



# Newsletter

15th District Office • 319 South 15th Street • Louisville, KY 40203 • (502) 485-3535

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April 2013

## President's Letter



April is Math Awareness Month. Family members can make a big difference in their child's attitude, motivation, and math ability. Teachers can provide helpful suggestions on math games and online activities. By working in coordination with the school, Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs)/Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSAs) could help provide families with valuable resources/programs on ways they can help their child with math. Check out the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Web site: [nctm.org/resources/families.aspx](http://nctm.org/resources/families.aspx).

**Thursday, April 25**, is Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day. This annual program is designed to help teach children about the work world and to inspire girls and boys to explore the many choices they have in the workplace. PTAs/PTSAs could encourage parents to visit their child's classroom and talk to the entire class about their job.

National Volunteer Appreciation Week is **April 21 through 27**. Please take time to recognize the efforts of the volunteers

who helped make this school year a success.

If you need ideas on ways to thank your volunteers, check out the National PTA Web site at [www.ptagreatideabank.org](http://www.ptagreatideabank.org).

National Teacher Day 2013 takes place on **Tuesday, May 7**. Teacher Appreciation Week will be celebrated the week of **May 6 through 10**. Sometimes, a simple thanks is all a teacher needs to feel valued, or you may want to do more to honor the men and women who educate our children. When planning teacher appreciation activities, keep in mind the school's testing schedule and coordinate with the principal.

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. Thanks for all you do!

*Cherie Dimar*

Cherie Dimar  
President  
15th District PTA



## Things to Do in April

- Mail 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 21-27**.
- Make plans for Teacher Appreciation Week, **May 6-10**.

### PTA Vision

Making Every Child's Potential a Reality

### PTA Mission

PTA is:

- A powerful voice for all children.
- A relevant resource for families and communities.
- A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.



# PTA Membership

It seems as though the school year is almost over, but you still have time to obtain more memberships. This is an ongoing process.

There are still a few schools in our district that need to pay dues. It's never too late to do this.

Remember that every board member in your PTA/PTSA must be a paid member. Some schools will be having Spring Festivals, Reading Nights, and other family events. These are perfect opportunities to sell memberships.

We want to thank Mayor Greg Fischer and Dr. Alex Gerassimides for being the Honorary Membership Campaign spokespeople for the last two years. Thanks to all the schools that have worked hard on membership, and we look forward to seeing you at the awards banquet in May.

JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# One Community, All Families, Every Child



every child. one voice.®

15th District PTA Office  
485-3535

We believe that, working together, Parent Teacher Associations (PTA/PTSA) and schools can make a difference and help ensure a successful future for every student.

Mayor Greg Fischer and wife,  
Dr. Alex Gerassimides  
Honorary Membership  
Campaign Spokespeople

Join your

# PTA!

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1470 PTA poster 1/11.doc

# Tobacco-Free School Policy

The Jefferson County Public School (JCPS) District is the twenty-fifth school district to join a growing list of Kentucky educational systems that are adopting a 100 percent Tobacco-Free School Policy.

A 100 percent Tobacco-Free School Policy prohibits tobacco use by staff, students, and visitors 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on school-owned property, inside board-owned buildings or vehicles, and during school-sponsored student trips and activities. Tobacco products include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and smokeless tobacco, like snuff, chew, and snus.

Studies show that schools with strongly enforced tobacco policies for three or more years have 40 percent fewer youth smokers than schools in non-tobacco-free school districts. Tobacco-free policies make tobacco use seem less normal and acceptable to youth, who are then less likely to take up the habit themselves.

Tobacco use continues to be the leading cause of preventable death in Kentucky. We also have the highest rates of tobacco use among youth in the nation. Twenty-four percent of high school students have smoked a cigarette in the past month, and 28 percent of high school boys have used smokeless tobacco.

