

# FINNEYTOWN SECONDARY PTA NEWSLETTER

C/O Finneytown High School, 8916 Fountainebleau Terrace, Cincinnati, OH 45231

Jack Fisher, Principal



November 2011

## 2011-2012 Executive Board

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### FINNEYTOWN SECONDARY



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☛ We hope you don't do this, but to opt out of future mailings, write "OPT-OUT" in subject box & e-mail request to secondarypta@yahoo.com

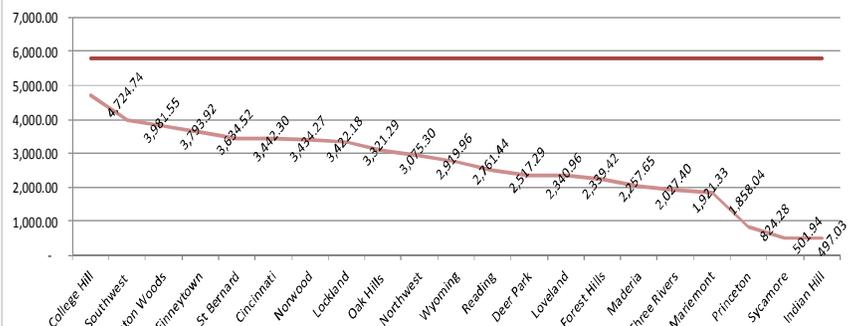
**The PTA Mission in action:** It's not just a bunch of words we read on our membership cards or in newsletters. It's for real. If we really want to be the voice for every child and advocate for their well-being while attending public school, we should be expediting a letter to the House representatives about HB 136 (Huffman, R-Lima) to let them know how it will impact public education in Finneytown.

The proposed bill passed through the Ohio House Education Committee in a 12-10 vote in late September and is expected to be voted on by the House of Representatives this month. HB 136 creates the Parental Choice and Taxpayer Savings Scholarship Program which is a statewide program allowing students K-12 to use vouchers to attend private schools. Ohio PTA presented testimony earlier this year in April opposing HB 136 when it was first introduced because vouchers divert public funds away from public schools into private institutions exempt from state mandate. According to the testimony presented to the House education committee by Ohio PTA, this bill is harmful to our district for many reasons:

- Voucher "scholarship" program strikes at the very heart of Ohio's obligation to maintain a "system" that provides a free public education to all students. It really represents a watershed public policy decision.
- Vouchers abandon public schools and drain away critical dollars. Vouchers divert attention, commitment and dollars from public schools to pay private school tuition for a few students, including many who already are in private schools. Public money should be invested in strengthening the schools that educate the vast majority of our students – our *public* schools.
- Vouchers eliminate public accountability. In stark contrast to the strong requirements faced by public schools, private voucher schools do not have to meet certain state and federal requirements, including Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) standards of hiring "highly qualified" teachers, testing requirements and Adequate Yearly Progress, nor do they have to accept all students. Existing voucher programs in Ohio and other states have suffered from scandal and fraud due to the lack of public accountability inherent in these programs.
- Vouchers in no way raise student achievement for all. A Government Accountability Office (GAO) report to Congress on the Cleveland and Milwaukee voucher programs noted that the most credible research found "little or no difference in voucher and public school students' performance."
- Vouchers leave behind many students, including those with the greatest needs. Vouchers leave behind many students because private schools may not accept them or do not offer special services they need.

While the Finneytown Local School District receives \$3,635 per student in annual state funding, the annual deduction would be \$5,783 per student taking a voucher. Therefore, the net loss would be \$2,148 in local tax dollars for each student participating in this program under the current funding model. How is it possible for any district to further reduce expenses enough to offset the reduction in income? We can only hope a dollar goes

Hamilton County School Districts  
PACT Deduct Per Pupil vs Current Revenue Per Pupil



**MORE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:****Hertz**

We're at the Airport and in your Neighborhood. The world's largest airport general use car rental brand, operating from approximately 8,500 locations in 146 countries worldwide is proud to offer PTA members benefits like:



- Savings of up to 20% off rentals
- Special promotions in addition to your discount
- Fee Waived Hertz #1 Club Gold® enrollment—a \$60 savings! Earn free rental days and receive expedited service on all your rentals.

**About National PTA**

National PTA® comprises millions of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of parent involvement in schools. PTA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit association that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health, and welfare of children and youth.

**Take Action Now!**

See the latest PTA Takes Action Alert and how you can affect legislation.

