

16th District PTA News

April 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 May 1st. Please submit all articles by the April 20th deadline.

President's Message

Greetings,

I hope everyone had a nice, enjoyable, and relaxing spring break. The newsletter is a little delayed due to the break. April and May are busy months with PTA & SBDM elections, graduations, award recognition/honor ceremonies, and showcases. As you form your nominating committee and host your election for officers for the next school year, don't forget to send the new information to District PTA as soon as possible.

Be sure you are making copies of the Leader's Notebook so that new officers can start to become familiar with PTA. They will receive their own, but in the meantime I urge you to help develop our new leaders. Encourage them to attend this month's roundtable with you, the luncheon in May, KYPTA Convention Leadership in July, and the upcoming district trainings. Please make note of the tentative dates for these trainings below. Also, please help spread the word about the PTA luncheon. This is an exciting event!! It is our time to recognize all the hard work and dedication our PTAs put forth for our students. I look forward to seeing you at the luncheon and thanks for all you do for our district!!

Jessica Berry, President
16th District PTA

District PTA Training Dates

These are **tentative** dates, please mark your calendar. They will be confirmed and locations announced in the May newsletter.

- Board Transition Training
May 15th, 8:00a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Audit & Tax training/help,
July 13th, 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
- Leadership Training,
July 31st, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Dates to Remember

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 KYPTA
April 19	High school state testing window opens
April 22	PTA Roundtable, 6:00 p.m.
April 23	Deadline for PTA luncheon registration
April 23	Second kindergarten registration period ends
April 26	Elementary and middle school state testing window opens
April 30	High school state testing window closes
May 7.....	Elementary and middle school state testing window closes

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

Graduation Dates

Fayette County Public Schools has announced the 2010 high school graduation dates.

Thursday June 3:

4 p.m. – Bryan Station High School
7 p.m. – Tates Creek High School

Friday June 4:

1 p.m. – Henry Clay High School
4 p.m. – Lafayette High School
7 p.m. – Paul Laurence Dunbar High School

All five graduation ceremonies will be in Rupp Arena. For more information, call the senior's school or the FCPS high school director's office at 381-4233.

Note: Under state law, graduation ceremonies cannot be scheduled until after the last instructional day of the school year. Each year, school districts across Kentucky have to wait to set graduation dates until the threat of winter weather is past and the last day of the school year is firm.

Grants Available for KYPTA 4th Annual Convention/Leadership

The 4th annual Kentucky PTA Convention/Leadership will be held July 15th-17th. Grants are available to help defray costs to local PTAs. The grant application for KYPTA Convention/Leadership 2010 is due April 15th. The grant winners will receive one free hotel room at the Fern Valley Hotel and Conference Center in Louisville. They will also receive one free registration, which includes all scheduled meals during the conference. The application can be found at

<http://kypta.org/uploads/58/File/Grant%20ap.pdf>. If you have any questions, please contact the Kentucky PTA office at (502) 226-6607.

This year at the conference, the district presidents will be announcing membership awards for the schools in their district. Also, there will be a district lunch meeting (sharing time) on Friday, July 16th for attendees. You don't want to miss it!

Additionally, don't forget that the national PTA convention is being held in Memphis, TN this year. The convention and exhibition runs from June 10th-13th. The deadline for advance registration is May 14th. After that date registration will be on-site only. Get more info at www.pta.org.

Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week May 3-7

Remember all that your teachers and school staff do for the kids in your school. During this special week, plan to show them how much they are appreciated!

Find ideas at

http://www.pta.org/teacher_appreciation.asp

YMCA Healthy Kids Day

Healthy Kids Day is designed to help children and their families learn about the importance of physical activity and physical fitness. It will be held at UK's Nutter Field House on Sunday, April 25th from 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. There will be inflatables, video screens, running track, batting cages, and more that will make for an activity-filled day. This family-friendly environment is free and open to the public.

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 or anita.jones@fayette.kyschools.us for more information. You can also visit www.fcps.net/prc for resources for parents.



Membership Notes

In the month of April, the Membership Chairperson should:

1. Bring your membership procedure book up to date.
2. Evaluate the year's progress.
3. Make written recommendations for the next year.
4. Provide an updated membership list to the secretary and treasurer.
5. Return all unused membership cards to Kentucky PTA office.

Please contact Kathy Smiley at katkat1@att.net if you have any membership questions.

PTA Scholarships

The 16th 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 1st 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 16th District PTA Treasurer:

Linda Borkosky
4959 Hartland Parkway
Lexington, KY 40515

Parent Involvement Calendar from KYPIRC

The goal of the Kentucky Parent Information and Resource Center (KYPIRC) is to enhance parent involvement in their children's education for the purpose of improving student academic achievement. Find the latest Parent Involvement calendar, as well as loads of information on parent involvement, on the homepage of their website at www.kypirc.org

PTA Dues Allocation

Where does the money go when you join the PTA at your school? Most PTAs in Kentucky pay about \$4-\$5 for membership. The National PTA portion is \$1.75. The Kentucky PTA portion is \$1.00. The 16th District dues are 10 cents. The local unit keeps the remaining amount after national, state, and district dues have been paid.

