



President's Message

Greetings

As we begin the new school year, I want to remind you of the importance of getting involved in the education of our children. As a parent, you are the most important influence in your child's success in school and in life. As a PTA, you belong to the oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy association in the United States.



PTA, founded in 1897 and comprised of more than five million members, is a relevant and valuable resource that has influenced federal policy to protect the education, health, and overall well-being for all children for many years. Our vision is "to make every child's potential a reality." I urge you to make all your decisions based on that vision. I also encourage you to focus on the three PTA priorities for children in 2010: parent involvement and family engagement in education, opportunity and equity for all children, and child health.



The 16th District Board is here to help you continue to promote the PTA mission as that powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child. If you need anything, please let us know. Have a great September!

*Jessica Berry, President
16th District PTA*

Dates to Remember

- September 1-30 National Literacy Month
- September 1 Application Window Opens
Magnet and G/T Applications
- September 6 No School, Labor Day
- September 7 Food Drive Begins
- September 9 Roundtable meeting
- September 11 Light the Night Walk
- September 12 Legacy Trail Premiere
- September 13-24 Fall State Testing
- September 15 "Early Bird" dues payment
- September 16 Suggested date for middle school progress reports
- September 20 Candidates Forum
- September 28 Kentucky PTA Kids' Day
- October 5 Walk to School Day
- October 5 Step Up For Kids Conference
- October 6 No School, Records Day
- October 7 No School
- October 8 No School
- October 10 2nd Sunday Event, downtown

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

A Tribute

The 16th District PTA gives tribute to a dedicated and faithful education advocate. Dr. Robert F. Sexton, Executive Director of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, departed this life August 26, 2010. A true supporter of parent involvement and engagement, Bob was passionate about the education of our children and truly believed that all children could learn at high levels. He believed that parents should be empowered and informed about how to help children, their teachers and their schools. Bob promoted a collaborative effort for improving education in Kentucky – believing that all stakeholders play a valuable role in the academic success of our students. He was a dedicated supporter, advisor, and friend who will be loved, respected, and remembered by many for his impact on education in Kentucky. Rest well, dear friend, for a job well done!

16th District PTA News

September 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 October 1st. The deadline for submissions is September 20th.

Roundtable September 9

The September District PTA Roundtable meeting will be held Thursday, September 9th at 11:30 a.m. in conference room C, IAKSS Bldg., 701 E. Main Street.

*Please note this date is a change from the original schedule.

Reflections Theme 2010-2011: "Together We Can"

If you are looking for something "funtabulous" for students at your school to do this fall, participate in the National PTA Reflections program. The theme this year is "Together We Can". The program gives students (preschool through 12th grade) an opportunity to create works of art in literature, dance choreography, photography, film production, visual arts, and musical composition. The program is easy to run and great for the kids!

The 6 steps to Reflections:

1. **Set a deadline.** The 16th District deadline is Thursday, October 21st. Set your deadline at least three weeks from ours to ensure yourself enough time to get the entries judged and winners recognized on at the school level.

2. **Spread the word.** Put up posters, send out flyers, put it in the newsletter, and/or on your website. The entry form, complete rules, plus a lot of other information is available at <http://www.ptareflections.org/>.

3. **Get entries judged.** I don't recommend using teachers or parents from your own school, but you can use teachers/parents from other schools. (The checklist for chairs on the website members section has other ideas for judges too).

4. **Recognize students**--whether it is recognizing them in the morning or afternoon announcements, pictures on the bulletin board, names in the newsletter or website, certificates, ribbons, plaques, etc. How you recognize them at your school is up to you and your budget. If possible, try to recognize everyone that participates in some way.

5. **Forward the top entries** to the next level of judging by the deadline (October 21st). Be sure to include your local participation form with the entries too.

6. **Return artwork** to students.

If you have any questions regarding Reflections, or need any suggestions for running a Reflections program, feel free to call the district Reflections chair, Jaime Nebbitt at 619-3949 or email janebb@email.uky.edu.

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.

KY PTA Kids' Day September 28, 2010

Kentucky PTA Kids' Day was established in 1985 to set aside one day just for our students. The goal is to send the message to each child that he or she is a special and unique individual who is respected and loved. Kentucky PTA Kids' Day also serves as a day to make the public aware of the educational and personal needs of children and the role they play as our most important natural resource. If you can't celebrate on the "official" day, hold a Kids' Day event when it fits into your calendar.