**ACT NOW!****Join the Network Today!**

Join the *PTA Takes Action Network: Federal Policy Update and PTA Action Alerts*

Learn about what's happening on Capitol Hill and about legislative issues affecting families, schools, and communities.

- The *Federal Policy Update* is our monthly newsletter.
- *Action Alerts* are breaking news items from Capitol Hill that urge you to take action.

**Join Today** (SEE MEMBERSHIP FORM ON PAGE 7)

**STATE UPDATE ON ADVOCACY**

By Jackie Arendt, Director of Advocacy, Ohio PTA

HB136 Creates the Parental Choice and Taxpayers Savings Scholarship Program (PACT). It is a new statewide program allowing K-12 students to use a voucher to attend private schools. The bill had been in committee but looks like it may be heading back for a vote. The bill expands voucher use to ALL school districts regardless of academic rating. The only qualifier for eligibility is household income. Students whose family income is less than \$95,000 would qualify. Furthermore, it allows a phase-in period for students currently enrolled in private schools to be eligible for the voucher while deducting funds for the voucher from the resident school district's funding. If the private school tuition is less than the voucher amount, it allows parents to bank the excess dollars for college tuition and textbooks at any private school or college in Ohio. With the state budget cutting educational funding, precious public money for public education cannot be funneled into private institutions exempt from state mandates. The voucher expansion would impact every school district in the state and turn the state's obligation to provide a thorough and efficient public education system into a private benefit. Please contact your Ohio House member and express your opposition to HB 136, school choice legislation that would expand vouchers statewide!

Find your state representative at:

<http://www.house.state.oh.us>.

*The Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA), Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA) and Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) presented joint testimony in opposition to the bill when it was introduced in April. Ohio PTA, Ohio School Psychologists Association, Ohio Education Association (OEA), Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) and the Alliance for a High Quality Education signed on to the testimony:*

*"Together, our organizations oppose HB 136. We believe strongly in Ohio's public education system. We do not support the use of vouchers to provide public funds to students for enrollment in private schools. Voucher programs lack the academic accountability of public schools. Further, voucher programs drain scarce resources from public schools where the vast majority of Ohio's students are educated. In a time of budget cuts for practically every school district, HB 136 would result in even greater financial pressure and uncertainty on our public schools.*

*HB 136 would create two new statewide voucher programs. The "PACT" Scholarship program would provide private school vouchers for K-12 students statewide and would replace the Ed Choice and Cleveland scholarship programs. HB 136 would also create a statewide special education voucher program. We oppose both aspects of the bill."*

## POSITIVE PARENT COMMUNICATIONS

by Beth McCullough

One of the challenges every parent faces is how to talk to teachers and school administrators about a concern and come away with a positive resolution. By following a few basic communication rules, you can play a positive role in your child's education experience.

**Establish a good relationship early in the school year.** Getting to know your child's teacher, other school staff, and administrators early on makes difficult conversations easier later. Today's wide range of communication methods makes it easier than ever to keep open lines of communication between you and your child's school.

**Be proactive.** Voicing a concern means you care. Consider speaking up to be touching base or checking in versus complaining or questioning the school. Make contact early before a situation escalates.

**Follow the chain of command.** You automatically create a barrier between yourself and a teacher by going to the principal before you talk with the teacher. The same goes for calling the central office before you speak with school staff or administrators. Those "next levels" are available if the situation cannot be resolved at the source.

**Abide by The Golden Rule.** One of the five rules of my classroom was "Give others the respect you expect." The same rule applies to us all. If you expect a teacher to keep you informed, communicate with the teacher regularly about matters large and small that affect your child. If you believe teachers should refrain from telling you how to parent, then resist the temptation to tell them how to teach.

**Calm down.** Wait until you are calm and rational before firing off an e-mail, calling the school, or going in person to confront staff. What is the real goal—to vent or to help solve a problem? Sometimes it helps to talk it over with another parent who can give you an honest, objective point of view before you make contact with the school.

**Little things make a big difference.** Body language, tone of voice, and choice of words are crucial pieces of the communication puzzle. Again, follow The Golden Rule in communicating in a manner you would want others to communicate with you. Voice your concern calmly and reasonably.

**Stay focused.** It can be tempting to bring everything that has troubled you all year long into a conversation or parent conference. But you'll get better results if you concentrate on the issue at hand and finding a shared resolution.

**Consider the big picture.** There are at least two sides to every story. Ask questions before jumping to conclusions. In addition to voicing your concerns, take time to listen carefully.

