

Polk PTA News



July 16-19, 2015

We cordially invite you to be among the 1,000+ people that attend the Florida PTA Leadership Convention hosted at Innisbrook Resort & Golf Club in Palm Harbor, Florida . Registration for members and non members along with event details can be found at www.floridaptaevents.org.

With over 85 convention workshops, roundtable and thought leader panels to choose from, you'll find a great selection of hands-on training opportunities that will engage, inspire and empower PTA members to be more effective leaders and advocates.

Proposed Resolutions

During the General Meeting Sessions the convention body will consider by-laws amendments and two resolutions regarding:

- **Later School Start Times for Teens and**
- **Reform of School Policies Regarding Zero Tolerance**

Keynote Speakers

Howell Wechsler, EdD, MPH, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, is a national expert on childhood obesity, having previously served as the Director of the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Andrea Clemons, Author / Activist / Speaker— Andrea has been speaking about educator sexual abuse for over ten years. She has shared her personal story of abuse in a very public way, through seminars, radio and television, and most recently through her autobiography, "Invisible Target: Breaking the Cycle of Educator Abuse." Andrea's goal is to educate children, parents, educators, and caretakers about the warning signs of abusive educators and to empower people to protect our children.

Laura Bay , President Elect, National PTA—Laura Bay will be installed as the National PTA President at the National PTA Convention in June 2015. Bay is a passionate advocate for education and children's issues and believes that PTA is the organization which actively supports and promotes parent, teacher and community involvement in child and education issues.

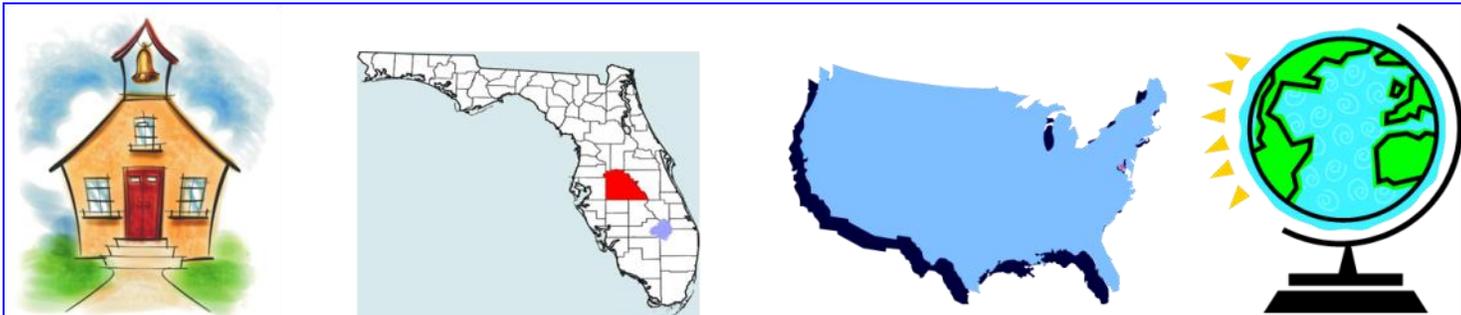
Did you know?

- Youth aged 13 to 24 accounted for an estimated 26% of all new HIV infections in the United States in 2010.
- Most new HIV infections among youth occur among gay and bisexual males; there was a 22% increase in estimated new infections in this group from 2008 to 2010.
- Over 50% of youth with HIV in the United States do not know they are infected.

View the bibliography at www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/age/youth.

Contents

Data on Dating Violence.....	2
Healthy Relationships.....	2
Office of Adolescent Health.....	2
Family Reading Ideas.....	3
Polk Library & Book Mobile.....	3
Books By Mail.....	3
Unit Leader Information	
Financial Audit	4
PCSB Required Form	4
Board Transition.....	4
Interim Funds.....	4
Student Data Privacy	5
Polk Community Membership....	6
Business Supporters.....	6
Community Involvement Conf....	7
Mark Your Calendar.....	7
Polk Council Contact Info.....	7





Do You Know?

