

Finneytown Secondary PTA Newsletter

October 2009
Principal Jack Fisher

Finneytown Secondary PTA, c/o Finneytown High School
8916 Fontainebleau Terrace, Cincinnati, OH 45231



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Don't Forget our Website:

<http://www.finneytownpta.org/>

Our website exists to promote and support PTA related programs and events. Please send details of PTA programs you're involved with to Bill Fessler (bfsing@cinci.rr.com).

**Finneytown
Secondary**

PTA[®]

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President's Message:

I hope that you have taken the opportunity to join the Finneytown Secondary PTA. It is still not too late if oops just went through your head. Just fill out the membership form that is included in this newsletter or print one out from our website: www.FinneytownPTA.org.

Many PTA committees are in full swing now. Robin Simpson is working on that big task of putting the phonebook together. It's also not too late to order your phone book (see the website or contact Robin). Did you remember to get an extra one for the kids or the car? Who hasn't used that map saying, "Wow, I had no idea that street existed". The staff was grateful for the wonderful food for the conference nights thanks to the coordination of Jane Kennedy, Kellie Smoker, and Cindy Heath and all of you that donated items. That really does mean a lot to the staff. The class representatives have begun their work supporting float efforts and providing goodies for the Homecoming Dance. You would not be reading this newsletter if it wasn't for the efforts of Seth Rensberger and Angela Murphy. We can't thank Sandy Camden, who works in Central Duplicating for the district, enough. She has been so wonderful and efficient with all of the copies that we need including this newsletter.

Don't forget those Kroger Gift Cards especially if you have a 7th grader, band student, or Chorale student going on the Chicago trip. Three percent of every dollar you load on the card goes into an account for your student to help cover the cost of that trip/activity. A big thanks to Beth Mizelle who is the spreadsheet guru keeping track of all of those accounts.

Please take a moment to look through the Scrips Gift Card order form. You gotta love those win-win situations. You can do your gift purchases easily from home and the PTA gets money for your doing it! Thanks to Leslie Gamble for coordinating this.

Please also check out the article from the Community Service Committee who are very active this time of year. See if there is anything you can help with.

You are always invited to our meetings on the 3rd Tuesday's of every month following the Parent Communication Council (mostly) in the Media Center. Since the next newsletter will be in January/February (plan for those flower vouchers), have a wonderful and safe holiday season!

Respectfully Submitted,

Elise Fessler

Membership Raffle Winners

Congratulations to:



Bev Nichols (Member)
&
Emily Neff (Staff Member)



They each won a \$25 Kroger Gift Card in
our membership incentive raffle.



What???

You don't have a PTA Kroger Gift Card?

Contact Beth Mizelle or get the form from: www.FinneytownPTA.org

This is a must for families with a 7th grader (raise funds for the 8th grade DC trip), a band student (band camp/Chicago trip), or for the next couple months a Chorale student (Chicago trip). Three percent of every dollar you load on the card goes into an account for your student to help cover the cost of that trip/activity. Anyone can use these special Kroger Gift Cards and choose to put money in scholarship funds for DC or band or just support the PTA.

Remember that the Kroger Gift Cards must be obtained through the PTA (Beth Mizelle)

Advocacy Update!

Take Action Now! OHIO PTA ACTION ALERT: SAVE EDUCATION FUNDING!

Support Alternative Legislation to Save \$851 Million Cuts to Education in Ohio. There is proposed legislation that would save education funding. We need to contact our state legislators and ask for their support for this important legislative action.

PLEASE GO TO www.ohiopta.org, ADVOCACY page, CAPWIZ

1. CLICK ON THE TAKE ACTION TAB
2. FILL IN YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS
3. CLICK SEND

A letter will automatically go to your state representative and state senator. Ohio PTA needs your help.

Please take action today & thank you!

Here is a short summary of some legislative and advocacy activities right now. The following are from the October "Ohio PTA News" and Ohio PTA Advocacy e-mails:

1. PTA Creates an Online Advocacy Toolkit

- See the "PTA Takes Action Center" at www.pta.org.

