

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.

**NOTE: WE WOULD LIKE TO DO A SPECIAL EDITION EMAIL NEXT WEEK. WHO ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR IN YOUR PTA OR SCHOOL? WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS WHO PROMOTE INDIANA PTA AND DO GOOD WORKS IN SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE FOR OUR STUDENTS! LET US KNOW WHO YOU WANT TO THANK AND WE WILL INCLUDE IT IN NEXT WEEK'S GOOD NEWS EMAIL! JUST EMAIL YOUR COMMENT TO [kathie.green@verizon.net](mailto:kathie.green@verizon.net).**

## **INDIANA PTA UPDATE**

Thank you to all Indiana PTA's who worked hard this week to meet the November 15th deadlines. Membership dues, the annual financial report, tax forms, and the website award application all had to be postmarked by today. Thank you for working to make your PTA a "Unit in Good Standing" with Indiana PTA. We do appreciate your efforts!

**HERE ARE THE DETAILS ON THIS YEAR'S INDIANA PTA  
LEGISLATIVE DAY!**

# **Save the Date!**

The Indiana PTA Board of Managers Legislative Committee has finalized the details for this year's Legislative Day that will be held on February 10, 2010 in Indianapolis. Some changes are being made to accommodate the larger number of participants that are showing an interest in attending. This year's event will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Indianapolis, just one block away from the State House.

REGISTER TODAY to reserve your seats!

Download the reservations form at <http://www.indianapta.org/PDFs/Legislative/2010INLegislativeDayReservationForm.pdf>.

You can also get the 2010 Save the Date Flyer to help you promote Legislative Day at your school, by clicking here: <http://www.indianapta.org/PDFs/Legislative/Conference%20flyers/Leg%20Day%20Flyer%202010.pdf> .

For more information, visit [www.indianapta.org](http://www.indianapta.org).

One of the changes is that space will be available on a first come, first PAID basis and the early bird reservation date will give us time to let legislators know who will be attending from your area. Another change is that middle school and high school students are encouraged to attend, however elementary school students must be accompanied by a parent to participate. This is a great opportunity for PTA members from across the state to get the latest legislative information that effects our children and schools. Meetings in the morning bring you up-to-date on issues, followed by lunch with our legislators. During the afternoon we go to the Indiana State House for individual meetings with your legislator, a tour, or an opportunity to see a committee in action.

The cost to attend is \$25.00 per person which includes lunch and all materials. The deadline for early bird registration is January 13, 2010. You won't want to miss this!

**NEW SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION FOR INDIANA PTA IS AVAILABLE!**

**YOU OR YOUR PTA OR COUNCIL NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A "FRIEND OF INDIANA PTA!"**

Each year the Indiana PTA seeks ways to raise non-dues revenue to support the work of this great association for the children of our state. Since our annual convention is our main source of income in addition to membership, it is critical that we seek ways to reach out to councils, school districts, businesses and organizations to help us in this mission.

There are several ways that we can receive the needed support to continue our efforts for *everychild.onevoice*.

- Businesses/Organizations may purchase advertising space in our Convention program, seen by all attendees from across the state.
- Businesses/Organizations may become a sponsor of the Indiana PTA and our mission, with sponsorship levels to fit every budget.
- Businesses/Organizations may promote themselves to all Convention delegates with an exhibitor's booth throughout the Convention weekend.

Information on sponsorships can be found at <http://www.indianapta.org/Sponsors.html>.

One of the new categories is especially interesting: You or your PTA can become a "**Friend of Indiana PTA.**" This category of sponsorship is available to Local Units, Councils and Members and for a \$25.00 donation to Indiana PTA you will get:

- Recognition in the Convention Program
- Recognition in IPT (Indiana Parent Teacher) Newsletter
- Recognition on the Indiana PTA website

We actually have our first friend already! She is **Sylvia Ostos** from Texas PTA and National PTA who attended our Board of Managers meeting as a mentor for our board members. Thank you Sylvia!

