

## The Hand—A Message of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day was drawing near. The first grade teacher gave her class a fun assignment — to draw a picture of something for which they were thankful.

Most of the class might be considered economically disadvantaged, but still many would celebrate the holiday with turkey and other traditional goodies of the season. These, the teacher thought, would be the subjects of most of her student's art. And they were.

But Douglas made a different kind of picture. Douglas was a different kind of boy. He was the teacher's true child of misery, frail and unhappy. As other children played at recess, Douglas was likely to stand close by her side. One could only guess at the pain Douglas felt behind those sad eyes.

Yes, his picture was different. When asked to draw a picture for which he was thankful, he drew a hand. Nothing else. Just an empty hand.

His abstract image captured the imagination of his peers. Whose hand could it be? One child guessed it was the hand of a farmer, because farmers raise turkeys. Another suggested a police officer, because the police protect and care for people. Still others guessed it was the hand of God, for God feeds us. And so the discussion went—until the teacher almost forgot the young artist himself.

When the children had gone on to other assignments, she paused at Douglas' desk, bent down and asked him whose had it was.

The little boy looked away and murmured, "It's yours, teacher."

She recalled the times she had taken his hand and walked with him here and there, as she had other students. How often had she said, "Take my hand, Douglas, we'll go outside." Or, "Let me show you how to hold a pencil." Or, "Let's do this together." Douglas was most thankful for his teacher's hand.

Brushing aside a tear, she went on with her work.

The story speaks of more than thankfulness. It says something about teachers teaching and parents parenting and friends showing friendship, and how much it means to the Douglasses of the world. They might not always say thanks. But they'll remember the hand that reaches out.

— Author Unknown

## SCPTA Nomination Information

*The following positions on the SCPTA Board are open:*

*President-Elect (must have served on the SCPTA board), Vice President of Programs, and Communications Chairman. The nomination form is available under PTA Leaders/Forms at [www.scpta.org](http://www.scpta.org).*

**The nominations deadline is November 25, 2011.**

### President-Elect

It shall be the responsibility of the President-Elect to:

- ◆ Act as an aide to the President;
- ◆ Serve as chair of the Leadership Training Committee;
- ◆ Serve as chair of the District Presidents;
- ◆ Serve on the Convention committee as convention coordinator
- ◆ Present workshops at the state and local level, when asked; and
- ◆ Fulfill other duties assigned by the SCPTA President or Board of Directors; and in the best interest of the organization, shall be available to assume the office of the Presidency.
- ◆ Serves on the Endowment Board by virtue of office;
- ◆ Be responsible with the Legislative Chair for updating the SCPTA position statements;
- ◆ Pre-requisite for election: The nominee for President–Elect shall have served at least one term of two years on the SCPTA Board of Directors.



See Our  
Membership  
Grow

### Vice-President for Programs

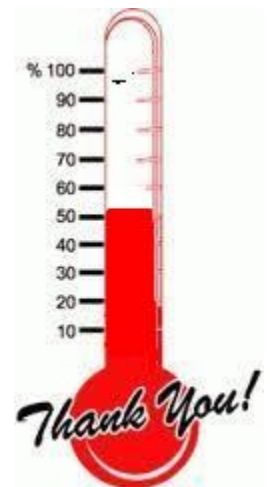
The Vice-President for Programs shall:

- ◆ Act as an aide to the President, and fulfill other duties assigned by the SCPTA President or the Board of Directors;
- ◆ Serve as chair of the Programs Committee;
- ◆ Promote awareness of the scope and significance of PTA programs and projects; and
- ◆ Present workshops at the state and local level, when asked;

### Communications Chairman

The Communications Chair shall:

- ◆ Assist the President and Executive Director with electronic and written communications;
- ◆ Raise awareness of PTA through resources to PTA members and community partners;
- ◆ Serve as chairman of Communications Committee; and
- ◆ Publish deadlines for materials to be submitted for publications.



Be a part of the  
excitement  
watching SCPTA  
reach 100%  
membership!



