



16th District PTA News

August 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 Secretary, at colleen.wolfe@insightbb.com.

The next district newsletter will be distributed September 1st. The deadline for submissions is August 20th.

President's Message

Greetings and welcome back!

I hope you and your student(s) had a great summer. Now, it's time to get back in the swing of things. Go to www.pta.org, click on Topic (at the top of the page) and check out "Back to School Central." It provides resources for the back-to-school season, including information on preparing your child for school, adjusting from a summer schedule, evaluating schools and more. Remember as you start the year, we should continue to provide relevant resources to our parents and our community. "As the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the nation, PTA provides parents and families with a powerful voice to speak on behalf of every child and the best tools to help their children be safe, healthy, and successful - in school and in life" (pta.org).

If you were unable to attend KYPTA Convention Leadership and our 16th District Leadership Training, you missed two great opportunities. Thank you to those schools represented and thanks to the schools who have hosted Board trainings over the summer. The 16th District will be hosting more training throughout the year to share the information and ideas we received. Look for more information in our newsletters and at Roundtables.



For those of you new to PTA, Roundtables are general membership meetings for our district. They are open to everyone, especially Board members. They are held each month and offer an opportunity to have discussions with our Superintendent, address PTA business, receive information from community organizations, and network with other PTA/PTSAs. You don't want to miss out so plan to have at least one representative from your school present every month.

The 16th District Board looks forward to working with you this year. Here's to a year of success!!

Jessica Berry, President
16th District PTA

Dates to Remember

- August 3.....Middle school orientations
- August 5.....High school orientations
- August 9.....Elementary school orientations
- August 11.....First day of school
- August 15.... Financial Review due to KYPTA
- August 17.....Community Forums
- August 19.....16th District PTA Roundtable,
11:30 a.m. Conference Room C, IAKSS
- August 20.....No School, staff development
- September 1...Magnet applications available,
September 1st – October 15th
- September 6 No School, Labor Day

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

Mark Your Calendars

Roundtable Meeting Dates

The monthly meeting of the 16th District PTA, the Roundtable, is held on the third Thursday of the month. It is held at 11:30 a.m. in Conference Room C of the IAKSS Building, 701 East Main Street. Everyone is invited to attend these meetings. Please try to have at least one person from your board attend monthly to ensure that all the pertinent information gets back to your school PTA/PTSA.

The dates of the meetings for the 2010-2011 school year are:

- August 19th
- September 16th
- October 21st
- November 18th
- December 16th
- January 20th
- February 17th
- March 17th
- April 21st

Financial Review Form

Formerly known as the audit, this form is due to KYPTA by August 15th. If you have questions, please contact the district treasurer,

Linda Borkosky at
lindaborkosky@insightbb.com.

Are You On the List?

Bylaws Updates Needed

All local PTAs must review their bylaws and submit them for approval to the Kentucky PTA every five (5) years to remain in good standing and be eligible for such things as awards and Reflections. The following schools have bylaws that are expired or up for renewal during the 2010-2011 school year:

- Jessie Clark Middle - March 2010
- Garden Springs Elem. - April 2011
- James Lane Allen Elem. - April 2011
- Lafayette High - May 2011

If one of your schools is listed above or if you have questions, please contact bylaws chair Karen Irving at kirving@lexlaw.us.

Membership Awards

At Kentucky PTA's 4th Annual Convention/Leadership in July, 21 schools from the 16th District received membership awards. Congratulations to the following schools:



1. Athens Chilesburg Elem. PTA
2. Ashland Elementary PTA
3. Breckinridge Elementary PTA
4. Bryan Station High PTSA
5. Cardinal Valley Elem. PTA
6. Garden Springs Elem. PTA
7. Glendover Elementary PTA
8. Henry Clay High PTSA
9. James Lane Allen Elem. PTA
10. Julius Marks Elementary PTA
11. Lafayette High PTSA
12. Lansdowne Elementary PTA
13. Maxwell Elementary PTA
14. Millcreek Elementary PTA
15. Stonewall Elementary PTA
16. P.L. Dunbar High PTSA
17. Russell Cave Elementary PTA
18. Tates Creek Elementary PTA
19. Tates Creek Middle PTSA
20. Winburn Middle PTSA
21. Yates Elementary PTA

Membership Notes

*Every individual who joins PTA is giving something not only to his or her child but to every child. Imagine how much stronger your community could be if every parent, every community member, and every business leader who could be involved in PTA **did** get involved.*

Keys to a Successful Membership Campaign

- Lay the groundwork for success.
- Make preparations before school starts.
- Set a goal for membership for the year – challenge yourself.
- Send membership forms and fliers home with first day packets.
- Have a membership table at all Orientation and Back to School events.
- Ask people to join your PTA – don't wait for them to offer.
- Make it easy for people to join your PTA/PTSA; have all the sign-up materials close at hand.

