This Fall many exciting things have been happening in PTA. National PTA President Otha Thornton was recently featured on the NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams, which reaches more than 7 million viewers across the country each week. On the state level, members from the 15th District PTA in Jefferson County participated in The Ignite Show, which is working to raise respect and awareness of educators and education through the voices of teachers, parents and students. This show featured four episodes that will help us see more clearly what the Common Core State Standards are all about.

Kentucky recently released the Unbridled Learning assessment and accountability results from the 2012-2013 school year. The results show progress, which is good news, but there is still more work to be done. It is important for parents to communicate with their child's teacher about how they can support the teacher and how they can help their child at home. As PTA/PTSA leaders we support the school’s efforts to improve academic achievement. One of PTA’s goals is to increase the parent/school partnership but we must be careful not to interfere with important instructional time.

There will be an Education Summit that is sponsored by the Kentucky Education ActionTeam (KEAT) in Lexington on November 21. KY PTA is a member of KEAT and is encouraging parents to attend the summit. If parents are interested in coming, please call the Kentucky PTA.

It is important that you send in your membership dues by the 15th of every month. Remember that membership is year round and doesn't end with orientation or open house. I challenge you to maintain last year’s membership total and then try to increase it!

You may contact me at esquires.kypta@yahoo.com or our office personnel at 502-226-6607 or kypatapattyh@bellsouth.net. We will be pleased to assist you. Thank you for all that you do for the children and youth of Kentucky.

— Edward Squires
Membership is Key

It is always very important to have your membership campaigns in motion! Always remember during your campaign that members are the most important part of your PTA/PTSA. Members are the key – the key to success, to parent involvement, to advocacy and to empowerment!

Many schools have wonderful ways to get “parents” involved. Remember the P in PTA does not just stand for parents, but also grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, and neighbors. Many people help us raise our children and we want them to be involved in PTA.

Check out the Membership Blog on the National PTA site for ideas on how to involve more of these important people in our schools http://www.ptanewsroom.org/onevoice/. Please take time to watch the video by Grindstone Elementary in Berea, OH. It is full of great ideas you can incorporate into your PTA. Also, on the National website you will find information regarding Membership Cards. http://www.pta.org/members/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3721. You can sign-up for a Membership Card Webinar where you will walk through the card activation process and Staples staff will discuss all the details of PTA’s new Staples discounts! Additionally, you can find membership card resources, including printing templates and FAQs.

Keep up the great work!

Jennifer Jackson
Membership Commissioner

Executive Committee 2013-2015

President - Eddie Squires
President-Elect - Cherie Dimar
Vice President for Leadership/Outreach - Ed Massey
Vice President for Organization Services - Kelly Capps
Vice President for Programs - vacant
Secretary - Liza Holland
Treasurer - Mary Beth Carter
Legislative Commissioner - Sharon Whitworth

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (Oct. 8, 2013) — National PTA President Otha Thornton was featured on NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams on Tuesday, Oct. 8. NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams reaches more than seven million viewers across the country each week, providing reports and analysis of the day’s most newsworthy national and international events.

“We are thrilled that such a prestigious news organization as NBC Nightly News has chosen to highlight our president and the important work of National PTA,” said Eric Hargis, executive director of National PTA. “His extensive leadership experience in various PTA roles across the country and globe has brought energy to our mission of promoting children’s educational success, health and well-being through strong family and community involvement.”

Otha Thornton was installed as president of National PTA in June 2013, making history as the first African-American male chosen to head the association. Under his leadership, National PTA has established partnerships with prestigious organizations including the NFL and AARP. Since taking the helm, Thornton also has launched an awareness campaign to celebrate the achievements of diverse student populations and share resources and advocacy tools to help school communities address the unique needs of every child.

