



Newsletter

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

every child. one voice.®

December 2012/January 2013

President's Letter



It is hard to believe that this year is coming to a close. This is a good time to reevaluate your Parent Teacher Association's (PTA's) accomplishments so far this school year. Did you reach your membership goals? January is a good time to plan another membership campaign. Your PTA may want to plan more programs that increase family involvement or raise awareness about issues that affect student achievement or school success. You may need to amend your budget because your fundraiser did much better than you predicted or the cost of something is going to be more than you initially thought.

Today our schools have greater challenges due to cuts to education budgets. Our schools are in more financial trouble than ever, and our concern has caused many PTAs to fundraise not only for PTA-related expenditures but also to supplement the budgets of their schools. It is important to remember that we are first and foremost an advocacy association. PTA's millions of members give a voice to those who have no voice—our children. We must always be sure that we use these funds to fulfill the mission of PTA to ensure that every child has the chance to reach his or her potential. Our fundraising efforts need to work to enhance our children's educational experience, not to fund or supplement educational budgets.

If you are looking for some alternative fundraising ideas, here are several ideas worth checking out. Walk-a-thons allow students to be an integral part of the event, but they don't have to sell any kind of product. Walk-a-thons also promote healthy lifestyles. Silent auctions can also be profitable. By following a few simple rules, nonprofits like PTAs have great flexibility in accepting tax-free corporate sponsorship revenue. To keep your PTA in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), go to pta.org/federal_requirements.asp. For more information and tips on fundraising, visit pta.org/fundraising.asp. Be sure to also check out *PTA Fundraising Marketplace* and the vendors that offer products and services uniquely tailored to your needs.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy new year!

Cherie Dimar

Cherie Dimar
President

Take Your Family to School Week—February 18 to 22

National PTA's **Take Your Family to School Week** encourages PTAs and school leaders to provide opportunities for families to engage in their child's learning and overall well-being in the school environment. Take Your Family to School Week is **February 18 to 22, 2013**, and the theme this year is Safety at Home and at Play. Through a collaboration with school leaders and Safe Kids Worldwide Coalitions, PTAs will educate families of students in prekindergarten through grade five about the most dangerous safety risks in the home and at play. According to Safe Kids Worldwide, the most dangerous risks to children at home and at play include falls, fires, burns and scalds, poisoning, and playgrounds. In January 2013, the National PTA will launch a new Take Your Family to School Week **toolkit** to help PTAs implement the program. Visit www.PTA.org for ideas and resources you can use to strengthen family engagement in your school.



Happy Holidays from the entire 15th District PTA. We wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year! Our next newsletter will be in February. Remember if your PTA is doing something exciting send us an e-mail to autumn@argonetworks.com and we will be sure to highlight your success.



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.

Membership = Advocacy

Enrolling members in the PTA is a yearlong activity that is carried out by a membership committee. It is the entire board's responsibility to promote and encourage membership. The primary reason for developing membership in the PTA is to build an informed team of individuals to work on behalf of all children and youth. The committee plans, implements, and evaluates the membership campaign following the guidelines of the National PTA and Kentucky PTA.

Many of the benefits of membership are detailed on the 15th District PTA Web site at www.15districtptpta.org and the National PTA Web site at www.pta.org, which has special sections that can only be accessed by members using the username and password that appear on the back of a PTA membership card.

In addition to increasing **enrollment**, the campaign should make the public aware of the resources that the PTA offers to parents, educators, and members of the community who work, in large and small ways, to secure a nurturing, healthy environment for children and strengthen the PTA voice so that policymakers in all areas, at all levels, will hear a strong, unified message on behalf of children, youth, and families.

Any individual who subscribes to the purposes and basic policies of the PTA becomes a member upon payment of dues to a PTA or Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) unit. Students can be members of middle and high school PTSAs. Each member receives an official membership card from the unit. The membership card issued shows that the dues paid to the unit include membership in the Local Unit PTA, 15th District PTA, Kentucky PTA, and National PTA.

Each PTA is separate from any other PTA and gives special services to a specific group of children. Members having children in more than one school may pay dues to support the PTA or youth in each child's school.

