



Newsletter

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

every child. one voice.®

October 2014

President's Letter

October is a busy month with many deadlines, special observances, and fall festivals. One important deadline is for all Parent Teacher Association (PTAs)/Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSA's) to send in a membership payment to the Kentucky PTA by **October 15** to remain in good standing.

Parent-teacher conferences are on **October 7**. This is your chance to see how things are going with your child and to partner with teachers on improving your child's performance. The National PTA has created grade-by-grade *Parent Guides* that are good resources for what to discuss at conferences. You can view or download these guides at www.15thdistrictpta.org by clicking on the KCAS link. Also, check out the YouTube video on how to have a parent-teacher conference.

Red Ribbon Week is observed during the last week of October, but your school can determine which days work best for you. The mission of the Red Ribbon Campaign is to present a unified and visible commitment to the creation of a drug-free America. Keep up the great work, and remember to contact us if you need anything.

Heather Wampler, President
671-9451 (cell) • 15thdistrictpta.president@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

October

- 15.....Mandatory Kentucky PTA Membership Dues
-Mark's Feed Store (all three locations)
- 17-19...Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) Middle/High Showcase of Schools
- 2115th District PTA School Board Candidates Forum
- 23Red Ribbon Week
-Deadline for Reflections Entries to 15th District PTA
- 24National PTA Male Engagement Conference

November


- 6-7Kentucky PTA Advocacy Training
- 16.....JCPS Elementary Showcase of Schools
- 17.....American Education Week
- 24Unity Day

December

- 16.....15th District PTA Reflections Program and General Meeting
- 22-
- Jan. 2 ...JCPS Winter Break

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Bring this voucher when you visit (Dine In & Carry Out) the Mark's® located at 11422 Shelbyville Road, 10316 Dixie Hwy and 6501 Bardstown Road and 15% of your purchase (excluding taxes) will benefit:

15th District PTA

Group **Wednesday October 15th, 2014**

Valid on
One coupon per check, per visit at participating Mark's® restaurants only. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

PRESENT VOUCHER AT TIME OF ORDER

15th District PTA Restaurant Night at Mark's Feed Store

October 15—Mark's Feed Store Locations on Shelbyville Road, Dixie Highway, or Bardstown Road

Eat at the above locations on **October 15**, and the 15th District PTA will receive a percentage of the sale. Don't forget to take the fundraising flier when you go!



PTA Mission

PTA is:

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



PTA Vision

Making Every Child's Potential a Reality

CAP Schedule

October

- 1.....Highland MS, Medora ES, Okolona ES
- 2.....Goldsmith ES, Greathouse/Shryock Trad. ES, Gutermuth ES
- 3.....Conway MS
- 8.....Indian Trail ES, Kennedy ES, Shacklette ES
- 9.....Byck ES, Jacob ES, Meyzeek MS
- 14.....Luhr ES, Olmsted Academy North, Stopher ES
- 15.....Hartstern ES, Kerrick ES, Price ES
- 16.....Brandeis ES, Farmer ES, Iroquois HS
- 21.....Engelhard ES, Semple ES, Shelby Traditional ES
- 22.....Eastern HS, Kammerer MS, Southern HS
- 23.....Butler Traditional HS, Camp Taylor, ES, Hite ES
- 28.....Farnsley MS, Newburg MS, Westport MS
- 29.....Ballard HS, Breckinridge-Franklin ES, Stuart MS
- 30.....Chancey ES, Doss HS, Fairdale HS

November

- 5.....Crums Lane ES, Hazelwood ES, Johnsonstown Road ES
- 6.....Dixie ES, King ES, Knight MS
- 11.....Hawthorne ES, Louisville Male HS, Mill Creek ES
- 12.....Blue Lick ES, Gilmore Lane ES, Middletown ES
- 13.....Blake ES, Klondike Lane ES, Layne ES
- 16.....Olmsted Academy South
- 18.....Noe MS, Trunnell ES
- 19.....Jeffersontown ES, Pleasure Ridge Park HS,
- 20.....Cochran ES, Coleridge-Taylor ES, Ramsey MS

Board Trainings

We want to recognize the following PTAs/PTSAs that have already had a board training.

