

Massachusetts PTA

PTA News You Can Use

Massachusetts PTA SPRING FLING

Annual Meeting
March 15, 2008
Spring Hill Suites
4:30 to 11:00 p.m.

SPECIAL ROOM RATES For CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

Spring Hill Suites
27 Andrews Parkway
Devens, MA 01434
978.772.3030

\$119+tax
double or queen

First Come, First Served

RESERVE by MARCH 1

4:30 - 5:00 pm
5:00 - 5:30 pm

Student Entertainment

General Meeting

- * Color Guard
- * Pledge of Allegiance
- * Board of Director Introduction
- * Election
- * Bylaws
- * President's Report



5:30 - 6:15 pm
6:15 pm
7:00 pm
7:30 pm

Dinner (more student entertainment)
Keynote Speaker – Marcella Pixley
Awards
Installation and Party!!

Awards

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Check out www.masspta.org!

A MESSAGE FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS PTA PRESIDENT...

January 2008

It is with a heavy heart that I write my final letter as the President of Massachusetts PTA. When I wrote my first letter, I was unsure of what was to come and what the reaction would be from those in the Commonwealth. By mid-term, I was feeling confident and fulfilled. Now, I'm sorry to see it end.

Let me show you what we have done together during my term. Together we've ...

- * Created and maintained consistent, respectful, meaningful, and two-way communication between you, state PTA leaders, and the state PTA office
- * Participated in meetings and conferences, built partnerships with other organizations in Massachusetts and New England, and ensured parents' voices were heard loud and clear in Boston and Washington D.C.
- * Spearheaded the first ever New England PTAs Extravaganza in 2007
- * Streamlined procedures to create an economical and financially sound state PTA organization
- * Made www.masspta.org a resource for both PTA leaders and parents across the state
- * Faced challenges head on, met them confidence, and handled them with kindness, knowledge, and efficiency
- * Drank coffee together, shared our stories, and celebrated our children

My job is not finished. Our new president, Kim Hunt, will be installed into office on March 15, 2008 at our **Spring Fling**. She has graciously given me a job on the board with the charge of continuing to grow new PTA's across the state. I will be the Extension Chair and will be in communities talking to parent groups about the value of PTA. Please join me! If you have an interest in sharing your PTA experience with other parents, I would love to have you join me as I reach out to Boston, Springfield, and all other points.

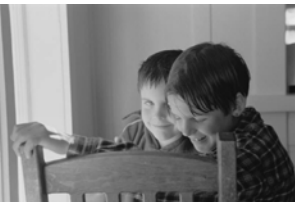
Finally, please join us on March 15 in Devens at our **Spring Fling** to celebrate the end of my term and the beginning of Kim's time as President. Additionally, you will vote for your next president-elect, the rest of the Massachusetts PTA officers, and several proposed bylaws changes. We know how valuable your time is and how important it is to celebrate everyone's successes. So, the **Spring Fling** IS the annual meeting of Massachusetts PTA and will take the place of a traditional multiple day convention. We'll be doing a little work (elections and bylaws), some learning (our keynote speaker), much celebrating (awards), and lots of fun (the party!).



Check out our new award – the **Spirit of PTA Award**. This award is given at the **Spring Fling** and allows you to honor someone in your community who has been of value. You can also honor a leader or membership driver with our **Carol Woodbury Leadership Award** and **Barbara Bailey Membership Award**. All of the information is in this newsletter and on our website.

It's been a pleasure leading such an incredible group of individuals from across the state. I know that you'll keep on doing the awesome work you do and I look forward to continuing that work with you.

Until I see you in March,
Michelle



True friendship has many ingredients. It isn't seen with the eyes, it is felt with the heart when there is trust, understanding, secrets, loyalty, and sharing.

Friendship is a feeling very rarely found in life, but when it is found it has profound impact on one's well-being, strength, and character.

A true friendship does not need elaborate gifts or spectacular events in order to be valuable or valued. To ensure long-lasting quality and satisfaction, a friendship only needs certain key ingredients: undying loyalty, unmatched understanding, unsurpassed trust, deep and soulful secrets, and endless sharing.

These ingredients, mixed with personality and a sense of humor, can make a friendship last a lifetime. May you find many true friends in your life. (Author Unknown)

Please check all that apply:

- Local Unit Member
- Local Unit Board Member
- Council PTA Board Member
- State PTA Board Member
- State PTA staff
- National PTA Board
- National PTA Staff
- Teacher
- Administrator
- School Committee/Board Member
- Community Member
- Sponsor

Early Bird Special

Register before February 1 and be entered into a drawing for \$250 worth of prizes!

