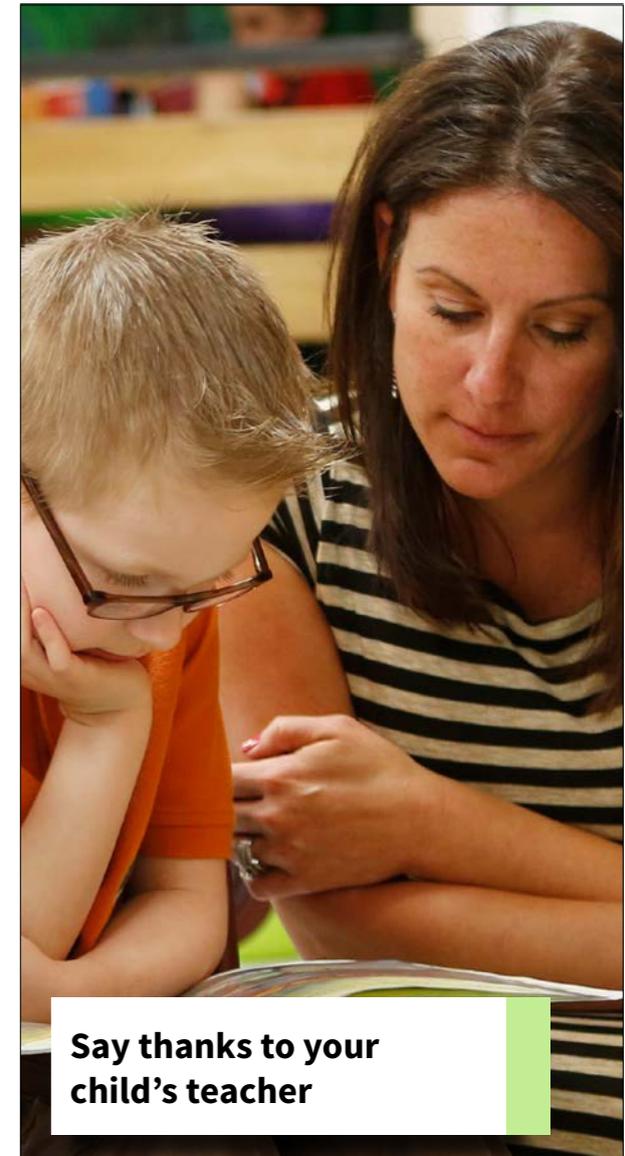


ParentInfo

News for a child's most important educator

April 30, 2015



Links:

[TELL Kentucky response sets record; results due next month](#)

[Assessment and Accountability positions filled with veteran educators](#)

What do teens need? Find out on KET

WHAT DOES EVERY

Say thanks to your child's teacher



All photos by Amy Wallot unless otherwise noted

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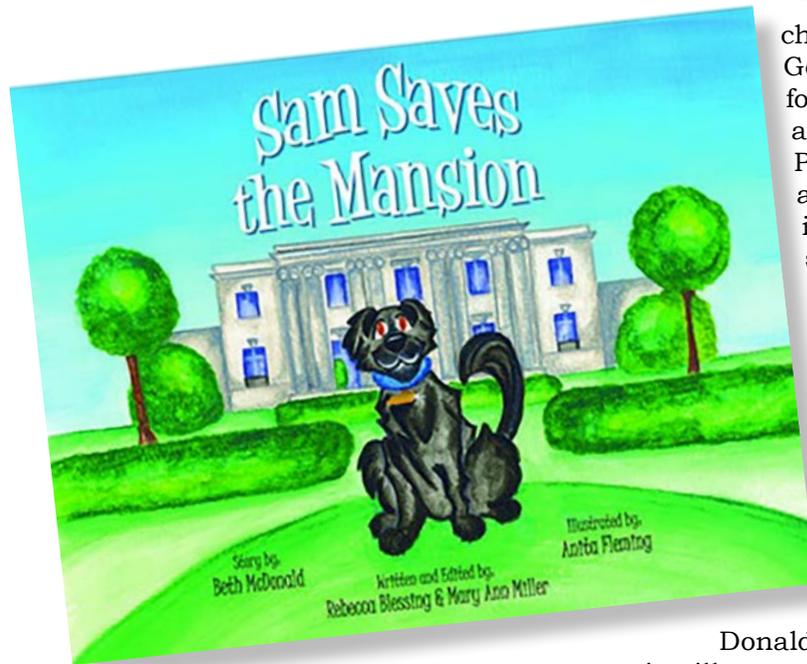
- Parents and girls become Tech Savvy
- Celebrate science in south central Kentucky
- Conference to help families with special needs



