

# *fast* **FACTS**

New York State PTA

February 2012

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**New York State**  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
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## Upcoming Events:

### March 2012

17-18 Legislation/Education Conference, Albany, NY

19 Lobby Day, Albany, NY

### July 2012

27-29 Summer Leadership Conference, Utica, NY

### November 2012

9-11 NYS PTA Annual Convention, Saratoga Springs, NY

## Education Update

*Neil Johanning, Education Coordinator*

NYSED has released the 2012 Guide to the Grades 3-8 Testing Program. This guide, which includes information about the English Language Arts and Mathematics tests, is available at: [www.p12.nysed.gov/apda/ei/ei-guide-12.pdf](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/apda/ei/ei-guide-12.pdf).

## Membership Update

*Jeanette Meoli, Membership/Marketing Coordinator*

Happy Birthday, PTA! February is the time we celebrate the founding of PTA. With membership, NYS PTA celebrates by giving out the Founders Day Award. All your unit has to do to earn this award is to pay for 15 or more members during the month of February! We are challenging every unit to try for this award this year – 15 more members should be easy to get! Here are three quick ideas:

- Check the staff in your building ... has every teacher signed up yet? Be sure to remind those that haven't about the good advocacy work that PTA does during school budget season!
- Have you been out in the community? Are the pediatricians in your town members of your PTA yet? How about the dancing school and karate school staff? Remind them about our advocacy efforts for children's health and well-being!
- What about the students in your building? Don't they benefit from the work of your PTA? Give them a chance to become involved in volunteer work, and a chance to learn from your expertise.

So go out there, sign up 15 new members and pay for them before the end of the month, and we'll send you the Founders Day Award!

## Health Advocacy Update

*Susanne Smoller, Health Specialist*

As we begin the New Year, there are a number of issues units need to be aware of as advocacy agendas are being developed for the coming months.

There are a number of different health-related bills pending in the House and Senate that impact youth and families. Two bills currently under review are the School Access to Emergency Epinephrine and Synthetic Drug Control Act. The School Access to Emergency Epinephrine (S.1884 and H.R. 3627) provides incentives to states that adopt policies requiring elementary and secondary schools to stock epinephrine auto-injectors. States that adopt these policies would receive preference in any asthma-related grant administered under the Public Health Service Act. This aligns with the National PTA resolution on Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis

## Save the Dates for 2012!

### Legislation/Education Conference

Albany, NY

March 17-18, 2012

Online registration is  
available!

[Click here to  
register now!](#)

### Lobby Day

Albany, NY

March 19, 2012

### Summer Leadership Conference

Utica, NY

July 27-29, 2012

### 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

Saratoga Springs, NY

November 9-11, 2012

## fastFACTS

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New York State Congress of Parents & Teachers, Inc.  
One Wembley Court  
Albany, NY 12205-3830

518-452-8808 \* 518-452-8105 FAX  
Toll-free: 1-877-5NYSPTA (1-877-569-7782)  
<http://www.nyspta.org>

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Management in Schools. Synthetic Drug Control Act (H.R. 1254 and S.605), a bill to amend the Controlled Substance Abuse Act to place more than 30 synthetic drugs, including bath salts and spice in a Schedule 1 category, has stalled in the Senate in committee.

Another issue that is always of concern to NYS PTA, is the exposure of youth to alcohol advertising. According to a study by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, teens are exposed to alcohol advertising online, via Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Flickr and iPhone apps. Even though the Distilled Spirits Council has social media marketing guidelines, they claim it is not possible to determine how many teens are actually being exposed to the advertising. However, the author of the study, David Jernigan, indicated, "an estimated 22 percent of Facebook users are between the ages of 13 and 20".

Therefore, tighter controls on access by teens to online advertising needs to be put into place. For more information on the study, go to: [www.drugfree.org/join-together/alcohol/alcohol-ads-appeal-to-teens-online-expert-says](http://www.drugfree.org/join-together/alcohol/alcohol-ads-appeal-to-teens-online-expert-says).

The New York State PTA has a number of positions regarding health-related issues. Go to the website advocacy page [www.nyspta.org/advocacy/advocacy.cfm](http://www.nyspta.org/advocacy/advocacy.cfm) to review our positions.

