

(C) 2009 Virginia PTA

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Did you know . . .

. . . that membership is open to anyone who believes in the mission and purposes of national Parent Teacher Association?

[Learn more](#)

Editor's note:

Due to the press of Convention business, the next edition of the Virginia PTA VOICE will publish Tuesday, Nov. 17.



More walking zones?



Dear PTA Member,

Registration for Virginia PTA/Flu Busters' on-site flu vaccination and heart-healthy screening has been extended!

Because manufacturing delays in delivering some supplies have affected local clinics and doctors, the deadline for the PTA/Flu Busters pre-registration has been extended to next Tuesday, **Nov. 10**.

Clinic details: Saturday, **Nov. 14**, Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center.

To have enough staff and supplies on hand, **pre-registration is required**.

Costs:

Heart-healthy screenings -- \$30

Seasonal influenza shots -- \$25

FluMist nasal spray seasonal vaccine -- \$30

[If H1N1 is available, cost about \$13-17. Check web site for latest info.]

At least 50 must register by Nov. 10 to hold the clinic.

Sign up [online](#):

- click on the **schedule a vaccination** tab at the top right corner
- Then on type of clinic, select **schools** in the drop-down menu
- type in the Fredericksburg zipcode **22401**
- select **VA State PTA** and
- pick an appointment time

Fearing personal-injury lawsuits and the horrible publicity that comes if bad things happen to children en route to, or from, school, many Virginia school divisions have tried to trim their risks by loading as many students as possible onto school buses.

In rural Virginia, there is little choice other than riding "the cheese" (yellow school bus). But in suburban areas and cities, policies that have tightly shrunk walking zones are starting to come into question.

Part of that came when gasoline prices skyrocketed mid-2008, blowing up school budgets for transportation. Many hard-hit school boards axed field trips, cross-county sports and after-school activities buses to trim costs. And a few began looking at expanding their walking zones.

Meanwhile, a number of Virginia communities were responding to a 2005 federal law that provided funding to states and programs that developed programs under the banner of "Safe Routes to School."

The purposes of that act were to:

- Permit and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and/or bicycle to school
- Make bicycling and walking to school a safer, more-appealing transportation option, plus encouraging healthy, active lifestyles at an early age
- Help planning, developing and implementing projects and activities to improve safety and to reduce traffic, fuel use and air pollution near schools.

But risk managers still worry that children not safely encased in school buses are in much greater danger of

OR

Sign up with a toll-free telephone call at 866-782-3014.

Webb is 2010 Virginia Teacher of the Year



Catherine S. Webb, a speech language pathologist and special education teacher at Narrows Elementary/Middle School in Giles County, was named the 2010 Virginia Teacher of the Year.

Webb was selected from the eight regional teachers of the year announced in September. She will be Virginia's nominee to the Council of Chief State School Officers' National Teacher of the Year program, to be announced next spring.

In recognition of her selection, Webb received a \$5,000 award and a ring from the Apple Federal Credit Union Education Foundation; \$2,500 from Richmond law firm Allen, Allen, Allen & Allen; a classroom technology package from Street & Company Audio Visual in conjunction with SMARTerKids Foundation; educational opportunities from several public and private colleges and universities; flowers from Strange's Florists, and an engraved crystal apple.

Convention 2009

Registration for Convention 2009 continues through the Nov. 13-15 event itself. Registration is \$125 per delegate and can be mailed to the state PTA office or brought to the convention site.

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Convention-goers are invited to attend several special events:

Friday - Nov. 13

- **Scholarship Auction**, (see below) featuring the "Brain Show" -- lots of trivia fun with a twist - not to mention fabulous items in the auction! Optional heavy hors d'ouvres, only \$15, or make other dinner plans and just enjoy the auction and show. Cash bar with wine, beer and soda also



becoming victims of crime or injured by distracted drivers.

This is particularly worrisome, they say, when Daylight-Saving Time ends, as it did last weekend, and the routes to and from home are in near darkness. Also a problem is driver distraction due to texting and cell-phone use.

