

Indiana PTA[®]

everychild.onevoice.

July 2010
Volume 5, Issue 6



Indiana PTA

2525 N. Shadeland Ave., D4
Indianapolis, IN 46219
Phone: (317) 357-5881
Fax: (317) 357-3751

PTA Officers

2010-2011 Officers

<i>President</i>	Tina Hartman
<i>President Elect</i>	Barry Jones
<i>Vice President</i>	Deb Fox
<i>Treasurer</i>	Kendra Rakestraw
<i>Secretary</i>	Nichole Thomas
<i>Central Region VP</i>	Sharon Wise
<i>NE Region VP</i>	Julie Klingenberger
<i>NW Region VP</i>	Celia White
<i>Southern Region VP</i>	Natalie Jones

Inside this Issue

President's Corner	1
Wal-Mart Votes	1
FBI Program	2
10 Ways to Get More Men Involved	3
More Men for Your PTA	3
Reflections Program	4
Standards for Family-School Partnership	4
Legislative Corner	5

The President's Corner

By Tina Hartman

Welcome back to PTA for the 2010-2011 school year. Some of you may have already started planning the many school activities you are involved in and some of you may be starting very soon. Either way it is important that we keep membership opportunities available at all activities throughout the year. Together we are a voice for all children to achieve the best education possible.

Keep everyone involved in your local unit by communicating with your members, welcoming them to all events and continuing to be inclusive of all members. This year, Indiana PTA, is working to increase male involvement as well as student participation in leadership. While we work toward this goal, let us not forget the glue that holds them all together, our moms or

the females who nurture our children.

Please plan to attend training in your region provided by your Indiana PTA Board of Managers. Allocate funds in your budget to attend the Indiana PTA Legislative Conference on March 23 and the Indiana PTA Convention April 15-17, 2011 where you will receive valuable training and networking opportunities (plus it's a lot of fun!)

I was honored to accept the Membership Increase plaque on your behalf at the National PTA Convention in June. Membership campaigns can be a lot of fun with contests and prizes. Please remember that membership is crucial to the work that we do on behalf of Indiana students because the number of voices we represent gives Indiana PTA a much more powerful voice in legislative activities.

Help Indiana PTA Receive a \$100,000 Grant

Indiana PTA is honored to be a finalist in the first annual Wal-Mart Associate Choice Program (ACP) for the chance to receive a \$100,000 grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation. This interactive campaign will allow Walmart and Sam's Club associates to vote for one of five charities to award the grant to. Walmart and Sam's Club associates will learn more about the process through their stores.

Indiana PTA has many great ideas to use the funding, including enhancing the Reflections Program and the Citizenship Essay Program for students, a Youth Leadership Summit, and more!

Help Us Get Votes!

- Ask Wal-Mart employee (in Indiana) to vote for Indiana PTA.
- Spread the word to parents and mem-

bers at your school.

- Visit our Walmart Votes webpage at <http://www.indianapta.org/WalmartVotes.html>
- Promote the campaign on your social networks, like Facebook and Twitter!

Please Follow These Guidelines

- Do not solicit associates or campaign on Walmart property.
- Tentative dates for voting are July 7, 2010 through August 13, 2010.





Indiana Fatherhood Summit *Indiana PTA Presents to Dads*

A toolbox or two is surely given to many dads each Father's Day. But, the Indiana Fatherhood Summit offers dads a toolbox that will last longer than any socket wrench. The comprehensive conference was held in Indianapolis on June 26th and offered attendees the tools to help them be better fathers in the future and beat the alarming statistics that face students without an involved male role model:

- 63% of teen suicides come from homes with uninvolved fathers, 5 times the national average.
- 90% of all runaways and homeless children are from homes with uninvolved fathers.
- 85% of children with behavioral problems come from homes with uninvolved fathers.

Indiana PTA was proud to attend the summit and urge males to get involved in the classroom. They also offered a display board with important "Dad-Facts" and info on how to become more involved. The 2010 Summit is an initiative of the Indiana Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC) in conjunction with over 20 local and statewide organizations working to improve the role of fathers. Visit www.indianafatherhoodsummit.com for more information.

F.B.I. (Fathers Being Involved) Program Recognized Nationally

The Fort Wayne Area Council PTA and Indiana PTA were recognized numerous times at the National PTA Convention in Memphis, TN. The program received many shout-outs for increasing male involvement in the classroom and boosting membership by 30%. The program was also prominently featured on Parenting Magazine's blog, <http://www.momcongress.com>. By the end of the convention, it was great to see so many leaders, male and female, wearing and promoting the FBI program.

