

# Finneytown Secondary PTA Newsletter

February 2009  
Principal Jack Fisher

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



## Contents

President's Message	1
PTA Educator of the Year	2
Upcoming Events	2
Reflection Winners	3
Arts in Motion	4
Art & Writing Awards	5
Community Service	7
Happy Birthday PTA	8
Advocacy Update	10
Flower & Mulch Sale	12

**Finneytown  
Secondary**

**PTA®**

*everychild. one voice.*

## President's Message:

Greetings! I hope this issue of the Finneytown Secondary PTA newsletter finds you all prepared for the last half of the school year. If the first semester is any indication, it will be spring time before we know it and the Class of 2009 will be busy getting ready for graduation! As parents, time certainly flies by ... it often seems as though your child's first day of Kindergarten was just last week! Please don't let time pass you by. Become involved in one of the many great support organizations on the Secondary Campus. Finneytown Secondary PTA meets the first Monday of every month in the Secondary Campus Media Center. In March, the meeting date is changed in order to immediately follow the Parent Communication Council meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Please consider attending both meetings, as they are valuable opportunities to stay current with Secondary Campus happenings and information. We'd love to see you there!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Kim Fain for her many years of publishing the newsletter. She did a great job! We welcome the new Newsletter Editor, Seth Rensberger. Many thanks for taking on this position! Any submissions to future issues of the Secondary PTA newsletter may be placed in the PTA mailbox in the Attendance Office, or sent via e-mail to [sethrensberger@yahoo.com](mailto:sethrensberger@yahoo.com). Thanks again, Seth, I look forward to working with you!

The Nominating Committee was approved at our General Session meeting on February 2.

Members of the Nominating Committee are: Vickie Stump, Erin Oehler, Robin Simpson, Joan Gordon and Karen Bramble. Thanks to all five of these ladies for agreeing to do this important work! If you are interested in being a part of the Executive Board of the Secondary PTA, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members.

Thanks also to Elise Fessler for all the time and effort she put into the "Reflections" program, Finneytown Local School District had 5 entries advance to the state level! All Finneytown winners were honored in January.

Please mark your calendars for March 24<sup>th</sup>, a "Disaster Preparedness Program" will be offered jointly by Elementary PTA and Secondary PTA. More information will soon be available on the PTA website as well as the District website.

As always, I extend my gratitude to all the people who give of their time and talents to our schools, and remind you to please consider how you can best volunteer some of **your** time and talents as well.

Warmest Wishes,

Tricia Baker

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

~Elizabeth Andrew

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." ~Franklin Delano Roosevelt

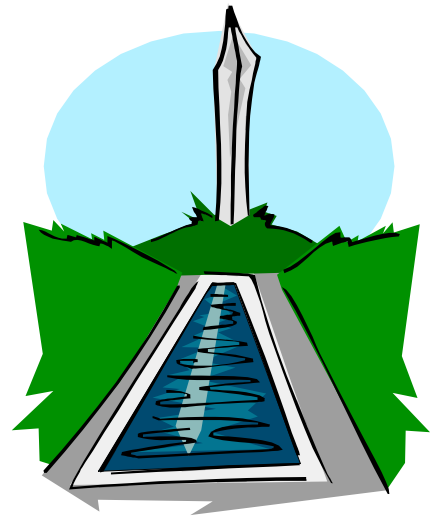
## 2009 Finneytown PTA Educator of the Year

We would first like to congratulate both nominees for this year's Finneytown PTA Educator of the year, Rick Canter and Terry Owen. We are truly fortunate to have such wonderful teachers. The Finneytown Secondary PTA Board selected Rick Canter for this year's Finneytown PTA Educator of the Year. Note that selection alternates between the Elementary and the Secondary campuses each year.



**Rick Canter will be honored during the Evening Dessert Meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m.** The event is hosted this year by the Oak Hills School District at Rapid Run Middle School, which will also include the other winners from each of the seven school districts that make up Hamilton County Council PTAs. Please mark your calendars to attend. See [www.HCCPTAs.org](http://www.HCCPTAs.org) for more details on the Evening Dessert Meeting.