- Wheatley Elementary
- Kennedy Montessori Elementary
- Trunnell Elementary
- Kammerer Middle
- Rutherford Elementary
- Breckinridge-Franklin Elementary
- Valley High
- Cochrane Elementary
- Indian Trail Elementary

To schedule a board training, contact Cherie Dimar at 15thdistrictpta.5thvp@gmail.com or call **693-8104**. Please provide three possible dates that are convenient for your board, and let us know if you want any specific topics covered. We want to help your PTA get off to a good start.



Liability and Bonding Insurance for Local PTA Units

Every local PTA unit **must** purchase bonding and liability insurance, per the Redbook. This rule went into effect July 1, 2013. The Kentucky State PTA has negotiated a rate of \$337 with The Underwriters Insurance group. The insurance should have been purchased by September 30; however, if you have not done so at this time, please contact Linda Cook, The Underwriters Insurance, at **244-1343** or 15th District PTA at **485-3535**.

Reminder: Required Membership Dues Payment

The required membership dues payment is due by **October 15, 2014**. 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 the Kentucky PTA by the fifteenth of every month. You must be a unit in good standing to be eligible to participate in any PTA programs. Please see the form in this issue of the newsletter.

Please mail a completed form with payment to:

Kentucky PTA
148 Consumers Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601

Make your check payable to Kentucky PTA.

Join the 15th District Superintendent's PTA

The Superintendent's PTA is a great way for individuals to join a PTA who might not otherwise be able to join a local (school) PTA unit. If you have joined a local unit, you can also join the Superintendent's PTA. The cost to join is just \$5, and part of the money raised helps support the Clothing Assistance Program (CAP) with JCPS. The more members that the PTA has as a whole, the more the PTA can help with advocacy for children.

Last year, millions of dollars for education were going to be removed from the Kentucky state budget. With the rally cry of the PTA, we were able to help keep that money in the Kentucky state budget. The PTA has a voice, and each member who joins adds to that voice.

Please contact John Buie, the Membership vice president, at 15thdistrictpta.2ndvp@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.



THINGS YOU CAN DO

To Engage in Your Child's Education in the Home, School and Community

There are many ways to play an active role in your child's education. To keep engagement top of mind year-round, post these simple reminders in your home or office.

In the Home:

1. Develop a consistent routine for studying and homework.
2. Discuss your child's school day and homework daily.
3. Provide a quiet, well-lit place with basic school supplies for studying.
4. Assist with homework, but avoid doing it for your child.
5. Praise your child's efforts and encourage them to serve in student leadership positions.

In the School:

6. Attend parent-teacher conferences and make appointments, as needed, to discuss your child's progress or concerns. Meet your child's teacher(s), school principal and school nurse.
7. Establish the best way for your child's teacher to contact you (phone, email, backpack notes, etc.) to help reinforce school rules and expectations.
8. Attend your PTA meeting or start a PTA to voice your support or concerns.
9. Visit your school's website to stay informed on important information and events.
10. Attend school meetings on learning expectations, assessments and grading procedures.

In the Community:

11. Meet your child's friends and get to know their parents.
12. Learn about school district policies and practices that affect your child.
13. Raise awareness with local agencies and businesses about events taking place at your school.
14. Recruit parents and community members to be PTA volunteers.
15. Write, call or visit local or state decision-makers to support or oppose proposed legislation that affects your child.

Attend your next local PTA meeting. Find out how online at PTA.org/Join or call (800) 307-4PTA (4782).

Reflections

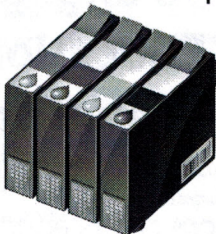
Local PTAs can submit entries by **October 23, 2014**. There is one entry for each grade in each category (music, photography, visual arts, literature, dance choreography, and film/video production). For example, a PTA can enter one entry in third grade, fourth grade, and fifth grade (which is the Intermediate category) in the category of music. They can also enter one entry in preschool, kindergarten, first grade, and second grade (which is the Primary category) in music and so forth.

For more information, call Sharon Whitworth at **485-7450**.

