

# The PTA Link



January 2012

Hamilton County Council

**PTA**<sup>®</sup>

*everychild.one voice.*

3074 Hickory Valley Road  
Chattanooga, TN 37412  
[www.hcptacouncil.org](http://www.hcptacouncil.org)

## Contents

Upcoming Events  
From the President  
February - Founder's Day  
Membership Cards  
Membership Deadlines  
National Birth Defects Prevention  
Spotlight PTA of the Month  
Coordinated School Health  
Teacher Supply Depot Opening  
Citizenship Reminder  
College Research Project  
Treasurer's Corner  
Contest Awards & Scholarships  
Save the Date  
Good News  
State PTA Convention  
National PTA Convention  
Essential Question

## Upcoming Events

**January 9:** Students return to school from Winter Break

**January 11:** HCC PTA Executive Committee Meeting (Council only)

**January 16:** Martin Luther King Day observed. No school.

**January 25:** Work Day at Teacher Supply Depot

**January 27:** Council Deadline for HCC PTA Citizenship Contest

## Message from the Council President by Badiema Waldrep, President



Happy New Year! I truly hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday. It is once again that time of year when we make our resolutions. Whether it is

to lose weight, get organized or save money, we all vow to change something to kick-off the New Year.

I would like for parents to make it their number one resolution to be more involved, not just in your child's school but also in your child's life. We all get busy with whatever our day to day routine requires, often getting so caught up in working to provide things *for* our children, that we forget to take the time to be *with* our children. Many times we hear ourselves saying "Not right now", or "I don't have time". We need to stop and remember how quickly our children grow and what kind of examples we want to be for them. After all, children learn by example.

The following is an entry from an Inspirational booklet once given to me by the Hamilton County Council of PTAs. It is entitled "In Praise of Parents", and was submitted by Gail Phillips of our Council and State PTA Boards. This entry makes you stop and think about the kind of parent that you want to be for your children and hope that when they are grown, that this is how they remember you.

Sincerely,

*Badiema Waldrep*

President  
Hamilton County Council of PTAs  
[hccptas@HCDE.org](mailto:hccptas@HCDE.org)

## In Praise of Parents

*There are people who faithfully save paper towel rolls and cottage cheese containers (even when they hate cottage cheese) just because you've said you need them for "a project", and these same people never laugh at you or ask you why.*

*There are people who don a costume and march around the neighborhood at Halloween, even though there's a good chance they'll run into somebody from the bank.*

*There are people who get plaques made of spray-painted macaroni shells for Christmas and who actually hang them on the wall for everyone to see.*

*There are people who stay up half the night arranging tiny red candy hearts into smiley faces on Valentine cupcakes.*

*There are people who hold bake sales and run school fairs and something called "pizza day" to raise money for a learning center computer.*

*There are people who take time off of work to come to school for something called "career day", where they try to explain to a bunch of puzzled kids (their own included) what in the world they do for a living.*

*There are people who voluntarily climb on a bumpy school bus, where the decibel level can't even be measured, and ride what seems to be 7,000 miles to the zoo. Then these same people all in the name of education accompany their little group into the ape house amid cries of "Eeewwww! It stinks in here! That one looks just like my brother! Eeewwww! Do you see what he did?"*

*There are people who help with homework, sign report cards, run copies, who show up for the school play and applaud until their hands ache.*

*And then these same people tell you that you're doing a great job and that their kids love school because of you.*

*There are people called parents.*

## February - Founder's Day!

**Wednesday, February 8, 2012**  
will be the Hamilton County Council of PTAs annual  
**Founder's Day Program.**

This year's event will be held at the  
**Chattanooga Choo Choo.**

Cost for the luncheon and program is  
**\$15.00** per person.

Please RSVP to our Founder's Day Chairman  
Lori Storey at [salecreekpts@gmail.com](mailto:salecreekpts@gmail.com) by  
**Friday, February 3, 2012.**

All monies can be mailed to

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

before Friday, February 3, 2012 or you may pay at the door the  
day of the event. If you choose to pay at the door please make  
sure that you RSVP in advance by Friday, February 3, 2012 so that  
we can plan accordingly.

