

16th District PTA News

April 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 last district newsletter of this school year will be distributed May 1st. The deadline to submit articles is April 20th.

President's Message

Greetings,

Spring is upon us! I hope you and your PTA are hopping with exciting events and programs scheduled for the remainder of the year. These programs can include Math Nights, Literacy Nights, Run/Walk-A-Thons and Spring Festivals -- whatever you have scheduled continue to promote the overall purpose of PTA by being a 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 have any questions regarding our purpose or how to help promote them, please feel free to contact the 16th District Board. We are here to help.



We are also available for assistance with elections and/or Board transition trainings. As you hold your elections for new officers please forward that information to the district as soon as possible. The earlier we start our communication, the better our PTAs will be prepared for the upcoming school year.



Speaking of transition, don't forget the 16th District elections will take place at the April 21st Roundtable. Join us as we officially elect our new slate of officers. As I begin to wind down my term in office, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your dedication, commitment, and service to the children of Fayette County. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with such a great group of people. Our 16th District Board has accomplished all the goals we set 2 years ago and our PTAs/PTSAs have achieved amazing accomplishments. Be proud of yourself, your PTA, your school, our district, and most of all...FINISH STRONG!!

Have a great month!

Jessica Berry, President
16th District PTA



Dates to Remember

- April 4-8 Spring Break
- April 4-29 Second kindergarten registration window, 9a.m.-2p.m. daily
- April 12..... Kindergarten evening registration, 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
- April 12..... Training at Central Library, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- April 15.....Grant deadline for KYPTA Convention/Leadership
- April 16..... Southern Middle School Lightning Strike 5K
- April 18-29 High school state testing window
- April 19..... High school progress reports
- April 21.....Roundtable, 11:30 a.m.
- April 22.....Earth Day
- April 23.....Defender Classic 5K Run/Walk
- April 25-May 6 Elementary and middle school state testing window
- April 27..... Middle school progress reports
- April 30.....PEP Rallies, 10a.m.-2:30p.m. at four locations
- May 5..... Deadline for registration, PTA Spring Luncheon
- May 19.....PTA Spring Luncheon, 11:00 a.m. Fasig-Tipton
- May 31 Early Bird registration deadline, KYPTA Convention/Leadership

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

Summertime in the City: How to Keep Your Child Sharp

Are you worried that your child might not remember what he learned during the school year after a long summer break? Don't sweat it! We have suggestions of fun ways to keep your child on track. The training is presented by the Lexington Public Library in collaboration with the 16th District PTA. The training will be held at the **Central Library** on Tuesday, **April 12th** from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Program Spotlight

Please Submit Awesome Programs

Did your PTA/PTSA have an outstanding program or event this year? Did it involve the community, boost achievement, or celebrate healthy lifestyles? Please send us a brief description to be included in the PTA Spring Luncheon program to give other schools great ideas for next year. One elementary, one middle school and one high school will receive an award. Send your input to Jessica Berry at jdberry@insightbb.com by **April 21st at Roundtable.**

PTA Scholarships

The 16th District PTA awards a scholarship to outstanding students from each of Fayette County's high schools to continue their education. Winners will be presented at the district's annual PTA Spring Luncheon on May 19, 2011.

PTAs/PTSAs can send scholarship donations to the 16th District PTA:

Jessica Berry
216 Shannon Court
Lexington, KY 40511

Friends of Children Prevent Child Abuse Month

Come join us for fun, food, games, and prizes for all ages at Lexington's Annual Resource Fair for Prevent Child Abuse Month.

- ◇ Thursday, April 14th
- ◇ 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- ◇ Imani Life Center,
1555 Georgetown Road

For more information, please contact Mrs. Barbara Quam at 321-3104. Presented in collaboration with Imani Baptist Church.



Membership Notes

The 16th District has 10,925 members this year compared to 10,653 members last year! Our district had a 283 member increase. That's a 2.55% increase over last year. Out of 50 local units in our district, 27 units had an increase. Great job! Please continue to submit memberships through May 15th.

In the month of April, the membership chairperson should:

- ▶ Bring procedure books up to date.
- ▶ Evaluate the year's progress-write recommendations for next year. Do a Membership Growth Plan which is found in the PTA Membership Quick-Reference Guide on pages 19-21. This report Determines whether your membership is increasing or decreasing. It also has a survey so you can see why.
- ▶ Provide an updated membership list to the secretary and treasurer.
- ▶ Return all unused membership cards to Kentucky PTA office.
- ▶ Don't forget to send in district membership dues for **this year's members** to:

Kathy Smiley
2848 Majestic View Walk
Lexington, KY 40511

If you have any questions, please contact kthysmiley@yahoo.com.

