

the Cryer



San Jose Unified Council of PTAs

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President's Message

Happy May to you all~

It's hard for me to believe that the end of the school year is upon us. It seems that the end is almost, if not more, busy and crazy than the beginning. It's a good idea to gather your new

board and have a planning session before you begin summer activities with your families. Also, during this busy time, please take time to thank all those people who have helped make your year successful. It is my feeling that the SJU Council of PTAs had a successful year. The board members' talents were invaluable and I would like to thank each of them for their outstanding contributions!

Sandee Ruiz ~ A huge thank you for your role in our membership growth!

Chris Gray ~ Your "all-around" PTA expertise and Cryer/Directory editorial skills are awesome!

Carol Pecora ~ Our website continues to look wonderful!

Peggy Hertzberg ~ You took Convention Chair by the horns! Your energy is contagious!

Susan Gaydon ~ Our luncheon will be fantastic. Your ideas are so fun! Thank you!

— Continued on page 2

PTA Council Annual Awards Luncheon

Hats Off to You, For All You Do!



Wednesday, May 20
Fiorillo's Restaurant

Looking forward to seeing you there!

VOTE! Tuesday, May 19

The California State PTA takes the following Positions. See page 12 for more information.

Proposition 1A —> **Supports**

Proposition 1B —> **Supports**

Proposition 1C —> **Supports**

Proposition 1D —> **Opposes**

Proposition 1E —> **Supports**

What happens if Propositions 1A and 1B fail? See page 11....

Sixth District PTA presents:

Officer Training!



Saturday, May 30, 8:30 am — 12:30 pm

Santa Clara County Office of Education

1290 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose

To register:

<http://www.capta6.org/leadership/>

8:30—9:00 Check-in and Continental Breakfast

9:00—9:20 Introduction

9:15—10:30 **Session 1 Courses: Parliamentary/**

Bylaws/Elections; Secretary's Guide; Auditors;

Reflections; Council Leaders

10:40—11:10 General Meeting, Installation of 2009-11

Sixth District Officers, Honorary Service Awards

11:15—12:30 **Session 2 Courses: PTA Basics;**

Advanced Presidents; Conflict Resolution; Helping Our

Children Thrive

Double length courses: Leadership Tools for Unit Presidents; Money Matters for Treasurer\$; Membership #

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President's Message, Continued from page 1

Brandy Varni ~ Thank you for saying YES to being our Secretary. You are a natural for the job!

Irene Paquet ~ Thank you for maintaining and sending Yahoo Group blasts for us. It kept communications on track!



Marie Boyle & Mary Ruiz ~ Our fabulous financial team! Thank you both very much!

Jill Grellman ~ Thank you for making sure all audits were done and for helping units

that needed assistance!

Julie Herndon ~ Thank you for your support and making sure all of our hours were collected and counted!

Andrea Wheeler ~ Thank you for agreeing to be our Parliamentarian and keep bylaws up to date.

Joan Cooper ~ Your advise, support and friendship have been a true gift. Thank you!

It has been my pleasure to serve as President, and I am looking forward to another successful year. Thank you all for joining us, as you could, at our quarterly meetings. I hope that we made them worthwhile for you. We hope to bring you more interesting information next year.

Enjoy this edition of the Cryer. It's filled with info, reminders and the current happenings of our units! See you at Fiorillo's on the 20th.

Have a restful summer!

~Lynne Wach

Calendar and Reminders

San Jose Unified Council of PTAs

April	20	Historian's Report/Hours due to Council
May	20	Annual Council Awards Luncheon
	26	Superintendent's Brown Bag, Rm 337 Lenzen, 12:00-1:30pm
June — July		End of Year Audit Due Unit Treasurer's Annual Report to Council

Forms can be found at the Council website:
<http://www.sjucouncilpta.org/forms/>



Surray for our Volunteers!

Once again members of the San Jose Unified Council of PTAs have racked up big numbers in the volunteer hours category!

Council Board volunteer hours: 784

PTA Schools hours total is: 80,017

But we are still missing hours for five schools! — where are you???



SJU Council of PTAs Annual Awards Luncheon:

Installation of Officers

The Installation of Officers for 2009-2010 will be held at the Annual Awards Luncheon on May 20 at Fiorillo's. The Executive Committee, elected or appointed, will include:

President	LYNNE WACH
1st VP Membership	RONDA WILSON
2nd VP Cryer	CHRIS GRAY
3rd VP Yahoo Group	SANDEE RUIZ
4th VP Education	OPEN
5th VP Convention	PEGGY HERTZBERG
Secretary	BRANDY VARNI
Treasurer	DENISE JOHNSON
Financial Secretary	JULIE CHOVANEC
Auditor	JILL GRELLMAN
Historian	JULIE HERNDON
Parliamentarian	ANDREA WHEELER
Web Site	OPEN
Luncheon Chair	OPEN

April 30—May 3 In Review

State PTA Convention!

