



PTA REFLECTIONS

Missouri PTA Reflections Newsletter

August 2010

Reflections Newsletter

New this year, Missouri PTA is making sure that our Reflections chairs have a very successful year in implementing the Reflections program in their schools. This is the first issue of a Newsletter designed specifically for Reflections Chairs. Missouri PTA hopes that the information contained in this newsletter will be helpful and informative.

Kicking Off the New School Year

As we are rolling into August, you as Reflections Chair should be getting ready to kick off the Reflections program in your school. Just like the president and membership chairs, you need a plan and a timeline for implementing this program in your school.

The first thing you want to do is make sure you have the Theme Search Entry form copied and sent out for each student. The theme search is used by National PTA to find the next Reflections theme. These themes are chosen at least 2 years in advance. For example, the 2011-2012 theme was chosen in January of this year. The student whose theme is chosen as the National PTA Reflections theme will win \$100 from National PTA and their theme will be announced at the next National PTA convention. Last October, Missouri PTA submitted five theme search entry forms to National PTA. One of those five forms was chosen by National PTA Reflections committee to be the theme for the 2011-2012 school year. The submitter of the theme idea was 4th grader Gavin Green from Ozark, Missouri. He received \$100 for his winning entry.

Theme search forms are due to Missouri PTA by October 12, 2010. Students have the chance to win \$100 from National PTA if their theme is chosen. For more information refer to the Missouri PTA Reflections Tool Kit (www.mopta.org).

The second step is to publicize this year's theme – “Together We Can” and your local unit deadline. Each unit needs to set their own deadline to allow enough time for judging at the local unit level to have the entries

received by Missouri PTA. When setting your deadline, please remember that your entries must be at the Missouri PTA office by 4:30 p.m. on Friday January 14, 2011. When setting your deadline don't forget that at this time of year the weather can often be quite uncooperative.

Getting Parents Involved

From the many workshops that have been presented at Schools of Information, Regional Conferences, Leadership Conferences and Conventions, the number one question asked is “What is Reflections?” It appears that as PTA members we are not explaining what this program is and its benefits. How are we to expect to have hundreds of entries from students if we don't explain to the parents what the program is. What better advocates to get students to participate in this program than the parents? For more information on the history of Reflections, be sure to read the first few pages of the Reflections Tool Kit sent in the Summer Packet to president, and the National PTA Reflections website (www.ptareflections.org)

Reflections Timeline

During the months of August and September as a Reflections chair you should be getting the rules distributed to students or a link posted on your unit's website; and a flyer out to all of your students with the theme and your unit's deadline. There are flyers on National PTA's website that you can download and use to promote the Reflections program. Go to www.ptareflections.org and click on “Learn More” under the Find Out How to get started section. Then click on the “Local Participation” link on the menu bar down the left side of the screen. Scroll down to the bottom of this page and the flyer is there in both color and black and white and in English and Spanish.

For more timeline updates and Reflections information, please watch for future newsletters to help you have a successful Reflections Program.