2. Limits on Cell Phone/Texting While Driving

- Six bills have been introduced in the Ohio House and Senate.

3. HB253 Education Leadership Character Ethics

- Concerns leadership character ethics in public schools and public institutions of higher education.
- **PTA Creates Issue Briefs on Four Key Pieces of Legislation.** See www.pta.org/3463.asp, for these briefs which include background, contact information, and ways to take action on the following:
 - a. Parental Engagement in ESEA-NCLB (Elementary & Secondary Education Act - No Child Left Behind).
 - b. Local Wellness Policies in the Child Nutrition Act.
 - c. Parental Engagement in IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).
 - d. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP).

Please contact Ellise Fessler (bfsing@cinci.rr.com), HCC & Finneytown PTAs' Advocacy Chair, to be added to a distribution list for monthly Advocacy Reports (this report can be used as is for meetings and newsletters or edit it as desired but please keep the references mentioned).



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Finneytown Secondary PTA Membership Form

(Serving Finneytown Schools Grades 7-12)

Thank you for your interest in joining our PTA! Please fill out the form below and return it to your PTA Membership Chair, Robin Simpson, along with your payment. *When PTA gets involved, children benefit. When you get involved with PTA, the child who benefits the most is your own.*

Sign Me Up – I want to be a Secondary PTA Member!

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Complete This Section if you are NOT ordering a Phonebook:

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____, OH _____ Zip _____

Phone Number: _____ Alternate Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____ Child's Name _____ Grade: _____

Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____ Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Please mark all that apply & return in one envelope:

- Membership Dues:** any one can join, parent(s), guardians, grandparents

\$5.00 per person # _____ x \$5.00 = _____

- PTA Donation:** ___ Bronze @ \$10.00 ___ Silver @ \$25.00

___ Gold @ \$50.00 ___ Other: _____

Total PTA Donation = _____

- Safe Home Pledge – Form Enclosed, please complete**

- Phone Book Order – Form Enclosed, please complete**

Phone Book Payment _____

- Volunteer form – Form Enclosed, please complete**

Membership + Donation + Phone Books= Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Make Check Payable to FT Secondary PTA

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING YOUR PTA!

Mail Forms To: Robin Simpson, 831 Cloverview Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45231

A MINI-GRANT THANK YOU

Dear PTA members,

After being awarded a mini-grant to purchase a new couch for the “reading nook” in the MS/HS library, I was granted extra time to be able to find a really good deal. I found one this summer at Big Lots. Here’s a picture of the couch that is now in the library:



It is leather-ish so that any dirt or germs can be wiped away. You can’t imagine what a HUGE hit this couch has been! Two students just came in to renew their books and when they saw the couch, they were in awe. One girl said, “We have a really nice library here in Finneytown. It’s way better than most school libraries.” That made my day!

I want to thank you for providing such a terrific incentive for our students to sit and read. Since the students know that sitting in the “reading nook” is a privilege, they take it seriously and they actually read when they are in the comfy chairs. Your generosity is much appreciated by all of the students and staff at Finneytown.

Sincerely,

Lara Walker, Library Media Specialist



The Finneytown Secondary PTA would like to send a special THANK YOU to **Dan Deitsch** for all the time, energy, and effort he put into this year's Homecoming Tailgate Party! The event was fabulous and a huge success! Thanks for organizing this event, and we can't wait until next year!

THANKS AGAIN, DAN!

Secondary PTA does not usually publish individual letters from parents, but the article below not only provides us a perspective on advocating for our own child but also brings awareness and, hopefully, an understanding that is important for all of us. After all, what better venue than PTA that stands for "Every Child...One Voice."

Life with Tourette Syndrome

Try to imagine the next time you go to a store, you hear the clerk making strange noises. Please do not accuse him or her of making them on purpose, and tell them they are lying when they try to explain why they are doing it. The clerk is old enough to know not to make strange noises voluntarily, plus their employer will not allow them to do this unless the clerk has a disability.