The segment is available at http://www.ptanewsroom.org/onevoice/?p=2655 . A clip of the segment will also be available at nbcnews.com.
We recently released the Unbridled Learning assessment and accountability results from the 2012-13 school year. We have some really positive news. Our cohort graduation rate is 86.1 percent which places us among the top states. Our college- and career-ready rate is 54 percent which is 20 percent higher than our 2010 baseline. It is clear that Kentucky educators are helping more students reach success.

We have made tremendous progress the last few years, but our improvement will need to accelerate if we are to maintain and continue to improve our graduation rates and the rate of graduates who achieve college- and career-ready status.

We are not improving proficiency in math and reading (combined reading and math proficiency rates) as fast as we need to. Also, our various No Child Left Behind student groups are not improving as much as we need them to. Here are some summary numbers;

- Combined reading and math gap groups for elementary schools – we improved in 7/8 groups
- Combined reading and math gap groups for middle schools – we improved in 8/8 groups
- Combined reading and math gap groups for high schools – we only improved in 2/8 groups

Overall in reading, math and writing, gap group scores improved in 51/72 cases which is 71 percent of gap groups. Clearly, we have concerns with elementary reading and middle/high school math. While we can explain a drop in high school math due to the increased number of Algebra II test takers, it is imperative that we figure out how to support all students in meeting Algebra II expectations at the high school level. Also, the foundation for all learning is elementary reading and if our students are not progressing in reading at the elementary level, then we will see declining performance throughout their school careers.

All in all, we are making progress with the implementation of our Kentucky Core Academic Standards. The strong improvements in college/career-readiness and strong performance of our cohort graduation rate are indications of our strong interventions with high school students through transition courses, dual credit, credit recovery, and numerous others. However, our long term success in helping every child reach college/career-readiness upon graduation depends heavily on our ability to improve proficiency in reading, math and writing in grades 3-8. While we made improvement in 71 percent of the gap groups, we did not meet our expectations for improvement.

As a result, I am asking our Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) team to revisit our proficiency and gap plans for improvement and to develop specific Response to Intervention strategies and professional learning opportunities that are proven to work. This will impact districts and schools since every district and school must write improvement plans to address lack of progress with gap groups in reaching proficiency in reading, math and writing. It is essential that every classroom, every school and every district in Kentucky have in place a system of interventions to help students when they are struggling academically.

Soon parents will be receiving individual score reports for their children. It is critical that parents review the reports and see if their child has reached the proficient or distinguished level in reading, math and writing. A student in grades 3-8 and in high school courses that has reached proficient/distinguished is on target to reach college/career-readiness by graduation. If your student is not at the proficient or distinguished level, you should not panic since many children will take longer to reach these higher expectations. Also, it may take students 3-5 years to gain the background knowledge and skills required by the Kentucky Core Academic Standards that they may have missed in earlier grades. However, you should have a conversation with your child’s teacher about what actions you can take as a parent to support your child’s teacher and help your child at home.

I am very proud of the work of educators in Kentucky. Kentucky has been featured in numerous national publications for our work in college- and career-ready standards, assessments and accountability. I have full confidence that our students, teachers, administrators and parents will continue to push for more student success.
Because of changes in the Kentucky Department of Education’s Redbook that will affect external support/booster organizations, Let Kentucky PTA help your Parent Organization be compliant with KDE Redbook Regulations

PTA was founded in 1897 and has a long history of being a child advocacy association. Many benefits our children enjoy today, such as universal kindergarten and the National School Lunch Program, and others were accomplished as a result of the PTA vision. PTA’s vision is to help every child to reach his potential. When you join PTA, you become a part of a network of more than 5 million child advocates on the local, state and national levels. It’s the larger connection to the state and national association that makes PTA stand out amongst other parent groups.

Why be a PTA/PTSA in Kentucky!

