



16th District PTA News

November 2009

16th District PTA Newsletter

If you have any questions or suggestions for the 16th District newsletter, please contact Jessica Berry, 16th District President, at jdberry@insightbb.com or Colleen Wolfe, 16th District Corresponding Secretary, at colleen.wolfe@insightbb.com.

The next district newsletter will be published on December 1st. Please submit all articles by November 20.

President's Message

Greetings all PTA/PTSAs,

It is amazing how fast this year is flying by. As time passes, be sure that your PTA/PTSA is progressing by making sure that you are a unit in good standing, that you are continuing to encourage membership and parent & family involvement, and that you are training new leadership. We want to make sure that we are assisting in all the great achievements our students and our schools are making. In recently released test scores, Fayette



County earned an overall score of 92, the 9th highest index earned in Kentucky school districts that serve students in

kindergarten through high school. Schools across this district saw dramatic gains, with several schools posting higher index scores including three schools with double-digit gains and five schools joining the century club. Congratulations Fayette County!!

As we approach Parent & Family Involvement Week, think about the support your PTA/PTSA has provided. I have often heard our superintendent praise our PTAs/PTSAs for being such a valuable resource and support to our schools. Keep up the great work!! In this month of giving thanks, remember to give thanks to all our parents, families, and community members who have helped make our events and programs successful. Have a great month and Happy Thanksgiving!

Jessica Berry, President
16th District PTA

Membership Notes

District dues are paid once at the beginning of the school year. State and national dues are paid on the 15th of each month. Send your state and national dues payments to KY PTA. Encourage membership this month in honor of Parent & Family Involvement Week!

Dates to Remember

- November 3..... Culture Training
- November 7..... Open House, 10am-12pm
Lexington Public Library, Central Branch
- November 11..... Veterans Day
- November 14..... Academic Challenge
Invitational
- 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
- December 3..... Culture Training
- December 6.... Reflections Awards Ceremony,
3:00 p.m. PLD HS
- December 17..... Roundtable meeting,
11:30 a.m. Conference Room C
- December 18..... Last day of classes
- December 21 Winter Break Begins

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

Healthy Lifestyles Month

This month, PTAs in every state will be celebrating [PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month](#) with events, activities, and programs designed to help their school communities adopt healthier habits. For example, students will be challenged to express their creativity in health-themed art contests; community health fairs will showcase local resources available to families; and special guests will join student walking clubs.

As a PTA leader, how are you planning to contribute to the celebration? There's still time to plan to attend events, or to organize your own observation of the month. Visit PTA.org/HealthyLifestyles for information.

Source: PTA Partners in Leadership,
October 2009

Reflections

Reflections deadline is
Thursday, November 19th

All Reflections entries must be received by the end of the Roundtable meeting (which begins at 6:00 p.m.) on November 19th. There will be no exceptions. However, entries may be submitted prior to that date. Please contact Reflections chair Jaime Nebbitt at janebb@email.uky.edu to make arrangements.

Your PTA/PTSA must be in good standing (which means your bylaws and dues must be up to date) in order to participate. Please make sure that you only submit the 1st place winners from each category to the District PTA. Also, make sure the forms are legible and all guidelines/criteria have been met. All local winners should be given information about the District Awards ceremony to be held on December 6th, 3:00 p.m. at Paul Laurence Dunbar HS. Please make sure they are aware of this date as all entries forwarded to the district will be recognized at the ceremony. Also, please put this date in your school/PTA newsletter.

2nd Sunday



Winner Announced

The winner of the \$1,000 cash prize from the 2nd Sunday event held on October 11th is Bryan Station High School. The BSHS PTSA decided to share the award with other organizations in the school since it was not restricted in its use.

Next year's event has already been scheduled for 10/10/10! Councilman Jay McChord challenged all PTAs and Superintendent Stu Silberman to get it on school calendars now and get more people involved!



Veterans Day November 11

Celebrate Veterans Day by recognizing the veterans within your school community and supporting our troops.

Culture & Its Impact on Student Achievement

Fayette County Public Schools and 16th District PTA invite you to attend a two part workshop on *Culture and Its Impact on Student Achievement*.

When: Tuesday November 3rd and Thursday December 3rd

Time: 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Where: Conference Room C
IAKSS building
701 E. Main Street

Presenters: Vince Mattox and Barbara Connor
Dinner will be provided.

Building Block I Culture Awareness

- The four components of Culture
- Culture/Social Consciousness (the conflict)
- Power of Self-Reflection
- Phase I Communication, Seeking first to understand
- Relationship Building
- Culture-Intentional vs. Accidental

Purpose and Outcomes

- Provide reflective opportunities and information to enhance the development of a positive school culture.
- Share dialogue and strategies that underscore the importance of relationship development to student achievement.
- Illustrate the power of culture and relationship building to remove barriers to student success.

