

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

December 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 January 4<sup>th</sup>. Please submit all articles by December 20<sup>th</sup>.

## President's Message

Greetings all PTA/PTSAs,

I hope everyone enjoyed time off with family and friends by having a Happy Thanksgiving! As you continue to give thanks throughout the holiday season, remember to show your



appreciation to your school, your principal, and your teachers for their dedication to our kids.

Also, give thanks to the many volunteers who support our PTAs/ PTSAs each and everyday. And most especially, give a very special thanks to our amazing students for all their efforts and hard work.

Continue to encourage student efforts - check out the helpful hints in the articles, "Grocery Store" Literacy and We Can! KY. Start planning now to increase membership with a January membership drive. Encourage and develop more leaders by attending the Cultural training this month and establish strategies for stronger family and school partnerships. Most importantly, take time to reflect on the successful partnerships that exist within this district for the benefit of children...after all, It's About Kids.

Have a wonderful month and a very Happy Holiday!

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

## Membership Notes

### The Importance of the Membership Cards

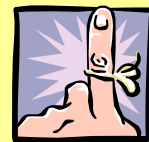
The PTA membership card offers the member a wealth of opportunities, from access to all the important information on the National PTA website to proof of voting privileges to exclusive member benefits. Each dues paying member has the right to a membership card, which verifies their support of the mission of PTA. Continue to encourage membership by making plans now for your January membership drive.

## Dates to Remember

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
January 4	..... Classes resume after Winter Break
January 18	..... MLK, Jr. holiday, No School
January 21	..... Roundtable meeting, 6:00 p.m. Conference Room C
January 30	..... Academic Challenge, Principal's Cup

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

## Don't Forget!



### December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Fayette County Public Schools and 16<sup>th</sup> District PTA invite you to attend a workshop on *Culture and Its Impact on Student Achievement*.

**When:** Thursday December 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Time:** 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

**Where:** Conference Room C

**Presenters:** Vince Mattox and  
Barbara Connor

Dinner will be provided.

### December 6<sup>th</sup>

The Reflections contest awards ceremony will be held at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. First place winners from each school are invited to attend.

# A Guide to Stronger Family-School Partnerships Awards for Success

The benefits of family-school-community partnerships are many: higher teacher morale, increased parent involvement, and greater student success are only a few. That's why PTA developed PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships: An Implementation Guide, available at

[PTA.org/Partnerships](http://PTA.org/Partnerships). Your PTA/PTSA can use the guide to help establish activities, programs, and policies that encourage family-school partnerships. Units should then plan to apply for the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Family-School Partnership Awards, which recognize local PTAs that are achieving the National Standards and include monetary awards of up to \$2,000. The award application will be available starting January 15, 2010. Visit [PTA.org/Hearst](http://PTA.org/Hearst) to learn more.



## YMCA Black Achievers' Program

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

### ◇ December 12th – Session #7

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.

## "Grocery Store" Literacy

A trip to the grocery store can be a valuable learning experience for your children. Reading Rockets (on the web at [www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org)) offers some easy ways to build literacy and math skills while getting your shopping done at the same time.

### Focus on Reading Skills

Lots of grocery items come in different flavors. Ask your child to help you find a particular item by reading the labels. For example, can she find the apple juice? The tuna fish packed in water not oil? Put your child in charge of the grocery list. As you put items into the cart, ask your child to cross it off the list. If you buy an item that wasn't on your list, ask him to add it. This provides an opportunity to practice writing skills.



### Focus on Vocabulary Skills

Take a trip down the pasta aisle to see the different boxes. Ask your child to compare and contrast the various noodles in terms of length, width, shape, and size or challenge your child to come up with descriptive words for each type of pasta. The produce section is also a great place to hear new interesting words. Words like rhubarb, asparagus, artichoke, and kiwi are fun to say, and fun to eat. As you introduce each one, use descriptive words to help your child learn. "A kiwi has a fuzzy outside, but the inside is bright green with black seeds!"

