

# Fairfax County Council of PTAs



# NEWSLETTER

September 2004

[www.fccpta.org](http://www.fccpta.org)

## Let's Get Started!

I am so pleased to be your newly elected president of the FCCPTA. I have been a PTA member for 18 years. I have served on the boards of four local units, as president of three. For the past six years I have been on the Fairfax District PTA Board and the Virginia PTA Board of Managers. So, yes, I bring PTA leadership experience, but more importantly, I bring a passion for children and public schools. I firmly believe that a strong public school system is the backbone of our nation and that each local school is the backbone of the community. Fairfax County has had the great fortune to have County Council leaders like Diane Brody, Mitch Luxenburg, Rosemary Lynch and many others. It is my plan to carry on the foundation that they have laid and to expand on their work to provide every student in Fairfax County with a voice, to work with FCPS to provide effective programs, and to urge our public officials to fully support our schools.

Although January 1st is technically the beginning of a new year, I have always felt that the first day of school was a much more significant new beginning. For students it means a new classroom, a new teacher and a new start. For parents it means new clothes, new schedules and new challenges. For me personally this year, it is a new FCCPTA board, a new superintendent and a new chance to do good things for students. You will find within this newsletter a list of goals. The FCCPTA executive board has spent this summer defining and refining our plans for the coming two years. You will see that the key is communication. There is nothing more important than having complete and correct information about your student and your school. We will be focusing a lot of effort on enhancing and expanding communication between the PTA and the school system, and between the PTA and parents. A PTA president is the primary link in that chain of commu-

nication. If you (or another officer on your board) have not been receiving emails from the FCCPTA, I urge you to go to the website ([www.fccpta.org](http://www.fccpta.org)) and provide your contact information today! I realize that many people are wary about sharing their personal e-mail addresses for fear of being inundated with junk. If you are concerned about this, please set up an account just for PTA purposes. There are many services such as [yahoo.com](http://yahoo.com), [hotmail.com](http://hotmail.com), etc. that provide free e-mail accounts. E-mail is no longer an extra. It has become a primary communication tool and every PTA president really needs to have an e-mail account so that we can reach you. We do not share our e-mail list with anybody for any reason and we do not send frequent or frivolous messages. I would also urge every parent to go to the FCPS website ([www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu)) and click on the "Keep in Touch" button to sign up to receive information from Fairfax County Public Schools. You can customize it to receive specific types of information for specific schools.

By definition, the FCCPTA is a "Council" of local units. We can only be effective by staying connected which means communication must be TWO way. We are here to serve you. Let us know what we're doing right, what we're doing wrong and what we're not doing that we should be. Come to the general membership meetings and let your unit's voice be heard. That's what makes us strong. That's what our slogan is all about ... Fairfax County Council of PTAs: every child, one voice.

I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Lynn Terhar — FCCPTA 2004-2006 President

# Of Local Interest

## New FCCPTA 2004-2006 Officers

**President** .....Lynn Terhar  
703-968-6949 ..... fccpta@cox.net

**1st VP** .....Connie Lorentzen  
703-360-3781 ..... carevan@erols.com

**2nd VP** .....Ralph Cooper  
703-455-9547 ..... Ralph.Cooper@pentagon.af.mil

**3rd VP** .....Robin Jenks  
703-818-9624 ..... robinjenks@yahoo.com

**4th VP**..... Open

**Treasurer** .....Alan Krishnan  
703-758-8572 ..... alan.krishnan@ionidea.com

**Recording Secretary** ..... Michele Menapace  
703-329-8236 ..... MEMenapace@aol.com

**Corresponding Secretary** ..... Dana Cimino  
703-266-8573 ..... danacimino@aol.com

## FCCPTA 2004-2006 Goals

The Executive Committee of the FCCPTA has set forth the following goals for the next two years:

- GOAL 1: HIGH QUALITY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS SHOULD MEET THE INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION NEEDS OF ALL CHILDREN ATTENDING FCPS
- GOAL 2: PROMOTE POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PARENTS AND SCHOOLS.
- GOAL 3: INCREASE MEANINGFUL, REGULAR, AND TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN FCCPTA AND FCPS, LOCAL UNITS and PARENTS.
- GOAL 4: ADVOCATE FOR ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR BOTH THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET AND CIP BUDGET WHILE FOCUSING ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF FUNDING.
- GOAL 5: INCREASED AWARENESS OF CHILDREN'S HEALTH ISSUES.