The next time you go out and hear a person yelping in a restaurant, movie theatre, etc, don't whisper behind his or her back, giggle softly at them or even blatantly laugh and talk about them in a foreign language. Please do not go up to the person and ask "why are you doing that?", or "can you stop that, that is annoying me." This is all rude and unacceptable behavior, if they could stop it they would.

Now imagine that you are born into this world a beautiful healthy baby. Your personality is strong and outgoing. You turn seventeen, graduate from high school with pretty good grades, and are making plans to move four hours away for college. You start stuttering and doing strange things like slightly losing control of motor skills. Everyone tells you its nerves. Even the family doctor doesn't make much of it.

You go to school and the stuttering gets worse. Your mom tells you to go to the hospital. The hospital tells you that you have Tourette Syndrome. The local neurologist won't diagnose you because he may be wrong. Your closest friends and family are four hours away. As the disease gets worse, so do your grades and you have to drop out of college.

You come home and find a great neurologist who confirms that you have Tourette Syndrome. He goes on to inform you that it is rare for someone of your age to get it. Usually children are diagnosed with Tourette's before they turn twelve years old. The medicine he gives you helps you relax. Unfortunately the tics are worse than ever. They continue to get worse at an extremely fast rate.

Imagine this is a story about your beautiful, perfectly healthy baby. Imagine watching him or her going through this. Picture coming home, and you are outside and your child is inside. You hear him or her alone yelping uncontrollably while watching TV. Think about your child saying they wish they got a disease when they were younger so they would know how to handle it better. How would you react to your child saying "now I know why a lot of people with disabilities are recluses"? Picture you are watching people asking your child "why are you doing that", or giggling at them.

These are all human reactions, but please, I beg of you to think the next time you react to a disabled person. Remember that disabilities are not always shown by appearance.

This is a story of part of my life as a parent, and my child's life through my eyes. I was a person who down deep thought nothing like this would happen to either one of my children, even though my brother-in-law has Tourette Syndrome. It did happen to my child, and unfortunately it happens to a lot of people, young and old alike.

I tell her honestly that I believe there is a reason this happened to her at this point in her life. She is a strong willed, outgoing, loving person. It would be a shame for her to stay locked up inside because she is different and might irritate someone or make them uncomfortable. I encourage her to go out, have fun and enjoy life. If people are rude, try to educate them. Unfortunately rude people are making it harder and harder for her to be nice.

If my daughter or anyone else with a disease irritates you or makes you uncomfortable, I'm sorry. I hope after reading this, you'll understand people with disabilities more and try to treat them like everyone else. Encourage people with disabilities to go out and enjoy life. Tell them if someone refuses to understand, pray for them and try to forget it.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Missie Lawrence (Independence, KY)

Finneytown Schools – A Proud Tradition

An Invitation... to be a part of the Finneytown Elementary and Secondary PTA Community Service Events that are coming up very soon!

It's that time of year again when Finneytown Elementary PTA's Community Service program is gearing up for our busy months of service. Here are some dates to mark on your calendar so that you can plan ahead and not miss out on the meaningful service and true joy of the experience!

- ▶ **Monday, Nov. 23rd** will be the day that our Thanksgiving Basket distribution will take place. This is a big project and it will take lots of help to make this happen. **There will be many ways to help with this event including food collection (a week before our distribution day), basket assembly and actual delivery of baskets on the 23rd.** We hope that your family will choose to participate. We also welcome any help from your place of business or other connections you might have. Look for details on Finneytown's website, in the November newsletter and on flyers that will come home in your child's backpack in a just a couple of weeks.
- ▶ **Thursday Dec. 17th during the day AND Friday, Dec. 18th "ALL" day and evening (whatever time you could be there would be great)** will be our Holiday food and gift distribution days. This is one of those events that requires hundreds of people to make it happen. We would love for your family to join in and serve Finneytown families in need! Most folks who come together every December to help in some way with this event will tell you that it makes their holiday season complete and much more meaningful. The Finneytown families that receive the food and gifts will tell you that it helps them more than they could say! This event technically starts the minute our last Thanksgiving basket gets delivered, so you can join in on all of the fun and preparations in the weeks that lead up to the Dec. 17th and 18th dates.
- ▶ **For more information or to volunteer to help, call Karen Mahan at 522-4352 or Barb Pantano at 521-1622 or e-mail kmahan@lifespringchristian.org.**

Thanks in advance for encouraging your children to help others and for sharing your family's time, material resources and compassion to bless other Finneytown families that need the encouragement and help.