You can register online at:
<http://www.fcps.net/administration/departments/sbdm/sbdm-training>

YMCA Black Achievers' Program

The YMCA Black Achievers' Program is still recruiting students, grades 7th-12th, and volunteers. The next session is:

◇ **November 14th – Session #6**

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

Keep Gym in School Grant Opportunity

Grant opportunity from the National Football League (NFL)



To improve physical education programs and to raise awareness for the important role that physical education plays in the lives of our nation's children, NFL Network is providing ten \$1,000 grants to middle schools across the country. Creating and improving fitness programs, purchasing equipment, funding salaries and helping with needed facility improvements, ten in-need middle schools will be provided with the resources they need to deliver quality physical education to their students.

Individuals may nominate one middle school between now and February 1, 2010 for a *Keep Gym in School* grant; nominations are only accepted online at www.keepingyminschooll.com and must be received no later than 8:00 p.m. EST on February 1, 2010.



Walk to School Day Winners

Thank you to all of the schools that participated in our Walk to School Day on October 7th and made this event a successful one. Overall, 25 schools participated with a total of 6,832 student walkers.

For the first time 3 high schools participated. The hope is that the participation in this program keeps growing each year.



Congratulations to the top three schools with the **highest percentage** of walkers:
◇ Rosa Parks Elementary – \$500 Grand Prize winner with 719 walkers

◇ Yates Elementary – \$250 prize winner with 411 walkers

◇ Booker T. Washington Elementary – \$100 prize winner with 465 walkers

Take Your Family to School Week

Awards are available for local PTAs that plan to celebrate PTA *Take Your Family to School Week* February 7-13, 2010. This is a special opportunity for schools to connect parents to their children's school experiences, create occasions for educators to build positive partnerships with families, and give kids fun ways to share what they're learning and doing in class.

Promoting family involvement in children's education has been at the heart of PTA since it's founding in February 1897. Family involvement makes all the difference. Plan *Take Your Family to School Week* events and apply for an \$1897 Award. Application deadline is 6:00 p.m. on Friday, November 6th. Find the application form at: [Apply today!](#) Go to www.pta.org/familytoschool for event ideas, posters, and more.

Visit the Lexington Public Library

Help Your Child Succeed: A Library Open House

Saturday, November 7
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Central Library

Parents, teachers, school media specialists, day care providers, home schoolers: drop by to learn more about the free library services and materials that can help children succeed in school. All who attend can register to win a \$25 gift card to Half-Price Books. *For Adults*

Fuel Up to Play 60

Fuel to Play 60 combines the excitement of the NFL with challenges, prizes and rewards that inspire kids to get active and eat right! The Kentucky Action for Healthy Kids Team is supporting this new program by offering webinars, technical assistance, and mini-grants that empower students to "get active and play" for 60 minutes daily and "fuel up" with nutrient-rich foods. Could you use a \$300 mini-grant to help you empower your students? For more information, please go to <http://www.fueluptoplay60.com/>.



Sign-up for one of TWO upcoming webinars that will help you activate the potential of the *Fuel Up to Play 60* program in your school and be eligible to apply for a \$300 mini-grant.

In order for your school to be eligible to apply, you must reserve your seat now for [webinar one](#) on November 2nd at 3:30 p.m. ET or [webinar two](#) on Wednesday, November 4th at 11 p.m. ET.

Is Your PTA/PTSA In Good Standing?

In order to be a PTA/PTSA in good standing there are a few things that you need to do. By this point in the year, several of these should have already been done. The list includes:

- Make sure your bylaws are current.
- Submit your PTA Financial Review form to KYPTA (was due August 15th).
- Submit your list of officers to KYPTA.
- Send District dues payment (was due on September 25th)
- Send state and national dues payments to KY PTA (mandatory payments started October 15th).

Once you are in good standing, your tax exempt letter will be sent to you directly from KY PTA. If you are having trouble or need assistance with any of the above, please contact 16th District President, Jessica Berry at jdberry@insightbb.com.

Open Communication

It's now Report Card time. If you haven't already done so, it is a great time to request a Parent Conference. Open communication is the key to parents and teachers working together to improve student achievement. Questions to ask may include:

- ◇◇ What is my child's reading level? How can I encourage good reading habits?
- ◇◇ What is my child's performance level in writing and math? What things can I do at home to promote, encourage, and develop his/her writing and math skills?
- ◇◇ What other things can I do to reinforce and support learning at home?