

Program Ideas for Elementary School PTA Units

Ready Reader

This is a great way to spend quality one-on-one time with students. Activity is coordinated by individual classroom teachers. Training will be provided prior to the start date.

Bedtime Stories for K and 1st Grade

Come join Mrs. Bass for bedtime stories in your pajamas. This is truly a favorite for the kids. Volunteers will be needed to help serve milk and cookies.

Red Ribbon Week

“Say No To Drugs” is the focus of this week. Daily activities and events are planned. There will be multiple ways to get involved and help during this important week.

Veteran’s Day Celebration

We will need volunteers to help coordinate and feed our Veterans as we celebrate their amazing contributions to our country.

Great American Teach-In

This is a great opportunity for parents, business leaders and members of our community to share something special with our students. This day will provide parents many opportunities to help.

Bryant Week of Caring

Broncos are always taking care of others in need, especially when it comes to making the holiday season special for others.

Grandparent Read to Me Day

On this very special day, Grandparents are invited to come and read to their Grandchildren and fellow classmates. To show our thanks and appreciation, the PTA provides a Welcome Breakfast for them that morning. We need volunteers to help with the breakfast and also to make sure that our Grandparents find their way around campus.

Junior Achievement

Come and spend some time quality time interacting with the students. These activities help increase our students’ knowledge for the future. All materials and training will be provided. This is guaranteed to be a wonderful learning experience for both you and the students.

Teacher Appreciation Week

Join us for daily activities to thank all of our wonderful and hard-working teachers. Let’s make this the best appreciation week ever!!!

Birthday Book Club: During the month of your child’s birthday, he/she will receive a birthday card and an invitation to participate in the (School Mascot) Birthday Book Club.

Program Ideas for Middle School and High School PTSA Units

Involve Men

All Pro Dads- Tony Dungy is the “head coach” for this national organization dedicated to helping fathers be better fathers.

Please remember, not everyone has a father, so try to be inclusive. Some suggestions for involving men are:

Game Night

Father Daughter/ Mother Son Dance

Real Men Read/ Mentors and Tutors for students

School Landscaping/ Plant a Tree for the environment

Health Programs

Students Working Against Tobacco (S.W.A.T.)

Caroline Smith is the Pinellas County coordinator and is willing to speak at schools to both parents and students.

American Cancer Society is always helpful for educational purposes also.

Youth Gambling

The **Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling** is a non-profit independent corporation designated as Florida’s authority on problem and compulsive gambling. “Problem and compulsive gamblers are more likely to encounter difficulties with alcohol and drugs, to suffer from serious mental health challenges, to have higher levels of criminal activity, as well as increased rates for suicidal ideation and attempts.” (From “Keeping An Eye On The Pulse”). FCCG’s mission is to increase public awareness, especially with youth. There are MS and HS gambling prevention DVDs and interactive workbooks available from them along with instructor guides for schools. Their 24-hour helpline is 1-888-ADMIT-IT. **The LiveFree! Coalition targets underage binge drinking in North Pinellas County.** Wanda Stuart, **Program Director, has a team of adult and student speakers who will speak to parents and students. Wanda can be reached at 727-545-7564 extension 267. There is a similar program in Hillsborough County called the Hillsborough County Anti-Drug Alliance. Why not start one in your county? There is also a good hotline for parenting tips to prevent alcohol and drug use. It is 1-888-PAR-NEXT.**

Drug Prevention

The **Florida National Guard** presents a drug demand reduction program called **Night Vision**. Its purpose is to give truthful information about alcohol, drugs and smoking to students through programs such as **Gateway Drugs, Club Drugs** and **Other Drugs**. You can contact **Lt. Jeanette Asuncion** at 813-376-6444 or e-mail at jeanette.asuncion@us.army.mil. Lt. Asuncion will travel as far north as Hernando County, south as Lee County, west as Pinellas County, and east as Polk County.

