

16th District PTA News

February 2011

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 March 1st. The deadline to submit articles is February 20th.

President's Message

Greetings,

Happy Founder's Day PTA (February 17th)!! If you don't know and haven't shared the history of PTA, please do so. It is important that we share the pivotal role that PTA has played in the well-being of children. Information can be found at http://www.pta.org/founders_day.asp.



I can't believe February is here already! There are many things happening this month so this newsletter has a lot of information. Please take time to read through the entire newsletter. Be sure to make plans for your PTA/PTSA to celebrate Black History Month, *Take Your Family to School Week*, and National PTA Founders Day which falls on the same day as Children's Advocacy Day in Frankfort. The 16th District PTA will be carpooling to the event for those who can attend and we will have Roundtable for those who can't. At Roundtable we will discuss the legislative bills and sign up for the legislative action alerts. Please see the insert regarding bills that are scheduled for this year's general session.

Also, remember that all PTAs/PTSAs should be gearing up for elections (unless otherwise stated in your bylaws) by forming nominating and election committees for PTA officer elections as well as SBDM parent elections. Make sure your entire school population is aware of the nominating period and the election dates. The earlier you post these dates, the greater the turnout and the better the representation. Also, see the 16th District nomination information.

Pass this information on to your PTA members, school staff and the entire parent population at your school. Remember, communication is key to advocacy. Have a great month!

Jessica Berry, President
16th District PTA

Dates to Remember

February 5	Academic Challenge, Principal's Cup
February 9	Middle school progress reports
February 11	School is in session
February 12	District Science Fair
February 13-19	PTA Take Your Family to School Week
February 15	PTA Award and Scholarship Applications Due
February 15	Kindergarten registration window opens
February 15	Kindergarten Readiness Trng. 6-7 p.m. Arlington Elementary
February 17	PTA Founders Day
February 17	PTA Roundtable
February 17	Children's Advocacy Day
February 21	No school, Presidents Day
February 24	High school progress reports
March 2	Read Across America Day
March 3	ILP Training, 6-8 p.m.
March 4	School is in session

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



Kindergarten Registration

It's that time of year again... kindergarten registration. Children turning 5 on or before October 1st are eligible to attend kindergarten in the 2011-2012 school year. To get a child registered, families should visit their home school any time between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. February 14th through March 11th to fill out registration forms. To find a home school, go to www.fcps.net/street. There will also be an evening registration on February 15th from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. When coming to register, be sure to bring the needed paperwork. For paperwork details visit www.fcps.net/registration. A second registration window will be available in April. If you have any questions, please call Whitney Stevenson at 381-4202.

Kindergarten Readiness Training

The 16th District PTA, in conjunction with FCPS, is hosting a Kindergarten Readiness training at Arlington Elementary on Tuesday, February 15th from 6-7 p.m. Parents will find out what to expect when transitioning children to kindergarten, develop skills that ease the transition, and obtain language and literacy strategies. Attendees will receive information regarding kindergarten screening and Delivery to Diploma with an opportunity to ask questions of Whitney Stevenson, Early Childhood Gap Intervention Specialist for FCPS.

Plan to be there early since parents from any school can register his/her child on site. Snacks will be available and prizes awarded during the training! Spread the word and bring a friend. If you have any questions about the training, please contact Jessica Berry at jdberry@insightbb.com.

Also, take note of more upcoming training opportunities. Specific information will be included in future newsletters.

◇ March 3rd - Individual Learning Plan (ILP) Training, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at William Wells Brown Elementary

◇ March 8th - Encouraging Parent Leaders Training, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in conference room C of IAKSS

◇ April 12th - "Summertime in the City: How to Keep Your Children Sharp", 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at the Central Branch of the Lexington Public Library.

Spotlite on PTA

The show airs on Channel 13 and highlights programs and activities brought to students by the PTAs of the 16th District. To spotlight your PTA, contact jdberry@insightbb.com.

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/>.

