

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

March 2010

## 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 Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup> after spring break. Please submit all articles by the March 20<sup>th</sup> deadline.

## President's Message

Greetings,

Can you believe it's March already? This school year will be gone before you know it. I encourage you to *march through March* with great momentum. The philosophy echoing throughout the district is to Finish Strong. Whether it's our students, teachers, parents, administrative staff, or the community at large...we should all FINISH STRONG. Continue to encourage new membership (since membership is year round), look for new leadership, increase involvement, attend trainings, host programs and events, and most of all continue to support our children and our schools.

Make sure you have submitted dues to KYPTA for all your members. There will be a March Madness Drawing with prizes for PTAs/PTSAs that submit members to KYPTA from March 1<sup>st</sup> - March 15<sup>th</sup>. The school that submits the most members during this time will have priority seating at the 16<sup>th</sup> District Luncheon in May. Speaking of the luncheon, the registration form is included with this month's newsletter, so register early. Remember to make your donation to the 16<sup>th</sup> District Scholarship Fund if you have not already done so and please encourage all high school seniors to apply for our scholarships. Every little bit helps on the road to college.



If you have any questions regarding renewing your bylaws, forming nominating and election committees, hosting elections, or applying for KYPTA awards (see your Leader's Notebook; Part I, Forms; there are some March 15<sup>th</sup> deadlines) please contact the 16<sup>th</sup> District PTA president. Also, look for dates for New Board Members training, as well as the Leadership training, in the next newsletter. Most of all....have a great month!!!

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

## Dates to Remember

- March 5 ..... Weather make-up day, School is in session
- March 12 ..... First kindergarten registration period ends
- March 13 ..... Black Achievers Session #12, LIFT Conference at Transylvania
- March 13 ..... Academic Challenge, Superintendent's Cup 8:00 a.m.
- March 15 ..... Final PTA dues payment to KY PTA & deadline for applications for awards
- March 18 ..... Roundtable meeting, 11:30 a.m. Conference Room C
- March 19 ... No School, PD Day for Teachers
- March 25 ..... GAP Conference
- March 29-31 ..... No School, Spring Break
- April 1-2 ..... No School, Spring Break
- April 5 ..... Second kindergarten registration period begins
- April 13 ..... Evening kindergarten registration, 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
- April 15 ..... Convention/Leadership grant application deadline to KY PTA

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

## GAP Conference

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual **G**randparents and relatives **A**s **P**arents (GAP) Conference will be held on Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn North, 1950 Newtown Pike in Lexington.

The GAP conference is for grandparents, caregivers, and professionals to meet and learn about topics for relatives assuming primary care of children. The day is full of workshops, exhibits, and a dynamic keynote speaker.

Please register by downloading the brochure and registration form at <http://www.gapofky.org/Download.html> or contact Krista Mason, FRC Coordinator, at [krista.mason@fayette.kyschools.us](mailto:krista.mason@fayette.kyschools.us) or 381-4030 or 381-4829.

# I'm a Big Kid!

## Kindergarten Registration



The first round of Kindergarten Registration will be ending on March 12<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://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. The second registration period will begin on April 5<sup>th</sup> and end on April 23<sup>rd</sup> with one evening registration on April 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

## 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 "**Assessment in Teaching and Learning**" The discussion centers on Senate Bill 1, the 2009 Kentucky education reform act, and how it addresses the issue of helping the state's lowest-performing schools better prepare their students for college and careers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Click here to [View the full broadcast schedule](#).



### Grants Available for KYPTA 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention/Leadership

Fern Valley Hotel & Conference Ctr.  
Fern Valley Road, Louisville, KY  
July 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Deadline for Grant Application:  
April 15, 2010

<http://kypta.org/uploads/58/File/Grant%20ap.pdf>

## Weather Make-up Days Calendar Change

Please take note of the following days that **WILL** be school days. The original calendar called for students to be off on these days, but designated them as "possible weather make-up days."

Students and staff **will** be in school on:

March 5<sup>th</sup>

May 27<sup>th</sup>

May 28<sup>th</sup>

June 1<sup>st</sup>

June 2<sup>nd</sup>

June 3<sup>rd</sup>

Currently the last day of school is Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## House Bill 52

Become a Supporter of the Healthy Kids Act (HB 52)!

All children deserve to learn in a healthy environment so they can succeed in school. More than 1 in 3 children in Kentucky are overweight or obese, and most kids are not getting the proper levels of physical activity to be healthy. Children spend over half of their time at school, so schools have a role to play in providing a healthy environment for children.

The Healthy Kids Act, (HB 52) will:

- Integrate physical activity into the school day for at least 30 minutes a day or 150 minutes per week.
- Ask schools to submit child health-related data, including BMI, to the Department of Education for aggregate data reporting.

**HB 52** is currently in the House Education Committee and does not have a scheduled hearing. Help move this bill and ultimately improve the health of Kentucky's kids! Leave a message for your Representative on the message line at 1-800-372-7181.

## "If I Could Go Anywhere ..."

Lexington Family Magazine has announced its 6th Annual Writing Contest as part of its Summer Camps & Activities Fair. The Fair will be held Saturday, April 10, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Lexington Catholic High School.

The focus of the 2010 contest is imagination. The theme is "If I Could Go Anywhere..." Students in grades K-5 are asked to explain in 100 words or less where they would most like to go.



