



Newsletter

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

every child. one voice.®

December 2010/January 2011

President's Piece

Pause and Take Stock of Your Priorities

Winter Break is right around the corner. It's a great time to assess the work we have done as Parent Teacher Association (PTA) members. At the beginning of the school year, full of enthusiasm and zeal, we made big plans for our school year and our role as PTA members. We created budgets, full of line items of every great thing we were going to do for the students, parents, and staff of our schools. We planned fundraisers, fall festivals, Kentucky Kids' Day, and Open Houses. We sent out membership envelopes and letters outlining exactly what the PTA can do for our schools and the community. Now it's time for your board to look at what the PTA means to you and your school and to consider if you are truly fulfilling your mission as a PTA.

Far too often, our PTAs focus solely on the fiscal side of the equation. We plan amazing fundraisers that raise incredible amounts of money, but we don't plan

educational or informational sessions to enhance parent/family connections with school. We budget for training opportunities but fail to register or attend those workshops. I certainly don't mean to diminish your accomplishments in your fundraising efforts. For some of you, your PTA or Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) fundraiser far exceeded your expectations. Congratulations. That is something that you should be proud of, particularly since this has been a rough economic year for so many families. And, with that increase in funds, you need to go back and reassess your budget and what you planned for. You need to let parents know that this unexpected windfall means other opportunities are now available. You need to conduct a program or project that increases awareness among parents and families about issues that affect student achievement and school success. But one thing you **do not need** is another fundraiser.

So ask yourself and your board the following questions:

- If a PTA's goal and mission is to work toward "making every child's potential a reality," does another fundraiser accomplish that goal?
- If the PTA is "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," is this your PTA?
- If the PTA values are "collaboration, commitment, accountability, respect, inclusivity, and integrity," are you adhering to those values?
- If the purpose of the PTA is "to promote the welfare of the children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship; to raise the standards of home life; to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth; to bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth; and to develop between educators and the general pub-

lic such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education," have you done that within your PTA?

It is essential that we revisit the goal and vision of PTA. Whether it is on a national level, a state level, a district level, or a local school level, we must reflect on whether or not we are on track to provide students and their families the very best we have to offer through Reflections Program participation; through educational experiences connected to field trips or visits by local artists-in-residence; and through workshops about Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), No Child Left Behind (NCLB), and advocacy or if we are just offering another fundraising catalog.

Remember, it isn't about the limo ride. It's about a quality education for every student. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "The greatest gift is a portion of thyself."

"Together We Can ... Make A Difference."

Myrdin Thompson
President

Just Say No to Skating Parties!

We know that skating parties are a great way to bring fun to your school community, but they are usually not covered by your insurance. Skating parties are considered a red light event! In case of an injury, you (i.e., your PTA/PTSA) could be held liable. If you still decide to have a skating party, make sure that the skating rink has proof of insurance, make sure that your group will not be held liable, and get this information in writing prior to the event.



Kudos to You!

As of **November 30, 2010**, the following PTAs/PTSAs have completed their board training for the 2010-11 school year:

- Byck Elementary PTA
- Chancey Elementary PTA
- Crums Lane Elementary PTA
- Dawson Orman PTA
- Foster Traditional Academy PTA
- Johnsontown Road Elementary PTA
- Kammerer Middle PTSA
- Laukhuf Elementary PTA
- Medora Elementary PTA
- Myers Middle PTSA
- Olmsted Academy North PTSA
- Rutherford Elementary PTA
- Zachary Taylor Elementary PTA

If you would like to schedule your board training and add your name to this growing list, call Rose Babiak at **648-3698**.

Winter Break Workdays at CAP

Volunteer hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

December 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, and 30

Sandwiches, snacks, and drinks
will be available.

Students are welcome to volunteer within
the following guidelines:

- High school students may volunteer without a parent/guardian.
- Middle school students may volunteer only for four hours without a parent/guardian or chaperone.
- Elementary school students may volunteer only with a parent/guardian.

The 411 on CAP!

