



Newsletter

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April 2012

President's Letter

From school programs to graduation ceremonies, we are heading into the last part of the school year with an emphasis on student achievement and recognitions. As we approach the end of the school year, we need to thank the volunteers who have donated time to help make a difference in the lives of our children. National Volunteer Recognition Week is **April 15 through 21**.

Thank you to all of our Parent Teacher Association (PTA)/Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) volunteers for the endless hours you have spent organizing book fairs, fall festivals, or spelling bees. Many of you have made copies, worked at concession stands, donated clothes, and done numerous other jobs.

Parent involvement is essential in children's lives. Parent involvement can be as basic as being sure that your child attends school every day, asking your child about his or her school day, or helping with his or her homework. Our ability to be involved can vary at different times in our lives depending on family, health,

or work-related issues. All forms of parent involvement have value and contribute to the welfare of children.

Teacher Appreciation Week is **May 7 through 11**, so plan a way to thank the teachers for all they do to help our children reach their potential. Teachers have worked hard all year to ensure that their students learn the necessary skills needed at each grade level.

Please take time to read the "Things to Do in April" article in this issue, as spring is a very busy time for the PTA.

Ideally, all students would come to school with a full stomach, a good night's sleep, and go home to someone who reads to them or helps them with their homework. Because this is not a perfect world, it is up to us to do what we can for all students.

Cherie Dimar

15th District PTA President

The Challenger Learning Center

The Challenger Learning Center, located at the Academy @ Shawnee, uses space exploration as a theme to create and promote positive experiences that raise student expectations of success; foster a long-term interest in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology; and inspire students to pursue studies and careers in these areas. We are excited to offer The Great Rocket Challenge Summer Camp, **June 6 through 8**, and the Astronaut Microgravity Camp (scuba involved!), **June 18 through 22**. If you are interested in running a mission at the Challenger Learning Center, please visit our Web site at www.clcshawnee.org for more information or call **485-7230**. Information regarding summer camps is also posted on the Web site.

Tonya Artman, Lead Flight Director
Challenger Learning Center @ Shawnee
485-7632

SBDM Parent Elections

The election of parent members to the SBDM Council is the responsibility of the PTA/PTSA. When the SBDM Council chairperson determines how many parents need to be elected and the terms of office, based on the SBDM bylaws, the PTA sets up the date and time for the election.

The candidates are then recruited, parents are notified, ballots are made, and the election is conducted. Following the election, the principal, candidates, and parents are all informed of the election results.

For more information on SBDM parent elections, check the *Kentucky PTA Parent SBDM Handbook*. Since this is a law, we cannot deviate from it. If you have any questions, please call Sharon Whitworth at **485-7450** or **485-3535**.

Procedure Books

April is the time when the current PTA year is coming to a close. New officers are being elected, and new chairmen are being appointed. In order for the next person to do his or her job effectively, it is vital that a procedure book be passed from the outgoing chairman to the new chairman. Procedure books can be a folder or a binder or even a paper bag, as long as important information is passed on. The following things should be included in the procedure book:

- A list of officers and their contact information
- A copy of the bylaws and standing rules
- Meeting agendas and/or minutes
- Treasurer reports
- Contact information of people whom you worked with during the year
- An expense report or a list of expenses for your committee
- Notices, fliers, or letters that you used and sent out during the year
- Written procedures for a specific job
- A list of what your committee did during the year
- A list of what went right and what went wrong (what you would do or not do again on this committee)
- Anything else that you can think of that will help the next person step into the job

Things to Do in April

- Mail in Awards Banquet Reservation Form and check.
- Plan and carry out your School-Based Decision Making (SBDM) Council parent representative election (if your school's SBDM bylaws call for a spring election).
- Check on the Nominating Committee's progress.
- Check PTA/PTSA bylaws, and plan to hold officer elections when required to do so.
- Work on Procedure Books to give to successors.
- Thank your volunteers during National Volunteer Week, **April 15 through 21**.
- Make plans for Teacher Appreciation Week, **May 7 through 11**.

