

16th District PTA News

February 2010

16th District PTA Newsletter

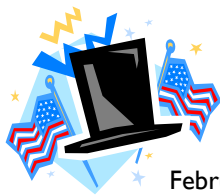
If you have any questions or suggestions for the 16th District newsletter, please contact Jessica Berry, 16th District President, at jdberry@insightbb.com or Colleen Wolfe, 16th District Corresponding Secretary, at colleen.wolfe@insightbb.com.

The next district newsletter will be published on March 1st. Please submit all articles by February 20th.

President's Message

Greetings,

This month's newsletter contains quite a bit of information, including events, programs, kindergarten registration and membership deadlines. Please pay close attention to all the dates and deadlines.



The school year is flying by and so is the opportunity to involve more members in your PTA! Remember,

February is not too late to increase your membership. "New Year... New Opportunities," plays on people's optimism that the new year brings new opportunities to improve ourselves, our lives, and the world around us. Encourage more parents to get involved in their children's education. Encourage each current member to invite at least one new person to join PTA. Nationwide, approximately 18 percent of PTA members join in January and February.

Remember that March and April is nomination and election time for PTAs— check your bylaws for more information!!! You should also be preparing for SBDM elections. Work closely with your principal to schedule these events. If you have questions or need assistance please contact Karen Irving, 16th District Bylaws Chair.

Have a great month!!

Jessica Berry, President
16th District PTA

Weather Make-up Days

Please take note: February 12 and March 5 WILL now be school days. The original calendar called for students to be off on those days, but designated them as "possible weather make-up days."

Students and staff will be in school on February 12 and March 5.

Dates to Remember

- February 6.....District Science Fair
- February 7-13.....Take Your Family to School Week
- February 8.....G/T Conference
- February 10Middle school progress reports, suggested date
- February 12.....Weather make-up day, School is in session
- February 13...Black Achievers Session #10, Arts & Culture Day
- February 15.....Presidents Day, No School
- February 16.....16th District Board Meeting rescheduled, 11:30 a.m.
- February 16...First kindergarten registration period begins
- February 18.....Children's Advocacy Day in Frankfort
- February 18.....**District Roundtable Canceled due to Advocacy Day**
- February 23.....High school progress reports, suggested date
- February 23.....Evening kindergarten registration, 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
- February 27....Black Achievers Session #11
- March 5Weather make-up day, School is in session
- March 12First kindergarten registration period ends

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

GAP Conference

The 8th Annual Grandparents and Relatives as Parents (GAP) Conference will be held on Thursday, March 25th at the Holiday Inn North, 1950 Newtown Pike in Lexington.

For registration information or questions, please contact Krista Mason, FRC Coordinator, at krista.mason@fayette.kyschools.us or 381-4030 or 381-4829.

I'm a Big Kid!

Kindergarten Registration



The first round of

Kindergarten Registration is fast approaching - February 16th through March 12th.

Please visit your district school during this time to register for the 2010-2011 school year. If you are not sure of your district

school, please visit www.fcps.net or call 381-4000. Remember, it is important to get your child signed up so you can begin to receive information from the school district, as well as begin talking to your child about their new school. If you have any questions, please call Whitney Stevenson at 381-4202.

New Show on KET *Education Matters*

In January, KET introduced a new monthly series **Education Matters**. Each program features discussion and insights into the issues facing education in Kentucky today. The next show is titled "**New Approaches to Quality Teaching**." The discussion focuses on recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining teachers in Kentucky. Also, included is a general discussion about teacher effectiveness - what it is, how it's measured, and how to help teachers achieve it. The February program schedule is:

- KET1: Tuesday, February 23 at 9:00 pm EST
- KETKY: Wednesday, February 24 at 10:00 am EST
- KET1: Friday, February 26 at 4:00 am EST
- KETKY: Friday, February 26 at 9:00 am EST

Upcoming program topics include "Assessment" and "Turning around Struggling High Schools." For more information about **Education Matters** see the KET website at www.ket.org.

WasteBuster Program

This school year, Bluegrass PRIDE, in partnership with LFUCG's Division of Environmental Quality, has been diligently working to expand and improve the WasteBuster program throughout 16th district schools. The program is now in its fourth year and is well established in schools through Fayette County.

One of the goals for Bluegrass PRIDE's program this year has been to partner with school PTAs in order to encourage recycling at after school functions and to expand the school support system for recycling. By attending PTA meetings and involving parents, the hope is that the schools will end the year with a more sustainable and lasting recycling program. Many schools, including Veterans Park and Rosa Parks, have developed "green" PTA committees consisting of parents who are committed to implementing environmental initiatives within their student's schools.