Please check the "Membership" section of the 15th District PTA Web site for further information. Also use your Kentucky PTA USB drive for forms. Many local units have been inquiring about getting additional membership cards, so hopefully this is a good sign that membership is up at schools this year. To receive additional membership cards, your PTA must have made a deposit to Kentucky PTA along with a membership report. Kentucky PTA has a limited supply of cards available. You can request additional cards by calling **226-6607** or e-mailing kyptapattyh@bellsouth.net. Happy holidays!

Eddie Squires
Second Vice President, Membership

P.S. A great, **inexpensive** gift for the holidays to your friends and family would be a PTA membership to your child's school. **It's better than any gift card you can buy!**

Founder's Day

On February 17, 1897, the first convention of the national Congress of Mothers was held in Washington, D.C. PTA founders Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Alice McLellan Birney—along with the founder of Georgia's Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, Selena Sloan Butler—were women of imagination and courage. They had a simple idea: to improve the lives and futures of all children.

Today, PTA is the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the nation. Our members represent the ethnic diversity of our nation, and they come from the ranks of traditional families, single-parent households, blended families, grandparents, and other caring adults. Together, we continue to serve as the conscience of the country for children and youth.

This year on Founder's Day, remember that the PTA plays a roll in your child's life and take pride in the accomplishments of the past as we continue to be a powerful voice for all children.

(Information from the National PTA)



**PTA members save
25 percent
on Papa John's
Pizza
online orders!**

Service Project Ideas

Raising money for PTAs can be hard. Furthermore, it is the PTA's position that children should not be used as fundraisers. So what's a PTA to do? Combine projects or services that will benefit students and families and that will raise money as well. Fundraising activities should be planned and budgeted for purposes that further PTA work and beliefs. A fundraising event should reflect the principles of the association and have educational, social, or recreational value. Recommended service projects include the following:

- Book fairs
- Car washes
- Bake sales
- Festivals/Carnivals
- Theme dances
- School pictures
- Talent shows
- Rummage sales
- Spring Fling
- Yearbook
- Plays or musical productions
- Dinners
- Ice cream socials
- Arts/Crafts sales
- Student directories
- T-shirt sales
- Chili suppers
- School store (back-to-school items sold)
- Young Author's dinner theaters

KCAS News

It's not too late to have a Kentucky Core Academic Standards (KCAS) workshop for your school parents. Test scores for students and schools were released in November. Many parents may not understand the KCAS, the report card that they received from the school, and how their school was ranked in our school district. We are here to help parents understand those questions.

We also have a great booklet for parents to use at home with their child that will help reinforce what the teachers are doing in the classroom as well as a booklet that explains all about the assessment and accountability measures that the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is using to rank your student, child, school, and the district.

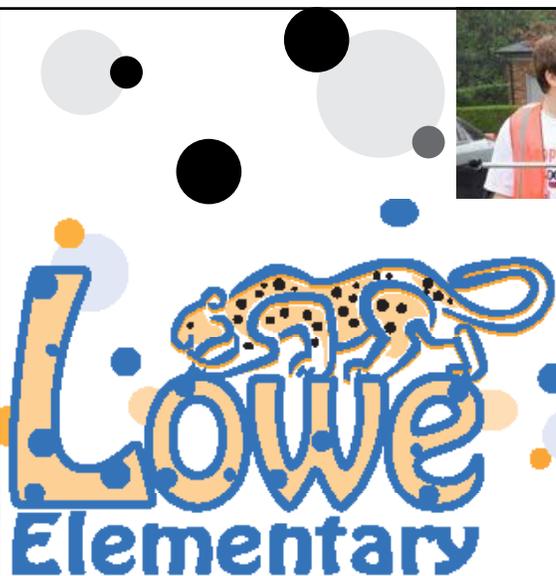
Please call Sharon Whitworth at **485-7450** or send an e-mail to **sharon.whitworth@jefferson.kyschools.us** to schedule a free workshop at your school.

Many thanks to the following schools/community organizations that have held workshops this past month.