Spelling Bee

On March 9, the 15th District PTA had its districtwide spelling bee. Sixty-three students from elementary and middle schools participated in this competition. Congratulations go to all the winners:

First Place— Yue Zhang, Meyzeek Middle School

Second Place— Katie Cleary, Hawthorne Elementary School

Third Place— Avalon Gupta VerWiebe, Highland Middle School



Girls on the Run Program Growing Strong in JCPS Schools

As the spring semester comes to a close, Girls on the Run Louisville is gearing up for another successful semester of strengthening self-esteem and teaching healthy habits to young girls. Thanks to the UPS Women's Leadership Development (WLD) Initiative and other local businesses, this fledgling nonprofit has a wonderful model for scheduling volunteers.

Girls on the Run is a character building program that teaches very specific and well-defined social and personal skills. The curriculum creatively integrates running and culminates in a noncompetitive 5K event.

Recruiting volunteers to teach an after-school program twice a week can be challenging. But thanks to organizations that allow employees to rearrange their schedule, dozens of young adults are volunteering with Girls on the Run.

Last fall, the students at Cane Run Elementary were lucky enough to have five women from the UPS WLD Group rotate as coaches for the Girls on the Run after-school program. By rotating a small group of dedicated employees, the UPS WLD Group was able to make a difference to these young girls without disrupting work schedules.

Thanks to donor and volunteer efforts, Girls on the Run expects to triple the number of Jef-

erson County Public Schools (JCPS) schools served. To learn how your school can get involved or if you wish to be a coach for Girls on the Run Louisville, visit www.gotrlouisville.org.

Girls on the Run inspires girls in grades three through five to be joyful, healthy, and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum that creatively integrates non-competitive running.



UPS WLD member Candice McHargue warms up with her students before the 5K Fun Run.



Girls on the Run's youngest cheer squad member, Jackson Supsky. His mother, Jennifer, coached for Cane Run Elementary.

KCAS Workshops

The 15th District PTA Kentucky Core Academic Standards (KCAS) team is working very hard to hold workshops in all of our schools about the KCAS. This workshop is designed to inform parents about important issues related to their child's education. The common core standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expect to learn so that teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers.

We would like to recognize Title I Coordinator Toni Smith for our getting to present at the Black Family Conference. We also presented workshops at the following schools:

- Crums Lane Elementary
- Dunn Elementary
- Fern Creek Elementary
- Price Elementary
- Wheatley Elementary
- Field Elementary

Many parents who work cannot always be present at school for a workshop. We are looking to have brown bag lunches at businesses for those parents during lunch. If you know of a company that would let us come in during the lunch hour to educate their employees about KCAS, please call Sharon Whitworth, KCAS Project Lead, at **485-7450**.

Calendar of Events

April

15 Submit membership dues payment to Kentucky PTA Office.

15-21 . . . Volunteer Appreciation Week

May

7-11 Teacher Appreciation Week

8 15th District PTA Awards Banquet and General PTA Meeting at the Fern Valley Hotel and Conference Center, 6:30 p.m.

15 Submit membership dues payment to the Kentucky PTA Office.

June

21-24 . . . National PTA Convention in San Jose, California

July

19-21 . . . Kentucky PTA State Convention in Louisville

Male Involvement

If you find your school's PTA board consisting of all women, you're not alone. Even with the increasing number of men volunteering, you may find that your PTA is having a hard time getting more men involved. When I first started volunteering with my daughter's school's PTA, the only men who were volunteering were the husbands of the PTA members. Inviting the men in your children's lives to attend PTA meetings and to volunteer for events could be a great

way to get men involved and to help with recruiting other men. Fathers are more likely to attend PTA meetings or volunteer when they are asked and joined by other men. This is one of the great ways that you can reach out to the fathers in your schools. So before your next PTA meeting adjourns, don't forget, ask the women in your PTA to invite the men in their children's lives to join PTA.

