

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **Green Team -**
January 10th 11:30 at Bluegrass Pride Office.
- **Communications Committee -** January 12th 11:30 Saul Good.
- **Common Core Standards training** at **Tates Creek High School** January 17th at 6:00 in the **FCPS Norsworthy Auditorium.**
- **Homework Help workshop** prior to **Roundtable** at 11:00 on the **January 19th.**
- **Children's Advocacy Day** at the **Capitol** on **February 16th.**

Online Resources

www.pta.org
www.kypta.org
www.ptareflections.org
www.ptagreatideabank.com
www.letsmove.org
www.healthiergeneration.org
www.pta.org/healthylifestyles
www.volunteerspot.org

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Keep Your Family Moving This Holiday Season



Adapted from
 Eat SmartMoveMoreNC.com

It's no secret: a filling meal is often the cue to retire for a long winter's nap. After large family meals, it is tempting to unbutton the pants and retreat to the couch. Instead, try to do something active as a family! Here is a list of ideas to get you started:

- Create a new family tradition of taking a walk after a big meal. Don't let the cold air keep you in-pull on the coats and hats and get outside!
- Put on your favorite holiday music and dance!

- Go to light festivals in the surrounding areas. Park your car and walk around the displays. This will get everyone up and walking around.
- Play active games:
- Break the family into teams and have a relay race challenge to see who can gift wrap the quickest - and best!
- Bring summer sports inside: make a wrapping paper soccer ball or volleyball and play inside. During large get-togethers, have the children or families put on a talent show.

Healthy Lifestyles Committee will meet 12/12/11 at the Northside Library Branch (smaller conference room) at 6:30pm! We'll do a 5K

wrap-up, discuss community involvement and brainstorm ideas for the New Year! Hope to see you there. Feel free to contact Melissa McDonald – mymcdonaldmeal@gmail.com or 559-7674.



Family Involvement Survey

Please take the following short survey regarding family and parent involvement at your school. This is part of a research project students at the University of Kentucky are conducting. Thank you for your participation!

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZBL6VRB>.

2011 Wellness Report Card Info

Fayette County Public Schools hosted a public forum to welcome feedback on its 2011 Wellness Report Card, which reviews nutrition and physical activity district wide.

The one-hour forum started at 4:30 p.m. Monday Dec. 5 in the media center at Lafayette High School, which hosts the school board's monthly planning meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the library. Visit www.fcps.net/wellness to review the latest report card and its goals to improve overall student wellness, such as developing a district wide health advisory council and ensuring that each child gets 30 minutes of daily physical activity. The Child Nutrition staff will consider people's suggestions when preparing an action plan for the school board in January. Those who cannot attend the forum may share comments with the director, [Michelle Coker](#).

President's Post

Thoughts on PTA

Your PTA can do great things. Find out what the needs of the parents and students are at your school and fill those needs. Just because it has been done for years does not mean it has to be done. Put your time and talents to work where it will make a real difference for kids and families.

With the holidays upon us, everyone take a well-deserved moment to congratulate yourselves on a great PTA fall. I am thankful for each and every one of you who are out there making a better experience for kids and families in the schools.

January is a good time to do a mid-year check-up. Make sure you have updated your procedure books and President's Books with all of the great things that have happened to date. Take a look at the rest of the year and make sure you have plans and people in place to accomplish all of the goals you have identified. If you don't, make a resolution to ask a new person to get involved. This will make another person feel welcome and avoid burnout in your regular volunteer base. With Martin Luther King Day coming up in January, I came across a quote which I think applies particularly to volunteers and

PTA. "The art of acceptance is the art of making someone who has just done you a small favor wish that he might have done you a greater one," said Martin Luther King, Jr. PTA is about advocating for all children, but it is also about making a welcoming environment for all parents. Every PTA leader I know was once asked by someone else to get involved. Some of you may be familiar with the PTA Three for Me program. It is based upon the theory that once a person volunteers once and has a good experience; they are more likely to volunteer again and again. Reach out to someone you don't know the next time you need a volunteer. You might just make a great new friend.

