

## PICK A READING PARTNER (PARP) TOOLKIT

On behalf of the New York State PTA Board of Managers, we are proud to present the “Pick A Reading Partner (PARP) Toolkit.”

Many of the materials included in this Toolkit were originally part of the New York State PTA “PARP Resource Book.” Many of the sample forms and activities are from previous New York State PTA PARP award-winning programs.

The Pick A Reading Partner (PARP) program began in the New York State Senate Education Committee through the efforts of the late Senator James H. Donovan. In 1987, the PARP program was turned over to the New York State PTA to be sponsored and administered. The PARP program is a reading program which encourages parents or someone in a parental role (i.e. grandparents, aunts, uncles, step-parents, guardians, older siblings, etc.) to read with their child at least 15 minutes a day. A PARP program can be utilized by a school, library or community center and can run anywhere from two weeks to the entire school year. The goal is to promote the love of reading between parents and children.

What you will find in this Toolkit are all the materials that you will need to run a successful PARP program in your school, library or community center. All the materials are reproducible and should be shared.

We hope you enjoy it!

Gracemarie Rozea  
NYS PTA President

Stephanie Avidon  
NYS PTA PARP Specialist



## HOW TO USE THE PARP TOOLKIT

All the materials in this Toolkit are for use by anyone interested in running a successful PARP program. We have added several features to this Toolkit to make it easier for you to navigate the resources, reproduce the materials and implement the program. These document features were developed using Word 2003; if you use a different version of Word or a different word processing program (such as WordPerfect or Open Office), the functionality may be limited. Each section of the Toolkit begins with a Table of Contents which, in most cases, can be used by placing your cursor on the document you want to view, pressing the control key (Ctrl) on your keyboard and clicking your mouse; this will bring you directly to the document. Below is more information on what you can find in each section.

### SECTION 1 – PARP PROGRAM

In this section, you will find the basic information you will need about PARP and the PARP program. We have provided a model of a PARP program for pre-school, elementary, middle and high school-age children. Information on adapting this program in a rural and urban area can also be found. We included the PARP Logo, which we encourage you to use on your materials; just copy and paste. Details on applying for our New York State PTA PARP Award are also included. (See application section for more details.)

### SECTION 2 – PROGRAMS and ACTIVITIES

In this section, you will find many ideas and explanations on suggested programs and activities for you to incorporate in your program. If you need to know what to ask an author or performer before booking an event, go to this section.

### SECTION 3 – SAMPLE FORMS and SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

Most of the forms and activities in this section were reproduced from previous New York State PTA PARP Award-winning programs. The purpose for providing these forms and activities in the Toolkit is to give you ideas on materials you need to run a successful PARP program. We have provided these documents in Word format, allowing you the ability to copy, paste and use the actual forms and activities. Please feel free to use these forms and activities in their actual format or change the wording to suit your particular school, library or community center.

### SECTION 4 – NYS PTA PARP AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS

The Programs section in this Toolkit contains the actual New York State PTA PARP Award-winning programs from 2011 -2014 in PDF format.

### SECTION 5 – RESOURCES

We have provided a number of different literacy resources for you to use in your PARP program, as well as any other literacy programs. The exciting part about this section is that we have set this section up so that, in most cases, if you have Internet access and you would like to visit a web site quoted, all you need to do is click on the web site and you will be launched directly to the source. **Note: Included in this Toolkit is a listing of resources you may find useful in planning your PARP program. Aside from information generated by the PTA, the New York State PTA is not responsible for the content of the resources and the accuracy of the information as website addresses may change.**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### **SECTION 1 – PARP PROGRAM:**

Mission Statement  
History of Pick A Reading Partner – PARP  
PARP Goals  
What is PARP and Why is it Important?  
PARP Program  
Parent/Teacher/Administrative/Community Involvement  
Guidelines for the PARP Program  
PARP Checklist  
Sample PARP Committee Responsibilities  
Do's and Don'ts for Chairmen and Committee Members  
PARP Theme Ideas  
PARP Logo, PTA Logo and Tagline  
How to Adapt Your PARP Program at the Different Levels of Education  
PARP Program for Preschool Level 3-5 years old  
PARP Program for Elementary Level 5-10 years old  
PARP Program for Middle School Level 10-14 years old  
PARP Program for High School Level 14-21 years old  
Additional PARP Information for Rural/Urban Schools and Communities  
Parents As Reading Partners (PARP) Award Application

