

Following is important information from Hampton Council PTA for November 2009. Information/forms & our handbook on web-site, <http://members.cox.net/hamptoncitypta/> If you can't find what you need, contact me and I'll be glad to e-mail it to you.

**KEY DATES:**

- **October 31<sup>st</sup>: registration due for VA PTA State Convention!** It's Nov 13-15 in Fredericksburg (so not too far). This is a great event with wonderful training and workshops. Check out this web-site link for more details: <http://vapta.org/state-convention.html>. You can come for a day or the weekend. You can still get the \$75 early bird rate by writing "PTA Leading the Way" on your registration form under your first name (note that lifetime members are free!). Remember, Saturday is the awards luncheon where our own Hampton volunteer will be honored as State PTA Volunteer of the Year, Mone Gilliam from Spratley!!!
- **November 5<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 pm, Jones Magnet Middle School library: Reflections entries due to Council PTA.** Bring your entries any-time from 6 to 8. **Late entries will NOT be accepted.** If you can't make that date, you need to make arrangements with someone else to bring your entries or get with Laura Yannarella to get them to her before that date. ([laura.jo@verizon.net](mailto:laura.jo@verizon.net), 325-8218)
- **November 15<sup>th</sup>, tax filing due!** All PTAs must file taxes now! If you had under \$25,000 income then you only have to submit an e-postcard, which takes less than 10 minutes on-line: <http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=169250,00.html>. When done, you need to send notice to the VA PTA that you have done that, can just e-mail electronic receipt to [info@vapta.org](mailto:info@vapta.org). More details in handbook.
- **November 19<sup>th</sup>, Parent Involvement Day:** We urge PTAs to plan events at their schools on (or near) this date to bring families into our schools! Share with us whatever plans you may have...contact our family & community involvement chair, Rebecca Mahan, 851-7088, [symspta@aol.com](mailto:symspta@aol.com). There is a **family night planned at the Teen Center on this date, 6-8 pm, open to all Hampton residents & free!**
- **November 30<sup>th</sup>:** Book wish-lists, performance requests & reading requests needed by this date for the Jan 16<sup>th</sup> Barnes & Noble event. This is a fundraiser for our council Scholarship & Reflections programs – please mark your calendars to attend! We are going to be publicizing it throughout the community and challenging our citizens to come out and buy books for our schools. For all wish-lists submitted, B&N will set up a display in the store and have those books in stock so that people can come in and buy them to donate to that school. Any librarian, teacher or book club is welcome to submit a list. Our hope is that every school will have a display and that we can get a lot of books donated to our schools! Also an opportunity for school performance groups to perform OR for principals/teachers to read. Contact Connie Bridges, [conniebridges@yahoo.com](mailto:conniebridges@yahoo.com), 723-5415 to setup a time slot. More info is on our web-site & more to come as we get closer to the date.
- **December 1<sup>st</sup>:** Dues due – 2 forms (1 for city & 1 for state) which are on our web-site. MAIL THEM BEFORE THANKSGIVING! For city, also request Scholarship & Reflections donations by then. Feel free to send in copy of your audit with that if you haven't already done that. If you have any questions for membership, please contact our new membership chair, Connie Bridges (723-5415, [conniebridges@yahoo.com](mailto:conniebridges@yahoo.com)).