State and national dues money is used for leadership development, workshops, development of national programs, the Leader's Guide, PTA Parent e-newsletter, the advocacy toolkit, and much more.

National PTA Legislative Conference

The three-day National PTA Legislative Conference is designed to motivate 'grasstop' leaders from across the country and provide an in-depth look at the latest PTA public policy agenda through a series of workshops, skill building trainings, panel discussions, and guest speakers. The conference culminated with Capitol Hill visits to congressional leaders that focused on 2010 public policy priorities: effective family engagement in education, equity and opportunity in education for children, and children's overall health and wellness.

One of the real highlights of the event was that The First Lady, Michelle Obama, spoke to the PTA representatives from all over the country and military bases around the world about her national campaign, "Let's Move"—a program that fits in nicely with the National PTA's efforts toward fighting childhood obesity and promoting healthy lifestyles. Following the First Lady's remarks, there was a panel discussion led by nationally recognized leaders in the common core state standards initiative. Kentucky got kudos from the group for being the first state to sign on to the Common Core Standards. The first draft of the standards in Math and Language Arts were released the day of the panel.

A broad array of workshops focusing on increasing the knowledge base of attendees on topics such as building strategic grassroots advocacy; the legislative process from the perspective of legislative aides and advocates; and much more filled out the conference. It is exciting to be a part of PTA and parents nationwide making a difference!



Spring Testing Dates Changed

The state testing window for Fayette County high schools is April 19th – April 30th. The state testing window for Fayette County elementary and middle schools is April 26th-May 7th. Please plan appointments accordingly.

Reflections Winners Advance to Nationals

WOW! There are 11 students from the 16th District who will be representing Kentucky at the national Reflections competition.

Congratulations to: Daniel Callahan, Dasia Woods, Keeneland Dublow, Presli Neal, Charles Caswell, Bailey Watkins, Arunita Kar, Charlotte Eckmann, William Ding, Eleanor Liu, and Annalisa Casar. Good luck to all those moving onto national competition!

In addition to those mentioned above, the following students from FCPS were honored with awards of excellence from the KYPTA: Charles Caswell, Alec Bond, Ariontaye' Benton-Jones, Chinni Sunyadevara, Mary Mason, Shawntez Taylor, Annika Sial, William Cromwell, Annie Griffith, Athena Kern, Ronnie Morris, Marylynne Anderson-Cooper, Creighton Noal, Anya Hartman, Elizabeth Solie, Tonya Warren, Makayla Pennington, Addison Hollingshead, Donte Tichenor, and J Gonzalez.

Students receiving awards of merit from the KYPTA are: Kayla Wall, Joshua Phillips, Christina Allston, Elora Mukhopadhyay, Molly Felty, Virginia Smith, Shannon Calkins, Ryan Springer, Jackson Gonzales, Mary Pepper, Arlene Wang, Kate Joseph, Kyla Kepcha, Parker Hodge, Nathanael Meade, and Tanner Duke. Congratulations to all the competitors from the 16th District PTA. We look forward to your entries next year!

Conflict Resolution

Eileen Stapleton, a teacher and parent, uses a specific method for resolving conflicts. The concept is not new, but it bears repeating because it gets great results. At the beginning of the school year, Ms. Stapleton explains the way students should talk to one another when there is a conflict between them. "When you have a problem with someone, use 'I' statements," she explains: "I feel (something) when you (do something). I would like you to (do something else)." Then, she gives some examples: "Let's say that Brittany takes your pencil because she can't find hers. This really bothers you. What would you say?" The students then go through the series of phrases, arriving at the following "I" statement. "I feel mad when you take my pencil without asking. I would like you to ask me if you can borrow my pencil before taking it."

Ms. Stapleton also sends a letter home to parents sharing this strategy with them. She advises her students to practice it with their siblings, relatives, and friends. She reports that parents appreciate knowing the strategy and find it useful in many contexts."

Another benefit of this method is that children become more attuned to their emotions. When they can understand their emotions and label them, they are better able to channel their feelings into appropriate behavior. During writing time, the class sometimes compiles a list of feeling words, such as "frustrated, elated, astonished, worried, scared, excited, relieved, amazed." These words not only help with conflict resolution, but also find their way into the children's written pieces. Ms. Stapleton also addresses the concept that it's possible to feel more than one emotion at a time, for example, excited and frightened about leaving the safety of the classroom to go on a field trip. This work with feelings and conflict resolution helps lay the groundwork for the development of sound character in children.

Source: *The PTA Parent e-newsletter, March 2010*
written by: Joan Tornow, PhD, writer, education researcher, and writing teacher.

