



**Member Message - A New Monthly
E-Publication From Texas PTA**

**Message From Texas
PTA President Sharon
Goldblatt**



Welcome to the first edition of the Member Message, a new e-news publication from Texas PTA! Since taking office following convention in February, your new state board of directors has been working diligently and exploring new ways to communicate and serve you better.

If you like this new communication, please tell us. Better still, tell your friends to go to the Texas PTA Web site, enter their email address, and begin receiving valuable information from Texas PTA today!

One more new feature of the Web site you will want to visit is the [Texas PTA calendar](#). You will find reminders and deadlines, as well as events and programs scheduled across the state. Take the opportunity to visit a nearby campus and preview a program before scheduling one for your PTA.

I hope you enjoy this publication. Your Texas PTA board and staff are striving to meet your needs, and we can only do that if you let us know how best to serve you. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Goldblatt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon Goldblatt
Texas PTA President

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**State Office
Snapshot**



The Texas PTA Office is thrilled to announce that Lorena Guadarrama will join our team Thursday, April 15. Lorena brings experience with a member services organization, a background in volunteering, effective administrative skills, excellent communication skills and self-confidence. She is bi-lingual and will be a tremendous asset to the Member Services Department. Please join us in welcoming Lorena to Texas PTA!

Message From National PTA



The end of the school year means many different things to different people. For our children, it's time to ditch the school bus for afternoon bike rides. For parents, it's time to keep our kids focused until that last school bell rings. And for teachers, it's time to reflect on and be proud of the great strides the kids have made

in the classroom during this year.

For the last several months - while parents have been packing lunches, helping with homework, attending PTA meetings, volunteering in the classroom and attending conferences - our teachers have been pouring every ounce of their energy into educating our children and building their confidence with passion, enthusiasm and heart. As the school year winds down, it's the perfect time to honor these dedicated folks with PTA's [Teacher Appreciation Week](#).

I encourage your PTA to participate this year (May 2-9) and show our teachers just how much we appreciate their tremendous efforts. [Our website](#) has tons of activity ideas, downloads and other resources to get you started - use it! And let our teachers know what they mean to us.

Of course, just because the school year is winding down doesn't mean our efforts are. In just a few short months, on June 10-13, we'll travel to beautiful, charming Memphis for our [2010 National PTA Convention and Exhibition](#). There, we'll have more than 50 workshops, 200 exhibits, hundreds of resources and countless opportunities for you to voice your opinions among a mobilized group of advocates. Each year, it promises to be a powerful event, and this year, we're kicking things up a notch by incorporating our [Emerging Minority Leaders Conference](#), PTA MORE ([Men Organized to Raise Engagement](#)) initiative, and Youth Summit, along with our partnership with PIRC (Parental Information and Resource Centers). It will be an event like no other.

Whether or not you will be attending the National Convention, I encourage you to use your summer as an opportunity for recharging and continuing your valuable PTA efforts. Because, before we know it, back-to-school season will be upon us! I have no doubts that you will have successful summer leadership conferences and help carry your local PTA members through these next few months with conviction, grace and dedication.

So, thank you for all that you do and may your summer be one of stamina, solidarity, sunshine and success!

Charles J. "Chuck" Saylor
National PTA President

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Reflections Awards 2009-2010

The 2009-2010 results are posted on the Texas PTA Web site [Reflections page](#). Due to space constraints, only those entries receiving recognition are listed. Please note that all visual arts and photography entries will be returned to your Council or Area PTA before the end of the school year. If you have any questions, please contact the Texas PTA Programs Department, programs@txpta.org. It's been another year of amazing talent, and we look forward to 2011!

How To Pick A Camp That Fits Your Child



CampParents.org

The American Camp Association, an accrediting organization, has guidelines and information on choosing a camp for kids this summer.

CampParents.org is a comprehensive summer camp resource for families-offering expert advice from camp professionals on camp selection, readiness, child and youth development, and issues of importance to families. ACA helps you find the right camp for every child.