Please complete entire registration form (may be photocopied if needed.)

Payment **MUST** accompany form to be processed.

Submit a separate form for each registrant. If you are taking advantage of the **reduced price** for your 4th member, please send in all forms together.

All **substitutions** must be made in writing and are accepted at any time.

Cancellations made in writing **BEFORE** February 15 will receive a full refund. There will be no refunds on or after February 15 as meals must be guaranteed.

Substitutions and/or cancellations will NOT be accepted by phone. Email to info@masspta.org or send to the address below.

Make checks payable to MA PTA; mail with registration form to:

Massachusetts PTA
P.O. Box 421
Rehoboth, MA 02769

**Massachusetts PTA
Spring Fling 2008**

March 15, 2008 * Spring Hill Suites, Devens, MA

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Name for Badge: _____

PTA Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____

In case of emergency, please contact:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____ (daytime) _____ (evening)

Registration Type

Check Full, Awards Only, OR Student and circle corresponding fee.	Received on Or Before February 15		Received After February 15	
	Member/	Non-Member	Member/	Non-Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Registration Includes full buffet dinner & entertainment	\$35	\$35	\$45	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony Only	\$25	\$25	\$30	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25

Total Amount from Above: \$ _____
 Minus 4th Member Discount: - **10.00**
 Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

SAVE!! Send three members — the 4th is \$10 off!

4:00 to 11:00 p.m.

Agenda items include: Awards, election of officers, entertainment, proposed bylaw amendments, basket raffle, and keynote speaker.

Honor one of your special PTA members, receive awards, network with others, make your voice heard in YOUR state organization, hear our keynote speaker address the subject of bullying, buy a chance at a basket full of goodies, enjoy the entertainment, and **have fun!**

Special room rate of \$119 + tax for a double or queen room

Rooms are first-come first-served and must be reserved **by March 1st**. Make sure to say that you are with the Massachusetts PTA to take advantage of the block of rooms reserved.

Spring Hill Suites
27 Andrews Parkway
Devens, Massachusetts 01434
978-772-3030



MASSACHUSETTS PTA 2008 PTA Awards

Deadline—February 20th

All entries will receive recognition during Massachusetts PTA's **Spring Fling**. The local unit with the most inspiring story, most creative membership campaign, and best newsletter will receive a trophy to celebrate your PTAs' successes. Winners will also be celebrated in print and on the website.

The Carol Woodbury Leadership Award. Carol Woodbury was the president of the Massachusetts PTA from 1999-2002. During her term, she inspired units across the state to work together and form positive relationships with school administrations and the community. Carol continues to work on behalf of students, parents and teachers in Massachusetts where she works as a superintendent.

To apply: Write a brief description of an inspiring leader in your local unit. Tell us what makes that person inspiring and how it made a difference in your school/community.

The Barbara Bailey Membership Award. Barbara Bailey was the president of the Massachusetts PTA in the early 1990's. During her term (and beyond!), she was able to help units manage memberships, bylaws, and conflicts. To commemorate her continued dedication to units across the state, we are honored to name this award after her.

To apply: Describe a successful membership drive that your unit has completed during the past year. All entries will receive recognition during Massachusetts PTA's Convention at the New England PTAs Extravaganza. The local unit with the most inspiring story will receive a trophy to celebrate the PTA's success in his/her honor and recognition on the Massachusetts PTA website and in the "Massachusetts PTA Update."

Newsletter Award: Send in copy of at least two different newsletters to the award chair.

Spirit of PTA Award: **NEW** award! This award recognizes volunteers who promote and encourage the essence of PTA in their communities ... *everyChild.oneVoice*. Complete and mail the application to honor that person who is special to YOUR PTA.

Local Unit Name: _____ Town/City: _____

Contact Name: _____ Email: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Award for which applying:

Carol Woodbury Leadership Award

Newsletter Award

Barbara Bailey Membership Award

Spirit of PTA Award

Send this form and applicable materials to: **Award Chair, Massachusetts PTA, PO Box 421, Rehoboth, MA 02769**
Or email to: info@masspta.org

Spirit of PTA Award

Spirit of PTA Award

The **Spirit of PTA** award recognizes volunteers who promote and encourage the essence of PTA in their communities ... *everyChild.oneVoice*.