From Peggy Hertzberg, Allen at Steinbeck K-8 President and VP Convention for SJU Council:

The 110th Annual California State PTA Convention was attended by 3,242 members and guests. I had the privilege of being on the Local Convention Committee along with our own Chris Gray. We worked alongside the California State Convention Management Committee and State PTA Board of Managers. Thank you to the many members from San Jose Unified Council of PTAs who volunteered their time and/or attended sessions. It was great to see faces from “home”. Without your help, the convention would not be possible!

Please remember that when training is offered, it’s important for all of us to attend as keep learning. Whether you’ve been part of PTA for less than a year or “forever”...we never “know it all”.

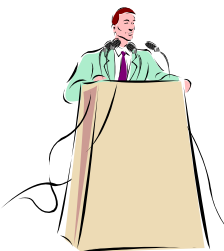


I’d like to leave you with this quote from Marian Wright Edelman that was in the Convention Program Booklet:

“We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.”

From Debbie Michels, Los Alamitos EVP:

I wasn’t sure what I was getting myself into when I agreed to spend four days at the California State PTA convention held this year in downtown San Jose, but I’d heard really good things, and as a PTA executive



vice president, I felt somewhat obligated to attend and couldn’t say no when it was in my own backyard. Well, let me tell you, it was a blast!

Everyone wears a typical convention lanyard and neck pouch just like you see people wearing at Disneyland. Everyone has pins on

their lanyards that they’ve collected from the different PTA positions they’ve held and the conventions they’ve attended. Along with that, people wear ribbons identifying different aspects of their PTA involvement. As a first timer, I wore a “first timer ribbon,” which prompted people to yell “first timer!” and hoot and holler wherever I went. It was silly, but I felt

very welcomed.

The convention was run so smoothly and professionally in all areas – from the workshops, to the exhibit hall to the general sessions. There were many workshops to choose from and the ones I attended were very informative. I learned about grant money available to us from big corporations, how to obtain grant and scholarship money from PTA itself and how to be better organized.



The exhibit hall is filled with fundraising vendors and various organizations and companies all sharing their products with attendees. I have to admit getting free cookies, wrapping paper, stuffed animals and chocolate was really fun!

And most importantly, **the general sessions were fascinating.** It was a privilege to hear many wonderful speakers including **Pam Brady, the State PTA president**, various political figures, including our state superintendent of schools, and even **Carol Channing** who created a foundation to support the arts. Watching a PTA meeting in session in such a large scale was interesting as parliamentary procedures were closely followed, and seeing ALL the people who actively participate in PTA at all levels (unit, council, district and state) is impressive. There are so many people who truly believe in helping provide a good public education for our children. Which leads me to the most impressive part of the convention...the kids themselves!

The state Reflections winners were honored for their creativity in this year’s competition. The theme was “Wow!” and boy, we were wowed! Their videos, photos and essays brought tears to our eyes and made us laugh. Watching them confirmed that we are volunteering for the right cause – our children and our future.

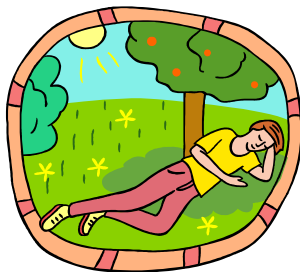


Next year’s convention will be held in Sacramento. If you have the opportunity to attend some or all of it, I highly encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to learn, share and grow with the wonderful volunteers that make up California’s State PTA!

PTA State Convention In Review, continued...

From Lynne Wach, Council President:

Due to work conflicts, I was only able to attend a portion of convention this year. I decided to volunteer each day and get to the general sessions on Saturday. I totally enjoyed my volunteering experience and was energized by the General Sessions. I was also able to attend one workshop called "The Value of PTA". It was a question/answer format and the panel consisted of two principals and two superintendents. I felt that I already knew the value of PTA and went to hear a little more of what I thought I knew. I am a believer in the concept of *you can always learn something new* and I am glad I attended this class. The big AHAA! moment for me was when **Dr. Mark Long** said that PTA is a Sleeping Giant. His feeling is that when we go



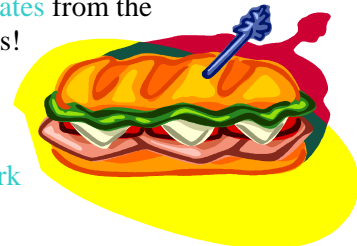
from being a 1 million member voice on its knees to standing tall, we will make lasting changes. We are making changes, but lasting change is just around the corner. The PTA organization has representation SITTING at the legislative tables in Sacramento, at the Education Coalition and in Washington DC. Our power is great and that is a TRUE VALUE. So when you begin your membership drives in the fall...make sure to let your parent community know just how valuable their membership is and how far their voices go!