Texas PTA Member Benefits

Texas PTA partners with organizations in order to provide discounts on services and products that PTA members might find beneficial, like discounts on T-Mobile cell phones and packages.



[Current T-Mobile Promotion](#)

[Current Benefits Partners](#)

CONSUMER ALERT

Parents Should Keep Children Away From New Video Chat Web



Site Chatroulette.com

An increasingly popular Web site poses a threat to Texas children by giving users - including dangerous sex offenders - an opportunity to conduct live video chats with randomly selected participants.

Armed with only a Web camera and Internet access, www.chatroulette.com users are paired with a random stranger for a video chat. Neither a login nor registration is required before young users can be face-to-face with a total stranger. Worse, users who simply click "next" are shuffled to a new video chat partner.

An undercover investigation by the Cyber Crimes Unit revealed startling results. Nearly half of the randomly selected users encountered by Cyber Crimes investigators immediately exposed themselves and conducted sexually explicit acts on camera.

In light of the serious threat that children will be exposed to graphic sexual conduct, Texas parents should prohibit their children from accessing www.chatroulette.com. Although site users are supposed to be at least 16 years old, the rule is not clearly enforced - which means parents' preventative role is particularly important.

Attorney General Greg Abbott reminds parents to closely monitor their children's Internet activities by using the following safety tips:

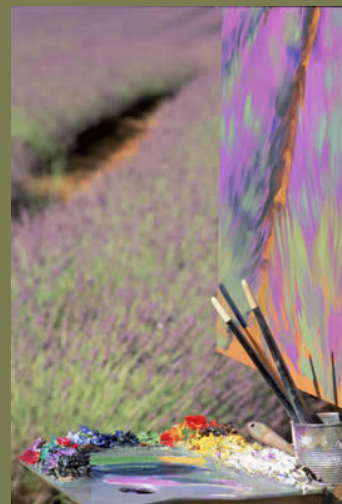
- Place the computer in a public room at home so that parents can monitor their children's Internet use. Do not allow computers in a child's bedroom or permit the use of Web cameras.
- Make sure children know never to agree to a face-to-face meeting with someone they meet online and never to divulge personal information to an Internet stranger.
- Stay informed. Surf the Internet with children or at least talk to them about the Web sites they are visiting.
- Establish ground rules for children's Internet usage, including the hours they may surf and the kinds of Web sites they may visit. Post the rules near the computer.

Mary Lou Anderson Reflections

Arts Enhancement Grants

With this program offered through National PTA, a limited number of matching grants of up to \$1,000 are awarded each year to local PTAs for student-centered programs focused on arts education. The Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grant Program complements PTA's long-standing commitment to quality arts education by providing funds to local PTAs to establish or enhance arts programs in one or more arts areas: visual arts, photography, music (including dance), and literature (including theater).

Special consideration is given to applicants that reach large numbers of at-risk students. At risk encompasses a wide range of



factors that may make it more difficult for a student or a segment of the student population to succeed in learning. Some factors that make students at risk are financial, familial, health, behavioral, social, and environmental or other community conditions.

Local PTAs must submit complete applications and match this grant dollar for dollar with PTA or other donated funds and/or in-kind resources. Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. EDT, May 3, 2010.

[Apply today!](#)

Make the Movement Day - May 5, 2010



Make the Movement Day is the ACTIVE Life Movement's annual, day-long initiative encouraging the public to create and share their "Moments" of physical activity (Move), healthy eating (Fuel), and personal and environmental health (Honor) to promote healthy, ACTIVE lifestyles.

You are in complete control of your Moment. It can be super simple or really involved. After all, it's your Moment! Individuals, families, businesses, communities and faith based-organizations, schools, and childcare centers will all

be participating in Make the Movement Day.

It's easy to get involved and to be part of the Movement. Be creative and encourage your family, friends, and colleagues to make a healthy difference in their own life and in the lives of others. Join the Movement by creating your Moment today!

Help Make the Movement! Visit <http://www.makethemovementday.org/> to organize a Movement Day, find and participate in one in your area or donate.