



Newsletter

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every child. one voice.®

October 2012

President's Letter



October is packed with deadlines, special observances, and fall festivals. Parent-teacher conferences are on **October 8**. Make attending your child's conference a priority. This is your chance to see how things are going with your child and to partner with teachers on improving your child's performance. Ask, "What can we be doing at home to practice what my child is learning?" The National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has created grade-by-grade *Parents Guides* that are good resources for what to discuss at conferences. Find out more at pta.org/parentguide.

All PTAs/Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSAs) must send in a membership dues payment to the Kentucky PTA by **October 15** in order to remain in good standing. The 15th District PTA will host a Board of Education Candidates Forum on **October 16**, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the VanHoose Education Center. The Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) Middle and High School Showcase is scheduled for **October 26 and 27**.

Research shows that the arts contribute to creative thinking, emotional resiliency, problem solving, as well as other important twenty-first-century skills. For more than 40 years, the National PTA Reflections Program has given students the opportunity to express themselves creatively and be recognized for it. By now, you should be collecting all of your entries for this year's Reflections Program. These entries are due to the 15th District PTA Office by **October 25**.

Red Ribbon Week is usually observed during the **last week of October**, but your school can determine which days work best for it. The mission of the Red Ribbon Campaign is to present a unified and visible commitment to the creation of a Drug-Free America. Many organizations have joined in this mission and have expanded it to include both prevention and awareness. It can include prevention of underage drinking and tobacco use, the fight against AIDS, bullying prevention, and other safety programs. Please contact us if you are interested in having a workshop about bullying or other health/safety issues.

Continue to make a difference, and help ensure a successful future for every student. Thank you!

Cherie Dimar

Cherie Dimar
President



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.

Is Your School Ready to Participate in Red Ribbon Week 2012?



The Red Ribbon Campaign was originally started when Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) agent Kiki Camarena was murdered and tortured in 1985 by drug traffickers in Mexico City. This began the use of red ribbons as a symbol of intolerance toward the use of drugs. The mission of the Red Ribbon Campaign is to present a unified and visible commitment to the creation of a drug-free America.

The Red Ribbon Foundation and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) use the red ribbon symbol. Founded in 1980, MADD's mission is to stop drunk driving and prevent underage drinking. The main purpose of the Red Ribbon Foundation, founded in 1993, is education about the prevention of HIV and AIDS.

The last few years, the exact dates in October have varied for prevention and awareness programs, with the last week of the month being used by most organizations. Your PTA and school officials can decide which days are best suited for your individual school. Whether you have a weeklong celebration or just a day or two, there is something every school can do to commemorate the event. You can have your Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) officers, police representatives, school administrators, drug awareness speakers, or DEA agents speak to the students. The Internet is full of ideas.

Remember to Educate Parents!

Are we, as adults, teaching our youth about the dangers of underage drinking and drug abuse?

Continued on Page 2

The following information is from the National Family Partnerships Web site:

- Children who begin drinking alcohol before the age of 15 are five times more likely than those who start after age 21 to develop alcohol problems.
- More than 67 percent of young people who start drinking before the age of 15 will try an illicit drug.
- Traffic crashes are the number one killer of teens, and **over one-third of teen traffic deaths are alcohol-related.**
- Alcohol is a strong predictor of sexual activity, unprotected sex, date rape, and violent behaviors.
- A survey found that one-third of teens attend parties where illegal drugs and alcohol are on hand **despite parents being present**, according to an article by the Associated Press. However, **80 percent of the parents interviewed**

did not believe illegal drugs or alcohol were present at teen gatherings.

Research is clear that parent involvement in a school/community, as well as setting boundaries and monitoring behavior, are the keys to raising safe, healthy, and drug-free children.

For more information, check out the Parent Portal on the JCPS Web site. Click on Keeping Kids Safe on the left. It will take you to a wealth of information on awareness and lists several contacts for more information.