It is our intention to focus on these issues and actions through communication and advocacy.

## President's Checklist for September

- √ Make sure the Membership Committee has all the information and cards needed for a successful membership campaign
- √ Make sure the Reflections Chair has all the information for a successful Reflections Program
- √ Hold first General Membership meeting and vote on the proposed PTA Budget
- √ Have board members attend Council, District, or Region Leadership Training Workshops

## President's Checklist For October

- √ Choose delegates to attend the Virginia PTA/PTSA Convention and send in the registration
- √ Hold a Legislation Meeting to have your general membership vote on the Virginia PTA/PTSA Proposed Legislation Program and send the tally sheet to your District Director

## FCCPTA FALL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING!

**Thursday, Sept. 30th**  
**7:30 PM**

**Luther Jackson Middle School**

**Guest Speaker: *Superintendent Jack Dale***

### Agenda:

1. Annual Budget Approval
2. Election of 4th Vice President:
3. Q & A with FCPS School Board members

**Each local unit in good standing has two votes:  
the President (or designee) and  
the County Council Representative**

**Please come to let your voice be heard!**

## NCLB, FCPS and PTA ... True or False?

1. *I don't need to know about this because my school made AYP.* **FALSE!**

To make AYP this year, the measures for math and English were 59 and 61, respectively.

Next year, schools will be required to reach 70 for both. It is very important for parents in all schools to be informed about the progress of their school and their child.

2. *The No Child Left Behind transfer option only applies to Title I schools.* **TRUE!**

Non Title I elementary, middle and high schools all must produce "school improvement plans" if they fail to make AYP for two consecutive years. (Note: There are no middle or high schools in Fairfax County that are Title I so the transfer options will not affect them unless the law is changed.)

3. *Even an FCPS school that is NOT a Title I school may be identified as a receiving school.* **TRUE!**

Receiving schools are identified based on school capacity, available programs, proximity and transportation options.

4. *My school didn't make AYP so it is a failing school.* **FALSE!**

To meet AYP, schools must meet 35 different targets in math and English proficiency, participation in testing, and attendance. Most schools that were identified for the transfer option fell short in only one or two areas. Many schools identified for the transfer option have demonstrated success in a variety of other areas.

5. *I do not have to transfer my child to another school.* **TRUE!**

FCPS is providing parents with this option as required by federal law. The decision to transfer your child is entirely up to you. You should base your decision on what you think is best for your child.

### WHAT SHOULD YOUR PTA BE DOING?

*Communication is the key.*

1. PTA leaders should work with their principal and other school administrators to be sure that parents have complete, clear and honest information.
2. Encourage parents to check the school and FCPS websites. ([www.fcps.edu/news/nclb.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/news/nclb.htm))
3. Coordinate with school officials to hold information meetings and parent coffees.
4. Share information in newsletters and emails.

5. Have parents sign up for "Keep in Touch" through the FCPS website.
6. Urge school officials to provide translated information if necessary.

## What Your PTA Needs to Know About Using Your School Building for Meetings and Events ...



- ⇒ Over 9,000 applications are processed yearly
- ⇒ 155 schools are used as polling places
- ⇒ Operating Hours:
  - Weekdays - close of school until 10:15 PM
  - Saturdays - 8:00 am to 11:30 pm
  - Sundays - 8:00 am to 10:15 pm
  - Holidays - CLOSED
- ⇒ Gyms and fields are scheduled by CRS (Fairfax County Dept. of Community and Recreation Services)
- ⇒ To reserve school facilities submit form ADM-20 to the building use coordinator for your school (PTA does not have to pay the \$5 fee)

PTAs are urged to arrange for building use as far in advance as possible.

Always be clear on room setup arrangements and who is responsible for clean up.