### Special Education Update

*Joyce Cattani, Special Education Specialist*

Combined with past cutbacks in both state and federal aid, the cost of educating special education students has soared for local school districts. Despite recent proposals of budget cuts, federal spending for students with disabilities will actually increase this year. Congress approved an additional \$100 million for special education as well as an extra \$5 million for programs supporting young children with disabilities as well as increases in funding for parent information centers and technical assistance. But that is no promise of anything additional in the future. New York State is continuing to look for areas to ease these costs. Each month there are new changes that parents, educators and all who are concerned about these students must be aware of.

The Board of Regents approved eliminating the current IEP Diploma in favor of a Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential. It is scheduled to be awarded beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. There was also discussion about creating another diploma option for students with disabilities who can complete some high school work but are not able to pass the state exams. The name of this diploma has not yet been determined.

New York State's *Annual State Application under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for Federal Fiscal Year 2012* has been posted for public review for 60 days. Written public comment will be accepted for 30 calendar days starting January 18, 2012. Additional information can be found at: [www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/idea/announce-partB-comment.html](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/idea/announce-partB-comment.html).

NYSED has released several memos and will be accepting public comment on changes to amend sections of the part 200s regulations. Be

Special Education (contd on p. 3)

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# wwwWhat's Happening at [nyspta.org](http://nyspta.org)

**This website is maintained and updated almost daily. Be sure to check it often for new, up-to-date information.**

## **Information Box:** (Table of Contents)

Contains detailed information that defines the NYS PTA and our website.

## **News Headlines:**

- Governor's 2012 NYS budget proposal raises questions regarding image of public schools, funding fairness and who really controls our schools.
- NYS PTA's Response to Governor's State of the State Address
- Legislation/Education Conference - Information and Registration
- Have you answered the call yet? / ¿Ha respondido a la llamada todavía?

## **News Briefs:**

- Hydrofracking Guidelines are Being Developed
- Information About NYS PTA Dues
- IRS Reinstatement Information is Now Available
- NYS PTA Guidance on PTA and School Budgets in Difficult Financial Times

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## **Special Education** (contd from p. 2)

sure to visit the NYSED website for additional information: [www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/).

There is a memo that will provide CSE/CPSE guidance in determining a student's need for a one-to-one aide. The memo contains specific considerations as well as the role and responsibilities of that aide. This memo can be found at: [www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/1-1aide-jan2012.htm](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/1-1aide-jan2012.htm).

NYSED will also be accepting public comment regarding changes to the part 200s (200.4 and 200.16) regarding individual evaluations for both preschool and school-age students. Written comments will be accepted for 45 days after its January 4, 2012 publication in the NYS Register. Additional information can be found at: [www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/idea/announce-partB-comment.html](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/idea/announce-partB-comment.html).

Also available on the NYSED website is the [application](#) that local educational agencies may use to request an exception from NYSED to exceed the 1.0 percent cap in counting as proficient and advanced for accountability purposes during the 2011-12 school year, the scores of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities based on alternate academic achievement standards. This information can be found at: [www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/applications/1percent-2012.htm](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/applications/1percent-2012.htm).

## **Members Only:** (A work in progress)

Use the username and password from your Membership Card for access to this section

- Brochures
- Bylaws Patterns, Instructions and Sample Procedures
- Guide to PTA Terms, Punctuation and Abbreviations
- NYS PTA Bylaws
- The NYS PTA Resource Guide
- *New York Parent Teacher* periodical
- Summer Leadership Conference '11 Workshop Materials

## **Quick Links:** (One click access)

- Sign Up for Capwiz
- Take Action with Capwiz
- Virtual Exhibit Hall
- Sponsorship Opportunities
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Bylaws EZ
- Annual (Form A) Unit/Council Updates

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## **NYS Summer School for the Arts (NYSSSA)**

NYSSSA comprises summer residential programs which provide intensive pre-professional training by internationally acclaimed artists and artistic companies. Offerings include the Schools of Ballet, Choral Studies, Dance, Media Arts, Orchestral Studies, Theatre and Visual Arts. The program is open to all New York State high school age students who qualify through regional auditions. Tuition assistance is available based upon financial need.