Susan Gardner
Safety Chair

Make Sure You File Your IRS 990

The deadline is here! All PTA units must file their 990 Form with the IRS by November 15 of each year. What must be filed this year depends on an organization's financial activity. **All PTAs are required to submit Form 990, regardless of annual income.** To find out what form of the 990 you need to file, check out the *Money Matters* quick reference guide. You can review this guide in the paper copy, which is in the PTA Official Kit that each local unit receives, or you can access the information on the National PTA's Web site at www.pta.org/local_leader/1443.htm. I am here to assist you, so if you need help with this or any other financial/treasurer matters, please don't hesitate to contact me!

Theresa Mayfield
Treasurer



Reflections

Don't forget that the Reflections deadline is **October 25, 2012**, for PTAs to submit their entries to the 15th District PTA. All entries must be brought to the 15th District PTA Office at 319 South 15th Street. Please do not mail large packages through the United States Postal Service (USPS); we do not have a mailbox that can accommodate large mailings.

It is not too late to participate in the Reflections Program. You could do just one of the categories and still participate in the program. The categories are music, visual art, literature, photography, dance choreography, and film/video production.

The theme this year is "The Magic of the Moment"

All entries must be submitted with a Student Entry Process Form signed by the

parent/guardian and a parent consent form if other students are involved in the entry. PTAs/PTSAs should only submit one entry per grade in each category.

Visit our Web site at www.15thdistrictpta.org for all the information and forms that need to be filled out for the Reflections Program.

Our Awards Ceremony for Reflections will be held on **December 4, 2012**, at the Sallie Phillips Durrett Auditorium at 7 p.m. If your child is a 15th District PTA winner, you will be notified.

Call Sharon Whitworth at **485-7450** for more information.

Sharon Whitworth
Reflections Chairman

What's Happening in Your PTA/PTSA?

We would love to hear about your PTA/PTSA! We want to toot your horn and share your excitement about your membership drives, successful programs, etc. Please send us the particulars so that we can share them in future newsletters.

Please type your story/news in a Microsoft Word document using Times New Roman font, and e-mail it as an attachment to Autumn Neagle at autumn@argo-networks.com. If you have photos to share with your story, please send them as well in JPEG format.

We are looking forward to hearing from you and sharing many good ideas and successes!

Speaking Up for Children—An Advocacy Training for PTA/PTSA Members Presented by Kentucky PTA

Special visit to the Capitol at 1 p.m. on Thursday (Optional)

Thursday, November 1, 2012, 6–10 p.m.

Friday, November 2, 2012, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Kentucky PTA • Office 148 Consumers Lane • Frankfort, KY 40601

The \$50 registration fee includes the following: Materials, dinner on Thursday, lunch on Friday, one night’s lodging (two in a room). Register early—Limit 25 people per session. Deadline: **October 24, 2012**

The confirmation, location, and complete agenda will be sent to members who have signed up after the registration deadline. Make checks payable to Kentucky PTA. Send to Kentucky PTA, P.O. Box 654, Frankfort, KY 40602-0654.

Name: _____

PTA Position: _____

PTA/PTSA Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____, Kentucky ZIP _____

Phone (h): _____ (w): _____ (cell): _____

E-Mail: _____

Person to Contact in Case of Emergency: _____

Relationship: _____ Phone: _____

Plan to Attend the Board of Education Candidates Forum

The 15th District PTA will host the Board of Education Candidates Forum on **Tuesday, October 16, 2012**, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the VanHoose Education Center.

District 2	6–6:55 p.m.
District 4	7–7:55 p.m.
District 7	8–8:55 p.m.

Parents and the general public are invited to come and hear the views of the school board candidates. This forum will be open to the public, and a moderator will be present. The public may submit questions in person at the forum or via e-mail to KY15thDistrictPTA@gmail.com.

We believe that we, as PTA parents and community members, best demonstrate our role as child advocates by becoming educated about candidates for public office and their positions or legislative issues that are important to children and public schools. By exercising our democratic right to vote, we are able to give children a voice. **Remember that Election Day is Tuesday, November 6. Note: The 15th District PTA does not endorse any candidates.**



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

CAP Today

As of August 27, we have served more than 2,000 students and have many more signed up for appointments. The Clothing Assistance Program (CAP) is currently in need of gently used uniforms, children's clothing, and volunteers. Our clothing racks are almost completely bare, so much help is needed to replenish our stock. Please check the schedule in this newsletter for October and November dates. PTA presidents will get a written and phone call reminder about their upcoming day to work at CAP. If you would like to volunteer with a group, please contact me to set up a special day for you (485-7062 or jpcscap@jefferson.kyschools.us). Thank you again for your support of this program. It is a program you can be proud to support as a PTA.