### **Key News, Information & Reminders:**

- **October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting success:** Thanks to all the Principals, school staff and PTA officers that attended as well as all the HCS departments & city organizations that provided information that night! Our next meeting is Jan 12, 7 pm at Jones and we hope that each PTA president & Principal can attend or send a sub in their place. If you want anything on the agenda that night, please let me know.
- **RIF:** For elementary schools only: note that the 3 RIF book distributions for the year will be during the following weeks: Nov 30-Dec 4, March 1-5 and May 3-7. RIF chairs should have plans for picking up and distributing books at their schools. Also, need to give check (\$1 for each student enrolled at your school) made payable to "The Women's Club or Hampton/RIF" & send to: Marsha Knox, Hampton Public Library, 4207 Victoria Blvd, Hampton, VA 23669. Contact Marsh if questions, 315-3707, [mknnox@hampton.gov](mailto:mknnox@hampton.gov)
- **Membership special –** Great Wolf Lodge would like to offer PTA members a special discount of 20% off (15% off spa services)! To make reservations, visit [www.greatwolf.com](http://www.greatwolf.com) or call 800-905-9653 and use corporate discount code: PART200A. There are a limited number of rooms per night that can use this special so book in advance. Offer good until Dec 28, 2010. Feel free to advertise this to your PTA members as a benefit. There is a flyer on our web-site that you can download if you want to send it out.
- **BUDGETS:** You should have your 2009-10 budget done & already approved by your general membership. Reference your PTA handbook for more details.
- **AUDITS:** We had our audit party on Oct 21<sup>st</sup>. So, hopefully everyone has done their audits now and are having them adopted by their general membership very soon. Remember, you need to mail original to state & a copy to us (see handbook for more details). ***Thanks to these PTAs that have submitted theirs:*** [Armstrong](#), [Bethel](#), [Cooper](#), [Eaton](#), [Forrest](#), [Hampton](#), [Jones](#), [Moton](#), [Syms](#), [Tarrant](#), [Tucker-Capps](#), & [Tyler](#). Audits are due December 1<sup>st</sup> and you can mail them with your dues form.
- **OMDR:** Connie Bridges sent out an e-mail to membership chairs & presidents last week explaining the latest with OMDR. National PTA is updating their site right now for OMDR plus and it will be called "Just Between Friends". Some units may have registered for this and can use it, but they are not bringing in any new PTAs that haven't signed up for it until they can finish the upgrades. So, just use the old OMDR system for now. If you have questions, contact membership chair, Connie Bridges (723-5415, [conniebridges@yahoo.com](mailto:conniebridges@yahoo.com)).
- **Cell phone policy:** PTA council continues to push for a change to middle school policy to allow students to carry cell phones to/from school (off and stowed away during the school day). Please continue to circulate hard copy petitions and the on-line petition: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/allow-cell-phones> Even if you don't have a student in middle school or you have one and don't think your child needs a phone, you should sign this petition if you believe a parent has the right to give their child a phone if they feel their child needs it for their safety. If anyone does feel strongly about this, I suggest that you address the school board yourself as well.
- **Contact in my absence:** If you ever have a problem reaching me, please contact our 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Ann Spinelli at 850-1851, [jakespinelli@verizon.net](mailto:jakespinelli@verizon.net)

### **Scholarship/Fundraiser/Grant Info:**

- November 6<sup>th</sup> is deadline for a \$1,897 grant from National PTA for “Take Your Family to School” week which is set for Feb 7-13. For more info, go to [http://www.pta.org/take\\_your\\_family\\_to\\_school\\_awards.asp](http://www.pta.org/take_your_family_to_school_awards.asp)
- Fundraiser idea: The Volunteer Center of the Virginia Peninsula and Newport News Parks & Recreation are coordinating “**The Human Race**” again this year for the evening of November 24<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 pm. Registration is due Nov 19. Participants are given the opportunity to walk through the Newport News Parks’s Celebration of Lights before it’s opened to the public. What a great way to make money and have a family fun event! For more info, see web-site <http://www.volunteerpeninsula.org/> and click on “Human Race”.
- **Barnes & Noble gift-wrapping fundraiser:** From Black Friday, Nov 27 until Dec 24, the Hampton Barnes & Noble has shifts open for non-profit groups to gift-wrap at their store for donations. Barnes & Noble provides the wrapping paper, little cards, tape....everything you need! You just wrap gifts for shoppers and they give you a donation for your service. All donations are yours to keep! If interested, contact: Diane Smith, 827-1118, e-mail is [crm2309@bn.com](mailto:crm2309@bn.com). These are the shifts: Saturdays are 10 am -2 pm, 2-5:30 pm, and 5:30-9 pm; Sundays are 11 am -3 pm and 3-7 pm; Mondays through Fridays are 10 am – 2 pm, 2-5 pm, and 5-8 pm. Just tell her the dates that you want and the shifts. You just need 2-4 people to man each shift.
- **Penny Wars:** This is an easy start-up fundraiser for PTAs. Challenge each grade to donate the most pennies. Have a jar for each grade level. If someone puts a dollar bill in the jar of another grade, then that dollar deducts 100 from the count for that grade. The PTA gets the money for their programs and the grade with the most pennies at the end of the week gets a free pizza party or something like that... maybe even a percent of the fundraiser goes to that class (High School). This is fun for all grades.
- **AXA scholarships:** There are college scholarship opportunities with due date of December 15<sup>th</sup>. Scholarships up to \$25,000! [http://www.pta.org/axa\\_090408.html](http://www.pta.org/axa_090408.html)
- **It’s in the Bag:** This is a service and/or fundraiser for PTAs. You provide them with your school supply list for the following year and they develop an order form from which parents can order kits with all the school supplies that their child will need the next year. More info will be available at our Jan 12 meeting. Their contact info: Kim Bernard, 516-578-3749, web-site: [www.itsinthebagonline.com](http://www.itsinthebagonline.com)

Thanks for all your time and hard work on behalf of our Hampton students!

-- Monica Smith

President, Hampton Council of PTA/PTSA (850-6690, [monica\\_smith@verizon.net](mailto:monica_smith@verizon.net))