**Be part of the solution.** Ask the simple question, "What can I do to help?" You will be amazed at how quickly a difficult conversation becomes a productive interaction. There is a difference between siding with your child and being an advocate for your child. Your role is to advocate for your child.

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

## After Prom by Mary Barkocy, After Prom Chair

Plans for After Prom 2012 are well under way! We've had a great response and there are many new people involved. We have some great ideas for fundraisers so be on the lookout for Dine to Donate opportunities, White Elephant Auction on January 22, and others. We also have an opportunity to sell Buddy Cards from LaRosa'a. We would need to sell a minimum of 50. We checked with LaRosas and no other Finneytown organizations are currently selling the cards. (We're trying not to overlap with anyone else's fundraising efforts.) Please get back to me ASAP with your thoughts about the Buddy Cards. We will keep you posted on specific dates when they become available! Thanks to all who supported Split the Pot at the football games! We made \$533.50. We still have volunteer opportunities (Room help, Set-up and Clean-up) and would love to see even more people join the After Prom team. Please contact Mary Barkocy at [meebark@fuse.net](mailto:meebark@fuse.net) or 931-1304 to volunteer.

The **Parent Communication Council (PCC)** has been established to give parents a voice in the leadership of the campus. The agendas of these meetings will be constructed by administrative communication points, parent concerns, and other items presented ahead of the meeting. Topics such as curriculum, discipline and logistical items are all open for discussion at these meetings. Meetings will be scheduled and communicated ahead of time. Contact Principal Jack Fisher for more information or to suggest an agenda item 931-0712. Meetings are held most times on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Secondary PTA meetings follow.

## CONGRATULATION TO OUR STUDENTS!

Seniors Erin Strobl, Erin Vogt, Abby Mahan, Marissa Morris, & their Lady Wildcat Volleyball Team on a terrific season! Jennifer Besserman on receiving the Honda-OSU Partnership Math Award for the Class of 2012. National Honors Society officers this year are: Phil Reinhart - President; Morgan Danyi and Katelyn Bramble, Co-Vice Presidents; Caroline Michaelson and Erin Strobl – Co-Secretaries; Jennifer Besserman, Treasurer. The new NHS members are: Justin Anderson, Allison Baumgartner, Nathan Bond, Tori Buccheim, Caleb Burton, Jonas Carlsson, Rebecca Clausing, Mark Clayton, Hanna Cobbs, Jacquelin Dauterman, Matthew Daveport, Jason Davis, Pamela Dees, Kelley Fitzgerald, Shawn Frost, Rachel Gast, Rachel Green, Jeff Grogan, Matthew Hartman, Rebecca Hershey, Ty Hughes, Callie Hunter, Bret Marshall, Kyle Mason, Tamara Mayes, Nima Moktan, Akram Ndamba, Brooke Nichols, Zach Palmer, Anthony Pantano, Bobbie Winters, Morgan Wolfram, Bria Wyatt, Megan Zimmerer. Jonas Carlsson and Alina Murphy were named National Merit Semifinalists from the National Merit Scholarship Program. Jennifer Besserman, Kenneth Bouman, and Matthew Davenport have been named Commended Students in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program. 2XGrand Champion's Marching Wildcats & Football team for a superior season! ALL 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who took the EXPLORE assessment as part of the college and career readiness plan for the Secondary Campus.

## Mini-grants

The deadline for teachers to return their applications is November 28, and final decisions regarding selected grants will need to be completed by December 19th.

- Submitted by Mary jo Berlon, Mini-Grant Chair

*Thank you* to our dynamic duo in Hospitality – Jane

Kennedy & Kellie Smoker covering the first Teacher's Conferences Dinners. For Conference Dinner "The Sequel" a special thanks goes to Claire Snyder, Angela Murphy, Mary jo Berlon, and Lori Kleiman. About our PTA Booth at the Tailgate Party, a big thanks goes to the Heaths, Fesslers, and Quarrys for setting up and covering the Booth. Thanks to Bill McMahan for selling the noise makers and passing out membership forms at the Tailgate Party. Many families returned the forms to the PTA table set up at Teacher's Conference. Awesome work here by everyone! Changing jobs this month is Mary jo Berlon who will be coordinating the Mini-grants and Leslie Gamble who is the 9th Grade Representative. Jenny Rasp accepted the "Teacher Appreciation" position. We are in the process of responding to all the volunteer requests from parents who want to volunteer!

