

# The Children's Advocate

*Knox County Council PTA Newsletter*  
*232 E. Churchwell Avenue, Knoxville TN 37917*

Volume 8, Issue 1



August 2009

## **KCC PTA Hosts 6th Annual Education Forum**

**“The Diversity Within; How Are We Alike, How Do We Differ?”**

**Thursday, August 27, 2009**

**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon at the Andrew Johnson Building  
1st Floor Board Room — 912 S. Gay Street**

### **Guest Speakers:**

Senate Speaker Pro Tempore Jamie Woodson  
Senator and Mayoral Candidate Tim Burchett  
Representative Joe Armstrong  
Superintendent Jim McIntyre

**Moderator:** Mr. John Becker, WBIR Anchor

### **Guest Panelists:**

Ms. Sallee Reynolds, Principal Hardin Valley Academy (Suburban Schools Representative)  
Mr. Lynn Hill, Principal Gibbs High School (Rural School Representative)  
Ms. Becky Irvin, Principal Vine Middle School (Urban School Representative)  
Ms. Melissa Massie, Director of Pupil Personnel (Special Education Representative)

### **Agenda:**

9:00-9:30 a.m. — Networking and Refreshments  
9:30-10:00 a.m. — Introductions, Opening Remarks, Guest Speakers  
10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon — Education Forum

*Join us to learn more about the diversity within Knox County Schools, its place in the five-year strategic plan and how we can better manage it to ensure “Excellence for all Children.”*

### **Directions to the Andrew Johnson Building located at 912 S. Gay Street**

**From I-40 East:** Exit #388 Henley Street, bear left onto Henley St., turn left onto W. Main St. (Hampton Inn on corner), turn right onto Gay St. (the AJ Building is on the corner of Gay St. & W. Hill Ave.), turn left onto W. Hill Ave., turn left onto State St., park in the Dwight Kessel Garage on the right.

**From I-40 West:** Exit #389 Hall of Fame Drive, turn right onto Summit Hill Dr., turn left onto Gay St. (the AJ Building is on the corner of Gay St. & W. Hill Ave.), turn left onto W. Hill Ave. (James White Fort on corner), turn left onto State St., park in the Dwight Kessel Garage on the right.



## Points from Pam

### Notes from the Council President

My name is Pam Trainor and I am very excited to be your new Council President and I have high hopes for the upcoming year. I am a native South Knoxville. Together with my husband, I own and operate a catering company and a "dog" bakery in the Rocky Hill area. I have been involved as a volunteer in Knox County Schools for twelve years now. I have two children in South Doyle High School, a daughter who is going into her Senior year and a son who will be a Sophomore.

This new school year brings excitement. There are great things happening across the country in every PTA and I'm sure we will be **no exception** here in Knox County. I would like to see parents become more connected across the county. We get so involved and overwhelmed with our own particular schools, that we forget that there are 80+ more schools in Knox County with similar problems and concerns. By banding together with a united front and advocating for our students and teachers at the county, state, and national levels; we can make our voices heard. Belonging to PTA makes you a member of the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the country.

**Inclusion** and **communication** should be our main focus, and one rarely happens without the other.

The push at the National PTA level is **DIVERSITY** and it should be ours as well. We are a very diverse population here in Knox County and we need to use that as our **biggest strength**, not a **weakness**. Make plans to attend the 6th Annual Education Forum to learn more about how to accomplish this in Knox County. There is nothing more than "strength in numbers" and we need to use our "numbers." Hopefully we can build on our strengths and diminish our weaknesses.

Our challenge for the year is to **REACHOUT !**

Help the schools next to us, so that they can help the schools next to them. The accomplishment of this will truly enable us to **"Participate To Advocate."** Please let us know what you need so that we can help you and ultimately help to insure .....

**"every child, one voice"**

Please feel free to call me anytime with any question!