Paula Wolf
CAP Director

October

- 1 Medora Elementary
Noe Middle
- 2 Hite Elementary
Kenwood Elementary
- 3 Goldsmith Elementary
Indian Trail Elementary
- 4 Carrithers Middle
Greathouse/Shryock Traditional
Elementary
- 9 Brandeis Elementary
Jacob Elementary
- 11 Auburndale Elementary
Johnson Traditional Middle
- 12 Frayser Elementary
Iroquois High
- 15 St. Matthews Elementary
- 16 Hartstern Elementary
Breckinridge-Franklin
Okolona Elementary
- 17 Hazelwood Elementary
Ramsey Middle
- 18 Farmer Elementary
Kennedy Montessori Elementary
- 19 Blue Lick Elementary
Louisville Male High
- 22 Conway Middle
Wilder Elementary
- 23 Mill Creek Elementary
Portland Elementary
- 24 Kerrick Elementary
Stuart Middle
- 25 Butler Traditional High
Semple Elementary
- 26 Engelhard Elementary
Minors Lane Elementary

- 29 Chancey Elementary
Fern Creek Traditional High
- 30 Barret Traditional Middle
Dixie Elementary
- 31 Luhr Elementary
Wheatley Elementary
- November**
- 1 Crums Lane Elementary
Hawthorne Elementary
- 2 King Elementary
Schaffner Traditional Elementary
- 7 Farnsley Middle
Smyrna Traditional Elementary
- 8 Shacklette Elementary
Wilt Elementary
- 9 Doss High
Shelby Traditional Academy
- 12 Engelhard Elementary
Roosevelt-Perry Elementary
- 13 Jeffersontown Elementary
Wilkerson Traditional
Elementary
- 14 Maupin Elementary
Southern High
- 15 Layne Elementary
Watson Lane Elementary
- 16 Blake Elementary
Rangeland Elementary
- 19 Gilmore Lane Elementary
Wellington Elementary
- 20 Fairdale High
Valley High
- 26 Johnson Traditional Middle
Rutherford Elementary

- 27 Coleridge-Taylor Montessori
Elementary
Westport Middle
- 28 Cochran Elementary
Trunnell Elementary
- 29 Eisenhower Elementary
Seneca High
- 30 Klondike Lane Elementary
Western Middle

Calendar of Events

October

- 8 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 15 Membership Dues Payment Required
- 16 Jefferson County Board of Education (JCBE) Candidates Forum at VanHoose Education Center, 6-9 p.m.
- 25 Deadline for Reflections Program Entries to the 15th District PTA Office
- 26-27 . . Middle and High School Showcase of Schools

November

- 1-2 Kentucky PTA Advocacy Training
- 15 Submit membership dues to Kentucky PTA.

File 990 Tax Form with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
- Deadline to submit Warren H. Proudfoot Award/Outstanding School Board Member
- 17 Elementary School Showcase
- 21-23 Thanksgiving Break

December

- 4 Reflections Awards Ceremony and Celebration, Gheens, 7 p.m.

White House Names PTA Champions of Change



Sharon Whitworth recognized for PTA dedication.

National PTA, in partnership with the White House and U.S.

Department of Education, recently acknowledged 12 PTA members from across the country as Champions of Change. Our very own Sharon Whitworth was one of the 12 people recognized for her dedication to improving educational equity and opportunity for all children through involvement in PTA. Sharon has been involved with PTA for more than 36 years, and she has served in local, state, and national PTA capacities. She currently serves as the 15th District PTA parliamentarian, Special Projects chairman, and project lead for a \$20,000 National PTA grant to educate parents and community members about the new Common Core State Standards being applied in Kentucky schools. Congratulations, Sharon!