## Swipe, Sip, Hooray!

National PTA and [Jamba Juice](http://jambajuice.com) have formed a partnership to support parents and teachers in creating school-based programs that encourage healthy lifestyle choices. Use your School Appreciation swipe card at any Jamba Juice location and a percentage of the sale goes back to your PTA unit. For more information about the program and to sign up to receive swipe cards, visit [jambajuice.com/pta](http://jambajuice.com/pta). And be healthy!

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## T-Mobile, USA, Benefits Provider

Lower your wireless costs while expanding your connectivity. Activate a new line by calling 866-464-8662 and receive a waived activation fee (\$35) in addition to the 14% discount on your monthly recurring fees! Reference the PTA Promotional Code, 9788TMOFAV along with your PTA Unit Number to sign up today!

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## December 5, 2011 Reflections Theme Search

National PTA is looking for a theme for the 2013-14 Reflections Program year. Student entries must be submitted to the SCPTA Office by **Friday, November 11.**

National PTA must receive all State PTA entries by Monday, December 5.

Visit [http://www.ptareflections.org/cs/theme\\_search](http://www.ptareflections.org/cs/theme_search) for more information.

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## “Let’s Move” Salad Bars to School

This “Let’s Move” initiative is supported by First Lady Michelle Obama. The goal is to fund and award 6000 salad bars over the next three years. Visit [www.saladbar.com](http://www.saladbar.com) to learn how to apply for a grant and move towards a healthier tomorrow!

## Health and Wellness



Did you know that 1 in 4 teens has abused a **prescription medication**? Or that prescription drug abuse is the nation's fastest-growing drug problem as measured by emergency department visits and mortality data?

To better educate you and your school, the National Association of School Nurses has made available to schools a FREE Tool Kit filled with valuable material, i.e., school assembly videos with Dr. Drew Pinsky, posters, etc.—everything a school would need to hold an assembly to spread this message about prescription medication abuse. Learn more about the campaign by visiting [www.smartmovesmartchoices.org](http://www.smartmovesmartchoices.org)

Another program available to keeping your children safe is Safe Disposal, 1 of 4 key parts of the President's Prescription Drug Prevention Plan. Learn how to dispose of expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs for destruction. Visit [ONDCP](http://ONDCP) for more valuable information.

You will not look at Gummi Bears the same way after viewing this video about a **new drinking fad** teens are doing to avoid detection. After viewing forward to every parent you know!

[www.clickondetroit.com/video/29384556](http://www.clickondetroit.com/video/29384556)



South Carolina has joined [37 other states](#) and the federal government to make illegal the highly addictive and dangerous substances of **hallucinogenic bath salts and synthetic marijuana**. The bath salts-like product is marketed under such names as “Ivory Wave” or “Bliss”. The synthetic marijuana is known as, “Blaze” and “Red X Dawn”. Both of these drugs are deadly.

## Preparing for College

Do you have a senior preparing for college applications? Confused by all the resources? Help your college-bound student understand the type and amount of aid they qualify for and compare aid packages offered by different institutions. Visit consumer financial protection bureau to learn how to get the right financial aid information.



## Helen Stokes Scholarship Information

The Helen Stokes Memorial Scholarship Fund started in 1956 is a means to encourage SC high school seniors to enter the teaching profession. If you know of a 2012 graduating senior entering the teaching profession who meets the scholarship criteria, here is an opportunity to award that student with scholarship funds. The [application form](#) can be found on the SCPTA website at [www.scpta.org](http://www.scpta.org).



### Why was PTA established?

**The National Congress of Mothers, irrespective of creed, color, or condition, stands for all parenthood, childhood, and homehood. Its platform is the universe, its organization, the human race.**

**April  
21,  
2012**

### SAVE THE DATE!

**2012 Annual Convention  
In Myrtle Beach.**



## What's Happening in Your School?

### District 6

Annual Raider Family Day on Saturday, November 19 at WJ Keenan High School. This years theme is Creating the Anti-Bully. We are anticipating a day full of informative classes, activities and entertainment for Professionals, Teachers, Parents and Students from around the State. The event is free to the public but we are receiving registrations. Register online at [www.midlandscenter.com](http://www.midlandscenter.com).

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### District 13

Crestwood HS received an Education Economic Development Act At-Risk Student Innovative Competitive grant from the SC Dept. of Ed. The grant extends over 3 years for a total amount of \$245,000.00. Congrats to Crestwood HS!