The percent of FLORIDA high school students who report they experienced **physical dating violence**, including being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon on purpose by someone they were dating or going out with (during the 12 months before the survey)

- Male 9%
- Female 11%

Percent of FLORIDA high school students who report they experienced **sexual dating violence**, including kissing, touching or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse (when they did not want to) by someone they were dating or going out with (during the 12 months before the survey)

- Male 8%
- Female 13%

Percent of FLORIDA high school students who report they have ever had **sexual intercourse**

- Male 49%
- Female 40%

Percent of high school students who report they were ever **physically forced to have sexual intercourse** (when they did not want to)

- Male 6%
- Female 9%

Data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1991-2013 High School Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System data. Retrieved August 28, 2014, from <http://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Default.aspx>



Healthy Relationships

During adolescence, young people learn how to form safe and healthy relationships with friends, parents, teachers, and romantic partners. Both boys and girls often try on different identities and roles during this time, and relationships contribute to their development. Peers, in particular, play a big role in identity formation, but relationships with caring adults – including parents, mentors or coaches – are also important for adolescent development. Often, the parent-adolescent relationship is the one relationship that informs how a young person handles other relationships. Unfortunately, adolescents sometimes develop unhealthy relationships, and experience or exhibit bullying or dating violence.

Dating Violence

Some adolescents get involved in unhealthy dating relationships. One in 10 adolescents reported being hit or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend at least once in the previous year. Controlling and demanding behaviors often happen before violence occurs. For example, one partner may tell another what to wear and who to spend time with. Over time, controlling and demanding behavior may become increasingly violent and that violence can have negative effects on physical and mental health throughout life (including lower self-esteem, eating disorders and suicidal thoughts). Adults can help by paying attention and talking to adolescents about how to build healthy, respectful relationships.

LGBT

Among adolescents ages 18 to 19, just under eight percent of females and just under three percent of males identify as homosexual or bisexual. Many lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) adolescents are happy and thrive during their teenage years. As a group they are more likely than their heterosexual peers to experience diffi-

culties: LGBT adolescents are at increased risk for suicide attempts, being homeless, alcohol use and risky sex.

Parental response to their LGBT adolescent can have a tremendous impact on the child's current and future mental and physical health. Supportive reactions can help adolescents cope and thrive.

Friendships



Friendships play a major role in the lives of adolescents. A circle of caring and supportive friends can help adolescents transition to adulthood. Parents, teachers, and other adult role models can help young people learn how to make and keep good friends. Still, forming and maintaining friendships during adolescence can be challenging. Peer pressure – good and bad – often affects decisions young people make. Adults can set good examples, teach interpersonal skills, and help adolescents nurture positive friendships. One important lesson is that friends can say "no" to each other and remain friends.

Adolescent Health

The Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) is dedicated to improving the health and well being of adolescents to enable them to become healthy, productive adults. Visit <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/> for more information on these topics.





Family Reading Ideas

Article from National PTA May 2015 ptareadingchallenge.org

When families read together over the summer break, learning happens alongside the fun. Start the journey today and make memories with your family using our fun reading ideas.

Enjoy the Outdoors Together

- Read a book together and use sidewalk chalk to draw your favorite scenes or your favorite characters outside your home.
- Take a walk in the woods and find some wildflowers. Take them home and press them in waxed paper between the pages in a heavy book until the end of the summer.
- Go on a nature scavenger hunt and find items that your favorite character might need or see in their story.

Create Great Memories

- Host a scary slumber party and invite a few friends. Take turns reading aloud from your favorite scary books, like the "Goosebumps" series.
- If you take a trip over the summer, buy postcards each day for your kids to write down the best parts of the day. Take them home and make a summer vacation collage!
- Send an email to yourself each week over the summer with a paragraph about your favorite adventures. At the end of the summer, compile a "My Summer Vacation" book and add drawings or photos.

Make Family Snapshots

- Have everyone in the family create summer journals. Each night, take time to write about the best thing that happened that day, and then take turns sharing your entries with each other.
- Create a family letterhead template and have your kids use it to write letters to friends or relatives to tell them about their summer vacations.



- Let your kids be cooks for a day. Have them find recipes they'd like to try, shop with them to get the ingredients and then help them prepare the family meal!

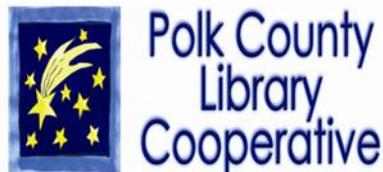
Play Silly Games Together

- Read a book with neighborhood kids and then create a show acting it out for other families.
- Invite friends over for a "Come as Your Favorite Character" party. Have each guest name the book their character came from, and why they chose that character.
- Read "Alice in Wonderland" together and then throw a tea party. You and your children can dress up as the different characters!