If you attended Convention and had an AHAA! moment, please email it to me and I will share it with the Unit Presidents to pass on to their membership!

~Lynne (flekwach@aol.com)

How About a Mid-summer Luncheon?

Take a few minutes now to organize a Mid-Summer Luncheon for your unit! Choose a local restaurant (one with a private room is best), invite your PTA/PTSA members, staff, and your principal to join you. **Make this a social event** — **except for Mid-Summer School Updates** from the principal — parents love to hear school updates! (You may wish to plan pre-payment for lunch either a set menu or tell attendees the bill will be equally split.) Another idea — **Mid-Summer Picnic in the Park** with the kids!



San Jose Unified Council of PTAs 2008-2009 Executive Committee

President	Lynne Wach	flekwach@aol.com
1st VP, Membership	Sandee Ruiz	sruiz@iname.com
2nd VP, Cryer and Directory	Chris Gray	grayaspens@hotmail.com
3rd VP, Yahoo Group	Irene Paquet	ipaquet@pacbell.net
4th VP, Parent Education	Susan Gaydon	sgaydon@pacbell.net
5th VP, Convention	Peggy Hertzberg	peghertz@earthlink.net
Secretary	Brandy Varni	varbunin@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Marie Boyle	mboyle@markpringle.com
Financial Secretary	Mary Ruiz	mariamouse@sbcglobal.net
Auditor	Jill Grellman	jdgrellman@comcast.net
Historian	Julie Herndon	onedoctorjulie@pacbell.net
Parliamentarian	Andrea Wheeler	awheeler@demoworks.com
Web site	Carol Pecora	carolpecora2000@yahoo.com
Annual Luncheon	Susan Gaydon	sgaydon@pacbell.net
Reflections	Open	
Legislation	Open	
Budget Advisory Committee Rep.	Open	
SJUSD Wellness Representative	Open	
SJUSD Board of Ed. Liaison to Council	Pam Foley	pam@effoley.com
SJTA Liaison to Council	Janice Allen	SJTAPres@aol.com

Resolutions

From the 110th California State PTA Convention

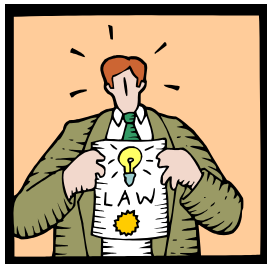
From Sandee Ruiz, Council VP -- Membership, and Andrea Wheeler, Council Parliamentarian:

This year's convention theme was "The Power of One". There were several exciting guest speakers who all reminded us of what a difference one person can make. In addition to making a difference at home and in our schools and communities, we can also make a difference by having our voices heard. The California State PTA is a million members strong and speaks for each and every one of us when advocating for legislation. **Passing a resolution specifically gives the State PTA the authority to support a legislative bill or ballot initiative on a particular issue.**

We were the voting delegates for San Jose Unified Council at this year's convention. It is surprisingly interesting to take part in the business of the organization. In order to understand the resolutions better, we attended a Resolutions Workshop and got to hear the makers of each resolution read their position statements and answer questions. We also read the proposed changes to the state bylaws and the legislation policies, which are posted before the Convention on the PTA website.

With these, you often gain a new point of view. Sometimes delegates speak against resolutions or bylaws changes completely. Other times, delegates merely make revisions to the language used in the resolution or bylaws change - hoping to make it clearer to all delegates. These changes are called amendments and are voted on prior to adopting the entire resolution.

This year all proposed resolutions were adopted. Resolution C provoked the most debate and required a counted vote. Most votes were the standard voice vote most of us use at our unit meetings - "All those in favor say Aye, those opposed say Nay". There was also a standing vote where the State PTA president, Pam Brady, called for each voting delegate to rise and say Aye; then repeat for Nay votes. A counted vote is required when the chair (Pam) is unable to tell which side had more. Each delegate is required to stand and be counted for Aye votes, then Nay.



Here is a brief summary of this year's resolutions:

A - Teen Driving Safety (PTA will advocate for the creation of a standard driver education program available to ALL students)

B - Achievement. Eliminating the Gap (PTA will advocate for improving the academic achievement of all students)

C - Lowering the Vote Requirement in the California State Budget Process (PTA will advocate for a 55 percent simple majority rather than the current 2/3 majority). The arguments in favor of the resolution were: it will help pass budgets more quickly, and it will prevent back room deals to buy votes. The arguments against the resolution were: the real problem is that legislators are voting along party lines instead of what's best for the state, and the higher limit allows more voices to be heard in the debate. I (Andrea) voted in favor of the resolution. I don't believe it will necessarily lead to BETTER budgets but it will lead to EARLIER budgets and more transparency into who votes for the budget and why.