Fairfax County  
Council of PTAs  
**PTA**  
everychild.onevoice.

**Calendar  
Survey—Last  
Chance!**

**LAST CHANCE** to share your thoughts on the FCPS school calendar! Go to the FCCPTA website ([www.fccpta.org](http://www.fccpta.org)) and take the Calendar Survey. We will close it out and stop accepting response on October 1, so do it today!

Also check out the latest FCCPTA News and Great PTA Resources



## District Training Set for Sep. 18

Fairfax District PTA's Fall Training and Legislation Day is Saturday September 18 at Falls Church HS from 8:30 AM - 1:05 PM. Scheduled to appear is Mike Glasco speaking and taking questions on "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB), Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), and School Choice under NCLB. Training sessions for Presidents, Treasurers, Reflections, Membership, Bylaws, "The Other Board Members", "Building the Volunteer Base", and general Questions and Answers are scheduled. Attendees can attend two sessions. A general session on the Virginia PTA Proposed Legislation Program will also be held. There is a \$5.00 registration fee. Training events are a legitimate use of PTA funds!

More information is in the "District Dialogue" sent to each President at the address listed with the state office. Any questions? Please contact Bill Levey, Fairfax District Director via e-mail at [fairfaxdd@vapta.org](mailto:fairfaxdd@vapta.org) or phone at 703-721-0319.

## State and District PTA

Below is contact information for the Fairfax District PTA and State PTA officers who live in Fairfax.

### Fairfax District PTA

#### **Director - Bill Levey**

703-721-0319 ..... [fairfaxDD@vapta.org](mailto:fairfaxDD@vapta.org)

#### **First Assistant Director - Lynn Terhar**

703-968-6949 ..... [fairfaxDD\\_asst@vapta.org](mailto:fairfaxDD_asst@vapta.org)

### State PTA Board Members

#### **President - Ramona Morrow**

703-455-9603 ..... [president@vapta.org](mailto:president@vapta.org)

#### **Membership - Michele Menapace**

703-329-8236 ..... [membership@vapta.org](mailto:membership@vapta.org)

#### **Volunteers - Dottie Andrews**

703-690-7533 ..... [volunteers@vapta.org](mailto:volunteers@vapta.org)

## So What is Fairfax District?

Fairfax District is a division of Virginia PTA that covers the PTAs in the counties of Arlington and Fairfax along with the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church. The Director and First Assistant Director sit on the VAPTA Board of Managers and are your local state PTA officials. We work with your council to provide encouragement, information and advice.

**Bill Levey**, Fairfax District Director

[fairfaxdd@vapta.org](mailto:fairfaxdd@vapta.org) - 703-721-0319

## Voting on VAPTA Proposed Legislation Program Due by October 31

Local Units are encouraged to vote on the VAPTA Proposed Legislation Program (PLP). There is one Legislation Action Item (LAI) and several Policy Statements (PS). The PLP was sent to all local unit presidents earlier this summer. Votes are due to Bill Levey, District Director, either by mail (4319 Rolling Stone Way, Alexandria, VA 22306) or via e-mail at [fairfaxdd@vapta.org](mailto:fairfaxdd@vapta.org) by 10/31. Results will be announced at the Virginia PTA Annual Convention 11/19-21.

## Second Assistant Director Needed

The Fairfax District Board would like to acknowledge Nancy Knighton for her service as Second Assistant Director. Unfortunately, she has had to resign for personal reasons. The Second Assistant Director handles assignments from the Director and is the alternate for either the Director or First Assistant Director at Virginia PTA Board of Managers meetings.

We are also looking for an annual meeting chairperson along with anyone who would have an interest in areas that align with the several VAPTA committees: Bylaws, Legislation, and Membership.

Please contact Bill Levey, Fairfax District Director via e-mail at [fairfaxdd@vapta.org](mailto:fairfaxdd@vapta.org) or phone at 703 721-0319.



## Let's Keep in Touch!

Help FCPS provide you the information that you need. Fill in your e-mail address at <http://fcps.medianext.com/fcps/signup.html> below to receive information via e-mail from Fairfax County Public Schools. You will then have the opportunity to create your own personal information profile. There is no obligation to register.