Students served as of October 26, 2010:
5,968

PTAs/PTSAs that have sent volunteers as
of October 26, 2010:

Anchorage
Atherton High
Ballard High
Barret Traditional Middle
Binet School
Bloom Elementary
Bowen Elementary
Brandeis Elementary
Butler Traditional High
Camp Taylor Elementary
Carter Elementary
Chenoweth Elementary
Coral Ridge Elementary
Crums Lane Elementary
Dunn Elementary
DuPont Manual High
Eastern High
Engelhard Elementary
Farmer Elementary
Fern Creek Elementary
Foster Traditional Academy
Greathouse/Shryock Traditional Elementary
Highland Middle
Hite Elementary
Jeffersontown High
Kammerer Middle
Kennedy Montessori
Meyzeek Middle



Some schools have rescheduled for later this fall. If you missed your scheduled date, you can reschedule or plan to come on one of the Winter Break workdays. Just let me know what you would like to do.

Paula Wolf, CAP Director

Lessons From the Clothes Closet

What do PTA volunteers and yoga masters have in common? Flexibility! PTA volunteers are willing to jump in and help with any chore that needs to be done at the Clothing Assistance Program (CAP). Some days we need loads of laundry washed and dried before the clothes can go out to the floor. Other days we need help in the new-clothing room filling orders for new uniform clothes, socks, and underwear for families as they come in. I am sure that some volunteers fall asleep with visions of hangers dancing in their heads after straightening up racks in the family room.

Volunteers have sorted, sized, and hung

mountains of donated clothing, which is given to families as soon as it is ready. They have also become expert broom pushers, dusters, and rack organizers during their time at CAP. Those volunteers who are not able to move easily or stand for prolonged periods of time are able to contribute by rolling new socks, separating packages of underwear, and assembling belts. As you can see, volunteers are never bored or idle at CAP, and we love that they are so willing to help. Thanks again for your support of this PTA program. It really is **your** program.

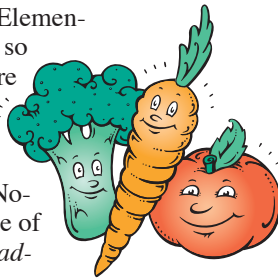
Paula Wolf, CAP Director
485-7062

December/January/February CAP Volunteer Schedule

Rutherford Elementary	Dec. 2	Barret Traditional Middle	Jan. 25
Sanders Elementary	Dec. 2	Bates Elementary	Jan. 25
Schaffner Traditional Elementary	Dec. 2	Binet School	Jan. 25
Semple Elementary	Dec. 2	Blake Elementary	Jan. 25
Seneca High	Dec. 8	Bloom Elementary	Jan. 27
Shacklette Elementary	Dec. 8	Blue Lick Elementary	Jan. 27
Shawnee High	Dec. 8	Bowen Elementary	Jan. 27
Shelby Traditional Academy	Dec. 8	Brandeis Elementary	Jan. 27
Slaughter Traditional Elementary	Dec. 9	Breckinridge-Franklin Elementary	Feb. 1
Smyrna Traditional Elementary	Dec. 9	Brown School	Feb. 1
Southern High	Dec. 9	Butler Traditional High	Feb. 1
St. Matthews Elementary	Dec. 9	Byck Elementary	Feb. 1
Stonestreet Elementary	Dec. 14	Camp Taylor Elementary	Feb. 3
Stopher Elementary	Dec. 14	Cane Run Elementary	Feb. 3
Stuart Middle	Dec. 14	Carrithers Middle	Feb. 3
Thomas Jefferson Middle	Dec. 14	Carter Traditional Elementary	Feb. 3
Trunnell Elementary	Dec. 16	Central High MCA	Feb. 8
Tully Elementary	Dec. 16	Chancey Elementary	Feb. 8
Valley Traditional High	Dec. 16	Chenoweth Elementary	Feb. 8
Waggener Traditional High	Dec. 16	Churchill Park School	Feb. 8
Waller-Williams Env. School	Jan. 6	Cochran Elementary	Feb. 10
Watson Lane Elementary	Jan. 6	Cochrane Elementary	Feb. 10
Watterson Elementary	Jan. 6	Coleridge-Taylor Elementary	Feb. 10
Wellington Elementary	Jan. 6	Conway Middle	Feb. 10
Western MST Magnet High	Jan. 11	Coral Ridge Elementary	Feb. 15
Western Middle	Jan. 11	Crosby Middle	Feb. 15
Westport Middle	Jan. 11	Crums Lane Elementary	Feb. 15
Wheatley Elementary	Jan. 11	Dixie Elementary	Feb. 15
Wheeler Elementary	Jan. 13	Doss High	Feb. 17
Wilder Elementary	Jan. 13	Dunn Elementary	Feb. 17
Wilkerson Traditional Elementary	Jan. 13	DuPont Manual High	Feb. 17
Wilt Elementary	Jan. 13	Eastern High	Feb. 17
Young Elementary	Jan. 18	Eisenhower Elementary	Feb. 22
Zachary Taylor Elementary	Jan. 18	Engelhard Elementary	Feb. 22
Anchorage School	Jan. 18	Fairdale Elementary PTA	Feb. 22
Atherton High	Jan. 18	Fairdale High PTSA	Feb. 22
Atkinson Elementary	Jan. 20	Farmer Elementary	Feb. 24
Auburndale Elementary	Jan. 20	Farnsley Middle	Feb. 24
Audubon Traditional Elementary	Jan. 20	Fern Creek Elementary	Feb. 24
Ballard High	Jan. 20	Fern Creek Traditional High	Feb. 24