## Attention All Parents of Current 7<sup>th</sup> Graders:



### Washington DC Informational Meeting

March 4, 2009

7:00pm

Finneytown Secondary  
Campus, PAC

For any questions, etc. – please  
email Miss J. Potter at  
[jpotter@finneytown.org](mailto:jpotter@finneytown.org)

## **2008-09 Finneytown PTA Reflections Winners**

“Wow...” Reflections results are in! Below are the winners for Finneytown in the 2008-09 PTA Reflections program. Our total number of entries submitted was 136 which is more than twice last year's total. Watch for the announcement for next year's theme in the spring. Hopefully even more will participate next year. We have a wonderful tradition of excellence in the arts here at Finneytown and it is exciting to be able to celebrate this through the National PTA Reflections program.

A big “thank you” to our local judges that evaluated the Forest Hills entries: Gail Seifert judged intermediate Literature; Photography was judged by Kathy and Dan Hubbard; Visual Arts judges were Kathy Hubbard, Carolyn Althoff, Emily Neff and Jeff Ungru; Penny Sauer judged Musical Composition; and, Kim Fain and Greg Bouman had agreed to judge also but there were no entries submitted for their categories.

An awards ceremony and reception was held January 25th, 2009 to honor all of the Finneytown winners.

All of our first place winning entries went on to Hamilton County Council (HCC) for judging at that level. The HCC winners have also been announced. Finneytown can boast Five Winners that have moved on to Ohio PTA for judging there. Those winners are also noted below. HCC PTA will hold an Open House to honor the winners at that level.

HCC Reflections Open House was held February 17th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hamilton County Educational Service Center (Hamilton Ave.) to honor those winners from the seven member school districts.

Congratulations to all of the students who participated and thanks to the faculty and staff that helped with the program! An additional congratulation to our HCC PTA winners!

Please refer to the print version of the Finneytown Secondary newsletter for a list of reflection winners.

## Poetry Café



National Poetry Month is right around the corner, and the students of the Poetry Café are ready to celebrate. What is the Poetry Café? It is a group of middle and high school students who enjoy writing poetry and sharing it with the rest of the group. The fact that there is always food helps to keep attendance high. We meet in the library media center before school on the first Friday of each month and after school on the third Friday of each month. It has been an incredible success ever since its inception last year during National Poetry Month. Newcomers are always welcome, so please encourage anybody who writes poetry to come to the Poetry Café. It's a fun, safe environment in which we bare our souls through our poems.

### Artwork in the Media Center

The walls of the Secondary Campus library media center have come alive, thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association. The grant, entitled "Picturing America," consists of 40 works of art spanning several centuries, all by American painters,

sculptors, photographers, and architects. "By bringing high-quality reproductions of notable American art into public and private schools, libraries, and communities, Picturing America gives participants the opportunity to learn about our nation's history and culture in a fresh and engaging way. The program uses art as a catalyst for the study of America—the cultural, political, and historical threads woven into our nation's fabric over time."

(<http://picturingamerica.neh.gov/index.php?sec=home>) The grant was awarded to each of Finneytown's library media centers, and eventually the prints will be hung somewhere in each school. For now, however, we encourage you to visit the library media center on the Secondary Campus to view these famous--and not so famous--works of art.



Childe Hassam "Allies Day, May 1917" 1917  
([http://picturingamerica.neh.gov/show\\_fullscreen.php?item=12b\\_1&desc=Allies%20Day,%20May%201917](http://picturingamerica.neh.gov/show_fullscreen.php?item=12b_1&desc=Allies%20Day,%20May%201917))

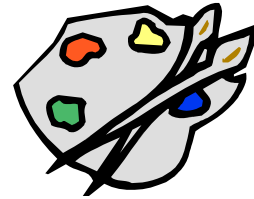
*Submitted by Lara Walker, Finneytown Local School District Library Media Specialist*

## 2009 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

The Scholastics Art & Writing Awards is one of the major art competitions within the school year. Our region, which extends from the Dayton, OH area through Northern Kentucky, is one of the most competitive in the nation. Over 7,000 pieces of art are submitted each year from grades 7-12, with another approximate 1,000 art portfolios from graduating seniors. This year, Finneytown Secondary Campus submitted two portfolios, and 51 individual works.