## Do you have tickets for "Larceny and Old Lace?"

Audiences of all ages will love this clever and well-crafted spoof of the theatre classic "Arsenic and Old Lace!" The show runs Friday, November 18 and Saturday, November 19, 2011. Show time is 7:30 p.m. in the William R. Swartzel Performing Arts Center.

*Harold Peabody's sweet aunts, Millie and Gertie, are gambling in Las Vegas while Harold stays at their home to watch over his eccentric Uncle Charlie, who thinks he is a pirate and is constantly "burying treasure" in the basement. When Harold hears the local bank has been robbed and then discovers a bag of money in the house, he declares that Charlie has buried his last treasure and decides he must go to a home for senior citizens. When Harold's jailbird cousin Mordred shows up with his own bundle of money and the FBI hot on his heels, the pandemonium multiplies. Join the madness as Harold attempts to keep his aunts out of jail, Mordred from killing them all, his fiancée from walking out on him and himself from going insane!*

**Week of Giving** is around the corner! PTA Community Service Chair Karen Mahan and her crew of dedicated community service volunteers are looking for 100% participation! See special "Week of Giving" insert!

# PTA FUNDRAISERS: SPIRIT WEAR & KROGER CARD

SPIRIT WEAR IS AVAILABLE THROUGH ELEMENTARY PTA!

T-SHIRT/LONG SLEEVED T-SHIRT: Blue w/red logo or red w/ white logo

SWEATSHIRT: Hooded Pullover: Blue w/red logo or red w/white logo

ZIPPED HOODIE: Printing on back: Blue w/ red logo or red w/ white logo

POLO SHIRTS: MEN & WOMEN: Blue w/ red logo or red w/ white logo

BAGS: Nylon drawstring: Blue w/ red logo or red w/white logo

Finneytown Wildcat Sticker: White w/ blue

\*\*2XL & 3XL PLEASE ADD AN ADDITIONAL \$2.00 EACH ITEM\*\*

Questions? Call 931-4688 or email Bonnie Smart [minkbonnie@hotmail.com](mailto:minkbonnie@hotmail.com) Bring this form and check payment to PTA mailbox in School office. Orders will be delivered to your student at school. Please do not leave cash in PTA mailbox.

Adult Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Student \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Circle one : Brent Whitaker Secondary Campus

T-SHIRTS (CHILDREN'S)	SM__MED__LG__	CIRCLE ONE RED BLUE	PRICE SUBTOTAL \$7.00
T-SHIRTS (ADULT)	SM__MED__LG__ XL__XXL*__XXXL*__	RED BLUE	\$8.00
LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT (CHILDREN'S)	SM__MED__LG__	RED BLUE	\$10.00
LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT (ADULT)	SM__MED__LG__ XL__XXL*__XXXL*__	RED BLUE	\$12.00
PULLOVER SWEATSHIRT (CHILDREN'S)	SM__MED__LG__	RED BLUE	\$17.00
PULLOVER SWEATSHIRT (ADULT)	SM__MED__LG__ XL__XXL*__XXXL*__	RED BLUE	\$19.00
ZIPPED HOODIE (CHILDREN'S)	SM__MED__LG__	RED BLUE	\$22.00
ZIPPED HOODIE (ADULT)	SM__MED__LG__ XL__XXL*__XXXL*__	RED BLUE	\$25.00
POLO T-SHIRT (ADULT) CIRCLE ONE MEN WOMAN	SM__MED__LG__ XL__XXL*__XXXL*__	RED BLUE	\$16.00
NYLON DRAWSTRING BAGS	QTY_____	RED BLUE	\$6.00
Wildcat Sticker	QTY_____	WHITE W/ BLUE ONLY	\$2.00

Please cut and follow instructions below☺

**PTA Fundraiser for Washington, D.C. Trip/ Band Camp/Band Disney Trip:** Purchase a Kroger Gift Card from the Finneytown Secondary PTA to raise funds for your student's trip to Washington, D.C., Band Camp, the Band Disney trip or for the general Scholarship Fund. Or, you can donate directly to PTA. **For more information contact Kim Fain at 641-4551 or e-mail: [kfain@cinci.rr.com](mailto:kfain@cinci.rr.com)**

(Complete and Mail to: Kim Fain, 850 W. Northbend Rd., 45224)

Parent:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

# Of Kroger Cards \_\_\_\_ X \$10 each Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to Finneytown Secondary PTA (FSPTA)**

Check:

\_\_\_\_\_ For your child/student's Washington, D.C. Trip  
(Read & sign disclaimer )

\_\_\_\_\_ For the Washington, D.C. Trip Scholarship Fund  
(Read & sign disclaimer)

\_\_\_\_\_ For your child/student's Band Camp  
(Read & sign disclaimer)

\_\_\_\_\_ For the Band Camp Scholarship Fund

\_\_\_\_\_ For your child's/student's Band/Chorale/ Disney Trip  
(Read & sign disclaimer)

\_\_\_\_\_ For the Band/Chorale Disney Camp Scholarship Fund

\_\_\_\_\_ None of the Above. Please donate to PTA General Fund.