Extra sponsorships will help us keep the cost of attending Legislative Day and the Indiana PTA Convention as low as we possibly can. There is a level for any business that would like to sponsor Indiana PTA and now there is a great way for schools, PTA's, retired board members, current board members and others to support our efforts for the schools in Indiana. Indiana PTA is reaching more and more people every day and trying new things to grow our association for you. Please consider passing on the sponsorship information to any businesses you think might be interested and consider becoming a "Friend" today!

## **Upcoming Indiana PTA Dates of Importance**

**Now that we are passing the all important November 15th deadlines, we thought you might like to keep these dates in mind:**

- January 13, 2010: Legislative Day Reservations Due
- January 15, 2010: Reflections and Citizenship Entries due to Indiana PTA
- January 25, 2010: Resolutions Due, Nominations for Indiana PTA Board of Managers Due
- February 1, 2010: President's Reports, Outstanding Teacher, Outstanding Principal, Outstanding Membership Campaign Forms Due
- February 10, 2010: Indiana PTA Legislative Day
- February 17, 2010: PTA Founder's Day
- March 1, 2010: Two copies of your newsletter are due by this date to be considered for Journalism Award
- March 15, 2010: Membership Dues deadline, Membership Awards Form Due
- April 2, 2010: Pre-registration ends for Indiana PTA Convention (it's only \$70.00 if you register by this date!)
- April 16-18, 2010: Indiana PTA Convention

## **Tina Hartman has asked some good questions on our Indiana PTA Facebook page:**

- "Has anyone used the PTA Rewards Cards as a fundraiser? If so, can you provide some feedback? Thanks."
- "I am wondering how many of you are using OMDR for your membership dues reporting. If so, I would love to hear your feedback."

If you get a chance to answer, just go to our facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Indiana-PTA/107518373605?ref=nf>. You will need to scroll down a little. Tina would love to hear from you!

## **PTA SUCCESS STORIES**

**We love getting these stories! Congratulations to the PTA's below:**

From **Lincoln Elementary PTA** of Fort Wayne: Lincoln had their Red Ribbon week Oct.19-23, during which they also held a canned Food Drive, with Shawnee Middle School as their competition. The schools normally run the drive for only one week, but with the number of absences increased the two schools decided to run it for two weeks. Last year Shawnee was the winning school, but Lincoln made a huge comeback this year with a total of 2500 items raised to go to the Food Banks and Shawnee had around 1000. Now for the real fun: The two school principals agreed that whichever school collected fewer cans, he would come to the winning school and "Kiss a Pig" for the entire student body to see. The date has not been set for this yet but we've spoken to the pig owner and she is ready to come as soon as both principals are free.

**Fairfield PTA** is excited about rebuilding our PTA, it has taken a lot of work but we are getting there. As of right now we have 69 members, which doubled last years total. We are not done yet though, we hope to have 150 members by March 15th.

**Pleasant Center PTA** is doing great!! Our FBI program is heading up our Santa Shop coming up in December. Our school hasn't had one in over five years, so we are all excited to be able to give the students the option to use their own money to buy gifts. Great math exercise :) Note: Amanda Lander also passed this on: I just want to give a big THANKS to Julie Klingenberger. You have helped me so much and I just want you to know that it really is appreciated.

**Brookview PTA** held our 6th annual Fall Carnival this weekend. Our fabulous vendor coordinator has once again outdone herself, registering a record 31 vendors for the event. Each of these vendors is now a community partner member of our PTA, boosting us up to 334 members. This is a 39% increase over last year's membership. New games for this year included a book walk and an obstacle course race. Community partner Best Buy joined us with both Rock Band and Guitar Hero games. Steak and Shake, Just Pizza and Texas Road House donated food for the event. Our students also got the chance to put 204 pies in the faces of our principal, teachers and PTA president!

**Make sure to send in your school's story so that we can recognize your efforts here in the coming weeks! Just send an email to [kathie.green@verizon.net](mailto:kathie.green@verizon.net) and your school can be featured as next week's "PTA Success Story!"**

# NATIONAL PTA UPDATE

## Celebrate PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month!

Throughout PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month, PTAs are engaging families in learning about simple ways that they can lead healthy lifestyles together. Whether it is planting a school garden, attending a family fitness event, or assisting a school in the development of its health policies, PTAs and families alike are making great strides in improving student health and reducing childhood obesity.