### Focus on Math Skills

Look for geometric shapes (e.g., spheres, cubes, cones) as you go through the store. Find a shape, such as the cube shaped box of tissues, and then look for other items with the same shape. Show your child the unit pricing labels on various items. Help them learn to compare prices using these tags. Ask your child, "Which size container is the better deal? Why?" What does "Buy one, get one free" mean? If



frozen peas are 10 bags for \$10, how much would four bags cost? You don't have to do all of these things each time you're at the store, but while you're there, find creative ways to turn your grocery store into a fun place of learning. For more ideas, visit [Reading Rockets' Reading Together section](http://ReadingRockets.org/ReadingTogether).

## Help Your Preteen Cope with Feeling Left Out

As our kids get older their friends' opinions begin to mean more to them. This shift in perspective can make feeling left out or being excluded by their peers a crushing experience. What can a parent do to help guide their preteen through the emotional ups and downs that are part of this phase of growing up? [TweenParent.com](http://TweenParent.com) has some strategies for parents to guide their children through this tricky social phase.

## CHECK OUT THESE SITES

See the feature article about male involvement in PTA on the FCPS homepage at <http://www.fcps.net/>.

More sites to see:

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

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

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

## Helping Kids Just Got Easier

Let's face it. It's not easy helping kids eat right and stay active in a world of fast food, computers and video games. But there's good news. Helping your children eat better and move more just got easier. The new **We Can! KY** website is devoted to helping parents improve food choices, increase physical activity and reduce screen time for children ages 8-13. We invite you to join the **We Can! KY** movement by signing up for the **We Can! Quick Tip** mailing list. You'll receive short and sweet messages with tried and true tips. You just might find the ideas you've been looking for! Visit us at [www.WeC](http://www.WeC)

# Taxes

November 15<sup>th</sup> was the **DUE** date for filing your local PTA's IRS 990 form. If you have not filed yet, you need to file ASAP. Don't forget to send a copy of the form you filed to the Kentucky PTA Office. The information for the 990 can be found in the Money Matters booklet from the PTA Big Box. Please contact Linda Borkosky, 16<sup>th</sup> District PTA Treasurer, at [lindaborkosky@insightbb.com](mailto:lindaborkosky@insightbb.com) with any questions about these guidelines.

## IRS Filing Requirements

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

The new Form 990 series returns will be effective for 2008 tax years (returns filed beginning in 2009). To allow organizations time to adjust to the new forms, the IRS is phasing in the new returns during a three-year transition period. During the transition, an organization's annual filing requirements will depend on its financial activity.

### WHO MUST FILE FORM 990-N FOR THE 2008 TAX YEAR?

- PTAs with Gross Receipts less than \$25,000 annually.

### WHO MUST FILE FORM 990-EZ AND SCHEDULE A FOR THE 2008 TAX YEAR?

- PTAs with Gross Receipts less than \$1 million annually.
- PTAs with Total Assets less than \$2.5 million.

### WHO MUST FILE FORM 990 AND SCHEDULE A FOR THE 2008 TAX YEAR?

- PTAs with Gross Receipts greater than \$1 million annually.
- PTAs with Total Assets greater than \$2.5 million.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF OUR PTA DOESN'T FILE A RETURN?

A tax-exempt organization that fails to file a required return is subject to a penalty of \$20 a day for each day the failure continues. The same penalty will apply if the organization fails to give correct and complete information or required information on the return. If the organization has gross receipts in excess of \$1 million, the penalties increase to \$100 a day.

### WHEN SHOULD OUR PTA FILE A RETURN?

Returns are due by the 15th day of the 5th month after the organization's accounting period (fiscal year) ends. **All 16<sup>th</sup> District local unit PTAs should have filed their returns by November 15<sup>th</sup>.** If an organization is liquidated, dissolved or terminated, file the return by the 15th day of the 5th month after such action.

### HOW DOES A PTA REQUEST AN EXTENSION?

If you have not already filed your return, file Form 2758 to request an extension.

### HOW DOES A PTA ACQUIRE THE FORM?

Go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and download the forms. You can save a copy to your computer but will not be able to make changes to the form once it has been saved.