FINNEYTOWN SCHOOLS Protecting a Proud Tradition

When taxpayers voted in 2004 to fund a new operating levy for the Finneytown Local School District, the board promised to make funds last three years without seeking an increase. The board has doubled the promise.

In the spring of 2010, the board is expected to request a new operating levy – the first in six years. No one likes new taxes, but simply put, state funds are declining, and district costs now outpace revenues. The operating levy is the district's lifeblood, paying for district salaries, daily expenses, and equipment. It's time to act.

Over the past six years, the district has been an excellent steward of its tax dollars. It has held expenditure growth to 2.1% annually, reduced 32 positions, consolidated buildings, and much more. Appropriations are being lowered this year.

Even better, the intense fiscal restraint hasn't sacrificed the phenomenal learning environment for our kids. In fact, the Finneytown student scores on the Ohio Graduation Tests in 2009 are the best in years, and our athletic & performing arts achievements are lauded statewide.

Finneytown will always be that unique, small school district – held high by a proud and enthusiastic community.

Passing an operating levy next spring is absolutely essential – to preserve our school's quality services, to support our parochial schools with books, and to protect our property values. In these tough real estate times, our school district is the key reason why Finneytown home values are more stable than nearly all of our neighboring communities. You can take that to the bank.

For more than 30 years, Finneytown has rallied around its district to pass every operating levy. And we need your help in 2010.

An operating levy committee has been formed under chairman Ric Towner. The committee is in the process to pursuing 300 volunteers to be trained in reaching out to 10 to 20 neighbors as the campaign unfolds in 2010.

Please consider being a part of this critically important campaign for our kids. The time commitment will be manageable. For more information on how you can help, please contact Ric Towner at towner@fuse.net. Thanks so much for your support.

Canned goods needed for Thanksgiving and Holiday baskets



The Finneytown Elementary and Secondary PTA will once again be providing **turkeys for Thanksgiving and hams in Dec. along with baskets of food** for families in the Finneytown area who are in need. Please have your child bring in canned goods or other non-perishable items **anytime during Monday November 9th through Friday November 20th.**

This year we are going to try to collect all food needed for both Thanksgiving and our Holiday Week of Giving during this one collection period. This will mean that our normal giving will need to at least double, if not triple, due to the number of families that we are trying to help this year. Classrooms, families, offices and relatives are invited to help us reach this goal. I can assure everyone that the need is genuine and all donations will be greatly appreciated.

Below are suggestions for contributions. **Highlighted items will be included in both the Thanksgiving and Holiday Baskets.**

- ▶ **Boxes of Cereal, Peanut Butter, Jelly**
- ▶ **Boxed mashed potato flakes, Stuffing mix, Macaroni and Cheese, Spaghetti**
- ▶ **Canned fruit, Cranberry sauce, Canned sweet potatoes**
- ▶ **Canned vegetables and soup, Bottled Juice**
- ▶ **Canned meat (tuna, beef stew, etc.), Spaghetti sauce, Canned Pasta**
- ▶ **Cake mix & Frosting, Brownie mix, Corn Muffin and Cookie mix, Jello**
- ▶ **Liquid dish detergent, Hand soap, Tear-Free shampoo, Kitchen plastic garbage bags**
- ▶ **Liquid Laundry detergent , Toilet tissue, Band-aids and Deodorant**



All contributions are welcome.

Also, if your family would like to donate a complete food basket, please contact Karen Mahan at 522-4352 or kmahan @lifespringchristian.org to get details.

Thanksgiving Continued...

