

# Family Matters

A PUBLICATION OF THE 15TH DISTRICT PTA



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

School has started, which means that the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is in full swing for the school year. This is always an exciting time for PTAs, as they start planning the school year with events and programs. Remember that our honorary membership chairman, Kimberly Cecil-Jones, is willing to come to your event and promote membership and involvement. Please contact Shawn Summerville at **386-1455** or **daaville@yahoo.com** to schedule an appearance.



If you have not turned in your 2017-18 Board Officer List, please do so as soon as possible. You can also type it in on our website.

It is a great time to make sure that everyone on your board goes to a general board training. We offer community board trainings every Thursday. Check our schedule in this newsletter or on our website.

If you need help getting a PTA or Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) started at your school or have a question, please remember that we are just a phone call or email away and are happy to help out.



*Autumn Neagle*

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**15th District PTA Channel**

**Clothing Assistance Program**  
[@PTA\\_CAP](https://twitter.com/PTA_CAP)  
[twitter.com/PTA\\_CAP](https://twitter.com/PTA_CAP)



**15th District PTA**  
<https://www.pinterest.com/15thdistrictpta/>

## Calendar of Events

### September

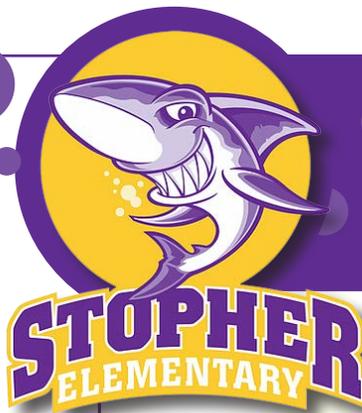
- 4 ..... Labor Day (no school)
- 9 ..... ACT
- 10 ..... National Arts in Education Week
- 12 ..... Jefferson County Board of Education (JCBE) Meeting
- 14 ..... Give For Good Louisville
- 22 ..... Middle and high school grading period ends (1 of 6).
- 23 ..... College and Career Expo
- 26 ..... JCBE Meeting

### October

- 3 ..... Middle and High School Report Card Distribution (1 of 6)
- 9 ..... Professional-Development (PD) Day (no school for students)
- 10 ..... Parent-Teacher Conferences (no school for students)
- ..... JCBE Meeting
- 17 ..... Elementary grading period ends (1 of 4).
- 23 ..... Elementary Report Card Distribution (1 of 4)
- 24 ..... JCBE Meeting
- 28 ..... ACT
- ..... Showcase of Schools
- 30 ..... Optional/Magnet School Application Period (through Dec. 15)



# Serving With Spirit



When Stephanie Rogers' son, Davis, started kindergarten at Stopher Elementary in the 2011-12 school year, she started volunteering in his classroom. She had a genuine interest in his success, and she met other mothers and families.

"I wanted to be involved," Rogers said.

Other parents approached her and asked her to serve as an officer on the Stopher Elementary PTA. She served two years as treasurer and two more years as president. She spent her son's fifth-grade year serving as the school's PTA advisor.

The Stopher Elementary PTA has a robust board, including the required president, treasurer, and secretary and an additional six vice presidents, and three of those roles are each shared by two officers. The Stopher PTA is a titan of activity and fundraising. The school hosts large auctions, an annual mother/son and father/daughter event, and a large family event.

During Rogers' tenure, the PTA has expanded the school's playground and provides necessary maintenance. Each Stopher Elementary teacher enjoys a stipend from the PTA to help with supplies and other necessities. Satisfaction comes from seeing the hard work result in a direct benefit to the school, Rogers said. This year, Rogers' son will begin sixth grade at Crosby Middle.

In July, Rogers was honored with the Outstanding Volunteer Award at the Kentucky PTA Convention, a two-day event held at Bowen Elementary. Stopher Elementary received several accolades at the convention, including Outstanding Local Unit Website, Outstanding Volunteer Participation, and Outstanding Programs and Projects.



