



## PTA is Bringing Communities Together for a Better Internet

In celebration of [Safer Internet Day](#), National PTA and PTAs across the country are bringing communities together for a better internet by hosting over 160 events nationwide. The events are part of the [PTA Connected initiative](#) and are anticipated to reach as many as 10,000 families across the country.

“Safer Internet Day encourages parents, students and educators to come together to discuss trending digital issues and empowers them to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. PTA has been working for over five years to address the online safety issues that are on the minds of families and connect them to tools and support,” said Leslie Boggs, president of National PTA. “Together with our PTA Connected sponsors, our association is proud to host events nationwide and share resources that help families navigate today’s digital world.”

Through the events, families will receive information about digital well-being and technology use to help address hot topics, such as screen time, social media, location sharing and other digital decisions. Parents and kids will also work together through real-life scenarios of online behavior and have open conversations to ensure they are using technology productively and responsibly.

Anna King, National PTA’s President Elect and Linda Kearschner, Florida PTA’s President will be celebrating Safer Internet Day with Hillsborough Community Council PTA by attending a Smart Talk Conversation, sponsored by TikTok on February 20th. As part of the PTA Connected initiative, National PTA and TikTok will help parents learn more about how their teens are using TikTok, educate families about safety on the app and guide parents in having open, ongoing conversations with their teens to ensure they are using social media productively and responsibly.

Hillsborough County Council PTA is one 30 PTAs from across the country that have been awarded a grant of \$1,000 each from National PTA and TikTok to host family workshops in conjunction with Safer Internet Day. Other Florida recipients are Joseph L. Carwise Middle School PTSA (Palm Harbor), Sanford Middle School PTSA (Sanford), and Robert Morgan PTSA (Miami). Congratulations!

Four local PTAs in Florida were also awarded \$1,000 grants from National PTA and Google to host Be Internet Awesome Family Workshops. Congratulations to Crystal Lake Elementary PTA (Lake Mary), Coral Reef Elementary PTA (Palmetto Bay), Douglas L. Jamerson Elementary PTA (St Petersburg) and LD McArthur Elementary PTA (Pensacola)!

And another three PTAs in Florida were awarded \$1,000 grants by National PTA and NortonLifeLock to host a Smart Talk conversations at their schools. Congratulations to Annie K Suter Elementary School (Pensacola), Chapel Trail Elementary PTA (Pembroke Pines) and Glendale Elementary PTA (Vero Beach).

For more information about PTA’s celebration of Safer Internet Day and to find an event in your community, visit [www.PTA.org/SaferInternetDay](http://www.PTA.org/SaferInternetDay).