We are also offering the option of making monetary donations to help purchase any items still needed to fill our baskets. To donate, please make a check payable to Finneytown Secondary PTA with a note Community Service. Please contact Karen Mahan at 522-4352 to donate in this manner.

Than you for letting your children give generously to help others!

Wishing you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving!

Holiday Week of Giving



It's coming soon... So here is some information that might allow you to decide how you can be a part of this really great time!

- ▶ Food Basket Assembly/delivery and Gift Wrapping help is needed on 12/17 and 12/18. Contact Barb Pantano to sign up to help on any of these days at 521-1622 or e-mail Barb at mbpant@aol.com.
- ▶ Time of Giving is Wednesday Dec. 2nd- Monday, Dec. 14th. Boxes for New toy and Clothing donations will be in school Offices. Your children can bring any new items with them to school and leave them in the wrapped boxes in the office.
- ▶ Clothing and Toy donations should not be wrapped.
- ▶ We will be accepting monetary donations also. If your family wishes to donate in this way, please make a check payable to Finneytown Secondary. PTA and mail to 1159 Eastgate Dr. Cincinnati, Ohio 45231. This will be so helpful since our list is larger than ever.
- ▶ Your Family, Classroom, Office, or Any other group can sign up to be a Special Shopper. This is such a great way to help us meet the needs on our list. Call now to get details and sign up. It's a lot of Fun!
- ▶ It takes so many people to make this giving time a success. If your family wants to help in any way, call Karen at 522-4352 or e-mail kmahan@lifespringchristian.org

Thanks So Much for taking time to share with others. Your giving will translate into such joy and grateful hearts as those receiving see that they are cared for by a wonderful community.

HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL OF PTAS



The guest speaker for the HCC General Session meeting held on Wednesday, October 21, was Mr. Bill Bogdan, Assistant Superintendent, Hamilton County Schools. His presentation, "Hot Topics in Education", generated great questions, comments and lively discussion from the members present. Mr. Bogdan discussed some of the history behind NCLB (No Child Left Behind), which in theory, has actually been around since the Johnson administration. But no matter the administration, the general belief is that American education plays a huge factor in the success of American economics. Therefore, American industries and businesses have much at stake and can be a provider of feedback regarding the education of our students and their readiness for college and/or the workforce. Of the 400 employers polled across the United States, skills such as Information Technology Application and Teamwork & Collaboration ranked high on the list of meeting proficiency while skills such as Written Communication and Critical Thinking Skills were areas needing improvement.

As we all know, state testing, and especially the impact this testing is having on state report card grades is another "hot topic" and Mr. Bogdan spent much time discussing areas of testing that the Strickland administration would like to revise. Mr. Bogdan closed with the following quote from Michael Fullan's book, The Moral Imperative of School Leadership: "As the main institution for fostering social cohesion in an increasingly diverse society, publicly funded schools must serve all children. This means addressing the cognitive and social needs of all children, with an emphasis on and including those who may not have been well served in the past. For instance, a focus on academic achievement must include a commitment to narrowing the gap...the long tail of under achievement. In other words, both academic achievement and personal and social development are core purposes of the public school system."

All are invited to the next HCC meeting which will be held **Wednesday, November 18, at 7:00 pm**. The topic this evening will be **Internet Safety** as presented by the Hamilton Country Sheriff's Department. If you have opportunity before the meeting please check out the following web site, www.anaturalplace.com/netsafety. It's a great web site with lots of good information about the cyberworld including sexting and blogging. On his page, Sheriff Aussie had this to say about social networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook:

"Over the past few days I've also received a lot of new information from [Myspace.com](http://www.myspace.com). First and foremost - if you are having problems with your child or their myspace page - you can click on this link <http://www.myspace.com/Modules/Common/Pages/SafetyTips.aspx#> . Toward the top of the page you will find a tab that says "Tips for Parents". Click on this tab and you will find a full disclosure of how myspace works, and a link that you - as a parent - can click on to have your child's myspace site closed. Myspace.com has also released a document that I have stored here <http://www.anaturalplace.com/netsafety/document.pdf> . This document details Myspace.com's position on safety for our kids. The 'Zepher' software is not available yet - but will be coming soon - I'll update when it's available for download. This information will pretty much apply to all the blog sites out there - don't hesitate to contact them if you are a concerned parent - they will help you out, but it looks like a lot of them will not be supporting myspace's Zepher program. To locate the information about HOW to contact the sites - go to the start page, and look for the words "contact us". Click on that link and you should get all the information that you need.