If you are interested in quitting tobacco, help is available! The Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness has **free**, ten-week Cooper-Clayton classes with nicotine replacement therapy available. For more information, call **574-STOP (7867)** or visit [www.louisvilleky.gov/Health/IWantTo/StopSmokingClasses.htm](http://www.louisvilleky.gov/Health/IWantTo/StopSmokingClasses.htm). Free telephone counseling is available at **1-800-QUIT-NOW** and [www.quitnowkentucky.org/](http://www.quitnowkentucky.org/).



## 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 (i.e., what you would do again or what you would not do again on this committee)
- Anything else that you can think of that will help the next person step into the job

## Board Meeting and Nominations for PTA Board Positions

We hope everyone will attend the next general meeting that will take place at the Awards Banquet on **May 7** at 6:30 p.m. at Ramada Plaza. **Please see the RSVP form on page 4.**

The meeting will include voting in the new 15th District PTA Board members.

The Nominating Committee would like to present the following people for nomination:

**President—Heather Wampler**

**1st Vice President—Jennifer Mewmaw**

**2nd Vice President—Aneeka Ferrell**

**3rd Vice President—Carol Smith**

**4th Vice President—Autumn Neagle**

**5th Vice President—Cherie Dimar**

**Treasurer—Theresa Mayfield**

**Secretary—Barb Fischer**



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## JCPS Parent Resource Center Regional Conference

The JCPS Parent Resource Center Regional Conference with the ARC of Kentucky will be held **April 26 and April 27, 2013**, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Louisville. The conference workshops focus on the specific challenges facing families of children with disabilities. There will be exhibitors from many agencies providing information on other items that may be of interest to parents.

For more information about the conference, call the JCPS Parent Resource Center at **485-3807** or **485-3346**.



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# Awards Banquet

May 7, 2013, at 6:30 p.m.



9700 Bluegrass Parkway (off I-64/Hurstbourne)  
Louisville, KY 40299

The 15th District PTA Awards Banquet will be held at 6:30 p.m. on  
**Tuesday, May 7**, at the Ramada Plaza Louisville.

We are looking forward to a fantastic banquet. Join us, and celebrate all of your  
PTA/PTSA accomplishments for the year. Each table seats eight people.

Reservations are \$30 a person if received by **Friday, April 26**.

Reservations are \$40 a person if received between **Saturday, April 27**, and **Monday, May 6**.

We are unable to accept reservations after **May 6**.

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

To be sure that your PTA holds as many seats as your require, send in your reservations as soon as possible. If  
you need/want to be seated 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 **hkwappler@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.**

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Name of PTA, school, or JCPS department: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of contact person and phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 (**April 26** deadline)

Total number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 (**April 27 through May 6** deadline)

Amount of check enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Number of vegetarian plates needed: \_\_\_\_\_

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# National PTA Convention

The 117th National PTA Convention will be held **June 20–23, 2013**, at the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati. This convention will offer a wide variety of high-quality workshops with valuable information, ideas, and resources for PTA members to take back to their schools and communities. Registration is now open at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org). We hope to see you there!



## Calendar of Events



### April

- 15..... Submit membership dues to the Kentucky PTA.
- 21–27.... National Volunteer Week

### May

- 6–10..... Teacher Appreciation Week
- 7..... 15th District PTA Awards Banquet and General PTA Meeting
- 15..... Submit membership dues to the Kentucky PTA.

### June

- 13 ..... 15th District PTA Vendors Fair and General Board Trainings
- 20–23.... 117th Annual National PTA Convention and Exhibition in Cincinnati

### July

- 18–20.... Kentucky PTA Leadership Conference in Louisville



## Kentucky PTA Convention

Make plans now to attend the 2013 Kentucky PTA Convention at Crowne Plaza Hotel from **July 18 to 20, 2013**. This is the perfect time to attend workshops that will jump-start your PTA for the new school year. You will have an opportunity to thank your outgoing officers, meet your newly elected officers, connect with other PTA leaders from across the state working on behalf of all children in Kentucky, and chat with national PTA leaders. Registration will be available in early spring.

