



Autumn...

promises to be a busy time in Nassau Region

– lots of news, tips and events leading up to the NYS PTA Convention Nov 14-16, 2014

Share the information you find in *the advocate!* Don't sweep it up into a pile like the fallen leaves of autumn.

You never know who around you might benefit from the news and guidance.

Something read in *the advocate!* may inspire action, learning or understanding. Pass it on.



Nassau Region PTA Priorities (attached as pdf file)

NYS PTA Resource Guide (Advocacy Section) <http://nyspta.org/pdf/YourPTA/Resource-Guide/08-Advocacy.pdf>

NYS PTA *Where We Stand* <http://nyspta.org/pdf/Advocacy/WHERE-WE-STAND-2014-FINAL.pdf>

NYS PTA Convention Resolutions Packet <http://nyspta.org/pdf/Advocacy/Proposed-Resolutions-2014.pdf>

National PTA Election Guides <http://www.pta.org/advocacy/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2999&RDtoken=37068&userID=&navItemNumber=4041>



## Halloween—Tricks or Treats for Special Needs Children

Lissa Zukoff—Nassau Region Special Education Chair

Halloween is a fun holiday for children (and adults!) BOO!

Some of the more spooky activities could give anyone a fright, Imagine what it may be like for a child with special needs. For some children putting on a costume & trick or treating can be difficult or frightening. SHRIEK!

Sensory issues may make wearing a costume or face paint torturous. Riding in a wheelchair or with other medical devices may make finding costumes and trick or treating awkward. SPOOKY!

The gorier décor of Halloween may be nightmare producing for children with anxiety disorders. Noise, chaos and lack of routine could upset children that thrive in a more structured environment. EEEIK!

TIPS for Halloween...There are ways to give all children a fun Halloween, it just requires some advance planning and creative thinking! GASP!

Look online to get your creative juices flowing or find a costume to accommodate a wheelchair.



Try costumes on in advance to ensure it is comfortable. If your child would rather not wear a costume at all, consider a fun treat bag, themed hair ties, themed T-shirt or another prop to give them the holiday spirit.

Practice trick-or-treating around the house to teach your child what to expect and how to act. Act out specific scenarios such as "What are you dressed up as?" and "I love

your costume!". Buy a book or watch a video about Halloween to help them know what to expect.

Do a walk-through of the neighborhood ahead of time. Look for spooky decorations or blinking lights that could upset your child. Together choose the houses you are going to visit.

If your child is on a specialized diet or has food allergies, work out a trade or buy back for the candy that they cannot eat.

Don't assume a child is rude or has no manners because he doesn't say, "Thank You"; he may be non-verbal and unable to speak.

A little compassion and some understanding will definitely go a long way to making every child's Halloween fun and safe!

## The PTA VOICE in Voter Participation

Roxanne Wynn-Trotman—Nassau Region Legislation Events Chair

While PTA's status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit prohibits endorsements of candidates and campaign involvement, PTA can encourage voter participation. We have an obligation to learn all we can about the candidates and where they stand on PTA priorities.



We can educate candidates and our communities by engaging in such activities as running voter registration drives, hosting candidate forums, and encouraging voting through social media. All are powerful ways to get our message out and allow our concerns to be heard while adhering to our legal status and mission.

This year is of great significance since a substantial number of state legislators are up for re-election. It is a great opportunity to educate those on both sides about the needs of our children and communities.





everychild. one voice.®

## Nassau Region PTA

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### the advocate

Nassau Region PTA's advocacy report is designed to raise advocacy awareness in an effort to connect the Nassau Region Advocacy Chairs with our PTA units and increase communication regarding important information, events, action, guidance and support.

#### About Nassau Region:

Nassau Region PTA, a geographical segment of New York State PTA representing nearly 88,000 members.

Members include parents, teachers, students, school board members, administrators and others interested in working for the well-being of children and youth, through parent education and child advocacy.

Nassau Region PTA services over 300 units and 37 councils and is committed to uniting the home, school and community in promoting the education, health, and welfare of children, youth and families.

#### PTA Purposes:

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community and place of worship.
- To raise the standards of home life.
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.
- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

## Fall Conference ~ October 16th

### Advocacy Workshops at Oceanside High School



Lissa Zukoff—Nassau Region Special Education Chair,  
Susanne Smoller—Nassau Region Family Engagement Partnerships Chair &  
Lucille Vitale—Nassau Region Health and Wellness Chair

Nassau Region has prepared some awesome training workshops just for YOU! Learn about running a PTA from Membership to Banking and Budgets, from Elections to Reflections, from Family Engagement to Bylaws and PARP, from IRS and 529 College Savings. Its not too late to join in and get your learn on!

At-the-door Registration available for all workshops with space remaining.

Advocacy workshops include:

**Special Education Roundtable** A roundtable forum to promote effective communication, collaboration and support among SEPTA units and Special Education chairpersons. Please join us for this informative and informal workshop to share your concerns, knowledge, and ideas. Hear what other SEPTA units are doing in their efforts to support their students with special needs. *Presenters: Lissa Zukoff, Nassau Region Special Education Chairman & Barbara Schwartz, Roslyn School District, Director of PPS & Special Education*

**An Overview of Community and Family Engagement and Support** Strong families are the core to the development of healthy children, youth, schools and communities. We will explore new and effective ways PTAs can work with districts to engage families to foster

meaningful collaborations among families, schools and communities that capitalize on the strengths and resources of each. *Presenter: Angela Zimmerman, Molloy College, Family Support Long Island Coordinator*

**Naloxone (Narcan)** is the antidote for an opioid overdose. People you care about may be abusing opioids like Oxycodone, Hydrocodone and Heroin. Learn what to do in the case of an overdose and how to administer the life-saving, overdose-reversal agent called Narcan. Attendees need to be 16 years of age or older or accompanied by a parent/guardian to receive the Narcan kit after satisfactorily completing the 60 minute training. Both intramuscular (IM) and intranasal (via nostrils) Naloxone (Narcan) will be available. *Presenter: Tina Wolf, Executive Director, Community Action for Social Justice*