D - Social Host Accountability and Underage Drinking (PTA will advocate for social host laws and maintaining the legal drinking age of 21)

Also Approved: to Rescind the 1988 Resolution - Aids Prevention Education in the Curriculum (this contradicted current codes and a more recent adopted resolution)

The full text of the resolutions and bylaws changes are available in the Convention Chronicle

<http://www.capta.org/sections/convention-2009/downloads/>

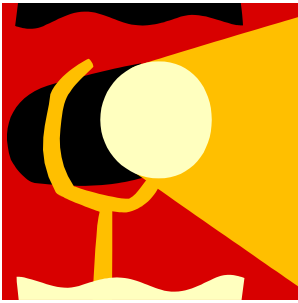


Our Great Units!

Allen at Steinbeck K-8 PTA
Almaden Elementary PTA
Autism Project PTA
Bachrodt Elementary PTA
Carson PTA
Anne Darling PTA
Empire Gardens PTA
Hammer/Galarza PTA
Los Alamitos PTA
Olinder PTA
Reed PTA
Simonds PTA
Terrell PTA

Williams PTA
Willow Glen Elem PTA
Burnett Middle PTSA
Castillero Middle PTSA
Hoover Middle PTSA
Muir Middle PTSA
Willow Glen Middle PTA
Gunderson High PTSA
Lincoln High PTSA
Pioneer High PTSA
San Jose High PTSA





Spotlight

Allen at Steinbeck K-8 PTA

It is incredible how quickly a school year goes by! It was my pleasure to have worked with this Executive Board. This school year has been a great year for Allen at Steinbeck K-8. We had **our PTA name officially changed** and received our certificate from the California State PTA. By September, **Dawn Gilby** (our unit's auditor) had developed a **Yahoo Group Page** to keep our association aware of current PTA events. **Dawn Heinzmann**, VP Membership did a fabulous job with a membership drive that brought in **100% teacher and staff participation**. She even obtained the California State PTA President's Challenge of increasing our membership with "one more member". Our school was the host of the September California State PTA Training where PTA units from all over the bay area were able to receive training to understand their responsibilities better. There were about 200 attendees! Our PTA was able to utilize the **Parent Link phone system** that allowed the PTA to deliver messages to every family enrolled at our school. Our PTA was also able to continue to communicate to every family via our **school newsletter**, "The Gator Gazette". This spring the PTA chose to send our **evaluations** to every family and every teacher and staff member as to how to better our PTA unit.

A fabulous event that our school held this year was the **Fall Family Festival** that incorporated not only the families from our school, but high school students and members from our community. We had other events such as the **Welcome Back Coffee, Hobby Show, Spell-a-Thon, Family Dinner Nights, Spaghetti Feed, Story Fun Night, PTA Volunteer Thank You, and Teacher Appreciation Week**.

This year is also Principal **Nico Flores'** last year at Allen at Steinbeck K-8. Our PTA fully appreciates the relationship that our unit has with our school. We look forward to continuing to grow our community and make our school the best that it can be with a new principal.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful summer, and I look forward to giving you updates on our school in 2009-2010.

Best Regards,

— **Peggy Hertzberg**, President



Communications Commission California State PTA www.capta.org *The Communicator* May 2009

Bragging About Your PTA

How do you let people know how important PTA is? **Keep your PTA and its activities visible.** How do you do that? You brag! You tout your own horn! Celebrate all the great things your PTA has done for the students.

Most parents in your school community, unless actively involved in volunteering for a specific activity, have no idea how much the PTA is responsible for doing. They don't make the distinction between what the school provides and what the PTA provides. It's up to you to make them aware of all that your PTA does.

Ensure that your event flyers all say "PTA sponsored Book Fair" or Spaghetti Dinner, Harvest Festival.

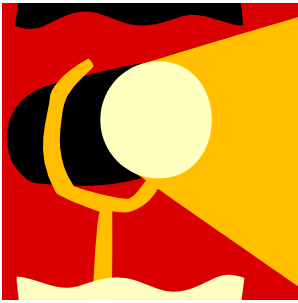
Inform your school community that your book fair earned \$800 worth of new books for your school library.

Let them know that you sponsored the Art Ark that visited your school for a week. Tell them that all students enjoyed the music assembly, play, the Red Ribbon week activities. If your PTA pays for field trips, let them know that too. If you provide pencils, bumper stickers, or prizes for perfect attendance, let it be known.

Brag in your PTA/school newsletter. Brag on your website. Brag throughout the year to keep your PTA first in your school community's minds. There are two times a year when it's especially important to brag about all that your PTA has accomplished. If you have kept your PTA and its accomplishments in the front of everyone's minds throughout the year, the first of those two important times is the month before school ends.