1. PTA/PTSA in KY are already state and federally tax exempt under the Kentucky PTA 501(c)3 umbrella at NO cost.
2. PTA/PTSA in KY already use the same state tax exempt number as the Kentucky PTA.
3. PTA/PTSA in KY are required to have a copy of their bylaws filed in the state PTA office.
4. PTA/PTSA in KY receive printed materials regarding good fiscal practice; Money Matters/National PTA and Kentucky PTA Leader’s Notebook.
5. PTA/PTSA in KY are provided new unit and officer training.
6. PTA/PTSA in KY are required to submit an annual financial review report.
7. PTA/PTSA in KY are supported with a Web-site, Bulletins, Facebook, Office Staff, Leadership Conference, Student Recognition, District Leadership and a Board of Managers.
8. PTA/PTSA in KY take advantage of the opportunity to purchase the insurance offered through the KY PTA group plan with The Underwriters Group. This policy includes one million dollar liability, $7500.00 bonding, and coverage for directors and officers for $337.00 annually.

9. Liability & Bonding $230.00 + Directors & Officers $107.00 = $337.00

If you have questions about any of the above information please contact:
Kentucky PTA at 502-226-6607 or email kentuckypta@bellsouth.net

Thank you! Eddie Squires, Kentucky PTA President
KY PTA has joined the KY Oral Health Coalition to work on a Oral Health Literacy Campaign because of the concern for children’s oral health in Kentucky. The Surgeon General’s 2000 report found dental decay is the most common disease affecting U.S. children, occurring at five times the rate of asthma and seven times that of hay fever. A 2001 Kentucky study found 29% of school children examined in the 3rd and 6th grades had visible dental decay; another 20% said they’d had a toothache in the past month. Oral health problems can affect a child’s overall health including speech, eating patterns and concentrating in school.

Use this drink pyramid to help remind parents and kids about healthy drink choices. This poster can be downloaded at http://www.smilekentucky.com/Drink%20Pyramid%20Flyer.pdf

A video titled “Where’s the Sugar” can be viewed at http://www.youtube.com/embed/R2jduTvKSZg and there is a downloadable booklet as well. Check out other curriculum at http://www.smilekentucky.com/SmileKY_EducationMaterials.htm

TOBACCO FREE SCHOOLS – there are now 29 school districts who have 100% tobacco free policies. Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in Kentucky and we also have the highest youth tobacco use in the U.S. 80% of current users started using before they were 18. Having a tobacco free school is an important step in helping kids. See the 10 Ten Reasons Your School District Should Be Tobacco Free at www.tobaccofreeschoolsky.org and a fact sheet on youth tobacco use at www.tobaccofreeschoolsky.org/uploads/3/1/0/5/3105881/youth_tobacco_use_fact_sheet.pdf

**FUEL UP TO PLAY 60**

Grant Deadline: 11/1/13

Up to $4,000 per K-12 school

Visit and apply today at - http://school.fueluptoplay60.com/funds/funds_for_futp60.php

**REFLECTIONS – KY PTA** is proud to have Lisa Cook join the board of directors as the KY PTA Reflections Commissioner. Lisa will be working directly with District Reflections chairs to promote the program. District Chairs and contact info is listed below. If your district is not listed you can contact Lisa with questions. A Local Leader’s Guide and all rules are located at http://kypta.org/programs

Visit the National PTA Gallery of the 2012-13 Reflections winners in visual arts, photography, dance choreography, and film production at http://www.flickr.com/photos/92051579@N08/sets/72157634851977660

**13TH**

Bobbi Dewey
502-292-2840 b.dewey@insightbb.com
DISTRICT DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 15, 2013

**14TH**

Linda Netherly
859-992-9147
lindanetherly@gmail.com
DISTRICT DEADLINE: OCTOBER 28, 2013

**15TH**

Sharon Whitworth
502-485-7450
Sharon.whitworth@jefferson.kyschools.us
DISTRICT DEADLINE: OCTOBER 24, 2013

**16TH**

Julia Craven
(859)245-4108
Julia.craven1@gmail.com
DISTRICT DEADLINE: OCTOBER 31, 2013

**26TH**

Brenda Martin
606-571-0917
bdrmartin@hotmail.com
DISTRICT DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 15, 2013

**DISTRICT SHOWCASE: DECEMBER 6, 2013**

“The arts should be supported not only because research supports their value but also because they are as dynamic and broad-based as more widely accepted disciplines. They contribute to the development and enhancement of multiple neurobiological systems, including cognition, emotional, immune, circulatory, and perceptual-motor systems. Ultimately, the arts can help make us better people.”