The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers maintains this national award program to:

- Help artists to develop their vision
- Evaluate their talents in the context of their peers across the country
- Opens the door to publishing, exhibition and scholarship opportunities
- Demonstrate achievement of high standards



Recognitions and Awards which are given at the Regional level include Gold Key, Silver Key, Honorable Mention, Summerfair and Knowledgeworks. Gold Key Award pieces move on to compete at the national level in New York at the end of the Regional exhibition. Through this competition, art scholarships are available [but are not limited to] the following: Monserrat College of Art, the College of Mount St. Joseph, University of Cincinnati, University of the Arts, Drexel University, Columbus College of Art and Design, SFAI, SCAD, U.Mass/Amhearst, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Pratt, RISD, and the Art Academy of Cincinnati.

The list of students who voluntarily submitted works into this competition and the subsequent winners can be found on the printed version of the Finneytown Secondary newsletter.

Out of over 7,000 works of art submitted to the regional round of the competition, Finneytown Secondary Campus has had eleven works of art recognized! [Those Results can be found on printed version of this newsletter!](#)

The works of art will be on display at the MarX Gallery in Covington, KY throughout the month of February. At that point, the Gold Award artworks will travel to New York to compete nationally.

We congratulate each of the students! Included below are the images of the Gold Key Award winner's artwork. Please peruse their gorgeous work!

**Gold Key Award Winners**

- Drawing: "Connected"



- Drawing: "Hand with Shell"



- Drawing: "High Contrast Self Portrait"



- Mixed Media: "Vision"



▪ **A Community Service Thank You!**

Thanks to everyone who gave of their time and resources to fill Thanksgiving Baskets and Holiday Week of Giving food baskets and gift bags!! It took hundreds of people to make the holidays bright for 45 families. It was amazing to see it all come together and then get delivered! We had many wonderful stories of new people and groups joining us to support this cause. Here are just a few:

- Belinda Baty decided to ask her friends to bring food items to her Birthday party instead of gifts so that they could benefit community service baskets!! That was so cool, Belinda!! Thanks!
- Dan Deutch (Cottonwood Dad) organized a spirit week at Cottonwood with all donations of food going to fill our baskets. He also worked with Mr. Dirr at Cottonwood to have a 3rd grade vs. 4th grade spare change drive. Thanks so much, Dan! This contest resulted in Mr. Dirr and Ms. Miller each getting a pie in the face at an assembly to announce the grade winner. Thanks to Mr. Dirr and Ms. Miller for taking one for the Community Service Team!
- Several of Cottonwood's Student Council kids (escorted by Dan Deutch) went to Springfield Township's monthly meeting in Dec. and convinced them that they should join us to support the families that we were trying to help...and they did!!! Many of the departments of Springfield Twsp. pitched in and supported one of our larger families. It was a huge help!
- Cottonwood's Family Involvement team provided refreshments for our Thanksgiving and Holiday Week of Giving distribution days! Thanks to Janet Cobbs for organizing this and to everyone who prepared the goodies. The food was amazing!
- Thanks to many community families who delivered baskets even though all of their kids have graduated!
- Thanks to Kellie Smoker and Curves' clients for setting up a giving tree in their business and for all of the gifts collected! Also, thanks to Janet Cobbs and V. Kontopos for organizing the Varsity and J.V. Soccer team's giving tree and to everyone who shopped for just the perfect gift for a special child!
- Diana Watson and the younger Finneytown Cheerleaders held fundraisers to get donations to fill our baskets. The girls did an amazing job with great spirit!
- Special Thanks to Mr. Volz and Key Club at the HighSchool and to Whitaker students for kicking off the season with the Treat the Hungry collection on Halloween. They helped us fill so many baskets!!! Thanks also to Mr. Grosser and Mr. Stork for encouraging our other High School teams to collect food items and to everyone who sent items in.
- Thanks to Lynn Harrington and the staff at the Bob Evans in Sharonville for collecting their spare change beginning in July!! It was a huge help!
- Thanks to Sandy Martens, Troy Smith, Terri Mayes and girlscouts for shopping and donating funds to help buy great gifts and food.
- Thanks to Glenda, Ian, and May Esslinger for assembling Mom Bags and donating to the cause!
- Also, thanks to my dear "elf" partner Barb Pantano for the midnight planning phone calls and unending support and encouragement along with immeasurable help in so many ways!