August 17, 2004

The Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council, of which the Fairfax County Council of PTAs is a part, has asked the Board of Supervisors to proclaim September as "**Fairfax Prepares**" month.

The U. S. Department of Homeland Security has designated September as "National Preparedness Month" and is asking Americans to get a kit, make a plan, and be informed. ([www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov))

We invite you to join us in helping to make Fairfax County safer. The FCCPTA and the County's Citizen Corps Council are encouraging participation in our Citizen Corps Programs: Neighborhood Watch, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), and affiliate emergency preparedness programs offered by the American Red Cross and others.

September is the third anniversary of 9/11 and the first anniversary of Hurricane Isabel - a good time to think how we can be better prepared for all kinds of emergencies - terrorism, technical, health, crime, weather, and accidents.

Your PTA can make a difference beginning in September by:

- o **Sponsoring a Family Preparedness Night** to: 1) Learn about making an emergency supply kit, 2) Learn about making a family/neighborhood communication plan, and, 3) Be informed about the different kinds of threats
- o **Joining and encouraging participation** in one of the County's Citizen Corps volunteer programs to update first-aid and other emergency preparedness skills
- o **Being prepared to sign up for the County's Community Emergency Alert System (CEAN)** coming in October.

The FCCPTA and the County's Citizen Corps Council can help you with speakers for your event and provide information about where to obtain or download brochures. To find out more, call your FCCPTA and/or visit the County's Citizen Corps Web site at [www.fairfaxcountycitizencorps.org](http://www.fairfaxcountycitizencorps.org). You can also call our partners at Volunteer Fairfax at 703-324-3460.

If everyone does their part in September and the months ahead, we will have a strong, safe, and ready Fairfax County community.

Lynn Terhar, President  
Fairfax County Council of PTAs

Merrily Pierce, Chairman  
Fairfax County Citizen Corps

# Reflections 2004-2005



The season of Reflections 2004-2005 is now upon us all here in Fairfax County Schools. The new theme is

## “A Different Kind of Hero”

The Reflections program provides the opportunity for students of all backgrounds to express their creativity through original literature, music composition, photography, and visual art. The sharing of their talents and the recognition they receive for their entries in this worthwhile program are very meaningful to all student participants. The students of the Fairfax County public schools that do participate regularly receive recognition at the highest state and national levels. Four student entries from Fairfax County reached the National level. You can read our Middle/Junior Literature entry on the National PTA website at [www.pta.org/parentinvolvement/familyfun/](http://www.pta.org/parentinvolvement/familyfun/)

This year’s suggested local unit deadline is Friday, November 5, 2004. The Fairfax County Council deadline is Saturday, December 4, 2004 at Falls Church High School. Please have your local unit Reflections chair send their names and emails to Lisa Lombardozzi at [llombo@sigkit.com](mailto:llombo@sigkit.com) She has both the Reflections handbook with all forms necessary as well as a Parent Handbook that can be put on any local unit website. Forms and information are also available on the Fairfax County Council website at [www.fccpta.org](http://www.fccpta.org).

You can also download Reflections flyers to use to put information out to your school communities. Let us PTA leaders put our thinking caps on just like we are asking the students to do and get the challenges out to the students to show us all the many ‘different’ kinds of heroic, courageous people we have in our midst. Give us reason to celebrate who we are.

Need help? Come to the District training day on September 18, 2004 at Falls Church High School cafeteria. There will be two Reflections sessions.



## New PTA Program with AT&T Wireless

National PTA and AT&T Wireless have launched a new PTA program called AT&T Wireless for Education. When you sign up for a new qualified calling plan on a two-year agreement, AT&T Wireless will donate \$50 directly to your local PTA or school.

AT&T Wireless is also taking a leadership position in promoting safe, courteous, and smart wireless phone use through the “Wireless Guide for Parents,” a resource that helps families use their wireless phones responsibly.

Find out more about the AT&T Wireless for Education program and download the “Wireless Guide for Parents” at [www.attwireless.com/4education](http://www.attwireless.com/4education).