Pam Trainor, President  
pamtrainor@aol.com

## Dates & Deadlines

- August 15 - Teacher Supply Depot  
Open to Teachers, 7:00 am — 2:00 pm
- August 17 - First day of school for  
Knox County
- August 27 - KCCPTA General Meeting,  
Ed Forum, 9:00 am, @ A. J. Building
- August 31- Board of Education Work  
Session, 5:00 pm, @ A.J. Building
- September 2 - Knox County Board of  
Education Monthly Meeting,  
5:00 pm, @ City/County Building,  
Large Assembly Room
- September 7 - Labor Day
- September 8 - KCCPTA General Meeting,  
9:30 am, @ Teacher Supply Depot
- October 5 - Board of Education Work  
Session, 5:00 pm, @ A.J. Building
- October 6 - East TN Region PTA Fall  
Conference and KCCPTA General  
Meeting, 9:30 am, @ Vine Middle School
- October 6 - PTA Membership Reports  
Due – Bring to KCC PTA Meeting!
- October 7 - Knox County Board of  
Education Monthly Meeting,  
5:00 pm, @ City/County Building,  
Large Assembly Room
- October 15-16 Fall Break - Knox County
- October 24 - Teacher Supply Depot  
Open to Teachers, 7:00 am — 2:00 pm
- October 26-30 PTA Fall Clothing Drive
- November 2 - Board of Education Work  
Session, 5:00 pm, @ A.J. Building
- November 4 - Knox County Board of  
Education Monthly Meeting,  
5:00 pm, @ City/County Building,  
Large Assembly Room
- November 6 - KCCPTA General Meeting,  
9:30 am, @ Teacher Supply Depot

## Stay Informed!

### Participate!

### Advocate!

PTA and PTSA schools are encouraged to send at least one representative to:

- Knox County Council PTA  
General Meetings
- School Board work  
sessions/monthly meetings,
- County Commission meetings

## September is Membership Month

Knox County Council is pleased to announce that Bill Williams, WBIR Anchor Emeritus, will continue his work for a fifth year as our Honorary Membership Chairman. Texas Roadhouse is also continuing as our corporate sponsor and providing a Free Appetizer Coupon for each PTA member in Knox County. At our Knox County Council September general meeting Knox County Mayor Mike Ragsdale will proclaim September as PTA MEMBERSHIP MONTH, but you need to start work **now** on your membership campaign in order to make this our most successful membership drive ever.

The Knox County membership goal this year is 22,500 members and we can only achieve this goal with help from you. Every school should set a goal to achieve 100% membership (that is one member for each student at your school. Need some ideas? Your TN PTA and KCC PTA handbooks are a great place to start looking for ways to plan a great campaign. The National PTA website and your Back to School Kit are other great resources for you to use.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me for help.

Deborah Britt

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President – Membership

**2009-2010**

**KCC PTA**

### General Meeting Programs

**\*August 27, 2009**

6th Annual  
Education Network Forum  
@ Andrew Johnson Bldg.

**September 8, 2009**

"OMDR"  
Make It Work for You  
@ Teacher Supply Depot

**October 6, 2009**

East TN Region  
PTA Fall Conference  
@ Vine Middle School

**November 6, 2009**

Superintendent's  
Strategic Plan Update  
@ Teacher Supply Depot

**\*December 3, 2009**

Snowflakes & Packages  
Evening Benefit Auction  
@ Rothchild Conf. Center

**January 12, 2010**

E-Wellness Kick Off  
@ Teacher Supply Depot

**February 9, 2010**

Proud Past,  
Bright Future  
PTA Founders' Day  
@ Location TBA

**March 6, 2010**

E-Wellness Follow Up  
@ Teacher Supply Depot

**April 13, 2010**

Moving Up and Moving On  
@ Teacher Supply Depot

**May 11, 2010**

PTA School of Instruction  
@ Teacher Supply Depot

\*These meetings are open to  
the general public.

### KCC PTA's 2009-10 At-Large Unit Membership Drive is Under Way! Join Now!

Do you want to be a member  
of the largest volunteer  
child advocacy association  
in the nation?

#### Become a PTA member!

If you don't have a child  
attending a PTA school, you  
can still become a PTA  
member. Join the Knox  
County PTA At-Large Unit  
made up of people concerned  
about public education from  
across Knox County.