Magnet & G/T Information Nights and Application Window

FCPS magnet schools offer such options as Spanish immersion and individually prescribed education, while the gifted & talented programs provide the highest level of service in the areas of creative and performing arts, math, science, general intellectual ability and specific academic aptitude. FCPS also has specialized academic programs in several high schools.

Admission to magnet schools and gifted & talented programs is by application only. The application window is September 1st - October 15th for the 2011-2012 school year. For the specialized high school programs, application requirements and procedures vary; please refer to each program's Web page for details.

Each of the magnet schools and gifted & talented programs holds an Informational Night before the application deadline. Please see the complete list of dates and the online application at www.fcps.net or call 381-4741 for more details.

Source: www.FCPS.net

KIDS MATTER™ Scholarships

The Child Care Council and KIDS MATTER™ are pleased to announce 2 new scholarships (\$500 each) to students in the field of Early Childhood Education. One scholarship will be awarded to a student enrolled in college in Kentucky and the other scholarship will be awarded to a student enrolled in a college outside of Kentucky. To apply for the scholarship, click the link below and complete the application. Award notifications will be announced mid-fall. KIDS MATTER™ promotes education as one of its key components. The application deadline is October 15th.



[Click here](#) for the application.

Membership Notes

This year's membership theme is **Together Everyone Achieves More!** Please see the Leader's Notebook, Part V – Membership, page 7 for the KYPTA September action list. And don't forget September is membership month!

Dues

The KYPTA is sponsoring an "Early Bird" drawing for PTAs/PTSAs sending a state/national dues payment for members equal to or greater than the total membership from last year by September 15th. The drawing is for \$100. The state/national/district dues forms are in the Leader's Notebook, Part I – Forms, pgs. 6 & 7. District dues, for last year's membership, are 10 (ten) cents per member and can be sent to:
Kathy Smiley
2848 Majestic View Walk
Lexington, KY 40511



A Successful Membership Program

The goal of developing PTA membership is to build an informed team working on behalf of all children. Member involvement and programs are both part of an ongoing process of strengthening your PTA.

- **Promote PTA Involvement** to other organizations: PTA involvement is not limited to parents, teachers and students.
- **Make membership a team effort.** It takes a team effort to increase PTA's membership.
- **Survey prospective members** to gauge interest in your programs.
- **Develop an action plan** including an activity calendar and activity budget for your membership efforts that reflects your membership goals.
- **Take advantage of the resources:** State website- www.kypta.org; National Membership Marketing tools- PTA.org/marketing and check out the programs planning materials at PTA.org/Programs.

Source: *Membership Recruitment & Retention Manual*

16th District PTA Education Advocates

Do you care about what happens in education, but don't have kids in school right now? Would you like to see kids perform better in school? Do you think we need more voices for kids?

Then 16th District PTA **Education Advocates** is for you. Education Advocates will focus on maximizing resources for students and PTAs on a citywide level.

Research proves that parent engagement increases student achievement, regardless of race or economic situation. Education Advocates will build on existing PTA programs and develop new ways to get parents engaged, communicate with the community about education, and find ways for the needs of children to be heard in government.

Contact Liza Holland at Liza@LizaHolland.com if you have questions or would like more information.

Light the Night Walk

The Leukemia/Lymphoma Society is hosting its annual Light the Night Walk on Saturday, September 11th in downtown Lexington. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. at the new courthouse plaza and the walk begins at 7:30 p.m. For more info about this event go to http://www.leukemia-lymphoma.org/all_chap

Step Up for Kids

Advocates from across Kentucky will gather in Louisville for the *Step Up for Kids Conference* on October 5th to celebrate National Step Up for Kids Day, to introduce the [2011 Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Agenda](#), and to prepare for the 7th Annual Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol, to be held February 17, 2011. [Register for the Step Up for Kids Conference today!](#)

School Physicals

Need a school physical? The [Lexington-Fayette County Health Department](#) is providing 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.

Help Needed

16th District PTA is seeking a Spanish-speaking volunteer to help plan and do some outreach welcoming the local Latino community to join and be involved in PTA. If you are interested or know someone who would be a great fit, please email Jessica Berry at jdberry@insightbb.com.