Stephanie Rogers and her son, Davis, at Stopher Elementary

"I wanted to be involved."

## Kentucky PTA Convention Awards

The following PTAs/PTSAs and individuals were honored at the Kentucky PTA Convention, held in July at Bowen Elementary.

### Outstanding Classified

**Personnel:** Ameerah Granger, a community liaison at Iroquois High and member of the Iroquois Raiders

### Outstanding Local Unit Website:

Brandeis Elementary PTA, Stopher Elementary PTA

**President's Challenge** (25 member increase from the previous year): Alex R. Kennedy Elementary, Barret Traditional Middle, Trunnell Elementary, Bowen Elementary, Crosby Middle, Dixie Elementary, Fern Creek High, Field Elementary, Foster Traditional Academy, Cochrane Elementary, Hite Elementary, Jefferson County Traditional Middle, Kammerer Middle, Lincoln Elementary Performing Arts School, Louisville Male High, Luhr Elementary, Portland Elementary, Sanders Elementary, Semple Elementary, Seneca High, St. Matthews Elementary, Watterson Elementary, Wilkerson Traditional Elementary, and Western Middle

### Outstanding Volunteer

**Award:** Stephanie Rogers, Stopher Elementary PTA

### Outstanding Volunteer

**Participation:** Stopher Elementary PTA

### Outstanding Programs and

**Projects:** Stopher Elementary PTA

**Lida Gardner Honor Roll** (largest numbers of members based on enrollment category):

| Enrollment      | School                                    | Members |
|-----------------|---|---------|
| 1 to 300        | Alex R. Kennedy Elementary                | 220     |
| 301 to 600      | Lincoln Elementary Performing Arts School | 900     |
| 601 to 900      | Barret Traditional Middle                 | 1,043   |
| More than 1,200 | DuPont Manual High                        | 2,074   |

**Acorn Award** (largest percentage membership increase): Crosby Middle

**Apple Award** (schools with 100 percent of employees enrolled as members): Bowen Elementary and Wilder Elementary

**Oak Tree Honor** (one member for each student enrolled): Alex R. Kennedy Elementary and Bowen Elementary

**Mrs. George Weldon Award** (200 member increase by March 15): Crosby Middle,

Lincoln Elementary Performing Arts School, Louisville Male High, St. Matthews Elementary

**Youth Voice Awards** (largest percentage of student members based on school enrollment): Louisville Male High

**Chuck Saylor's He-Man Award** (largest percentage of male members based on student enrollment): Louisville Male High

# What's on YOUR Wall?

When you need a fresh perspective on a worn-out membership campaign theme, ask a seventh grader.

That is how Farnsley Middle PTSA launched its Snapchat-themed 2017-18 membership campaign. This year, a prominent wall in the school's lobby features names of new members written on small yellow cutouts of the Snapchat ghost. Words on the wall encourage passersby to "Join the Farnsley PTSA and be saved in our Memories."

Snapchat is an image and multimedia messaging application—foreign to most adults—and most popular with students and millennials. As of this summer, it's an app that Farnsley PTSA Secretary Brenda Hinojos is becoming more familiar with too. It's on her phone, and she enjoys using it.

Previous years have included a tree theme, and each leaf bore the name of a PTSA member. Hinojos asked her daughter, Reneé, a seventh-grade student at Farnsley, to come up with a more modern theme. Reneé thought up the theme and personally cut out the yellow ghosts to go onto the walls. Teachers who join the PTSA will get a larger yellow ghost with their name outside their classrooms.

Students who join the PTSA may purchase tickets to each of the four school dances for \$1 instead of \$3. So, a \$5 PTSA membership could save a student \$8.

Hinojos has been involved with elementary PTA and the Kentucky PTA. In addition to her daughter formulating the campaign, her son Pete, a sixth-grade student at Farnsley, helped work a PTSA table at the sixth-grade orientation camp.

"I love to see all of them get involved," Hinojos said. "This is something that a student came up with. They like it, and it gets them more members."