Source: Membership Recruitment and Retention Manual



Local Unit Drawings & Incentives

- "Back to School" drawing for PTAs/PTSAs sending payment for 100 or more members by August 15th.
- "Early Bird" drawing for PTAs/PTSAs sending payment for members equal to or greater than the total membership from last year by September 15th.

Additionally, the 16th District PTA will be offering an incentive for a 16% increase in overall membership.

See the Leader's Notebook, Part V - Membership, page 8 for a complete listing of KYPTA membership awards.

The first mandatory state/national dues payment deadline is October 15th. The payment form is located in the Leader's Notebook, Part I – Introduction and Forms, page 6.

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

Ready, Set, Go!

Lexington Neighborhood Back-to-School Rallies

For the fifth time, LexLinc and its partners are gearing up to provide school supplies for 8,000 children at 21 simultaneous neighborhood rallies. The rallies will be held on Saturday, August 7th. Click [here](#) for a flyer listing the 2010 rally sites, how to register and who to call for more information. Click [here](#) for the information in Spanish. This year, every site will provide school supplies for all grade levels. A list of the school supplies provided in the backpacks is included [here](#). Read the [press release](#) about the rallies. For more information about the rallies, please contact United Way 2-1-1 or LexCall 3-1-1.



2nd Sunday Event

10/10/10

Mark your calendar for October 10, 2010 when the next 2nd Sunday statewide event will take place. According to the website, "Second Sunday is a campaign that will serve as a catalyst for improving Kentucky's health status and can become a template for nationwide awareness. The idea originated in Columbia where officials close more than 70 miles of roads to vehicles, opening them to local residents for exercise every Sunday".

"Organized by University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension and community partners, Second Sunday sends a compelling message that Kentucky is serious about improving its residents' health and promoting physical activity."



Look for detailed event information in upcoming newsletters and at <http://www.2ndsundayky.com/>.

Legislative Issues

Urge Your Senators to Act on the Child Nutrition Bill Take Action Now!!

The Senate Agriculture Committee unanimously passed the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, moving it to be taken up by the full Senate. However, this bill has yet to be adopted. This bipartisan bill updates and improves a number of critical child nutrition programs, including school breakfasts and lunches.

Please visit this website (part of PTA.org) to send a message to your Federal Senate Legislators, Senator Bunning and Senator McConnell. The letter is already made up, all you have to do is click and send:
<http://capwiz.com/npta2/issues/alert/?alertid=15194341&PROCESS=Take+Action>



Kentucky Legislation

Below is a brief outline of some of the major education issues addressed during the 2010 Kentucky General Assembly Session:

- House Bill 176 gives school districts options for addressing schools whose graduation rates are below 60 percent over three years. It also expands its programs that help students take AP courses.
- Senate Bill 163 develops teaching strategies geared toward middle and high school students to improve their reading skills.
- Senate Bill 180 helps address the shortage of math and science teachers in disadvantaged areas by allowing an alternative certification process for Teach for America corps members.

The 2011 General Assembly will begin next January. If you have any legislative questions please see www.lrc.ky.gov. You can also find out about your legislators and pending legislation.

Donations to Schools from Office Depot

Office Depot will donate 5% of your total purchase to your school. Be sure to ask for specifics when checking out and provide your school info. This benefit was confirmed with the Office Depot on Nicholasville Road, but is supposed to be available from all Office Depot locations.

Governor's TEK Talk Community Forums

It's time to look at our education system and make sure we have the curriculum, teachers, standards, organization and structure in place to prepare our children for the 21st Century. To that end, Governor Beshear created the initiative **Transforming Education in Kentucky (TEK)** to serve as a catalyst to reinvigorate public support for K-12 education in Kentucky. The end goal is to create a unified and focused vision of what schools in the Commonwealth need to offer in order to better serve students.