Governor's TEK Talk Community Forums

The future of education in Kentucky was the topic August 17th as over 1,000 people from across KY attended 10 community forums for **Transforming Education in Kentucky** and participated in a live broadcast by KET of their new program, Education Matters. PTA was on hand to register participants and give input. In Lexington, the assembled participants included parents, teachers, community members, employers, FCPS Board Members and Superintendent, and others interested in education.

The goal is to create a vision of what Kentucky schools need to offer in order to serve students today and in the future. TEK asked for visions and dreams for education, as well as areas of interest or concern to participants. Everyone is looking forward to the TEK recommendations. You can learn more at <http://educationcabinet.ky.gov/tektaskforce/>.

Meet the Candidates

Fayette County Board of Education

The public is invited to attend candidate forums showcasing the candidates running for the Board of Education. Learn about the candidates before you vote! The forums will be held on Monday, September 20 at the times listed below. The location is: Fayette County Public Schools Central Offices, 701 East Main Street Conference Room C, Second Floor

Fayette County Board of Education, Division 4, 6:00-6:30 p.m.

- Amanda Main Ferguson
- Rick Queen

Fayette County Board of Education, Division 2, 6:45 – 7:30 p.m.

- Douglas Barnett
- Thomas Duncan, Jr.
- Kirk Tinsley

Forums will be videotaped and aired following the forum on Cable Channel 13.

The Lexington League of Women Voters and the 16th District PTA Council are co-sponsoring these forums as a public service to the parents and citizens of Fayette County.

Legacy Trail Opens

The Legacy Trail is a 12-mile walking, biking, interpretive trail and public art venue. The Trail begins in the East End of downtown Lexington and runs to the Kentucky Horse Park. The Trail will open on Sunday, September 12th at 1:00 p.m. There will be a “shoelace” cutting ceremony at 3:00 p.m. Bring your walking shoes, bike, & picnic! Plan to stay until dusk.

For more information, please call 859-225-3343. You can also find out more about the Trail and its’ path at <http://bgcf.org/engage/legacy-projects/> or <http://www.mylegacytrail.com/>.

2010 -2011 16th District PTA Board Members

Jessica Berry - President
523-3277, jdberry@insightbb.com

Liza Holland - 1st Vice President
533-3038, Liza@LizaHolland.com

Kathy Smiley - 2nd Vice President (Membership)
455-9236, katkat1@att.net

Linda Borkosky - Treasurer
312-7690,
lindaborkosky@insightbb.com

Colleen Wolfe - Secretary
338-2192,
colleen.wolfe@insightbb.com

Alice Nelson – Superintendent Designee
alice.nelson@fayette.kyschools.us

Karen Irving - Bylaws
806-7088, kirving@lexlaw.us

Jaime Nebbitt – Reflections
619-3949
janebb@email.uky.edu

Alva Mitchell Clark, Exceptional Child, 312-502-8217
alvamc@gmail.com

Molly Toney – Gifted & Talented
233-9849 ext. 226
mtoney@prichardcommittee.org

Deneia Thomas – School Services, 225-7033
Deneia.Thomas@eku.edu

Debbie Boian – Scholarship
debbie.boian@fayette.kyschools.us

Judi Conrad – Consultant
223-1877
jconradpsi@windstream.net

Lou Ann Ramos – Consultant
233-9849 ext. 231
lramos@prichardcommittee.org

Spotlite on PTA

The show airs on Channel 13 and highlights programs and activities brought to students by the PTAs of the 16th District.

2nd Sunday Event 10/10/10 & \$1,000

The next 2nd Sunday statewide event will take place in downtown Lexington on October 10th. The purpose is to promote healthy lifestyles so plan to walk, bike, run, play and participate in fun and healthy activities. The event will start at 2:00 p.m. Again this year, Councilman Jay McChord announced a \$1,000 cash prize for the Fayette County school with the highest percentage of participants. The award will go to the school’s PTA and is not restricted in its use. Rules will be published in next month’s newsletter. Plan to have kids wear their school t-shirt or spirit wear! The goal is to get as many kids out to the event as possible so that they and their families can enjoy the healthy activities.

This year, the 2nd Sunday event will be held at the same time as Spotlight Lexington on the last day of the World Equestrian Games. Plan to make a day of it and stay for the fireworks at 8:00 p.m. at the courthouse plaza!



Look for more event information at <http://www.2ndsundayky.com/>.

Playwriting Contest

The Southeastern Theatre Conference, Inc. sponsors an annual playwriting contest 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.