Brenda Hinojos, secretary of the Farnsley Middle PTSA, and her sixth-grade son, Pete, stand in front of the PTSA membership wall, an idea developed by Hinojos' daughter, Reneé.

During the first day of the sixth-grade camp, Farnsley sold 99 memberships. By the time all the sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students went through orientation, the school had sold 174 PTSA memberships to students and families, according to Tracy Wise, first vice president of the Farnsley PTSA. Wise expects to surpass last year's total number of 225 after the PTSA does more of a campaign to get each Farnsley employee to join the PTSA. The PTSA is hoping to achieve the 100 percent staff participation award, Wise said.

The social media-themed campaign is not a fluke. The PTSA already has a healthy Facebook presence and this year will launch Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat pages, Hinojos said.



## Membership Campaigns

It's the season of new PTA/PTSA memberships.

August, September, and October are busy months for school events, PTA membership campaigns, and first impressions among families and students. What is your school PTA/PTSA doing this year to encourage family involvement and increase memberships? *Family Matters* may highlight your school's efforts. Send information to Justin Willis at [justin.willis@jefferson.kyschools.us](mailto:justin.willis@jefferson.kyschools.us).



The Farnsley Middle PTSA signed up more than 170 members during the school's orientations in August. From right, PTSA President Julie Haeberlin, First Vice President Tracy Wise, and PTSA member Pete Hinojos sell memberships.

# A Blur and a Blitz

The annual 15th District PTA Back-to-School Clothing Blitz provided students and families with clothing and information to help them prepare for a successful school year.

Almost 3,000 JCPS students were served by the 15th District PTA's Clothing Assistance Program (CAP) in the two weeks leading up to the start of the 2017-18 school year. The vast majority of these students were served during the Clothing Blitz, from Monday, July 31, through Saturday, August 5. You may have seen news coverage about this on all the local television networks.

Families made appointments, and each JCPS student received a new shirt, new pants, five pairs of underwear, five pairs of socks, and a belt. Entire families were also able to shop the selections of gently used clothing. All of this was provided free, thanks to generous donors. Each student received a free lunch, courtesy of JCPS Community and School Nutrition Services, and families browsed information tables, which included representatives from JCPS Human Resources and Information Technology, the Louisville Free Public Library (LFPL), and the Metropolitan Housing Coalition.



Clothing Blitz workers, from left, FRYSC coordinator **Carla Cosby** (Dixie Elementary and Johnsonsontown Road Elementary), **Sarah Baker** (Meyzeek Middle), **Walt Aberli** (Wilt Elementary and Laukhuf Elementary), and **B.J. Mayhew** (Farnsley Middle) and AmeriCorps volunteer **Annie Brown**

For many of the families who arrived, the event signals the beginning of the back-to-school routine.

While the Blitz is a major logistical undertaking, none of it would happen without the heart and muscle of volunteers. This year, groups from businesses, religious organizations, service organizations, schools, students, Neighborhood Places, AmeriCorps, and PTAs/PTSAs contributed priceless contributions of time, labor, and talent. Each day of the Blitz, there is a strong presence of volunteers from Family Resource and Youth Services Centers (FRYSCs), all of whom help schedule families for a visit and hustle to fill clothing orders.

All volunteers were treated to snacks, lunch, treats, and refreshments, all of which is provided by the 15th District PTA.

CAP also served students and families in Louisville's homeless shelters in the week before school began.

CAP operates throughout the school year. To receive service, a family should contact their child's school and ask about getting an appointment at CAP. Families are allowed two visits each school year, once in the start of the year and another visit after December. CAP always accepts donations of clean, gently used clothing. To donate, place the items in a plastic bag and deliver them during weekday business hours. For more information, call **485-7062**.



After the Clothing Blitz, **Sofia DeVenuto**, a duPont Manual High junior in the school's Journalism & Communications Program, and her mother, **Penny DeVenuto**, delivered two large loads of gently used clothing to CAP. Last summer, Sofia operated a clothing drive in her neighborhood. The donation arrived as the CAP inventory was depleted from the Blitz, and the DeVenutos volunteered at CAP for two days to restock inventory and clean up after the Blitz.



