

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**

### **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](http://www.indianapta.org).

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

### **Do You Use Twitter? INDIANA PTA Wants to Know!**

Indiana PTA is investigating the launch of an INPTA Twitter page. But we want to know... Do YOU use Twitter? We have set up a survey at [www.indianapta.org](http://www.indianapta.org) on the bottom of our homepage. Our PR/Marketing Committee is looking into this next step and would love your input. Take a few minutes now to take the survey on our website. Let us know, so we can stay connected!

### **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

**One more thank you...**

I missed this one for the thank you email last week: "I am so very thankful for all of the ladies (and men) that I get to serve on PTA with. From my local unit co-leaders who work tirelessly for the students in our school, to the FWAC board members who strive to bring the PTA message to all schools in our area, to those that serve on the Indiana Board of Managers with me who devote their time, energy, and resources to making a difference in the lives of children across the entire state. It is an honor to work with every one of them as we all do our part to Shape the Future of Indiana's Children. Thanks for ALL you do!" From Nichole Thomas

**PTA SUCCESS STORIES**

**Happy Anniversary to the following schools:**

Boston Middle School PTSA	12/29/1938
Perry Heights Middle School PTSA	12/18/1939
Brentwood Elementary School PTA	12/3/1958
Northwood Middle School PTSA	12/22/1959
Portage Middle School PTSA	12/16/1960
Franke Park Elementary School PTA	12/27/1960
Lincoln Elementary School PTA (Indy)	12/12/1961
Lane Middle School PTSA	12/29/1964
Snider High School PTSA	12/29/1964
Shawnee Middle School PTSA	12/2/1971
Lincoln Elementary School PTA (Roselawn)	12/2/1992
Leaders For Change PTA	12/4/2007

The **Shawnee PTSA Healthy Lifestyles Event** was a success! WE DID IT!!!! 53+ Pedometers to be used for our PE classes!!! 93 participants ate a Market Day Pyramid (portion controlled) dinner and visited the following businesses who had displays: Dupont Hospital, Parkview YMCA, America on the Move/Fort Wayne Cardiology, The McMillen Center for Health Education, Fitzone, Juice Plus, and the Kachmann MindBody Institute. Our speaker, Sarah Mohrman from Fort Wayne Cardiology, spoke to our families about making healthy choices and portion control. It was a WONDERFUL evening with a lot of good information given to our staff members and families. Thank you goes to Mrs. Potter and Mr. Zent, our PE teachers, for all their help; to staff members who attended and supported us; to all the businesses who jumped on this idea in such a great way; and to Mr. Schiebel who is simply the best principal to work with on any project! Thank you goes to Jazzercise for offering to do a class and buying three pedometers. Thank you also to Parkview YMCA for donating 25 pedometers to our PE classes, to Dupont Hospital for giving pedometers to families that attended the dinner, to Market Day for giving us a 20% discount on the food, and to BJ's Catering for cooking and serving the food and making it easy on our volunteers! Special thanks goes to Fitzone for stepping up and holding a class for us at the last minute and to our custodial staff at Shawnee who always help our PTSA with a smile and kindness! Note: Every PTA should consider holding a Healthy Lifestyles Event next November. For more information on holding an event go to [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org).

**Brookview Elementary PTA** has entered into another partnership! Last year one of our board members (Kim Parkhill) wrote a Resolution about the effects of media on the self esteem of our young girls. We are now following through on the intent of that resolution by partnering with Girls Inc. as a pilot school for their Redefining Beauty program. We will be running FREE 6 week long sessions for 6-8 and 9-11 year old girls in both the winter and spring sessions. Approximately 15-20 students will be invited to participate in each age group.

**We love getting these stories! 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!"**

## REGION NEWS

### **FWAC PTA Reflections & Citizenship Deadline**

The months have gone by fast, and now it's time to ***MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT*** to drop off your 2009-2010 Reflections and Citizenship Entries from Fort Wayne Area Council schools!

Submissions must be dropped off at one of the following times and locations:

Tuesday through Thursday

December 1, 2, & 3, 2009

OR

Friday, December 4, 2009

**Snider High School**, Main Lobby  
4600 Fairlawn Pass (Door #1 on Fairlawn)

Fort Wayne, IN 46815

**3:30 to 5:00 pm/BY APPOINTMENT**

**ANTHIS Career Center**, Main Entrance  
1200 South Barr Street (From Parking Lot on Barr)

Fort Wayne, IN 46802

**4:00 to 6:00 pm/BY APPOINTMENT**

Contact **Diane Brow** at [mrswave@verizon.net](mailto:mrswave@verizon.net) or **492-7343** for your appointment, and to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Before submissions are brought in, all paperwork should be completed, as well as proper packaging of entries. For guidelines, take some time to go through your "Chairperson's Checklist," included in your packets. Remember, only 2 entries per grade level will be accepted in each category. Finally, please allow 10-15 minutes at drop-off to go over your entries together and make sure all is in order! We look forward to seeing all the creative work of our students!

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

-

**National PTA Legislative Conference is March 9-11, 2010:**

**DEADLINE TO NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR AN OUTSTANDING ADVOCATE AWARD IS THIS WEEK!**

**. 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.