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

January 2011

## 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 Secretary, at [colleen.wolfe@insightbb.com](mailto:colleen.wolfe@insightbb.com).

The next district newsletter will be distributed February 1<sup>st</sup>. The deadline to submit articles is January 20<sup>th</sup>.

## President's Message

Welcome Back!!

I hope each and every one of you had a blessed holiday. Since we enjoyed an extra-long break we should all be ready to start a new year with new possibilities. January kicks off 2011 as Membership Month and I urge you to make involving more parents a priority for your PTA. Encourage members to join by discussing the importance of parental involvement and the benefits to students when more parents are involved; brag that we are the largest child advocacy association in the nation with more than 5 million members networking and supporting all children; explore the rich history of PTA and our involvement in the establishment of child labor laws, public health services and the improvement of school lunch programs; and examine the benefits of PTA membership which include a wealth of online resources, a computer-based training program, and even discounts from businesses like MetLife Insurance, Southwest Airlines, and T-Mobile. No matter the reason, remember that students benefit from each and every membership.



As PTA leaders, not only should we be encouraging more people to get involved, we should be supporting those that are already involved and promote sustainable programs for students across this district. In an effort to do so, we are rescheduling our "sharing" time for the January Roundtable. Encourage everyone to attend as this is a great opportunity to network with all our PTAs.

We will also "officially" elect our slate for the nominating committee. All those on the slate please make plans to stay for a brief meeting immediately following Roundtable. Looking forward to seeing you. Have a great month!

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

## Dates to Remember

- January 3 ..... Classes resume
- January 6 ..... School Board Induction, Sandersville Elementary, 1:00 p.m.
- January 11 ..... Middle school report cards
- January 12 ..... High school report cards
- January 13 ..... Elementary report cards
- January 17 ..... No School, Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
- January 18 ..... Training-middle school ILP, William Wells Brown, 6:00 p.m.
- January 20 ..... PTA Roundtable
- February 5 ..... Academic Challenge, Principal's Cup
- February 11 ..... School is in session
- February 15 ..... PTA Award and Scholarship Applications Due

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

## Awards and Scholarships

Kentucky PTA awards scholarships each year to high school seniors, parent PTA members and teacher PTA members for continuing education. Also, awards are given to students who work to improve challenges at school or home and have improved grades, attendance, attitude, character and/or self-esteem. For specific information about these scholarships and awards see your Leader's Notebook or go to <http://www.kypta.org/site/programs/>.

## Snow Make-up Days

Students and staff are now expected to be in school on **February 11<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup> and May 27<sup>th</sup>** to make up for the December 13<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> cancellations. The revised schedule also moves the last day of school for students from May 26<sup>th</sup> to May 27<sup>th</sup>. Follow [www.fcps.net](http://www.fcps.net) for the latest school schedule information.

# Membership Notes

Many PTAs run only one membership campaign a year—in the fall. But those units that run more than one campaign a year have, on average, 20 percent more members! That's because potential members have more opportunities to say "yes" to becoming a member. Some facts:

- Nationwide, approximately 18% of PTA members join in Jan. and Feb.
- Running membership campaigns more frequently reminds your members that membership is everyone's business, especially if you weave membership into programs, activities, and general PTA work, too.
- January is not too late for parents to make a real impact in the current school year. Plus, people who join PTA in January will be ready to renew their membership the following school year.

The January PTA Membership Campaign theme, "New Year... New Opportunities," plays on people's optimism that the New Year brings new opportunities to improve ourselves, our lives, and the world around us. For parents, the world in which they want to make a difference is largely defined by children and schools. Encourage parents to make it their number one resolution to be more involved in their children's education. It's a resolution they'll want to keep. And PTA makes it easy.

As you recruit new members, make sure you involve current members, who will likely feel a renewed commitment to the decision they made at the start of the school year. Tell members their important role in the campaign: Each member should resolve to invite at least one new person to join PTA.

Source: [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

For any membership questions, please contact Kathy Smiley at [kthysmiley@yahoo.com](mailto:kthysmiley@yahoo.com).



## Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol February 17, 2011

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol is YOUR opportunity to show your legislators that Kentucky cares about its children and youth. Rally for children's issues at the Capitol Rotunda and gather information on policies affecting Kentucky's youth in the coming legislative session. Meet people from across the state who share your commitment to children. Schedule a time to speak with your legislators. Youth are encouraged to attend! To register, or for information, visit <https://app.e2ma.net/app2/survey/1407893/205020766/ddebfb96d2/>. You can also contact Whitney Neal via email at [wneal@kyyouth.org](mailto:wneal@kyyouth.org) or via phone at (502) 895-8167 x 121.

The 16<sup>th</sup> District PTA is organizing a carpool/caravan to Frankfort that day. Those travelling to Frankfort will meet in the Northside Walmart parking lot on New Circle Road at 8:45 a.m. for a short briefing including directions and then leave at 9:00 a.m. If interested, contact Liza Holland at [Liza@LizaHolland.com](mailto:Liza@LizaHolland.com) or 533-3038. For those unable to attend, the Roundtable meeting will be held the same day at 11:30 a.m. and will focus on advocacy.