## Vendors Fair and General Board Training



Our annual Vendors Fair will have a new date and a new venue this year. It will be on **Thursday, June 13**, at Louisville Male High School in the small gymnasium. We will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and you can come and go as you please. There will be a variety of pro-

grams and fundraising possibilities you can consider for your school/organization. If you have any questions, contact Richard Gardner at [mrhgent@yahoo.com](mailto:mrhgent@yahoo.com) or **485-3535**.

On **June 13**, we will also have two General Board trainings for new officers at Louisville Male High School. The morning training will be from 9 to 11 a.m., and the afternoon session will be from 1 to 3 p.m. Since most PTAs/PTSAs hold their

election of officers in the spring, this is an ideal time to educate new board members about such topics as officers' responsibilities, PTA bylaws, and parliamentary procedure. This training session will also provide opportunities for you to obtain answers to any questions concerning these and other topics. Experienced board members are welcome to attend. Look for more information about the Vendors Fair and these trainings in the May newsletter.



## Plan Your Diversity Strategy

We still have a lot to do as PTA leaders when it comes to effectively reaching out to diverse families within your schools and community. As a PTA leader, have you ever considered how to reach diverse families whom you want to get involved with PTA? How about trying to learn a few basic strategies to introduce yourself and your PTA to them. You can achieve this by learning a few basic greetings that are specific to the diverse families in your PTA community in order to make them feel more comfortable. For example, “*Bienvenido*.” What does that mean, you ask? Well, the Spanish word *bienvenido* means *welcome* in English. Can you imagine how effective learning a simple word like that could be in showing your diverse families that you want them to feel included? This shows your commitment, as a PTA leader, to reaching them and overcoming any obstacles that hinder effective communication. Plan your diversity strategy to effectively reach diverse and underrepresented families. You will be surprised at how much your PTA can grow. A great strategy begins with setting goals, considering factors that help to reach or hinder those goals, developing tactics that assist your PTA with reaching its objectives, and then following through with making those goals a reality.

Aneeka Ferrell  
Diversity Consultant  
15th District PTA

## APPLAUSE



## CAP Donations

We would like to thank the following people who made a donation to CAP in memory of Juanita Raque, Sharon Whitworth’s mother.

- Shirley Sparrow**
- Teri Gale**
- Janice Jackson**
- Richard and Susan Gardner**
- Judith Lippmann**
- Kentucky PTA**
- Barb Fischer**
- Jean Seaman**
- Martha Clements**
- Vanessa Whitworth**
- Vicki Ensor**
- Carolyn Heh**



## 15th District PTA Honor Roll Certificate of Appreciation Order Form

At this time of year, PTA/PTSA Boards think about the important people who have helped make the year so successful. Recognize and thank these people by presenting them with a PTA Honor Roll Certificate of Appreciation. All proceeds from the sale of these certificates benefit the Scholarship Fund. Purchase several certificates to honor special people. Send your completed order form with your check to:

**Honor Roll Certificate of Appreciation, 15th District PTA, 319 South 15th Street, Louisville, KY 40203**

Allow two to three weeks for processing. Print legibly. Certificates will be mailed once payment has been confirmed. **Each certificate costs \$10, payable to the 15th District PTA.** If you have any questions, call the 15th District PTA Office at **485-3535**.

PTA Name: _____	2. _____
Contact Person and Phone Number: _____	3. _____
Address: _____	4. _____
Names as they should appear on the certificate(s):	5. _____
1. _____	6. _____



## CAP News

On a chilly, overcast day in February, more than 20 Boy Scouts from Troop 71 built two new hanger organizing racks and six rolling bins for sorting for the Clothing Assistance Program (CAP). This was Ben Gatson's Eagle Scout project, and he led the scouts and adults in this flurry of construction. Ben is a senior at duPont Manual High School, and many JCPS schools were represented by the scouts who came to help. Many of you have picked up and sorted hangers when you volunteered at CAP, so you know how wonderful it is to have two more racks for this never-ending task. The new bins are smaller than the ones built for another Eagle Scout project. This allows for easier maneuverability, and for those of us who suffer from lack of height, the bottom can be reached with out climbing in! The 15th District PTA would like to thank Ben, his family, and all the volunteers who made this project possible.

