

The PTA Link



November 2011

Hamilton County Council

PTA[®]

everychild.one voice.

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

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Upcoming Events

November 2: HCC PTA Executive Committee Meeting

November 5: Teacher Supply Depot Opening

November 11: Veteran's Day

November 16: Membership Report - Hamilton County Council deadline

December 7: HCC PTA Meeting - Legislative Forum - 11:00 a.m., Hixson Middle School

Message from the Council President by Badiema Waldrep, President



Fall is in the air as the leaves have begun their vibrant transformation of painting the landscape. November is usually acknowledged as the month where most of us begin to look forward to the approaching holiday season. It is a time for families to gather and enjoy a nice meal and reflect back and give thanks for what has been received.

As I begin to busy myself with holiday plans, I also find myself looking at the things that I am most grateful for this year. My family and friends are what I hold closest to my heart. But as the new president of the Hamilton County Council of PTAs, I am so fortunate to have been teamed with a wonderful board. A group that has helped steer a successful start of our goals on the council. I am grateful for their dedication and diligence, their hard work and their compassion. It is hard to find enough individuals to fill a volunteer organization's board, but being able to not only fill those positions, but to be fortunate enough to fill them with volunteers that are excited and dedicated to their new tasks is truly a blessing for an organization's leader.

I hope that all of our local unit leaders are as fortunate this year to be working with a wonderful group of volunteers. If you are, I hope that you take every opportunity to let them know how much they are appreciated.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you, council members, local unit leaders and all parent volunteers in Hamilton County. The success of our PTAs, schools and especially our children depends on you and your continued support and dedication. Thank you for all that you do!

Sincerely,

Badiema Waldrep

President

Hamilton County Council of PTAs

hccptas@HCDE.org

"Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds." ~ *Theodore Roosevelt*

Why Should PTAs Join the Council?

PTA is for everyone who cares about students receiving the best possible education. We have more than 65 PTA local units in Hamilton County, representing families and linking them in partnership with teachers. The council is made up of local PTA leaders past and present, and belongs to the Tennessee and National PTA, which share goals of maximizing family involvement, improving public education, and promoting cooperation among home, school, and community. The Hamilton County Council of PTAs (HCC PTAs) encourages and assists with four mechanisms to achieve those goals.

1. **Advocacy** - Your PTA represents you to school and district administration, and the HCC PTA represents your PTA. Make your voice heard by attending PTA meetings, contacting your PTA Presidents, or reaching out to HCC PTA at hccptas@hcde.org. PTA councils convey student and family needs to pertinent governmental bodies, and join forces with other organizations promoting quality education and children's wellbeing.
2. **Information** - PTAs expend considerable effort on communication, and facilitating schools' information sharing. Our council and most local PTA units have a vehicle for e-mailing members or the parent body. They team with schools to produce weekly or monthly newsletters, many now distributed electronically. PTA meetings and conversations with PTA representatives are optimal ways to learn.
3. **Programs** - Various valuable aspects of school programming are made possible by PTAs. Some provide academic enhancement, others foster community cohesion, and most do both. These unique offerings solidify the identities of individual schools, while linking schools together as volunteers can work in concert through HCC PTA Council committees that supply consistency and support.
4. **Participation** - Every PTA relies on its membership's active participation. Dues are necessary, but what really makes a PTA work is its volunteers. Research shows adult engagement has significant input on student achievement, and community service is estimated to be worth more than \$25 an hour in Tennessee. There are PTA volunteer opportunities for anyone: minimal time, major roles; in school, at home or work; utilizing expertise or new areas; solo, social, interacting with children; artistic, financial; the list goes on. Your PTA is most effective when you attend PTA meetings. PTAs welcome and value everyone, even if you have never participated before. Please give a few hours each month to improve our schools. And if you would like to take PTA to the next level, the Hamilton County Council of PTAs is always looking for volunteers. We can also assist your local unit in finding ways to encourage parent participation.

Membership Cards are Important!

Attention Local PTA Units!!!

We cannot stress to you enough the importance of handing out membership cards to your PTA members. That means that every person who joins your PTA should receive a PTA membership card.

Did you know...?

Teachers in Hamilton County cannot shop at the HCC PTAs Teacher Supply Depot without showing proof of PTA membership.

If you had a tie vote at a PTA meeting, your membership would have to show their cards in order for their vote to count.

For additional information on the advantages of having a PTA membership card, go to www.pta.org.

The following are the membership deadlines 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.

