

# 16<sup>th</sup> District PTA News

October 2009

## 16<sup>th</sup> District PTA Newsletter

If you have any questions or suggestions for the 16<sup>th</sup> District newsletter, please contact Jessica Berry, 16<sup>th</sup> District President, at [jdberry@insightbb.com](mailto:jdberry@insightbb.com) or Colleen Wolfe, 16<sup>th</sup> District Corresponding Secretary, at [colleen.wolfe@insightbb.com](mailto:colleen.wolfe@insightbb.com).

The next district newsletter will be published on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Please submit all articles by October 20.

## President's Message

Greetings all PTA/ PTAs,

Wow, September has come and gone. I hope your membership drive, Kentucky Kids Day celebration and Open House was a huge success!! The buzz about the wonderful things PTAs/PTSAs are doing in our schools is circulating around town. Our "Spotlite on PTA" has received rave reviews. "Spotlite on PTA" highlights the wide variety of opportunities that we offer for families and schools to connect as partners in order to support student learning and build community. If you have extraordinary events going on in your school, please let me know.



As you continue your journey, don't forget to encourage and develop new members all year long. We should constantly be recruiting and training new leaders because **Together Everyone Achieves More**. Also, be sure that we are communicating and promoting the mission of the PTA. For more information, go to <http://www.fcps.net/partners/pta>. If you should need anything from the 16<sup>th</sup> District PTA Board, please don't hesitate to contact me. Have a great month!!

Jessica Berry, President  
16<sup>th</sup> District PTA

## 2009-2010 Reflections

### "Beauty Is...!"

By now, all participating schools should be promoting Reflections. Any PTA/PTSA in good standing is eligible to participate. Please visit [www.ptareflections.org/](http://www.ptareflections.org/) for customizable Word® documents, Local Arts Chairs' Guide and rules and regulations.

Remember the District deadline is November 19<sup>th</sup> and the District awards ceremony will be held Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m. at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School.

For further information or assistance, contact Jaime Nebbitt at [janebb@email.uky.edu](mailto:janebb@email.uky.edu) or 619-3949.

## Dates to Remember

October 5.....	Missing Piece Training, 8:30 a.m. Temple Adath Israel
October 7.....	Walk to School Day
October 9.....	ACE Fall Carnival, 6pm-9pm
October 11.....	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday, 2:00 p.m.
October 13.....	Advocacy Training Registration Deadline
October 15....	Magnet and Gifted & Talented Application Deadline
October 15.....	"Required" dues payment
October 15..	No School, flexible records day
October 16 .....	No School
October 18-24.....	Safe Schools Week
October 21-22.....	Advocacy Trng., Frankfort
October 22 .....	Roundtable meeting, 11:30 a.m. Conference Room C
October 29 .....	Missing Piece Training, 8:30 a.m. Temple Adath Israel
October 26-30.....	Red Ribbon Week
November 15-21 .....	Parent and Family Involvement Week
November 19.....	District Reflections Deadline
November 19.....	Roundtable meeting, 6:00 p.m. Conference Room C
November 25.....	No School
November 26...	Thanksgiving Day, No School
November 27.....	No School

Information regarding above events can be found at <http://calendars.fcps.net/> and <http://www.kypta.org/>.

## Backpack Strategies

- ◇ A child's backpack should weigh no more than about 15% of his or her body weight.
- ◇ Load heaviest items closest to the child's back.
- ◇ Arrange books so they won't slide.
- ◇ Make sure items are necessary for the day's activities.
- ◇ Distribute weight evenly.
- ◇ Adjust shoulder straps so pack fits snugly on child's back.
- ◇ Wear the waist belt. It helps distribute the weight more evenly.

Source: The American Occupational Therapy Association.

# 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids Helping Kids Food Drive

Be a Hunger Hero in this year's food drive and fight against hunger in Fayette County. The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Kids Helping Kids food drive will run through October 31<sup>st</sup>. Last year 49 schools in Fayette County participated in the drive and donated 84, 899 pounds of food. This year's goal is 100% participation and to crack the 100,000 pound food donation ceiling.



Ten monetary awards will be presented to the schools that donate the highest number of pounds of food per student. Special thanks to Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky, Georgetown KY for their sponsorship.

For questions, please contact Robert Srodulski, Food Drive Coordinator at God's Pantry Food Bank at [robert@godspantry.org](mailto:robert@godspantry.org) or 288-5330.

## Celebrate Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country. It serves as a vehicle for communities and individuals to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of our children through a commitment to drug prevention and education and a personal commitment to live drug free lives with the ultimate goal being the creation of a drug free America. This year's dates are October 26-30.

## Sign-up Now!

### The Missing Piece: Engaging Parents to Complete the Proficiency Puzzle

The 16<sup>th</sup> District PTA believes Parent Involvement can make the difference for students and schools! Bring a friend or whole team from your school. Learn about the 6 objectives Fayette County wants to meet for Family Involvement. Assess your school and design a plan to strengthen your Family Involvement.

**October 5<sup>th</sup> or October 29<sup>th</sup>**  
8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
(6 hours- lunch provided)

Carol Edelen, Prichard Committee, Instructor

Temple Adath Israel auditorium,  
124 N. Ashland Avenue  
Contact Alice Nelson to register at  
[alice.nelson@fayette.kyschools.us](mailto:alice.nelson@fayette.kyschools.us).

## Membership Notes

### District and State Dues

Thank you to all the schools that have paid their district dues. Be sure to send in your first membership dues to the state by October 15<sup>th</sup> and then the 15<sup>th</sup> of EACH month.

