

COUNCIL MESSAGES

HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL of PTAs

every child. one voice

September – October, 2013

Issue 1

www.HCCPTAs.org

September 25 HCC Executive Luncheon
at The Meadows

We will honor Council's Outstanding Educator, present the Service to Children Award, and recognize any units who have already achieved 100% Teacher Membership

Program begins at 11:30 a.m.

(There is a reservation form on the last page of this newsletter that can be removed and mailed in)

October 16 HCC Program
10 a.m. at the HCESC

Topic will be announced at the Executive Luncheon.

As voting members of Council, it is the responsibility of the unit delegate or alternate delegate to attend Council General Meetings; however, Council programs are open to anyone from your unit.

(We will be voting on changes to Council's Bylaws)

MEMBERSHIP - a most valuable asset of PTA

Your new PTA year is just beginning. I hope that you have taken advantage of sending home membership information with your principal's packet of papers sent home with each student. If you have not done so, please get your membership ideas home to your parents as soon as possible. Also, be sure to put an introductory letter in your teachers' mail boxes. From the unit dues \$4.00 is sent to OPTA (\$2.25 for NPTA and \$1.75 for OPTA).

If you are the PTA President, please make sure your Membership chairman has the Membership Summer Packet of Information sent to you by Ohio PTA. This is valuable information that the Membership chairman should have. **IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE SUMMER PACKET, PLEASE SEND THE PTA PRESIDENT'S NAME AND ADDRESS TO OPTA. THIS PACKET IS A VALUABLE ASSET FOR YOUR ENTIRE YEAR.**

If you are the Membership Chairman, please review the Summer Packet and be ready to get your letter to the parents out very soon, the sooner the better. List your accomplishments of past years to help parents realize how important PTA is to your school, and remember the following:

1. Make sure all executive board/committee members are asked to join.
2. Attend Membership workshops whenever possible.
3. Obtain the Ohio PTA Membership Handbook, the Membership Section of the National PTA Annual Resources for PTAs and the Procedure Book from last year.
4. Create a Membership Team.
5. Have a Membership table at every PTA meeting and school function.
6. Register with OPTA Membership Listserve at www.ohiopta.org.
7. Membership should be sent in to OPTA monthly.
8. Use your PTA Newsletter and Community Paper inviting new members to join.
9. **REMEMBER: ONE MEMBER—ONE CARD. TWO MEMBERS—TWO CARDS.**

As in years past, we will be honoring units with 100% Teacher Membership. Please let me know as soon as you reach this plateau. Thank you for taking on this job. You will be rewarded many times just by seeing your membership grow.

Carol Kiradjieff, Membership Chairman Carolchili@fuse.net

RAISING STREET SMART AND SAFE CHILDREN/YOUTH

Unfortunately children are victims of crimes each day. Most children (including teenagers) understand there are real dangers in the world but many don't equate that to their own community or environment. Maybe it's that youthful mentality of thinking they are indestructible, that 'bad things' only happen to others. There are some children; however, that will exhibit fearfulness and uncertainty about their safety. Whichever child you have, your job as a parent is to acknowledge any personal concerns/anxieties they may have about their safety, identify potential risks, give them clear instructions about how to avoid danger, and how to respond to threatening situations. The following are some suggestions to get a discussion going with your child/youth.

Teach children (age 3 and older) their full name, your full name (besides mommy/daddy), their phone number (including area code), complete home address, and how to use 911. School age children should know all work numbers and any neighbor/relative's number to call for questions or assistance. If you don't have caller ID on your phone, you might want to use voice mail or a set number of rings which lets the child know it is you calling. Instruct children to never give out personal information over the phone or volunteer a family member's schedules or whereabouts to unknown callers.

If you have a 'latchkey' kid, make sure you go over what is allowed and not allowed while they are home alone. Their key should be carried out of sight and they shouldn't 'advertise' to others (including classmates) that they are home alone. Teach children to secure the door after arriving home and have them check in with you or a trusted neighbor. It is better to not answer the door when home alone. You should post emergency numbers near all phones. Teach them what to do in case of a fire, home accident, a door or window is found open or if they think someone is trying to get in. If possible, let a trusted neighbor know your child is home alone and make sure your child knows who they may go to in case of an emergency.

If your child walks to and from school, make sure they know, understand and observe all traffic signals and markings. A flashing 'walk' sign does not automatically mean 'go.' Instruct children to never walk over to a person or approach the car of someone asking for directions, asking for help in finding something, or offering them a gift. Instruct them to NEVER go anywhere with someone or accept a 'gift' from someone without first asking you. This includes someone they know or they know knows you. Children, including teenagers, should use the buddy system and stick together with friends while away from home. Instruct them to always stay alert and be aware of their surroundings. If they feel they are being followed, they should cross the street, run to the nearest well-lit populated area, pretend they see a friend by calling out a name and waving, or take off running in opposite direction the car is driving.