James Kiper, Male Involvement Chairperson

April and May CAP Volunteer Schedule

- 4/3 Smyrna Traditional Elementary PTA
- 4/3 Gilmore Lane Elementary PTA
- 4/4 Gutermuth Elementary PTA
- 4/4 Wilder Elementary PTA
- 4/5 Shacklette Elementary PTA
- 4/5 Lassiter Middle PTSA
- 4/6 Iroquois High PTSA
- 4/6 Okolona Elementary PTA
- 4/17 Bloom Elementary PTA
- 4/17 Pleasure Ridge Park High PTSA
- 4/18 Field Elementary PTA
- 4/18 Shelby Traditional Academy PTSA
- 4/19 Blue Lick Elementary PTA
- 4/19 Maupin Elementary PTA
- 4/20 Farmer Elementary PTA
- 4/20 Hite Elementary PTA
- 4/24 Carrithers Middle PTSA
- 4/24 Southern High PTSA
- 4/25 Hawthorne Elementary PTA
- 4/25 Breckinridge-Franklin Elementary PTA
- 4/26 Schaffner Traditional Elementary PTA
- 4/26 Chancey Elementary PTA
- 4/27 Carter Traditional Elementary PTA
- 4/27 Thomas Jefferson Middle PTSA
- 5/1 Wheatley Elementary PTA
- 5/2 Olmsted Academy South
- 5/3 Engelhard Elementary PTA
- 5/9 Greenwood Elementary PTA
- 5/10 Foster Traditional Academy PTA
- 5/11 Frost Middle PTSA
- 5/15 Valley Traditional High PTSA
- 5/16 Wheeler Elementary PTA
- 5/17 Fairdale High PTSA

Save the Date: April 27 and 28

Parent Resource Center Regional Conference—Keep the Dream Alive

JCPS Exceptional Child Education (ECE) is presenting this conference in collaboration with the ARC of KY, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), Kentucky-TASH, and the Simpson County Parent Resource Center. Conference sessions include ADHD and Homework, Adapted Sports, Autism, Behavior Strategies, Early Childhood, Individual Education Plan (IEP), Self-Advocacy, Transition, Waivers, and other issues. The featured speaker is Michael Remus, “Inclusive Education.” For information, call the JCPS ECE Parent Resource Center at **485-3807** or **485-3346**. Conference Location: Holiday Inn Hurstbourne, Louisville, Kentucky

Clothing Assistance Program

As of February 24, 6,328 students have been served at the Clothing Assistance Program (CAP) since July 2011!

Sometimes it is easy just to see the large number of students served and lose sight of the individuals who are helped at CAP, but one of the best parts about volunteering at CAP is being able to learn their story. All of these families are dealing with some kind of challenge—from the mom undergoing chemotherapy while living in a shelter and trying to take care of her children to the family whose rental house’s basement laundry flooded and they lost all of the clothing about to be washed. We have seen an increase in the number of families moving to the area for jobs that did not materialize or just don’t pay enough to provide money for clothing, and these families are helped not only with clothing for the children but also work and interview clothes for mom and dad.

Contrary to what you might think, hearing these stories does not leave me depressed at the end of the day but rather hopeful and optimistic. Despite their circumstances, these parents have not given up or given in. Their children

are growing up in a house where there is struggle, and they understand the importance placed on education. They know it is important because families have to make an effort to get an appointment and then get here for the appointment for uniforms and regular school clothing. I hear daily about long bus rides with several transfers, bartering with a neighbor for a ride, or working around a work schedule to make it to CAP.

Please continue to support this program (**your** PTA program), and know that each individual who gives affects each individual who receives.

I would like to thank *Medical News to You* for featuring CAP in the February issue.

Those free publications can be found in hospital lobbies, such as Jewish and Baptist, as well as physicians’ waiting rooms. It is also available at Spencerian College and Sullivan University. You can have a copy mailed directly to your home by contacting Sally McMahon at **sally@IGEMedia.com** with your mailing address.