“The Everest Challenge” targets children from 10 to 18 years old. The child must weigh a minimum of 55 pounds in order to climb the wall. This program is designed to pick up where DARE finishes. The minimum number of children for a presentation is 25 and the maximum is 300. **Ed Wienczek** will set up a presentation in any county of Florida. You can reach him at 727-865-2600. The students learn life skills and get to climb a 24-foot climbing wall. It is a free program.

The **Florida Hospice** website, www.stateofflorida.com, lists programs for grieving children in the various Hospice Care facilities throughout Florida. The Hospice of Naples had a “Good Grief” Day on June 1st. It was a complimentary day camp for children ages 6 to 11. High School students can be instructed in assisting Hospice.

The **National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity (NANA)** is a coalition of more than 330 organizations that advocates policies to promote healthy eating and physical activity. For more information **Joy Johanson** at the Center for Science in the Public Interest at 202-7778351 or jjohanson@cspinet.org; **Jennifer Weber** at the American Dietetic Association at 2020-775-8277 or jweber@eatright.org; **Tina Dove** at National PTA at 202-289-6790 extension 202 or tdove@pta.org; **Derek Scholes** at the American Heart Association at 202-785-7927 or Derek.scholes@heart.org. Hold a program on **Obesity and Healthy Eating**.

American Heart Association and the American Lung Association are very helpful in providing programs.

Suicide Prevention/ Youth and Depression- Guidance Counselors can advise who to contact for this presentation

Educational Issues

Help parents and students transition between schools by having programs about

- **Progressing from Elementary to Middle School** (August)
- **Progressing from Middle School to High School** (April/May)
- **High School Night** - How To Choose The Right School (January)
- **Special Needs Program** (ESE, Music, Art, Gifted) (any time of the year)
- **Preparing for FCAT examinations** (January)
- **High School to College-** Partner with a Community College or have returning college students speak.

The Partnership, the Florida Partnership for Family Involvement in Education, has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education and will assist all parents and schools in Florida. They would like to improve academic achievement, family involvement, and inform parents of the No Child Left Behind Act. You can contact **Dr. Sally M. Wade**, Project Director, at swade@coedu.usf.edu for more information.

Dr. Bob Fisher, a professor at the University of South Florida, has a **Career Planning** program for high school students. He is willing to travel throughout Florida to present to large groups. You can contact at www.collegecareerlifeplanning.com or rsfisher@aol.com or 727-521-9798. (Brochures provided on request at workshop.)

Student Social Issues

Bullying

See **National PTA**'s archive at www.pta.org/archive_article_details_1117639656218.htm

The **SPCA** has a program about the connection between animal cruelty and human violence. It is part of **character education**. This program is for 6th to 12th Graders. Phone **Sharon Hauser** at 727-586-3591 extension 126 or e-mail at Sharon@sPCAfl.org. for information. All counties should have an SPCA.

The **YWCA** throughout Florida has programs for school age children concerning topics such as teen pregnancy, mentoring, and computer classes. The **Health Department** in your area is usually very helpful in providing printed information as well as speakers on current topics.

The **Pregnancy Center** in Pinellas County offers an abstinence program for middle schools. Contact **Jan Mills** at 727-545-8282 extension 232 or e-mail at janmills@use100.net. Most counties have Pregnancy Centers.

PCCPTA and **Pinellas County Schools Police** have produced a “**Guidelines for Teen Parties**” at: Hard copies available on request.

www.pinellas.k12.fl.us/forParents/files/4E564099D2194BA694078C7775A41C34.pdf

Community Awareness/Involvement

Involve students in PTSA by creating board positions to include them. Include students from all groups. **Have a Multi-Cultural Night**.