Newburg Middle	Urban League Parent Academy
Coleridge-Taylor Montessori Elementary	Junior Achievement
Byck Elementary	Center for Neighborhoods/PAL Coalition
Eisenhower Elementary	Wilkerson Traditional Elementary



KCAS Team at end of grant celebration and wrap-up session in Baltimore



Lowe Elementary held a two-day community event to promote health and wellness. The first annual Community Fitness Fair and Wellness Expo took place the evening of Thursday, September 27. The following day, students did a walk-a-thon around the city of Hurstbourne. A proclamation from Mayor Greg Fischer declared September 28 to be Lowe Elementary Walk-a-Thon Day.

The majority of the proceeds are to be used to enhance the current playground and purchase iPads for the technology resource room. Remaining funds will be used to support existing operating costs, such as software licensing for programs used by the students.

Community partners included the Louisville Water Company (supplied water),

JCPS Nutritional Services (bananas), Chick fil-A (granola bites and applesauce), Trader Joe's (fruit bars), Norton Healthcare (foot token necklaces), and Chili's (supplied free kid's meal coupons and funded an ice cream party for the highest fundraising class, and their mascot attended the walk).

15th District PTA Awards

Self Esteem Award applications are due to Cherie Dimar, 15th District president, by **February 15, 2013**. This award application can be found in the *Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook* or online at www.kypta.org.

This year, the following district awards will be presented at our Awards Banquet:

- Outstanding Classified Personnel
- Outstanding Local Unit Newsletter
- Hall of Fame Educator
- Outstanding School Nurse
- Outstanding Volunteer
- Outstanding Local Unit Web Site
- Outstanding Male Involvement/Participation
- Volunteer Participation
- Outstanding Membership Campaign
- Special Projects/Programs

Local PTA/PTSA presidents will receive award applications in December. The deadline for 15th District PTA awards is **March 1, 2013**. Please remember that applications for state and district awards are separate.

Feel free to e-mail me at heather.mcGovern@jefferson.kyschools.us for any additional information or with any questions you may have regarding the 2011-12 PTA Awards.

Heather McGovern
Awards Chairperson

Kentucky PTA Awards

Applications for the following Kentucky PTA awards are due by **February 15, 2013**:

- \$500 Student Scholarship: This award is given to deserving high school seniors who plan to attend a Kentucky university or college and pursue a degree in education.
- \$500 Teacher-Member Scholarship: This award is given to Kentucky teachers who are working toward their master's degree or Rank 1.
- \$500 Parent-Member Scholarship: This award is given to a PTA or PTSA parent member who is working toward a degree in education or the health field at an accredited Kentucky public college or university.
- Christa McAuliffe Rising Star Award: This award is given to the student who has successfully worked to improve his or her grades, attendance, attitude, character, and/or self-esteem.

The following Kentucky PTA awards are due by **March 15, 2013**:

- Outstanding Classified Personnel
- Penguin Award for Outstanding Male Involvement
- Outstanding Membership Campaign
- Outstanding Local Unit Newsletter
- Outstanding School Nurse
- Outstanding Local Unit Web Site
- Volunteer Participation
- Outstanding Volunteer
- Outstanding Programs and Projects
- Outstanding Educator

These award applications can be found in the *Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook* or online at www.kypta.org.



Calendar of Events

December

- 4 Reflections Awards Ceremony and General PTA Meeting
- 15..... Submit membership dues to Kentucky PTA.
- 21-Jan. 4 No School for Students—Winter Break

January

- 15..... Submit membership dues to Kentucky PTA.
- 21 No School for Students—Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February

- 12..... 15th District Spelling Bee
- 15 Submit membership dues to Kentucky PTA.
Submission deadline for the following Kentucky PTA awards:
 - \$500 Student Scholarship
 - \$500 Teacher-Member Scholarship
 - \$500 Parent-Member Scholarship
 - Christa McAuliffe Rising Star Award
 - Self Esteem Award Applications Due to 15th District PTA President

18-22 Take Your Family to School Week

25-28 Make-Up Days for Students

May

- 7..... 15th District PTA Awards Banquet and General PTA Meeting

Putting the Public Back in Education—the Importance of Cultural Competency in Urban School Districts