**Do you know the goals of the 16<sup>th</sup> District PTA? Check out:**  
<http://www.fcps.net/partners/pta>

## Middle & High School Blues? An Introduction to the Individual Learning Plan (ILP)

Have the blues about your child going to middle school? Is your child already in middle or high school and you feel your involvement is not what it should be or your student hasn't made decisions about the future? We've got the solution. The 16<sup>th</sup> District PTA is excited to invite you to our first training of the year! An Introduction to the Individual Learning Plan (ILP) will be held on January 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at Williams Wells Brown Elementary.

The Individual Learning Plan (ILP) is an online tool used to help students in grades 6-12 make connections between courses and career goals. Features include finding careers that match student skills and interests; creating education plans; creating and maintaining resumes; tracking community service experience, work experience and extra-curricular activities; and exploring colleges and post-secondary opportunities. It is a great starting point for important discussions about your child's future.



Training attendees will receive hands-on experience logging on to ILP and navigating through the system with the opportunity to ask questions from James Hardin, FCPS Career and Technical Education Coordinator. Please join us for this exciting training and help spread the word by including this information in your newsletters or listserv communiqué.

Also, watch for specific information about the additional upcoming trainings:

- ◇ February 15 – Kindergarten Readiness
- ◇ March 3 (daytime) – Encouraging Parent Leaders
- ◇ March 8 (evening) – Encouraging Parent Leaders
- ◇ April 12 - "Summertime in the City: How to Keep Your Children Sharp"

# Do You Have Three Hours To Spare?

As you set your new year's resolutions, rearrange priorities, and/or implement new time management techniques, think about



how a little bit of time can go a long way. PTA programs, such as *Three for Me* and *Men Organized to Raise Engagement*

(MORE), ask you to volunteer in your child's school for just three hours.

*Three for Me* is a PTA program designed to effectively involve parents and families in support of children and their education. *Three for Me* helps schools, PTAs, parent groups, and other volunteer-based organizations reach volunteer hours never thought possible. With *Three for Me*, you will find creative ways that connect all families to their child's school and education, ideas that strengthen home-school-community partnerships, and resources that motivate parents.

To combat historically low male participation in parent involvement groups, National PTA's **MORE** (Men Organized to Raise Engagement) Alliance and the National Fatherhood Leaders Group have teamed up to launch *A Million Hours of Power*, an initiative to inspire 350,000 American men to dedicate three hours of service to the education, health and well-being of children. Three hours of service—truly a small amount of time to invest—from 350,000 men totals more than 1 million hours of true power to the lives of children, resulting in educational, social and physical benefits to kids across the nation.

With less than 20 weeks remaining, PTA is only asking for about 10 minutes of your time a week. That's manageable, right? Imagine how just three hours can benefit the education of our children and impact their lives forever. Make it your resolution to get involved today by contacting your PTA!

# 2010-2011 Reflections Winners

All local winners of the PTA Reflections contest from participating Fayette County schools were recognized at the Reflections Awards Ceremony on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

The following district winners will continue on to the state competition. The awards ceremony for the state winners will be held on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Please encourage parents to mark this date now. Winners will receive more information from Kentucky PTA.

Congratulations to all of our participants and good luck to those who will be competing at the state level!



## Musical Composition Award of Excellence

Primary – Madelyn Groth  
Intermediate – Zachary Ratliff LeSage  
Middle/Junior – Caroline Copley

## Award of Merit

Primary – Sallie Kate Goff  
Intermediate – Ashvin Sial  
Middle/Junior – John Meyers  
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## Film Production Award of Excellence

Primary – Kelly Landry  
Intermediate – Megan Slusarewicz  
Middle/Junior – Isaiah Cordray

## Award of Merit

Primary – Charles Caswell  
Intermediate – Bailey Watkins  
Middle/Junior – Madison Banta  
\*\*\*\*\*



## Dance Choreography Award of Excellence

Primary – Shayda Alsalihi  
Intermediate – Elora Mukhopadhyay  
Middle/Junior – Molly Felty

## Award of Merit

Primary – Emma Monziona  
Intermediate – Caitlenn Ellis  
Middle – Presli Neal  
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## Literature

### Award of Excellence

Primary – Jackson Gonzales  
Intermediate – Jacob Ernst  
Middle/Junior – Alice Li  
Senior – Maria Wu



### Award of Merit

Intermediate – Annika Sial  
Middle/Junior – Loretta Peterson  
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## Photography

### Award of Excellence

Primary – Casey Powell  
Intermediate – Kacie Hughes  
Special Needs – Demetrius Grasso  
Middle – Emily Tolliver  
Senior – Brittany Hill

### Award of Merit

Primary – Jackson Gonzales  
Intermediate – Emma Berger  
Middle – Lucy Bowman  
Senior – Jennifer Amezua  
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## Visual Arts

### Award of Excellence

Primary – Makayla Barnes  
Intermediate – Billy Pence, Jr.  
Middle – Joanna Slusarewicz  
Senior – Sarah Caton



### Award of Merit

Primary – Mallory Sparks  
Intermediate – Paisli Neal  
Intermediate – William Ding  
Middle – Tonya Warren  
Middle – Gabe Martin

# Reflections Pick Up

Please make arrangements to pick up your school's Reflections submissions at the January 20<sup>th</sup> Roundtable. If you need to make other arrangements contact Jaime Nebbitt at 619-3949 or [janebb@email.uky.edu](mailto:janebb@email.uky.edu).

# 2011-2012 Reflections

The 2011-2012 Reflections theme is "Diversity means..." The 16<sup>th</sup> District deadline will be October 20, 2011. Start planning your Reflections program now!