

Finneytown Secondary PTA Newsletter

September 2009
Principal Jack Fisher

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

President's Message:



Contents

President's Message	1
Reflections	2
Holiday/Kroger Gift Card	4
Mini-Grant Award	4
Why Join the PTA?	5
2009-10 PTA Budget	7
Finneytown Phone Book	9
PTA Bi-Fold	10
Reflection Entry Form	12

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®

everychild.one voice.

Here we go into the 2009-10 school year! Your Finneytown Secondary PTA has already been busy moving on the many activities that we do.

Speaking of being busy already, Robin Simpson did an awesome job at getting all of our PTA things together that you should have received in the summer mailing with all of the other support organizations. Robin will be running our membership drive, coordinating the "Safe Home Pledges", and creating the ever useful Phone Book. Cindy Heath coordinated the very much appreciated staff breakfast on August 25th. Kellie Smoker and Jane Kennedy coordinated treats for parents and staff during the August 26th Open House. I want to say a big thank you to them and to everyone that supplied something to make those two events happen.

I hope you take a moment to look through this newsletter which is one of our primary sources of communication since the "back-pack" delivery by our students just isn't feasible. We have Seth Rensberger to thank for putting this newsletter together and Angela Murphy for getting it copied and mailed. The other source is our website. Bill Fessler (yes, we are related; he is my wonderful husband) runs our website. Please check it out: www.FinneytownPTA.org.

Included in the newsletter you will find our approved budget for this fiscal year. We have not published it like this before, but felt it was a good idea so you can see all of the work and contributions your Finneytown Secondary PTA is a part of. I have summarized a few things from the budget in the article, "What does PTA mean to you?"

You will also find the PTA "Bi-Fold" or brochure that lists the PTA Board members and program descriptions. You may want to keep that handy in case you need to contact anyone in PTA or just want to know more about something PTA related.

The PTA Reflections entry form is also included. Please encourage your student(s) to participate in this great program, which provides students a chance to shine in areas that are not usually recognized. This year's theme is "Beauty Is..." and entries are accepted in Photography, Visual Arts, Literature, Music Composition, Video Production, and Dance Choreography. Please review the submission rules to make it easier on the chairperson (that would be me). The deadline for submissions is November 3rd. Again, see the website for additional rules.

Last, but not least, please remember to join our PTA (membership form is included). Submit your membership to Robin by September 30th and be entered in a raffle for a \$25 Kroger gift card. Your membership means a great deal, both locally and beyond. You are welcome to volunteer your time, but are not required. Either way, please join! Our meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of every month following the Parent Communication Council (usually) in the Media Center. Please join us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elise Fessler

Finneytown Elementary PTA President

REFLECTIONS - A NATIONAL PTA ARTS PROGRAM

The National PTA annually sponsors an arts program entitled, REFLECTIONS. The goal of the program is to encourage creative expression in the areas of *Literature, Music, Photography, Visual Arts, Dance Choreography and Film/Video Production*. The program is set up as a competition, but the purpose is to have students create ORIGINAL works of art in response to a specific theme.



ALL WORK MUST BE TURNED IN BY:
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd AT NOON

Elementary entries to the school office

MS/HS entries to Room 110

*Please follow category rules and
include a completed entry form!*



This year's theme is:

“Beauty Is...”

Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme are acceptable

Arts Areas: Students may submit works in any of the six arts areas: Literature, Musical composition, Photography, Visual arts, Dance Choreography, or Film/Video Production. Finneytown limits students to FIVE (5) entries in each art area. Only two (2) entries per art area can be winners.

Originality: Each entry must be the original work of **one** student only. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed.

Use of copyrighted material is prohibited. This includes the use of copyrighted cartoon characters or other such material in visual arts or photography entries. Musical composition and literature entrants are not to borrow from copyrighted material either.

Children with Disabilities: National PTA believes it is the right of parents to place their child in the Reflections Program grade division that best reflects the child's developmental age.