Information for your schools and young artists can be found at: [www.oce.nysed.gov/nysssa](http://www.oce.nysed.gov/nysssa).

## **NYS After-School Network (NYSAN) News: Expanded Schools Go National!**

The After-School Corporation announced the national launch of Expanded Schools. What does an Expanded School look like? Each school partners with an experienced youth-serving community organization to add new staff and resources; the school day expands by roughly three hours to match parents' working hours without mandating longer hours for teachers; schools add 35% more learning time at 10% additional cost; while adding to academic depth and rigor, schools offer a wider variety of learning opportunities such as music, sports and web

NYSAN (contd on p. 4)

design that expand on core academics and provide each student with a well-rounded education.

ExpandEd Schools offer a new approach to lifting the limits off the outdated school calendar and increasing educational opportunities in schools and communities that are struggling to fully deliver on the promise of public education: [www.tascorp.org/section/what\\_we\\_do/develop\\_program\\_models](http://www.tascorp.org/section/what_we_do/develop_program_models). The approach, built on proven practices that lead to greater student success, was piloted by TASC in New York City. Today's expansion to 11 schools in Baltimore, New Orleans and New York is made possible by major new funding from the Open Society Foundations and The Wallace Foundation. TASC and foundation partners together are committing \$11.5 million to demonstrate and evaluate the Expanded Schools approach. The hope is that this should leverage significant private and public investment toward a project goal of \$30 million over three years. Hear U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan talk about the promise of Expanded Schools: [www.tascorp.org/#video](http://www.tascorp.org/#video).

The poorest kids in this country have the fewest opportunities to keep learning after the traditional school day ends at 3 PM. I know you share my dedication in giving all kids a fighting chance to succeed no matter where they begin. Please help me spread the word and forward this email or share this overview on Expanded Schools with your colleagues and networks who are committed to expanding learning time and opportunities for all: [www.tascorp.org/content/document/detail/3609/](http://www.tascorp.org/content/document/detail/3609/)

## Got Resolutions?

Deadline for submission to NYS PTA office is April 15<sup>th</sup>!

For information on writing and submitting a PTA resolution, go to: [www.nyspta.org/advocacy/writeresolution.cfm](http://www.nyspta.org/advocacy/writeresolution.cfm).

For further assistance, contact: [resolutions@nyspta.org](mailto:resolutions@nyspta.org).

## 2012 National PTA Advocacy Awards Winners Announced!

NYS PTA Congratulates the 2012 Advocacy Awards winners! The award winners will be recognized at the **2012 National PTA Legislative Conference** during the **PTA Takes Action Luncheon** on Capitol Hill, on Thursday, March 8, 2012.

### Shirley Igo Advocate of the Year Award

The 2012 Shirley Igo Advocate of the Year Award is presented to an individual PTA member, who through their leadership and advocacy efforts, affected federal policy priorities within PTA's annual Public Policy Agenda. Shirley was a model of public service and volunteerism throughout her life. She was an impassioned and compassionate leader, dedicated to moving PTA forward and committed to ensuring that others would follow.

**Winner: Amy Zink (European Congress)**

### Local/District/Regional PTA Outstanding Advocacy Award

The Outstanding Advocacy Award is presented to a local, district, council or regional PTA that, through their dedication, leadership and efforts positively affected legislative and/or regulatory policy compatible with PTA's mission and goals. These efforts must include an education/learning component for PTA members and the community-at-large. Working with multiple organizations or coalitions through grassroots collaboration is preferred.

**Winner: Duvall County Council of PTAs (FL)**

### State PTA Outstanding Advocacy Award

The Outstanding Advocacy Award is presented to a State PTA that, through their dedication, leadership and efforts positively affected legislative and/or regulatory policy compatible with PTA's mission and goals. These efforts must be based on a statewide issue, involve working with multiple organizations or coalitions through grassroots collaboration, and contain a public awareness/advocacy training component for PTA members and the community at large.

**Winner: California State PTA**

### PTA Congressional Voice for Children Award

The PTA Congressional Voice for Children Award is given to two Members of Congress each year (bicameral, bipartisan) in recognition of outstanding leadership related to child and education advocacy.

**Winners:**

**Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (RI)**

**Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson (PA-5)**