



Massachusetts
PTA[®]
everychild. one voice.



The Fun, Carefree Days of Summer are here!
Keep them Healthy and Safe.

Massachusetts Parent Teacher Association
Health, Safety and Wellness Newsletter

Healthy Updates Newsletter

June 2017



Check Out
National PTA
www.pta.org

For Health, Safety and
Wellness Information,
Programs and resources
for you and your members.

Health & Safety

Health

Dear Maryalice,

**AG HEALEY, GE FOUNDATION LAUNCH
SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION
INITIATIVE TO REACH ALL PUBLIC
MIDDLE SCHOOLS IN MASSACHUSETTS**

Your Mass PTA and Mass PTA Health, Safety and Wellness Committee were invited to this Press Conference!
Your Mass PTA will be part of initiative. Read all about this exciting new *Project Here*.

*\$2 Million Initiative Will
Expand Access to Youth
Prevention Education;
Includes First-of-its-*

Learn the strategies of maintaining a student's health.

- Obesity prevention
- Emotional health
- Hunger
- Substance abuse
- Chronic conditions and clean water are taken into consideration.
- Healthy students are absent less often, experience fewer behavior problems and have an easier time learning while at school.

Safety

Safety is a crucial component of effective learning and a key concern for all parents. Find resources of the variety of risks students face, including bullying, unintentional injuries and violence.

Allergies & Anaphylaxis

What parents and schools can do to create a safer learning environment for students with severe allergies. This program is designed to empower parents on emergency response, be informed on how to prepare kids with severe allergies, and educate parents of kids without severe allergies on anaphylaxis risks in schools.

Kind Mobile Education App

Attorney General Maura Healey and the GE Foundation today announced on May 31, 2017 a \$2 million public-private initiative, along with Epicenter Experience and The Herren Project, that will bring new resources to students in every public middle school in Massachusetts to help address the opioid epidemic.



PTA Legislative Chair Kim Hunt, PTA Past Pres., Stephanie Gray, AG Maura Healey, PTA Health Chair, Jackie Coogan, PTA President-elect Maryalice Foisy

AG Healey announced the first-of-its-kind initiative, named Project Here, today at a launch event at the GE headquarters with Ann R. Klee, president of the GE Foundation and vice president of GE's Boston Development & Operations.

They were joined by Chris Herren, Founder of The Herren Project, Paul Krasinski, CEO of Epicenter



Experience, Michael Botticelli, Executive Director of the Grayken Center for Addiction Medicine and Andrew McCall, a recovery coach.

The new initiative will provide substance use prevention education to middle school students through an innovative combination of in-classroom programs, mobile content, and access to a support network of social workers. The GE Foundation has funded this initiative with a \$1.5 million contribution, along with \$500,000 in settlement funds from the AG's Office.

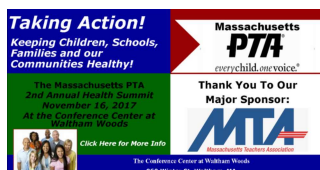
Project Here will provide curriculum materials to every public middle school in Massachusetts, as well as support resources for students who are struggling with addiction, trainings for educators and parents on substance use prevention, and access to an innovative mobile platform with prevention content.

"Education and prevention are the keys to ending the opioid epidemic, and our partnership with the GE Foundation will help us tackle this public health crisis and protect our middle school students from addiction," AG Healey said. "Through a multi-faceted approach - reaching students in the classroom and on their mobile devices - we will empower them to make the right decisions, promote health and wellness, and lead change in their schools and communities. I thank the GE Foundation, Epicenter Experience, and The Herren Project for stepping up to the



Thanks to our Major Sponsor MTA!

Mass Teachers Assoc.



**November 16, 2017
Mass PTA 2nd
Health Summit**
Read our article in this
newsletter for more
info.

Would you
like to participate in
our Mass PTA 2017
Health Summit.



We are accepting
Sponsors' and
Exhibitors'
Applications.
For more information
please contact:
Jackie Coogan
healthsummit@masspta.org
or
Look for Sponsorship
and Exhibitors

plate and contributing their talent and time to this critical effort."

"When GE announced its move to Boston, we also announced a \$50 million philanthropic commitment to the city and surrounding area, with \$15 million of that targeted to community health," said Ann R. Klee. "From the moment we arrived in Boston, we heard from so many that substance use and the opioid crisis was a critical need for the community. We're proud to work with AG Healey on Project Here to educate our youth today and prevent our kids from falling into the vicious cycle of the opioid epidemic."

"We are thrilled to be able to participate and contribute to this important public-private partnership. It is a critical issue to address across our country," said Paul Krasinski, Epicenter Experience CEO. "We realize that people are the epicenter for change and thus developed the core technology for Project Here, to connect people to truly solve people problems together. Whether these middle school students are here, there or anywhere, they will know that we are here to support them and they are empowered to be a hero for others through their knowledge and education."

"The first step in addressing the substance use issues in our communities is to provide education and prevention strategies for children in the middle school years while they are developing a sense of self. All too often we focus on the last day of addiction and not the first. We praise our children for their academic and athletic accomplishments, but fall short on personal wellness," said Chris Herren, Founder of The Herren Project. "I am proud to have The Herren Project be a part of this innovative partnership providing education, support and the opportunity for students to be proud of who they are, to embrace life's challenges without turning to substances knowing that they are good enough and perfect just the way they are."