Eric Jensen, Teacher, Scholar, and Member of the Society for Neuroscience and New York Academy of Science
What does Diversity mean to your PTA?

Have you thought about the dynamics of your PTA’s leadership and membership? Have you considered whether your PTA exhibits diversity and inclusion? And more importantly, did you know that these two terms were different and should be approached differently? In order for your PTA to be successful at being diverse and inclusive, PTA’s must openly assess beliefs and practices to assure they are diverse and inclusive. PTA’s must make every effort to create a PTA board and membership that is inclusive and reflective of its community. Educate your PTA leadership and members to the needs, cultural beliefs, traditions, and family structures of the population your PTA serves. To be diverse and inclusive, PTAs must encourage all PTA activity planning includes a committee that is representative of its school’s population. Remember to eliminate biases, prejudices, and misunderstandings that can sometimes impact the PTA’s ability to be diverse and inclusive. It’s important to become acquainted with leaders in the diverse communities and collaborate with them to increase parent, family, and community involvement. When PTAs embrace diversity they unite communities, develop meaningful priorities based upon their knowledge, and begin creating PTAs that are representative of their communities. When PTAs implement inclusiveness, they allow various groups to fully participate in events and activities that permit distinctive skills, experiences, and perspectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIVERSE PTA</th>
<th>INCLUSIVE PTA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accepts that there are an increasing number of grandparents raising grandchildren and these caregivers have unique interests and needs</td>
<td>Provides accommodations and printed materials at meetings and events for people who are hard of hearing, as well as accessible seating arrangements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has membership that reflects the cultures of the surrounding neighborhoods</td>
<td>Holds cultural awareness events that invite parents and students to share their traditions with each other through traditional food, dance, artifacts, crafts, and games</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Aneeka Ferrell, KY PTA Program Commissioner

NFL Partners with National PTA

The National Football League (NFL) has partnered with National PTA to launch this Back to Sports initiative, which helps PTAs across the country educate their communities on wellness—from concussion prevention and detection to NFL PLAY 60 tips on nutrition and youth physical activity. Find out how you can register for a Back to Sports Night at www.nflevolution.com/backtosports.
Ignite Show

The Ignite Show is working to raise respect and awareness of educators and education through the voices of teachers, parents and students. All that we do focuses on inspiring student centered classrooms. They are developing shows that are sponsored by education leaders and advocates, corporations and foundations who agree with our vision to create a dynamic, fun, relevant, and entertaining talk show to uplift the teaching profession as we all talk more openly about issues relevant to parents, teachers, and students. Host Anne Ostholthoff creates content that is largely influenced by teacher and student input -- with the ultimate goal to raise the enthusiasm of students to want to learn, graduate and be great!

Funded by The Hunt Institute, and supported by the AFT, NEA, and National PTA, each of the four episodes will focus on a different Math or English Language Arts topic as we step into the classroom to see what the teaching of the Common Core looks like. Each one is accompanied by curriculum guide complete with lesson plan and suggested classroom tips in a “how-to” Teacher-to-Teacher video. There are interviews and insights by leaders and other experts to help us see most clearly what the Common Core State Standards are all about.

A recent edition of the show had 3 members of KY PTA's 15th District as guests. Cherie Dimar, Heather McGovern, and Sharon Whitworth discussed their PTA District's outreach and education across the community about Common Core State Standards.