Spark Creativity

- Help your children write their own stories. Encourage your child to write stories based on his or her experiences or favorite characters from other books, movies or TV shows.
- Print or write the lyrics from some of your child's favorite songs. Have your child read the lyrics out loud, and sing them together.
- Create a family history book. Fold pieces of paper in half and staple them to form the book. Ask your child to write sentences on each page about family members and add illustrations. Write and illustrate some stories about your own childhood as well!

See more at: <http://ptareadingchallenge.org>



Have you checked out your public library lately and seen all the services they offer? Visit www.mypclc.org.

Polk County residents with a library card can access services at 17 libraries within our county including on-line services, free downloads through PCLC Digital Services and B Mail (Books by Mail).

Many of our libraries offer free summer programs, high speed internet, Wi-Fi and public access computers. With your library card you can access online book searches including the Accelerated Reader or AR

book finder, renew/request items and much more.

Want to download free audio books, eBooks, music and videos then check out some of PCLC digital services. Visit www.mypclc.org



Library cards are FREE to all residents of Polk County and needed to access many of the library services. To get a card, visit your closest public library and bring a photo id (such as drivers license) and something that has your current street address on it.

Bookmobile

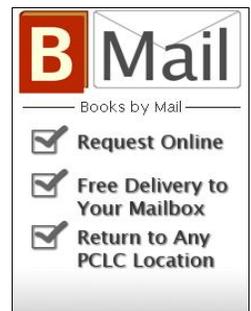


Can't get the library? The Bookmobile currently operates in unincorporated Polk County and incorporated cities without public library services. Visit <http://www.mypclc.org/bookmobile-schedule> or call 863.678.4004.

Books By Mail

The Polk County Library Cooperative's B-Mail service is available to all residents of our county. Books, movies, audio books and music CDs are mailed to

your home free of charge. You can order materials from a computer, on the telephone or via email. Visit <http://www.mypclc.org/books-by-mail> or phone in requests to 863 679-4441.



Unit Leader Information;

Financial Audit or Review



Both an annual audit and a financial review involve looking at bank statements, budgets and minutes. However an audit also involves following financial transactions through records to make sure that receipts have been properly accounted for and expenditures made as authorized in the minutes and in conformity with PTA bylaws, standing rules, and budget limitations. A financial review does not follow all transactions but sometimes may include a sampling.

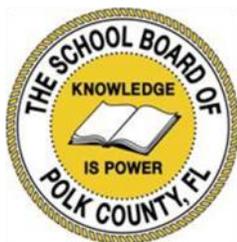
Finances and record books must be reviewed at least once a year (after June 30th when the accounting period ends and before school starts) and performed either externally or internally (by three non-check signers of the PTA accounts). Records or accounts should also be audited if a financial officer resigns, before the new officer assumes his or her duties, and at any other time deemed necessary. Refer to your unit Bylaws and *PTA Dollar\$ & Sen\$e Manual* for more information on audits.)

PTA units interested in receiving a copy of the workshop presentation *Annual Review & Fraud Prevention* or *A Closer Look at Annual Reviews* from the Florida PTA Leadership/Convention may request via email to Janet Lamoureux at janetL@tampabay.rr.com.

BEFORE AUGUST 1ST!

The **Polk County School Board (PCSB)** requires all external groups of their schools to complete the Annual Financial Report (Form 830). The school Administrator or Financial Secretary is required to forward the form to the District Office no later than August 1st of each school year.. You may obtain the Annual Financial Report from your school or through the Parents, Parent Involvement link on the www.polk-fl.net website..A PTA unit may attach a copy of their yearend Actual verses Budget Report in lieu of completing this PCSB form.

Please note, this Annual Financial Report is just for the Polk Schools; your unit must still complete federal required 990 documents to report gross income (regardless of income amount) to the IRS before November 15th. Refer to *PTA Dollar\$ & Sen\$e Manual* for reporting revenue to the IRS



Work Together for a Smooth Transition

The elections are over, now you can relax, right? Well, not really. The outgoing and incoming executive board should be working together now and over the summer to allow for a smooth transition into the new school year.