Visit our website to obtain a  
membership form for the  
At-Large PTA or contact  
deborahbritt@kccpta.org

### TNPTA.org Gets a New Look

The redesigned [www.tnpta.org](http://www.tnpta.org) will  
better serve the information needs of  
your local unit PTA. The improved site  
structure, navigation, and layout will  
assist you in finding answers.

The new website is:

- **Easier to navigate**
- **Easier to search**
- **Easier to use**

**THANKS FOR BEING A PROUD**

**PTA SPONSOR/DONOR!**



## Health and Wellness In Knox County Schools *Back to School Health Tips*

Coordinated School Health (CSH) was established in Knox County Schools in July, 2007. The primary mission of the office is to improve student health outcomes as well as support the connection between good health practices, academic achievement, and lifetime wellness. Coordinated School Health is an effective system designed to connect health (physical, emotional and social) with education. Tennessee is first to mandate CSH state-wide. This coordinated approach improves students' health and their capacity to learn through the support of families, communities and schools working together. The CSH approach consists of eight major components: health education, physical education/physical activity, health services, nutrition services, health promotion for staff, counseling and psychological services, healthy school environment and student/parent/community engagement.

The Coordinated School Health Office offers the following

### ***Back to School Health Tips:***

- Students should get plenty of sleep (ages 5-12 need 9-11 hours and adolescents at least 8.5-9.5 hours).
- Choose a backpack with plenty of padding and wide shoulder straps. The backpack should not weigh more than 10-20% of the student's body weight.
- Eat breakfast every day. Research shows that it improves academic performance and behavior.
- If your school allows snacks, make sure they meet the nutrition guidelines. A complete list can be found on the Knox County School website parent page.
- If your child needs medication during the school day, make sure the proper forms are completed by your physician. Check with your school nurse for details.
- A new school year is a good time to establish good homework and study habits.
- Limit screen time to 2 hours or less per day and encourage your child to be more physically active.
- If your child is anxious about the new school year, reassure them. If they are overwhelmed by fear, talk to the school nurse, counselor, or principal.
- Review basic bus safety rules with your youngster.

Aneisa McDonald

Coordinated School Health Specialist, Knox County Schools and  
KCCPTA Health and Welfare Chairman  
mcdonalda@k12tn.net

## PTA STUDENT CONTESTS... PLAN NOW!!!

It is that time of year to start planning for the student contests that are available to all children in PTA and PTSA schools.

**CITIZENSHIP LITERATURE CONTEST**  
Deadline December 3, 2009  
Theme: ***"We Have Freedom Because..."***

**SAFETY POSTER CONTEST**  
Deadline December 3, 2009  
This year this contest has two themes;  
For grades K-5 the theme is:  
***"Network the SMART Way"***  
For grades 6-12 the theme is:  
***"My Cyber World is Safe Because..."***

**REFLECTIONS CONTEST**  
**(Literature, Musical Composition,  
Photography, Visual Arts, Dance Choreography and Film/Video Production)**  
Deadline December 3, 2009  
Theme: ***"Beauty Is..."***

All County winners will be honored locally at a Student Awards Celebration hosted by Knox County Council PTA in the spring. County winners progress to the Tennessee PTA for a statewide competition.

We encourage the PTAs and PTSAs to meet with their principals to discuss the student contests that are available. The contests are a wonderful opportunity for the students in your school.

**Contact the following KCC PTA volunteers if you have any contest questions.**

**Citizenship Contest Chairman**  
Gavin Luter  
gavinluter@kccpta.org

**Safety Contest Chairman**  
Shannon Sumner  
shannonsumner@kccpta.org

**Reflections Contest Co-Chairmen**  
Ginger Harriman  
gingerharriman@kccpta.org  
Cathy Robinson  
cathyrobinson@kcetra.org



## Student Enrichment Opportunities... PTA Citizenship Essay Contest

Welcome back to school, everyone! My name is Gavin Luter, and I will be serving as the Citizenship Chair for this coming school year with the KCCPTA. Fairly new to the game, I am very excited to be playing a part in this year's group in this capacity. Professionally, I work at the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee where I deal mainly with civic education initiatives on campus and in the community. My work with the Baker Center hopefully will be helpful to me as I serve in my position and oversee the citizenship essay contest.

