

The PTA Link



February 2012

Hamilton County Council

PTA[®]

everychild.one voice.

3074 Hickory Valley Road
Chattanooga, TN 37412
www.hcptacouncil.org

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Upcoming Events

February 3 – The deadline for RSVP's to the HCC PTA Founder's Day.
February 8 – Founder's Day Luncheon at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo
February 14 – Valentine's Day
February 16 – Final Membership Reports due to the Council
February 20 – President's Day – No School
February 25 – Shopping Day at the Teacher Supply Depot
February 28 – Southeast Regional Winter Conference

Message from the Council President by Badiema Waldrep, President



We are now well into the second half of the school year. You may be thinking "five down and four more months to go". It is not an easy task being a leader of any kind, not even a PTA leader. If you've been a part of the PTA at your child's school for very long, then more than likely you have experienced PTA "burnout". It may have been a mild case, or it could have been a more severe one. It is so easy to get sucked into the workings of a PTA. Being part of the PTA is attractive to most of us because we get to help be a part of what goes on at our children's schools, and by getting involved we hope to help make a difference in their lives and the lives of others.

I have held many titles on the PTA Boards of my children's schools and on the Council. I have done everything from Membership to Fundraising Chair to Treasurer, and so on to President. I will admit fully that I have suffered from burnout at one time or another. You get so invested in what is going on that you easily leave little time for yourself or for your family. I used to tell myself that one day I would learn how to say "no". It is still not a strong point of mine but as a PTA leader you will quickly learn that it is a must.

The simplest solution is opting out of PTA work altogether. It may be a solution but is not in your child's best interest. Studies show that when parents get involved at their child's school, their child does better. So, how do you thrive in the high-pressure culture of the modern PTA? Here are some tips to make sure you don't burn out:

- **Don't Over Commit** - It is ok to volunteer for just one thing or to be on just a couple of committees instead of spreading yourself too thin.
- **Don't Forget Your Family** – Make sure that you put the needs of your family first. It is easy to get involved in a group or project and find that it consumes you.
- **Don't Be Bullied** – If your answer is "no" then stick to your guns. It is ok to say no at times and you can do it in a nice way. Don't let others talk you into committing to something you don't want to do or don't have the time to.
- **Delegate!** – Just because you are in charge does not mean you have to do it all. Allow others to help you. It is true that there is an art to delegation, but it is equally true that if you don't ask for help, you certainly will not get any.

So as we all take to the tasks of planning our next event, meeting or fundraiser, we need to remember to step back and take a breath. Work in some "down time" so you can rejuvenate and enjoy being a parent volunteer all of the school year.

Sincerely,

Badiema Waldrep

President
Hamilton County Council of PTAs
hccptas@HCDE.org

"I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed." –
Booker T. Washington

Celebrate Founder's Day!

Each year in February the National PTA honors the three founders of the PTA, as well as past and present PTA leaders by observing Founder's Day. This is the perfect time to renew our dedication to the Purposes of the PTA that were defined by our founders more than a century ago by honoring those in our county who have gone above and beyond in their contributions to the children in our schools.

Please join the Hamilton County Council of PTAs on **Wednesday, February 8, 2012** as we celebrate our annual Founder's Day. This year's event will be held at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo.

If you plan to attend please remit \$15.00 per person by Friday, February 3, 2012 to:

HCC PTAs Founder's Day
3074 Hickory Valley Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421

Founders Day

Founders Day is a reminder of the substantial role that PTA has played locally, regionally, and nationally in supporting parent involvement and working on behalf of all children and families. It's a time to reflect and take pride in our many accomplishments, and to renew our commitment to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for parents, and a strong advocate for public education.

PTA's founders Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Alice McLellan Birney, and the founder of Georgia's Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, Selena Sloan Butler, were women of imagination and courage. They understood the power of individual action, worked beyond the accepted barriers of their day, and took action to literally change the world.

They had a simple idea-to improve the lives and futures of all of our children. As much as other conditions in America may have changed, that idea has not. PTAs keep it alive.

Founders Day is celebrated every year on February 17th



*Alice McLellan Birney,
Phoebe Apperson Hearst and
Selena Sloan Butler.*

WHAT HAS PTA DONE?

Since 1897 PTA has been instrumental in:

- Securing child labor laws
- Supporting compulsory public education, including kindergarten
- Creating U.S. Public Health Service and nutrition programs
- Promoting education for handicapped children and all children with special needs
- Organizing school libraries
- Establishing a juvenile justice system

WHAT IS PTA DOING?