Required Membership Report

Hamilton County Council deadline

November 16, 2011

Tennessee PTA deadline

December 1, 2011

Final Membership Report

Hamilton County Council deadline

February 16, 2012

Tennessee PTA deadline

March 1, 2012



Flu season is upon us. Help alleviate getting sick; remember to wash your hands often!

American Diabetes Month

November is American Diabetes Month. American Diabetes Month is a time to raise awareness of diabetes prevention and control. In the U. S. 24 million people are living with diabetes and 57 million more are at risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

Over time, if it's not controlled, type 2 diabetes can cause serious health problems like heart disease, stroke, and blindness. You may be at risk for type 2 diabetes if you:

- Are overweight
- Exercise less than 3 times a week
- Are over 45 years old
- Have high blood pressure or cholesterol
- Are African American, Latino, American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian American or Pacific Islander
- Have a parent, brother or sister with diabetes

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services -

Indoor Air Quality

by Kris Badger, HCC PTA Health, Safety & Wellness Chairman

Much has been said about outdoor air quality to the point that when the EPA issues a code orange day we don't send our students with asthma and allergies outside. What has not been discussed as much is the indoor air quality of schools. Did you know that poor indoor air quality can impact the comfort and health of students and staff, which in turn can affect concentration, attendance, and student performance? (EPA 402-F-03-011) The EPA provides a tool kit for schools to monitor and improve the indoor air quality. Here is a link to help your school become more informed about the indoor air quality in your building:

<http://www.epa.gov/oaqps001/community/details/i-schools.html>.

To view the National PTA resolution link for Indoor Air Quality visit <http://www.pta.org/2017.htm>

I would like to encourage all schools to take a look at these web sites and look for ways to improve the indoor air quality in their buildings.

2011 Healthy Walk

The Hamilton County Council of PTAs would like to thank all of the schools that participated in our third annual "Healthy Walk" on October 28th. Each school in Hamilton County was encouraged to spend 20 minutes at some point during the day taking a walk. This walk is one of the many ways that we hope to promote healthy lifestyles for our children in an effort to prevent childhood obesity.

Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate with us this year and it turned out to be a very rainy and cold day. Several schools did take the initiative and walked in their gyms and classrooms. If your school participated in the "Healthy Walk" this year, we would love to hear from you and for you to share any photos that you may have taken. Please send your comments and pictures to hccptas@hcde.org. Please make sure any photos of students, that their parents have granted permission for them to be photographed.

What Is STEM?

Many of us have heard the word STEM circulating around Hamilton County lately. This is an initiative that many of us are still relatively unfamiliar with. What is it? What does it mean? If you visit the Hamilton County Department of Education's website at www.hcde.org and search for STEM you will find the following information:

The acronym STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. This program was started by Judith A. Ramaley, the former director of the National Science Foundation's education and human-resources division. This approach to education is designed to revolutionize the teaching of subject areas such as mathematics and science by incorporating technology and engineering into regular curriculum by creating a "meta-discipline."

STEM Education attempts to transform the typical teacher-centered classroom by encouraging a curriculum that is driven by problem-solving, discovery, exploratory learning, and require students to actively engage a situation in order to find its solution.

All students benefit from the STEM program because it teaches independent innovation and allows students to explore greater depths of all of the subjects by utilizing the skills learned; these skills are going to be required in order for today's students to be tomorrow's global leaders. All jobs are requiring workers to have a greater ability to think critically, work as a member of a team and independently, and close the performance gap between our American students and those being produced in other countries.

For more information, please go to: <http://setennesseeestem.wordpress.com/>

Dr. Patricia Fioriello – <http://drpfconsults.com/understanding-the-basics-of-stem-education>

It's Tax Time!

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990 tax returns or an extension request *Form 8868* must be filed no later than the 15th day of the fifth month after the fiscal year-end. For example, if your PTA's fiscal year-ends on June 30, your *Form 990* is due on **November 15**.

See filing instructions at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i990.pdf>.

Citizenship Contest

"I am a good citizen because..."
Deadline for entries to the HCC PTA is **Friday, January 14, 2012**

More information regarding the contest description, entry form, and guidelines will be sent to local units in mid November

If you have any questions contact:
HCC Chairman: Connie McNamara

mcnamara_connie@hotmail.com

The deadline for *Reflections* entries to the Hamilton County PTA Council is **Monday, December 12, 2011**.

Entries sent directly to the Tennessee PTA are due Thursday, January 13, 2012.

