

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.

This is a special edition email. Several people answered last week's question: Who or what are you thankful for in PTA???

In everyone's life, at some time, our inner fire goes out. It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being. We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit.

-- Albert Schweitzer

I am thankful to all Indiana PTA local unit leaders and members. We are the voice of the children of Indiana for public education. Our goal is to be able to go to our Legislators and tell them that we have increased the number of voices representing Indiana children by 20% and you all are making that happen. We're all in this together; 30,000 voices strong! From Tina Hartman

We are thankful for North Side High School Principal, Chuck Deford. He is a past Indiana PTA Outstanding Principal and was recently awarded the "People Helping People" award by the Physicians Health Plan/Komets, both well deserved. He is a kind person who cares about people. His staff at North Side respect and appreciate his leadership. He is dedicated to his staff, parents and students and supports the PTA in so many ways. He loves involved parents and offers opportunities for parents to take part in our school. North Side High School PTA is very fortunate to have a Principal like Mr. Deford! We are so blessed!!! From North Side High School PTA

I am grateful for the guidance and friendship that Sue Switzer has allowed me the last 20 years. She is certainly my mentor and inspiration. I am also thankful for the new PTA board at School #56, Delana, Nashia, Nana, Denise, and Mary Ann. They have challenged me and taken on an awesome task. They have already contributed to the students at #56 and IPS. By the way, the IPS Board of School Commissioners will be honoring and thanking our Nana (Dorothy) Miller, PTA Vice President on Tuesday, November 24 for her dedication and commitment to the students, staff, and community of Indianapolis Public Schools. From Maria Wright, Francis W. Parker Montessori #56 School Community Coordinator

I am thankful to Mr. Adam Swinford and Diane Janes from Northwood Middle School PTSA. Northwood has struggled to find officers to fill positions this year and first year Principal, Adam Swinford, jumped right into action and has held monthly PTA meetings to

fill those positions. Parent, Diane Janes, has stepped up to do all legwork for Northwood PTSA to keep them afloat. They are great people to work with! From Tina Hartman

“No one who achieves success does so without the help of others. The wise and confident acknowledge this help with gratitude.” -- Alfred North Whitehead . Brookview Elementary PTA has a tradition of excellence, having been chosen as a Central Region Honor Unit for the past 5 years straight. Our Principal Tim Hanson was honored as the Indiana State PTA Diana Moates Richardson Outstanding Principal last spring. And so far this year we have had a 39% increase in membership. These successes would not have been possible if we did not have such an amazing school community. There is so much to be thankful for at Brookview! A dedicated, caring principal who understands the importance of parental involvement and having a thriving PTA in our school. A committed PTA board whose members buy into each other's ideas and then offer up their own thoughts to make every project we take on even better than what we initially conceived. A motivated team of volunteers who make tasks their own and lighten the loads of those around them. A staff who puts our children first to make “each child, each day, a success.” And all the smiles, hugs, bright-eyed greetings and exclamations of “last night was so fun!” that we receive each week from Brookview's Best students. Those are my moments of deepest gratitude that rekindle my soul and make everything we do worthwhile. From Carissa Dollar (PS: Thanks Carissa for the great quotes!)

I would like to thank Kim Sands, past Fort Wayne Area Council PTA President for her years of service and dedication. Kim has been an encouraging presence on the Board for many years but due to life's little surprises she has decided to resign from her current post as Legislative Chairman. I know I am joined by the remainder of our Council Board and those that have served before us, in thanking Kim for all she has done throughout her many years of involvement. To me personally she has been a wonderful resource and supporter of change. I have truly learned much from her gentle spirit and example. I wish her the best for the future, and want her to know her smiling face will be sorely missed at our meetings and events. Thank you Kim for all you have done, you are one very special lady! From Julie Klingenberg

Hammond Council PTA would like to thank everyone that attended PTA Appreciation Night on Tuesday, November 17th and for all of the wonderful food.

A special thank you to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Walter J. Watkins and the Board of Trustees for their continued support and their membership to the All School Community PTA Membership. From Dee Jones

I'm thankful for an outstanding team of volunteers and the great spirit that lives at Shawnee thanks to Principal Matt Schiebel and our staff! Kelly Shanks, Kelly Cumberland, Amy Tapp, Stephanie Borntreger, Betsy Snyder, Melonie & Chris Cawvey, Wendy & Clark Henkel, Vanessa Sheckler, Joanne Baker, and Jennifer Jordan are top-notch parents who are in on the planning of what our PTSA does – we all are lucky to have them volunteer for our school! I am very thankful to work with so great parents who donate items every time

we ask and the BEST principal who work to make our PTSA one of the best. I am really thankful for the custodians who help us on everything! Mr. Grinstead and his family are true supporters of our PTSA and it was a pleasure to work with Mr. Zent and Mrs. Potter on our Healthy Lifestyles event. More than anything, I am thankful for parents and staff members who have joined our PTSA this year and who support us every week by reading our email and helping where they can. To my Indiana PTA friends and fellow board members, thank you for your efforts and all you do for everyone across the state! To Tina Hartman, Indiana PTA President, you are simply the most dedicated and inspiring leader a person could work for! Lastly, I am very thankful for my family: Mike, Katie, Cara, Joe, Matt & Kelli who help me do what I do and who volunteer on so many things for PTA. I couldn't help our school or our state PTA without their support. From Kathie Green

We have much to be thankful for this season in Indiana PTA! We are thankful for the dedicated volunteers who promote Indiana PTA and do good works in schools across the state for our children.