Here are just a few items your unit should work on **before the new school year starts.**

- Complete the *New and Returning Officers Form* at www.floridapta.org (until this is done, your unit is not recognized as an active unit with Florida PTA or federal IRS tax exemption purposes)
- Update and distribute board member list (name, email and phone numbers).
- Attempt to fill any open committee chairs before orientation day.
- Transfer procedure books and other documents to the new board members.
- Copy pertinent computer files and give to incoming president.
- Executive Board appoints an audit committee (not less than three members), and request books to be audited after June 30th and before school starts. (See your unit Bylaws and *PTA Treasurers Dollar\$ & Sen\$e Manual* for information.)
- The outgoing Treasurer should
 - close financial books by June 30th and prepare for the audit.
 - submit an *Annual Financial Report* **before August 1st** (required by Polk County Public Schools) obtain form from school.
 - report income to IRS (after the audit and before November 15th).
 - provide confirmation document from IRS to executive board, school and Florida PTA.
- After the audit or annual review, update bank records with new officers as needed. This might include: signature card, mailing location for statements, online account access passwords, etc.
- Form a budget committee (to draft proposed budget for new school year).
- President should pre-schedule monthly meetings with Principal.
- Executive board and/or president arrange to meet with the principal before August 1st to discuss general protocol items for the new school year such as
 - Objectives for the new school year (i.e., improve communication with _____, involve more volunteers, educate committee chairs, increase family involvement, raise awareness of.....) then prioritize or narrow down objectives as needed.

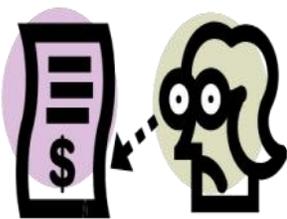
Continued, Leader Information:

- Establish board and general meeting dates, time and locations.
- Discuss procedures for adding items to the school calendars, website, marquee, and sending forms or fliers home with students (approval, timing and distribution process).
- Determine standard communication method with teachers and staff (PTA on agenda at staff meeting, teacher representative on PTA board, etc.)

Preliminary Budget

The Budget Committee (usually comprised of the President, Treasurer and at least one other member of the board) should draft a preliminary budget to share at the first board meeting. Once approved by the board the budget is then presented to the general membership (traditionally at the first general meeting of the new school year). **Funds are NOT to be withdrawn nor checks written until the new budget is approved by the general membership.**

Refer to the *Dollars & Sense Guide* at www.floridapta.org or in your Kit of Materials from Florida PTA for more information. To receive a copy of the *Budget* workshop presentation materials from the Florida PTA Leadership/Convention request via email to Janet Lamoureux at janetL@tampabay.rr.com.



Interim Funds

Your budget should have an Interim Funds line item, if it doesn't then consider adding one to the 2015-2016 Preliminary

Budget the budget committee is drafting over the summer.

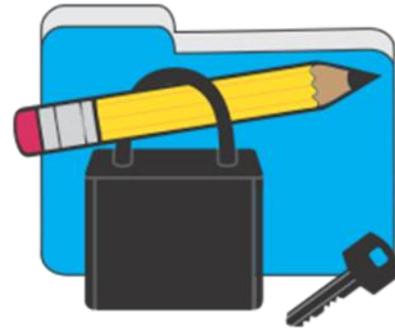
Interim Funds or as some call "Summer Interim Funds" are minimal, "pre-budgeted" items that permit the board to spend a small portion of the annual carryover prior to the adoption of the annual budget for the school year. A welcome back breakfast for teachers during the preplanning period would be one example. Another would be for incidental expenses related to the Leadership Conference/Convention that could not be prepaid in the prior fiscal year.



Resource for Parents on Student Data Privacy

National PTA has collaborated with the *Future of Privacy Forum* and *ConnectSafely* to develop a digital guide to help parents understand the laws that protect student data as well as students' and parents' rights under the laws.

Some of the information from the digital guide is listed below. To obtain a copy of the guide and other information on privacy rights for students and parents refer to <http://ferpasherpa.org/parents-guide.html>



A Parents' Guide to STUDENT DATA PRIVACY

We live in an increasingly connected world where information flows between us and the organizations and companies we deal with every day. Historically that information was stored in filing cabinets but, today, most of it is stored on computers—sometimes accessible via the Internet.