So what do you think?

Send your feedback to us by posting it our web site, [Click here](#). Include your name and town and, if applicable, age(s) of your child(ren). Try for 50 words or fewer. Comments of 75 words or more will be edited for length.

Please send suggestions and ideas for future Feedback questions to public_relations@vapta.org.

available.

Saturday - Nov. 14

- Awards Luncheon featuring: Reflections and Citizenship Essay winners and their families, Volunteers of the Year and their families, Presentations of Lifetime Membership Award and a Distinguished Service Award -- not to mention some entertainment. And then there's the dessert! Only \$20.
- Flu Shot and Heart Health Clinic - sponsored by Flu Busters - separate registration required. Instructions on the web site. (see above)

Sunday - Nov. 15

- Dad and Mom Workshop/Breakfast on ways to encourage parental involvement - features Michelle Frappier, with the Virginia Parental Involvement Resources Center (VPIRC) and Chuck Saylor, national PTA president, and a free breakfast!

Every day:

[Canned Food Drive](#) to benefit the food banks in the Fredericksburg District. Each attendee who contributes will be given a raffle ticket to win a prizes at the close of Convention.



Bids at auction benefits scholarships

Attendees to the Virginia PTA Convention will be able to participate in two auctions of donated goods to benefit the Virginia PTA Scholarship Fund.

On Friday evening, there will be a live auction, and for the rest of the weekend, attendees can participate in a "Chinese Auction" in which the buyer of tickets designates the items the tickets are for. Drawings will be done throughout the remainder of the weekend. Donations may still be made.

Following is a partial list of the items available so far: iPod, digital camera, 10KT gold heart necklace and bracelet set retailed at \$150, custom-made earring and jewelry set, handmade silk scarf made by Cambodian women who are landmine survivors, national PTA gold earrings, national PTA 100th anniversary afghan,

artwork, UVA and/or Virginia Tech basket, Virginia basket, card-making basket (stamps, ink pads, paper, and idea books), gift-card extravaganza baskets, Avon basket, tea basket and sweets basket (with Barnes & Noble gift card).

Cash, checks and credit cards accepted.

For further information or to donate to the auction, contact Ramona Morrow at monamorrow@aol.com.

No permanent cuts, BOE recommends

The Virginia Board of Education has recommended to the governor and the General Assembly that no changes to the way Virginia pays for support staff (e.g., nurses, bus drivers, guidance, attendance) result in *permanent* cuts to funding for K-12 public education.

The recommendation was among many in a detailed report that reviewed [the state's Standards of Quality \(SOQ\)](#), the basic underpinning of public school financing. That position has drawn support from Virginia PTA and others since Gov. Timothy M. Kaine suggested placing a "cap" on funding for support staff last year.



The board did recommend that the governor and General Assembly look at establishing ratios for given support positions (based on a certain number per 1,000 students), as is done with instructional positions.

In the coming weeks, the Department of Education will estimate the cost of funding the SOQ, both using the governor's proposed funding cap and without. By Dec. 18, the governor will propose his 2010-12 state budget, including how to fund support staff, to the General Assembly and to his successor, who will be elected tomorrow.

After Jan. 16, the new governor will propose changes to Kaine's submitted budget, and the General Assembly will proceed to amend and adopt a budget for 2010-12.

Next spring, local school boards will develop budgets for the 2010-11 school year based on what the General Assembly does, and local taxing bodies will make decisions about funding those budgets.

5 Virginia PTAs recognized



Five Virginia PTAs were



among 110 nationwide that received national PTA's [Phoebe Apperson Hearst Family-School Partnerships](#)

awards of merit.

These awards recognize and celebrate PTAs that are successfully implementing the National Standard for Family-School Partnerships. The Award of Merit is presented for commitment to achieve the national standards.