This year, National PTA was able to double the number of PTA Healthy Lifestyles grants with a generous donation from Jamba Juice.

In all, 45 local PTAs will receive up to \$1,000 to support nutrition and physical activity in their communities, impacting over 28,000 students in this school year alone. For example, Southern Boone County PTA in Ashland, MO, is inviting the community to participate in a work day for the school garden on November 14. The PTA hopes that learning how the greenhouse is constructed for the garden will inspire families to create one for their gardens at home. Additionally, they will be taking a lunchtime break, where attendees will learn new ways to prepare the local produce from the garden.

If your school did not receive a grant, you can still get involved. Visit [www.pta.org/healthylifestyles](http://www.pta.org/healthylifestyles) to download the PTA Healthy Lifestyles Parent's Guide and to find helpful nutrition information

## PTA Digest: Here is the latest information on some programs and resources from National PTA

### **Let's Fight Flu Together!**

It's important to stay healthy this season from both the seasonal flu and H1N1. The CDC recommends that all children from age 6 months to 19 years receive a seasonal flu vaccination and all people from 6 months to 24 years of age receive an H1N1 vaccination. For more information on H1N1, visit <http://www.flu.gov/> or talk with your physician or local health department. To see if a local PTA is sponsoring a seasonal flu vaccination clinic, go to [PTA.org/flushotclinics](http://PTA.org/flushotclinics) and click "**Schedule a Vaccination**" to search by ZIP code. Let's Fight Flu Together!

<b>PTA Radio</b>	<a href="#">The latest broadcasts from PTA Radio:</a> <b>Partnership Between National PTA and Jamba Juice</b> with James D. White, President and CEO-Jamba Juice; <b>The Power of One</b> with Dr. Steven Sroka, internationally-acclaimed motivational speaker, educator and author.
<b>Dads Recruitment Kit</b>	The National Fatherhood Initiative, a <a href="#">PTA MORE</a> alliance member, created a toolkit to help get men more involved in PTA and other parent groups. To find out more about the kit, read about the <a href="#">Just Get IN the PTA: Dads Recruitment Kit</a> on the NFI website.
<b>School Violence</b>	In response to tragic episodes of violence in schools and inflicted on schoolchildren, PTA produced a package of <a href="#">school violence resources</a> for parents to assist them in dealing with the aftereffects and guide them in prevention.

**National PTA Legislative Conference is March 9-11, 2010**  
**. Please mark your calendars and save the date!**

On March 9–11, 2010, PTA will hold its annual National Legislative Conference in Washington DC. This three-day conference will inspire and provide in-depth analysis on PTA's latest federal public policy priorities affecting families, schools, and communities through skill-building trainings, workshops, panel discussions, guest speakers, and Capitol Hill visits. The Legislative Conference will offer workshops on topics such as Advocacy 101, Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) reauthorization, Child Nutrition Act reauthorization, and the Common Core State Standards Initiative.

Applications for PTA's Outstanding Advocacy Awards for state and local advocacy and the [Shirley Igo Advocate of the Year Award](#) for federal advocacy are now available online. Award applications are due **December 4, 2009**. To nominate an advocate, please visit PTA's National Legislative Conference webpage.

Award winners will be notified the week of January 10, 2010, and honored at the National Legislative Conference on March 11.

**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](mailto:ptadee@yahoo.com)), Northeast: Julie Klingenberger ([jklingenberger04@comcast.net](mailto:jklingenberger04@comcast.net)), Central: Sharon Wise ([swise36@comcast.net](mailto:swise36@comcast.net)); Southern: Natalie Jones**

**([twinmama02@yahoo.com](mailto:twinmama02@yahoo.com)).** Also don't forget to check out the Indiana PTA website at [www.indianapta.org](http://www.indianapta.org) for some great information and the revamped National PTA website at [www.pta.org](http://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.