

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. Please feel free to pass this on!

INDIANA PTA UPDATE

Indiana PTA Legislative Alert

Our Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Tony Bennett, is attempting to revise certification rules for teachers, principals and superintendents. He argues that by eliminating some of the requirements for licensing they would ensure a deeper understanding of the subject they teach. He further argues that the current requirements focus too much attention on teaching methods. He believes that by providing non traditional leaders (Anyone with a master's degree who passes the School Leader's License test and is approved by the State (Dr. Bennett)) some school districts have a better chance at success.

The PTA has always supported development programs that further strengthen our teachers and leaders. We support programs that strengthen teaching techniques, academic knowledge, human understanding, critical thinking, technology use and parent, family and community involvement. We support well qualified teachers and leaders who have been held to rigorous requirements. We want our teachers to be well versed on teaching methods.

The non traditional path would require principals and superintendents to hold a masters degree and to pass a standardized test (school leader's license test) and the state would approve or disapprove the applicant based on an individual basis. Dr. Bennett would have final approval. The non traditional path opens up the possibility of a principal or superintendent without any educational background being hired. The PTA supports strong leaders with a vast knowledge base and on the job experience in the field of education.

Please contact your legislators and Dr. Bennett's office and share your concerns. Our legislators are not currently in session but still have access to email and want to hear from you. Please see below for contact information. Thank You for all that you do!

Indiana Legislators: <http://www.in.gov/legislative/contact>

Dr. Bennett:
Indiana Department of Education
151 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Phone: 317.232.6610

Fax: 317.232.8004

Watch for the Indiana PTA Redesigned Website Coming September 1st!

Every day now the redesigned Indiana PTA website is really taking shape! The new interactive design and up-to-date information will be a one-stop place for you to get all the information that can help you organize your PTA and keep informed. The plan is to have the website changed over on September 1st. We hope you will take the time to really explore the site and let us know what you think. The countdown has begun...we can't wait until September 1st for you to see it!

REGION NEWS

These trainings are coming up really fast! Make sure you make plans to attend for your region! Following are the dates we have available as of this publication:

CENTRAL REGION FALL TRAINING:

"Time to Get Your Ducks in a Row"

Monday – August 31, 2009, 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Warren Education & Community Center

975 N. Post Rd.

Indianapolis, IN.

Topics include: New Unit Training, Presidents (Running meetings, Agendas), Secretaries (Minutes - What to record and what not to record), Treasurers (990, 990 N-E Post Card, Budgets), Bylaws (This is a chance to bring yours up to date!)

Contact: Sharon Wise at swise36@comcast.net or at 317-753-3197

NORTHWEST REGION FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE:

"Finding Your Voice: Being the Voice For Our Children, Schools, and Communities"

Saturday – September 12, 2009, 8:30 am – 2:00 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

SOUTHERN REGION BACK TO SCHOOL PACKET/LEADERSHIP TRAINING:

Thursday – September 17, 2009

Starting at 5:00 p.m. with the Vendor Fair

Career & Technical Center

Evansville, IN.

Contact Natalie Jones at 812-401-3203 or at Natalie.jones@evsc.k12.in.us 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

[PTA Success Stories](#)

Julie French, a school Board member for Warren Township Schools and our office manager sent this in: "This is a wonderful example of School, Parent and Business partnership collaboration. **Brookview Elementary** has partnered with Adidas on Indy's east side. They received \$10,000. The school is using a portion of the money to send kids on their Washington D.C. trip who cannot afford it (the children will not just be given the money-they will work for it by tutoring younger children in the school, and helping out in other ways), playground equipment will be purchased, and a portion will be used by the PTA to continue an arts program in the school. They will be offering dance classes, etc. Kudos to Brookview's Principal Tim Hanson (2009 Indiana PTA Principal of the Year), Carissa Dollar, Brookview's PTA President, and business partner Adidas. Also it should be noted that financial help is not all they are giving. The employees will also partner with Brookview by coming into the school and reading to students, etc. I can guarantee you that the employees of Adidas will walk away with quite a bit also!" Carissa Dollar stated: "What a wonderful moment tonight for us to be able to accept that big check (just like you see on TV), say thank you to our new partners, and look forward to all the great things that we will be able to do for our students this next year. Adidas/Reebok is not only putting their money into our school, but their hearts and hands." Brookview Elementary PTA has had a very busy week this week. Carissa states they have a highly motivated new committee chair for their redemption campaigns such as Boxtops for Education, Wendy Scholl. They have just recently joined the Terracycle Juice Pouch Brigade. Wendy has counted over 200 juice pouches in the past 2 weeks, so it looks like this very easy to run program will be earning them at least \$2 per week this year. Every little penny counts! Their membership hit 235 this week.....just 5 shy of of their total membership for the entire year last year! Their Fall Carnival Chair, Threasa Matheis, is already busy signing up vendors for that event. She will be providing a boost to their

membership numbers this year as well. They increased the booth rental price by \$5 and included a PTA membership and a listing as a "Community Partner" on their website.

Students at **Hums Elementary School** in Mishawaka are in for some fun. That's because they've got a brand new playground, valued at \$19,000. Money came from the PTA and fundraising, which took about two years. The story was featured on WNDU TV in South Bend on Friday, August 21st.

From Amber Fiess: "**Croninger Elementary PTA** has gone LIVE: That is our new website is live! It is an amazing website! Very user friendly, lots of good links, and great information and it looks so amazing. We have one of our own Croninger Mom's Katie McCrady to thank for this wonderful new PTA tool. She has spent the summer creating our new website and she really has impressed us. Thank You so much Katie! Croninger has really been stepping it up in the techy area because we also have joined the facebook world. This will link old and new PTA members and allow us to keep in touch and share ideas. Our group name is Croninger Elementary PTA so come find us on facebook."

From David Culp, Vice President of **Franke Park Elementary PTA**: "We were able to get 52 memberships during the registration. I was told by past officers that is a really good number. We learned about the peanuts at Texas Roadhouse and used those to entice using "Nuts For Franke Park PTA." It also helped having a man sit at the registration table. We are also going to make a push the morning and after school on the first day."

[National PTA Update](#)

All PTA members can subscribe to get **The PTA Parent** newsletter that offers expert advice and practical ideas for raising kids and becoming a vital part of their education. Subscribe today! Just go to www.pta.org and you can subscribe to this e-newsletter from their home page. This is one more great resource from National PTA!

Apply for a PTA Healthy Lifestyles Award!

This November, plan an event that promotes healthy habits among students and families and your PTA could win **up to \$1,000** to support those plans.

What you need to know:

- **PTA Healthy Lifestyles Awards** will be given only to PTAs in good standing.
- All applications will be subject to competitive review. Judges will be looking for programs that
 - Celebrate PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month, November 2009, and have a long-term impact;
 - Promote healthy lifestyles in the home, school, and community;

- Promote family involvement in the school;
- Emphasize the connection between healthy lifestyles and student achievement;
and
- Engage a diverse group of family and community members.
- Each qualified local PTA that submits a completed application will receive at least one of the following:
 - A monetary award of up to \$1,000 to support its PTA Healthy Lifestyles activities
 - A visit to its school by a PTA national officer
 - A certificate of recognition
- The monetary award may be used only to cover direct expenses for the proposed PTA project. (Awards granted may be less than the amount requested.)
- Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. EDT, Friday, September 11, 2009.
- Recipients of awards will be notified within four weeks of the application deadline.

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 (swise36@comcast.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.