Recently I encountered a web site that talks about Facebook privacy - check out this link: www.allfacebook.com/2009/02/facebook-privacy/ and make some of these setting changes to your facebook page if you are a user!

You are probably getting tired of hearing about blog sites - but there is one more comment that I have to share. I have confirmed information about a young man from an elite private local high school that, as a senior, had all but been accepted into Dartmouth University. This was a dream come true for this young man, and it looked like he (a straight A student and all that other good stuff) was on his way to a really successful life. Then Dartmouth University reviewed his myspace site. After this review, he received a letter from the Admissions board of the University advising him that his application had been rejected based on the content of this site, Dartmouth didn't need a student who engaged in activities like he does. He could re-apply in one year, if he was still interested. How many of our kids have things on their web sites that could cause them an issue like this? If not a spot at a University, then what about future employment? Maybe you should have this discussion with your kids as well. And while you are at it, maybe take them to <http://www.archive.org/index.php> . This is one of many archive sites where web pages from the past live on and on. Hopefully this is enough said!"

Hope to see you on the 18th!
Submitted by Cathy Zimmerly, HCC Delegate

Finneytown Secondary PTA

Finneytown Secondary Campus:
 Middle School 728-3706
 High School 931-0712
 District Office 728-3700

2009-2010 Executive Board: *Executive Committee

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*Alt. Council Delegate	Jim Reeb	681-8681	jreeb@cinci.rr.com
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Faculty Representative	Lara Walker	931-0712	lwalker@finneytown.org
Advocacy	Elise Fessler	931-4234	bfsing@cinci.rr.com
After Prom Reps	Marti & Mike Schuler	521-1968	martischuler@fuse.net
Community Service	Karen Mahan	522-4352	kmahan@lifespringchristian.org
Gift Cards (Scripps)	Leslie Gamble	919-9600	aivana1228@yahoo.com
Kroger Gift Cards	Beth Mizelle	521-8887	bbm5@cinci.rr.com
<u>Grade Level Reps:</u>			
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Senior Ribbons & Signs	Rose Baker	242-9165	rosyroost@aol.com
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Staff Recognition	Cindy Heath	521-8809	lrhea4@aol.com
Volunteer Coordinator	Lori Christianson	931-6229	lori@kempa.com
Reflections	Elise Fessler	931-4234	bfsing@cinci.rr.com
Web Master	Bill Fessler	931-4234	bfsing@cinci.rr.com

Order Scrip gift cards for holiday gift giving and help fund your PTA!

What is the scrip program?

Scrip is a national fundraising program used by many schools and non profit organizations throughout the country. Gift cards are purchased for restaurants, services and retailers that you shop at normally and a portion of the face value of all cards comes back to the organization. You pay face value and the PTA gets the percentage listed.

What does the PTA use the money for?

The PTA uses the money it collects in fundraising to meet a lot of needs that there is no other funding source for. For a complete list of what was done with PTA funds last year, see the September newsletter on the secondary PTA website. Examples include; student scholarships, financial support for after prom, "Mini-Grants" available to staff for "extras" for their classes, teacher appreciation activities, student recognition (pins, letters, graduates ribbons and signs, etc.). Our taxes only pay for the basics needs of the school.

What's in it for me?

You get to wipe out some of that holiday and winter birthday gift giving with gifts that are sure to please. Never worry about being the relative who gives those bad sweaters or tacky knick knacks.

We all know how impossible it is to buy gifts for our teens. What do they really want? Cash or Gift cards! With Gift cards we are assured that the money will be spent on quality items. Gift cards give freedom within limits.

