

This is the **Indiana PTA Good News Alert** that goes out every Sunday night throughout the year.

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. Note: We are sending this email as an attachment for the people who would like to send this out to your PTA members or copy it for one of your meetings. Please feel free to pass this on!

INDIANA PTA UPDATE

GOVERNOR DECLARES "PARENTS AS PARTNERS IN EDUCATION WEEK" Celebrate and Honor Parent Involvement August 16-22

At the request of The Indiana Partnerships Center (Indiana PIRC), Governor Mitch Daniels has declared August 16-22 "Parents as Partners in Education Week." "Parents as Partners in Education Week," which is supported by The Indiana Partnerships Center, the Office of Senator Richard Lugar, Indiana State Teachers Association, WFYI-Indianapolis, **Indiana PTA**, Indiana Head Start Association, and the Indiana Department of Education, will honor and celebrate family engagement in education. Schools and communities can show their support of family engagement in education as part of "Parents as Partners in Education Week" in a variety of ways, such as through hosting press conferences and Back to School nights to thank families for being involved in their children's education and to encourage them to continue their involvement at home and at school during the upcoming school year. For more information about parent involvement, including "Parents as Partners in Education Week," visit www.fscp.org.

Indiana PTA's Facebook fans list continues to grow....

Indiana PTA now has a Facebook page that you can become a fan of and get instant updates when news gets posted. We have discussion boards set up, an events listing that includes trainings, Legislative Day and convention information, and we will post regularly about items that can help your PTA! The best part is that PTA's can now post about events, get ideas from across the state, and get questions answered fairly quickly. In just 16 days, we have 207 fans! If you are on Facebook, just type in "Indiana PTA" in the search box. Become a fan of Indiana PTA today and feel free to post any questions, any ideas, etc!

Information about a Special Education PTA that is forming:

My name is Julie Klingenberger and besides being the NE Region VP I am the proud mother of a daughter with Asperger's Syndrome, a disorder on the Autism Spectrum. Energized and inspired by a workshop I attended at the PTA National

Convention last June in Florida, I am initiating Indiana's first ever SEPTA, Special Education PTA. For the purpose of this PTA, Special Education applies to any child who's educational experience differs from the norm, including students with physical, learning, and mental disabilities as well as students who are gifted and talented. This PTA will serve as a community resource for parents as well as a network of parental support. The first organizational meeting of the SEPTA will be October 14, 2009, place and time TBA. Dues will be \$5.00 and this SEPTA is open to anyone statewide. Our main goal this year will be to provide opportunities for parents to network with each other in communities across the state. We will also organize a resource fair. If you are interested please contact me at jklingenberger04@comcast.net. I know and understand the frustration that is sometimes present when parenting a child with special needs. Together, I believe we can encourage, inspire, and educate each other, and our school communities! Consider being a part of Indiana's first SEPTA, we can make a difference for our kids! For more information, contact Julie at 260-748-0033 or at jklingenberger04@comcast.net.

PTA Success Stories:

From Julie Klingenberger: "The Northeast Region Packet Meeting was really great! 78+ people attended the training that was held on August 3rd!!! Indiana PTA President Tina Hartman brought greetings. Topics covered included Important Dates, Communication, Reflections, Citizenship, Membership, Resolutions, Legislation, Bylaws, and then breakout sessions for officers were held. The **Fort Wayne Area PTA Council** discount cards were then distributed in time for schools to use at registration. Thanks to everyone who took the time to attend!"

From Dee Jones, Northwest Region VP: "The **Mishawaka PTA Council** held their Packet Meeting on Wednesday, August 5th. What an exciting time for leaders to get together connecting by learning and planning. These are a few comments from the evaluations: **Action I will take:** To get the community involved – parents, neighbors, businesses; To take more of a role in PTA at school; Working with others to help more people; Volunteering for leadership roles; Sign up for legislative alerts, sign up for Facebook and National PTA e-newsletters @ www.pta.org; Send the great things happening in our schools to share in "Good News."