Take Your Family to School Week

The week of February 13th-19th, schools across the country will be celebrating PTA *Take Your Family to School Week* with special events to engage parents in their children's education.

If your school is planning or has planned activities for *Take Your Family to School Week* we want to know about it! Please contact Jessica Berry via email at jdberry@insightbb.com. If your school isn't already planning an event, it's not too late to get started. Find event ideas at <http://www.pta.org/1985.htm>.



Help Wanted!

District Officer Positions

It's that time again! We are looking for the right candidates to serve on the 16th District PTA Board for the 2011-2013 school year. Attached to this newsletter is the nomination form with the description of each position. If you are interested in any position, please fill out the nomination form and return it by March 1st.

If you have questions please contact Kathy Smiley, nominating committee chair, at ktthysmiley@yahoo.com.

Multi-Sensory Reading Workshop

The Exceptional Child committee of the 16th District PTA, in conjunction with the Parent Resource Center, is offering a Multi-sensory Reading Workshop on Tuesday, March 8th at two separate times. The lunch workshop will be held from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. with lunch provided. The evening workshop will be held from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Conducted by Fayette County Schools Resource Specialists, the workshops will teach parents how to engage their children to improve reading skills. It is appropriate for all ages.

Please pass this opportunity to parents and teachers, especially those who are involved with special needs students.

The workshop will take place at the College for Technical Education, 1165 Centre Parkway, Suite 120. If you have questions, please call Alva Clark at (877) 393-3869 or email alvamc@gmail.com or contact Stella Smith at stella.smith@fayette.kyschools.us. Please RSVP for the lunch session.

Grab Your Hat and Read with the Cat!

It's almost time for the National Education Association's Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2nd. The National Education Association's Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on that day. Partner with your school to do something special to make this a spectacular day of reading. Find more information at <http://www.nea.org/readacross/>



Membership Notes

Hopefully your "New Year- New Opportunity" membership drive is going strong...we are only 759 members short of last year's district membership number. Remember, the deadline to send in membership dues is March 15th.

The 16th District PTA presents the "March Madness Membership Drive". The PTA/PTSA with the most new members between March 1st and March 15th will be entered into a drawing. The drawing will take place at the April Roundtable.

Also, Kentucky PTA is announcing a Founders Day membership incentive! If your student enrollment is less than 400 and your PTA/PTSA sends in dues for 10 to 25 additional members between the dates of January 15th and March 15th, your name will be entered in a drawing for a free registration to Convention/Leadership 2011. For those with student enrollment 400 or over and your PTA/PTSA sends in dues for 26 to 50 additional members between the dates of January 15th and March 15th, your name will be entered in a drawing for a free registration to Convention/Leadership 2011.

District Membership Analysis:

Schools with increases over last year:

Athens Chilesburg EL, Beaumont MS, Booker T. Washington EL, Bryan Station MS, Deep Spring EL, Dixie Magnet EL, Edythe J. Hayes MS, Henry Clay HS, Lansdowne EL, Liberty EL, Meadowthorpe EL, Morton MS, Northern EL, Rosa Park EL, Russell Cave EL, Southern EL, Southern MS, Tates Creek EL, Tates Creek MS, William Wells Brown EL.

District President's Challenge (16% increase over last year):

Beaumont MS, Booker T. Washington EL, Bryan Station MS, Edythe J. Hayes MS, Meadowthorpe EL, Northern EL, Rosa Parks EL, Tates Creek EL, Tates Creek MS, William Wells Brown.

Membership Increase 6% over

last year: Athens-Chilesburg EL, Beaumont MS, Booker T. Washington EL, Bryan Station MS, Cassidy EL, Deep Spring EL, Edythe J. Hayes MS, Liberty EL, Meadowthorpe EL, Morton MS, Northern EL, Rosa Parks EL, Southern EL, Southern MS, Tates Creek EL, Tates Creek MS, William Wells Brown.