Tip: When you have PTA/PTSA parent events at the end of the school year (like kindergarten registration), retrieve information from new and current parents so you can contact them in the fall and let them know about your PTA/PTSA.



Aviation Camps

Summer camps are offered at the Aviation Museum of Kentucky located at Bluegrass Airport. Campers can help fly an actual plane plus learn about aeronautics, navigation, aircraft instruments, weather, aircraft design, flight simulation, and aviation careers. Each two-day camp runs from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. daily. For specific dates and the registration application, please go to www.aviationky.org.

KY PEP Rallies

PEP (Partnering to Empower Parents) rallies will be held across the state on April 30th to empower parents for student success. There will be four rallies held simultaneously from 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at four locations throughout the state. The registration deadline is April 15th. Families are invited and there will be activities for all ages. Registration is free and lunch is provided. For more info and the registration form, go to <http://kypta.org/site/training/pep-rally.html>.



KYPTA

Convention/Leadership

Make plans to attend the 5th annual KYPTA Convention/Leadership which will be held July 14th-16th in Louisville. Grants are available to help defray costs to local PTAs. The grant application for KYPTA Convention/Leadership 2011 is due April 15th. The grant winners will receive one free hotel room at the Fern Valley Hotel and Conference Center in Louisville. They will also receive one free registration, which includes all scheduled meals during the conference.

The application can be found at <http://kypta.org/uploads/58/File/Forms%2010-11/cl%20grant%20app%202011.pdf>. If you have any questions, please contact the Kentucky PTA office at (502) 226-6607.

The **National PTA Convention** is being held in Orlando, FL this year. The convention and exhibition runs from June 9th-12th. The deadline for advance registration is May 13th. After that date registration will be on-site only. Get more info at <http://www.pta.org/3977.htm>.

Do Some Spring Cleaning in Your (Financial) House

It's spring - time to clean out the gutters and wash down the windows. This year, why not dust some financial spring cleaning, as well?

First, "dust off" your portfolio by selling those investments you no longer need or that are too similar to others you own. Use the proceeds to buy new investments that can help you diversify. Diversification can help reduce the effects of volatility on your portfolio, though it can't guarantee gains or prevent losses.

Finally, protect yourself from stormy weather by ensuring you have adequate disability and life insurance. Without this coverage, you could expose your family to serious financial strains should anything happen to you.



By doing some financial spring cleaning, you may find that you've swept away some of the obstacles to achieving your goals.

This is information provided by Dana S. Branham, Edward Jones Financial advisor, 802 Euclid Avenue/ Lexington, KY 40502. Phone: (859) 269-2203. Member SIPC

Great New Resources from National PTA

- ▶ *Connect for Respect* – a bullying prevention campaign. Resources for parents on bullying can be found at www.pta.org/bullying.
- ▶ Understand the changes being implemented due to the adoption of the Common Core Standards. Easy to understand Parent Guides for each grade level give you an insight into what children are learning and what you can do to support their learning. The guides are available at www.pta.org/parentsguide in English and Spanish.

Superintendent Search Committee

The Fayette County Board of Education has hired the firm McPherson & Jacobson to assist with the search for our next superintendent. Advertisements for the position will begin ASAP and a tentative timeline for the search has been set. They have also created a list of stakeholder groups from whom to seek input, which includes the PTA, and will be working to set the dates and times for these focus groups over the next couple weeks. The timeline that has been outlined so far is:

- ▶ Immediately: begin advertising the position.
- ▶ Week of April 18: series of focus groups and public forums to gather input on the desired characteristics for the next superintendent.
- ▶ May 9, noon: Board meets to receive feedback from stakeholders, go over interview procedures, etc.
- ▶ May 16: application closing date
- ▶ May 17 to May 30: the screening committee will work with the search firm to review all applicants and identify top candidates for the school board to consider.
- ▶ May 31: Board of Education receives finalists.
- ▶ June 6 to 9: interviews with finalists, focus group meetings with finalists, public forums with finalists.

More information will follow. If you have further questions, please contact Jessica Berry, parent representative, at jdberry@insightbb.com.

PTA Award Luncheon is May 19th. Deadline to register is May 5th.

PTA Election Info

Your nominating committee should have already compiled a slate of officers that will be presented typically at the April general membership meeting. Additional nominations may be taken from the floor at that meeting.