**The PTA Council Office will be open to accept entries on:
Friday, December 9, Monday December 12, Tuesday December 13
9:00 AM until 1:00 PM**

If you are unable to drop off your entries during this time frame, please contact us directly and we will try to accommodate you.

Please make sure your entry forms are CORRECT and COMPLETED.

All rules and entry forms, including a fillable PDF, are located at www.ptareflections.org.

Christy Sylman
Reflections Chairperson
HCC PTA
csylman@bellsouth.net
423.244.6839



Diane Winne
Vice President HCC PTA
Student and PTA Achievements
sdwinne@comcast.net
423.227.4891



Teacher Supply Depot

Hamilton County Council of PTAs hosts second opening!

On Saturday, November 7 Hamilton County educators will be able to shop at the HCC PTA Teacher Supply Depot opening day. It will be the second opening of the 2011-2012 school year. Educators who are PTA members are encouraged to register for a time slot and come "shop for free" for items for their classrooms.

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

Contact: Teacher Supply Depot
Chairman
Jimi Crooks
Jcrooks67@aol.com

Photos from the TSD:



Check-out room



Cases of pencil pouches

**THE TSD WORK DAY IS SCHEDULED FOR
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2
FROM 9 AM-2 PM!**



**Celebrate Veterans Day
November 11**

Celebrating Veteran's Day

Veterans Day began as Armistice Day on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution marking the day for national observance in 1926, and the date became a national holiday in 1938.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation in 1954 that changed the name to Veterans Day to honor those who served in all American wars. The holiday now honors living veterans, and Memorial Day in May is reserved to honor deceased veterans.

National Education Association Celebrates the 90th American Education Week November 13-19, 2011

Distressed that 25 percent of the country's World War I draftees were illiterate and 9 percent were physically unfit, representatives of the NEA and the American Legion met in 1919 to seek ways to generate public support for education.

The conventions of both organizations subsequently adopted resolutions of support for a national effort to raise public awareness about the importance of education. In 1921, the NEA Representative Assembly in Des Moines, Iowa, called for designation of one week each year to spotlight education. In its resolution, the NEA called for: "An educational week ... observed in all communities annually for the purpose of informing the public of the accomplishments and needs of the public schools and to secure the cooperation and support of the public in meeting those needs."

Join us for the 90th Anniversary of AEW:

- Monday, November 14: Kick Off Day
- Tuesday, November 15: Parents Day
- Wednesday, November 16: Education Support Professional Day
- Thursday, November 17: Educator for a Day
- Friday, November 18: Substitute Educators Day

Treasurer's Corner

As of the October 5, 2011 council meeting, the following are the reported financial balances for the

HCC of PTAs:

Checking: \$ 3,840.33

Savings: \$ 606.89

Contests Awards and Scholarships

Reflections Contest

"Diversity Means..."

Deadline for entries to the Hamilton County PTA Council: **Monday, December 13, 2011.**

Citizenship Contest

"I am a good citizen because..."

Deadline for entries to the HCC PTA Council: **Friday, January 14, 2012**
(HCC Chairman: Connie McNamara)

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: **Wednesday, February 1, 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 Application and the Sandra A. Black Scholarship.
(HCC Chairman: Tracey Freeman)

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

December Program

On Wednesday, December 7 at 11:00 a.m. the Hamilton County Council of PTAs will host its annual Legislative Forum and Brunch. Local legislators are invited to participate in an open forum meeting with our PTA leaders and community. The meeting will be held at Hixson Middle School in the gymnasium. Attendees will be allowed to ask questions. Please join us for a very informative meeting.

Please note that there will not be a general meeting of the council in November!

PTA FACT

One of the brightest spots of the 1940's era in PTA was the establishment of a **Federally-Funded School Lunch Program**—a program that today feeds more than 26 million children a day.

THE PTA VISION

Making every child's potential a reality.

GOOD NEWS!

The Hamilton County Council of PTAs is expanding its newsletter to incorporate a new section. This new section will spotlight our local units.

If your PTA is working on a project that you would like to share or has an important event coming up, please send your information to us by the 15th of the month and your article may be chosen to be featured in the next month's edition of **The Link**.

Please send all of your information and articles to hccptas@hcde.org

Attention: Newsletter

Tennessee PTA Convention

May 4 - 6, 2012
Sheraton Music City
Nashville, TN



Essential Question

Q. In order to be a member of a PTA, must I have children at that school?

A. No. Anyone who subscribes to the basic policies and objects of PTA is eligible for membership. Student members must be in the 9th grade or above.