Do you have other suggestions for the gift cards?

We sure do! Want to give a teacher or tutor a gift? How about the babysitter? What better way to say thank you than with a small gift. There are scrip gift cards as low as a video card from Blockbuster for less than \$3 to Visa cards in large denominations. There are lots of ways to use scrip cards during the holiday and something for everyone on your list.

What if my favorite place to shop is not on the list?

There is not room to list all of the possible gift cards available. Feel free to browse the Great Lakes Scrip Program website for other options that can be written into the order form. The web sites URL is: <http://www.glscrip.com>

When does the order have to be returned to the school?

The last day orders can be accepted for Christmas delivery is Thursday December 3rd. 2009.

Where do I turn in my order forms?

You can return order forms to your school office or mail them to 6306 Stella 45224. Please be sure payment is included.

When and where do I pick up my gift cards?

Gift cards will be distributed at the secondary campus on Friday December 18th from 1-4PM in the MP or Saturday the 19 from 9-2 PM at 6306 Stella. If neither of those dates and times will work for you contact me to make other arrangements. (Cards cannot be sent home with children)

What if I have other questions?

Contact Leslie Gamble email:finneytowngiftcards@yahoo.com, Phone: 919-9600

Scrip Gift Card Order Form Finneytown Secondary PTA

Make checks payable to FSPTA
Order deadline: Thursday December 3rd, 2009

Name:	Address:
Phone:	Email:

Product	%	Qty	Total:
Aeropostale \$25.00	7%		\$
Amazon.com \$25.00	4%		\$
AMC Single Admit \$9.50	16%		\$
AMC Theatres \$25.00	7%		\$
Arby's \$10.00	8%		\$
Auto Zone \$25.00	5%		\$
B. Dalton Booksellers \$10.00	9%		\$
Barnes & Noble Booksellers \$10.00	9%		\$
Bath & Body Works \$10.00	13%		\$
Bed Bath & Beyond \$25.00	7%		\$
Best Buy \$25.00	3%		\$
Blockbuster \$10.00	7%		\$
Bob Evans \$10.00	10%		\$
BP Gas \$50.00	2%		\$
Bruegger's Bagels \$10.00	7%		\$
Buca Di Beppo \$25.00	8%		\$
Build-A-Bear Workshop \$25.00	8%		\$

Product	%	Qty	Total:
Cheesecake Factory \$25.00	5%		\$
Chili's Grill & Bar \$25.00	11%		\$
Chipotle \$10.00	10%		\$
Chuck E. Cheese \$10.00	8%		\$
Claire's \$10.00	9%		\$
Dave & Busters \$25.00	** 15%		\$
Dell Computer \$100.00	4%		\$
Dillard's \$25.00	9%		\$
Donatos Pizza \$10.00	10%		\$
EB Games \$25.00	3%		\$
Eddie Bauer \$25.00	10%		\$
Game Crazy \$10.00	16%		\$
Game Stop \$25.00	3%		\$
Hallmark \$25.00	4%		\$
Home Depot \$25.00	4%		\$
HomeGoods \$25.00	7%		\$
Icing \$10.00	9%		\$

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Name:	Address:
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Product	%	Qty	Total:
iTunes® \$15.00	4%		\$
JCPenney \$25.00	**6%		\$
Jo-Ann Fabrics \$20.00	6%		\$
Kohl's Department Store \$25.00	4%		\$
L.L. Bean \$25.00	15%		\$
Longhorn Steakhouse \$25.00	9%		\$
Lowe's Home Improvement \$25.00	4%		\$
Macaroni Grill \$25.00	11%		\$
Macy's \$25.00	10%		\$
Michaels \$25.00	4%		\$
National Amusements \$25.00	9%		\$
O'Charley's \$25.00	13%		\$
Old Navy \$25.00	9%		
Olive Garden \$25.00	9%		