Sharon Whitworth
Reflections Chairman

Recycling Program

We recycle inkjet and laser cartridges, fax machines, copy machines, all-in-one printers, and cell phones. Don't throw them away anymore; we want them. Contact Jim Lovelace at **593-1577** if you're interested in recycling.



Still Time to Order Yankee Candles

You still have time to order Yankee Candles for Christmas from the 15th District PTA. Visit www.yankeecandlefundraising.com and begin shopping with this I.D. number: 990067612.

Tanyeka Holt-Percentie
Vice President of Fundraising



Plan to Attend the Board of Education Candidates Forum

The 15th District PTA will host the Board of Education Candidates Forum on **Tuesday, October 21, 2014**, from 5 to 8:30 p.m. at the VanHoose Education Center.

District 6: 5 to 6 p.m. • **District 5:** 6:10 to 7:10 p.m. • **District 3:** 7:20 to 8:20 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 roles as child advocates by becoming educated about the candidates for public office and their positions on legislative issues that are important to students 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 4**.

Note: The 15th District PTA does not endorse any candidates.

Gay Adelman, (260) 633-0463
First Vice President, Programs

Be Sure to File Your IRS 990 Form

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 National PTA Back-to-School Kit either from your CD or online at www.ptakit.org.

If you need help with this or any other financial/treasurer matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Theresa Mayfield, Treasurer
15thdistrictpta.treasurer@gmail.com

Please Join Us for a PLC

Date: October 9, 2014

Time: 10:50 to 11:50 a.m.

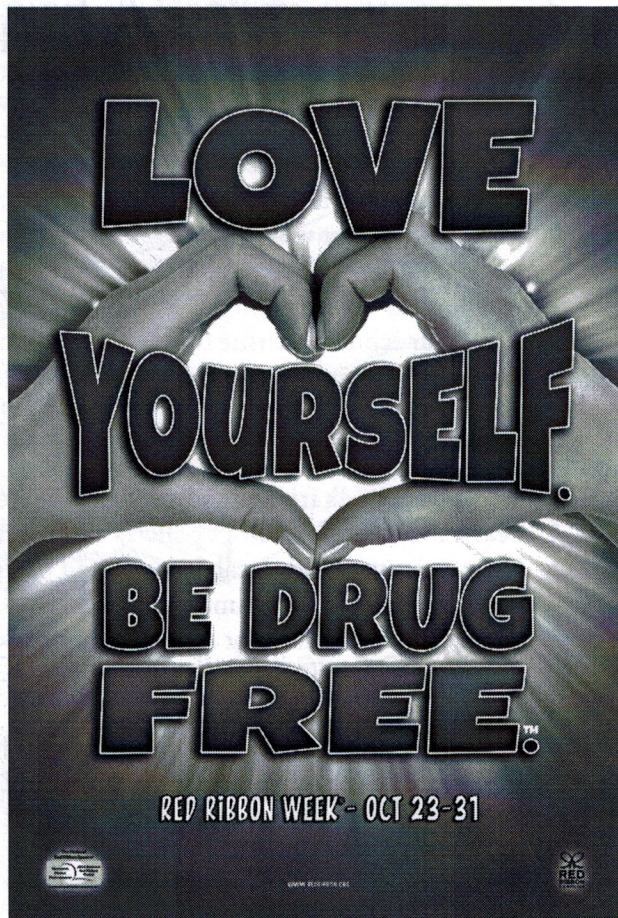
School: Kenwood Elementary

PLC Team: Second Grade

Principal: Jill Handley

Assistant Superintendent: Amy Dennes

Board Member: Linda Duncan



Required

Kentucky PTA and National PTA Dues Payment Form

Please make several copies of this form to use for dues payments throughout the year.

Dues payment dates: August 15—Back to School Dues; September 15—Early Bird Dues;
October 15 “Required” Dues Payment: Pay Dues monthly thereafter.

This dues payment is for _____ (month).

At least one dues payment must be made by October 15 to be a unit in good standing.

You must be a unit in good standing to be eligible to participate in any PTA program (insurance, scholarships, Reflections, awards, etc.).

Complete this Form and Attach a Numbered List of the Names of Members Covered by this payment.