F.B.I, Fathers Being Involved, is a program designed to engage father's in the everyday educational experiences of their children through PTA. Male membership in PTA had long needed to be addressed. In these changing times there are as many men serving as custodial parents as women and they needed to be engaged in their children's schools. In an effort to increase consciousness and membership, F.B.I. was launched last August as a male initiative for the Fort Wayne Area Council PTA. The goal of the Council was to involve and engage 1,000 men in the greater Fort Wayne Area. In order to meet the goal, the Council challenged it's 62 local unit leaders to encourage 25 males to join their prospective units. A logo and marketing materials boasting male appeal were given to each local leader as well as a promise of encouragement. Local businesses made donations to what was tagged the "Dad's Bag," a bag full of coupons aimed at their interests. The bag also included discounts for activities they could do with their children.

However, membership was not enough, we wanted these men to feel validated and engaged. The Council charged its leaders to go back to their schools and find ways their male members could be involved. Many schools accomplished this goal quickly. Some utilized the logo's designed and created shirts, hats, and mugs to identify their F.B.I. team members. As the school year progressed stories of local F.B.I. teams became prevalent. There were teams painting sets for a local High School Drama Department, monitoring lunchrooms,

landscaping, grilling for school events, and one team was even charged with the planning and executing of their school carnival. Slowly but surely men were realizing the impact their involvement can make on their child's school community. This past spring, the Council was proud to have met their goal and even exceeded it by 10%. But, this is just the beginning for F.B.I and male involvement in Fort Wayne. The future holds much promise, as well as a commitment from PTA in Northeast Indiana to ensure men are being actively engaged in our schools. We see and understand the important connection between fathers, their children, and their schools and vow to continue our efforts.

For more information, logos, or ideas on how to get YOUR FBI Program started, visit the Fort Wayne Area Council website at www.fortwayneareacouncilpta.org, or email President, Julie Klingenberger at jklingenberger@indianapta.org.



(L-R) Nichole Thomas, Lisa Beber, Theresa Distelrath and Julie Klingenberger present the FBI (Fathers Being Involved) Program at the Male Involvement Summit at the National PTA Convention.

Ideas to Get More Men in Your Unit



One Million Hours of Power

A campaign to motivate 350,000 men to volunteer for 3 hours. www.pta.org/4197.htm



All Pro Dad Program

A program founded by Tony Dungy, is dedicated to strengthening the family. www.allprodad.com



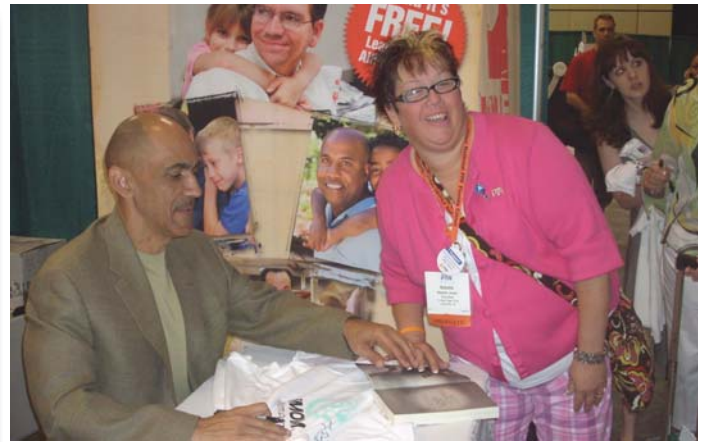
PTA Three For Me Campaign

Program and tools to get volunteers to pledge 3 hours per school year. www.three4me.com



Strong Fathers, Strong Families

A training, technical assistance, and facilitation organization focused on strengthening fathers and families. www.strongfathers.com



Natalie Jones meets Tony Dungy after his speech at the National PTA Convention. Tony spoke on his program AllPro Dads, and iMom Mornings.



F.B.I. Fathers Being Involved

A program designed to market PTA to men and tap into that valuable resource.. Often easier than asking if a man wants to join PTA, if you ask them to join the FBI, they just might! For more info, visit www.fortwayneareacouncilpta.org.

10 Ways to Get Men More Involved in PTAs

How can we get more men involved? National PTA surveyed nearly 2,700 men in fall 2004 to find out. The findings from that survey have been distilled to 10 ways a local PTA can break down barriers to male involvement and increase male PTA membership (below). Read the FULL article here: www.pta.org/topic_male_involvement.asp

1. Make the membership pitch relevant to males.

The number one reason why survey respondents joined PTA was “to work to improve the school for the benefit of my child/children.” Therefore, your recruitment materials and your membership pitch should explain how men’s involvement in PTA would benefit their children and their children’s schools.

2. Use specific messaging and advertising aimed at men.

When asked what would encourage men to join PTA, men most frequently answered male-oriented advertising. Be sure to show men’s involvement in your PTA in your communications to members and potential members.