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## PTA Members Receive Discount

Through **BARNES & NOBLE.com**  
[www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com)

National PTA and [Barnesandnoble.com](http://Barnesandnoble.com) have developed a discounted on-line bookstore for PTA members. Members will save 5% on all purchases on products ordered from this site in addition to normal site discounts of up to 40%.

<http://www.pta.org/members/your/index.asp#>

*(click Opportunities Available to You  
under the President's Message)*



Visit the Virginia PTA website at  
[www.vapta.org](http://www.vapta.org).

# Of National Interest

## National PTA Resolutions

The National PTA passed two resolutions at their Convention in June 2004.

### RESOLUTION

#### After-School Programs

Whereas, Between 7 and 15 million U.S. children return from school to an empty house on any given afternoon; and

Whereas, Violent and juvenile crime triples in the hours from 3:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m., and it is during these hours that children face the most serious danger of becoming victims of crime or participants in substance abuse and early sexual activity; and

Whereas, After-school programs are proven to reduce crimes against children, crimes by children, and incidents of other risky behaviors among children, and after-school programs have the support of America's police chiefs as the most effective solution for these problems; and

Whereas, Quality after-school programs promote academic success and positive social relationships; and

Whereas, Nine out of 10 voters agree that children and teens need some type of organized activity or place to go after school every day; and

Whereas, After-school programs save taxpayers more than \$2 for every dollar spent, and voters want to see all levels of government make a financial commitment to after-school programs; therefore be it

Resolved, That National PTA urges local and state governments and the federal government to make an increased investment in funding quality after-school programs, accessible to all children, and where possible using school facilities; and be it further

Resolved, That National PTA urges all of its constituents and members to work with local communities to establish affordable, quality after-school programs.

*Adopted: By 2004 Convention Delegates*

### RESOLUTION

#### Nutritional Eating Requirements in Our Schools to Combat Childhood Obesity

Whereas, The need to promote healthy eating among young people has intensified in recent years due to the growing national epidemic of obesity; and

Whereas, Obesity contributes to cardiovascular disease, stroke, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and type 2 diabetes; and

Whereas, Type 2 diabetes has risen by 33 percent in children between the ages of 6 and 11; and

Whereas, School districts are not required to participate in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National School Lunch Program, many schools offer lunch choices that are high in fat, sodium, and/or sugar; and

Whereas, Foods sold to students in vending machines, school stores, and in the school cafeteria should be attractive and expand the variety of healthy choices available with a limit on calories from total fat, saturated fat, and little or no processing or additives; therefore be it

Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations promote the importance of healthy eating among children and youth to combat the growing national epidemic of childhood obesity; and be it further

Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations support the inclusion of parents, community and health specialists along with educators and administrators when determining whether or not vending machines should be allowed on the school grounds and, if so, also be involved in deciding the types of products allowed within those machines and the use of proceeds garnered.

Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations support the requirement that food and beverage items sold to students in vending machines, school stores, and in the school cafeteria contain at least the minimum nutritional value as determined by the USDA.

*Adopted: by the 2004 Convention Delegates*

## Teaching Children with ADHD — Instructional Strategies and Practices (2003) Guidebook

*Submitted by: Connie Lorentzen, 1st VP*

Produced by the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs, this new guide, designed for teachers, other school staff, and families, focuses three main components for successfully educating children with ADHD: academic instructions, behavioral interventions, and classroom accommodations.

For more information see: <http://www.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/osep/index.html#adhd-res>

## National Standards for Parent/ Family Involvement Programs - National PTA

**Standard I - Communicating** — Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful.

**Standard II - Parenting** — Parenting skills are promoted and supported

**Standard III - Student Learning** — Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.

**Standard IV - Volunteering** — Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought.

**Standard V - School Decision Making and Advocacy** — Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.

**Standard VI - Collaborating with Community** — Community resources are used to strengthen schools, families, and student learning.



### About Reading Rockets

*Submitted By: Connie Lorentzen, 1st VP*

Reading Rockets is a national educational service of WETA, the flagship public television and radio station in the nation's capital. The Reading Rockets project is comprised of a five-part PBS series, Reading Rockets: Launching Young Readers, available on videotape and DVD; a PBS documentary narrated by Morgan Freeman called A Tale of Two Schools; a teleconference series; print guides; a daily updated Web site; the First Year Teacher project; and a national outreach campaign.