Price Elementary PTA Receives 2010 Healthy Lifestyles Grant!

Way to go, Price Elementary PTA! We are so proud of you! Here is a copy of the article announcing the winners as printed in the November 2010 issue of the *PTA Local Leaders News*.



ing family meal makeover sessions, and implementing many other creative programs to promote health and wellness. Many of the projects will take place in full or in part in November, which is celebrated as PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month.

National PTA Announces Recipients of 2010 Healthy Lifestyles Grants

Recently, National PTA announced that 22 local PTAs will receive up to \$1,000 to support good nutrition and physical activity to address the nation's childhood obesity epidemic. Currently, one-third of American children and youth are either obese or at risk of becoming obese. Further, the reduction or elimination of recess during the school day has limited the amount of physical activity that students receive during the day.

National PTA's Healthy Lifestyles grant program asked applicants to design programs and initiatives to:

- Increase access to and awareness of healthy foods;
- Increase physical activity for students and families;
- Provide healthier food in schools; and
- Engage family members in promoting physical activity and healthy eating habits.

The 22 grant recipients, listed below, will be working with families and schools toward these goals by building community gardens, providing nutrition classes, hold-

- Arroyo High School PTSA—El Monte, California
- Barcroft Elementary PTA—Arlington, Virginia
- Broadmor Elementary PTA—Tempe, Arizona
- Comanche Elementary PTA—Overland Park, Kansas
- El Marino Language School PTA—Culver City, California
- Hopkins Road Elementary PTA—Richmond, Virginia
- Huy Elementary PTA—Columbus, Ohio
- John R. Beatty PTA—Las Vegas, Nevada
- Kennedy Elementary PTA—Fargo, North Dakota
- Lowell PTA—Missoula, Montana
- Luther Jones PTA—Corpus Christi, Texas
- Mableton Elementary PTA—Mableton, Georgia
- MacArthur Academy PTA—Southfield, Michigan
- Madrona PTSA Seattle Council—Seattle, Washington
- Martin Elementary School PTA—Parkersburg, West Virginia
- Meadowvale Elementary PTA—Havre De Grace, Maryland
- Miami Lakes K-8 PTSA—Miami Lakes, Florida
- Michigamme Elementary PTA—Port Huron, Michigan
- Pine Forest PTA—Jacksonville, Florida

- Potterville Public Schools—Potterville, Michigan
- **Price Elementary PTA—Louisville, Kentucky**
- Tesuque Elementary PTA—Tesuque, New Mexico

More information on the grant program, along with helpful tools and resources for families, can be found online at www.PTA.org/healthylifestyles.