Massachusetts PTA celebrates volunteers who are outstanding members of PTA and who work for ALL children. Single out that special person who deserves to be publicly honored for their extra effort. Honor a senior citizen, teacher, custodian, superintendent, secretary, lunchroom attendant, business person or anyone who "goes the extra mile" for your PTA and the children of your community.

YOU choose who in your community should be honored at the statewide event in March 2008. The only requirement Massachusetts PTA places upon the honoree is that he/she must be a PTA member and an active contributor to your community.

Honorees will receive recognition at the ceremony to be held on March 15, 2008 at the Massachusetts PTA Spring Fling. This award is bestowed **only** at this event. If you want to honor someone at another time during the school year, think about giving them a Massachusetts PTA Honorary Life Membership award.

1. Complete this application.
2. Mail this form to the MA PTA Office by February 20, 2008.
3. Make **Spring Fling** reservations for your honoree and their guests by using this form.

PTA Name _____ Region _____

Voted by Executive Committee Board of Directors General Membership

Name of person submitting application: _____ Phone: _____

Address/City/Zip _____

Email _____

TWO current PTA officers must sign this application form.

Title _____ Print Name _____ Signature _____

Title _____ Print Name _____ Signature _____

*The following MUST be completed in its entirety.
Please answer the questions below on an additional sheet of paper.*

Name of Honoree _____

Number of PTA Years _____ Current PTA Member Yes No

If a current member, list unit name: _____

1. How does this individual support PTA and its mission?
2. What does this individual do to encourage parent involvement in your school/community?
3. How is this individual one voice for all children?
4. In 100 words or less, tell us what you would like to share with everyone about your honoree. This will be read at the "Spirit of PTA" Gala during the awards presentation.

***Your PTA may want to consider providing your honoree with a paid registration to the "Spirit of PTA" Gala. This is a legitimate PTA expense!
Don't forget to invite your superintendent, principal and other guests.***

Mail completed application to: Massachusetts PTA, P.O. Box 421, Rehoboth, MA 02769.



Massachusetts PTA Discount Nights at the Celtics!

½ PRICE PRE-SEASON GAMES: 50% off all seats!

Wednesday	October 17 th	vs. New York	7:30 PM
Friday	October 26 th	vs. Cleveland	7:30 PM

Lower Level Seats: \$32.50 (reg. \$65)

Balcony Seats: \$22.50, \$17.50, or \$12.50 (reg. \$45, \$35, and \$25)

BONUS VALUE GAMES: \$5 and \$10 Discounts

Thursday	November 29 th	vs. New York	8:00 PM
Wednesday	January 2 nd	vs. Houston	7:30 PM
Wednesday	February 13 th	vs. New York	7:30 PM

Lower Level Seats: \$55 (reg. \$65)

Balcony Seats: \$35, \$30, or \$20 (reg. \$45, \$35, and \$25)

SUPER VALUE GAMES: \$10 and \$20 Discounts

Wednesday	November 21 st	vs. Golden State	7:30 PM
Wednesday	December 12 th	vs. Sacramento	7:30 PM
Wednesday	January 9 th	vs. Charlotte	7:30 PM
Monday	January 14 th	vs. Washington	7:30 PM
Wednesday	January 23 rd	vs. Toronto	7:30 PM
Wednesday	April 16 th	vs. New Jersey	7:30 PM

Lower Level Seats: \$60 (reg. \$65)

Balcony Seats: \$35, \$30, or \$20 (reg. \$45, \$35, and \$25)

TO ORDER CALL CHRIS SARGENT AT 617-854-8060 OR EMAIL
masspta@celtics.com!

Looking for a game that isn't listed? If you want tickets to another game, please contact Chris Sargent at 617-854-8060 or email masspta@celtics.com. Tickets are limited and served on a first-come, first-served basis!





MARCELLA PIXLEY teaches eighth grade Language Arts at the Carlisle Public Schools. Her poetry has been published in literary journals such as *Prairie Schooner*, *Feminist Studies*, *Sow's Ear Poetry Review* and *Poet Lore*, and she has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Ms Pixley lives in an antique farm house in Westford Massachusetts with her husband and two sons. She is a graduate of Vassar College, University of Tennessee and Bread Loaf School of English.

