

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

PTA VOTES!

School Board Primary 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 for November 2, 2010 for the General Election.

PTA TAKES ACTION CHALLENGE

As of the end of March, Indiana is second in the nation for the number of new people who have joined the Member to Member network and 4th in the nation for the number of messages that have been sent to Congress. We have until May 15 to put Indiana at the top!

On December 1, 2009, PTA President Chuck Saylor and the Legislation Committee enacted an advocacy challenge to states to increase PTA's voice on Capitol Hill. We challenged *all* Indiana PTA members to join the PTA Takes Action Network and respond to every action alert by reaching out to their members of Congress. **Thanks to our members, Indiana PTA is currently in the top three states.** This Challenge ends on May 15. The winner will receive a trip to the 2011 Legislative Conference or a one year subscription to Cap Wiz. Indiana PTA has made a significant increase in network members and action alerts. It's not too late to join our efforts! We still need our members to respond to join the network and respond to alerts. Visit www.pta.org for more information.

Child Nutrition Act

On March 24, the Senate Agriculture Committee unanimously passed the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, a bill to reauthorize programs under the Child Nutrition Act, including school lunches and breakfasts, local wellness policies, summer Food Service Program, and WIC.

PTA introduces Bill

PTA is making final plans to introduce the Family Engagement in Education Act, a bill that PTA has been working on with leading researchers, expert practitioners, and policy experts committed to family engagement. Ms. McCarthy (D-NY-4) will introduce in the House with original co-sponsor Todd Platts (R-PA-19). We are drafting an organizational sign on letter in support of the bill, PIRCs, United Way, AFT, have signed on. This will be a marker bill—we hope to have the language adopted in reauthorization of ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act).

INDIANA PTA GETS READY TO SWITCH EMAIL ALERT TO CONSTANT CONTACT

Next week is the week! Indiana PTA will be converting our email system over to Constant Contact. Beginning next Sunday, you will have an interactive, attractive, and informative Good News email each week. If you have NOT already submitted your contact information to the PR/Marketing department - now is the time! We need the emails and names of each of your officers and your principal.

We will also be rolling out a new email address to send your Good News stories to us. That email is easy to remember - **GoodNews@indianapta.org**. Send your PTA good news and your teacher good news to this address and watch for your story to be published.

FYI, you can also send your contact email information to **GoodNews@indianapta.org** to make sure you keep receiving the Indiana PTA Good News Alert.

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.

HOST A LEGISLATIVE EVENT

As you are making plans for the 2010-2011 school year, please consider hosting a legislative event. This event could be a visit to your school, an information night or a legislative forum. Hosting visits for legislators at the local, state or federal level is an excellent way to build relationships between yourself and your elected officials, but also to establish yourself/your PTA as a resource for them and their staff. Site visits allow elected officials the opportunity to see that PTA is not about bake sales, but about school, family engagement and school reform. Your elected officials can see first hand the things your local PTA is doing for the school(s) in his or her district.

These are the steps that you will need to take:

- Plan the Visit
- Schedule the Visit
- Alert the Media
- Host the Visit
- Evaluate the Visit
- Thank your participants

You will find the NPTA Advocacy Toolkit at www.pta.org. And remember, your Indiana PTA Board of Managers is here to assist you and your PTA with your event.

DID YOU KNOW?

...that Indiana PTA is a participating sponsor of the Indiana Fatherhood Summit? The Summit is designed to increase the capacity and ability of men to be effective fathers by providing them with opportunities to build their knowledge, skills and competencies. Indiana PTA is proud to be a part of this event! Watch for more details soon on our website at www.indianapta.org.

PTA SUCCESS STORIES

Congratulations to the following PTA's who have May anniversaries!

Central High School PTSA	5/4/1940
Culver Elementary School PTA	5/5/1947
Eastern Pulaski Elementary School PTA	5/23/2000

Glen Park Academy PTA	5/2/2007
Highland Elementary School PTA	5/9/1956
Irvington Community School PTA	5/9/2008
Jefferson Elementary School PTA-Hammond	5/20/1955
Liberty Elementary School PTA	5/11/1955
Perry Meridian High School PTSA	5/30/1973
Raymond Park Middle School PTSA	5/4/1994
School #14 PTA	5/4/2004
Snacks Crossing PTA	5/17/2001
Washington Elementary School PTA-Ft Wayne	5/1/1992
Weisser Park Arts Magnet School PTA	5/17/1995

Hammond Council PTA would like to express sincere gratitude to the School City of Hammond Administration Building Staff and School Board Members. During Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week, a luncheon is held to say thank you to our leaders and staff. We celebrate the contributions made by the leadership on behalf of the children, schools and communities that we serve.

