars at the above link on topics from financial practices to advocacy to grant writing. You'll be surprised by all the information available at your fingertips.

Also, you might consider trying out one of these wellness webinars from Action for Healthy Kids:

[Wellness Wednesday: Active Indoor Recess](#)

Wednesday, January 13, 3:00-3:30 P.M. (CT) - NOTE: This webinar will be at 4pm Eastern Time!

When weather goes bad, make sure you have a good plan to keep kids physically active indoors. Hear from the Windy City's Chicago Public Schools about strategies for holding effective active indoor recess.

[Keep Moving: Physical Activity in Schools](#)

Tuesday, February 2, 2:00-3:00 P.M. (CT) - NOTE: This webinar will be at 3pm Eastern Time!

Learn about the latest trends and resources to keep your students moving throughout the school year.

[Wellness Wednesday: How to Host a Health & Wellness Fair](#)

Wednesday, February 10, 3:00-3:30 P.M. (CT) - NOTE: This webinar will be at 4pm Eastern Time!

Learn key steps to hosting a successful health and wellness fair at your school.





Calling PTA Leaders for 2016-2017!

Are you interested in taking your PTA involvement to the next level? Do you enjoy serving children, teachers & families of Wake County schools? This is your chance!

The Wake County PTA Council needs YOU to help us identify candidates for the following WCPTA Council's officer positions for 2016-2017:

President
Vice President of Communications
Vice President of Leadership
Vice President of Programs
Secretary
Treasurer

WCPTA Council also has several committees YOU may be interested in serving on to make a difference county-wide in 2016-2017 including Healthy Lifestyles, Reflections, Special Education Inclusion (SEI), Advocacy, Audit & Nominating!

Have you enjoyed working with your PTA this year? Have you learned a lot through the process? Believe us, you don't have to "know all the answers" to volunteer with the Council! **However You DO need a spirit of adventure, cooperation & a passion for the children of Wake County.**

If this describes you or someone you know, let our Nominating Committee know. We'd love to speak with you about the opportunities available & give you more details about our officer positions. Most Council officer positions take fewer hours per month than your PTA officer positions. Officers will be elected at the next Wake PTA Council General Membership Meeting **with our annual Night of Stars event in May 2015.**

If interested, please contact Sarah Martin, Nominating Committee Chair, at sarah@hokiefan.net in the coming week! She or a member of the Nominating Committee would love to speak with you and answer your questions.

Being involved in the Wake Council level of PTA leadership is a great experience & one that we hope you'll consider!



Wake County PTA Units Share Success Stories

Wake County PTA recently held a contest on our Facebook page to encourage PTA units to share success stories, ideas and programs with other PTA units. We heard from schools across the county on many different topics including fundraising, health and wellness and teacher appreciation. The schools who posted the most ideas won tickets for their PTA units to a private suite at the Carolina Hurricanes game on January 22. Congratulations to all the winning schools: Centennial Campus Middle, Moore Square Middle, Penny Road Elementary, Kingswood Elementary, Carnage Middle, WYMLA, Leesville Elementary, Baucom Elementary, Northwoods Elementary, Durant Road Elementary, and Washington Elementary.

Northwoods Elementary PTA shared their success with a fundraising event called Spirit Sprint. Instead of using an outside fundraising company, Northwoods PTA runs their own fundraiser and gets to keep their entire profit. "It's a lot of work but can range from \$15-22,000 which isn't bad for a school with about 40% F&R lunch eligibility," said Crystal McAllister. Baucom Elementary PTA gets their students active with a similar program, the Baucom Buddies Marathon. "Students logs in their miles for a month to run all but the last mile of a marathon. Then, we run the last mile at school together! It's a great incentive to grow healthy minds and strong bodies."

Centennial Campus Middle School PTA was the top poster, and shared many successful ideas and programs with the Facebook audience. When asked about how their PTA supports health and wellness, Centennial PTA President Lauren Van Hemert posted about their creation of a Fitness, Sports and Nutrition Committee, which worked toward achieving the AHA Brains and Bodies Award. "At the end of last year, we received an Honorable Mention. This year, we are continuing to make strides to create a culture of health and wellness and have partnered with the Southeast Dairy Council and one of our student clubs, One Health, to roll out the Fuel Up to Play 60 program. We have challenged our students and staff to walk 100 miles this year as part of our physical activity play and started a school food pantry as part of our healthy eating play."

Students all over Wake County are benefiting from the work of our PTA units. Penny Road Elementary PTA shared some of the ways their students see the hard work of their volunteers. "We provide cultural art assemblies, programs such as Reflections, fun family nights, Chess club and many more. We also have a Food for Friends program which provides backpacks of food on a weekly basis and we are able to provide our school with much needed technology upgrades to every classroom which in return benefits our students." Teachers and staff also see the benefits of PTA with teacher appreciation events such as "Thankful for Teachers" breakfasts at Carnage Middle School, tailgate parties at Leesville Elementary School and a day spa at Washington Elementary and Kingswood Elementary.