3. Just ask them.

Nearly half of the men who responded to the survey said men don’t join PTA because they aren’t asked. Just asking could pay big dividends in membership

recruitment for your PTA!

4. Ask the women in PTA to invite the men in their children’s lives to join.

Research reveals that women can influence men to join PTA. More than 90% of male PTA members indicated in the survey that their spouses, who were already members, contributed largely to their involvement in PTA. Yet both mom and dad are PTA members in less than 50% of families with children in school.

5. Create more volunteer opportunities and special events for dads.

Survey respondents stated a preference for hands-on projects and suggested events such as “dads only” events, school carnivals, sports activities, father-daughter and father-son activities, and back-to-school fests.

6. Emphasize that becoming a PTA member doesn’t necessarily involve a large time commitment.

71 % of the males surveyed indicated that “time” is a barrier to male involvement in PTA. It doesn’t have to be, though. When talking about time, they were referring to the time necessary to volunteer. Assure new members that membership is not synonymous with volunteering. Keep this in mind: If they join, they may eventually become volunteers; but if they never become members, they’ll never become

volunteers.

7. Give it to ‘em straight.

Almost half of the men surveyed indicated that they want volunteer roles and expectations clearly defined. Telling them the what, when, where, why, and how would make them more likely to join and to volunteer.

8. Communicate with men the way they want to be reached.

Men want fewer meetings, and they want the meetings PTAs do have to be at more convenient times, such as after work. In addition, men want meetings to have a clear agenda and be results-oriented, rather than exploratory sessions on an issue or topic.

9. Seek male members in the community.

Instead of waiting for men to come to your PTA, take your PTA to where men often meet. Present the PTA message at local service clubs that have a large male contingent, such as Rotary, Kiwanis, or Lions clubs.

10. Recognize and celebrate members.

Publicize your successes. When you start getting more men involved in your PTA, let the community know. Recognize members, thank them often, and celebrate your PTA’s accomplishments and success!

Source: www.pta.org

Indiana PTA Presents Parent Involvement to Indiana DOE

President Tina Hartman, and Legislative Committee Chair Theresa Distelrath were in Indianapolis the week of June 16th, making a presentation to the Indiana Department of Education at an accountability meeting. They presented the PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships Assessment Guide to them as a means to measure accountability. The presentation was well received, although it was discouraging that not

National Standards for Family-School Partnerships



one of the other groups presenting mentioned family engagement. Indiana PTA was sure to remind them all how crucial that component is to student success. The IN DOE expects to

have the accountability guidelines complete by September.

The National Standards for Family-School Partnerships should be the foundation of everything that PTAs/PTSAs do for the children, schools and communities that we serve. These standards may be used as a guide in helping to develop your school improvement plans relating to family involvement. The standards are:

- Welcoming All Families Into the School Community
- Communicating Effectively
- Supporting Student Success
- Speaking Up for Every Child
- Sharing Power
- Collaborating with Community

For more information visit: www.pta.org/family_school_partnerships.asp and download the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships Guide.

Reflections and Citizenship Programs Highlight Student Talent

Does YOUR unit or school offer the PTA Reflections or Citizenship Program to challenge the creativity of your students?

The Reflections Program challenges students to create art inspired by a specific theme in 6 areas including dance choreography, video/film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and visual arts.

Students participate in the Reflections Program by submitting entries to a local PTA or PTSA in four grade divisions: Primary, Intermediate, Middle/junior, and Senior divisions. Selected entries from the local PTA/PTSA level are submitted to the Indiana PTA's state-wide program. Submissions deemed by Indiana PTA as outstanding are submitted to the National PTA's nation-wide program.

The PTA Reflections Program is designed to enhance a quality arts education by providing an opportunity for students to explore their artistic talents and receive positive recognition for their efforts.

When children express themselves through words, pictures, music, dance, and other art forms, they grow intellectually and socially. They learn to analyze their thoughts, feelings, and ideas; to look at things, people, and experiences in a fresh and exciting way; and become more interested in the ideas and other works.

Themes are selected from hundreds of ideas submitted by students to the PTA Reflections Program Theme Search each year. Past themes have included "Exploring New Beginnings," "If I Could Give the World a Gift...", "A Different Kind of Hero," and "Wow!" **The 2010-2011 theme is "Together We Can..."**

In addition, the Indiana PTA offers the Citizenship Essay Program, centering on a civic theme each year and offered to 4-12 students in Indiana. **The 2010-2011 theme is "What Being Free Means to Me..."**

These programs are only available to PTA/PTSA units in good standing. For more information, a leader's packet, or deadline information, please visit www.indianapta.org/Reflections.html or contact Reflections Coordinator, Elleen Laughlin at elaughlin@indianapta.org. For Citizenship Program information, visit www.indianapta.org/Citizenship.html or Citizenship Coordinator Deb Fox at dfox@indianapta.org.