Today PTA is:

- Leading a state and national coalition against tuition tax credits
- Sponsoring family reading programs
- Working to improve TV quality
- Educating on becoming a responsible parent,
- Offering programs for parents on nutrition, teenage sexuality, drugs and alcohol, career development

Plus programs on:

- Urban education
- Cultural arts
- Standardized tests
- Health education

**JOIN PTA
TODAY!**

The PTA Emblem

The Oak Tree emblem of the Parent Teacher Association was adopted in 1920.

The Trunk represents the National Congress.

The Main Branches are the state Congresses.

The Small Branches stand for Regions and Councils.

The Twigs represent the many local associations.

The Leaves typify our millions of members.

Last and most significant of all,

The Acorns represent the fruits of accomplishments of our work from which future developments will rise.

Each in turn draws its lie from the parent stem.





Southeast Regional PTA Winter Conference

Join us and learn why

“Every Voice Counts In PTA”

Guest Speaker will be
Karen Davis, Tennessee
PTA President.

The topic will be: Why be
a Part of the “A” Team
The Purpose of PTA.

Tuesday, February 28 -
6:00 PM

East Ridge Elementary
1014 John Ross Road
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Please send your

R.S.V.P. - Gail Phillips at
gphillips@tnpta.org.



Spotlight School of the Month

Ganns Middle Valley Elementary

Caroline Rowell, President

Ronald Reagan said, "We cannot help everyone, but everyone can help someone." This statement sums up the motive of the Ganns Middle Valley PTA traveling 20 miles to East Lake elementary to volunteer once a month. We do little things like copying, collating, sharpening pencils and anything else teachers need to give them extra time in the classroom. This all started when I sent home a volunteer request form to the Ganns parents and was flooded with over 200 responses. I knew then that the teachers of Ganns would be well taken care of, as always, and wondered if there was anywhere else we could use our skills to help another school. I had heard that some urban schools struggle to find enough volunteers. So, after doing a little research, I found that to be true here in Hamilton county. It really has been a blessing for myself, and the up to eight people from Ganns that go once a month to help. We love it! The staff at East Lake is the best. We really enjoy the time we spend there with them. East Lake Elementary is in the process of rebuilding their PTA and we are doing what we can to help them in that endeavor as well. I am excited to see what we will accomplish together.

There are needs everywhere and I know that sometimes it feels overwhelming as to where and what needs our attention. I believe you will never regret investing into children and their education. I also believe that there are enough parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters that no school should lack the help they need. There really is no excuse. We have spent four hours once a month and made a difference. I know that if we all work together and spend as little as one hour once a month in a Hamilton county school that Hamilton county would rise to the top. It takes very little effort but makes a huge difference. You just have to get involved.

Mendi Catlett
Ganns Middle valley PTA

Arts in Education Grant

The Tennessee PTA is now offering a mini-grant program to assist local units in Arts in Education. Four grants, up to \$250 each, will be awarded each year: three grants for the National PTA Reflections Arts Program and one grant for the Tennessee PTA Citizenship Essay Program. This opportunity is made possible by a generous grant from Wal-Mart. The grant applications were included in the November mailing to all local unit presidents.

For more information, contact Tennessee PTA Reflections Chairman: Debbie Waggoner at dwaggoner@tnpta.org.

If your PTA has something that you would like to share in our monthly newsletter please send those in by the 15th of each month to be considered as our “Spotlight PTA” of the Month. Send information to: The Link Editor: Badiema Waldrep at hccptas@hcde.org or Scottie Summerlin at scottiepta@gmail.com.

Health/Safety Poster Contest

“Playing it Safe in the Car”
(Pre-K – 8th Grade)

“Arrive Alive...Don’t Text and Drive”
(8th – 12th Grade)

Deadline for entries to the Hamilton
County PTA Council:

Friday, February 10, 2012

For questions please contact the
HCC Health/Safety/Wellness
Chairman Kris Badger at:
thebadge2@epbf.com



Teacher Supply Depot

Hamilton County Council of PTAs to hold third Shopping Day!

On Saturday, February 25, Hamilton
County educators will be able to
shop at the HCC PTA Teacher Supply
Depot. It will be the third opening of
the 2011-2012 school year.

Registration will begin on Friday,
February 10, 2012.

There will be a work day for
volunteers on January 25, 2012.

Location: Mary Ann Garber School
2225 Roanoke Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37406

Contact: Teacher Supply Depot Chairman
Jimi Crooks
jcrooks67@aol.com



Give Kids a Smile!