Write a letter to your parents giving them a state of the PTA address. Let them know how much money the Spaghetti Dinner earned and how many field trips it funded, how much the book fair netted for the library, etc. Be sure to thank them for the support they gave you, financial as well as volunteer hours. The second time it's really important to brag is your **first letter home to parents in the fall** when you ask them to join your PTA. Entice them to join by **listing all the great things your PTA did last year and list all you hope to accomplish this year**, with their help. **Let your PTA's voice and its accomplishments be heard.**





Spotlight

Hoover Middle PTSA

Working to improve school climate for teachers and students, focusing on health and safety preparedness in the event of extended emergencies, supporting student success in areas of academics, behavior

and attendance, and increasing PTSA membership and participation have been the primary goals and focus of Hoover PTSA this 2008-2008 school year. Our successful Jog-A-Thon Fundraiser in the fall was the vehicle which allowed us to have funding for our work.

To that end, we are proud to report:

- We **more than doubled our membership this year.**
- The PTSA provided funding **help to purchase books and storage boxes** for the new Advisory period Sustained Reading program at Hoover, and also funded many **incentives for academic excellence, improved behavior, and attendance issues.**
- Our unit completed a major task and expense of providing every classroom with an **Emergency Preparedness Kit** for use in the case of a School Lock-down situation. The kits include such things as snacks, water, flashlights, cups, disinfectant gels, paper towels, a variety of plastic bags of various sizes and strengths, and a first aid kit etc.
- We funded a **clothing closet** to provide needy students with school uniforms pieces, both new and gently used articles. This provides assistance to families of need, and allows students to meet the uniform policy of our school.
- **Support for classroom instruction** has been given by providing teachers with materials requested by them to enhance the environment and instructional day, including supply types of materials and volunteer help.
- Our **hospitality committee and unit volunteers** have provided **Teacher Treats** each month this year for the General Monthly Staff meeting. Teachers have written us to say they feel appreciated and cared for by the parents. Morale at the school has greatly improved this year and PTSA has made a conscious effort to be a contributing force in that regard. We actively **solicit ideas from our teachers, administrators, parents, and students for ways we as parents can support progress and success in the education of our students.**



To help us be effective and proactive for next year, **our teachers were asked to rank seven suggestions we had received for consideration as part of our goals for next year.** This ranking will be used by the board and association to help us form our goals for next year.

May and June will be full months of work for our members, as we assist with our annual **Staff Appreciation Luncheon, 8th Grade Promotion and Celebration, the Council Luncheon, the Transitioning of our new board to become active,** and our final Parent Education Program for this year: **CPR Training in June, 2009.**

It has been an extremely busy and encouraging year for us at Hoover. We are looking forward to even more positive gains for students, parents, teachers, and our administrators in the coming year. We are ever striving to be the voice for each child in our school. We wish all parents and students a happy, restful, and rejuvenating summer!

— *Linda Funk, President 2007-2009*

Unit Updates



Autism Project PTA

Walk Now For Autism! Saturday, May 30th, 2009 at History Park located at the south end of Kelly Park in San Jose. The Autism Project PTA would like to invite everyone to join us "AS WE TACKLE AUTISM." This is our largest signature and awareness event. Over \$400,000 was raised at the Bay Area Walk in 2008. The Autism Project PTA team raised over \$10,000 with 55 walkers. We have participated in the Walk for six years, and it has taken five years of lobbying to bring the Walk to San Jose. The **Mayor of San Jose** will be one of the guest speakers. **Children with autism will perform.** From 9:00-12:00p.m.; arrive early for parking.

Join our team or make a donation: <http://www.walknowforautism.org/bayarea/autismprojectpta>

— *Cynthia Armon, President*
Co-Chair for the 2009 Bay Area Walk Now for Autism and Team Captain

Bachrodt Academy PTA

Spring has been a very busy time for Bachrodt PTA! The students had great success during the See's Candy **spring fundraiser**. Over 200 students participated!

Students and parents really joined forces to make Bachrodt shine at our **School Beautification** event at the beginning of April. The weather was great and everyone enjoyed their time working together to make a difference at the school. In fact, one more School Beautification Day has been planned for the beginning of June!

Open House was also a great night! The PTA sponsored a **resource fair** for students and parents, sharing important information and continuing to get parents involved in school programs. The PTA also provided food and snacks. Students and parents had a wonderful night on campus!

May is shaping up to be a busy month as well. We



kicked off with a **movie night** where students and their parents enjoyed Dr. Seuss' "Horton Hears a Who." **Teacher Appreciation Week** also kept the PTA busy. Teachers received "an apple a day" in different forms including apple pie, caramel apples and iTunes gift cards. On Cinco de Mayo, teachers were treated to a catered lunch that included entertainment by the school's Ballet Folklorico dance group. It was a huge hit!