From Natalie Jones, Southern Region Vice President: "Lots of smiles, hugs and good feelings! These were evident feelings from the parents, children, administrators and volunteers who were on hand for Saturday's **Evansville Area Council PTA** Back to School Shopping Spree! 140 of our EVSC students from grades K-8 were invited to come and shop for back to school clothes at this very heartwarming event! Every student was given \$60.00 to purchase clothes and shoes. Every student also received new socks, underwear and a backpack filled

with school supplies. 144 volunteers came out to help shop, sort and smile. Thank you. We could not have done it without each and every one of you! Please keep in mind that it costs \$70.00 to sponsor a child for this worthwhile event. This is obviously money well spent! The Evansville Area Council motto is "EACH ONE, REACH ONE...Working Together for a Better Community." I believe we are on our way to doing just that! Thank you for your continued support with PTA in Evansville."

From Dee Jones & Deb Fox: "Thank you to our friends at SupportMusic.com/NAMM for providing tickets for 200 students, parents, and teachers to attend the 2009 Drum Corp International Championships in Indianapolis. A special tour was set up for Indiana PTA attendees prior to the competition start. Participants then observed the competition followed by awards and recognition. This was a great opportunity for our future band and drum corps members. I was honored to get some of the tickets to go to the Drum Corp International Semi-finals Friday night. I'm a band parent in High School and it was interesting to see the college age bands perform and to talk to some of those parents who gave us information on how their sons and daughters got involved and the involvement that it takes on that level. The kids that went with us were in awe of the talent and that their show was a 20 minute performance and they are used to 6 min. performances. My son at the end said, "Loved it, every minute, want to do it!!" Thank you so much for the opportunity to go!!!"

WE WANT TO ADD YOUR PTA'S STORY HERE NEXT WEEK. WE KNOW PTA'S ACROSS THE STATE ARE DOING GOOD WORK. WE'D LIKE TO SHOUT IT OUT TO EVERYONE! We are still looking for YOUR stories and successes...please email me direct at kathie.green@verizon.net by Saturday evening to be included in the next Sunday's email...we'd love to promote your PTA or your region!

REGION NEWS

Training opportunities are available in every region of the state. Following are the dates we have available as of this publication:

**NORTHWEST REGION FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE will be held:
Saturday – September 12, 2009, 8:30 am – 1:00 pm
Twin Branch Elementary School
Mishawaka, IN.**

Topics include: Presidents Packet(President/VPs, Secretaries, Treasurers, Reflections, Citizenship), Forms, Teambuilding, Parent Involvement, Membership and more

Contact Dee Jones at ptadee@yahoo.com for more information

NORTHEAST REGION FALL TRAINING will be held:

Saturday - October 10, 2009, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm (Watch for more information to follow)

Forest Park Elementary School

2004 Alabama Ave. in Fort Wayne, IN

Contact: Julie Klingenberger at jklingenberger04@comcast.net

National PTA Update

PTA Calls on Members to Support White House Community Service Initiative

On June 27, PTA leadership and officials from the U.S. Department of Education called on thousands of parents and educators attending the 113th Annual PTA National Convention to get involved in 'United We Serve,' a White House initiative that encourages Americans to serve their communities from June 22 - September 11.

Several days before the convention, PTA published a community service toolkit to give all parents and advocates a practical tool to use when planning a service project in support of 'United We Serve'. The toolkit, available at www.PTA.org/calltoservice provides step-by-step details for planning a project, as well as other resources like checklists, sample invitations to the public and to an elected official, and sample thank you letters. It also allows people to share their success stories about their project with PTA. These stories and results will be shared with President Obama and the Corporation for National and Community Service at the end of the initiative. The toolkit is now available in Spanish.

As 'United We Serve' engages Americans to address community needs in education, health, energy, and the environment, PTA is mobilizing its members, partners, and supporters to focus on sustained service related to education, military families, and health. Although the United We Serve effort has an end date, PTA encourages all families to be involved in meaningful service year-round.

Turn Possibilities into Realities

All local, council, district, and region PTAs must register to receive the **free Official PTA Kit**. Units can access the kit registration form through the personalized URL sent via e-mail and postcard or by going to https://www.pta.org/local_leader/kit/kitorder.asp. The national PTA Information Center is available to help units register and can be reached at (800) 307-4782. You can learn more about the kit contents and registration process at www.PTA.org/OfficialKit

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 phone number 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 (SWise@CSOinc.net); Southern: Natalie Jones (twinmama02@yahoo.com).** Also don't forget to check out the Indiana PTA website at www.indianapta.org for some great information and the revamped 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.

This is a publication of the Indiana PTA Board of Managers P/R Marketing Committee. For more information contact Kathie Green, Chairperson, at kathie.green@verizon.net or 260-489-6054.