### How to Retain Members

Getting new members is only one reason for your PTA to put a membership growth plan into motion. There's a second reason: to keep the members you already have. It takes more effort to recruit a new member than it does to keep an existing one. Some tips on how to retain members:

1. Get all of your members involved.
2. Open the door to two-way communication.
3. Post basic information on your website that is current and relevant.
4. Teach new members how to use PTA services.
5. Find out why your members are leaving.

Source: National PTA Membership Recruitment and Retention Manual - May 2008

## Win \$1,000

On Sunday, October 11 from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. communities around Kentucky are planning an event called 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. A one mile loop in downtown Lexington will be closed to traffic and open to outdoor fun! This will include Main, Mill, Short and Deweese Streets. Walk, run, bike, or skate; enjoy the inflatable fun park, music, dancing, the rock wall, Kids' 49 Yard Dash and many more fun and healthy activities!

Councilman Jay McChord announced a \$1,000 cash prize for the Fayette County School with the highest percentage of participants. The award will go to the school's PTA and is not restricted in its use.

The goal is to get as many kids out to the event as possible so that they and their families can enjoy the healthy activities.



### Rules:

- ◇ The school with the highest percentage of attendees based on total number of students will win the \$1,000 award for their PTA.
- ◇ Students must sign their name on their school sheet at the PTA challenge tent located in the new Courthouse Plaza near Short Street.
- ◇ Students may only sign their name one time and they must get their hand stamped after signing in.
- ◇ Only students will be able to sign the school sheets. Parents, friends, or siblings who are not enrolled in one of the schools will not be permitted to sign.
- ◇ Students may sign in any time during the event between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Names will not be counted and verified until after the event is over.

**Don't forget...  
Walk to School Day is  
October 7<sup>th</sup>**

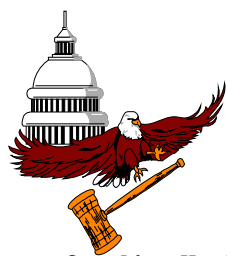
## The Face of PTA is Changing to be MORE... Getting Men Involved in PTA

The National PTA has a male president for the first time in 113 years. Charles "Chuck" Saylor is the 51<sup>st</sup> president of National PTA and the first male to assume the position.

As president, Saylor joins Byron V. Garrett, National PTA's first-ever male African-American Chief Executive Officer, to continue the organization's rich legacy of engaging parents, schools, legislators, and community leaders in improving children's health, safety, and educational success.

"This should prove to men across the country that their participation in PTA is valued, welcomed, and needed," said Saylor. "Times are different from 30 years ago. Today, both parents work, and participation of all adults is needed now more than ever. In fact, research shows that when men are involved children are more likely to achieve success socially, intellectually, and academically."

PTA is encouraging dads to get involved with the MORE initiative – **M**en **O**rganized to **R**aise **E**ngagement. Visit [http://www.pta.org/pta\\_more.asp](http://www.pta.org/pta_more.asp) for more information and ideas.



## Advocacy Training

### Speaking Up for Children

Kentucky PTA will hold advocacy training for all interested PTA/PTSA advocates in Frankfort, October 21-22. Each session is limited to 25 people. The deadline to register is October 13, 2009. More info can be found on the Kentucky PTA website ([www.kypta.org](http://www.kypta.org)) under *Training & Events*.

## Tourette Syndrome Support Group

A Tourette Syndrome Association Support Group is being organized to serve the Lexington area.

The first meeting will be held on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The location will be the Apostles Anglican Church, 200 Colony Blvd.

Additional meeting dates are: December 1<sup>st</sup>, January 5<sup>th</sup>, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, April 13<sup>th</sup>, and May 4<sup>th</sup>. For further information or directions, call the meeting coordinator, Robin Brown-Gorton at 276-0835.

## Magnet and Gifted & Talented Application Deadline is October 15

Please see the online application at [www.fcps.net](http://www.fcps.net) or call 381-4741 for more details.

## YMCA Black Achievers' Program

The YMCA Black Achievers' Program is still recruiting students, grades 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, and volunteers. Our next sessions are:

- ◇ **October 10<sup>th</sup> – Session #4**
  - For 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>: College Awareness Day with Asbury College
  - For 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>: Ropes Challenge at Asbury College
- ◇ **October 24<sup>th</sup> – Session #5**

For more information on the program and how to participate, please contact Roxanne Brown, Interim Program Coordinator, at [rbrown@ymcaofcentralky.org](mailto:rbrown@ymcaofcentralky.org) or call 226-0393 or 559-5502.

## I Love My Librarian!

Nominations are still open for the 2009 Carnegie Corporation of New York/New York Times I Love My Librarian Award.

The award invites library users to recognize the accomplishments of librarians in public, school, college, community college, and university libraries for their efforts to improve the lives of people in their community.



Up to 10 librarians will be selected. Each will receive a \$5,000 cash award, a plaque, and a \$500 travel stipend to attend an awards ceremony and reception in New York, hosted by The New York Times in December. In addition, a plaque will be given to each award winner's library. Nominations will run through October 9. For more information or to nominate your librarian please visit [www.ilovelibraries.org/ilovemylibrarian](http://www.ilovelibraries.org/ilovemylibrarian).

## Safe Routes to School

The National Center for Safe Routes to School is now accepting applications for 20 mini-grants, up to \$1,000 each. The aim of the mini-grants is to use student creativity and leadership skills to increase safe walking and bicycling to school. Successful applications will include one or more of the following: student-led activities, concern for the environment, and/or promotion of physical activity. Funded activities must be part of a new or existing Safe Routes to School program. See [www.saferoutesinfo.org/minigrants](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/minigrants) for more info. The application deadline is October 30.

The goal of Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs is to enable and encourage children to safely walk and bicycle to school. SRTS programs are implemented nationwide by parents, schools, community leaders, and local, state, and tribal governments.