Thank you to all the PTA units who shared their success stories, and thank you for all the work you do to support Wake County students, teachers and staff! Your posts inspired us and we hope inspired other units in Wake County to continue their work in 2016!



School Staff and Parents, DIG IN!

School gardens bring learning to life and...

- Significantly increase science scores
- Positively impact achievement and behavior
- Provide experiential learning
- Increase consumption of fruits and vegetables

Plus...teachers who use gardens can support any subject area while tapping into the learning styles of all their students. Advocates for Health in Action (AHA), in partnership with Marbles Kids Museum, will host the 7th Annual Dig In! on Sat., March 12. Highlights include:

- **School Garden Workshops**
 - Gardens 101: Starting Community, School and Child Care Gardens
 - September-May: Growing in the Traditional Calendar School Garden
- **Networking Roundtables**
- **Keynote Address:** 2015 CNN Top 10 Hero Richard Joyner, Conetoe Family Life Center
- **Educational Booths**
- **Pollinator Parade in the Sun Sprouts Garden**

Visit www.AdvocatesForHealthinAction.org for more information. Registration opens in early February.



WCPTA Night of Stars

Don't forget the WCPTA NOS Honoree form deadline is **January 31, 2016**.

The annual WCPTA Night of Stars Event celebrates the top PTA volunteer at local units. This is a free event for local units that are members of the Wake County PTA Council. Each local unit will select their top PTA Volunteer and nominate them to be honored at the event by using the WCPTA Honoree Form. A local unit may select a board member or a general PTA member.

Start working on your honoree forms now; we want your school and PTA honored this year!!! Each local unit that submits a form will be allowed up to five free attendees: the honoree and their plus one, school principal, PTA president, and person filling out Honoree Form if different from PTA president. Your unit can chose to bring more than five guests for an additional \$10 for each extra guest. Please note your local unit will be invoiced. All guests will need to **RSVP, using the link below, by April 21, 2016**.

The WCPTA Night of Stars event will be **May 19, 2016**. The evening will consist of food, door prizes, photo-op areas, entertainment and an award celebration with goody bags for the NOS Honorees.

For more info visit our website at: www.wakepta.org/programs-and-events/night-of-stars/

Reflections News

Thousands of talented students from across Wake County participated in the annual PTA Reflections Art Program allowing them to express themselves creatively with new works of art inspired by the current theme, "**Let Your Imagination Fly**".

Students submitted work in six art categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Music Composition, Literature, Photography, and Visual Arts. This year's program was even more exciting with the addition of the new 3D Visual Arts category. Students submitted art pieces made from wood, metal, canvas, plastic and more. 3D examples included mobiles, origami, 3D books, paper-mache', ceramic and metal sculptures, jewelry and so much more. We hope to see this division increase in participation throughout the county, especially in the high school division.

We were also excited to see a huge jump in Special Artist participation, more than double from last year. This division is an option for students with disabilities that fall under the ADA, IDEA, or Section 504 to have the opportunity and accommodations they may need to participate fully in the program.

Congratulations on a job well done to all participants and winners!! All students on the WCPTA Reflections Winners List will be invited to a county wide celebration in March. To view a complete list of winners including theme ideas visit: <http://www.wakepta.org/reflections-program/>

Thank you local unit Reflections Chairs. We appreciate your handwork and dedication to the Reflections Program and to arts in education! Thank you county judges for your time and dedication to our students!!

Start working on your pieces for next year's program: **2016-17 "What is Your Story?"**



Safety & Injury Prevention

The **new WCPTA Council Safety & Injury Prevention committee** will meet on **Friday, January 29 from 11:00am - 12:00pm at the new Panera - Parkside Main St**, 1004 Parkside Main Street, Cary (off of Hwy 55 & 540, by Target).

Come explore ways PTAs can help parents & families keep children, youth & teens safe! For more information, please email Diana Bader at dbader03@gmail.com.

This Question could Save a Child's Life...

In America, one out of three homes with children has a gun, and nearly 1.7 million children live in a home with a loaded, unlocked gun. Every year thousands of kids are killed and injured as a result. The ASK (Asking Saves Kids) Campaign promotes a simple idea with the potential to help keep kids safe. It encourages parents to ASK if there are unlocked guns in the homes where their children visit.

ASK
ASKINGSAVESKIDS

Anti-Bullying Information...

Join the movement to [#endbullying](https://twitter.com/endbullying) visit us at www.thebullyproject.com



<http://www.thebullyproject.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/bullymovie>

<https://www.instagram.com/bullymovie/>

<https://twitter.com/bullymovie>