Instruct your driving youth to always lock the doors immediately upon entering the car not waiting for them to lock automatically when the car is started. Put your seat belt on after the doors are locked. Always ride with the doors locked. Keep purses and other valuables off the seat, especially if windows are open. **NEVER** offer or **ACCEPT** a ride from a stranger. If you feel someone is following your car or someone pulls up to you and starts harassing you, drive to the nearest well-lit populated area, a store, or police/fire station for immediate help. If you have car trouble, never leave your vehicle and go with someone or let them inside your vehicle. If you must open your window to speak to someone offering assistance, then open just enough to be heard but not enough for a hand to be inserted. Unless it is a safety issue, stay inside your vehicle while waiting for help.

If they become the victim of a mugging, tell them to give up their property (including a car) readily and to get away as soon as possible. Instruct them to call the police and you when it is safe to do so.

Make sure your children understand the difference between appropriate touching and touching that makes them feel scared and/or uncomfortable. Assure them it is okay to tell you if **ANYONE** and that includes immediate family members along with relatives, friends, neighbors, babysitters, and strangers touches or tries to touch the private parts of their body.

Dating violence and date rape are on the rise. Discuss guidelines for acceptable and unacceptable dating behaviors and make sure they understand, no matter what the circumstances (ex. underage drinking involved) they can come to you and you will be there for them. Educate them that alcohol and drugs are often related to date rape because they compromise their ability, and often that of their date, to make responsible decisions. Instruct them not to give mixed messages, be clear – say 'yes' when they mean 'yes' and 'no' when they mean 'no.' If things start to get out of hand, be forceful and firm, do not worry about being polite. They should always be independent, when out, by carrying money for an emergency and a phone if possible.

2012-2013 MEMBERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

500 CLUB WINNER (MEMBERSHIP TOTALS BETWEEN 500-999)

John Foster Dulles Elementary – 510 Members
Oak Hills High School – 504 Members

BUCKEYE AWARD (INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP BY 25%)

Miamitown Elementary
Bevis Elementary
Struble Elementary

SCARLET CARNATION AWARD (INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP BY 10%)

None

100 CLUB WINNER (100% OR 100 OVER PREVIOUS YEAR)

Welch Elementary

100% TEACHER MEMBERSHIP

Delhi Middle	Dulles Elementary
Bevis Elementary	Delshire Elementary
Rapid Run Middle	Bridgetown Middle
Whitewater Valley Elementary	Miami Heights Elementary
Wm. Henry Harrison Jr. School	C. O. Harrison Elementary
Wm. Henry Harrison Sr. School	Oakdale Elementary
Colerain Middle	Finneytown Elementary
Harrison Elementary	Finneytown Secondary
Pleasant Run Middle	

COUNCIL MESSAGES' GAMES ARE BACK FOR ANOTHER FUN YEAR

Don't forget to look for a game in each newsletter. Complete the game and bring your results to the general meeting for a chance to win a prize package. **This issues' game: Raising Street Smart & Safe Children/Youth.** Enter your results in a drawing to be held at the *October* General Meeting.



EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR TIME IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

Your Area Advisor will receive the nomination form and an instruction letter at Council's October 9th board meeting. Presidents, as soon as you get your packet of information from your Area Advisor, start your process for selecting your school's nominee. Get your committee together, solicit nominations from parents, staff and students, make your selection and then submit your nominee to your Area Advisor. Please check with your Area Advisor for any additional directions. Each of our six school districts will submit one nominee to Council to be their district's Educator of the Year. How your **school district** selects the district nominee is determined by your Area Advisor. The nominations are due back to Council by March 12, 2014; *however*, your Area Advisor may set an earlier deadline to be turned in at the district level. Each district educator will be honored at the Hamilton County Council of PTAs' Evening Dessert Meeting, April 30, 2014. If you have any questions, please contact either your Area Advisor or myself. Good Luck!

Linda Day, Outstanding Council Educator Chairman, 522-7403

COUNCIL GAME:

RAISING STREET SMART AND SAFE CHILDREN/YOUTH

Match the word/words below with their safety tip.