Twitter chat

Parents: Want to chat with educators? A parent/teacher Twitter chat takes place at 9 p.m. every Wednesday. To participate or just follow the conversation, use the hashtag #PTchat.

Children's book produced by KDE staffers available as free download



"Sam Saves the Mansion," a new children's book about the Kentucky Governor's Mansion produced by four KDE staffers, is now available as a free, downloadable e-book. Paperback copies of the book also are available for students to read in public libraries and elementary schools across the state.

First Lady Jane Beshear, a former teacher, requested the book be produced as an educational resource for young Kentuckians in coordination with the Governor's Mansion Centennial Celebration in 2014.

Rebecca Blessing, a long-time journalist, and Mary Ann Miller, a former teacher, wrote the book based on a story by Beth Mc-

Donald of Frankfort. Artist Anita Fleming illustrated the book, and photographer Amy Wallot supplied pictorial support.

"Sam Saves the Mansion" is the story of a stray dog named Sam, who sneaks into the Governor's Mansion to escape from a thunderstorm. While inside, Sam befriends another dog, Tory, who lives in the mansion and gives Sam a tour and history of the 100-year-old residence. Afraid he will be captured and sent to a shelter, Sam, with Tory's help, devises a plan to leave the historic home without being seen. Just as he's getting away, Sam witnesses a disaster in the making and chooses to risk his freedom and stay behind to save the day.

The dogs in the story are named after two of Mrs. Beshear's own dogs, one of whom, Tory,

lives with the Beshear family at the mansion.

In early January, a print copy of the book was distributed to every elementary school and public library in Kentucky through support from the Kentucky Executive Mansion Foundation, Inc.

While the book is currently not for sale, it is now available as an e-book so parents and students can access it. The e-book includes interactive features such as word definitions and optional narration, as well as additional information on the mansion. The e-book was produced by Marty Park, with narration provided by Neilsen Park.

An electronic version of "Sam Saves the Mansion" is available at no cost from the [KDE bookstore](#). The e-book is also available for download through [Google Play](#) and [Google Books](#) (for Android devices), the [iBook Store](#) and [iTunes U](#) (for Apple devices) and the [Kentucky Libraries Unbound](#), a digital resources

repository for patrons of approximately 100 Kentucky public libraries.



What do teens need? Find out on KET

A special report by KET strives to pinpoint the tools today's teens need in order to arrive at adulthood healthy and prepared. The program [“What Does Every Teen Need?”](#) is available for streaming on the KET website and is scheduled to air at 11 a.m. EDT on May 8 on KETKY.

In the show, students from Pleasure Ridge Park High School (Jefferson County) talk about the stress of school and testing, the impact of the Internet and social media, as well as other challenging issues, including bullying, substance use and teen suicide.

The program highlights the work of Dr. Hatim Omar, of the University of Kentucky's Adolescent Medicine clinic, who advocates for an adolescent health care approach that emphasizes prevention and providing every teen with access to adults who care about them, a safe place to connect with others, and something meaningful to do.

The program also features Benita Decker, coordinator of adolescent health at the Kentucky Department for Public Health, who continues the emphasis on prevention strate-



gies by outlining the “Positive Youth Development” or PYD approach, which focuses on providing teens with skills to navigate today's complex society. The specific PYD approach adopted by the Kentucky Department for Public Health emphasizes “Five C's of Positive Youth Development”: confidence, character, contribution, connection and competence.