In keeping with its tradition of connecting national leaders in the education field, Education First Foundation, Inc., in collaboration with its annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Showcase, introduced Dr. Adeyemi Stembridge to education and community members in Louisville for two powerful conversations. Dr. Stembridge is a project associate at the Metropolitan Center for Urban Education under the direction of Dr. Pedro Noguera at New York University. Building on the conversation that Dr. Noguera brought to attendees at last year's HBCU Showcase regarding accountability in education, Dr. Stembridge discussed strategies for the mitigation of the overrepresentation of culturally and linguistically diverse students in special education programs. Attendees enjoyed learning from Dr. Stembridge. He is an

educator at both the undergraduate and graduate levels with research interests that include issues of academic and racial identity, urban education reform, principles of cultural responsiveness in education, curriculum design, pedagogical strategies that improve college-readiness outcomes, and the landmark judicial and legislative actions that affect the distribution of educational opportunities.

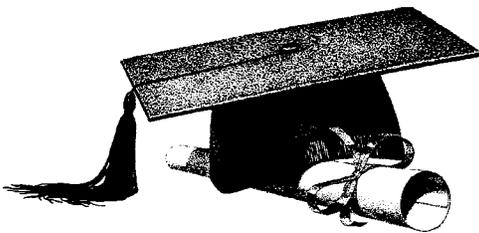
At the HBCU luncheon on October 25, community organization leaders and Jefferson County Board of Education (JCBE) representatives listened to Dr. Stembridge address culture and diversity in terms of cultural responsiveness. Dr. Stembridge informed attendees that cultural responsiveness was not just being culturally relevant but also required a dual responsibility and an ongoing exchange necessary

between educators, parents, and students. In order to achieve cultural responsiveness, educators, parents, and students must provide additional resources within schools and education environments that sustain the efforts of educational endurance. Dr. Stembridge identified a concept that helped frame cultural competency in education by identifying themes and strategies for improving the success of vulnerable student populations. Understanding that achievement gaps are more than a race issue allows educators and parents a better opportunity to examine ways to overcome educational attainment gaps.

Aneeka Ferrell,
15th District PTA Diversity Consultant

(Some information gathered from Education First Foundation, Inc.)

15th District PTA Evangeline J. Sansome Scholarship



All JCPS seniors are encouraged to apply for this need-based scholarship available through the 15th District PTA, 319 South 15th Street, Louisville, KY 40203.

Students' needs and desires to further their education will be considered along with their academic standing. This scholarship is applicable to any type of training or schooling necessary to prepare for a chosen career. Some restrictions will apply. This is for tuition only.

The value of the scholarship will be determined in April. For the last few years, we have provided 16 scholarships valued at \$1,700 each.

Students may download the application

from our Web site at 15thdistrictpta.org in mid-November or see the senior counselor at their high school.

If you have questions, you may call the 15th District PTA Office at **485-3535** and leave a message for Barbara Fischer, scholarship chair, or send an e-mail to scholarshipchair13@yahoo.com.

Qualifications for the 15th District PTA Evangeline J. Sansome Scholarship are as follows:

1. Graduating seniors attending a Jefferson County public high school whose PTSA is a unit of the Kentucky Congress of Parents and Teachers and has paid national, state, and district dues sent via U.S. mail and postmarked by March 15, 2013. The school PTSA's bylaws must be current and updated as well.
2. You must be a member of your school PTSA. The PTSA must meet the requirements in number 1.

3. The scholarship is need-based. Tax records will be required. The essay will require you to state why you need this scholarship. The scholarship is for tuition only.
4. A grade point average (GPA)/transcript (minimum GPA of 2.7) and three letters of recommendation from your school, church, community leaders, employers, etc., are required. One letter of recommendation must be from your current high school principal or senior counselor. The scholarship application will be due the end of March 2013.

Barb Fisher
Scholarship Chairperson

Searching for Talented Members

The 15th District PTA is searching for talented PTA/PTSA members who are interested in joining the 15th District PTA Board of Directors. We know that there are many dedicated, talented volunteers in our city who have been involved with their local PTAs and PTSAs and feel that they have much more to give. If you are interested or know someone who would be interested, please let us know by filling out and returning this form to our office at 319 South 15th Street, Louisville, KY 40203. If you have any questions, please call the district office at **485-3535** or e-mail Sharon Whitworth at sharon.whitworth@jefferson.kyschools.us.

The deadline for submitting names is March 1, 2013.