Product	%	Qty	Total:
Outback Steakhouse \$25.00	5%		\$
Overstock.com \$25.00	8%		\$
Panera Bread \$10.00	9%		\$
Papa John's \$10.00	8%		\$
PetSmart \$25.00	4%		\$
Pizza Hut \$10.00	8%		\$
Pizzeria Uno \$25.00	12%		\$
Sears \$25.00	4%		\$
Shell \$25.00	**2.5%		\$
Showcase \$25.00	9%		\$
Starbucks \$10.00	7%		\$
T.J. Maxx \$25.00	7%		\$
TGI Friday's \$25.00	9%		\$
Toys-R-Us \$20.00	1.5%		\$
Wal-Mart \$25.00	2%		\$

Total Due All Columns:	\$	
**Limited time bonus offer. Participating retailers and products are subject to change without notice.		

Return order form & check to any school office or mail to L Gamble 6306 Stella Ave. 45224
Pick up your order on Friday 12/18/2009 1-4 at the MS/HS MP or Saturday 12/19/09 9-2 at 6306 Stella
Questions? finneytowngiftcards@yahoo.com

Tips for Parents of Middle-Schoolers

The following is an excerpt from the book "[*Grounded for Life?! Stop Blowing Your Fuse and Start Communicating with Your Teenager*](#)" by Louise Felton Tracy, M.S.

Tip—Regardless of our love and protection, wisdom and effort, children will move outside our control.

I've been thinking a lot about my son's recent transition into middle school. He's eleven now and just started the sixth grade. A parent educator I know once commented to me that when parents reach the five-year-old mark with their young children, they sigh in relief and sort of rest on their laurels until the more challenging teen years set in. I've done my best to stay on my feet and off my laurels, up to this point—but I know that parenting needs to change as children grow and middle school is a big change in kids' lives.

Middle school counselor, Louise Tracy, M.S., author of [*Grounded for Life?! Stop Blowing Your Fuse and Start Communicating with Your Teenager*](#), points out that our children are now becoming more independent. They are away from us for longer periods and increasingly making more of their own decisions and dealing with the consequences. This is the natural course of events. We'd all like to be able to trust our children to behave appropriately in every situation, but we know sometimes they will make poor choices. It's easy to feel betrayed and outraged when our youngster makes a bad decision. Tracy comments that most of us operate with the belief that it's a parent's job to know what is right and good for our children, follow through on it, and do our best to keep them from experiencing failure, embarrassment, ill health, pain, and every other negative thing life serves up.

The problem with this belief (besides the fact that it's plainly impossible) is that it denies children the opportunity for the emotional growth they must have if they are to survive in their own world successfully. If we don't allow them to make their own mistakes and learn from them, they won't develop any muscles for the life ahead of them.

Tools—Most of us would agree with Tracy's assertion that middle school youngsters need to experience the consequences of their own decisions in order to grow—but we have a harder

Obedience is not synonymous with learning. Up till this point, we may have assumed that following the rules or minding a parent will get our children where they need to be. Children transition from absolute parental control (infancy) to self-control (young adulthood) over the course of 18 years. They need to increasingly make their own decisions along the way and learn from them—good ones and bad ones. Obedience by itself isn't enough. Tracy advises, "Ask yourself if you're teaching your child to think or to argue? To be responsible or to simply obey?"

"Help" can be a four-letter word. When a parent frequently "helps" a youngster with good advice, it often comes across as judgment. Tracy points out that when our children really just need someone to listen, we often jump in with advice, criticism, or unsolicited opinions.

Growth can be more important than success. Last year my fifteen-year-old stepson failed his high school Spanish class. He had a lot of trouble with the teacher (that happens when you decide to sleep through class). Despite consequences at home and at school, he failed to put forth the effort to pass. This did not feel like success to the parents involved, let me tell you. But this year, he decided to re-take the class. On his own, he requested a different teacher. So far, he sounds positive about the class. Although last year was unpleasant, I can see growth on his part. Long-term growth can be a lot more important than immediate success.

You'll find more practical tips you can use right now in [*Grounded for Life?! Stop Blowing Your Fuse and Start Communicating with Your Teenager*](#) by Louise Felton Tracy, M.S.

