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16th District PTA News

Nov/Dec 2008



President's Message

With the winter months fast approaching it is time for us to remind our parents to think about snow days. I know, I know ... we haven't even raked our leaves yet and I'm talking snow!

What I have seen happen though is that either a snow day or an early dismissal is called and parents are not prepared. They've not worked out with their employers as to what they can do, they've not looked into alternative daycare, nor do they have any vacation time left. If school can be called off the night before, it gives us some time to make other arrangements, but when school can't be called until the morning, other arrangements can't be made. Luckily, Lexington hasn't seen that much snowfall over the past few years, but we do see ice storms. When the ice comes in, school has to be called off.

We need to remind our families to make plans now. Encourage your families to make certain that the school has an updated phone number or an emergency number. Remind them to figure out a daycare plan now and not wait until the snow or ice is falling.

I've asked a group to create a list of daycares/sport facilities/churches that will be willing to provide childcare on a day-to-day basis, sort of a back-up list for those who need care on snow days. As soon as this is compiled, we will be sending this out to each PTA to distribute.

Our children's snow day care needs to also be part of our snow emergency kit that we compile each winter. Hopefully it isn't something that you need, but will gratefully have when you need it!

*Tina Moorhead, President
16th District PTA*

Lansdowne Art Fair

Lansdowne Elementary had an art fair to display the artwork created for the PTA Reflections Art contest. In the recent years we have not had a way to show or view the fantastic artwork created by our students for the Reflections contest. This year we have worked with the KidsArt Fair Company and held an Art Fair on Thursday November 6th from 5:30-7:00 in our cafeteria. To insure that every student could be given a chance to participate,

Peggy Wilson, our Art teacher, offered a variety of mediums for the students to use and incorporated this project into one or two of her art class rotations. Those students who had sent in a RSVP for this event had their Reflections artwork matted and framed in the KidsArt Fair special frames and displayed Gallery style for the fair. (For



those students who did not RSVP, their artwork was kept on hand to be pulled for viewing by the family.)

The frames were available for purchase from the KidsArt Fair Company as well as a family art project to work on at the fair and a selection of take home paint projects. Lansdowne PTA set up several free art stations including a mosaic art project from reclaimed construction paper scraps from the teacher's work room, five origami projects with take home instructions, geometric design color pages and an artwork signing station. Also included throughout the evening were short performances from the 4th grade orchestra, 5th grade orchestra and two songs from a group of our kindergarten students. This evening was an exciting and fun way for families to share and celebrate the creative talents of our Lansdowne students.

16th District Scholarship Fund

Have you mailed your contribution to the 16th District Scholarship Fund? If you're not sure or have any questions about the scholarship fund, contact Karla Mays at 268-4771.

Mark Your Calendar

- November 17-21.....Parent & Family Involvement Week
- November 20.....National Parent Involvement Day
.....PTA Roundtable 6:30PM
- November 25.....ADHD Parent Support Group
- November 26-28.....Thanksgiving Holiday
No School
- December 22Winter Break begins

More information regarding above events, including dates, times, etc. can be found at <http://calendars.fcps.net/>

Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol

In difficult financial times like these, we need to remind Kentucky policymakers that we cannot afford to neglect our children and their needs including giving them a strong start with quality early care and education. Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol and the November Advocacy Training offer us an excellent opportunity to send this message to Frankfort. The Prichard Committee's Strong Start Kentucky campaign is a co-sponsor of Children's Advocacy Day.

Please mark your calendars and register for:
Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol, Thursday, February 12, 2009

http://www.kyyouth.org/Advocacy/Childrens_Day/index.html

PTA Take Your Family to School Week

February 8-14 is PTA Take Your Family to School Week. Connect Families and Schools. Continue the PTA legacy. Start planning your activities now! For ideas, posters and more go to pta.org/familytoschool.



YMCA Black Achievers

The YMCA Black Achievers Program is still open to grades 7th through 11th. Please visit our website to download our registration form and/or brochure. www.ymcaofcentralky.org (Program: Black Achievers)

IMPORTANT-District Dues

There are still some schools that have not paid their dues to 16th District. Now is the time to get this money sent in and wrap up this part of your (and the 16th District's) budget. This needs to be done as soon as possible. Please give Lucy Blankenship a call at 224-9421.

This is a final call. The deadline is upon us.
2008/2009 PTA Reflections Program

WOW!

...is the theme for this year's Reflections Program. Reflections is a cultural arts program that was established by National PTA in 1968. Students, grades P-12, in



schools with a PTA or PTSA, are invited to participate in the categories of visual arts, photography, musical composition, literature, dance and film/video.

Reflections entries are judged at the local level, the district level, then at the state level. State winners are sent to the national level. Kentucky has had National winners for several years. **Deadline for this year to the District level is November 20**, so plan your school's judging prior to the November 20th deadline.

TO DO LIST

- *Select your Reflections Committee/Chair;
- *Obtain judges for each category (judges can judge more than one category, but parents should not judge a category that their child has entered);
- *Set a deadline for your school that will allow enough time for all entries to be judged and the winners from each category to be turned into the District by November 20th;
- *Copy the following from the Leadership Handbook: pages 3-11 from the "Programs" section and pages 7-9 from the "Forms" section;
- *Read over all the information carefully. Use the school entry form obtained at the District Leadership Training.
- *Judges should receive a copy of the category that he/she are judging prior to the judging period in order to familiarize themselves with the rules;
- *Each entry must include name, grade level, category, school name, and Artist Statement on the back of each entry. Names are NOT permitted on the front of any entry, with the exception of CD's and DVD's. Videotapes or cassettes will not be permitted.
- *You can also download any of the above forms from the Kentucky PTA's website at www.kypta.org under the "program" link.
- *On the day of your judging, make certain that every judge has a copy of the rules.
- *Each category winner must complete an official entry form, and, if under 18, have it signed by their parent/ guardian to be turned in with their entry to the district level.
- *A "Local" Participation Form must be completed by each school and turned in with the winning entries.

Questions? Contact Faith L. Calhoun 859-536-0271 or faithcalhoun@yahoo.com.



16th District PTA Newsletter

E-mail gailburge@aol.com if you

- have news and events from your school that we can include in future newsletters
- would like to receive the monthly district newsletter through e-mail.

16th District PTA Executive Board

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CHECK OUT THESE SITES

<http://www.fcps.net/partners/pta>

<http://www.kypta.org/>

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