Hopefully everyone reading this will help me get the word out about the upcoming contest. This year's theme is **"We Have Freedom Because"** and really spurs a lot of thought. I see it as my responsibility to help you and your students think through this very interesting topic. As you begin the year, please keep this in mind for the contest:

- **ALL STUDENTS IN YOUR SCHOOL ARE ELIGIBLE.** This is a **Pre K – 12** contest and also includes students enrolled in **special education**.
- **CREATIVITY IS THE KEY:** There are a lot of reasons and perspectives on why we have freedom. Please help your students think creatively about the reasons why!
- **1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACES ARE AWARDED IN EACH CATEGORY:** This allows a lot of students to receive distinction.
- **THERE IS A STATE COMPETITION, AS WELL:** For students who are interested, they can be entered for considered on a state level.
- **YOU'RE NOT ALONE:** If you are not sure how to get started or how to get students interested, I am available to help! [gavinluter@kccpta.org](mailto:gavinluter@kccpta.org)

**"We Have Freedom Because" DEADLINE IS December 3, 2009.**

### **Are you interested in judging the essays?**

If so, please contact me at [gavinluter@kccpta.org](mailto:gavinluter@kccpta.org)

### **How to get started thinking about "Why We Have Freedom"**

If you have students interested in entering the competition, have the students write a list of reasons we have freedom. This could include historical events (Revolution), individuals (the president, current or past presidents), professions (including the military), institutions (Supreme Court), or personal stories (because of an advocacy-based activity students have been involved in). Begin with this list and think about the reasons behind why each of these things give us freedom.

Please let me know if you have any questions! Thanks for your time!

-Gavin Luter, KCC PTA Citizenship Chair

## PTA Summer Leadership Training Update

On July 31st, PTA volunteers from 40 Knox County and East TN Region PTA schools gathered at Amherst Elementary for the annual Tennessee PTA Summer Leadership training. Attendees received PTA training in a variety of topics. In addition, they received PTA handbooks, membership drive materials, and the chance to share ideas and network with other PTA parents.

KCC PTA thanks the TN PTA volunteers who spend one week of their summer traveling the length of Tennessee providing this valuable training to PTA volunteers.

KCC PTA also thanks the Amherst Elementary PTA volunteers for hosting the event and providing the wonderful breakfast treats.

Lastly, KCC PTA thanks the PTA volunteers from the following schools who took time out of their busy schedules to attend the PTA Summer Leadership training:

- A.L. Lotts Elementary
- Amherst Elementary
- Ball Camp Elementary
- Beaumont Elementary
- Belle Morris Elementary
- Blue Grass Elementary
- Cedar Bluff Schools
- Christenberry Elementary
- Corryton Elementary
- Farragut Intermediate
- Farragut Middle
- Farragut Primary
- Fort Sanders School
- Gibbs Elementary
- Gibbs High
- Green Academy
- Halls Elementary
- Halls High
- Halls Middle
- Hardin Valley Academy
- Inskip Elementary
- Karns Elementary
- Karns High
- Karns Middle
- Mooreland Heights Elem.
- Mount Olive Elementary
- New Hopewell Elementary
- Northwest Middle
- Norwood Elementary
- Powell Elementary
- Powell High
- Powell Middle
- Ridgedale Elementary
- South-Doyle High
- Spring Hill Elementary
- West Hills Elementary
- West Valley Middle
- West View Elementary

Outside the Knox County area but within the East TN Region:

- Linden Elementary
- Robertsville Middle

If no one from your school's PTA was able to attend the TN PTA Summer Leadership Training, please contact KCC PTA President Pam Trainor to arrange delivery of your PTA handbooks, PTA membership cards, and Texas Roadhouse membership incentives.

Pam can be reached at [pamtrainor@aol.com](mailto:pamtrainor@aol.com) or 865-548-2381.