Everyone is invited to the January PTA Roundtable – January 19th at 11:30 at the IAKSS building, Conference Room C. We will be discussing the upcoming SBDM Parent Elections

that PTA is responsible for running, as well as forming Nominating Committees for PTA elections. There are also a number of annual awards that local units can apply for. Come hear how!

In February, you may want to think about holding a Take Your Family to School event February 12-18. More information can be found at www.pta.org. It is also Random Acts of Kindness Week. If you were inspired by the Advocacy discussions at the November Roundtable, plan to join us at Children's Advocacy Day in Frankfort or celebrate PTA Founders Day on Feb 17th.

Enjoy your time with PTA. You are making a difference.

Liza



Reflections



District 16 PTA received 176 student entries across the 6 arts categories for the 2011 Reflections contest! The skill, creativity and thoughtfulness that the children demonstrated was amazing. The Reflections ceremony on December 4th recognized 70 student entries for their winning efforts. All 70 entries will move on to the State level during December. The State PTA will announce their winners in the late winter.

Thanks to all of the individual Reflections chairs who worked tirelessly to prepare the entries for judging and to organize the judging for their schools. The new requirements introduced this year were challenging and time consuming for them. Thanks also to the many judges at the local school level and the district level. The judges volunteered many hours of their time and we appreciated their help!



Leadership Tips

Effective Meetings will save time, and keep a good board moving along**

1. "Key" to any successful meeting is in the preparation, by everyone on the board. Be ready with information, notes, and answers.
2. Let the chair or committee chair know you need to be on the agenda, ASAP. Keep it short and to the point---don't come to a meeting and take up extra time. Chair has the right to go on, and put you on the next meeting schedule.
3. Be on time or at least let the chair know you will be late---with cell phones ---enough said. The chair should wait 5 minutes and start the meeting---not fair to those who are there.

4. All of us need to make sure we are not a "Meeting Bully."
5. Make sure everyone is heard first, and then go back for responses on an issue.
6. Meeting should have a goal/objective/purpose.
7. Confidential responsibility of all board members, when necessary.
8. Start and end on time.
9. If you do not need the meeting do not have it!

There are 11,000,000 meetings a day in the USA---make yours the one that is worth it!
 **From" How I Lived through the Meeting to Meet another Day", Property of Progressive Solutions, LLC, Judi Conrad Principal Consultant. If you would like the rest of this article, please contact jconradpsi@windstream.net.

Green Team Update

The Green Team had its first meeting and discussions had us dreaming big. The team plans to gather a depot of resources for PTAs and start a reuse initiative. This program will be kicked off in the spring with a Big Spring Cleanup Initiative around Earth Day. Look for more details to come!



Dixie Homes in on Healthy Lifestyles

Dixie Magnet Elementary earned support for its physical education department and PTA's healthy lifestyles committee through this fall's 2nd Sunday events, including the 16th District PTA's inaugural 5K. And as a follow-up to November's national focus, the Dixie PTA hosted a Healthy Family Lifestyles event on Dec. 1.

In October, Dixie had the most [2nd Sunday](#) participants as a percentage of enrollment for the second year in a row and received \$1,000 from the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government for its efforts.

Fayette County Public Schools also gave Dixie, Stonewall and Veterans Park elementaries bonuses of \$200, \$150 and \$100 respectively for having the most 5K finishers as a percentage of their enrollment.

The race/walk entry fees were allocated based on entries per PTAs and PTSAs that pledged to form a healthy lifestyles committee. Thirty-two schools shared over \$10,000.

Treasurer Tips



If your PTA holds a Charitable Gaming Exemption, please remember to file your annual financial report with the Department of Charitable Gaming by December 31. The form, CG-EXEMPT, can be found on their website at <http://dgc.ky.gov/Pages/applicationsreports.aspx>. Please note the deadline date on the form is different. File by December 31 to avoid complications with your exemption. If you are holding an event on December 31, then file the report within a few days.