Entry Form:

All participants are required to fill out and sign the OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM in its entirety. Students who have not completely filled out the form will not be eligible for the program. In situations where a student cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may complete the form.

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF RULES and ENTRY FORM SEE:

Your school office, <http://www.finneytownpta.org> or (MS/HS rm. 110)

Direct questions to:

Elise Fessler 931-4234 or Sandy Haskins 699-6827

Attention:

The entry form can also be found at the end of this newsletter, on the Finneytown website (<http://www.finneytownpta.org/>) or the attached .pdf file.



Reflection 2009
Entry Form.pdf



Kroger Gift Cards

If you have a 7th grader and would like to start earning money towards the 8th grade trip, or if you have a child in band and would like to earn money toward band camp, you can do so by using a Kroger Gift Card purchased from the Finneytown Secondary PTA. If you or your friends shop at Kroger's, you have to try this. It's easy! Please contact Beth Mizelle at bbm5@cinci.rr.com for details.

Gift Card Sale Coming Soon:

As you start to think about Holiday Shopping don't forget that Gift cards from many local and national Restaurants and retail outlets can be purchased from your Secondary PTA. You get to give a great and thoughtful gift to those hard to please people on your list and a portion of the proceeds goes back to your school. It's like getting a discount on the gift card! Watch your take home folders and the next PTA newsletter for more details.

Mini-Grant Awarded

Submitted by Dennis Turner, Spanish Teacher, Finneytown Secondary Campus

I would like to acknowledge my appreciation for the mini-grant I received from the Finneytown PTA this year. I received a grant for \$330.00. With this money, I was able to purchase a one year subscription to Lo Mas TV and to Netflix. I also was able to purchase a \$50.00 gift card to the iTunes store.

The Lo Mas TV subscription offers music videos, commercials, documentaries, and more. These offerings are all in Spanish, and they contain the option for Spanish and/or English subtitles. The program contains a "slow play" option that allows students to progressively enhance their listening comprehension skills. It also contains a comprehensive dictionary feature that provides access to instant definitions for all of the words in the scripts. One of the most engaging features of the program is a game in which lines from a song or a given text are played. The accompanying script is shown in Spanish with random missing words. Students listen to the segment and fill in the blank with the missing word or words in order to earn points. This is a very useful listening comprehension activity.

The Netflix subscription has allowed me to preview Spanish educational DVDs, authentic Spanish-language films, and English films and television programs that are dubbed or subtitled in Spanish. This subscription has allowed me to have timely and inexpensive access to programs that I would otherwise not have had. The iTunes subscription allows me to purchase Spanish music, music videos, and movies that I have researched and found to be helpful in engaging students in the study of Spanish.

Thus far, in the early days of this school year, I have had the opportunity to share some music videos from the Lo Mas TV subscription with my students. My students seem to have taken to the music and appear to be genuinely impressed with and engaged by the music that I have presented. I have only had time to play the Lo Mas TV game with my upper level students. These students found the fill-in-the-blank game to be extremely engaging. In many of my classes, I have been able to show segments from Spanish educational DVDs. Students have found the video presentation and comic techniques used in the DVDs to be quite engaging. These DVDs have served as a great method of review of previously learned material.

I, again, would like to thank the Finneytown PTA for the opportunity they have given me to provide highly engaging activities and instruction that has increased my ability to use technology in the classroom.

You are being asked to join the Finneytown Secondary PTA.

You are probably going to ask:

WHY DO I WANT TO JOIN THE PTA?

By joining the PTA, you are showing your involvement and support for your child in a simple way.

Parent involvement is important to a child's success in school.

A survey has shown that children of involved parents have better school experiences, higher grades and test scores, few disciplinary problems, and more supportive teachers.

The \$5.00 Membership fee is used toward Finneytown Secondary PTA sponsored events and activities.