As a part of Project Here, Epicenter Experience will lead the design of a first-of-its-kind mobile application that will give students, educators, and parents easy access to prevention resources and information, and help young people who are struggling with addiction or the impact of substance use get the help they need and connect with The Herren Project.

Through Project Here, all Massachusetts middle schools will have the opportunity to join the Project Purple Initiative, a program through The Herren Project that helps schools talk with students about the dangers of substance use. Students will also have access to The Herren Project's support team, including social workers ready to

applications starting
NOW!
at

www.masspta.org

respond to students in need of help. Schools can learn more at www.mass.gov/ago/projecthere. This initiative is meant to complement other prevention efforts under way across the state and will include an Advisory Board comprised of key stakeholders and experts.

Today's announcement is the latest effort by AG Healey to address the unmet need for youth prevention and education services to combat the opioid epidemic, a key priority of her administration. In May, the AG's Office distributed \$700,000 in settlement funding directly to school districts, nonprofits and community organizations to fund prevention programming through its Youth Opioid Prevention Grant Program.

If you have questions about Project Here, please contact Catherine Madden in the Attorney General's Office at (617) 963-2140 or projecthere@state.ma.us



Mass PTA represented you well, told our story and they listened!
Being interviewed about Children's Health and the Opioid Epidemic by radio.

Mass PTA President-elect, Maryalice Foisy
and Mass PTA Health Chair, Jackie Coogan

Coming November 16, 2017

**2nd Mass PTA Health Summit
Taking Action!**
**Keeping Children, Schools, Families and
our Communities Healthy!**

Registration starts June 28, 2017!

Taking Action!

Keeping Children, Schools, Families and our Communities Healthy!

Save the Date:
November 16, 2017

The Massachusetts PTA
invites you to join us at our
2nd Annual Health Summit!
Together we will learn, discuss and
take action to keep our children,
families and communities' Healthy!

The Conference Center at Waltham Woods
860 Winter St. Waltham, MA

Registration Coming Soon!
Starting June 28, 2017!
Go To
www.masspta.org



For Them, We Need You!
Join us in supporting them.
Key Note Speakers, workshops, round table
discussions, exhibitors,
learning, networking and advocating
for Them and You!

Immunizations and Vaccines, Keep your children Safe!
Check out the Webinar on August 8, 2017
to Celebrate Immunization Month
&
Going Back to School Healthy and Safe!



Live Webinar!
Tuesday, August 8, 2017
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Building Vaccine Confidence to Ensure the Optimal
Health of Children of Massachusetts

Presenter: Rebecca Vanucci**Immunization Outreach Coordinator, Immunization Program****Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)**

This webinar will outline ways that parents can build their vaccine confidence and become vaccine advocates in their community. The presentation will include information on the benefits of vaccination, common myths about vaccines, school immunization and exemption data, how to find your local school's immunization and exemption rates, the importance of adolescent immunization, and effective communication strategies to build vaccine confidence.

The webinar will include time for a question and answer discussion.

This webinar is free-of-charge. Information on how to register for this webinar is coming shortly in our July issue of Mass PTA Healthy Updates Newsletter.

You may also for more information, please contact:

Cynthia Mc Reynolds at cmcreynolds@mms.org
Program Manager

MCAAP Immunization Initiative

Keeping your Children and Teens Safe
from Concussions and Head Injuries?



**Did you know....
Concussions in youth can lead to long-term health
consequences if not properly managed?**

**The Massachusetts Parent Teachers
Association in partnership with Mass. Dept. of
Public Health and Concussion Legacy Foundation
is offering Informative Discussion Groups for
parents, educators, families and community
members across the state on the
**PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT
OF CONCUSSIONS and
HEAD INJURIES IN SPORTS.****

In this workshop you'll learn about:

**Getting the facts!
Learn what to do!
Know how and where to get help!**



If you are interested in bringing this training to your area
Jackie Coogan at health@masspta.org.
Linda Brown at linda.brown@state.ma.us

**Look for Workshops and Discussion Groups across
the state coming soon in your area(region).**

**Coming in September to Plymouth, Somerville,
Wachusett/Princeton Regional and Southbridge**

**Our Major Sponsor of the 2017 Health Summit
Mass Teachers Association
Thank You!**

**Thanks To the Massachusetts Teachers
Association(MTA) our
Major Sponsor and Partner!!
The MTA has granted Mass PTA Health, Safety
and Wellness Committee for our 2nd Annual
Health Summit and our work with children,
parents, educators and community in keeping
then safe, well and healthy!
Together we Learn, Advocate and Take Action**

Taking Action! <i>Keeping Children, Schools, Families and our Communities Healthy!</i>	Massachusetts PTA® <i>everychild.onevoice.®</i>
The Massachusetts PTA 2nd Annual Health Summit November 16, 2017 At the Conference Center at Waltham Woods	Thank You To Our Major Sponsor:
 Click Here for More Info	 <small>Massachusetts Teachers Association</small>
The Conference Center at Waltham Woods 860 Winter St. Waltham, MA	

Thank you for all that you do for
children, families, schools and PTA

Stay well,
Jackie Coogan

Massachusetts PTA Health, Safety and Wellness
Committee Chairperson
Massachusetts PTA Board of Directors
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jmincoogan@comcast.net



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