In that spirit, here is a great program you may want to do...

XEROX IS DOING SOMETHING COOL: If you go to this web site, www.LetsSayThanks.com you can pick out a thank you card and Xerox will print it and it will be sent to a soldier that is currently serving in Iraq/Afghanistan. You can't pick out who gets it, but it will go to a member of the armed services. How AMAZING it would be if we could get everyone we know to send one!!! It is FREE and it only takes a second. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the soldiers received a bunch of these? Whether you are for or against the war, our soldiers over there need to know we are behind them. This takes just 10 seconds and it's a wonderful way to say thank you. Please take the time and please take the time to pass it on for others to do. We can never say enough thank yous.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

INDIANA PTA UPDATE

Indiana PTA Announces New Award Available to Recognize Outstanding Volunteers!

Indiana PTA is proud to announce a new award, to be given each year at the Indiana PTA Convention. The Outstanding Volunteer Award will be given to the volunteer that goes above and beyond for their PTA. Each PTA/PTSA member of a unit in good standing may nominate one individual. Three volunteers from each region will be chosen, with the Outstanding Volunteer announced at Convention in April. Entries are due February 1st! Forms and more details can be found at www.indianapta.org.

Note: Current members of the Indiana PTA Board of Managers are not eligible to be nominated.

Clarification of Citizenship Essay Entries

Here is a clarification for this year's Citizenship Essay Program: Each unit may submit no more than two (2) essays from any one (1) of the following divisions listed below.

Division 1: Upper Elementary grades 4,5

Division 2: Middle School/Junior High School grades 6,7, 8

Division 3: High School grades 9,10,11,12

If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Jones, Citizenship Coordinator, at mrsготchy@sbcglobal.net or by phone 219-845-2096.

Upcoming Indiana PTA Dates of Importance

Here are some dates to keep 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 Volunteer, and 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

PTA SUCCESS STORIES

We love getting these stories! PTA Success Stories will return next week! 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 and your school can be featured as next week's "PTA Success Story!"

NATIONAL PTA UPDATE

PTA Partnerships Update

Please share this important information with your PTA and members on new partnerships from National PTA.

National PTA is partnering with *Parenting* to serve as the **national media sponsor of Reflections**, and will feature the program in *Parenting* School Years and online at Parenting.com throughout Reflections' 40th anniversary year. Parenting's November issue includes an article about arts in education and features Reflections! *Parenting* has also created online galleries of Reflections entries from across the country, which can be viewed, along with the November issue article, at Parenting.com/PTA. *Parenting* is offering PTA members an **exclusive discounted subscription rate** for *Parenting* School Years: **11 issues for \$9.97** — a savings of 77% off the cover price! For every PTA member who subscribes, *Parenting* will donate \$1 to support National PTA. [Click here to Subscribe Now!](#)

National PTA has also partnered with **Consumer Reports** and the **National School Boards Association** to create the School Safety Alert Program to provide parents, schools, and educators with the most up to date information about product and food safety to keep your children safe. Safety tips and important recall information will be shared monthly in the PTA Parent E-Newsletter and online at PTA.org/safetyalert. As part of the partnership, PTA members also receive an exclusive discount to subscribe to Consumer Reports' web site that offers 1,000+ ratings, reviews, expert advice, product comparisons, and more.

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

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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 and click " Schedule a Vaccination " to search by ZIP code. Let's Fight Flu Together!
PTA Radio	<u>The latest broadcasts from PTA Radio:</u> Partnership Between National PTA and Jamba Juice with James D. White, President and CEO-Jamba Juice; The Power of One with Dr. Steven Sroka, internationally-acclaimed motivational speaker, educator and author.
Dads Recruitment Kit	The National Fatherhood Initiative, a PTA MORE 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 <u>Just Get IN the PTA: Dads Recruitment Kit</u> on the

	NFI website.
School Violence	In response to tragic episodes of violence in schools and inflicted on schoolchildren, PTA produced a package of school violence resources for parents to assist them in dealing with the aftereffects and guide them in prevention.

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National PTA Legislative Conference is March 9-11, 2010: DEADLINE TO NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR AN OUTSTANDING ADVOCATE AWARD NEARS!

. 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), 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.