A small portion of your membership fee goes toward the Ohio and National PTAs, which also can benefit you and your child.

When joining and providing your email address on your membership registration, you will:

- Have access to the online version of Our Children magazine.
- Receive the PTA Parent, an electronic newsletter published twice a month that cover parenting topics.
- This PTA Take Action, is an electronic newsletter produced when Congress is in session that explains national legislation affecting families and public education
- Exclusive National PTA member benefits, including discounts, special offers, and promotions from national companies

By joining the PTA, you are not obligated to attend monthly meetings. Everyone is welcome to attend, PTA meetings are held the Third Tuesday of every month, however your membership is providing support for PTA sponsored events.

Also enclosed in this packet is a bi-fold brochure that describes all of the events and activities that your Secondary PTA sponsors.

Won't you join? Please fill out the form on the reverse side to show your support for PTA!

Breaking News... Every member who joins by September 30th has a chance to win a \$25 Kroger Gift Card!



everychild.one voice.®

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

"Money is only a tool. It will take you wherever you wish, but it will not replace you as the driver" Ayn Rand



**FINNEYTOWN SECONDARY PTA
Budget 2009 - 2010 Adopted 8/18/09**

-
Balance from previous year (per audit) **\$19,357**

Expenses carried forward 08-09

Kroger 2014 (DC)	\$3,624.09	
Kroger Band	\$2,914.47	
Mini-Grants	<u>\$828.32</u>	
	Total	\$7,367

Cash Reserves \$7,000

Total Outstanding Obligations **\$14,367**

Starting Balance **\$19,357**

-Obligations **\$14,367**

Available Funds **\$4,990**

RECEIPTS

Donations		\$600
Staff Recognition (Elementary PTA)		\$25
Interest		\$300

(Projected Net)

Flower Sale	\$200.00	\$1,700
Kroger Cards	\$5,000.00	\$30,000
Membership	\$200.00	\$250
Phone Books	\$1,100.00	\$1,300
Scripp's Giftcards	\$400.00	<u>\$6,300</u>