There were so many wonderful stories that have come about in this past season as a result of everyone's giving. I can assure everyone that the time spent phone calling, e-mailing, shopping, wrapping, sorting, counting, lifting, collecting, fundraising, delivering and everything else in between was worth it. You helped families struggling with unemployment, serious illnesses and even loss of a loved one. You have all answered the call with great compassion and generosity and for that I am so grateful to have the opportunity to share in this great work with all of you.

With love and gratitude, Karen Mahan, Community Service Coordinator

## Community Service Project!

### *Submitted by Megan Baker Rivet, Social Studies Department Co-Chair*

Megan Baker Rivet's 6th Bell Community Service Class is participating in a Pilot Philanthropy Program through the Mayerson Foundation. They were one of nine schools chosen to participate in this program.

How it works is that they are going to "give" us \$1250 for us to "give" it away. As a class we have begun to study philanthropy - what it is, and why it is important for our community. Last week we divided into "boards" to research social issues that they were passionate and interested in. Then we've gone to the computer lab to find local agencies and programs that we would want to give the money to. Now we are in the stage where we've narrowed our search to approximately 10 different agencies and we are going to send them a RFP ("Request for Funding Proposal") which they need to complete and then send back to us to in fact "apply" for this grant. Once we receive all of our applications back (or once we hit the due date), as a class we are going to go over their paperwork and determine who we feel best fits our description and study of philanthropy. Then during an awards ceremony with all the schools we are going to give our money away.

Many local colleges have been doing this program for several years and it has been a big success. This year they decided to try it out at the high school level to see how it works. I've been meeting and communicating with the other schools throughout the process to share ideas and see how they are implementing this program. Here is the website that has some resources and explains more about it:

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

## Happy Birthday PTA!

February is the month in which we celebrate the founding of the PTA. There are many birthday's to celebrate. **National PTA** is celebrating **112** years of existence. It was on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 1897, that about 2000 people gathered in Washington DC to speak on behalf of the needs of children. Out of this meeting came the National Congress of Mothers later to become the National PTA. The co-founders of this effort were Alice Mclellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst. We also recognize Selena Sloan Butler who founded the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers in 1926, which merged with the National PTA in 1970. In 1897 three fourths of all American children dropped out of school before reaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade to work in mines, factories or farms. **Ohio PTA** became the 5<sup>th</sup> state to join NPTA in **1901**. Our **Hamilton County Council of PTAs** is celebrating **88** years of existence. It started representing 9 school districts, but now is comprised of 7 (Finneytown, Forest Hills, HCBMR/DD, Northwest, Oak Hills, Southwest, and Three Rivers).

Our local Finneytown units, although a bit younger, have much to celebrate and be proud of also. **Finneytown Elementary PTA** established in 1963 is **46** years old and **Finneytown Secondary PTA** founded in 1980 is **29**.

Some highlights of PTA, include:

- 1899, called for the creation of a national health bureau

- 1901, advocated supervision of motion pictures and vaudeville because of their influence on youth
- 1941, was integral in the establishment of nationwide school lunch programs
- 1951, called a national conference on narcotics and drug addiction
- 1954, helped field test and win acceptance of the use of the Salk polio vaccine
- 1966, established a project on the issue of smoking and its overall effects on health
- 1977, NPTA opened Office of Government Relations in Washington, DC to lobby
- 1980s, OPTA Seat Belt Safety (started with Northwest with HCC)
- 1984, NPTA started National Teacher Appreciation Week in May
- 1985, OPTA instrumental in passing NPTA resolution “A Rating System for Records, Tapes, and Cassettes” (started with Oak Hills with HCC)
- 1986, released AIDS education kit and begins AIDS education project in conjunction with the CDC
- 1990, released “Common Sense: Strategies for Raising Alcohol- and Drug-Free Kids”
- 1990s, Nutrition in Schools campaign (started with Forest Hills with HCC)
- 1994, worked with National Cable TV Association to launch critical viewing workshop “Taking Charge of Your TV”
- 1996, launched [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)
- 2000, publication of “Building Successful Partnerships; A Guide to Parent and Family Involvement” to share successful programs. Workshops are still given.
- 2005, Public Service Announcements (PSA) released and given to units to encourage parent involvement, partnered with the National Ad Council
- Since their inception our Finneytown PTAs have provided support for our staff and students through coordinating volunteers, providing “extra” educational materials, providing enrichment opportunities with in schools and after school programs, helping to educate and inform parents and teachers through newsletters and programs