Calendar of Events

December

- 7 Reflections Awards Ceremony and Celebration
- 15 Submit membership dues to the Kentucky PTA Office.

January

- 15 Submit membership dues to the Kentucky PTA.

February

- 15 Self Esteem Award submission deadline
Christa McAuliffe Rising Star Award submission deadline
Submit membership dues to the Kentucky PTA Office.
- 17 Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol Rally
Founders Day

March

- 10 15th District PTA Vendors Fair
- 15 Submit membership dues to the Kentucky PTA Office.
Kentucky PTA and 15th District PTA Award submission deadline

April

- 15 Submit membership dues to the Kentucky PTA Office.

May

- 10 15th District PTA Awards Banquet
- 14 Kentucky PTA Student Recognition Ceremony
- 15 Submit membership dues to the Kentucky PTA Office.

June

- 9-12 National PTA Convention, Orlando, Florida

July

- 15 and 16 Kentucky PTA State Convention
- TBA 15th District PTA Spelling Bee

You Are Invited!

15th District PTA Reflections Awards Ceremony

You are invited to attend the 15th District PTA Reflections Awards Ceremony on **December 7** at the Sallie Phillips Durrett Auditorium at 7 p.m.

Please come and see all of the fine work that JCPS students have done in the visual art, photography, literature, dance choreography, music, and film production categories.



Male Involvement and the PTA: *Together, Everyone Achieves MORE!*

Organizations in the PTA's Men Organized to Raise Engagement (MORE) alliance are dedicated to raising the level of engagement between children and the important men in their lives.

Coalition members of PTA MORE serve as a conduit for greater father and significant male involvement, resulting in positive outcomes and successful relationships for children, parents, schools, and communities. PTA MORE helps PTA leaders and units do the following:

- Work with schools and communities to provide programs that engage fathers and positive male figures in the educational and social development of children.
- Develop male leaders who work with fathers and male role models to enhance positive male parenting and involvement with youth.
- Act as a resource for families, communities, and schools on fatherhood initiatives and issues.
- Increase the visibility and outreach of the quality programming of the coalition members.

For a list of partners and their resources, go to www.pta.org/pta_more.asp.

Don't forget that "Give a little, change a lot" will be the rallying call to action for the Million Hours of Power grassroots campaign. Research proves that parent involvement leads to student success in school and life. Children perform better in school when both the mother and the father or a male role model are both involved in the education of their child.

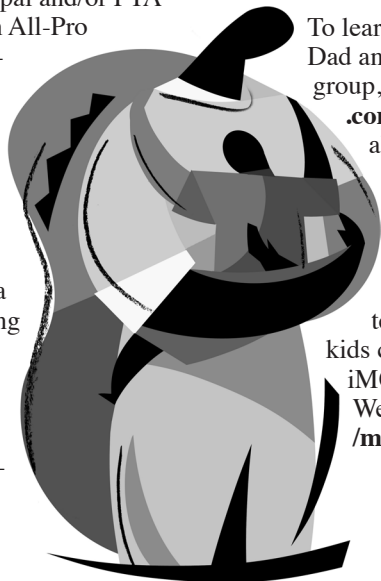
The Million Hours of Power campaign will encourage men to dedicate three hours of their time to the health, education, and well-being of children in their family and communities during the 2010-11 school year. Working with the *National Center for Fathering*, the PTA will provide a tracking tool so you can log your hours and watch the campaign's progress toward 1 million hours. Check it out by visiting www.pta.org/4197.htm and clicking on the link beside *Tracking Tool*.

The hope is that once men see how much reward they get for so little effort, they will develop greater habits of engagement and responsibility to children and families.

Do You Have an All-Pro Dad Group at Your Child's School?

Do you want to be your child's hero and encourage other fathers to be their child's hero? It's not too late. There is still time to talk to the school principal and/or PTA president about starting an All-Pro Dad's Day in January. All-Pro Dad's Day is a simple idea with a profound impact. It's a one-hour monthly breakfast held before school where fathers and their children meet with other dads and kids in the school cafeteria or a local restaurant. During this time, they discuss a wide range of family topics, spend time together, create fun memories, and are equipped with resour-

ces to strengthen their relationship. It will transform the lives of the families who participate.