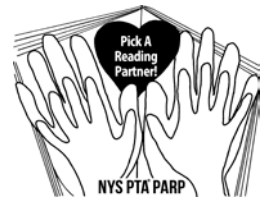
### **SECTION 2 – PROGRAMS and ACTIVITIES:**

Publicity and Public Relations for PARP Programs  
Maintaining Interest and Motivation  
PARP Incentives  
PARP Assemblies  
PARP Family Night  
Additional Activities  
Book Fairs  
Forming Book Clubs for Young Adults  
Steps to Planning a Successful Artist, Author/Illustrator or Performer Event  
Questions to Ask an Artist, Author/Illustrator or Performer  
Frequently Asked Questions and Answers  
Program Wrap-Ups

### **SECTION 3 – SAMPLE FORMS and SAMPLE ACTIVITIES:**

#### **A. Sample Forms:**

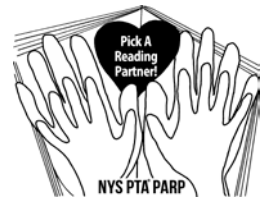
Budgets  
Calendars  
Certificate of Appreciation  
Contract  
Evaluation  
Fliers – Author/Illustrator Night  
Flier - KICK-OFF  
Invitation and Schedule of Events



Invitation to Attend Pajama Story  
Newsletter Announcement  
Parent Letters – General  
Parent Letter – Older Children  
Parent Letter – English  
Parent Letter – Spanish  
PARP Song  
Press Release  
Reading Celebration Plan  
Reading Log  
Reading Slips  
Sponsor Request Letter  
Student Release Forms  
Teacher Letters  
Thank-you Letter  
Volunteer Form  
Wrap-Up Flier

**B. Sample Activities:**

10 Good Reasons to Read Aloud to Your Children – English  
10 Good Reasons to Read Aloud to Your Children – Spanish  
100 Things a Child Can Read Other than Books and Magazines  
Book Club  
Book Swap  
Bookmarks and Make a Book  
Color Your World with Reading Special Activities  
Donate a Book Week  
Don't Be A Turkey...Read!  
Grab a Book Today, Read Across the USA  
Guess the Amount of Goldfish Contest  
MadLibs Monday  
Mystery Trivia Challenge  
Newspaper Scavenger Hunt  
PARP Challenge Reward Date  
PARP Program Theme Contest  
PARP Song  
PARP Symbol Contest  
PARP Word Search  
Read a Shirt Day  
Read-a-Thon Recommendation Sheet  
Read Aloud, Gather a Crowd  
Reading Crowd – Word Search  
Reading Power – Let it Flower Trivia Contest  
The Reading Chain



**SECTION 4 – NYS PTA PARP AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS:**

- 2016 – “Rocking, Reading, Rapping” Oceanside School #5 PTA (PDF)
- 2015 – “Kingdom of Character, Where Royal Readers are Leaders” Bridgeport PTA
- 2014 – “Kindness Matters” Harry E. Elden Elementary PTA
- 2013 – “Passport to Adventure” Fishkill Plains PTA

**SECTION 5 – RESOURCES:**

- General Internet Resources
- Fall into Reading = Reading – Beyond the Book
- How to Translate Your PARP Materials Into Another Language
- Parent Newspaper Guide – English and Spanish
- Adult and Youth Literacy Resources
- Building a Family Literary Event – RIF
- Authors Who Will Answer Children’s Letters
- Award Winning Children’s Books
  - Caldecott Medal Winners 1938 – Present
  - Newbery Medal Winners 1922 – Present
- How Children Learn to Read
- The Benefits of Reading
  - Reading Together
- How to Encourage a Love of Reading
  - 20 Tips for Pick A Reading Partner
  - Hints for Reading Aloud
  - Helping Your Child Become a Good Reader