Membership Increase 11% over

last year: Athens-Chilesburg EL, Beaumont MS, Booker T. Washington EL, Bryan Station MS, Cassidy EL, Edythe J. Hayes, Liberty EL, Meadowthorpe EL, Morton MS, Northern EL, Rosa Parks EL, Tates Creek EL, Tates Creek MS, William Wells Brown.

National President's Challenge

(25 member increase): President's Award (25 members increase over last year): Athens-Chilesburg EL, Beaumont MS, Booker T. Washington EL, Bryan Station MS, Edythe J. Hayes, Meadowthorpe EL, Morton MS, Northern EL, Rosa Parks EL, Southern MS, Tates Creek MS, William Wells Brown.

KY PTA Board of Directors' Challenge (93 members

increase): Beaumont MS, Bryan Station MS, Meadowthorpe EL, Rosa Park EL, Tates Creek MS.

Congratulations to all these schools! Keep up the good work. Contact Kathy Smiley with any membership questions at kthysmiley@yahoo.com.

KAGE Parent Night

The Kentucky Association for Gifted Education (KAGE) will hold a Parent Night as part of their 31st Annual Conference. Parent Night will be held on Monday, February 7th from 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at Marriott Griffin Gate. It is free for parents! The session offers an overview of the social and emotional issues facing gifted children. In addition, participants learn several parenting strategies to address the social and emotional needs of their gifted children. For more info, click <http://www.wku.edu/kage/conf2011/parent2011/>.

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



The 7th annual Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol is YOUR opportunity to show your legislators that Kentucky cares about its children and youth. The 16th District PTA is organizing a carpool/caravan to Frankfort that day. Those travelling to Frankfort will meet in the North side 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 or 533-3038.

Wm. Wells Brown Panel Discussion

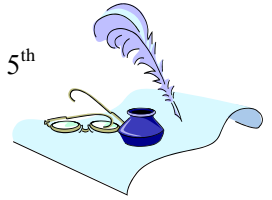
There will be a meeting at William Wells Brown Elementary on February 17th at 6:30pm in the WWB Community Center. This panel discussion, sponsored by the WWB Community Association, is an opportunity for the community to ask questions pertaining to the school with school and district representatives, as well as the PTA.

Do you know the goals of the 16th District PTA? Check out:

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

Kentucky PTA Legislative Commission Report

The following bills have been pre-filed for this year's Legislative General Session that will start on February 5th and could be of interest to our members. As we get farther into the session, we will be sending out alerts to you on some of these bills that we will be either in support of or be in opposition to.



When you get these alerts please call, write, or e-mail your legislators and let them know your position on a particular bill. We will give you talking points and our positions when we send out the alerts. You can call your legislator at 1-800-372-7181 or go through the Legislative Research Home page at lrc@ky.gov to write or e-mail your legislator.

If you haven't signed up for our alerts, please e-mail your name, address, phone number, and e-mail to our state office at kyptakelly@bellsouth.net.

Bills supported by Kentucky PTA

- HB 86 (BR 197) Act relating to early education assessment and intervention with students with suspected disabilities. Sponsors are Representative Addia Wuchner, Representative Maria Rader, and Representative C. B. Embry Jr.
- HB 39 (BR162) & SB 35 (BR 136) Act relating to school funding that no mandate be placed on the public schools by the General Assembly without program funding to carry out the mandate. Sponsors are Representative Sal Santoro, Senator John Schickel and Senator Damon Thayer
- HB 243 (BR 243) Act relating to energy drinks. Prohibit the sale of energy drinks to children under 18 years of age. Sponsor is Representative Danny Ford.
- HB 89 (BR 160) Act relating to the inclusion of the body mass index on school physical examination forms. Sponsors are Representative Addia Wuchner and Representative Tom Burch.
- SB 28 (BR 167) Act relating to school districts. Require the Commonwealth to provide state funds from the general fund to a local school district to offset the costs of implementing any changes that result in mandated changes to the local district assignment plan. Sponsor is Senator Tim Shaughnessy.
- HB 16 (BR 13) Act relating to obesity in school children. Sponsor Representative Linda Belcher.
- HB 88 (BR 159) Act relating to healthy goals for the school children of the Commonwealth. Sponsors are Representative Addia Wuchner and Representative Tom Burch.
- HB 75 (BR 228) Act relating to school dropout prevention. To increase the compulsory attendance age and to set a high school graduation rate of at least 90 percent by July 2016. Sponsor is Representative Reginald Meeks.