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 GoodNews@indianapta.org and we will promote your school state-wide!

[TEACHER SUCCESS STORIES](#)

Deb Johnston from Croninger Elementary School PTA: This year was the 1st year in a very long time that we had 100% principal/ staff membership and that was thanks to our 3rd VP kindergarten teacher Deb Johnston. She took our goal to heart and spent time talking to all the teachers about what PTA does for them and for the school. I think she had to arm wrestle a few but we have 100% staff membership this year. She supports all PTA events and attends almost every PTA event. She strongly encourages her classroom to support PTA and to be involved in PTA events. After working so hard recruiting the staff to join PTA she started helping us with our General Membership drive and was really a force to be reckoned with. Deb is a great example of a teacher who lives and breathes PTA in their school, life, and classroom. Deb is very well liked by teachers and I hear she is an amazing Kindergarten teacher. All her parents rave about her and she is requested by incoming parents every year. Deb does an amazing job giving kids a great start to their academic career and her kids to love going to school. "Mrs. Johnston does funny stuff and she makes the work easy and fun" says Kindergartener Madison Cocks current student. (Submitted by Amber Fiess, Croninger TA President)

Mrs. Quick from Pleasant Center has inspired our students for over 33 years! She is an awesome person that helps with everything that has to do with her students, after school programs, etc. Our PTA was sad to hear that she plans to retire this year. I feel very lucky that my children were taught by this wonderful teacher. (Submitted by Amanda Landers, Pleasant Center PTA President)

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 GoodNews@indianapta.org and we will promote your teacher state-wide!

[NATIONAL PTA UPDATE](#)

JUST BETWEEN FRIENDS HAS JUST GOTTEN BETTER

The Just Between Friends system is a free tool to help you manage your member data, communicate effectively with your entire school, create directories, recruit and retain volunteers and participants, and track and renew memberships easily. Over the past year, National PTA and Just Between Friends have been listening to comments from units using the system and have been working on system enhancements. Based on this feedback, Just Between Friends will make member management easier than ever.

Enhancements include the capability to:

- Attach files to e-mails generated by the system
- Create groups and select which groups will receive various e-mails
- Schedule how often and when automatic reminders should be sent
- Have all members view deadlines and events that are automatically posted on a calendar
- Create paper directories or secure online directories with powerful search capabilities for multiple last names in the same family and multiple contact phone numbers and e-mail addresses
- Add parental controls
- Administer volunteer and participation management using a module that satisfies [Three for Me](#) requirements
- Integrate with [Reflections](#) (coming soon)

Just Between Friends will be bringing some great, family-friendly fundraising opportunities to your PTA. All of its sponsors will provide you with the materials you'll need to make these opportunities successful programs. Look for upcoming announcements for the next school year.

Current users, now is the time to update your officer information and take advantage of training webinars, tools, and other assets at learnjbf.com. New users can get started by visiting JustBetweenFriends.com/PTAquickstart and entering your unit ID.

NATIONAL PTA CONVENTION: REGISTER NOW AND SAVE!

Register for the 2010 National PTA Convention by Friday, May 14 (that's just 2½ weeks away!) to save at least \$150. Registration includes entrance into:

- General meetings, with featured speakers and important PTA business
- [Six workshop sessions](#) offering leadership training and tools
- An exhibit hall with more than 200 vendors

Plus, if you register by May 14, you'll be able to attend the delegates Welcome Reception and Exhibit Hall Reception for free. (Additional fees apply for ticketed events.)

Go to PTA.org/Convention to register today.

Already registered? Plan your convention schedule in advance. Select from more than 50 workshops, and don't forget to take advantage of the wonderful complimentary offerings: Saturday's social media event on Beale Street, the National Resolutions and Bylaws Collaboration Writing Lab, the Male Engagement Summit, and the Internet Café and Emerging Minority Leaders Lounge.

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 GoodNews@indianapta.org 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.