All PTAs/PTSAs to be a unit in good standing MUST:

- Send at least one national and state dues payment (\$3.50 per member) to the Kentucky PTA office no later than October 15th;
- Send district dues to district treasurer or Kentucky PTA office as required;
- Send the PTA financial review form to the Kentucky PTA office by Aug. 15th;
- File 990 IRS Tax Form by Nov. 15 and mail a copy to Kentucky PTA;
- Send bylaws for approval by the Kentucky PTA every 5 years.

Mail Completed Form and Check to: Kentucky PTA,
148 Consumers Lane, Frankfort KY 40601

Make check payable to “Kentucky PTA”

Your check must include both state and national dues

State dues are \$1.25 per member

National Dues are \$2.25 per member

TOTAL dues are \$3.50 per member

You may also use this form for Founders Day,
Scholarships, and Headquarters Support Fund
Donations.

Date _____

Grades _____ to _____

_____ Members @ \$3.50 \$ _____

Number of Male Members: _____

Number of Student Members: _____

Founders Day Gift _____

Scholarship Donations _____

Headquarters Support Fund _____

TOTAL \$ _____

County _____

PTA District _____

Name of PTA/PTSA _____

Name of President _____

Address _____

Street/P. O. Box _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone Day (____) _____ Evening/Cell (____) _____

E-mail _____

Name of Treasurer _____

Address _____

Street/P. O. Box _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone Day (____) _____ Evening/Cell (____) _____

E-mail _____

Note #1: It is the treasurer’s responsibility to send state and national membership dues to the Kentucky PTA office by the monthly dues dates. Attach a numbered list with members’ names to this form.

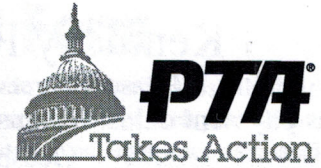
Note #2: The membership chair must provide the treasurer with the list of members.

Note #3: Membership cards are distributed at the beginning of the school year, based on a PTAs/PTSAs number of members the previous year. To receive more membership cards, a PTA/PTSA must submit dues payment and may request extra membership cards from Kentucky PTA 502-226-6607.

At the end of the membership year, all unused membership cards must be returned to Kentucky PTA.



ADVOCATE WITH PTA



What is Advocacy?

In the context of PTA, advocacy is supporting and speaking up for children—in schools, in communities, and before government bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children.

Advocating for Federal Policy

PTA is the oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy association in the United States. Founded in 1897, PTA has a long, successful history of influencing federal policy to promote the education, health and well-being of all children—resulting in kindergarten classes, child labor laws, school lunch programs, a juvenile justice system, and strengthened parent-teacher relationships. National PTA continues that legacy today by fighting for change under its federal public policy priorities:

- Family Engagement in Education
- Quality Education for All Children
- Adequate Funding for Education
- Child Health and Nutrition
- Safe Schools and Communities
- Fair Juvenile Justice Laws

Advocating for State Laws

State laws have a major impact on education and child welfare. State and local PTAs can play a pivotal role in promoting PTA priorities by involving their members in advocacy to help secure adequate state and local laws for our students.

Ways to Advocate

There are many ways to be an advocate! Some ways families can be involved are to:

- Meet with school leaders to discuss a topic of importance to the district.
- Attend a school board meeting and/or serve on the school board.
- Work with the school and state leaders to implement strong family engagement policies.
- Sign up for the National PTA *Takes Action* Network to get updates on important federal policies and send messages to your members of Congress. Check your state PTA's website to see if they have a network as well.
- Write a letter to the editor to stress the importance of family engagement and other PTA policy priorities.
- Educate your members of Congress and their staff on PTA's federal public policy priorities.

Advocacy Resources

National PTA has many advocacy resources for our members and state affiliates that are easy to find and easy to use. Here is an overview of the resources and how to find them:

Advocacy Toolkit: The Advocacy Toolkit contains helpful information on how to work with legislative leaders and the media, as well as the federal budget and legislative processes. It also includes videos on PTA's advocacy history, and "lobbying the PTA way."

PTA.org/AdvocacyToolkit

Takes Action Network: The PTA *Takes Action* Network is the hub of National PTA's federal advocacy activities. You can look up your members of Congress and send messages on PTA priorities, catch up on news impacting children, and connect with PTA.