## Please Remember Our KCC PTA Special Projects When Planning Your PTA Budget

It's back to school time again and that means budget planning for your PTA/PTSA. Please remember to include donations to the Knox County Schools/PTA Clothing Center, the Teacher Supply Depot, and the KCC PTA Alice B. Deeds Memorial Scholarship Fund in your budget. These valuable KCC PTA projects rely on your donations to help students across Knox County. A \$50 donation for each program would be greatly appreciated. You can make the checks payable to Clothing Center, Teacher Supply Depot, and KCC PTA (for the scholarship). Mail donations to:

KCC PTA  
c/o Tony Probst, Treasurer  
1101 Janes Meadow  
Knoxville, TN 37932

## A Message from Your TN PTA President

Hello and welcome from Tennessee PTA! I am honored and proud to be your State PTA President. I am so excited to have the opportunity to welcome you to this wonderful and exciting year for PTA! As a Knoxvilleian myself I have a special place in my heart for all the PTA's in this area. I was PTA president at two different schools in Knoxville, a KCC PTA board member for years, and now I represent you on the Tennessee PTA board.

I have always had a passion for the Advocacy efforts PTA puts forward for the Children of Knox County and Tennessee. I believe as volunteers we need to just stop and think about all the exciting things we can do for the Children of Tennessee. With all the advocacy efforts, programs, events and volunteer opportunities we have to be a part of in your child's life; giving back to your school by volunteering is one of the most important things you can do in today's society.

If you have not implemented the "Three for Me" program at your school, you need to visit [www.TNPTA.org](http://www.TNPTA.org). At the website under the "programs" tab, choose "programs" from the list. The "Three for Me" program asks for parents/grandparents/guardians, etc to sign up and give only three hours a year to help in their schools. Statistics show that the schools with strong parental involvement are the schools that rank at the top. Can you give just three hours? My children are now in college, and I am working everyday as a volunteer advocating for your child.

Please just give your school three hours, your children need you!

Thank you for all you do for the Children of Tennessee!

Kathy Patty, President  
Tennessee PTA



### Please Mark Your Calendars Membership Report Deadlines

<i>October 6, 2009</i>	<i>"Initial" Membership Report</i>	<i>Pink Form</i>
<i>November 10, 2009</i>	<i>"Final" Membership Report</i>	<i>Blue Form</i>
<i>February 9, 2010</i>	<i>"Additional" Membership Report</i>	<i>Yellow Form</i>

Report forms are located in the KCC PTA Membership Guidebook (look for red section cover) located in the KCC PTA guidebook binder. If you have any questions, please contact:

Deborah Britt, KCC PTA 1st VP

[deborahbritt@kccpta.org](mailto:deborahbritt@kccpta.org)

**Teacher Supply Depot  
Open To Teachers in  
2009-2010  
7:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**

**August 15th  
October 24th  
January 9th  
March 20th**

**VOLUNTEERS and  
DONATIONS NEEDED!**

**Contact the Director:  
[karendavis@kccpta.org](mailto:karendavis@kccpta.org)**

Established as a joint venture between the Knox County Council PTA and Knox County Schools, the Teacher Supply Depot is a collection center and warehouse of new and pre-used materials donated by businesses and individuals that are distributed to our Knox County public school teachers and teachers' assistants free of charge.

#### **DIRECTIONS TO THE TEACHER SUPPLY DEPOT —**

- From I-40, exit onto I-275 North;
- Take E. Woodland Avenue exit and bear right at the bottom of the ramp onto Woodland Avenue;
- At the intersection of Woodland Avenue and Central Avenue, turn left onto Central Avenue;
- Approximately 4 blocks, turn right onto E. Churchwell Avenue (Star Sales will be on the left);
- The depot is one block on right in the Old Oakwood Elementary School in the fenced in parking area.

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**Check us out on the web!**

**[www.kccpta.org](http://www.kccpta.org)**

**Learn more about the Knox County Council PTA and its projects, programs, and special events that benefit all area PTAs and PTSAs!**

**Knox County Council PTA general meetings are open to all PTA members.**

**Principals: Do your parents have direct access to dozens of community groups? PTA parents do!** If your school is a non-PTA school and you would like to realize the Power of Association, please contact Tennessee PTA's East Tennessee Region Director Mindy Smart at: [mindysmart@kccpta.org](mailto:mindysmart@kccpta.org)



**Knox County Council**

***PTA***<sup>®</sup>

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**PTA newsletters, handbooks, resources, and publications are not just the property of the PTA president....**

**P**ass

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**To**

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