1. I call my mommy 'mommy' but other people call her by her _____.
2. When away from home, encourage children/youth to use the _____.
3. Always keep purses and other _____ off of the car seat.
4. Make sure your children know their phone number including _____.
5. If a child feels he is being followed, he might _____.
6. Always post _____ numbers near all phones.
7. Upon entering a car, the driver should _____ the doors.
8. If you have car trouble, never leave your vehicle to go with someone or let them _____ your vehicle.
9. Latchkey kids should carry their keys _____.
10. _____ offer or _____ a ride from a stranger.
11. Discuss the difference between appropriate touching and touching that makes them _____.
12. Instruct children to never accept gifts from _____ without asking you first.
13. Dating age youth should be instructed to not give _____ to their partner.
14. If your car is being followed, drive to the nearest _____ area or a police/fire station.
15. When walking to school, teach children to _____ all traffic signals.
16. Teach children to never give out _____ over the phone.
17. Have a special _____ known only to you and your child in case of emergencies.
18. Be independent - always carry some _____ and a phone when you are out.
19. Assure children it is okay to tell you if anyone, including an _____ member touches them and it makes them uncomfortable or scared.
20. If they are the victim of a mugging, instruct them to _____ their property readily and not fight over it.

obey

money

emergency

area code

inside

well-lit, populated

scared or uncomfortable

personal information

immediately lock

mixed messages

code word

proper name

never, accept

cross the street

buddy system

valuables

anyone

out of sight

immediate family

give up

NPTA Reflections Program Theme - "Believe, Dream, Inspire"

The NPTA Reflections Program encourages children, Preschool/kindergarten through Grade 12 to give imaginative expression in the areas of literature, music composition, photography, visual arts, video/film production, and dance choreography. Participation begins at the local level with each district developing its own local procedures/timetables in accordance with the **National PTA rules**.

All local entries advancing to HCC will be displayed at the **Reflections Open House on February 18, 2014** from 6:30- 8:30 pm at the HCESC and the next day at the Founders' Day Program, from 9-10 am.

HCC entries that win or receive honorable mention at the Ohio PTA level will be recognized at **Council's Evening Dessert Meeting on April 30, 2014**. Ohio PTA displays its winning entries during the OPTA Spring Convention in April and the National PTA winners are displayed as part of the National PTA Reflections Program's Traveling Exhibit. All students are encouraged to participate. ***Entries maybe completed at home or in the classroom setting.*** Each student has to complete his/her project independently. Please refer to the OPTA website for complete information. Any questions, please contact your unit Reflections Chairperson, your district Area Advisor or Council's Reflections Coordinator, Kathie Smith, 509-9225, klsmith@sibeycline.com



Council Ways & Means

Look for Hamilton County Council's great selection of items at the Executive Luncheon in September. The very useful ***"Life Made Simple"*** book with its great ideas on how to make our lives of volunteering just a little less hectic will be showcased along with our great selection of pins, earrings, and key chains – always a nice way of saying "thanks." These items are not just for PTA people, they can be used as gifts for anyone. There are also PTA board position pins, and PTA note cards.

Contact Lori Mueller, Ways & Means Chairman for information at: lmueller@fuse.net or 513-367-1069.

And be sure to look for her table by the front door at the luncheon.



Watch for information on the HCC Founders' Day Service Project in the next issue of the Messages

CANCELLATION/DELAY POLICY

HCC Meetings are:

----cancelled if 3 or more member school districts are cancelled, including evening meetings if evening events are cancelled.

----delayed by 30 minutes (10:30 start) if 3 or more member school districts have 2 hour delays.



LET'S GET TOGETHER

AT

HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL EXECUTIVE LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 25, 2013 @ 11:30 A.M.

(Doors open at 11:00. Meeting at 11:30. Lunch served at 12:00)

THE MEADOWS
59 East Main St. Addyston, Oh 45001

This is HCC's first meeting of the new school year so please join us for a wonderful lunch and a great opportunity to interact with peers and associates from your own and other school districts. You will receive the Council Yearbook which contains a variety of information about what's available through your Council, a calendar of meetings and programs, contact information for your Council officers, and contact information of members in other school districts.

We will honor the Outstanding Council Educator of the Year. This person was chosen from the 6 district Educator of the Year nominees for 2012-2013. We will present our Service to Children Award and will recognize any units that have already achieved 100% Teacher Membership.

Please fill out and send in the form below by September 18th. If you need additional spaces, please use a separate sheet. We are really looking forward to seeing you there!

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL of PTAs

SEND RESERVATION FORM & PAYMENT TO: Janine Schneider
7867 Foxtrot Dr.
North Bend, Ohio 45052

COST: \$ 15.00 _____ Number attending X \$15.00 = _____

School District: _____ PTA Unit: _____

Name _____ PTA Position _____

Name _____ PTA Position _____

Name _____ PTA Position _____

Name _____ PTA Position _____

Name: _____ School District Position: _____

Name: _____ School District Position: _____