

This is the **Indiana PTA Good News Alert** that goes out every Sunday night throughout the year. **Please feel free to pass this on to your PTA contacts!**

We are looking to highlight PTA's and Council's across the state that are excelling at membership, projects, or just have a great idea to share! We also hope this keeps you up to date on deadlines and events for Indiana PTA.

INDIANA PTA UPDATE

Don't forget to check out the Indiana PTA Convention recap page at <http://www.indianapta.org/Misc.html>!

There is a GREAT convention slideshow, a list of the award winners for this year, and comments from you!

PTA VOTES

Primary School Board Elections across the state will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2010. Now is the time to let your voices be heard with your vote!. Do you know how the budget cuts will affect the children and schools that we serve? Do you know where your incumbents and prospective school board members stand on the issues? If not now, when?

This is the time that we should all be listening to, reading and watching everything related to education. After the primaries, we need to continue to be vigilant in our advocacy efforts. Save the date November 2, 2010 for the General Election.

REFLECTIONS/CITIZENSHIP AWARD PHOTOS

Reflections and Citizenship photos are now online! If you were at the Reflections Luncheon and took a photo with Tina or your Coordinator, those photos are now online, with easy printing instructions. You can easily access them here: <http://indianapta.org/ReflectionsPhotos2.html>. Photos are divided by category. Thanks to everyone that participated.

BE SURE TO SUBMIT NEW OFFICERS LIST AFTER ELECTIONS

As we wind down with one PTA year, we always look forward towards the year to come. This is the time of year for nominating committees and elections. Please return the 2010-2011 Officers List after the election of new officers so that your unit will not miss mailings, including the President's Packet containing the President's CD. Click [HERE](#) to fill out your 2010-2011 Officer List.

PTA SUCCESS STORIES

Hammond Council PTA "Celebrates PTA" on Tuesday, April 27, 2010. The Annual Potluck will be held at 41 Williams Street at 6:30 P.M. PTA's will be honored for their work on behalf of children. Convention Awards will be highlighted and distributed. Community Members will be recognized for their continued support and commitment to PTA. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. Please RSVP to ptadee@yahoo.com.

Forest Park PTA is humbled to be recognized as an Indiana PTA Honor Unit. This year our school has focused on year two of our Million Penny Campaign. We reinvented a few of our tried and true programs to help revitalize the campaign. We hosted a Back to School Bash, Dogs for Dad's and Dudes, and Bahama Mama Wednesday with penny collection jars present at every event. Our students have remained steadfast in their commitment to this project and our penny barometer has inched above 800,000 pennies. We thank our school families for their continued support and the Indiana PTA for acknowledging the good things happening in our building! **(Note: If your PTA was named an Honor Unit this year, please send us a comment on what program you won the award for so we can highlight it here!)**

Prince Chapman Academy PTA alongside with their District Title 1 Parent Council played host to their second annual "Parents are Part of the Equation" Conference on Saturday April 24th from 11-2. This event offered three sessions of workshops for both parents and students. The workshops covered a wide range of topics including eating healthy, the power of reading, and a guide to college expense planning. Lunch was served and entertainment was provided by soloists Rodney Walker and Iyanna Brooks as well as a dance by the Cato Mime Trio. It was a wonderful afternoon and all present seemed energized. **Mrs. Denita Washington** was recognized with an INPTA Lifetime Achievement Award as well as an Outstanding Volunteer award winner. **Paul Harding HS PTSA** was honored as a new unit and **Prince Chapman Academy PTA** was also recognized as one of the Northeast Region's most improved units. Special recognition goes to **Denita Washington, Yolanda Austin, and Jimella Harris** for their work on behalf of the students of EACS.

Price PTA had their first ever Movie Night. The PTA had a week long vote to determine the movie we would watch. Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakuel won over Planet 51. We had a great night with over 75 people attending. We sold 32 pizzas and lots of concessions. We WILL do it again!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SUCCESS STORIES FROM YOUR PTA! Just send us your success stories and good news items by Sunday at noon every week and we will include the recognition you deserve and also a place to possibly get new ideas for programs for others. It's easy! Just send us a note to kathie.green@verizon.net and we will promote your school state-wide!