To learn more about All-Pro Dad and about starting your own group, go to www.allprodad.com/teamcaptain/. You can also watch Tony Dungy's (All-Pro Dad National spokesperson) video about this program.

And check out our sister program that moms and kids can participate in called iMOM Morning. Visit the Web site at www.imom.com/morning/start/.

“A” is for *Advocacy*

Advocacy can take on many different meanings with a plethora of causes. However, what drives a person to advocate usually begins with one of these reasons: a personal story, an injustice, a desire to right a wrong, or the drive to fix current legislation. When individuals advocate, they express their concerns and priorities, press for recognition of their rights, and insist on the importance of their voice in public policy. Some time or another in the lives of most of us, we have advocated for a cause that affected us directly or indirectly. You may have advocated for your councilman to place a traffic sign in your community warning drivers of children at play or advocated for the wooded area near your home with the century-old oak trees to become a woodland-protected area. It doesn't matter how big or small the cause, it's the passion and commitment you have to make a change.

Well, the same holds true when advocating for children. The commitment to speak on behalf of children to the community, to legislative policymakers, and to other organizations for systematic improvement provides children the opportunity to reach their full potential. The 2011 legislative session is approaching, which means it's time to take action. An important part of advocacy is to correspond with your elected officials to build an ongoing relationship. During that relationship building, you can inform your legislator of actions you want him or her to take in regard to issues affecting families, schools, and the community. Through e-mails and PTA Action Alerts, we can convey our message of change. These aren't the only means of contacting your legislators; calling and writing a letter are also effective alternatives. The PTA Takes Action Network is a great resource to assist in reaching out to policymakers.

Advocating on the behalf of children is an ongoing effort that may or may not produce immediate results. Always remember that every child has value, every child has a future, and we have a responsibility to remain committed to preserve both. You can get started and get involved at www.pta.org/takesaction/.

Carolyn Page
Legislative/Diversity Chairperson

Have You Scheduled Your Board Training?

Board trainings can be done anytime, so it's never too late to schedule yours! Call me to schedule a board training. For those of you who have been involved for a long time, or those who are brand-new, there is something for everyone to learn.

This training takes two hours. You will learn and understand the importance of your bylaws and standing rules. All officer and chairman positions are discussed as well as the vital role your principal plays in PTA. Learn the red flags that will alert you to contact the 15th District PTA and ask for help right then!

It's simple:

- Pick two to three dates that are convenient for you and everyone on your board, including your principal.
- Contact me at **648-3698** to schedule a date.

The board training can be done during the day or in the evening. **It's never too late**, so give me a call, and I will schedule your board training! I look forward to hearing from you.

Rose Babiak, Fifth Vice President

FYI: Recycling

Did you know that the 15th District PTA is into recycling? For years, we have been recycling clothes for 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 to us. (You can send items through the Pony).

Attn: Richard Gardner
15th District PTA
Central Stadium

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

Richard Gardner, Third Vice President

How Will Your PTA/PTSA Celebrate Founders Day?

The National PTA was formed on February 17, 1897. Founders Day is a reminder of the significant role the PTA has played locally, regionally, and nationally in supporting parent involvement and working on behalf of all children and families. Founders Day is a perfect time to renew the dedication to the purposes of the PTA that were defined by PTA's founders more than a century ago. Each year in February, PTA honors the founders as well as the past and present PTA leaders. Through special programs and events, PTA also attempts to increase awareness of its members and the community by highlighting achievements, activities, projects, and goals.

Issues concerning immigrants, homeless children and families, the unemployed and the uneducated, and health and safety still need attention. The vision of PTA founders

has been realized in many ways, and now it is up to present PTA members to continue the vision.

Today, PTA is the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the nation. Together we continue to serve as the conscience of the country for children and youth. Founders Day is February 17, 2011. Mark your calendar, and make plans to celebrate!