Please plan now to include this in your PTA's budget. This is a  
great opportunity to learn about PTA history and celebrate all we  
have accomplished over the past century.



## Do you have extra membership cards?

Please return them to the  
Tennessee PTA State  
Office, so they can  
distribute them to schools  
that need extra  
membership cards. The  
state only receives a  
limited number of  
membership cards from  
National PTA each year.

Thanks for your help!

## 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](http://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

## National Birth Defects Prevention Month

**Sponsor:** The National Birth Defects Prevention Network



National Birth Defects Prevention Month is a time to raise awareness of birth defects and promote healthy pregnancies.

A birth defect is a problem that happens while a baby is developing in the mother's body. One out of every 33 babies in the United States is born with a birth defect.

Many birth defects can be prevented. If you are pregnant or planning to get pregnant, these tips can help you have a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby:

- Take a multivitamin with folic acid every day before and during pregnancy.
- See your doctor or midwife regularly as soon as you think you're pregnant and throughout your pregnancy.
- Make sure your vaccinations are up to date.
- Eat well and stay active.
- Avoid alcohol, smoking, and other drug use.
- Prevent infections from food and other sources.

For additional information go to:  
[www.healthfinder.gov](http://www.healthfinder.gov)



## Spotlight School of the Month

Westview Elementary

*Ashlie Henderson, President*

I wanted to let you know an outline of our cultural arts program this year. Our original plan was to spring-board off of the Reflections program and build our activities around the National PTA contest. This would give us a theme to work from and hopefully increase the number of entries, but bottom line let us partner with the community to increase the focus on cultural arts at our school from the PTA.

1. We definitely informed our school earlier about the program and made it one of our top discussion points at our big PTA meetings.
2. We tried to build all of our programs around the different types of potential entries. (video, dance, visual art etc...)
3. We had a local owner of a dance studio come and in and meet with our PE teacher. She was willing to put together a curriculum that she would help our PE teacher teach to the children regarding Diversity and Dance. In return we sent out a letter to all the parents outlining what was covered in the class and what parents might want to discuss with their children concerning the content. This whole program was very well received by the children, teachers, principal and parents. Over 750 children benefitted from this program.
4. We also held two free afterschool workshops on visual arts. We had to break the class up into two time slots due to the overwhelming response. We had approximately 30 kids in each session. This program was taught by the local art teacher that conducts afterschool art classes that are held at our school for a semester fee. Again great response from kids and parents.
5. One of our 4th grade teachers held a free afterschool workshop for video production. She utilized the theme of diversity. This workshop was geared to 4th and 5th graders and was attended by 25 children.
6. One of our most exciting programs was hosting an "Afternoon at the Museum" for our school families. We coordinated this program with the Hunter Museum to encourage parents to go down to the museum with their families on a particular free Sunday afternoon. We had over 250 people register for this program. It was wonderful to see so many faces down at the museum enjoying the artwork as a family.
7. We attempted to get a local Professor from UTC who is a poet to do a seminar for our 4th and 5th grade classes. This seminar would have been working congruently with our teachers' curriculum on poetry. We were not able to secure those plans but will continue to try to bring that into the school.

This was our first year trying any of these ideas and I was so proud of our chairman's (Ginny Runyan) work and all the people who helped her. I really think we were able to bring a fresh perspective to Cultural Arts and provide for some ideas to continue and grow the program next year.

Our second *Passport to Literacy* will be held on January 20th at 6:30 p.m. We have secured a grant from the Community Foundation and will be bringing in Anne Dewdney a world renowned children's author of "My Mama is a Llama". We have lots planned. We were so excited that another local elementary PTA, after we sent them all of our information on our last year's *Passport to Literacy*, conducted one of their own. I talked with them after the program and they said it was a huge success.

If your PTA has something that you would like to share in our monthly newsletter please send those in by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:hccptas@hcde.org) or Scottie Summerlin at [scottiepta@gmail.com](mailto:scottiepta@gmail.com).

## Coordinated School Health

Are there any PTA local units that would like a licensed dietitian to speak at one of your meetings? The Hamilton County Department of Education's Coordinated School Health division can arrange a dietitian to come to your school and they are available at no cost.