Any treasurer questions can be directed to Colleen Wolfe, 16th District PTA Treasurer, at colleen.wolfe@insightbb.com or 338-2192.



National PTA News

ALEXANDRIA, VA. (November 10, 2011)- The National PTA® commends the National Cable & Telecommunications Association (NCTA) and its cable Internet Service Providers for launching their initiative today to promote education and broadband adoption by offering low-cost, discounted Internet service to millions of K-12 students that don't currently have broadband in their homes.

The effort is sure to benefit underprivileged families and the more than 10 million students that receive free lunch and five million homes that currently do not have Internet service. The initiative follows the leadership of Comcast's Internet Essentials program launched earlier this year.

For decades National PTA has worked to ensure all children have an equal opportunity to achieve academically and having broadband access is critical for students' academic success.

In most recent years we have reached and positively affected thousands of families in underrepresented areas through our Urban Family Engagement Initiative. By connecting families with their child's education, students have a more likely chance to succeed. With the use of technology growing in schools more and more every day, it is vital that all children have the tools and resources they need to succeed regardless of their socio-economic status.

As such, we stand ready to support this effort by informing our qualifying PTA members and families across the country about this benefit when it begins in the 2012 school year.

Membership Minute

PTA January Membership Campaign Checklist

Strategize. With your membership committee, determine what events and methods (e.g., open house, mailing, special newsletter) you might use to attract new members. How will you communicate the benefits and expectations of membership in PTA? **Develop a detailed timeline and determine who will be responsible for which aspects of the membership campaign.**

The first week of December: Review the PTA January Membership Campaign resources at PTA.org/Marketing and determine how you can use them, as well as the year-round marketing templates, to effectively reach families, teachers, school leaders, and other community members. **Reserve space to conduct your membership drive event.** Ask local businesses to support your campaign by donating food, supplies, services, door prizes, membership incentives, etc. (see the year-round membership campaign materials at PTA.org/Marketing for advice on writing donation solicitation letters). **Secure additional volunteers** to help with recruitment activities. Make reservations to advertise on school and business marquees.

The second and third weeks of December: Arrange to have a membership table at the schools **January events.** Ask people to save the date for your membership drive event. Send out invitations or fliers. Make sure families know that members and nonmembers are invited. Place final orders for food, supplies, and any other materials needed. **Order banners, posters, and other promotional pieces from your local copy shop or printer.** Prepare and print fliers, handout cards, brochures, yard signs, membership forms, stickers, etc., so you can immediately jump into your activities when you return from winter break.

The month of January: Place “New Year... New Opportunities” yard signs, posters, and fliers around your community and school. Post Web banners on PTA, school, and community websites. **Include campaign ads in PTA and school newsletters,** accompanied by articles describing the benefits of PTA membership. **Work with the school office to identify new families** moving in for the second semester. Ask the new families to join PTA. Mail a membership postcard to every non-PTA parent at your school, and a thank-you card to every PTA parent. **Host your membership event, and set up your membership table at every occasion.** Ask each current member to resolve to invite at least one new person to join PTA.

Check out pta.org for additional ideas.

Jaime



PTA started as parents and teachers standing up for kids. These advocates were responsible for getting the Juvenile Justice System started and Child Labor Laws enacted.

PTA Announcements

The Phoebe Apperson Hearst Innovation in Family Engagement Award

Overview

The National PTA Phoebe Apperson Hearst Innovation in Family Engagement Award recognizes and celebrates achievement in building effective family-school partnerships. The recipient of the Hearst Award will receive **\$2,000** and will be **recognized at the 116th Annual National PTA Convention and Exhibition**, June 21-24, 2012 in San Jose, California. In addition, **four Awards of Merit** will be awarded to applicants who demonstrate exemplary family engagement initiatives. Awards of Merit recipients will receive a certificate of recognition.