Voting typically takes place at a general membership meeting in May. If there are no additional nominations and only the slate is presented, ballots are not necessary and the slate of officers may be elected by voice majority vote.



Make sure this timeline coincides with what is stated in your PTA bylaws and review Article VI for any other provisions that may be specific to your PTA. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Karen Irving, 16th District Bylaws Chair, at kirving@lexlaw.us or 806-7088.

Farm to School Mini Grants Available

The Kentucky Department for Public Health, Obesity Prevention Program is seeking applications from local health departments and partners to develop Farm to School programs. Farm to School enables children to have access to nutritious food while simultaneously benefiting communities and local farmers. In addition to supplying nourishing, locally grown food in schools, Farm to School offers nutrition and agriculture education that helps children understand where their food comes from and how their food choices affect their bodies, environment, and community.



Ten \$5,000 mini grants will be awarded. Applications are due by April 15th. For application information, please contact Elaine Russell at Elaine.Russell@ky.gov or (502) 564-9358 ext. 3843.

CIPL Parent Leadership Training

Have you wanted to know more about Kentucky's education system but didn't know where to get the answers? Have you wanted to learn how to partner with your child's school in a meaningful way besides the usual 'punch and cookies' and 'fundraising' route? Have you wanted to get more training to improve your communication and leadership skills but couldn't afford it? The Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership (CIPL) is the place to learn the answers and improve the skills.

The Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership with a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) focus will be held in Louisville

on: August 26-27, Sept. 23-24, and Oct. 28-29. *CIPL is a 3-two day training with attendance required at all 6 days...training materials,

meals and lodging are paid for by the Institute. Space is limited.

For more information about the Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership, you can visit the website at www.cipl.org or call Lou Ann at 233-9849 x231. Also, applications are available online at www.cipl.org. The application deadline is April 15, 2011.

Graduation Dates

Fayette County Public Schools has announced the 2011 schedule for high school graduations:

Friday, June 3:
4:30 p.m. – Paul Laurence Dunbar
7:30 p.m. – Bryan Station

Saturday, June 4:
11:00 a.m. – Henry Clay
2 p.m. – Lafayette
5 p.m. – Tates Creek

All five graduation ceremonies will be in Rupp Arena. For more specifics, [call the senior's school.](#)

Carnegie Center for Literacy & Learning

Check out the youth and family programs available at The Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning. This spring they have added math for 4th and 5th graders and have some exciting Family Nights coming up including an author's visit for the May Book Night! Find out all the information about The Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning at www.carnegieliteracy.org or contact Laura Clinton, youth outreach coordinator, at 254-4175.

Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week May 2-6

Remember all that your teachers and school staff do for the kids in your school. During this special week, plan to show them how much they are appreciated! Find ideas at http://www.pta.org/teacher_appreciation.asp

Advocacy Corner

President Obama is challenging Congress to address changes to the main piece of federal legislation that deals with education, the No Child Left Behind Act (otherwise known as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act), by this summer. While this legislation was groundbreaking in its accountability piece, there are many who would like to see substantial changes to this law based upon the experiences of the law in practice. Watch for updates and opportunities to have your voice heard.



Bluegrass Trifecta

Join us for the 1st Annual Bluegrass Trifecta race series. Southern Middle, Bryan Station High, and Sandersville Elementary have teamed up to help get students and their families active in our community.



You can find more info about all of these races under The Race Calendar at www.johnsrunwalkshop.com.

What's OuiBox?

FCPS has partnered to roll out a new project called OuiShop For Education. FCPS is excited to involve teachers and parents in this unique fundraising opportunity by asking them to do something they are already doing--shopping online. Based on student enrollment, parent involvement, and school operational spending, there is the potential to raise more than \$3 million dollars, according to Peyton Fouts of OuiBox, LLC.

When parents purchase through FCPS's customized OuiShop For Education, schools receive funding for needed resources and improvements. For every \$100 spent, on average, \$1 will be donated. The prices remain the same and you are still purchasing through your favorite vendor, the difference is that we could potentially raise millions of dollars to fund educational initiatives, purchase technology and/or provide other needed resources.



Check out what people are saying about OuiShop For Education in the news:

[OuiBox has potential for raising money, saving time](#)

[OuiBox Partners with Fayette County Public Schools](#)

To find out more about how you can begin raising money for the schools, contact Jessica Cornett at 559.6157 or jessica@ouibox.com.