Also, if you would like to, they can provide a speaker on the topic of school, student, and staff health. They can provide a current update on what is going on in our schools concerning health and also ideas on how to improve the physical, mental, and emotional health of students so they can reach their maximum academic potential.

If you are interested in these services please contact:

**Russell Cliche**  
Coordinated School Health  
Phone: (423)209-5461



## 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](mailto:jcrooks67@aol.com)

## Citizenship Essay Contest



### "I am a good citizen because..."

Deadline for entries to the HCC PTA has been extended to **Friday, January 27, 2012**

**More information** regarding the contest description, entry form, and guidelines were sent to local units in November. Please contact us if you did not receive this information.

If you have any questions contact: HCC PTA Citizenship Chairman:  
Connie McNamara  
[mcnamara\\_connie@hotmail.com](mailto:mcnamara_connie@hotmail.com)

### College Choice Research Project Marketing Research and Analysis Class, Dalton State College

*(Dr. Stephen Le May)*

The marketing research class at Dalton State College is gathering data on how prospective students make college choices, and how parents and teachers may influence that choice. We are also gathering data on the brand image of Dalton State College. The surveys take between three and eight minutes.

You may review the surveys by clicking on the links below and completing them, or by logging in to our account at [www.SurveyMonkey.com](http://www.SurveyMonkey.com). The username is DSCSOB and the password is MARK4121. The username and password are case sensitive. The links to the surveys are:

survey for prospective students at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/M5YYWS9>  
survey for teachers at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/X9X93BH>  
survey for parents at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/X75Z37Q>

We have devised three principal ways to gather data for this project: 1.) electronic data collection through Survey Monkey.com; 2.) in-person distribution and collection of surveys from classes and groups of parents or teachers; and 3.) physical distribution of the surveys in gathering areas for potential respondents. Each is described below.

#### Electronic Data Collection through SurveyMonkey.com

You can send an email to one or more of these groups with the appropriate link and a message encouraging people to complete the survey. We think that teachers, parents, and students can all benefit from this survey because it will help in thinking about their role in choosing a college, or about why they are choosing a school.

#### In-Person Distribution

We will be glad to attend any class meeting, faculty meeting, or parents' meeting to distribute and collect surveys in person. As an incentive, we will bring doughnuts or Panera Bread bagels. Just email me and we will set up a schedule.

#### In-Place Distribution

We will be glad to place surveys in faculty lounges or other gathering places with an envelope or a box for completed surveys. For faculty lounges, we will place a basket of bagels, fruit, or doughnuts to encourage completion of the surveys.

## Treasurer's Corner

As of the December 7, 2011 council meeting, the following are the reported financial balances for the

HCC of PTAs:

Checking: \$ 7,004.43

## Contests Awards and Scholarships

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

### Citizenship Contest

"I am a good citizen because..."

Deadline for entries to the HCC PTA Council:

**Friday, January 27, 2012**

(HCC Chairman: Connie McNamara)

### Health/Safety Poster Contest

"Playing it Safe in the Car" (Pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)  
"Arrive Alive...Don't Text and Drive"  
(8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.



## 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

PTAs at the local level are valuable assets to their school communities by providing educational and parent involvement information, resources, events, and activities. They are linked to the state PTA and National PTA, forming a nationwide network of members working on behalf of all children and youth.

### THE PTA VISION

Making every child's potential a reality.

## GOOD NEWS!

Hamilton County Council of PTAs is working with Comcast Cable to get the word out to local schools about Internet Essentials, which allows children on the free and reduced lunch program to receive a low cost computer and low cost internet service. This is a nationwide program that the Federal Communications Commission and the National PTA both support to help reduce the digital divide. For more information, go to

[www.internetessentials.com](http://www.internetessentials.com)



## Tennessee PTA Convention

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



## Essential Question

**Q.** Can PTA support a candidate for school board (or other elected office)?

**A.** No. This is an absolute prohibition by the Internal Revenue Service. The IRS states that a PTA may not intervene or participate, either directly or indirectly, in any campaign for any candidate for public office. To maintain its tax-exempt status, PTAs must be very aware of this rule.