Criteria for Selection

Applications must be complete and submitted on time. Incomplete or late applications will not be reviewed. Successful applicants must demonstrate the successful implementation of family engagement programs, activities or policies that reflect PTA's definition of family engagement and PTA's National Standards on Family-School Partnerships. Successful applicants must also be able to quantify their impact. Specific selection criteria and points for each section of the application narrative are listed below in the grant application.



16th District Diversity & Inclusion Survey

The 16th District PTA's Diversity and Inclusion Committee invites students' families to complete a quick survey to help the PTA take the pulse of our schools. The committee's next meeting is 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, December 10 at the Lexington Public Library's Northside branch, 1733 Russell Cave Road.

Watch for more information about the survey, including results in future newsletters.

Chamber, Education Dept. Focus on Employer Support for Learning Standards

Encouraging Kentucky employers to support tougher academic standards in order to build a stronger workforce, was the focus of a joint presentation December 1, by Education Commissioner Terry Holliday and Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Dave Adkisson.

The Kentucky Chamber Foundation is spearheading the effort, which is being conducted in partnership with the Department of Education and the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence.

Kentucky has adopted new standards – defining what students should learn – in reading and math, and students will be tested on them for the first time next spring. The new standards are tougher than what has been in place before, making them more challenging for both students and teachers. Adkisson and Holliday pointed out that community support – especially that of employers – is essential for the extra effort because the standards will provide a more skilled workforce and help Kentucky build a stronger economy.

“Kentucky’s future economic health depends on a well-educated workforce,” Holliday said. “The new academic standards, along with our push to ensure college and career readiness for all students, will help the state improve student achievement and graduation rates and provide students with the skills they need to be successful after high school. The support of the business community is crucial in this work, and we need local chambers of commerce to serve as the standard-bearers in our efforts.”



16TH DISTRICT PTA LEADERSHIP

Executive Committee

President	Liza Holland	859-533-3038	Liza@LizaHolland.com
Vice President	Kathy Smiley	412-952-6011	Kthysmiley@yahoo.com
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Past President	Jessica Berry	859-523-3277	jdberry@insightbb.com
Superintendent			
Designee	Alice Nelson	859-381-4307	alice.nelson@fayette.kyschools.us

News to Note

The School to Work Council Inc., a nonprofit organization that funds programs to help students connect the importance of academic achievement with future careers, has received a \$10,000 grant from the Staples Foundation. The funding will support job-skills programs for students in Bourbon, Clark, Fayette and Scott counties. Through School to Work, students participate in career fairs, job shadowing and field trips where they observe business in action and receive mentoring from local business leaders to help discover their talents and interests.

The Lafayette boys and the Tates Creek girls won the Class 3A Region 6 cross-country team titles Nov. 5 at Falling Springs Park and Recreation Center. The Generals' girls and the Commodores' boys were runners-up in the 5000-meter race.

Lexington students gathered up 243,776 aluminum beverage cans during this year's Cans for Cash recycling contest. In terms of weight, it totaled 7,618 pounds – 32 percent more than collected in 2010. Veterans Park Elementary earned a \$1,000 prize for recycling the most cans per student in the 600+ size category. Cardinal Valley, Meadowthorpe and Wellington each received \$600 for recycling the most cans regardless of school size. Paul Laurence Dunbar High got \$300 after tying with a private school. The winners were recognized Dec. 1 at a Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council meeting.

The Blue Grass Community Foundation has awarded a total of \$25,860 to Fayette County Public Schools this fall, including \$10,000 as SmART grants in a new partnership with LexArts. The SmART program aims to maximize young people's access to professional artists and local arts groups. SmART also allotted \$1,000 for professional development to help teachers integrate the arts into core curriculum. The BGCF's teacher mini grants of \$14,860 encourage classroom innovation and support ideas for creative, interesting programs, projects and events.