Reminder: Required Membership Dues Payment



The required membership dues payment is due by **October 15, 2012**. At least one payment must be made by October 15 to be considered a unit in good standing. You should continue to send membership payments to Kentucky PTA by the 15th of every month. You must be a unit in good standing to be eligible to participate in any PTA programs. Refer to your Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook "Forms" section (State and National PTA Dues Payment Form).

Please mail a completed form with payment to:
 Kentucky PTA
 P.O. Box 654
 Frankfort, KY 40602
 Make check payable to Kentucky PTA.

National dues are \$2.25; Kentucky dues are \$1.25; the total for each member is \$3.50.

Features of the 15th District PTA Web Site, www.15thdistrictpta.org

Go to the Membership page, and you will see the following:

- State and National Dues Payment Form (Use this form to make your monthly payments.)
- District Dues Payment for Local PTAs and PTSAs
- Membership Data Template (Use this template to record and report your members.)
- Membership Card Template (Use this template to print your cards.)
- Membership Poster With Goals
- How to Activate Your Membership Card YouTube Video
- Superintendent's PTA Membership Club

Eddie Squires
 Second Vice President, Membership

Being a PTA Leader in a Diverse Community

Being a PTA leader is not an easy task no matter how you look at it. The PTA leadership role requires individuals to coordinate events, oversee board members, assist with establishing committees, and maintain connections with the students, parents, and families among other responsibilities. Still, a PTA leader's role doesn't stop there. A PTA leader has to develop ways to encourage and increase membership in communities that are becoming more diverse every day. PTA leaders can be most effective when they understand that diversity exists in their community and want to recognize ways to help embrace that diversity. According to National PTA (2012), when PTAs respect differences, yet acknowledge shared commonalities uniting their schools and communities, and then develop meaningful priorities based on their knowledge, they genuinely represent their communities. When PTAs represent their communities, they gain strength and effectiveness through increased volunteer and resource support (National PTA, 2012).

When PTA leaders recognize diversity in their school and community and begin to value differences and similarities in

groups through actions and accountability, they are making strides at being effective leaders. The differences and similarities that make our schools and community diverse are age, ethnicity, language and culture, economic status, educational background, gender, geographic location, marital status, mental ability, national origin, organizational position and tenure, parental status, physical ability, political philosophy, race, religion, sexual orientation, and work experience.

Therefore, according to National PTA (2012), leaders at every level must:

- Openly assess beliefs and practices to ensure inclusiveness and guard against discrimination.
- Make every effort to create a PTA board and membership that are inclusive and reflective of the community.
- Ensure that all PTA activities at the school be planned by a committee that is representative of the population.
- Foster programs and practices that eliminate bias, prejudice, and misunderstanding within the community.

- Become acquainted with the leaders of the many diverse groups in the community, and collaborate with them to increase parent, family, and community involvement.
- Educate leaders and members about the needs, cultural beliefs, traditions, and family structures of the population they serve.
- Propose change to end discriminatory practices.

The PTA values and appreciates diversity, which enriches and strengthens the structure of our society within our state and nation (National PTA, 2012).

Diverse leaders working together for a common goal create a platform of influence, which results in increased membership.

Aneeka Ferrell
 15th District PTA Diversity Consultant

Reference: National PTA (2012)
www.pta.org

Superintendent's PTA Membership Club

Have you joined the PTA this year? PTA is the largest child advocacy group in the United States, with more than 6 million members and 23,000 local units. Even if you don't currently have students in JCPS, PTA membership is one definitive way of bringing attention to the cause of public education. Your membership will help support campaigns at every grade level.

- PTA is more than just bake sales and festivals.
- PTA provides training for parents and caregivers.
- PTA fundraises for our schools.
- PTA lobbies at the local, state, and national levels concerning issues important to education.
- PTA provides an army of volunteers to support school and district initiatives.

If you are already participating in the PTA, thank you for your time and support. If not, please take a moment to fill out the Superintendent's PTA Membership Club Form. For a small investment of \$5, you can provide support to all of our students and families at JCPS.