Celebrating each of the levels of PTA together is very fitting because it reflects the connection we have as evidenced by PTA’s official emblem, the oak tree. The trunk represents National PTA, the main branches are the states and congresses, the smaller branches are the districts and councils, the twigs are the local units, and the leaves are the millions of members (currently over 6 million). The acorns represent the accomplishments which are many. It is the integral connection of the members all the way to National PTA that gives us strength in advocating and sharing of knowledge. This unity inspired the PTA motto of *Everychild.Onevoice*.

PTA has also been working on providing membership benefits. The back of your PTA membership card contains a username and password to access special information on parenting and other topics from the website [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org). There are periodic discounts with stores, insurance and events. Training is also available through different levels of PTA.

All we do is to be in support of our PTA Mission of:

- 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

You should feel a sense of pride in your participation in this great organization. Happy Birthday to PTA and pat yourself on the back for helping to make a difference!

## Advocacy Update February 2009!

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

- **HB 320 Child Booster Seat/Seat Belt Law Passes**  
This was passed into law and requires any child who is less than 8 years old and less than 4' 9" tall to be secured in a booster seat and requires any child who is at least 8 years of age and under the age of 18 be restrained in a seat belt. Current restraining systems are designed and tested for adults and not children. Proper booster seat use should reduce the odds of significant injury in a wreck by 59%.
- **Governor Strickland's Forums on School Funding**  
Six regional forums were held in November & December including one in Cincinnati. The Governor should be releasing his plans soon. The economic situation for the state does not look good. For information about the public forums: [www.ConversationsOnEducation.org](http://www.ConversationsOnEducation.org).
- **Ohio's 128th General Assembly Sworn In**  
The 128th Ohio General Assembly is now in session. Note that any bill which did not pass both the Senate and House and signed by the governor by December 31st is now dead and would need to be reintroduced back into committee. The Ohio Senate is controlled by the Republicans and the Democrats control the Ohio House.
- **President Obama's Concern About Parent Involvement**  
President Obama plans to focus on engagement of parent's in their child's education. National PTA was asked to meet with the President's transition team in December to discuss the administration's plans around parent involvement.

The following is from the Cincinnati Enquirer:

- **Governor Strickland Announces School Change Plans**  
Some proposals from the Governor include: longer school year by 20 days (to be phased in over 10 yrs.); longer school days; modernization of all curriculum; stricter teacher standards; allow real estate taxes to grow with inflation; increase states share of funding from 52% to 59%; replace the Ohio Graduation Test with the ACT.

The following is from the "Ohio Fair Schools Campaign" e-mails:

- **"Education Week's" Quality Counts 2009 (Annual Report), Ohio Ranks 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Ohio schools rank 6th in the nation, moving up from 7th last year, according to Quality Counts 2009, the 13th edition of Education Week's series of annual report cards tracking state education policies and outcomes. Ohio earned an overall grade of B- in this year's report. In the area of school finance, Quality Counts 2009 said there is a gap in per-pupil spending among Ohio's 614 school districts. The report noted a \$4,681 difference between the highest- and lowest-spending districts (means over \$100K for each 25 students difference). Still, the report said that Ohio spends \$10,119 a year per student, 22nd highest in the nation. The national average was \$9,963. To View the state-by-state analysis, visit: <http://www.edweek.org/ew/qc/2009/17src.h28.html>

▪ **No Good News for Ohio's Budget**

Governor Strickland, along with several other state's Governors, is making a plea for federal money to help balance Ohio's state budget. Ohio newspapers have reported that a worst-case scenario would include a 25% budget cut across most state agencies, if federal aid is not forthcoming. The potential shortfall for the next two-year budget would be \$7.3 billion if spending remains at current levels. Even if agencies slash their budgets by 10 percent, the shortfall still would be \$4.7 billion. In December, the ODE was directed to cut \$30.4 million from its budget. For more information on the cuts: <http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?Page=3&TopicRelationID=11&Content=61475>

**The PTA Mission:**

- A powerful voice for all children
- A relevant resource for families and communities
- ***A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child***

(Elise Fessler @ [bfsing@cinci.rr.com](mailto:bfsing@cinci.rr.com), HCC & Finneytown PTAs' Advocacy Chair) 2/09

The groundhog is in the  
rear view mirror...  
Spring is almost here!