It can be anywhere, real or imaginary, in the present time, the future or the past. Perhaps they would like to walk on Mars, see the Pacific Ocean, tour a castle in Germany, travel with the Crusaders or watch George Washington's inauguration. Judges want to hear where your students' imaginations will take them!

Entries will be judged in three age categories: K/1; 2/3, and 4/5. We'll pick one girl and one boy from each age group as grand-prize winners.

To enter, kids should mail their story to Lexington Family Magazine, 138 E. Reynolds Rd, Suite 201, Lexington, KY 405017 or e-mail it to [Events@LexingtonFamily.com](mailto:Events@LexingtonFamily.com) by Friday, **March 26**. On each entry, please make sure children include their name, gender, teacher's name, school, and grade. Winners will be announced at the Summer Camps & Activities Fair on Saturday, April 10, at Lexington Catholic High School. Winners will be listed in the June issue of Lexington Family Magazine.




If you have any questions about the contest, please call Laurie Evans at Lexington Family Magazine at 223-1765 or 489-5273.

# Membership Notes

The 16<sup>th</sup> District PTA is hosting a "Membership March Madness". Any PTAs/PTSAs submitting new members from March 1<sup>st</sup> - March 15<sup>th</sup> will be entered into a drawing. The winner will be drawn at the March 18<sup>th</sup> roundtable meeting. The school submitting the most members March 1<sup>st</sup> - March 15<sup>th</sup> will receive priority seating at the luncheon in May. Priority seating will also be given to the school with the highest percentage of membership for the year.

Remember that March 15<sup>th</sup> is the final date to make membership dues payments to KYPTA for the 2009-2010 school year. Numerous membership awards are available. More information can be found in your Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook; Part I, Forms; page 16. The membership awards are:

- **Apple Awards** – For 100% of faculty and staff membership. 
- **Oak Tree Honor** – For membership that includes one (1) member for every student enrolled.
- **Lida Gardner Honor Roll** – For Five PTAs/ PTSAs with the largest number of members based on school enrollment categories.
- **Twin Oaks Honor** – For membership that includes two (2) members for every student.
- **Acorn Award** – For the largest percent increase in each district.
- **Mrs. George Weldon 200 + Awards:** For increase of 200 or more members over previous year.
- **Chuck Saylor's "He-Man Award":** For the largest percent of male members based on school enrollment in each district.
- **Students = PTSA's Future:** For the largest number of student members based on school enrollment in each district.

Please contact Kathy Smiley at [katkat1@att.net](mailto:katkat1@att.net) on March 15<sup>th</sup> with your membership numbers. Good Luck!

# Parent Training

FCPS Title I office and the 16<sup>th</sup> District PTA are hosting an exciting new training for parents:

## First Steps to Parent Leadership

What parents should know about FCPS – how to become more involved, resources to use, and why becoming an effective education partner benefits your child.

This is a two-part training offered on two sets of dates and at two locations for your convenience.

- April 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> - LTMS Library
  - April 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> - TCMS Library
- All Sessions go from 5:30 – 8:30 pm  
Dinner and child care will be provided.

Training provided by The Center for Parent Leadership at the Prichard Committee. Please join us!

To register, contact Alice Nelson, FCPS Family & Community Liaison at 381-4307 or [alice.nelson@fayette.kyschools.us](mailto:alice.nelson@fayette.kyschools.us)

# Parent Resource Ctr.

*Do you have a child with special needs?  
Do you need assistance in finding services for your special needs child?  
Do you have questions about the special education process?  
What do all those acronyms really mean (ARC, IEP, etc...)?*



The Fayette County Parent Resource Center has answers! Please contact Stella Smith or Anita Jones at 859-381-4229 or email [stella.smith@fayette.kyschools.us](mailto:stella.smith@fayette.kyschools.us) or [anita.jones@fayette.kyschools.us](mailto:anita.jones@fayette.kyschools.us) for more information. You can also visit [www.fcps.net/prc](http://www.fcps.net/prc) for resources for parents. They provide one-on-one assistance for families and group training opportunities throughout the year to help educate and answer questions for families who have children with special needs. Let the Parent Resource Center help make the journey easier.

# Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol

Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol on February 18<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by KYPTA and other agencies, was a great success. Over 600 children's advocates converged upon the Capitol telling legislators how vitally important our children are.



The day began with a rally in the rotunda, kicked off by a video headlined by Governor Beshear which talked about the importance of education for our children and the Blueprint for Kentucky's Children. You can view the video at [www.4cforkids.com](http://www.4cforkids.com). Several speakers inspired the crowd then sent them on their way to talk to legislators about the importance of investing in children and education.

Many people do not realize what a rich history PTA has in the area of advocacy. In fact, the need to advocate for issues surrounding children was why PTA was formed in the first place. National PTA is partially responsible for child labor laws, hot lunches in schools, the juvenile justice system and more. In Kentucky, PTA is the reason there are parent representatives on each SBDM council. So often it is hard to see how we can make a difference. Your PTA membership is one way you are working to make a difference in the lives of children.

# PTA Scholarships



The 16<sup>th</sup> District PTA awards a scholarship to outstanding students from Fayette County's five high schools, two technical schools and Martin Luther King Academy to continue their education. All applicants will be contacted by May 1<sup>st</sup> with the results of the scholarship review committee's decision. Winners will be presented at the district's annual PTA spring luncheon on May 20, 2010.

PTAs/PTSAs can send scholarship donations to the 16<sup>th</sup> District PTA Treasurer:

Linda Borkosky  
4959 Hartland Parkway  
Lexington, KY 40515