Bring the Reflections and Citizenship Programs to your unit this year!

Parents As Partners In Education Week: How Are You Celebrating?

On behalf of the Indiana Partnerships Center, Governor Mitch Daniels has declared August 15-21 "Parents as Partners in Education Week."

As we are sure you are well aware, research demonstrates that **parent involvement** and **teacher quality** are the two most critical factors affecting student achievement and that parent involvement is most meaningful when it is linked to student learning.

Because parents play a vital role in the education of Hoosier children, we invite you to celebrate family involvement by honoring "Parents as Partners in Education Week" in your district. You may consider the following ways as starting points to demonstrate your support of family engagement in education as part of "Parents as Partners in Education Week":

- Host a Press Conference or Back to School night in your school where you thank families for being involved in their children's education and encourage them to continue their involvement at home and at school during the upcoming school year;
- Speak directly with families and school personnel about the ways they are currently involved as partners in education and thank them for their commitment; or
- Distribute "Parents as partners in Education Week" posters or postcards from The Indiana Partnerships Center to thank families for being involved.

For further information about parent involvement, including additional ways to celebrate "Parents as Partners in Education Week," contact The Indiana Partnerships Center, Indiana PIRC, toll free at 866-391-1039 or visit www.fscp.org. Thank you for your commitment to educational excellence and student success across Indiana!

More Education Cuts Looming

As you know the upcoming year is a long session and a budget year. The legislators will be meeting in the fall to determine what issues or concerns they want to focus on and begin authoring bills. After speaking with several legislators, the biggest concern is going to be the budget. It appears that as Indiana's monthly revenue continues to drop they are going to be forced to cut more expenses from the budget and that means more cuts to education. Now more than ever we need to rally together and ask our legislators to spare education.

Theresa Distelrath, your State Legislative Chair encourages you to start communicating with your legislators over the summer, into the fall and throughout the year. The summer and fall are ideal times to meet because our policy makers usually have more free time (due to not being in session). Indiana PTA encourages local units and councils to host meet and greets and put together some forums where the local constituents can speak one on one with their policy makers. Administrators and teachers are also urged to contact the legislators and impress upon them how the first round of budget cuts impacted your schools and classrooms. It is important that the policy makers understand the ramifications from additional budget cuts. It's never too early to start advocating for our youth. Please reach out and let your voice be heard.

Planning Started for 2011 Legislative Conference

The 2011 Legislative Conference planning has begun! The 2011 Conference is scheduled for March 23, 2011 in Indianapolis. Watch the Good News email and future IPT issues for time, place, and schedule of events.

While all of the details aren't worked out yet - we do know that you won't want to miss it! Middle and High School students are also welcome to attend and see .Indiana government in action.

This is a legitimate budget expense for PTA units, as one of the purposes of PTA is advocating for students in the legislature. We hope you will encourage members in your unit to attend.

Support H.R. 5211 Today

The Family Engagement in Education Act (H.R. 5211) is the first PTA bill in our recent history. It was introduced with bipartisan support in the House of Representatives on May 5, 2010 by Congresswoman McCarthy (D-NY) and Congressman Platts (R-PA). This important legislation provides resources and incentives to engage parents in the education of their children, an issue that PTA has championed since its founding in 1897. This bill provides an opportunity for PTA members to ensure all students are successful in school and in life. We must show our members of Congress our strong devotion to family engagement by asking them to cosponsor H.R. 5211.

On Friday, June 11, a national call-in day was held during the morning General Business Session at National Convention, and over 2,000 calls were made to Representatives to urge them to cosponsor H.R. 5211. It's not too late, contact your Representative today!

Legislative Chairs

Indiana State Legislative Chair

Theresa Distelrath
tdistelrath@indianapta.org

Federal Legislative Chair

Dee Jones
djones@indianapta.org

Did you Know...

that more than 500,000 students participated in the Reflections Program through their local PTAs last year??

Bring the Reflections and Citizenship Programs to your school next year and watch your students succeed!

Featured Sponsor of Indiana PTA

Association Insurance Management - the place to go for all of your PTA unit's insurance needs.



Follow Us...

Indiana PTA is now on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Become a "fan" of Indiana PTA today! You can access them all right from our website at www.indianapta.org. Watch, discuss, and read about the latest news as it happens!

The IPT is the official newsletter of the Indiana PTA. It can be downloaded from the Indiana PTA website. It's purpose is to educate, inform and share PTA information with it's members and the general public.

The IPT is produced by the Indiana PTA PR/Marketing Committee on a bi-monthly basis.