Receipt Total **\$40,475**

+Available Funds **\$4,990**

Total **\$45,465**

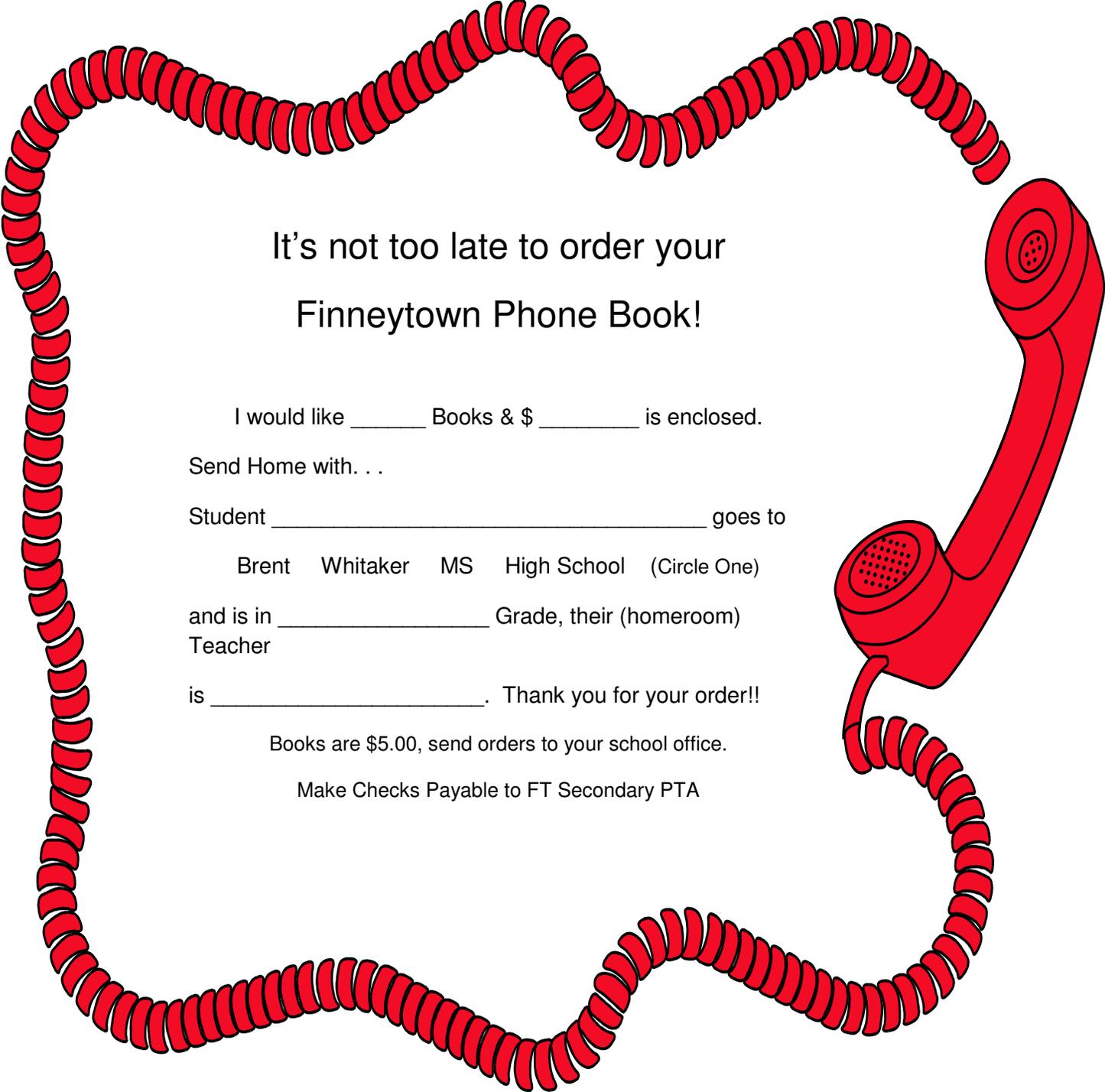
\$45,465

EXPENSES

Administrative		\$1,100
Supplies; Postage; Website; summer mailing		
Postage Permit (\$185); Newsletter		
Fundraisers		
Flower Sale		\$1,500
Kroger Cards		\$25,000
Membership (incentives)		\$50
Phone Books		\$200
Scripp's Gift Cards		\$5,900
Insurance		\$400
Leadership		
HCC Events/Dues; subscriptions; Pres. Pin		\$150
OPTA Events		\$500
Pres Disc Fund		\$100
Principal Funds		\$450
Service Projects		
Afterprom		\$1,800
Community Service		\$900
Friend of Children Award(s)		\$50
Hospitality (open house, conference nights)		\$300
MiniGrants		\$1,765
Programs		\$400
Reflections		\$125
Scholarships		
	HS 2@\$500	\$1,000
	MS DC Trip	\$600
	HCC	\$100
Staff Recognition (fall breakfast, spring lunch, etc.)		\$600
Student Recognition		
	Certificates and Pins	\$500
	HS Senior Signs/Ribbons	\$450
	HS Yearbook Ad	\$125
	Graduation Reception	\$200
Student Spirit		
	Gr 9-12 Floats	\$400
Sunshine		\$100
Social Work Discretionary		\$700

Total Unit Expenses

\$45,465



It's not too late to order your
Finneytown Phone Book!

I would like _____ Books & \$ _____ is enclosed.

Send Home with. . .

Student _____ goes to

Brent Whitaker MS High School (Circle One)

and is in _____ Grade, their (homeroom)
Teacher

is _____. Thank you for your order!!

Books are \$5.00, send orders to your school office.