## FINNEYTOWN SECONDARY PTA ANNUAL FLOWER & MULCH SALE

*ALL proceeds from the sale go right back to the students through PTA funded program.  
SO BUY YOUR PLANTS AND MULCH FROM US!*

The **voucher system** will be used again: REMEMBER...**CHOOSE YOUR OWN PLANTS FOR VARIETY, COLOR, QUALITY, AND (the most important reason) PICK UP YOUR PLANTS WHEN YOU WANT THEM AND SAVE MONEY, TOO!**

The vouchers are for **MOELLER'S GREENHOUSE** at 2471 Banning Road. The vouchers are **valid from April 10, 2009 and May 31, 2009.**

There are **SIX** different vouchers which you may order in any quantity:

1. **ANNUAL FLATS – (8 pack – 32 plants) \$14.50**  
Mix or match flowers in packs (you save \$3.49 per flat)
2. **10" STANDARD HANGING BASKET \$20.00**  
All varieties (you save \$4.99 per basket)
3. **ANNUALS – (15 Pot Flat of 4 ½ inch Pots) \$52.00**  
Mix or match (you save \$22.85/flat)
4. **PERENNIALS – (5" deep pot – 8/flat) \$43.00**  
Mix or match (you save \$13.00/flat)
5. **VEGETABLE FLATS (Flat of 18 – 4 inch pots) \$18.00** (save \$5.00/flat)  
Mix or match tomatoes, cabbage, squash, peppers, lettuce, cucumber, okra, eggplant
6. **MULCH (Black Hardwood – 2 cubic feet/bag) \$3.75** (you save \$ .24/bag)

Please use the order form on the back.

**\*\*ORDERS ARE DUE BY MARCH 21, 2009\*\***

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FINNEYTOWN SECONDARY PTA**

You may send or drop off your order/check to:

TARA SABATO  
8557 CAVALIER DRIVE  
CINCINNATI, OH 45231

*(please do not send orders to school!)*

Questions? Please call Tara at 521-8383 or e-mail [tdsabato@fuse.net](mailto:tdsabato@fuse.net)

**THANKS FOR SUPPORTING FINNEYTOWN SECONDARY PTA!**

**PLANT AVAILABILITY FOR VOUCHERS**

	<u>Container</u>		<u>Container</u>
Ageratum	Flat	Dbl. Impatiens	Pot
Alyssum	Flat	Lantana	Pot
Licorice Vine	Pot	Charm Begonia	Pot
Dragonwing Begonia	Pot	Marigold	Flat
Wax Begonia	Flat	New Guinea	Pot
Nonstop Begonia	Pot	Nierembergia	Flat
Brachycome	Pot	Petunia	Flat/Pot
Browallia	Flat	Proven Winners	Pot
Caladium	Pot	Periwinkle	Flat
Celosia	Flat	Portulaca	Flat/Pot
Cosmos	Pot	Salvia	Flat/Pot
Cuphea	Pot	Snapdragons	Flat
Dusty Miller	Flat	Swt. Potato Vine	Pot
Fuchsia	Pot	Verbena	Flat/Pot
Gazania	Flat	Zinnia	Flat
Geranium	Pot		
Hypoestes	Flat	<b>Over 120 Varieties of Perennials</b>	
Impatiens	Flat		

**Hanging Baskets:**

Geraniums	New Guinea Impatiens	Boston Ferns
Begonia	Petunia	Bracteantha
Fuchsia	Scaevola	
Ivy Geranium	Verbena	
Impatiens	Bacopa	

Depending on availability, additional bedding plant material and hanging baskets may become available.