Virginia winners are:

- Fairview Elementary School, Burke
- Lake Braddock Secondary School PTSA, Fairfax Station
- Mosby Woods Elementary School PTA, Fairfax
- Mount Vernon Elementary School PTA, Yorktown
- White Oaks Elementary PTA, Burke

The 2010 Hearst Award applications will be available on the National PTA website on Jan. 15, 2010. Any local, council, district, or region PTA in good standing with Virginia PTA and national PTA may apply.

Marion Akins, chairman
Parental Involvement Committee

83%+ graduated on time in 2009

More than 83 percent of the students in the class of 2009 graduated on time with a diploma, according to the [Virginia Department of Education](#) (VDOE). That rate reflects the percentage of students who were first-time 9th graders in the 2005-06 year and earned a diploma within four years.

[Details](#) by state, school division and schools with a graduating class are available on the DOE web site.



The Virginia Board of Education will hold public hearings and seeks public comment on proposed revisions to the state's English and Science Standards of Learning (SOL).

Both the proposed revised [English](#) and [Science](#) SOLs may

be found on the Virginia Department of Education's web site. Comments on proposed English changes should be e-mailed to Tracy Fair Robertson, English coordinator, at and englishsol@doe.virginia.gov; and, for science to Paula Klonowski, science coordinator, at sciencesol@doe.virginia.gov.

The Board of Education also will hold five public hearings to solicit comments. Two public hearings will be held on Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. at:

Fort Chiswell High School
#1 Pioneer Trail
Max Meadows

Linkhorne Middle School
2525 Linkhorne Dr.
Lynchburg

Three public hearings will be held Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. at:

James River High School
3700 James River Rd.
Midlothian

Robinson Secondary School
5035 Sideburn Rd.
Fairfax

Princess Anne High School
4400 Virginia Beach Blvd
Virginia Beach

Speakers may register for these five public hearings at 6:30 p.m. Speakers will have three minutes to speak and should bring copies of their comments for the board.

Comments proposed SOL changes may be faxed to the Department of Education at 804-786-5466. Mailed comments should be sent to Robertson or Klonowski at the Department of Education, P.O. Box 2120, Richmond, 23218-2120.

Comments are due no later than Nov. 23

Dues deadline weeks away! Remit soon

Dec. 1 is going to be here before we know it. Don't delay making dues payments to Virginia PTA.

This payment must be postmarked on or before Dec. 1 for a PTA unit to remain in good standing. A unit in good standing is eligible to participate in all [PTA programs](#). These include voting at Convention, membership awards, communications program award

and the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Family-School Partnership Awards.

Dues must be paid each year for a unit to be eligible to take advantage of their 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status and to legally solicit for grants and donations.

The dues remittance form is available on the Virginia PTA web site in the [Membership Library](#).

Brenda Sheridan, chairman
Membership Committee
membership@vapta.org

H1N1 flu update: Nov. 2, 2009

Information about vaccine and H1N1 continues to be available at the [state health department website](#), through VDH Inquiry Center at 1-877-ASK-VDH3 or by e-mailing questions to PHIC@vdh.virginia.gov. Also, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated [questions and answers](#) on its web site.

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Click on logo, right, to find clinics near you. Supply is spotty but, at this point, available soon. Call for availability before going to a site.



Briefly . . .

DonorsChoose.org, an online charity program that lets educators apply for grant money and lets the donors pick the projects they want their dollars to fund, has nearly 400 projects in Virginia from which to choose. Virginia PTA is a partner with the non-profit organization.

Save the dates!



Friday: Take Family to School \$1897 grant deadline
Nov. 6-8: Emerging Minority Leaders Conference, national PTA, Atlanta
Nov. 10: FluBuster clinic signup deadline

Nov. 13-15: Convention 2009, Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center

Nov. 15: IRS Form 990 due for PTAs whose fiscal year ended 6/30

Nov. 30-Dec.1: English, science SOL hearings

Dec. 1: Membership dues deadline for 'good standing'

Feb. 1, 2010: PTA Day at the General Assembly

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