Make Checks Payable to FT Secondary PTA

Finneytown Secondary PTA

<u>2009-2010 Executive Board</u>	*Executive Committee		
*President	Elise Fessler	931-4234	bfsing@cinci.rr.com
*Vice President	Cindy Heath	521-8809	lrhea4@aol.com
*Recording Secretary	Jennifer Richardson	521-6107	tjzher@aol.com
*Corresponding Sec.	Angela Murphy	522-1120	amurphy@fuse.net
*Treasurer	Kim Quarry	729-2822	kquarry@cinci.rr.com
*Council Delegate	Cathy Zimmerly	761-7281	cathy.zimmerly@gmail.com
*Alt. Council Delegate	Jim Reeb	681-8681	jreeb@cinci.rr.com
Area Advisor	Elise Fessler	931-4234	bfsing@cinci.rr.com
Principal	Jack Fisher	931-0712	jafisher@finneytown.org
Faculty Representative	Emily Harman	931-0712	eharman@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	aiyana1228@yahoo.com
Kroger Gift Cards	Beth Mizelle	521-8887	bbm5@cinci.rr.com
Grade Level Reps			
7 th Grade	Mary jo Berlon Cindy Heath	931-6469 521-8809	mjberlon@aol.com lrhea4@aol.com
8 th Grade	Ann Auffrey	521-5991	aauffrey@yahoo.com
9 th Grade	Minerva Cummings Sherry Enderle	931-6048 403-5644	mpudgie@cinci.rr.com senderle@finneytown.org
10 th Grade	Patty Kathman Elizabeth Green	931-8711 931-0409	jkathmantt@fuse.net elizgreen1@fuse.net
11 th Grade	Jane Elliott	522-2892	jaex2@fuse.net
12 th Grade	Julie Hammons Rose Baker Kim Fain Barb Osborn	522-7092 242-9165 641-4551 242-4194	julie@epcorfdy.com rosyroost@aol.com kfain@cinci.rr.com bajbosborn4@aol.com
Hospitality	Jane Kennedy Kellie Smoker	729-5822 931-9007	jkennedy8@cinci.rr.com ksmoker@cinci.rr.com
Membership	Robin Simpson	522-1449	robinsimpson1@aol.com
Mini-Grants	Janet Theado	522-3668	jtheado@hotmail.com
Newsletter			
Editor	Seth Rensberger	761-7281	sethrensberger@yahoo.com
Assembly/Distribution	Angela Murphy	522-1120	
Phone Books			
Editor & Sales	Robin Simpson	522-1449	robinsimpson1@aol.com
Assembly/Distribution	Angela Murphy	522-1120	
Safe Homes	Robin Simpson	522-1449	robinsimpson1@aol.com
School Board Rep.	Cindy Rebman	541-7070	mrebman@cinci.rr.com
Senior Ribbons & Signs	Rose Baker	242-9165	rosyroost@aol.com
Spring Flower Sale	Tara Sabato	521-8383	tdsabato@fuse.net
Staff Recognition	Cindy Heath	521-8809	lrhea4@aol.com
Volunteer Coordinator	Lori Christianson	931-6229	lori@kemba.com
Reflections	Elise Fessler	931-4234	bfsing@cinci.rr.com
Web Master	Bill Fessler	931-4234	bfsing@cinci.rr.com

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

Finneytown Secondary



everychild.one voice.

The Finneytown Secondary PTA was started in February 1980. We serve the Finneytown Secondary campus (grades 7-12). Our affiliation with PTA ties us to the Ohio and National PTA organizations which both have a long history of supporting children's issues. The Ohio PTA, founded in 1901, has over 100,000 members in nearly 1,000 local PTA units. National PTA, with nearly 6 million members, is the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the United States. A not-for-profit association of parents, educators, students, and other citizens active in their schools and communities, PTA is a leader in reminding our nation of its obligations to children.