Reading Rockets is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. The goal of the project is to provide information on how young kids learn to read, why so many struggle, and how caring adults can help. Please visit our Web site to learn about easy ways you can let others know about the many resources available from Reading Rockets.

See: [http://pbsmail.org/weta\\_learning/notice-description.tcl?newsletter\\_id=2033176&r=cpzh56M1quK5](http://pbsmail.org/weta_learning/notice-description.tcl?newsletter_id=2033176&r=cpzh56M1quK5)

## PARENTING TIPS from the National PTA Website

### Homework

Many students try to avoid it, but teaching and learning research indicates that children who spend more time on regularly assigned, meaningful homework, on average, do better in school, and that the academic benefits of homework increase as children move into the upper grades. Parents and families play an important role in the process. Together, families and teachers can help children develop good study habits and attitudes to become lifelong learners.

#### *How much time should my children spend each night on homework?*

Most educators agree that ...

- For children in grades K–2, homework is effective when it does not exceed 10–20 minutes each school day.
- Older children, in grades 3–6, can handle 30–60 minutes a day.
- In junior and senior high school, the amount of homework will vary by subject. Most older students will also have homework projects, such as research papers and oral reports, that may have deadlines weeks away. They may need help organizing assignments and planning work times to make sure homework is ready to turn in on time. Your children's teachers can tell you how much time they expect students to spend on homework. Place most concern on whether the homework is meaningful and whether over a period of time homework is assigned in all of the student's subjects. Ask your principal if your school or school district has a homework policy. If it does, make sure that you and your children know and understand that policy.

#### *How can I help with homework?*

There are several ways in which you can help:

- Send your children to school each day, well-rested, fed, and with a positive outlook.
- Take an active interest in your children's schooling. Ask specific questions about what happens at school each day and how your children feel about it.
- Try not to let any of your own negative experiences keep you from supporting and encouraging your children's learning. Let them know how much you care about education by continuing your own learning, both informally and formally, to impress its importance upon them.

- If possible, set up a quiet, comfortable study area with good lighting and the school supplies that your children need. This can be almost any place in your home; you don't need a special room.
- Set a family "quiet time" where you and your children can work together on homework, reading, letter writing, and playing games.
- Allow your children to study in the way each of them learns best. For example, some children work best when they're lying on the floor with background music playing.
- Make homework a daily activity, and help your children develop good homework habits.

#### ***Can my children do homework while listening to music or watching television?***

Some students can work with a radio or stereo on, while others must work in silence. Television can be a big problem. Research shows that American children on average spend far more time watching television than they do completing homework. Although it's worth noting that television can be a learning tool, it's best to leave the television off during homework time.

#### ***How much help should I give?***

This depends on each child's grade level and study habits. Younger students often need extra homework help. First, make sure the child understands the directions. Do a few problems together, then watch your child do a few. When your child is finished, check the work. Praise right answers, and show how to correct mistakes. Avoid doing your children's homework for them. Teachers need to see where your children are having trouble.

#### ***What if I don't understand my child's assignments?***

Today's students may have subjects that you never had or that you didn't like when you were in school. You don't have to be an expert in a subject to help with homework. There are many places to go for help. You can still help your children by praising their progress, getting help from a public library or homework hotline, and talking with their teachers.

#### ***One of my children tries hard but still has problems with homework. What can I do to help?***

There could be a number of reasons for your child's trouble. Tell your child it's good to ask the teacher about homework or anything else he or she doesn't understand. If your child understands the work but is still having trouble, ask for a meeting with the teacher. The two of you should work out a plan to meet your child's needs. You may need to meet again during the year to check on how your child is doing.

#### ***My child seems bored by homework. Is this normal?***

It's normal for students not to want to do their homework. But if your child always seems bored or unhappy, you need to try to find out the reason by talking with your child. Then talk with the teacher to come up with a solution. Tell the teacher if your child thinks the homework is too easy or too hard.