Date: _____

Submitted by: _____

PTA/PTSA/School: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (day) _____ (night) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Check one.

I am referring myself.

I am referring _____.

Positions on the Board

President

Third VP Ways and Means

Secretary

First VP Programs

Fourth VP Newsletter/PR

Treasurer

Second VP Membership

Fifth VP Board Trainings

Other

Areas of Expertise

Finding Nondues Revenue

Training

Technology

Grant Writing

Publications/Communications

Budget Planning

Reflections/Programs

Marketing

Clothing Assistance Program
(CAP)

CAP Today

CAP Dates and School Schedule

CAP has new dates and times starting on January 8. CAP will be open only on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



The end of one year and the beginning of a new one bring changes, some small and some large. CAP is no different. I have gone from a part-time job at Crosby Middle School to a full-time job at St. Vincent de Paul, which has meant schedule changes for CAP because I can no longer be there on weekdays. If you are a PTA president, you have or soon will receive your new dates and times for the second half of the year. We are also looking for people to step up and be team leaders at CAP. If you love volunteering at CAP and assisting the families, please consider this opportunity. Some of the tasks you will be doing are checking in the families and making sure the schools and sizes on the forms are correct, directing volunteers according to the list of projects that need to be done, and answering the phone and taking messages. Some computer work will be necessary, but training will be provided. You will not be alone because there will be PTA board members at CAP on those days to guide you. You can also volunteer as a group to be team leaders on certain days. We need this additional assistance in order to continue to serve our families. Please contact me if you are interested in being a team leader at CAP.

More than 4,000 students and their families have been served by CAP as of October 26. This is slightly behind last year; however, I don't think this is an indication that our services are no longer needed, rather the fact that school started later and we had our blitz later. We started with two boxes of empty hangers before the blitz, which means we had lots of uniforms, coats, and family room clothes to start the year. We are now putting clothing on the racks as soon as we get the donations because so much has been taken by the families. That indicates that even though fewer families have been served, they have had greater needs than in the past. We had our first Drive-Through and Drop-Off for winter coats and uniforms on November 10 to help fill some of the racks. CAP will be open some upcoming Saturdays for volunteers and clients. Watch for an e-mail or alert from us.

Another project that we are considering doing is the Food Stamp Challenge. Because a lot of the families we serve at CAP also have other assistance needs, we feel that having PTA volunteers experience a little of what these families do will make us better able to understand and serve them. This challenge involves only spending on food for a week what is available through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for each family. Currently, that is about \$31.50 a person during the week. That comes to about \$1.50 a meal. If you or your PTA or other organization would like to participate, please contact me. As planning proceeds, you will receive updates.

Remember this is **your** program. It is run and sponsored by PTA volunteers and local units. We are grateful for the support from Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS), but the heart of CAP is the PTA volunteers who make it happen. As the new year begins, please make a resolution to continue to volunteer to make life better for all students and families in our community. Please contact me with questions or suggestions. (I love more ideas!) Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

Paula Wolf
CAP Director
485-7062
pwolf@svdplou.org

January

- 5.....Jeffersontown High (Special Saturday)
- 8.....Price Elementary
Ballard High
Watson Lane Elementary
- 9.....Kammerer Middle
- 10.....Can Run Elementary
Moore Traditional School
Anchorage School
- 15.....Tully Elementary
Sanders Elementary
Semple Elementary
- 16.....Central High
Medora Elementary
- 17.....Dixie Elementary
McFerran Preparatory Academy
- 22.....Eastern High
King Elementary
- 23.....Bates Elementary
- 24.....DuPont Manual High
Noe Middle
- 29.....Minors Lane Elementary
Coleridge-Taylor Montessori
Elementary
Fern Creek Traditional High
- 30.....Lowe Elementary
- 31.....Crumbs Lane Elementary
Frayser Elementary

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Kentucky PTA
www.kypta.org
Phone: 226-6607

National PTA
www.pta.org
Phone: (703) 518-1200 or
800-307-4PTA (4782)

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Kentucky PTA
www.facebook.com/?sk=2361831622#!/group.php?gid=116874298952

National PTA
www.facebook.com/parentteacherassociation

For additional information about the PTA, please go to Kentucky PTA at www.kypta.org or National PTA at www.pta.org.