Here is the video that is directly related to Jefferson County.

http://www.gpb.org/the-ignite-show/season-2/episode/the-ignite-show-featuring-annice-brave

- Starting at 16 minutes, 20 seconds is the section with Cherie, Heather and Sharon.
- Starting at 22 minutes, 50 seconds is Jim Hunt, Governor of North Carolina and Bob Corcoran, GE Foundation. Mr. Corcoran mentions JCPS in his segment.

Calendar of Events

October
21-31 Red Ribbon Week
25 Registration deadline for Advocacy Training

November
1-2 Advocacy Training by Kentucky PTA
15 Kentucky Membership Payment due
18-22 American Education Week

December
15 Kentucky PTA Membership Payment Due

October PTA Updates and Reminders

KY PTA and KSBA - School Board Member Award -- Nominate a member of your school board for the Proudfoot award. Nomination form at http://kypta.org/wp-content/uploads/9-Proudfoot-Award-for-Outstanding-School-Board-Member.pdf

Reminder: Be Sure to File Your IRS 990 Form
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 the form you need to file, check out the Money Matters quick reference guide at www.pta.org/members/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2433. If you have questions or need help, please contact us at 502-226-6607.

Kentucky PTA Leaders’ Notebook

Five Things You Didn’t Know About Bullying

1. One out of 10 students drop out of school because of bullying.
2. 70% of American teens report having experienced bullying.
3. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan says, "bullying is far more pervasive than anyone realizes."
4. 160,000 students miss school every day because of a fear of bullying.
5. 175 K-12 districts and schools use TipTxt to empower students to report bullying via text message.

TipTxt is a free two-way service offered by Blackboard that allows kids to confidentially report bullying, suspicious behavior, threats or other incidents from their cell phones and receive a response from a dedicated administrator who will promptly look into the issue.

http://www.blackboard.com/Platforms/Connect/Products/TipTxt.aspx

Take Your Family to School Week Grants

Promote Take Your Family to School Week to Support Student Success!

National PTA will award $1,000 to 50 local PTAs to support Take Your Family to School Week grant events. Take Your Family to School Week will be Feb. 17-21, 2014 with the theme, Supporting Student Success. Apply for the grant by 5 p.m. EDT, Oct. 25. You can also gain 10 bonus points on the grant application for attending next week’s webinar Wed., Oct. 16 at 3 p.m. EDT. A Proud National Sponsor since 2005, AXA Foundation—the philanthropic arm of AXA Equitable—is again pleased to sponsor PTA’s Take Your Family to School Week. For more info, visit pta.org/tyftsw or contact National PTA Programs, (703) 518-1221.

Healthy Lifestyles Event in 16th Partners

Take Your Family to School Week Grants

Promote Take Your Family to School Week to Support Student Success!

National PTA will award $1,000 to 50 local PTAs to support Take Your Family to School Week grant events. Take Your Family to School Week will be Feb. 17-21, 2014 with the theme, Supporting Student Success. Apply for the grant by 5 p.m. EDT, Oct. 25. You can also gain 10 bonus points on the grant application for attending next week’s webinar Wed., Oct. 16 at 3 p.m. EDT. A Proud National Sponsor since 2005, AXA Foundation—the philanthropic arm of AXA Equitable—is again pleased to sponsor PTA’s Take Your Family to School Week. For more info, visit pta.org/tyftsw or contact National PTA Programs, (703) 518-1221.

Healthy Lifestyles Event in 16th Partners

40 PTAs Together for Fun and Funds

16th District PTA is excited to welcome Coach Mo from NBC’s The Biggest Loser and Kentucky PTA Board consultant, to the third annual PTA 5K to be held at Coldstream Park behind Embassy Suites on Sunday, October 20. Warm ups with Coach Mo will begin at 1:00 and the Fun Run/Walk will begin at 1:30 p.m. The PTA 5K Run/Walk will be lead by Coach Mo at 2:30 p.m. This Healthy Lifestyles event has already attracted over 1,000 participants to a great family-centered event, which encourages families to get active and eat healthy. The PTA 5K is unlike most races you encounter, as it is very kid focused. Skipping is also allowed! Pre registration is $20 for kids up to age 18 and $25 for adults. On race day registration is $25 for all participants.