Write Your Student's Name (here):

\_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

*(Clip, sign, and send in with your order form) Any family purchasing a Kroger Gift Card will receive 75% of the proceeds\* received from the Kroger Gift card registered in their name to use towards their designated trip. Additional cards may be purchased for others to use and can be registered to any student's name. The Finneytown Secondary PTA keeps the remaining 25%. The monies earned will be given to the Treasurer of the Board of Education in the student's name for credit towards their trip. The effective dates will be different based on the specific trip. (i.e.) The deadline for the Washington, DC trip is September 30 of the student's 8th grade year. The deadline for band camp is May 30 of that summer. The deadline for the band/chorale trips are 60 days prior to departure. Dates are approximate. The actual dates will be the closest date of the Kroger invoice that does not exceed payment due date. In the event that a student cannot attend the trip, the monies earned are nontransferable or nonrefundable in cash, but will go toward the scholarship fund for that particular trip. If the student earns more than needed for a particular trip, funds are put in the trip event scholarship fund or can be used for a future trip or used for another immediate family member. Funds may not be transferred to another student's account unless an immediate family member.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Your signature verifies that you have read all of the above and understand the policy.**

*\*Finneytown Secondary PTA earns 4% of the amount you load (add) to the Kroger Gift Card purchased from the Finneytown Secondary PTA. 3% goes into the student's account 1% goes to the general PTA fund.*

For office use only: Card #s \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Elementary PTA offers Spirit Wear for the entire school community:

T-SHIRTS and LONG SLEEVED T- SHIRTS: Blue with red logo or red with white logo

SWEATSHIRT: Hooded Pullover: Blue with red logo or red with white logo

ZIPPED HOODIE: Printing on back: Blue with red logo or red with white logo

POLO SHIRTS: MEN AND WOMENS: Blue with red logo or red with white logo

BAGS: Nylon drawstring: Blue with red logo or red with white logo

Finneytown Wildcat Sticker: White with blue

**\*\*2XL & 3XL PLEASE ADD AN ADDITIONAL \$2.00 EACH ITEM\*\***

Questions? Call or email Bonnie Smart @ 931-4688/minkbonnie@hotmail.com

Return form and payment to PTA MAILBOX located in the school office. Orders will be delivered to your student at school.

Adult Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Circle one : Brent Whitaker High School

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **Make checks payable to Finneytown Elm. PTA**

T-SHIRTS (CHILDREN'S)	SM__ MED__ LG__	CIRCLE ONE RED BLUE	PRICE	SUBTOTAL
T-SHIRTS (ADULT)	SM__ MED__ LG__ XL__ XXL*__ XXXL*__	RED BLUE	\$7.00	
LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT (CHILDREN'S)	SM__ MED__ LG__	RED BLUE	\$10.00	
LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT (ADULT)	SM__ MED__ LG__ XL__ XXL*__ XXXL*__	RED BLUE	\$12.00	
PULLOVER SWEATSHIRT (CHILDREN'S)	SM__ MED__ LG__	RED BLUE	\$17.00	
PULLOVER SWEATSHIRT (ADULT)	SM__ MED__ LG__ XL__ XXL*__ XXXL*__	RED BLUE	\$19.00	
ZIPPED HOODIE (CHILDREN'S)	SM__ MED__ LG__	RED BLUE	\$22.00	
ZIPPED HOODIE (ADULT)	SM__ MED__ LG__ XL__ XXL*__ XXXL*__	RED BLUE	\$25.00	
POLO T-SHIRT (ADULT) CIRCLE ONE MEN WOMAN	SM__ MED__ LG__ XL__ XXL*__ XXXL*__	RED BLUE	\$16.00	
NYLON DRAWSTRING BAGS	QTY_____	RED BLUE	\$6.00	
Wildcat Sticker	QTY_____	WHITE W/ BLUE ONLY	\$2.00	