If you have not had an environmental educator attend a PTA meeting at your school, please contact Bluegrass PRIDE at 266-1572 or sarah@bgpride.org in order to find out who your school educator is and to schedule a meeting. Bluegrass PRIDE is excited about the opportunity to partner with the PTA. Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions.

2010-2011 Reflections

Start planning your 2010-2011 Reflections Program now. The 16th District 2010-2011 Reflections deadline will be October 21, 2010. The theme is "Together We Can." Look for more Reflections information at the 16th District PTA Leadership Training in July. Plan early to have your chairperson attend.

Take Your Family to School Week



February 7th - 13th

Engage parents in their children's education. Find out what events your school has planned.

Gifted/Talented Conference Includes Parent Night

The Kentucky Association for Gifted Education (KAGE) will present an evening for parents on Monday, February 8th from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. as part of their annual conference. "Parent Responsibilities and Opportunities for Raising a Gifted Child" will be presented by Dr. George Betts, Ed.D. at the Marriott Griffin Gate. There is no charge.

One of the major goals in education today is the facilitation of students to become life-long learners. What skills, concepts, and attitudes are necessary for becoming a life-long learner? This presentation will describe the profiles of the gifted and talented and will provide the basic understanding necessary for facilitating our children and youth to travel the path of life-long learning.

For more information, consult the KAGE Conference webpage at <http://www.wku.edu/kage/conf2010/mondayextra2010/>.

Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol - February 18th



Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol is YOUR opportunity to show your legislators Kentucky cares about its children and youth.

Rally for children's issues at the Capitol Rotunda and gather information on policies affecting Kentucky's youth. Meet people from across the state who share your commitment to children and schedule a time to speak with your legislators. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the rally begins at 10:00 a.m.

In 2009, nearly 400 advocates, speaking on behalf of children and youth, met with legislators and shared concerns on the health, education, and welfare of children in Kentucky.

We are asking that each of you, in lieu of the Roundtable that was previously scheduled on this day, join us in Frankfort for the 6th Annual Children's Advocacy Day.

Youth are encouraged to attend!

Register online at www.kyyouth.org/Advocacy/cad.htm or contact Preston Parsons at pparsons@kyyouth.org or (502) 895-8167 x 123

Lexington Public Library Happenings

Upcoming events at the Lexington Public Library include:

**** Picture Books: A Celebration for Adults**

The book critics and staff have identified their choices for the best fiction and nonfiction picture books published in 2009. If you are looking for a book for your classroom, a gift for a child in your life, a great read-aloud or simply want to see the major award-winning books here is your chance. An extensive bibliography of featured titles will be available at the program and on our website. Continuing education certificates will be available for teachers.

Central Library: Saturday, February 20th, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Tates Creek: Tuesday, February 23rd, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Beaumont: Thursday, February 25th, 4:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.

**** Adams' Alligator, LBJ's Scar, and Other Curiosities: A Presidential Puppet Show**

School's out so celebrate Presidents' Day with us! History like you've never seen it. Meet the presidents in this funny (and mostly true) interactive program. Designed for the whole family to enjoy, but recommended for primary students.

Central Library Theater

Monday, February 15th at 10:00 a.m.

Reservations required, call 231-5534.

Mark Your Calendars

Kentucky PTA will be holding its **4th Annual Combined Convention/Leadership 2010** Fern Valley Hotel & Conference Ctr. Fern Valley Road, Louisville, KY July 15th-17th, 2010

Scholarship Donations

Send your scholarship donations to the 16th District PTA Treasurer:

Linda Borkosky
4959 Hartland Parkway
Lexington, KY 40515

A Message of Hope & Love for Haiti

The Child Care Council, Inc., KIDS MATTER™, Hands On Originals, and FOX 56 are teaming up to provide financial assistance to Haiti and a tee shirt to children in Haiti. The "HAVE A HEART -- LEND A HAND Haiti 2010" tee shirt has been designed and will be selling for \$12. For every shirt purchased, the Child Care Council, Hands On Originals and FOX 56 will also provide a shirt for a needy child in Haiti and make a monetary donation to the American Red Cross. ALL of the proceeds (100%) will go the American Red Cross for Haiti Relief Efforts.