Paula Wolf, CAP Director

Awards Banquet

May 8, 2012, at 6:30 p.m.

Fern Valley Hotel and Conference Center (formerly the Holiday Inn)
2715 Fern Valley Road
Louisville, KY 40213

The 15th District PTA Awards Banquet will be held at 6:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, May 8, 2012**, at the Fern Valley Hotel and Conference Center. We are looking forward to a fantastic banquet. Join us, and celebrate all of your PTA/PTSA accomplishments for the year! Each table seats ten people. Reservations are \$30 a person if received by **Wednesday, April 18**. Reservations are \$40 a person if received between **Thursday, April 19**, and **Tuesday, May 1**. We are unable to accept reservations after **May 1**.

All reservation requests must include a check made payable to the 15th District PTA.

To be sure that your PTA reserves as many seats as it needs, send in your reservations as soon as possible. If you need/want to be seat-

ed with another school, please send in both reservations at the same time. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Wampler at **671-9451** or **hkwampler@gmail.com**.

Send reservations to:
15th District PTA, Banquet Reservations
319 South 15th Street
Louisville, KY 40203

A vegetarian plate will be available if it is ordered at the time you make your reservation.

Please note: No refunds will be made after May 1.

Complete and return the form below with payment to reserve your banquet tickets.

Name of PTA, school, or JCPS department: _____

Name of contact person and phone number: _____

Total number of tickets: _____ x \$30 (Deadline: **April 18, 2012**)

Total number of tickets: _____ x \$40 (Deadline: **April 19 through May 1, 2012**)

Amount of check enclosed: \$ _____

Number of vegetarian plates needed: _____

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Diversity

What Works in Jefferson County?

On January 30, I had an opportunity to visit Young Elementary School as a result of the JCPS Accountability, Research, and Planning Department asking structured teams to evaluate elementary schools throughout the county. This opportunity allowed structured teams to review teaching styles, student learning, and data maintained on student progress. This was part of JCPS's What Works in Jefferson County? initiative. During the visit, Young Elementary School was highlighted as an authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) School. The IB organization is a nonprofit educational foundation focused on the whole child. Specifically, the Young Elementary Primary Years Programme (PYP) is a curriculum framework designed to meet the developmental needs of students, and it allows for the development of content that is relevant to the cultural context of the school. During the visit, I had an opportunity to visit kindergarten through grade-five classes, meet with teachers and students, and visit the school's special needs classrooms. After evaluating classroom logistics, JCPS leaders, community members, and I had an opportunity to

meet with the school's principal, Mary Minyard, to talk about what is working to help the school achieve, what factors limit student learning and progress, and what tools they have implemented to improve teaching and learning environments for the various cultures and ethnicities represented within their school. As a result of the visit, information that was gathered and discussed by the JCPS What Works in Jefferson County? team and the school's administrator will be taken back to JCPS leaders for further evaluation and review. From my observation, it appeared many students take pride in what they learn and are happy to share it with others, while teachers strive to help students succeed in ways that are beneficial to their success. As a participant in the What Works in Jefferson County? school visits, I discovered that we must implement academic systems that allow our teachers to improve student learning among diverse groups, allow diverse student populations to be impacted by learning, and make everyone accountable for their actions.

Aneeka Ferrell, Diversity Consultant

FYI: Recycling

Did you know that the 15th District PTA is into recycling? For years, we have been recycling clothes for the Clothing Assistance Program (CAP) as well as accepting donations of new clothes and money. But we also have been recycling ink jet and toner cartridges as well as cell phones. The money raised helps the funding of CAP. So, if your school or central office does not have an existing program, please

help us out and send your used cartridges and cell phones (you can use the PONY) to the following address:

Attn: Richard Gardner
15th District PTA
Central Stadium



If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me!

Richard Gardner, Recycling Chairperson

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