Schools have always held a wide range of data about our children and families: Name, address, names of parents or guardians, date of birth, grades, attendance, disciplinary records, eligibility for lunch programs, special needs and the like are all necessary for basic administration and instruction. Teachers and school officials use this information for lots of reasons, including to assess how well students at a school are progressing, how effective teachers are at teaching, and how well your school performs compared to other schools. State departments of education collect data that is then aggregated (summarized) to help guide policy decisions and plan budgets.

Schools are also increasingly storing electronic data associated with "connected learning," where online resources are used for instruction and evaluation. Online tools give students access to vast libraries of resources and allow them to collaborate with classmates or even peers around the world. Some of these online tools also give teachers and parents the ability to access and evaluate student work.

Polk County PTSA 2015-2016 Membership

If you believe in PTA, and its mission, *everychild.one* voice then join annually. Add your voice to those working to make a difference in children's lives. Memberships are valid until September 30th.

Members are not required to attend meetings or events, but are always welcome!. Every person who joins any PTA/PTSA unit is automatically a member of both the state and the national PTA.

Consider supporting the Polk County PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association) as a **member for \$5** or as a **Business Supporter for \$50**. With your \$50 business support, your business will receive one individual membership for the Polk County PTSA a certificate to display in your place of business, recognition in the Polk PTA News and recognition at each council meeting.

Polk County PTSA Member/Supporter

Do you want to receive via email

Council newsletters?	Yes	No
Council event notices?	Yes	No
Council meeting notices?	Yes	No
Florida PTA E-newsletter?	Yes	No
National PTA E-newsletter?	Yes	No

Please circle one: Parent / Grandparent / Guardian / Student
Teacher or Staff / Business / Other

\$5 per each individual membership , or \$50 Business Supporter (which includes one individual membership)

\$ _____ enclosed

Business (if applicable) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City / Zip _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone _____

Make checks payable to PCC PTA and return to:
Polk County PTSA
c/o Tammy Coker
5119 Fernbrook Lane
Lakeland FL 33811

Interested in Being a Business Supporter?

The Polk Council and Polk County PTSA offers various levels of support.

Business Supporter \$50

Event Supporter \$200

Event Premium Sponsor \$500

Premium Business Supporter \$1,000

Traditionally the funds from the \$50 business supporters are used to help the Polk Council participate and provide printed resources at various community events. Last year some of the community events we participated included: Red Ribbon Health & Wellness Fair, Polk County Family Week, Fall Exploration Day for Families of Students with Disabilities.

Funds from higher levels of business supporter are used to host specific events, provide leadership training and other educational experiences for our members and our community. For more information and upcoming sponsorship events contact Janet Lamoureux (863) 899-7301 janetL@tampabay.rr.com or Toni Nielson (863) 937-7793 tn2fla@aol.com.

Polk County Council is a 501 (c) (3) group and can provide IRS determination letter, W-9 and or EIN upon request.

Thank you to our Business Supporters!



Save the Date

Friday, September 25th
8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. @
Stuart Ag. Building, Bartow

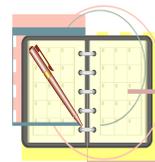
Polk County Public Schools
Community Involvement Conference

There are many ways
to get involved.



*
* **Save the date and tell**
* **your friends!**
* **Community Involvement Confer-**
* **ence September 25, 2015**
*
* This annual event focuses on topics of interest to
* parents, community members and school leaders
* who want to contribute to student achievement.
* Hosted by Polk Council PTA and Polk County
* Public Schools. Registration and other details to
* come over the summer.
*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



- June 26-28**—National PTA Convention, Charlotte N.C.
- July 19-21**—Florida PTA Leadership/Convention, Palm Harbor Fl.
- August 24**—First day of school for most students in Polk County
- County Council Meeting Dates for 2015-16 TBD

Polk County Council



everychild.one voice.®

2015-2016 Executive Board (*) and Committee Chairs

Toni Nielson*
President
tn2fla@aol.com

Annette Rising*
Vice President
arising@tampabay.rr.com

Courtney Lamoureux*
Secretary/Student Representative

Laurie Busey*
Treasurer
greggbuseyz@yahoo.com

Eddie Hall
Community Outreach Chair
eddieamorkatty@yahoo.com

Janet Lamoureux
Trainer, Newsletter/Membership
janetL@tampabay.rr.com

Liz Norsworthy
Community Representative
ernorsworthy@gmail.com

Elsie Nwakakwa
Exceptional Child
chinedu59@aol.com

Carol Sherron
Business Relations
carol@hlclakeland.com