PTA elections have been held and the new officers are excited to continue the momentum of this year's board.

The PTA will be hosting a **book fair** that will include a spirit day where students will dress up as their favorite book character. Prizes will be awarded for the best costume. On May 16th, Bachrodt will be hosting its first **May Madness Carnival**. Games, food, prizes and fun are guaranteed. We'll have entertainment by Victor Santos and other student groups. The **Bachrodt Eagle** is sure to make an appearance. The school community is really looking forward to this event!

As we approach the end of the school year, we are looking forward to one more **School Beautification Day, Field Day, and Kinder and 5th grade graduation**. We'd like to wish you all the best for the rest of the year!

-- *Heidi Wolcott, President*

Hammer & Galarza Elementary PTA

The last 24 days of school and the Hammer & Galarza PTA is ending it with a bang, With a **movie night, end-of-the year party, 5th grade culmination, and spare change**



We had a great year,
 With **over 175 volunteers**,
 We thank our current board for their dedication
 Our success this year was not an aberration

Our new board is excited
 And hopes to get our membership ignited
 With new ideas
 And maybe food that involves tortillas.

Our happenings this year was great to report
 Thank you for your support!

— *Lori Stokes, President*

Los Alamitos PTA

There is always so much happening at Los Alamitos and we are as busy as usual. We were fortunate to have a **tree donated** to our school and it was dedicated in a wonderful ceremony in the kindergarten playground.



"**Jans Cans**" was our big event in April where students brought in all their saved up recycling and/or money they've earned from recycling. Students and classes participate in a competition to see who can bring in the most recycling for the school and all money raised benefits our reading programs!

Earth Day was recognized with the distribution of our customized stainless steel Los Alamitos water bottles, which we're hoping helps decrease the use of plastic water bottles on campus.

We continue to have our **grade level musicals** and we're looking forward to our **art show** on May 12th, where families, students and community members can view the wonderful art created by our students throughout our year-long art vistas program.

Los Alamitos fourth graders will experience the gold rush in our annual fourth grade "**Gold Rush Days**." Students dress up and pan for gold, visit an old fashioned saloon and eat franks and beans on tin plates. Our fifth graders will be dressing up for "**Colonial Days**" where they experience life of the early Americans.

And, our beloved **variety show** will be held on Friday, June 5th. Come watch our students share their talents through song, dance and skits! A great and entertaining time is had by all.

Enjoy the summer!

— *Debbie Michels, Executive Vice President*

Simonds Elementary PTA

Simonds PTA is looking back to another great school year. Our school celebrated its students' cultural diversity with a very well attended **Multi-cultural Fair**. We also had a **Geography Bee** take place, in two parts: a **scavenger hunt** during the Multicultural Fair as well as a quiz the following week. Before the end of the school year we are still looking forward to the **Math Olympics** and our year-end **Carnival**. **The Simonds PTA would like to thank all volunteers for their hard work and all parents for their support.**



— *Irene Paquet, President*

Willow Glen Elementary PTA

As the year draws to a close, it always seems like there's more activity than ever at Willow Glen Elementary.

Spring arrived at Willow Glen Elementary and with it, the school's **annual talent show**. It's a favorite family night that always plays to a packed house. This year's talent show was literally the biggest and best ever.



Playing to an overflow audience at Willow Glen Middle School (the talent show has outgrown our own facilities) on March 25, there were 45 acts, with more than 80 kids involved, including backstage crew and two announcers. We've held this event for four years, and it's amazing to see the hidden talents of our school community.

In April, we held our **annual mother/son night**. More than 50 mother-son teams braved a chilly Friday night to play mini-golf at Golfland. Some dads were drafted as photographers to take special photos to be used as mementos of the evening.

Our next big action-oriented event is the **annual walkathon**. The PTA holds the event on a Friday during the school day so that every child in the school participates. This approach has literally paid off; last year, the walkathon was Willow Glen Elementary's biggest fundraiser. Prizes for the rock 'n roll themed event include iPod Shuffles.

Our **Science Fair** is coming up soon, too. We hold the event in conjunction with the school **Open House** so projects are showcased for visitors. Students love the opportunity to see others' work, too.

Of course we couldn't close out the year without thanking teachers properly. For **teacher appreciation week**, we provide a morning spread each day in the teachers' lounge of home baked goodies. On Friday, it culminates in a special luncheon for teachers.

Willow Glen Elementary wishes you a fun, safe summer!