On August 17th, the governor will host TEK Talk, community forums at ten locations across the state to discuss Transforming Education in Kentucky. In addition to the local discussions, KET will stream a live panel discussion with the governor, First Lady Jane Beshear, Education Commissioner Terry Holliday and Council on Postsecondary Education President Bob King. The panel will address questions posed at the community forums and discuss issues that emerge from local events.

Gatherings will begin at 7:00 p.m. The Lexington forum will be held at Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Cooper Auditorium 470 Cooper Drive.

For more local information, contact Lorraine Williams at lorraine.williams@fayette.kyschools.us. For more information about TEK, go to www.tek.ky.gov.

16th District Attends KYPTA Leadership

The KYPTA held its 4th annual combined Convention/Leadership training on July 16th-17th in Louisville. Thank you to the following schools for representing the 16th District PTA: William Wells Brown, Stonewall, Athens Chilesburg, Dixie, LTMS & Sandersville. Those attending also represented Lafayette High, Bryan Station Middle, Winburn Middle, and Bryan Station High.

Plan to attend next year's Convention/Leadership on July 15th-16th, 2011. It will again be held at the Fern Valley Hotel in Louisville. Specific information will be available in newsletters closer to the event.

School Physicals

[Lexington-Fayette County Health Department](#) will provide special clinics for school physicals through September 17th for children ages 3 and up. The physicals will be held at the Public Health Clinic South, 2433 Regency Rd. Same-day appointments can be made by calling 288-2483. The cost is based on income.

Don't Stop Believin' Bless Our Schools Event

St. Luke UMC
(New Circle and Alumni)

August 8th, 6:30 p.m.

Special music, videos and surprises! All involved in the lives of children are invited.

For more info, call 269-4687

Reflections Theme 2010-2011: "Together We Can"

The Reflections program is one of PTA's highlighted programs. Simply put, it is a program that asks children to express themselves artistically based on a common theme. The theme this year is "Together We Can". Artistic categories include photography, dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, and visual arts.

For most children this is a voluntary program that provides an opportunity to receive recognition for something they enjoy doing. Some schools use it as an opportunity within the classroom and have all students participate. Artwork/projects are judged at the school level and then winners move to district, state and even the national level. Last year, Fayette County had 4 entries that made it to the national level!

Tips for success: spread the word, get teachers/staff involved, distribute a rules packet, set your school deadline far enough in advance of the district deadline, try to get outside judges, make it fun and be creative with the awards. Check out www.ptareflections.org for everything you need to run your program: rules & entry forms, guidelines, judging tips, a sample judging scorecard, a customizable flyer and the local chair's guide.

The district deadline for this year is **Thursday, October 21st, 6:00 p.m.** Entries will be collected in conference room C of the IAKSS building. Please place all submissions in a large plastic Ziploc® bag with your school name, Reflections chair name, email & contact number. If you need any assistance running your Reflections program, please contact Jaime Nebbitt, janebb@email.uky.edu; (859) 619-3949.

The latest edition of Our Children...Our Future, the Kentucky PTA bulletin, can be found at <http://kypta.org/uploads/58/File/bulletin%20june%20july%202010.pdf>

Kids Helping Kids Food Drive

The 16th Annual God's Pantry Kids Helping Kids Food Drive will run September 7th through November 1st. Schools compete to see which school can donate the most pounds of food per student. Schools can hold their food drives for a week, month, or anytime during the two month period.



Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky will once again be sponsoring 10 monetary awards which will be presented at the end of the food drive.

The goal for this year is **100,000 pounds of food and 100% participation** by Fayette County Public Schools. Last year 49 schools participated. That represented 89,552 pounds of food.

To register or for questions, contact Robert Srodulski, food drive coordinator, at 288-5330 or Robert@godspantry.org.

Playwriting Contest

The Southeastern Theatre Conference, Inc. sponsors an annual playwriting contest. The purpose of the contest is to encourage and support aspiring high school playwrights. The winning playwright will receive \$250 and a subsidy to attend the 2011 SETC conference in Atlanta with an adult chaperone. In addition, a staged reading of the winning play followed by a talkback will take place during the conference.

For complete info, please visit <http://setc.org/scholarship/hsnewplay.php>. You will also be able to download the 2011 guidelines and an application form. Plays will be accepted from October 1st to December 1st.

2010 -2011 16th District PTA Board Members

Jessica Berry - President
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Liza Holland - 1st Vice President
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**Kathy Smiley - 2nd Vice President
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Where is PTA information?

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

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

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