You can celebrate Founders Day by inviting past and present PTA officers to attend a luncheon or reception, recognizing deserving volunteers, or providing a history of your school's PTA. For additional ideas on ways to celebrate Founders Day, go to the PTA Great Idea Bank at www.pta.org.

Cherie Dimar, First Vice President

It's Time for Nominating Committee Elections

This is the time of year when most PTAs are electing their Nominating Committees, which are elected at least two months prior to the election meeting, at a general body meeting. Please remember the following rules and suggestions:

- Go through your own bylaws regarding the Nominating Committee.
- Make sure you adhere to your rules on the number of people who serve on the committee.
- Include people with children from various neighborhoods and age groups on your Nominating Committee.
- The committee nominates the best-qualified person for each position. The committee is not bound to nominate the person who currently holds the position. (Check the bylaws on term limits.)
- During the meeting, one person contacts the nominees and asks if the individuals nominated will consider submission of their name for a certain position.
- The National PTA does not condone any jointly held or shared officer positions of any kind.
- There may be absolutely no cotreasurers or copresidents.
- Acquire the names of potential parent volunteers from kindergarten teachers who are familiar with parents who are willing to volunteer.

- Remember, your Nominating Committee will pick one candidate for each position that is open. This candidate should be the person who is best qualified for the job.
- Other people who want the same position may then have the opportunity to run from the floor when the elections take place.

Please remember to keep everything confidential. If you need any more information or help, do not hesitate to contact Sharon Whitworth, parliamentarian, at **485-7450**.

Programs and Fundraising Vendors Fair

Mark your calendar now to attend the 15th District PTA Annual Programs and Fundraising Vendors Fair. It will be held on **March 10** at Atherton High School in the Small Gym from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. This is an all-day opportunity to meet with local fundraising vendors and learn more about opportunities for your school.

Awards! Awards! Awards!

It's time to start working on your PTA awards applications! You've worked hard all year; now is the time to be recognized for your hard work! There are **several** awards, so surely one fits your PTA's/PTSA's particular strengths. Apply for as many as you would like. Please remember to send all award applications to **both** 15th District PTA and Kentucky PTA. All applications must be **postmarked by March 15, 2010**. Sorry, faxed or e-mailed copies are not accepted.

The Outstanding Classified Personnel Award is an award that recognizes PTA/PTSA involvement, support, encouragement, and special motivation techniques from classified personnel. This includes teacher's assistant, secretary, custodian, bus driver, food service, or other personnel. Please attach the form found in the *Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook* along with an essay addressing the candidate's qualifications for the award.

Is there a particular superintendent, principal, teacher, or counselor at your school who encourages PTA/PTSA involvement and support, has special motivation techniques, encourages parent volunteers, and comes up with innovative programs? The Outstanding Educator Award is an award that recognizes all certified personnel involved in the education process. Please attach the form found in the *Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook* along with an essay addressing the criteria.

Does your school have a newsletter that stands out? Is it attractive in design; does it include graphics; and does it include district, Kentucky, and National PTA information? The Outstanding Local Unit Newsletter Award recognizes newsletters that meet these criteria. You must submit at least three different newsletters from the current year (entries must be identical to those distributed to readers) along with the form from the *Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook*.

Have you brought more male involvement into the PTA/PTSA Program and/or school environment through an original and creative idea? The Kentucky PTA Penguin Award for Outstanding Male Involvement/Participation is a new award for both district and state this year! The application will be judged on planning and implementation, success of the program, originality and creativity, and communication and encouragement for participation.

The application form can be found in the *Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook*.

Health and safety programs, Kentucky PTA Kids' Day, Arts in Education, the Self Esteem Project, Unity Day, Violence Prevention, Red Ribbon Week—we want to hear about all those great programs you implemented for the students at your school this year. Apply for the Outstanding Programs and Projects Award using the form in the *Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook*.