Sweet Sixteen Birthday Card- This is for all students turning 16 to remind them of the importance to drive responsibly. **Prom Promise**- State Farm Insurance

Clothes Closet for students to get prom dresses or other clothing. Guidance Counselors can be very helpful in identifying these students

PTSA School Dance/ Parents Night Out

- Every student who is a PTSA member gets free admission. Middle Schools can also have a **Parents Night Out** and have a DJ or an open gym for children to gather. PTSAs can organize this with school involvement

The **Museum of Florida History**, the state museum in Tallahassee, hosts a **Florida History Fair** in May. Why not set up an entry with your students? This year the fair was held on May 20th. There were 700 student participants from 24 counties presenting 414 entries. You can contact the museum at www.flheritage.com/museum/programs/history/fair.

There are a number of civic educational programs for grades K-12 from the **Florida League of Cities**. The topics range from the ABCs of City Government to City-School Partnership Ideas. You can view their website at www.flcities.com.

Public Speaking/ Toastmasters- the Toastmasters organization is willing to do presentations on public speaking. Contact them at www.toastmasters.org

Hurricane Preparedness- FEMA www.ready.gov/business

Safety Issues

Ask your school's **SRO** to speak on relevant safety topics (any time of the year) such as "gangs." The SROs may have DVDs on other topics. A great one is on Designer Drugs.

Latch Key Kids – especially for Sixth Grade parents (beginning of the school year), are discussed in a program by **Devereux Kids** of the Pinellas County Health Department. This program is called **Front Porch**. Its focus is on community involvement and does include latch key children. For more information please phone **Priscilla McFadden** at 727- 552-2290.

Escape School (any time of the year) is a child safety program presented by **Dignity Memorial**. Its target audience is 3rd to 8th Graders. Phone **Cheryl Godbout** at 561-585-0555 extension 219 to book a presentation. They also have **Spanish speakers and brochures**.

Internet Safety sheets are also available from **Connect with Kids**, 1-888-598-5437 or www.connectwithkids.com.

Corporal Denise Nestor, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, is willing to speak at schools and address parents about this topic throughout the school year. She also has many pamphlets addressing:

Sexual predators

Sex Predator and Offender Tracking Unit (S.P.O.T.) of Pinellas County Sheriff's Office at 727-582-7768

FDLE Sexual Predator and Offender List at www.pinellascounty.org/offender/default.htm

Internet Safety

(Also see **i-SAFE America** at www.isafe.org and **National PTA's** archive at http://www.pta.org/archive_article_details_1117655691078.html)

The Florida Suncoast **SAFE KIDS** Coalition is sponsored by All Children's Hospital. Their mission is to fight the unintentional injury of children. **Jean Shoemaker** is the coordinator

and can be reached at 800-756-SAFE or 727-767-8581 or shoemakj@allkids.org. Their website is www.allkids.org. Check local hospitals.

More Health Incorporated, a non-profit outreach organization, has functioned as an educational outreach program of Tampa General Hospital, teaching health education and injury prevention in the Hillsborough County School system (K-12 Grades) and the community. Its Pinellas County partner is All Children's Hospital. They currently teach 9 out of their 24 safety lessons in Pinellas. There are three programs they teach (and supply all books) for Grades 6 and 7 – Firearm Safety II “Responsibility, Respect and Reason”; Fitness, Nutrition and Bone Health “Fit For Life”; Teen Pregnancy Prevention/Sexual Abstinence “Choice Not Chance.” For more information call **Karen Pesce**, director of More Health at 813-287-5032. Their website is www.morehealthinc.org.

Plan a Health Week/ Health Day- Plan a day or a week to highlight student health concerns:

Monday- Physical Health- Blood Pressures/ Pulse- involve the School RN

Tuesday- AIDS Awareness- Might correspond with first week in December

Wednesday- Substance Abuse- Involve the local hospitals and health departments

Thursday- Have a giveaway day and get donations of toiletries from local stores

Friday- Competition among grades for posters/ tee shirt designs- be creative! Have the students get involved with the topics as well as the organization. Most Health Instructors as well as PE instructors are willing to assist with this as well as Guidance Counselors. Be Creative!!!