PTA.org/TakesAction

Federal Policy Agenda: National PTA prepares a Federal Public Policy Agenda (PPA) each year that outlines PTA's policy priorities and recommendations to Congress. The PPA website includes the full agenda, plus an executive summary in both English and Spanish, and webinars.

PTA.org/Advocacy

Election Guides: Created in partnership with Nonprofit VOTE, these materials provide PTAs with election-related information, including candidate forums, ballot measures and election engagement.

PTA.org/ElectionGuides

Common Core Toolkit: The toolkit will assist PTAs located in states implementing the Common Core Standards and revised assessments. The toolkit features our *Parent's Guide to Success* for each state, as well as assessment guides, relevant articles, and advocacy information.

PTA.org/CommonCore

Special Education Toolkit: This toolkit includes information on federal disability policy, navigating the special education system, helpful acronyms, and a list of outside resources for parents of children with special needs.

PTA.org/SpecialEducation

Support and Training

PTA offers its members support and training for their advocacy efforts, such as:

- Policy Workshops
- PTA Federal and State Legislative Chairs
- Legislative Committee
- Government Affairs Staff

Join the PTA Takes Action
Network today!

Sign up at PTA.org/TakesAction

Tips for a Successful PTA Membership Campaign

Membership growth is a sign that your PTA is doing well and displays the PTA's importance to the school, community, students, and families. If the goal of your PTA is to be effective in developing good relationships with students, families, schools, and the community, then begin by laying the groundwork that helps foster respect and enthusiasm for being a part of the association. This can be done by providing a foundation for your PTA's success by doing the following:

- Set a membership goal. Start by increasing last year's membership numbers by 40 members, which represents the fortieth awards banquet.
- Create a theme. The 15th District PTA's theme is "Building the Future One Child at a Time." Display the theme, goals, and benchmarks on a visual aid for everyone to see your PTA's accomplishments.
- Start with your PTA Board by seeking its full support of the membership campaign and by attending membership campaign events/activities. This shows that you lead by example.
- Have a table at school functions and events, especially at the beginning of the school year (e.g., registration, orientation, open house, family fun nights).
- Have membership cards/envelopes/pens and a smile ready to greet potential members.
- Prepare membership forms, take-home fliers, and promotional signs for distribution to the school, community, and businesses.
- Send letters to last year's members asking them to join again.
- Ask your PTA Board members to explain to potential members what your PTA does for the students and community when they seek to increase membership. This demonstrates that your PTA is more than just a fundraising association.

To help your PTA stay on track, maintain good membership recordkeeping and remain in compliance throughout the membership campaign:

- Find out how your treasurer would like to handle the collection and deposit of membership fees.
- Make sure the memberships of PTA Board members are current.

Remember that membership campaigns never end. Your PTA should always be encouraging potential members to join the PTA.

Your PTA should always ensure that you have:

- Determined whether your PTA/PTSA is meeting the needs of your members and community.
- Aligned your PTA's goals with the needs and interests of your members and community.
- Challenged yourself and encouraged participation! Ask people to join—don't wait for them to offer.

John Buie
Second Vice President of Membership
15thdistrictpta.2ndvp@gmail.com



Speaking Up for Children

An Advocacy Training for PTA Members

Thursday, November 6, 6–10 p.m.

Friday, November 7, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Frankfort, Kentucky

Registration is \$50, which includes the following:

- Materials
- Supper on Thursday
- Lunch on Friday
- One Night's Lodging (two in a room)

Register early (limited to 25 people)!

Deadline—**October 24**

Confirmation, location information, and a completed agenda will be sent after the October 24 deadline.

Please send to:

Kentucky PTA, P. O. Box 654, Frankfort, KY
40602-0654.

For more information, call 564-4378.

Name _____

Position _____

PTA's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

15th District PTA
319 South 15th Street
Louisville, KY 40203
www.15thDistrictPTA.org

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Fourth Vice President, Communications
Vacant

Cherie Dimar, Fifth Vice President, Board Training
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iheartpta@yahoo.com

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kypta.president@gmail.com

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.