The Child Care Council is also working with local child care providers, schools, churches, parents and others to send "messages" to those in Haiti (families, children, doctors, missionaries, etc.). We want everyone in Haiti to know that people in Kentucky, and all over the world, are thinking about them every day. A simple message of hope and love means a lot to those who are physically and emotionally hurting and to those who are caring for them. The first messages will hopefully be delivered in time for Valentine's Day and monthly through June.

To purchase a shirt for \$12, send a message, or make a donation, visit www.childcarecouncilofky.com. Please call 254-9176 with any questions.



Parents & Teachers as Arts Partners (PTAP)

PTAP focuses on engaging parents with teachers as partners and arts advocates. The two-day workshop will be held in Lexington, KY on July 20th -21st, 2010. The training will result in a project to help integrate the arts into their school's curriculum. The Prichard Committee is working with the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts, Fayette County Public Schools, and local arts organizations to offer parent and teacher participants the opportunity to learn about:

- The four elements of art— dance, visual, music, drama
- How to be an arts advocate
- Ways to translate their project design into a grant that will yield more dollars for their schools
- How hands-on art supports core content
- The best practices of a good school arts program



This year's program also will help parents and teachers learn what changes are ahead in Kentucky's

accountability program, which will now require program reviews instead of assessments for arts and humanities. Organizers say the PTAP projects can help support schools' performance in the program reviews.

The application deadline is May 14th, 2010. Be thinking about someone to be your partner. The application is a [downloadable pdf form](#) and can be emailed to Carol Edelen at cmedelen@bellsouth.net or faxed to Lou Ann Cavenee-Ramos at 233-0760.

Membership Notes

February 15th is the last day to make membership payments to be eligible for the membership challenges. March 15th is the final date to make membership dues payments to KY PTA for the 2009-2010 school year. Dues should be sent in for each member enrolled that has not previously been submitted.

Membership Comparison Report 2008-2009 vs. 2009-2010, data as of Membership Report dated 12/15/09:

** District Total= Last Year 11,716 members vs. This Year 10,214 members; we are down 13%.

** Four schools have met all five membership challenges – Bryan Station HS, Cardinal Valley EL, Garden Springs EL, Winburn MS

** Winburn MS has the highest (This Year 336 / Last Year 92) increase this year = 265%

** Challenge Results:

1. District President's Challenge (25% increase over last year):

Ashland EL, Bryan Station HS, Cardinal Valley EL, Garden Springs EL, Maxwell EL, Yates Creek EL, Winburn MS, Julius Mark EL, Russell Cave EL

2. Membership Increase 6% over last year:

Ashland EL, Bryan Station HS, Cardinal Valley EL, Garden Springs EL, Henry Clay HS, Lafayette HS, Lansdowne EL, Maxwell EL, Yates Creek EL, Yates Creek MS, Winburn MS, James Lane Allen EL, Glendover EL, Julius Mark EL, Russell Cave EL, Yates EL

3. Membership Increase 11% over last year:

Ashland EL, Bryan Station HS, Cardinal Valley EL, Garden Springs EL, Henry Clay HS, Lafayette HS, Lansdowne EL, Maxwell EL, Yates Creek EL, Winburn MS, Glendover EL, Julius Mark EL, Russell Cave EL

4. National President's Challenge (25 member increase):

Ashland EL, Bryan Station HS, Cardinal Valley EL, Garden Springs EL, Henry Clay HS, Lafayette HS, Maxwell EL, Winburn MS, Julius Marks EL, Russell Cave EL

5. KY PTA Board of Directors' Challenge (92 members increase):

Bryan Station HS, Cardinal Valley EL, Garden Springs EL, Winburn MS

Articles of Incorporation

PTAs need to have their Articles of Incorporation renewed each year.

After a quick search of the KY Secretary of State website, we found that only 15 out of 49 PTAs/PTSA's in the district are in good standing as a corporation. From a legal standpoint, we strongly recommend a PTA incorporate, primarily for liability purposes. Please access the KY SOS at www.sos.ky.gov/business/. If you have questions, please contact Karen Irving, Bylaws Chair, at kirving@lexlaw.us or call 223-6723.

Some Handy Links

The list of school renovations in the district that was discussed at the Roundtable can be found at:

<http://www.fcps.net/media/39077/facilitydraft.pdf>.

Also, Fayette County Public Schools has several renovation and construction projects in the works and on the drawing board. Keep up with the latest monthly developments here:

<http://www.fcps.net/administration/departments/physical-support/construction-updates>

Additional district and PTA information can be found on these sites:

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