Excerpt From *Freak* by Marcella Pixley

The only place on earth I hate as much as the lockers is the school bus. The school bus is a physical map of who's cool and who isn't. No one tells you where to sit. There isn't any seating chart. But if you know who you are, you know where to go. Here's how it works: the more popular you are, the closer you sit to the back of the bus; the more of a loser you are, the closer you sit to the front. It's as easy as that. In the back, the kids vandalize seat covers, make out, pass notes, and throw spit wads at the front of the bus; in the front of the bus, kids read, do homework, look out the window, and try to disappear.

Kids at the back of the bus are beautiful. They find each other because being seen together makes them look even better. Kids at the front of the bus know they are defective. They have pimples or glasses or crooked teeth or greasy hair. They are embarrassed to be seen.

The only thing more dangerous than being a loser with a group of popular kids behind you is being part of a group of losers all corralled together, like pathetic lambs waiting to be slaughtered. And here's the worst part. We hate each other. We hate each other even more than the popular kids hate us. We hate each other because when we look at each other, we can see what they are laughing at.

What Others Have to Say

"An expertly – and lovingly – narrated story about girls and bullying . . . Stunning." – Starred, *Kirkus Reviews*
 "First Time novelist Pixley crafts a disturbing tale that taps into the harsh reality of what it means to be a middle school outcast . . . observant and tough, Miriam's voice has a knife edge that tears past the surface." – Starred, *Publisher's Weekly*

"Pixley writes with well-crafted intensity of a girl in an agony of perplexed exclusion . . . readers will be intrigued by her eventual ability to make a new way for herself." – Starred, *Bulliten of Center for Children's Books*
 "A riveting, heartbreaking, ultimately redemptive book about the cruelty of middle school students." – Starred *Book Sense*

"Middle School girls will read this book and realize how many girls are just like them." – VOYA

"Marcella Pixley has created a character and a story filled with raw emotions. The sense of isolation is thick as you read deeper into Miriam's story. You will never forget Miriam or the lessons she manages to teach. . . an inspirational story for anyone who has ever been known as a freak." – *Teens Read Too*

"Several of the harassment scenes are very difficult to read if you've ever been there yourself. . . It will remind readers of just how far they've come by way of their own fervent resilience and fierce individuality." – *Bay Area Reporter*

"Wow! *Freak* is heartbreakingly funny, heartbreakingly spot-on, and heartbreaking. If you've ever been on the outside – and you have – Miriam Fisher is your new best friend." – Chris Crutcher, author of *The Sledding Hill*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
 Massachusetts PTA Spring Fling

Massachusetts PTA

P.O. Box 421
Rehoboth, MA

Phone: 508.347.7055
Fax: 866-669-6257
E-mail: info@masspta.org

www.masspta.org

If you are no longer an officer of this PTA, please complete the Officer & Chairs Update Form online at www.masspta.org/forms or call the State PTA office and let us know ... and pass this newsletter on to the president. Thank you.

At the conclusion of an exhausting two-week seminar, the great teacher and philosopher, Alexander Papaderos asked the group, "Are there any questions?"

A man in attendance waved his hand. "Dr. Papaderos, what is the meaning of life?" There was laughter from the group. And they were eager to leave.

Papaderos held up his hand and stilled the room. He looked at the man for a long time, asking with his eyes if the man was serious. Seeing that he was he said, "I will answer your question." Taking his wallet out of his hip pocket, he fished into his billfold and brought out a very small round mirror, about the size of a quarter. Then he said:

"When I was a small child, during the war, we were very poor. We lived in a remote village. One day, walking on the road, I found the broken pieces of a mirror. A German motorcycle had been wrecked in that place. I tried to find all the pieces and put them together, but it was not possible. So I kept only the largest piece. This one." He held it up for all to see.

"By scratching it on a stone, I made it round. I began to play with it as a toy and became fascinated by the fact that I could reflect light into dark places where the sun would never shine—in deep holes and crevices and dark closets. It became a game for me to get light into the most inaccessible places I could find.

I kept the little mirror. I would take it out in idle moments and continue the challenge of the game. As I became a grown man, I grew to understand that this was not just a child's game, but a metaphor for what I might do with my life.

I came to understand that I am not the light nor the source of the light. But light—truth, understanding, knowledge—is there. Light does exist. But it will only shine in many dark places if I reflect it. I am the source.

I am a fragment of a mirror whose whole design and shape I do not know. Nevertheless, with what I have, I can reflect light into the dark places of the world—into the black places in the hearts of men—and in my own way change some things in some people. Perhaps others may see and do likewise.

This is what I am about. This is the meaning of my life."