DuPont Manual High senior **Olivia Evans** spent two days volunteering at the Clothing Blitz.

## Helping Hands

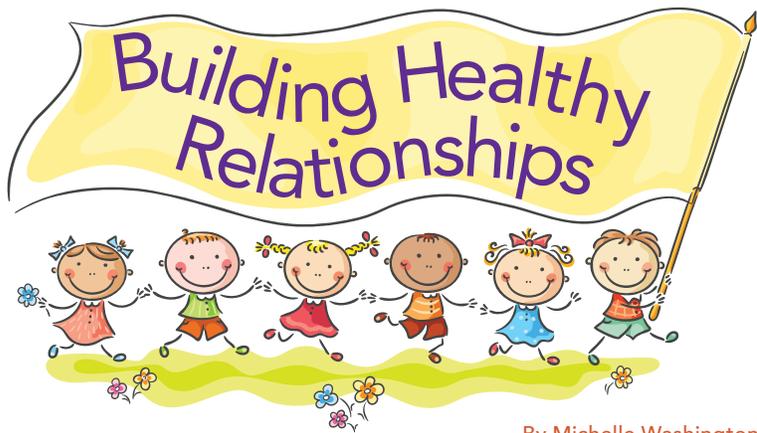
Students searching for shirts and pants on the gently used racks found a helping hand—and a higher reach—with Olivia Evans, a duPont Manual High senior in the school's Journalism & Communications (J&C) Program.

Olivia volunteered at CAP on the first two days of the Clothing Blitz, when more than 1,000 students and their families gathered new clothes and searched the gently used clothes. Evans worked long hours both days, personally helping students find clothing in their sizes or that fit their interests.



### Back-to-School Clothing Blitz

|  | Appointments | Students |
|--|--------------|----------|
| Monday, July 31:   | 133          | 673      |
| Tuesday, August 1:   | 151          | 355      |
| Thursday, August 3:  | 130          | 648      |
| Friday, August 4:  | 130          | 527      |
| Saturday, August 5:  | 77           | 206      |
| Total:   | 621          | 2,409    |
| Students served from Monday, July 31, through August 15, through Neighborhood Places and homeless shelters: 300 students |              |          |
| CAP served a total of 2,709 students in the weeks leading up to the start of the school year.                            |              |          |



By Michelle Washington

Students spend between six and nine hours at school each day, when after-school activities are included into the total school hours. Multiply those daily hours by five and then consider just how many hours your child spends with his or her classroom teachers at school. With that being the case, it is critical to build healthy relationships between parents and families, teachers, and students.



Children are one of the greatest investments that parents and teachers will ever make, and it is critical that they keep the following points in mind when building healthy relationships.

## So, what helps to make a bond strong between parents, teachers, and students?

### Communication

Make sure the communication is consistent and open at all times. There will be times when parents and teachers do not agree or see things the same. Yet the bottom line is that the focus should always remain united when decisions are made for the best interests of the student.

Ultimately, dedicated teachers want the exact same thing that dedicated parents want—success, growth, and happiness for the students. Students also want those same things for themselves.

### Respect

Always keep the Golden Rule as a standard at all times. If there can be a mindset of treating others the way we want to be treated, then respect will always be in an equivocal place between parents, teachers, and students. At the end of the day, no one enjoys disrespect. Everyone's feelings matter at all times.

### Truth

As the old adage says, "Honesty is always the best policy." The young folks used to say, "Keep it real." This generation now says, "Keep it 100." All quotations reveal the value of truth within any timeframe. Because truth enhances trust, nothing can replace the effectiveness of truthfulness. Truth is the maintaining factor in all successful relationships. Where there is truth, there will also be trust.

The old African adage still is true. It takes a whole village to raise a child.

Do your part and make a start to help build the best relationships possible within your school village.