Each year on the first Friday in February, thousands of the nation's dentists and their dental team members provide free oral health care services to children from low-income families across the country. (While the first Friday of February is the recommended event date, Give Kids A Smile programs can be successfully conducted during any month of the year. Some dentists may choose to pick another date that is more convenient to their schedule.)

The ADA's Give Kids A Smile[®] program enhances the oral health of large numbers of needy children. Give Kids A Smile (GKAS) activities also highlight for policy makers the ongoing challenges that disadvantaged families face in finding dental care.
[Find a program today!](#)

The best way to get involved is to register your local program. If you are participating with a dental society, dental school or community health center, please allow the coordinator to sign you up. If you are a GKAS coordinator or an individual dental office, please [sign up now](#).

February is African-American History Month

One of the many reasons that February is such a celebrated month is that time is taken to review and reflect on the many achievements and accomplishments of African-Americans. Their grit and determination throughout history has helped make our country a place where people want to live today. Booker T. Washington and Martin Luther King Jr., are just two names of pioneers for civil rights and a better way of life for African-Americans in our country.

In society where obstacles stand in the way of anyone, particularly African-Americans, people such as Martin Luther King persevered and endured hardships, serving as an example for all of us. King once said “Oh, the worst of all tragedies is not to die young, but to live until I am seventy-five and yet not ever truly have lived.” And lived he did, forging a road that would change the course of history in our nation.

Let us take time this month to reflect on the many contributions made by numerous African-Americans throughout history and today.

PTA Take Your Family to School Week is celebrated each February to pay tribute to PTA's legacy of building family-school partnerships. PTA Take Your Family to School Week will be held **February 12–18, 2012** with the purpose of expanding and enhancing family engagement in schools across the country.

National PTA[®] offers grants to PTAs to implement programs that engage families in the school community. For more information go to: www.pta.org.

Treasurer's Corner

As of the January 31, 2012
the following are the
reported financial balances
for the

HCC of PTAs:

Checking: \$ 6,939.05

Savings: \$ 731.96

Contests Awards and Scholarships

(Please note the change of deadlines
for the Council due dates!)

Health/Safety Poster Contest

"Playing it Safe in the Car" (Pre-K – 8th Grade)
"Arrive Alive...Don't Text and Drive"
(8th – 12th Grade)

Deadline for entries to the Hamilton County PTA
Council: **Friday, February 10, 2012**
(HCC Chairman: Kris Badger)

Awards/Scholarships

All applications for awards that are presented at
the Principal's Dinner in April have a deadline of:
March 1, 2012.

Scholarships include the Eula A. Johnston
Scholarship and the Sandra A. Black Scholarship.
Applications for these scholarships are due by

March 1, 2012.

(HCC Chairman: Tracey Freeman)

All Volunteer Hours must be turned in to the
Council no later than **April 1, 2012.** Please send
a volunteer list and total hours to Council
Chairman Angelia Stinnett at
astinnett12@yahoo.com.

Please note that your PTA had to submit its
membership to the HCC PTA by November 16,
to qualify for contest participation and awards
on the Council level. If entries were sent
directly to the Tennessee PTA they do NOT
qualify for HCC PTA awards this spring.

All forms and applications have been emailed
to your PTA Presidents.



SAVE THE DATE

Start making plans now to
bring your students to the
Tennessee State Capitol in
Nashville!

Wed. Feb. 15, 2012
Students Storm the Hill

Wed. Apr. 18, 2012
PTA Day on the Hill

PTA FACT

An Honorary National or State Life
Membership Award is the highest
honor a PTA can bestow on an
individual. It is a PTA's way of
recognizing a person whose service
to children has been exemplary.
The honoree can be PTA members,
a member of the community, an
educator or anyone else who has
been an advocate for children in
the areas of education, health,
welfare and legislation.

THE PTA VISION

Making every child's
potential a reality.

MEMBERSHIP

The following is the final membership
deadline for the Hamilton County
Council of PTAs and the Tennessee
PTA. For copies of the report forms,
please go to www.tnpta.org and
download them from the
"membership" section. The username
and password are on the back of your
membership card.

Final Membership Report

Hamilton County Council deadline
February 16, 2012
Tennessee PTA deadline
March 1, 2012

Tennessee PTA Convention

May 3 - 6, 2012
Sheraton Music City
Nashville, TN



Essential Question

Q. Can a PTA Board be appointed?

A. No. A PTA must elect a nominating
committee. The unit bylaws should
outline how the nominating committee
members are elected and how many
members should be on the nominating
committee. The nominating committee
members have the responsibility of
bringing forward the name of the most
eligible person for each elected
position. The board and general
membership must then vote on the
nominees.