Is there someone at your school whom students go to when they have a loose tooth, are not feeling well, or need to take their medicine? When the comforts of home are not available, it's nice to have the comfort of a trusted school nurse. The Outstanding School Nurse Award recognizes just that person. Two letters of recommendation outlining special qualities and contributions of the nominee—one from an administrator and one from a PTA/PTSA member—must accompany the application found in the

Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook.

Is your school one of the lucky ones to have that person who is always there to help on any PTA/PTSA activity, who volunteers for a service or undertaking, and who performs a service willingly and without pay? For those schools lucky enough to have such an individual, his or her service should be recognized by submitting an Outstanding Volunteer Award Application found in the *Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook*.

Does your PTA have a great Web site where you can access all PTA information? If so, the Outstanding Local Unit Website Award is for you. The Web site must have current, accurate information and include local, Kentucky, and national PTA information. It should use correct grammar and spelling and be user-friendly and appealing. It should include PTA/PTSA contact information, a calendar, mission, and purposes and goals. If that

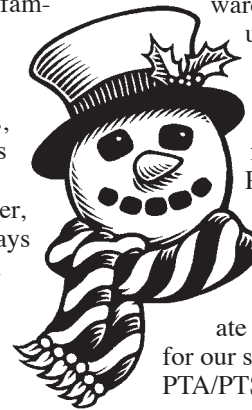
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Holiday Thoughts

While running around visiting family and getting prepared for the holidays, many people lose sight of what's important. Buying gifts, fixing meals, and seeing old faces are always a constant reminder of what makes life so amazing. However, as I travel around, one thing stays on my mind and it's our youth.

Everyone loves their child. Everyone wants the best for their child. So, I ask this simple question: Have you joined your child's PTA/PTSA? Have you asked your child to join his or her PTSA? Are you a supporter of the school your child attends? Some people ask neighbors, extended family members, their place of business, and other sources to help support their child's school simply because they understand the importance.

This message doesn't just extend to parents. This message also goes out to school principals, counselors, teachers, assistants, custodial staff, cafeteria staff, and anyone who steps foot into a school building for the sake of a child. We cannot move for-



ward in life if we do not work as a united front. As a team, parents and staff can be unstoppable. If students in middle and high school join their PTSA, we will be a force to be reckoned with. Joining PTA means fighting for the betterment of our youth. It is about bringing health education back to where it used to be. It is about having effective and compassionate staff members who are truly there for our students. Joining your school's PTA/PTSA is simply about doing that.

Half of the school year is over, but it is never too late to recruit new members. Membership is the leg on which any organization stands. Help us continue to stand strong.

If you have any questions, please call us; we are here as an extended family to help you. Enjoy the holidays with your loved ones, but please take the time to look into the eyes of a child and know that everything the PTA/PTSA does is for him or her.

Alisha Pasley, Second Vice President

Community Corner

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana

Wanted: A Few Good Bigs!

At any given time, right here in Kentuckiana, there are more than 400 children who just want someone to listen, someone to help with home-work, someone to play video games with, or someone to have a positive impact on their lives.



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Kentuckiana

For more than a century, Big Brothers Big Sisters has helped children reach their potential through professionally supported one-to-one relationships with proven results—relationships that rely on enthusiastic volunteers who just want to see a child smile. **That's where you come in.**

We're on a mission to make sure every child in Kentuckiana has someone to respect and admire and to learn just how much fun life can be, and we need your help. It doesn't take much time (just a few hours a month), and we give you permission to act like a kid again! So help us out. We need a few good folks who can devote some time and energy to brighten the life of a boy or girl in our community. It'll be the best investment you ever make.

Getting Started Is As Easy as 1-2-3!

- Becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister is simple. Here's all it takes to get started: Let us know that you're interested by calling our office toll-free at **(877) 588-2300** or visit **www.BigsWanted.com**.
- We'll then get to know you through an interview and complete background and reference checks.
- You'll then be matched with a child who is waiting for a Big Brother or Big Sister. Creating successful matches is essential to our program, so you'll be matched with a child whose personality and interests are similar to yours.

Please contact Big Brothers Big Sisters today. Together, we can help transform our community!