We continue to serve families because families continue to move into our schools, change schools, and have emergencies that result in the loss of clothing for the family. In the next month, we will begin preparing for next year by ordering more new clothing that will need to be organized and readied for our Back-to-School Blitz. Socks will need to be rolled, belts assembled, and shirts folded, and the racks of used clothing will need to be filled. We will also be sizing and boxing as many clothes as we can so that we can quickly restock each day of the blitz, which serves nearly 400 students daily.

Please consider signing up to volunteer when the list of dates becomes available for hours during the summer. Check the Web site or call if you are interested in helping. Thank you to all who have donated and volunteered, because this program would not exist without you.

Paula Wolf  
 CAP Director  
 15th District PTA  
[jcpscap@jefferson.kyschools.us](mailto:jcpscap@jefferson.kyschools.us)  
 485-7062

## CAP Schedule

PTAs are scheduled to volunteer 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### April

9	..... Gilmore Lane ES Klondike Lane ES
10	..... Carter Trad. ES Wilder ES
11	..... Lassiter MS Camp Taylor ES Okolona ES
16	..... Shelby ES Bowen ES
17	..... Pleasure Ridge Park HS Maupin ES
18	..... Hite ES Knight MS Southern HS
23	..... Chancey ES Hazelwood ES
24	..... Thomas Jefferson MS Breckinridge-Franklin ES
25	..... Wheatley ES Ramsey MS Olmsted Acad. South
30	..... Greenwood ES Young ES Engelhard ES

### May

1	..... Foster ES
2	..... Frost MS Watterson ES
7	..... Wheeler ES Laukhuf ES Valley HS
8	..... Fairdale HS Barret Trad. MS
9	..... Stonestreet ES Kenwood ES
14	..... Zachary Taylor ES Conway MS Roosevelt-Perry ES
15	..... Johnsonstown Road ES Cochrane ES
16	..... Farnsley MS Atkinson ES
21	..... Myers MS Dunn ES Wilt ES
22	..... Newburg MS Fern Creek ES
23	..... Doss HS Acad. @ Shawnee
28	..... Highland MS Layne ES
29	..... Kerrick ES Auburndale ES
30	..... Butler Trad. HS Stuart MS

**15th District PTA**  
319 South 15th Street  
Louisville, KY 40203

[www.15thdistrictpta.org](http://www.15thdistrictpta.org)



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## 15th District PTA Board of Directors

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Third Vice President  
Richard Gardner  
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Fourth Vice President  
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Treasurer  
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Clothing Assistance Program  
(CAP) Director  
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Diversity Consultant  
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Family Resource and Youth  
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## PTA Contact Information

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[www.15thdistrictpta.org](http://www.15thdistrictpta.org)  
Phone: **485-3535**

Kentucky PTA  
[www.kypta.org](http://www.kypta.org)  
Phone: **226-6607**

National PTA  
[www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)  
Phone: **(703) 518-1200** or  
**800-307-4PTA (4782)**

Facebook—Get Connected!

15th District PTA  
[www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=113211276603](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=113211276603)

Kentucky PTA  
[www.facebook.com/?sk=2361831622#!/group.php?gid=116874298952](http://www.facebook.com/?sk=2361831622#!/group.php?gid=116874298952)

National PTA  
[www.facebook.com/parentteacherassociation](http://www.facebook.com/parentteacherassociation)

For additional information about the PTA, please go to Kentucky PTA at [www.kypta.org](http://www.kypta.org) or National PTA at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org).