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16th

District PTA News

December 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 January 3, 2011. The deadline to submit articles is December 20, 2010.

President's Message

Greetings,

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. We all have so much to be thankful for! As we continue throughout the rest of the year recognize your successes, learn from the challenges, thank those who help support our children, and continue to move our PTAs and our district toward greater achievements.



This past month I had the opportunity to tour a blue ribbon school, participate in the academic challenge, and meet community leaders dedicated to the success of our children. It is amazing seeing things first hand – the pride, dedication, and commitment of the students, the staff, and all stakeholders warms my heart. Make every effort to be involved and take advantage of every opportunity to see the results. Actively involving all stakeholders is what it's all about because together everyone achieves more (TEAM)!



Speaking of TEAM, a special congratulations goes to Veterans Park Elementary PTA for receiving the Golden Apple Award in the category of school-based organizations. This award went to six high-performance community partners who provide an exceptional commitment of time, energy and expertise to schools or the district. Congratulations VPE PTA!

Join us in support of our children's artistic expression at the Reflections Award Ceremony on December 5th at 3 p.m. in Norsworthy Auditorium. Also, this month's Roundtable will include the opportunity you've been asking for... "sharing time." Please come prepared to share ideas, suggestions, comments and give feedback about PTA programs & events held in our district. In honor of the holiday, refreshments will be served. Don't miss this Roundtable. In the meantime, have a great month. See you on December 16th!

Jessica Berry, President
16th District PTA

Dates to Remember

- December 5.....Reflections Award Ceremony
- December 12 Lexington Philharmonic, Candy Cane Concert, 3:00 p.m.
- December 16PTA Roundtable
- December 17 Last day of classes
- Dec 18 - Jan 2 Winter Break
- January 3 Classes resume
- January 18.....Training – middle school ILP
- January 20.....PTA Roundtable

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

District PTA Scholarship Donations

The 16th District PTA awards scholarships to outstanding students from Fayette County's high schools, technical schools and alternative schools in order to help the students continue their education. Each spring applications are accepted and the review committee selects one winner from each of the schools. Last year scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each were awarded to seven seniors.

The 16th District PTA funds the scholarships through local PTA donations and the endowment fund known as the William Ezzell Scholarship Account. The principal amount in this account shall be maintained, but any interest income accrued may be used each year to supplement District scholarships. For auditing purposes, this serves as a written request to local PTAs to help fund our scholarships. We will also send a receipt once your donation has been received. Please plan to contribute to the scholarship fund.

Scholarship donations are accepted all year and maintained in the separate scholarship fund. Please send your scholarship donations to the 16th District PTA Treasurer:
Linda Borkosky
4959 Hartland Parkway
Lexington, KY 40515

Kids Helping Kids

Food Drive



WOW! What a year for the food drive. There were 49 schools that participated and included 36,097 Fayette County kids. An amazing 112,853 pounds of food were collected!! It's the most ever in the 16 year history of this food drive. That is a 2 month supply of food!

The Top 10 schools in no order of rank are:

- Cassidy Elementary
- Eastside Technical
- Edythe J. Hayes Middle
- Jessie M. Clark Middle
- Meadowthorpe Elementary
- Sandersville Elementary
- Southern Middle
- Southside Technical
- Veterans Park Elementary
- Winburn Middle

Placements will be announced at an awards ceremony to be held at the God's Pantry warehouse on December 2nd at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is a winner, especially the 3,000+ households that will benefit from all the school donations.

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

Lexington Philharmonic

Candy Cane Concert



The annual Candy Cane Concert will be presented by the Lexington Philharmonic on Sunday, December 12th at 3:00 p.m. The concert will be held at the Singletary Center. Pre-concert activities start at 2:00 p.m. Holiday stories come alive through song and dance including Polar Express, Rudolph, Charlie Brown, and more performed with the SCAPA

Chorus, Diana Evans Dancers, and guest narrator

Bill Meck of WLEX. Tickets are \$8/child and \$12/adult. To

order or for more information call 233-4226 or visit

www.lexphil.org/family-series.php.

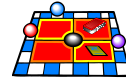


Advocacy

According to the Kentucky Youth Advocates website, www.kyyouth.org/, advocates, policymakers and experts in all areas of child well-being gathered in Louisville on October 5th for the 2010 Step Up for Kids Conference. They introduced the [2011 Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Agenda](#), and prepared for the 7th Annual Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol.

If you missed the conference, click to view the [materials and handouts](#) that were distributed. For talking points on the Blueprint for Kentucky's Children, check out the [fact sheets](#) available for the latest topics.

Thursday, February 17th is Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol in Frankfort. Mark your calendars and join us to speak up for children! The district is organizing a carpool. If interested, contact Liza Holland at Liza@LizaHolland.com.