Please send the completed form by the Pony, or mail it to:

15th District PTA
Superintendent's Membership Club
319 South Fifteenth Street
Louisville, Kentucky 40203

Superintendent's PTA Membership Club

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of Memberships: _____

If you work for JCPS, in which department do you work? _____

Cost Center Head: _____

Total Enclosed (___ x \$5): _____

Please attach additional names and addresses. Make checks payable to the 15th District PTA. After dues are paid to the 15th District, Kentucky, and National PTA, all remaining proceeds will go to the 15th District PTA CAP.

Proudfoot Award

Do you know a local public school board member who has gone above and beyond the call of duty? Show your appreciation by nominating him or her for an award!

The Proudfoot Award is presented annually to a Kentucky public school board member who has exhibited distinguished leadership and service to the community during his or her tenure on the local school board. This award is named after the late Dr. Warren H. Proudfoot, a member of the Rowan County Board of Education and past president of the Kentucky School Board Association.

To nominate a board member for the Proudfoot Award, follow the criteria on the form found in the *Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook*. Entries must be postmarked by **November 15, 2012**. Faxed or e-mailed copies are not acceptable.

Nothing says thank you as much as nominating someone for an award! Good work and effort should be acknowledged and rewarded!

There are many awards offered by the district, state, and National PTAs. The awards honor the programs, people, and events that make your PTA special. We will hold a session in January to guide you through the application process and provide time to ask questions. Review the forms and criteria in the *Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook*, and apply for as many as you like. If you have any questions regarding any of the awards, please contact me.

When completing awards applications, be sure to remember that district and state awards require separate application forms.

Heather McGovern, Awards Chairperson

continued on next page

The Proudfoot Award for Outstanding School Board Member

Sponsored by the Kentucky PTA and the Kentucky School Boards Association

The Proudfoot Award is named after the late Dr. Warren H. Proudfoot, a member of the Rowan County Board of Education and past president of the Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA). Created in 1992, the award recognizes a current school board member for distinguished leadership and community service.

Deadline: November 15, 2012 [Postmark date] Mail this form to: Kentucky PTA, P. O. Box 654, Frankfort, KY 40602-0654 OR Email: kentuckypta@bellsouth.net OR Fax: 502-226-6610

Please Copy This Form and Distribute to the Appropriate Person to Complete.

Criteria

The Proudfoot Award for Outstanding School Board Member is presented annually to a Kentucky public school board member who has exhibited distinguished leadership and service to the community during his/her tenure on the local school board. Please consider the following criteria and guidelines:

1. Nominations may be made by an individual school board member, the board team, a superintendent of public schools, a school based parent group or an individual parent.
2. Nominees must be at least in fifth year of service as a member of a Kentucky Public School Board of Education.
3. Nominations may be based on significant contributions over a sustained period of time or for one outstanding contribution during the period of service. Nominees should be active advocates for public education and other learning advancement opportunities for all children within the community.
4. Materials and Correspondence supporting the nomination should include substantive information relative to the nominee and his/her specific contributions and service to the local community. Include a one page endorsement from a school based parent group (may be individual member or the group in entirety). Also include information about service and contributions at the region, state and national level. **Nominations may not exceed six pages, including this form, one side only, double spaced with type no smaller than 10 point.**
5. The award will be presented at the KSBA annual convention. The nominator(s) of the award winner will be notified and asked to assist in ensuring the winner is present at the recognition ceremony.

Important! Please be sure the following are addressed in your nomination: As a school board member:

- Describe at least three ways the nominee has been an effective advocate for children and youth in the community.
- How has the nominee demonstrated understanding and support of both individual school needs and district-wide needs?
- How has the nominee demonstrated support for parent involvement in schools and/or collaboration with parent groups?
- How has the nominee been a leader and made clear his/her position on public education?

Name of Nominee _____ Number of Years of Board Service _____

Name of School District _____

Address _____
Street Address/P. O. Box _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____ PTA District _____

Submitted by _____ Title/Position _____ Date _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Reminder: Nominations may not exceed six pages, including this form; one side only. An incomplete application will not be considered.

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www.15thdistrictpta.org



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Safety Chairperson
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PTA Contact Information

15th District PTA
www.15thdistrictpta.org
Phone: **485-3535**

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

National PTA
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

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.