To see the PYD approach in action, the program visits three settings – community, home and school – to meet teens like Mariah Jones, who credits Newport's Brighton Center with teaching her skills to set positive goals and stay away from drugs.

The program also spotlights the work of Operation Parent in Oldham County, which provides workshops and pub-

lishes a guidebook to help parents successfully navigate their children's teen years.

Finally, the program investigates how two Kentucky school districts – Lincoln County and Harrison County – have implemented bold strategies to prevent youth suicide and address teen mental health issues.



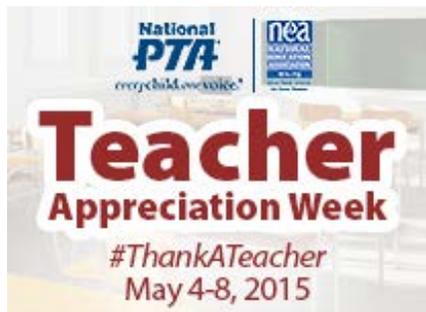
Say thanks to your child's teacher

Teachers play a key role in student success and sometimes a simple “thanks” is all a teacher needs to feel valued. Take the time to celebrate your students’ teachers during 2015 National PTA Teacher Appreciation Week May 4-8 and the National Education Association’s Teacher Appreciation Day May 5.

Teacher Appreciation Week is the perfect time to personally thank your students’ teachers for their sacrifices and support for children throughout the year.

The [National PTA](#) offers these ideas and resources to help parents honor teachers:

- Send a [thank you card](#) to your students’ teachers and ask your students’ teachers how you can support them throughout the year.
- Show your support for the work teachers do by volunteering in your students’ classrooms.
- Use the hashtag [#ThankATeacher](#) on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) to show your appreciation for your students’ teachers.
- Check out the [PTA Pinterest boards](#) for teacher appreciation ideas.



Parents and girls can become Tech Savvy

A daylong event to introduce girls to careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) will be held from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. EDT May 16 at Kentucky State University in Frankfort.

Tech Savvy, is designed to expose girls in grades 6 through 9 and their parents to the cool things involved in these fields and inform families about STEM education and careers and to widen the STEM pipeline by showing girls the value and satisfaction in these fast-growing fields.

Girls will also learn “savvy skills” such as negotiation and public speaking. The program is sponsored by the [American Association of University Women](#) (AAUW) which promotes equity and education for women and girls.

The day will also include a College Savvy session where girls will get a peek at what degree programs college has to offer.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend the Tech Savvy program for adults, which will include information on how to help girls get on a path to a college education and a career in STEM. The parent workshops will also include information on cybersecurity and paying for college.

The registration fee is \$5 for each student and an additional \$5 for each adult that attends. Register [here](#) and find more information [here](#).



Photo provided by AAUW



Celebrate science in south central Kentucky

The SKy Science Festival will be held Saturday, May 2 in Bowling Green. The Expo Day will be full of stimulating interactive hands-on experiences including bold, colorful, and engaging demonstrations of science and technology. There will also be food, music and art.

The festival is sponsored by the city of Bowling Green, NASA Kentucky, Hooked on Science, the Kentucky Science Museum, among other local sponsors.

The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST in Circus Square Park at 601 State St. in Bowling Green. For more information click [here](#).

Conference to help families of children with specials needs

The Parent/Professional Conference to be held in northern Kentucky will address the needs of families special needs children and the professionals who work with them. The conference will include an overview and spectrum of services and responsibilities required by both parents and the professionals who provide the services.

The keynote speaker will be Brad Fritz, a motivational speaker who was injured in a drunken driving accident as a teenager and was left with a severe brain injury and limited mobility.

The conference will be held June 13, at the METS Center at 3861 Olympic Blvd. in Erlanger. The deadline to register is June 5. To register click [here](#).