—Washington is an educator and author of *A Treasury of African American ABC's and Nursery Rhymes for Children*, 2001.



## Show and TELL

By Julia Royston

The first day of school is such an exciting time for everyone. New year, new teachers, new backpack with books and supplies, and perhaps a new school. This is my twenty-second year in education, and I am on tiptoe anticipating all of the new students and opportunities for the great learning experiences we will share.

I encourage you to go to bed each night and wake up each morning with a positive attitude and a learning aptitude. This year, I want students to **TELL** each teacher and administrative personnel just how brilliant and intelligent they truly are. How is that done?

**First, Try each and every activity, exercise, project, and assessment with 1,000 percent of your effort.**

Yes, I said 1,000 percent. You never know how well you will do or how much you will enjoy doing something unless you try it.

**Second, be Engaged.** To me, this means show up, be all in, and give it your all. Teachers have been planning all types of ways to engage you with their instruction, and what they need is for the students to be engaged right back.

**Third, Listen.** It will amaze you how much you will learn if you listen. Listen for instructions in the classroom, during recess, in special area or enrichment times, in the cafeteria, and on the bus. Listening is great for learning and safety. You can tell us all how much you are learning by how much you are listening.

**Fourth, Lead.** We all know the saying that "Leaders are readers." But leaders are also those who come to school, participate in as many school activities as they can, follow instructions, complete assignments on time, help their teachers, and are willing to assist their fellow classmates when called upon.

**Finally, TELL.** Tell us how well you are learning by doing well in class. If you don't understand a concept, principle, or standard, **TELL** the teacher. **TELL** if someone is bullying you or another classmate so that parents and administrators can intervene.

**TELL** those in the educational world, family, and friends by trying, being engaged, listening, and leading for a successful school year.



—Julia Royston is an author, publisher, speaker, teacher, and songwriter who lives in Southern Indiana with her husband, Brian K. Royston. Royston is a media specialist and technology instructor at Dixie Elementary. For more information, visit [www.bkroystonpublishing.com](http://www.bkroystonpublishing.com), [www.juliaroystonenterprises.com](http://www.juliaroystonenterprises.com), or [www.royalmediaandpublishing.com](http://www.royalmediaandpublishing.com).



# Putting Your Budget Together

It is the fall of the year, and you were elected treasurer of your PTA or PTSA. You thought you knew what to do, but now your mind is blank. That's what I felt like with my first budget and every subsequent budget, whether it is with the school PTA, the 15th District PTA, or for the companies that I was involved with. Hopefully, this will help you get through the budget process without too much angst.

The first thing to remember is not to panic. Even if you have never been involved in preparing a budget, you have some built-in help. The first good reference is the National PTA Back-to-School Kit and the *Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook* for PTAs and PTSAs. Both of these have sections on budgeting in their financial areas. These are good references for most of the areas regarding funds throughout the year. The *Leaders' Notebook* also has a section about Redbook, which is important for the president and treasurer to review.

Start with reviewing last year's budget and the funds spent from last year. Hopefully, they are similar numbers, but even if they are not, they should be a guide on how the PTA was spending its money and where its money came from last year. The next place to look at is the money that is in your account from last year. This is available on the Financial Review Form that you should have as part of your transition. Line 9 of that form will have the starting balance in your budget. This is your "Beginning Cash Balance" on Form F-SA-4B-Budget. Other areas will vary from PTA to PTA, but key things to remember in the Income categories are: membership; bank interest; donations; fundraising, including your approved fundraiser, spirit wear, affiliation cards like Kroger or Meijer; grants; and other income areas. Key expense categories are: administration, including supplies, postage, printing, insurance, and bonding; leadership education for district and state conventions; membership expense of \$3.50 for national and state and \$0.20 for district; program expenses, other and carryover for the start of next year until the new budget is approved. This last category will include insurance of \$337, district dues from the previous year, and other expenses needed until your first general membership meeting. A budget template and the F-SA-4B Budget Form can be found on our website at [15thdistrictpta.org/treasurer](http://15thdistrictpta.org/treasurer).

