

NOVEMBER 19 , 2015

MANCHESTER TOWN-WIDE PTA COUNCIL

COUNCIL CONNECTIONS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:



Time To Give Thanks, PTA Friends!

As we approach the holiday season and Thanksgiving in particular, I am reminded of how thankful I am and how important it is to be thankful for the awesome PTA Boards and volunteers that Manchester community has. Each member — no matter how big or small their role may be — makes a difference.. Be sure to remember to thank your fellow Board members, thank your volunteers, thank the teachers and thank your Principals. Without them PTA would not work. We need to remember the folks that volunteer get the same paycheck we get! Be sure they know you appreciate all that they do. A kind word or short note will go a long way. We are very fortunate to be in a District that is so supportive of the PTA. Be sure to thank your Principals and other Administrators for allowing us to partner with them so all of our students enjoy thriving, productive lives in a future they create. That's really all I have to say this month. Thank you for being willing to go above and beyond to help fulfill the PTA Vision of making EVERY child's potential a reality.

Also, I am really proud of our membership numbers so far, and looking forward to my next report from CT PTA! Remember that membership is a year-round job, so never give up trying to build up your numbers. Obviously the more members we have, the more support and volunteers we have. Take a deep breath and keep moving. Provide membership info at meetings and events, welcome packets in the school office for new families and don't forget to recruit those grandparents attending your activities. Always be prepared to explain the benefits of PTA. Explain how PTA focuses on parent involvement, parent education and child advocacy. How about having a "membership moment" at each meeting that gives a quick update on the number of members, new members etc. Take time to thank those volunteers who have been so helpful. We all love to be acknowledged for our efforts.

Let's continue to build on the relationship between your PTA and Council. We are proud of each of our 12 local PTAs and know great things are happening for the families in our community. Don't forget - forward this newsletter to all of your board members to provide current info to everyone. -

— Christine

Council Services

Provides leadership training and leadership opportunities for local unit members.
Encourages local unit members to attend Council meetings and State workshops.
Acts as a coordinating body to promote communication and cooperation among its member units.
Engages in community-wide projects.
Is a link through which local PTAs can work on projects beyond the scope of a single unit.
Is a channel of communication between parents, teachers, school administrators, school boards, children and the pub-

The Council Can Provide:

An opportunity for local units to exchange ideas and plans and to solve shared problems through meetings and workshops.
An opportunity for study groups to work on areas of interest.
Strength to unify planning efforts to solve community-wide problems affecting children and youth.
The incentive and assistance for local unit participation in such activities as health/welfare programs, the Reflections Program, cultural diversity, cultural arts, newsletters and publicity.

TOWN COUNCIL PTA HAS OPEN POSITIONS!

We have a few open positions we need to fill to help us provide support this year to our 12 local units. These are our positions that are currently vacant. Please send inquiries/intent by September TO Christine Cardoso Council President.

- Town Wide Council Vice President - help assist the council president and Board
- Community Outreach Committee - including helping other schools get the resources that they need
- Family Engagement Committee – Help with increasing parent involvement events, help with reflections, PTA programs, etc. (I would like two people, a man and a women on this committee)

REFLECTIONS IS EVENTfull!

Reflections 2015-2016 Theme: "Let your imagination fly" Deadline for entries to Council is December 22, 2015 to your school office.

Volunteers are needed at the Council level in these areas:

1. Spreadsheet data entry
2. Arranging for judges and for entries be judged
3. Collecting, sorting, transporting and storing entries
4. Invitations, certificates and ribbons
5. Mailing qualifying entries to state

Do your parents have questions about Connecticut Core Standards or Assessments?

Connecticut PTA has been working with many organizations to bring you the latest on CT Core Standards and the related Smarter Balanced Assessments. Host a gathering within your PTA! Invite parents, educators, other PTAs, and invite CT PTA to your next PTA meeting.

CT PTA is offering an incentive to any PTA that schedules a CT Core Standard workshop between November 15th thru December 31st. (\$200.00 goes to the individual PTA that signs up to host an event.)

- ◇ CT PTA will provide refreshments at the event*
- ◇ CT PTA will provide a door prize giveaway to 1 lucky winner*
- ◇ CT PTA will provide handouts to all attendees*

Contact us today to schedule a workshop!
CT PTA Leadership Training Webinar dates

- **Tuesday November 24, 2015 at 10:00am**
- **Tuesday December 8, 2015 at 6:30pm**

OF NOTE

Our Council Board Members

- President - Christine Cardoso
- Treasurer - Kay Fyler
- Secretary - Tracy Maio
- SEPTA - Rebecca Thereault

Council Meetings **Dates, Time and Location**

The Manchester Town PTA Council Meetings will be on Thursdays at 6:30 pm in the Media Center at the school listed. (Babysitting is available during the meeting.)

- **November 19, 2015** at Buckley
- **December** - no meeting
- **January 28, 2015** at Martin
- **February 25, 2015** at Bowers
- **March 31, 2015** at MHS
- **April 28, 2015** at Robertson
- **May 26, 2015** at Washington

Next SEPTA meeting is on **November 30, 2015 at 6:30 pm** at Keeney Street School

Manchester PTA Council Goals:

Committees - use them
Advocate - for our children
Reduce - paper usage
Energize - new members!

PTA Mission

To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

PTA Vision

Every child's potential is a reality.