Bill not supported by Kentucky PTA

- HB 98 (BR 184) Act relating to the Great Schools Tax Credit Program. Sponsor Representative Brad Montell.

Bills that KY PTA does not have a position on and will be checking into with National PTA

- HB 67 (BR 258) & HB 62 (BR 242) Act relating to school buses and school board selling advertising on the buses. Sponsors are Representative Terry Mills and Representative Brad Montell.
- HB 103 (BR180) Act relating to charter schools. Sponsor is Representative Brad Montell.
- SB 21 (BR111) Act relating to school attendance. Sponsors are Senator Dan Seum and Senator David Williams.

16th District PTA Board Nominating Form 2011-2013

In accordance with 16th District Bylaws, the following criteria must be met to be eligible for a Board Position:

- Only members of a local unit in good standing in this district shall be eligible to hold office;
- Each district officer shall be a member of a local PTA/PTSA within this district;
- A person shall not be eligible to serve as President unless he/she has served as a President at a local unit in good standing or has served at least one (1) year on the District Board of Directors.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Position - please put an X in the space next to the interested office(s):

_____ <i>President</i>	_____ <i>1st Vice President</i>
_____ <i>2nd Vice President</i>	_____ <i>Recording Secretary</i>
_____ <i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	_____ <i>Treasurer</i>

Why are you running for the Position/Qualifications:

Previous or Current Commitments/Offices:

Please mail or email form to: Kathy Smiley 2848 Majestic View Walk Lexington KY 40511
kthysmiley@yahoo.com - by March 1, 2011.

From the 16th District Bylaws:

ARTICLE VIII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the association and the Executive Committee Board; shall coordinate the work of the district; extend PTA work into all parts of the district; submit a report for inclusion in the annual report of the State PTA; shall be a member ex officio of all committees, except the nominating committee. The President or an alternate (elected by the Board of Directors), shall serve on the Kentucky PTA Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Vice-President(s) shall act as aide(s) to the President and shall, in their designated order, perform the duties of the President in the absence or inability of that officer to act. The First Vice-President is responsible for assisting the President in all duties. The Second Vice-President is responsible for District Membership.

Section 3. The Recording Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings and shall keep an accurate roster of the names of the local PTAs in membership, the names and addresses of local PTA Presidents, and the names and addresses of the members of the District Executive Committee and Board.

Section 4. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct all correspondence of the association; shall send the name and addresses of newly elected District officers to the state office; shall send out notices for all District meetings; and coordinate the newsletter.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall have custody of all of the funds of the District; shall collect and keep a full and accurate account of all monies of the District; shall payout funds only as authorized by the President, Executive Committee, Board of Directors or District; and shall present a financial statement at each meeting of the District. The books of the Treasurer shall be examined annually by an auditor or a district auditing committee of not less than three (3) members, which, satisfied that the Treasurer's annual report is correct, shall sign a statement to that effect at the end of the report. The auditing committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least thirty (30) days before the final yearly meeting. Any reimbursement to any PTA member requires the proper receipt or copy thereof; and all checks require two signatures from among the Treasurer, President, and I ~ Vice-President.

Section 6. All officers shall perform the duties outlined in these bylaws and those assigned from time to time. Upon the expiration of the term of office or in case of resignation, each officer shall deliver to their successor all records, books and other materials pertaining to the office within 30 days following the meeting at which the successors are elected.