Once you have a budget prepared, the local board will need to approve it for presentation at the general membership meeting for your PTA. A majority of the membership present at the membership meeting is required to approve the budget. Spending against the new budget cannot be done until it is approved, so keep that in mind when preparing your carryover in your budget. Your next treasurer will thank you. Once it is approved, your local PTA president, principal of your school, and the treasurer all need a copy. See? It is not as bad as you think.

If you have questions, please contact me at [15thdistricttreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:15thdistricttreasurer@gmail.com).

—Sid Gamertsfelder, Treasurer



## PTA TRAINING

Need to learn about PTA for the 2017-18 school year? The following board training sessions are offered free at the LFPL locations:

**Thursday, September 21**  
6 to 8 p.m.

Bon Air, 2816 Del Rio Place

**Thursday, September 28**

10 a.m. to 12 noon

Middletown, 200 North Juneau Drive



@KY15thDistPTA



To attend, simply show up.  
For more information, call  
Nikki Hockman at 650-6525.

If you can't make a training, then check out National PTA E-Learning. This is on the National PTA website at [www.pta.org/elearning](http://www.pta.org/elearning). They offer more than 20 different courses. Most are 10 to 20 minutes long and are interactive. In addition, several are in Spanish.

Some of the most useful training courses include the following:

- PTA Basics
- Board Basics
- Local Unit President
- Local Unit Secretary
- Local Unit Treasurer
- Membership Basics
- Parliamentary Procedure



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## Sept. 14 Is #GiveForGoodLou

Every day is a great day to support the 15th District PTA. Thanks to the Community Foundation of Louisville, your support can become a force for good. On Thursday, September 14, the 15th District PTA will participate as one of many worthy organizations eligible to receive donations through Give for Good Louisville, a 24-hour community philanthropic event. All donations to the 15th District PTA will be used to support the Reflections Program, which celebrates student creativity. Last year, the effort—branded as Give Local Louisville—collected \$4.3 million for more than 600 local nonprofit organizations. For more information or to support the 15th District PTA, visit [www.giveforgoodlouisville.org/organizations/15th-district-pta](http://www.giveforgoodlouisville.org/organizations/15th-district-pta).

Every \$50 that is donated will purchase four pairs of new shoes for Jefferson County Public Schools students in need. Not all students start on an equal footing, but your support will help them prepare for success in school and in life.

**Students have big shoes to fill—their own.**

For more information, call (502) 485-7450 or visit [15thdistrictpta.org/from-the-ground-up](http://15thdistrictpta.org/from-the-ground-up).



Students of all ages and abilities may submit entries of visual art, music, photography, literature, film/video production, and dance choreography. Local PTAs/PTSA must submit their school's winning entries to the 15th District PTA by 12 noon on **Friday, October 20**.

For more information, call 485-3535 or visit [15thdistrictpta.org/programs/reflections/](http://15thdistrictpta.org/programs/reflections/).

@KY15thDistPTA

## School Menus Are Digital

JCPS School and Community Nutrition Services offers several updates to school menus and information. All of the school menus can be found on NutriSlice at [jcps.nutrislice.com](http://jcps.nutrislice.com), and families who still prefer a printed school menu for the fridge can find a link at this website. For additional and convenient access, check out the Nutrislice app. The app offers more information about each food item, including nutrition and allergen information. The Nutrislice app is free for iPhone and Android users on Google Play Store. There is also a mobile website at [jcps.nutrislice.com/mobile](http://jcps.nutrislice.com/mobile).



## Low-Cost Internet Service

The National PTA and AT&T have partnered to offer low-cost wireline home Internet service to qualifying households. JCPS families who participate in the U.S. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and have no outstanding debt with AT&T may participate in Access from AT&T, which offers rates as low as \$5 a month. For more information, visit [www.att.com/shop/internet/access/#/](http://www.att.com/shop/internet/access/#/).