#### ***When I ask my children if they have homework, they say that it's finished or that they don't have any. How do I make sure they're really doing their work?***

Make studying, not just homework, a daily habit. Students can always review lessons, read a book, or work on practice exercises, even if they don't have homework. Ask younger children to show you their homework so that you can check it, sign it, and date it. If your children's school has a homework hotline, call it to check for daily assignments. If your children often have no homework to do, you should let their teachers know.

#### ***What if my child still isn't turning in homework?***

State clearly and assertively to your child that you expect homework to be done and turned in to the teacher. Let your child know you will not tolerate irresponsible behavior about homework. Don't wait until grades come out to find out if the problem has been solved. You may need weekly contact with the teacher until your child develops new habits.

#### ***Should I reward my children for doing homework or for getting good grades?***

Children like to know when they've done a good job. Your approval means a lot. Be careful about giving money or gifts as rewards. Show pride when your children do their best, no matter what grades they get. This will help the teacher match homework with student ability and maturity levels.

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## **Parenting Tip – Stay Involved in Your Teen's Life**

Parents can and do make a difference in a teen's decision to stay drug-free. Have you talked to your teen's coach, employer and friends lately? Stay in touch with the adult supervisors of your child (camp counselors, coaches, employers) and have them inform you of any changes in your teen.

Read more by visiting <http://www.theantidrug.com/>.



# County Council It's not too late! Please send your dues in now!"

## Please Note Address Change

Please pay dues on each individual who belongs to your PTA/PTSA. Include as individuals each person who has paid dues, including teachers, students, and each person in a "family" membership.

For additional information, contact Alan Krishnan, Treasurer, at 703-758-8572 or [alan.krishnan@ionidea.com](mailto:alan.krishnan@ionidea.com).

Send dues payments to:

**Fairfax County Council of PTAs - Attn: Alan Krishnan, 12607 Franklin Farm Road, Oak Hill, VA 20171**

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Type (circle one)                      Elementary              Middle High School              Center

Number of individual members \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$.25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = Amount Due

Call this person in our PTA if there is a question about this payment:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

## Scholarship Donation Form

Each year, the FCCPTA proudly administers a scholarship program for FCPS graduates who are furthering their education in fields they first studied in our Professional Technical Studies (PTS) program. This program is funded entirely by **voluntary** contributions from our member PTAs/PTSAs. If your PTA/PTSA would like to make a donation, please fill out this form and return it along with your check to the address listed below.

For additional information on this program, go to [http://www.fccpta.org/forms/form\\_scholar\\_descr](http://www.fccpta.org/forms/form_scholar_descr), or contact Alan Krishnan, Treasurer, at 703-758-8572 or [alan.krishnan@ionidea.com](mailto:alan.krishnan@ionidea.com).

Send scholarship donations to:

**FCCPTA Scholarship Fund, Attn: Alan Krishnan, 12607 Franklin Farm Road, Oak Hill, VA 20171**

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Type (circle one)                      Elementary              Middle High School              Center

Call this person in our PTA if there is a question about this payment:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

## FCCPTA Glossary of Acronyms and Initialisms

Do you understand all those acronyms and initials you read or hear concerning the PTA. No? Well, we have a solution. The FCCPTA has compiled a glossary of acronyms and initials used by the PTA that may assist you.

Its address is: <http://www.fccpta.org/glossary.htm>.

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If any local unit officers or committee chairs prefer to receive their newsletter as an Adobe Acrobat "pdf" file via e-mail, we are happy to arrange that. The e-mail version arrives about a week before the printed version. Each newsletter will be available on the Council's web site [www.fccpta.org](http://www.fccpta.org) as an Adobe Acrobat "pdf" file.

*The FCCPTA Newsletter is published monthly (August -June) by the Fairfax County Council of PTAs. Articles may be reprinted in local unit newsletters as long as the source is stated, unless a copyright is clearly indicated. Newsletter production is provided by Precision Desktop Services. Newsletter printing and mailing costs are donated by **CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield**, coordinated through Barbara Jordan.*

# Fairfax County Council of PTAs

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