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### District 9, City Council

Students at James Simons Elementary are busy reading thanks to Book Worm Angels, a Chicago-based non-profit dedicated to building in-classroom libraries and encouraging recreational reading. Due to budget cuts, the library at James Simons Elementary had to begin limited hours to be open. But through friends of the nonprofit founder, Ren and Judy Manning of Charleston, the school has been selected to receive thousands of books from Book Worm Angel.

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### District 23

Eight schools applying for the Arts Curricular Innovation Grants were awarded the monies. The grant will add an "arts area" where none existed. Congrats to the following: Eagle Nest Elementary, Fort Dorchester Elementary, Knightsville Elementary, Oakbrook Elementary, Oakbrook Middle, Rollings Middle, River Oaks Middle, and Spann Elementary.

## What's Happening in Your School?

### District 13

Congrats to Leah Simon for being selected the Teacher of the Week at Pocalla Springs Elementary. On hand to present Leah with school were Scott Richardson, representative from Forms and Supply Inc., Randolph Bynum, superintendent for Sumter School District, and Laura Brown, principal for Pocalla Springs Elementary.

### District 23

Summerville High School football coach, John McKissick was highlighted on the national Friday Night Football show. For 60 years, Coach McKissick has been coaching at Summerville HS. To hear more, visit [www2.com/news/2011/oct/09/summerville-football-coach-gets-national-recogniti-ar-2531913](http://www2.com/news/2011/oct/09/summerville-football-coach-gets-national-recogniti-ar-2531913).

Way to Go, Coach McKissick!



# Happy Thanksgiving



**You don't have to be a parent with a child in school to be an advocate for children! Join the Advocate for South Carolina's Children PTA TODAY!**

Visit [www.scpta.org](http://www.scpta.org) and joining is a click away! Or contact the State Office to receive a registration flyer.

South Carolina Congress of  
Parents and Teachers

**SOUTH CAROLINA PTA OFFICE**  
1826 Henderson Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

**Phone: 800-743-3782**  
803-765-0806  
**Fax: 803-765-0399**  
**Email: office@scpta.org**  
**Website: www.scpta.org**

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Have a question about PTA? Don't know who to ask?

Then contact the SCPTA office at 800-743-3782 and Lorene Welch will be happy to help you! The SCPTA Office is here to make your PTA life easier! The office hours are 9am - 5pm Monday through Friday.

**CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB! [www.scpta.org](http://www.scpta.org)**



## Important Dates

**November 15, 2011**—990 to the IRS and a copy to SCPTA

**December 1, 2011**—Second Membership & Dues Report Date

**February 8, 2012**—Legislative Conference, Clarion Hotel, Columbia, SC and Reflections Turn-In

**February 26, 2012**—Open House at SCPTA Office

**March 1, 2012**—Final Membership & Dues Report Date

**April 21, 2012**—89th Annual Convention, Myrtle Beach, SC— Sea Mist Oceanfront Resort

## SCPTA Executive Committee

**President:** Martha C. Knight, [mknight3294@yahoo.com](mailto:mknight3294@yahoo.com)

**President Elect:** vacant

**Vice President for Legislation:** Clifford Fulmore, [Clifford\\_fulmore@hotmail.com](mailto:Clifford_fulmore@hotmail.com)

**Secretary:** Jerry Boozer, [jerryboozer3@hotmail.com](mailto:jerryboozer3@hotmail.com)

**Vice President for Membership Field Services:** Tanya Robinson, [krobinson20@sc.rr.com](mailto:krobinson20@sc.rr.com)

**Vice President for Programs:** Connie Bush, [conniebush@marykay.com](mailto:conniebush@marykay.com)

**Treasurer:** Jodie Keener, [jkeener@pinnaclebanksc.com](mailto:jkeener@pinnaclebanksc.com) or [mjkeener1@att.net](mailto:mjkeener1@att.net)

**District President Representatives:** Shawn Rearden, [reardenshawn@yahoo.com](mailto:reardenshawn@yahoo.com) and Susan Strohm, [susanuga83@aol.com](mailto:susanuga83@aol.com)