Building on the Healthy Lifestyles message, 2 free training programs are offered – PTA Training Program and Kids Marathon. These are done in partnership with University of Kentucky, Lex Run Ladies and the YMCA of Central Kentucky.

Most of the race entry fees will go directly back to the 38 participating school PTAs. The PTAs will then be able to use it for programming thanks to the generous sponsorship of many area businesses, including: Baptist HealthwoRx, Legacy Gymnastics, Lexington Clinic, Race for Education, Comfort Heating and Air, Bumblebee, Business Printing America and many others... An extra THANKS to our partners who are actively involved in our new programming: YMCA of Central KY, FCPS, Lex Run Ladies, and UK!! Last year’s event sent $18,000 back to PTAs for programming which supports student achievement. Read more at http://www.PTA5K.com

Schools of Excellence Program

Congratulations to the following PTAs and PTSAs who have registered to participate in the National PTAs Schools of Excellence program. They will complete a survey and be given a "roadmap" for improving parent engagement in one of 3 areas: education, arts, or health/safety.

We look forward to hearing the progress each of these PTAs/PTSAs make through the year.

15th District:
Brown, Foster, Laukhauf

16th District:
Piccadon, Veterans Park

13th District:
South Oldham High School, Oldham County Middle, East Oldham Middle

12th District:
Elkhorn Middle
Speaking up for Children
An Advocacy Training for PTA/PTSA Members
Presented by Kentucky PTA

*Special Visit to the Capitol at 1:00 p.m. on Friday (Optional)

Friday November 1, 2013 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
Saturday November 2, 2013 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Kentucky PTA Office -- 148 Consumers Lane -- Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Registration: $50.00 includes:
Materials
Supper on Friday / Lunch on Saturday
One night’s lodging- two in a room

Register early – Limit 25 people per session
Deadline October 25, 2013

Confirmation, location and complete agenda will be sent to members who have signed up after the registration deadline.

*Special Visit to the Capitol at 1:00 p.m. on Friday (Optional)

Make checks payable to Kentucky PTA. Send to Kentucky PTA, P. O. Box 654, Frankfort, KY 40602-0654
Every Child. One Voice.

Kentucky PTA
P.O. Box 654
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Official publication of the Kentucky Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (Kentucky PTA), published and e-mailed seven times a year. ©2013 Kentucky PTA. Whenever PTA is used in this publication, it also refers to PTSA. PTA is a registered trademark of National PTA. Permission to reprint is granted to PTAs affiliated with the National and Kentucky PTA.

Kentucky PTA Office
P.O. Box 654 (148 Consumer Lane)
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0654
Email: Kentuckypta@bellsouth.net

Vision, Mission, Values
Kentucky PTA was chartered in 1918 as a state affiliate of the National PTA. We celebrated our 90th anniversary in 2008 and will celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2018. Kentucky PTA is a non-profit, tax exempt, 501(c)(3) charitable association registered with the Internal Revenue Service as an education organization. The vision, mission and values of PTA are:

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, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

PTA Values:
- Collaboration: We work in partnership with a wide array of individuals and organizations to accomplish our agreed-upon goals.
- Commitment: We are dedicated to promoting children’s health, well-being, and educational success through strong parent, family, and community involvement.
- Accountability: We acknowledge our obligations. We deliver on our promises.
- Respect: We value our colleagues and ourselves. We expect the same high quality of effort and thought from ourselves as we do from others.
- Inclusivity: We invite the stranger and welcome the newcomer. We value and seek input from as wide a spectrum of viewpoints and experiences as possible.
- Integrity: We act consistently with our beliefs. When we err, we acknowledge the mistake and seek to make amends.

PTA Purposes: Historical goals of PTA
- To promote the welfare of the children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship.
- To raise the standards of home life.
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.
- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.