— *Marilyn Ritchie, VP, Communications*

John Muir Middle PTSA

Communication continues to be a major factor for John Muir Middle PTSA. Through weekly e-mails from **Mary Bitter**, Communications, parents are aware of activities occurring not only at John Muir but also within the John Muir community (such as advertising Hacienda's Spring Fling, Gunderson High School's Restaurant Nights, and a neighborhood Memorial Day Parade and Festival). We have had invited guest speakers, many of whom were arranged through the **SJUSD Parent Education Office**, to discuss topics that affect our kids: Nutrition and Brain Development, Supporting Students at Home, and Cyber Safety. More importantly, **our students have become an active part in our PTSA**. During our January meeting the students and parents discussed the pro's and con's of the Friday lunch music selection with the Principal, **Gloria Marchant**, and we arrived at a mutual decision that satisfied everyone.

During these tough economic times, we have had a couple of new fundraising activities over the past few months:



- PTSA helped the eighth graders hold a **See's Candy Fundraiser** to earn money for their year-end promotion activities; and
- PTSA hosted a **home-based business and craft boutique** to raise money for **additional emergency supplies for the school**.

business and craft boutique to raise money for **additional emergency supplies for the school**.

In the upcoming school year we will continue to try new fundraising activities and to work with other fundraising groups within our school. We are grateful that our PTSA members are open to new ideas and are willing to build a stronger sense of community for our students.

— *Dianne and Scott Conry, Co-Presidents*

Gunderson High PTSA

Spring is blooming with activities to showcase the benefit of Gunderson's PTSA organization.

The **26th Annual Academic Honors Ceremony** is our PTSA's chance to publicize the organization through an event which touches 50% of the entire school population. From the letters to 453 students,

parents and guardians to the publication of the program itself, our PTSA logo is front and center to capture mindshare around this outstanding event.

With the **Senior Honors Night, Senior Scholar-**



ships and a Spring Sports Banquet in early June, our PTSA organization will again be able to show how our members contribute to the direct benefit of students and their fami-

lies at Gunderson High School.

Using these venues to promote PTSA is a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate the fun side of our organization!

— *Mary Pizzo, President*

Lincoln High PTSA

As we say goodbye to a wonderful year full of talent, mentoring, and fun, we say hello to another school year next fall. We held our last PTSA meeting on April 23rd, 2009. Highlights were a presentation by **Zoe Riodolfi-Starr** and **Felipe Riveros**, two Juniors who informed our unit of their trip to New Orleans to support *Habitat for Humanity*. **It is a goal of the LHS-PTSA to honor our "Parent-Student-Teacher-Association" and include students at our meetings and at our events.**



Thank you to our outgoing Vice Presidents and Treasurer. We are very appreciative of their service to our PTSA. **Dr. Peggy Mahony** served us for three years as Membership VP, **Ms. Amy Schiff** was our VP of Activities for three years, and **Ms. Gwen Daulton** was our secretary for two years and then our treasurer for the past two years. Thank you all so much for all you have done for PTSA. We will miss you!

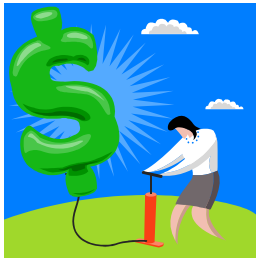
Finally, our goal for the next school year includes forging ahead with our **Historian plans** - thank you to **Marilyn Schroeder** who has accepted this position. **She will be taking time to document Lincoln HS PTSA history and create a history book for our unit, and developing a committee for recognizing Founder's Day.**

Best Regards,

— *Rhonda Rodriguez-Leyva, President*

San Jose Teachers Association What Happens if Propositions 1A and 1B Fail?

If Props. 1A and 1B fail, California will have to cut another \$16 billion from the state budget, meaning more teacher layoffs and larger class sizes. That would mean more cuts to schools, health care, and public safety. California public schools and community colleges have lost more than \$11.6 billion in state funding



over the past two years at a time when California already ranks 47th in the nation in per pupil spending. We must pass Props. 1A and 1B to prevent future cuts. If they fail, schools will not receive the \$9.3 billion they are owed under the minimum school funding law, Prop. 98.

California is looking at a \$23 billion budget deficit over the next four years and will immediately face a \$6 billion hole in this year's budget. That means more cuts if these propositions do not pass. Additionally, politicians will have to begin the budget battle from the beginning.

Prop. 1A does temporarily extend and increase some taxes and fees, but this short-term solution provides revenue for critical programs and prevents even deeper cuts to our public schools. But it also provides long-term budget reforms that control state spending and creates a reserve fund to help smooth out the budget ups and downs when the economy rises and falls in the future, reducing the pressure for new taxes.

For BACKGROUND, the temporary revenue solutions are as follows:

- A 1-cent-per-dollar increase in the state sales tax,

from the current tax of 8% to 9%, will be extended for one year from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

- The state's Vehicle License Fee will go from 0.65% to 1.15% of a vehicle's value for two additional years from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013.