PTA/PTSAs Hard at Work during Parent Involvement Month

Good Time at Maxwell Elementary

Maxwell Elementary School PTA planned an interesting event in conjunction with their November PTA meeting. In honor of Parent Involvement Month they hosted a Family Board Game Night. According to Maxwell PTA President, Teresa Forbes-Lopez, there was a nice turn out and everyone had a great time. In keeping with the mission of the school there were games in Spanish and English. Additionally the PTA provided popcorn and lemonade as a treat for all to enjoy. The principal, faculty, PTA board members and families participated in the event and enjoyed spending quality time together while educating each other on the various games.



Nationally Known Guest Speaker Visits Lexington

Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu will be in Lexington on Saturday, December 4th. Dr. Kunjufu has appeared on Oprah and BET. He is the author of 31 books including *Raising Black Boys*. He will be a special guest at "The State of the African American Male." This program is sponsored by Fayette County Public Schools, United Way of the Bluegrass and BMW. It focuses on educating, motivating and making a difference in the lives of black male youth.

All African American males, grades 6 – 12, their parents, grandparents and other supporters are invited to attend. "The State of the African American Male" takes place at First Baptist Church Bracktown on December 4th from 10 a.m. – 1p.m. The event is FREE and open to the public. For more information, call 859-231-7042.

Bryan Station Middle PTSA President in the News

Kate Wood, the president of Bryan Station Middle PTSA made headlines during Parent Involvement Month for all of her hard work at the school. Kate is involved in everything from making copies to fundraising. To see the complete article please go to <http://www.fcps.net/news/features/2010-11/parents-week>.

Ways You Can Get Involved

The Kentucky Parent Information & Resource Center (KYPIRC) offers a great deal of information on parent involvement. For involvement ideas go to <http://www.kypirc.org/>. Look for the latest calendar with daily activities promoting involvement, as well as their monthly newsletter.

Last, don't forget to mark your calendar for March 3rd or March 8th for the 16th District PTA Training on "Encouraging Parent Leaders."

Membership Notes

The November membership report from the state shows that the 16th

District has 9,855 members this year compared to 9,268 members this time last year. Great job so far!



Congratulations to our 19 schools that have already increased their membership number from last year:

- Athens Chilesburg EL
- Beaumont Mid
- Booker T. Washington EL
- Bryan Station Mid
- Deep Springs EL
- Dixie Magnet EL
- Edythe J. Hayes Mid
- Henry Clay High
- Lansdowne EL
- Liberty EL
- Meadowthrope EL
- Morton Mid
- Northern EL
- Rosa Park EL
- Southern EL
- Southern Mid
- Tates Creek EL
- Tates Creek Mid
- William Wells Brown

We also have 5 schools that currently have the same membership number as last year. After the January campaign they should top last year's number. They are:

- Arlington EL
- Ashland EL
- Crawford Mid
- Harrison EL
- Mary Todd EL

As a District, we are just shy of reaching our last year's membership number. With your hard work we can meet and exceed that number by March 15th. Thank you for your continued effort on membership. Remember that January brings the "New Year, New Opportunities" membership campaign.

For any membership questions, please contact Kathy Smiley at kthysmiley@yahoo.com.

2010 -2011 16th District PTA Board Members

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

**Liza Holland - 1st Vice President
(Advocacy)**
533-3038, Liza@LizaHolland.com

**Kathy Smiley - 2nd Vice President
(Membership)**
455-9236, kthysmiley@yahoo.com

Linda Borkosky - Treasurer
312-7690,
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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
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Deneia.Thomas@eku.edu

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

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

Lou Ann Ramos – Consultant
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lramos@prichardcommittee.org

See the Goals of the 16th District PTA
at <http://www.fcps.net/partners/pta>.

Tips for a Successful January Campaign

Membership growth is a sign that your PTA is a vital and relevant organization that is making a difference in your community. If your PTA is an effective, respected, and fun association, people will join. Plan now.

Lay the Groundwork for Success

1. Explain to potential members what your PTA does for the children.
2. Does your PTA/PTSA meet the needs of your community?
3. Align your goals with the needs and interests of your community.
4. Make sure you have the support of your principal and school staff.

Ensure Continued Effectiveness

1. How close are you to reaching your membership goal? What goal will you set for membership in January?
2. Ask your treasurer about handling membership fees. Make sure the current procedures work.
3. Thank current PTA members for their commitment. Tell them how they can help recruit new members.

Take Advantage of Second Semester Enthusiasm

1. Tell your community about the opportunities to get involved.
2. Send membership forms home with report cards and school reminders.
3. Design a visual representation of your growing membership for display.
4. Ask people to join your PTA—don't wait for them to offer.
5. Make it easy for people to join.

Promote Membership Whenever Possible

1. Set up your membership table at every PTA and school function.
2. Publish a list of PTA members in your newsletter.
3. Regularly include articles about membership and a clip-out membership form in your newsletter.
4. Publish your current membership count in your newsletter.

See the full list of ideas on the National PTA website at <http://www.pta.org/2374.htm>.