General meetings are scheduled periodically throughout the year to involve all PTA members, conduct business, and provide information and services. The Board conducts the routine business necessary to carry out our programs and projects. Board meetings are held the **third Tuesday of every month** in the Media Center on the Secondary Campus at 7:30 pm. You are invited to attend to better learn how the PTA serves you and your children.

The Finneytown Secondary PTA is proud to support children and encourage parent involvement. Please feel free to call upon your PTA Board members to share ideas or volunteer – we welcome your ideas and offer opportunities both large and small.

Finneytown www.finneytownpta.org
Ohio PTA www.ohiopta.org
National PTA www.pta.org

The Mission of the PTA

- To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children;
- To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children;
- To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.

Finneytown Secondary



everychild.one voice.

Activities and Programs

If you have questions or would like to volunteer for any of these programs please contact: Elise Fessler, PTA President, 931-4234, bfsing@cinci.rr.com

Advocacy – Promote advocacy for children by keeping the membership informed of local, state and national issues and the PTA position. Coordinates interested members for contacting legislators about specific issues. Contact chair to be on distribution list for reports and calls to action.

After Prom – This is a separate organization that provides a safe and fun place for students to attend after prom. PTA provides monetary support and has representatives to the organization.

Community Service – Volunteers collect, sort and assemble baskets filled with canned goods and other food products to be distributed to Finneytown families for the holidays.

Gift Card Sales (Scripps) – Sell gift cards for select stores that give a percentage back to the PTA to support our projects.

Kroger Gift Cards – Make Kroger re-loadable gift cards available for purchase especially for students to raise funds for approved trips or projects. The PTA keeps track of each card assigned to a student and 3% of the money loaded on the card goes to the students account. This is done for the 8th grade Washington DC trip, band camp, PTA approved music group trips. One percent stays with the PTA to support our projects. PLEASE contact the chair for details.

Students have had their entire events paid for with this service!

Grade Level Representatives – Serves as liaison between teachers and parents for grade level activities (i.e. arrange chaperones for field trips, help with raising funds for prom, coordinate senior recognition activities)

Hospitality – Provides desserts and refreshments for open house for everyone and dinner for the staff for conference nights.

Membership – Organizes and conducts the fall membership drive. Provide membership assistance throughout the year.

Mini-Grant Committee – Reviews applications submitted by Finneytown teachers and awards grants to support their projects. *Over \$1800 in funds were available last year!*

Newsletter – Published four times per year to keep families informed of PTA activities, upcoming dates, parent information and education.

Phone Books – Gather information from all families from K-12 and create a district phone book available for sale to all Finneytown families.

Reflections (Cultural Arts Contest) – Reflections is an autumn arts competition sponsored by National PTA in the categories of music, literature, visual arts, photography, video production and choreography. Winners are honored at a Finneytown ceremony. First place advances to the county level, and possibly the state and national levels.

Safe Homes – Provides a contract to be signed by parents of any willing Finneytown family stating that safety measures are addressed in their house and that gatherings will be alcohol free and supervised. A notation is placed in the phone book showing which families have signed the contract.

Scholarships – Provide two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors and funds for the Washington DC trip!

School Board Representative – Report on items of interest from the school board.

Senior Ribbons & Signs – Place the ribbons on Winton Rd. and signs in the yards for the graduating seniors.

Spring Flower Sale – Sell Moeller flower vouchers to the PTA to support our projects.

Staff Recognition – Arrange for the staff breakfast in August and a luncheon in May.

Volunteer Coordinator – Matches volunteers to projects (contact chair to get a Volunteer Opportunities sheet). Opportunities both large and small can be found to fit your talents and time available.

Web Master – Maintains the Finneytown PTA website and posts PTA related information that is provided to the chair.

Board Meetings

Aug. 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, Dec. 15,

Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 16, Apr. 20, May 18

General Session Meetings

Aug 18 - Budget, Jan 19 - Elect Nominating Committee,

Apr. 20 - Officer Elections