If you'd to schedule an information session hosted by the agency, contact Kristin Milosevich at **753-3754** or e-mail her at **kristin.milosevich@bbbs.org**.

Local Unit Shout-Outs

The Crums Lane PTA has exceeded all but one of the membership goals issued to it by the 15th District PTA and the Kentucky PTA. They are planning to reach that goal by the end of the school year to be able to say, "We did it!" Their membership total for 2009-10 school year was 110. As of October, the total for the 2010-11 year is 152 and growing. Wow, this is great!

Completed 2010-11 Goals for the Crums Lane PTA

- To increase its membership by 6 percent by October 15 to 117
- To increase its membership by 11 percent by **November 30** to 122
- President's Challenge—25-member increase, recognition at the 2010 Kentucky PTA Convention, Leadership Goal—135

They have one remaining goal to reach—the Board of Director Challenge 93, which is to increase membership to 203. They are working hard to reach this goal, and they are continuing to push forward to a successful school year!

Rutherford Elementary PTA held its Fall Festival on October 22 at Rutherford Elementary School. This fun family event was very successful. There were games for children to play, a moon cake walk, music, food, an inflatable bouncer, face painting, a silent auction, family photo opportunities, and door prizes. Everyone who attended had a wonderful night, thanks to the great support of parents—especially dads, teachers, and staff. A big thank-you also goes out to Ms. Hankins in the Family Resource Center (FRC).

Rutherford also received a \$250 mini-grant from Hasbro Children's Fund during All Kids Care Week (October 18 to 22). They planted tulip bulbs and plan to have beautiful flowers in the spring. On October 20, they had more than 35 children and 4 adults come out and plant nearly 100 tulips. This project recognizes the power of students helping others in their community. This service project also shows the power of their passion for a specific social issue. If you are interested in more information on this project, go to **www.kidscare.org** or **www.extramile.us**.

15th District Hall of Fame Award

The 15th District Hall of Fame Award is given to an educator who has shown outstanding support of the PTA/PTSA. The winner of this award has his or her name added to a plaque that hangs in the lobby of the VanHoose Education Center. This may be a principal, a counselor, or a teacher who helps your PTA in countless ways.

Nominees are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Innovative programs that correlate with local, state, and National PTA programs and projects
- PTA involvement and support
- Encouragement of parent volunteers
- Special techniques to motivate students

- Involvement of PTA members in the decision-making process

How to apply:

1. Completely fill out the form below.
2. Send in nominations to the 15th District PTA Office by **March 15**.
3. On no more than two pages, describe your nominee's qualifications for this award.

Note: The nominee must be a member of your PTA/PTSA.

15th District PTA Hall of Fame Award

Name of Nominee: _____

Position Held: _____

Name of School: _____

School Address: _____

School Telephone Number: _____

Signature of PTA/PTSA President: _____

Person to Contact With Questions and Results: _____

E-Mail/Phone Number: _____

**Send nominations to:
15th District PTA
Attention: Tomi Given—Hall of Fame Award
319 South 15th Street
Louisville, KY 40203**

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

www.jcpsky.net/Programs/PTA/index.html



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Awards! Awards! Awards!

Continued from page six

sounds like your school's Web site, send in the application from *Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook*.

Are you one of the lucky ones who have an abundance of volunteers? What is your method of recruiting volunteers? What types of programs and projects are staffed with your volunteers? How do you recognize and reward your volunteers? We'd love for you to share your secret of success by applying for the Volunteer Participation Award found in the *Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook*.

Surely out of all of these awards, your school's PTA/PTSA qualifies for at least one. Be sure to send all of the above to **both the 15th District PTA and Kentucky PTA, postmarked by March 15**. We look forward to receiving your entries. If you have any questions about awards, please feel free to contact me. Congratulations on a successful year!

Tomie Given, Awards Chairman

15th District PTA Executive Board

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PTA Contact Information

15th District PTA:
www.15thdistrictpta.org

Kentucky PTA:
www.kypta.org

National PTA:
www.pta.org

The 15th District PTA, Kentucky PTA, and National PTA are all on Facebook—
get connected!