TEACHER SUCCESS STORIES

From Deion Adams, Scott Middle School PTSA: "I just wanted to take a moment to brag about **Mr. Allen**. Mr. Allen always has a smile on his face and works many hours before and after school to help the students "get it". I have never even heard of him raising his voice, yet he maintains a controlled learning environment. And that's just the class room. He is in full support of the PTSA and has volunteered to be the Teacher Membership liaison. He gives extra credit to his students for attending PTSA functions like "Healthy Kids" held last March and our Monthly Father/child breakfast (All Pro Dad's Day Breakfast) My hat is off to such a role model for not only our students, but adults as well. Thank you Mr. Allen!"

From the Indiana PTA facebook page: Donna Sevcovic at Memorial Park Middle School is outstanding to watch as she passes her love of music and jazz onto her students. She will do ANYTHING for a student in love with music. She is the conductor of many jazz combos, the 6th grade jazz band, the Any Day But Friday Jazz band, the Big Noise jazz band and more! She devotes her time to all her students before, during, and after school. She is on the same level as the students and tries to make learning music fun. She is always encouraging kids to try new instruments and to hone their skills on their current ones. She picks students up for practice, drops them off after practice and works with TOP musicians to bring their knowledge to our kids. We had a BLAST at Jazz on the Boulevard last night and I am constantly amazed that middle school students can make music that sounds SO good! We LOVE Mrs. Sevcovic for her teaching, but almost more for her passion for educating students about the wonders of instrumental music. She is literally contagious and we are blessed to have her!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR TEACHER SUCCESS STORIES FROM YOUR PTA! Just send us your teacher success stories by Sunday at noon every week. It's easy! Just send us a note to kathie.green@verizon.net and we will promote your teacher state-wide!

[NATIONAL PTA UPDATE](#)

THE 2010-2011 OFFICIAL PTA Kit: A Year's Worth of Resources

The *Official PTA Kit*—PTA's Big Box of Possibilities—is back again for the 2010-2011 school year, with the resources PTAs need to run their units and serve their communities.

All local, council, district, and region PTAs must register to receive the kit. The registration form, available at www.PTA.org/OfficialKit starting April 26, will ask the incoming PTA president or other authorized leader to provide the unit's preferred shipping address and date. This helps us ensure that the kit gets into the right hands at the right time for each unit. And the kit is still free!

Units will be notified of the need to register via a postcard (mailing soon!), e-mail, *PTA Local Leader News*, and YOU. For details about this year's kit delivery, as well as an article to include in newsletters and post on the state PTA website, please refer to the e-mail sent earlier this week to the state PTA office, president, and president-elect. (You may also reprint articles from *PTA Local Leader News*. FAQs to share with units are posted at PTA.org/OfficialKit.)

Kits will ship weekly June 18 to September 17, based on unit orders. Units that have not registered for the kit by September 17 will have a kit sent to them in late September, to the address on file with the National PTA office.

MAY 3 DEADLINE: Arts Enhancement Grants for Local Units

Less than two weeks left to apply

All applications for PTA's [Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grants](#) must be submitted online by **11:59 p.m. EDT, Monday, May 3, 2010**.

The grant program offers a limited number of matching grants of up to \$1,000 to help local units establish or enhance student-centered arts programs in visual arts, photography, music (including dance), or literature (including theater). The grants can be used to support arts education in the classroom or other learning environments through the introduction of new technologies, techniques, or methods; visiting artists; or other activities. Special consideration is given to applicants that reach large numbers of at-risk students.

The grant application and program details are available online at PTA.org/ArtsGrants.

GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN INDIANA PTA! WE ARE EXCITED FOR THE NEW IDEAS AND PROGRAMS THAT CAN HELP YOUR UNITS!

NOTE: How do I get my school featured in an Indiana PTA Good News Alert? If you have a great story that you would like us to use, contact us directly at the above email or let your Region VP know and we will highlight your PTA in one of our weekly emails! **Contact your Region VP at: Northwest: Dee Jones (ptadee@yahoo.com), Northeast: Julie Klingenberger (jklingenberger04@comcast.net), Central: Sharon Wise (swise36@comcast.net); Southern: Natalie Jones (natalie.jones@evsc.k12.in.us).** Also don't forget to check out the Indiana PTA website at www.indianapta.org for some great information and the National PTA website at www.pta.org. The new format for the "PTA Great Idea Bank" could also be really useful for your unit - it can also be found on the National PTA website