- An increase of 0.25% in the state's Personal Income Tax on every tax bracket in 2011 and 2012. Tax rates range from 1% to 10.3% depending on a taxpayer's income. For instance, the 9.3% tax rate would rise to 9.55%.



More than \$8 billion in funding from the federal stimulus package is expected to flow into California coffers for use over the next two years. That money is certainly designed to help local school districts address some of the cuts in our schools and rehire teachers and education support professionals. But, we must remember that the stimulus dollars are only a short-term fix for two years. They are not ongoing revenue.

Tough economic times and constant state budget deficits in Sacramento have led to funding cuts for school classrooms, cuts to health care for children and seniors, and fewer police and firefighters in our communities. Props. 1A and 1B will help stabilize the state budget process, and begin paying back some of the billions that have been cut from our schools and colleges once the economy has improved.

Janice Allen, SJTA President



Citizens Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC)

San Jose Unified School District

The Board of Education is seeking applications for individuals who would like to serve on the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) for Measure F and Measure C bond funds. At the end of the two-year term, members are able to apply for an additional two-year term if they wish.

The purpose of the CBPC is to inform the public concerning the expenditure of bond revenues. Currently the committee meets four to eight times per year on Monday nights.

For an application, please call **Diane Duenas** at 535-6053 or email her at diane_duenas@sjusd.org. Applications will continue to be accepted until all positions are filled.

VOTE! Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Critical measures that will impact funding for schools and children's services will be put to California voters in a Special Election.

The California State PTA takes the following positions:

PROPOSITION 1A — California State PTA **SUPPORTS Restores education funding, temporarily increases state revenues, and establishes a “rainy day” stabilization fund.** California State PTA has been urging lawmakers to support education funding and increase revenues as part of a balanced approach to weathering the state's current budget crisis.

PROPOSITION 1B — California State PTA **SUPPORTS Education funding repayment plan to help restore \$9.3 billion in budget cuts to schools.** Adequate funding must be provided for public education so that every student can receive a quality education. Budget cuts to education threaten an entire generation of children — and that seriously threatens California's economic future.

PROPOSITION 1C — California State PTA **SUPPORTS State Lottery.** Proposition 1C generates additional revenues to help mitigate the state's current budget deficit. In addition, it would permanently disconnect school funding from reliance on unpredictable lottery winnings, and instead dedicate an amount from the state's General Fund for schools that would be comparable to previous lottery allocations.

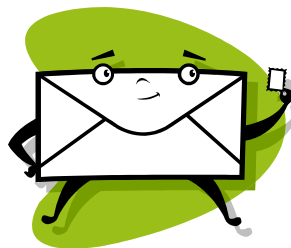
PROPOSITION 1D — California State PTA **OPPOSES Children's Services Funding.** Proposition 1D redirects funding for five years from key children's services (established through passage of Proposition 10 in 1998), and makes other programmatic changes to California Children and Families Commission (“First 5”) programs.

PROPOSITION 1E — California State PTA **SUPPORTS Mental health services funding.** Proposition 1E redirects funding for two years from mental health services (established through passage of Proposition 63 in 2004) to help mitigate the state's current budget deficit. California State PTA strongly supported Proposition 63, and we continue to advocate for adequate mental health services for children, youth and families; however, we support 1E because it is strictly limited to two years.

For more information on California State PTA's positions, please visit www.capta.org

Reminders to units

Find PTA forms at:
www.sjucouncilpta.org



Membership Envelopes

NOW is the time to order membership envelopes for next year's membership drive. Order ahead of time and be guaranteed to have them before school starts. Contact **Sandee Ruiz** at sruiz@iname.com.

End of Year Audits Due this Summer

End-of-Year Audits need to be completed BEFORE your books are delivered to your in-coming auditor and before checks are written on next year's budget. Send copy of completed audit to the Council Auditor, **Jill Grellman**. You can contact her at jdgrellman@comcast.net

Annual Financial Report

“Financial Form—Unit Treasurer's Annual Report to Council” is due by June 30 to Council Treasurer, **Marie Boyle**, mboyle@markpringle.com

Volunteer Hours Over Due

The Unit Historian's Report was due to **Julie Herndon** in April. If you haven't done so, please send it to Lynne Wach now. Contact her at flek-wach@aol.com



Procedure Books

After officers/chairs have written up their annual reports, a designated officer (the president, secretary, historian, or ?) should **collect all books and update the information inside** (new board list, volunteer hours reporting sheet, reimbursement forms, etc.) before giving them out again to in-coming board members. Ideally this should happen before the end of school.

Make it part of your unit's end of the year routine!

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