

the Cryer



San Jose Unified Council of PTAs

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President's Message

Welcome to the 2009/10 school year!

I hope that you all made the most of the short summer and that your children are not rebelling too much at being in the Back to School routine so soon! I am sure we will quickly recover as we get started with our PTA activities and membership drives. I am excited to be serving as the Council President again

this year and I know that the entire SJU Council Board is as ready as I am to help each of our units with their PTA needs. Our website www.sjucouncilpta.org has been updated with a short bio of each of our board members, so I invite you to visit and "meet" them! We have three new members this year. I am happy to be working with such an experienced group of long time PTA volunteers. Please contact us with any questions, or concerns you may have as the year gets started.

You can also meet us in person when you attend **our first Council General Board Meeting on Monday, September 14th at 7pm.** We are being hosted by **Pioneer High School** in their media center.

We have invited Superintendent **Don Iglesias** and Board of Education President **Leslie Reynolds** to be our guests and provide us with an update on the District budget and how it has and will affect our school sites.

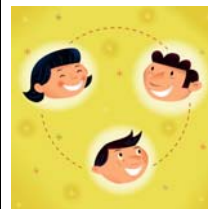
Please join us!

— Cheers! *Lynne Wach, Council President*

Council Meeting
Monday, September 14, 7:00 pm
Pioneer HS Media Center
1290 Blossom Hill Rd, SJ 95118

Guests: Superintendent Don Iglesias
Board of Ed President Leslie Reynolds!

It's time for your Membership Drive.



Council VP of Membership, Ronda Wilson has the important dates and some ideas for you!

Read more on page 2 -

Sixth District PTA presents:

Officer Training!

Bring your whole board!!

Saturday, October 10, 8:00 am — 12:30 pm
 Miller Middle School
 6151 Rainbow Dr, San Jose
More information to follow
in the coming weeks.

The Mission of Sixth District PTA:

The Sixth District PTA supports and empowers PTA leaders through training, parent education, financial support, and mentoring, to enable them to advocate more effectively on behalf of children and families.



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Calendar and Reminders

San Jose Unified Council of PTAs

September 14	SJU Council Meeting , Pioneer HS, 7pm
October 1	Early Bird Memberships due (Minimum of 15 memberships to Council treas)
1	Due to Council: 2009/2010 Budget 2008/09 Annual Report Audit report for period ending 6/30/09 Tax return: 990/990EZ
16	Chairman's Membership Award (minimum of 50 memberships to Council treasurer)
November 2	SJU Council Meeting , 7pm, Muir MS
3	Minimum/General Membership (15 members) due to Council treasurer)
January 8	General Liability Payment to Council
8	Workers Comp Form to Council
11	SJU Council Meeting , 7 pm, PioneerHS
March 22	SJU Council Meeting , 7 pm, Muir MS
April 29-May 2	CA State PTA Convention, Sacramento
May 19	Council Annual Awards Luncheon

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

It's time for your Membership Drive.

Have you thought about a membership drive with a challenge? Maybe the class that generates the most PTA/PTSA memberships should be awarded a pizza party. Consider having a theme to promote membership. Perhaps each person or family that joins your PTA/PTSA could decorate a brick for the....."Building Blocks of the Future", for example.

We know it's hard to push all families to pay our donation fees to become members. As the school year begins, put up posters, hand out fliers or make brochures explaining the importance of PTA/PTSA at *your* school. What does being a PTA/PTSA member support? List the important programs that your school wouldn't have without the PTA/PTSA.



Important Dates:

October 1 Early Bird Award Remittance of 15 memberships due to council

October 16 Chairman's Club - Remittance for 50 memberships due to council

November 3 First required remittance - 15 memberships due to council treasurer

March 1 Final remittance - all remaining memberships due to council treasurer

Membership drives should continue throughout the year. Membership remittances need to be submitted on a regular and timely basis (monthly is suggested).

English/Spanish membership envelopes are available for .02 each. Contact **Ronda Wilson**, bohica2939@yahoo.com, 891-9861

Unit Remittance Forms should be submitted with checks (**\$3.85 per membership**) to the SJU Council of PTAs Treasurer: **Denise Johnson**, 1259 Chrismara Ct., San Jose, CA 95120; her email address is dhojohnson@sbcglobal.net .

— **Ronda Wilson**, Council VP, Membership



Going Back-to-School with PTA

The Official PTA Kit.

REMINDER: This year, all local, council, district, and region PTAs must register to receive their kit. The registration allows your incoming PTA president, or other authorized leader, to provide your unit's preferred shipping address

and date. This new process will help ensure that the kit gets into the right hands at the right time. And the kit is still free!

Kits will ship weekly June 19 through the end of October. Register to receive your unit's kit today.

http://www.pta.org/ptakit_register/
Or call 1-800-307-4782

Procedure Books



Did all of your PTA/PTSA board officers and chairs receive Procedure Books from their predecessors? If not, assign someone to purchase binders and set them up. Notes about the jobs and meetings can be made in them throughout the year and then **final reports made annually** before the books are passed to the next board. For more suggestions regarding Procedure Books, check out your **PTA Toolkit, Section 2.3.4, Procedure Book.**



Cryer Due Dates

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Article Due Date</u>	<u>Email Out Date</u>
November	10/16	10/26
January	12/17	1/4
March	3/5	3/15
May	4/30	5/10

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



Don't forget to include money for CA State Convention in your Budget!

And the Semifinalists Are ...

In its countdown to Grandparents Day on September 13, Grandparents.com is searching for "50 Extraordinary Grandparents." PTA grandparents are among the semifinalists, including [Jean Harlow](#), grandmother of four, who volunteers at her local PTA in Pekin, Illinois; and [Richard Velasquez](#), **president of the Sixth District PTA** in California.



Read more at grandparents.com

Richard Velasquez*

Richard, of San Jose, Calif., a grandfather of three, has been involved in his granddaughter's school since she was in kindergarten, and is known as "Papa" to the entire school. He has enjoyed a very active role in the PTA, starting off as a local volunteer and working his way up to become incoming president of the Sixth District PTA in California. Richard has taken on the challenge of increasing the participation of men and grandparents in the PTA.

— *Linda Mayo*

Vice President for Communications, CA State PTA

**Editor's note: Richard is also the father of SJU Council 3rd VP, Sandee Ruiz!*

Twelve Things To Know or Do

1. **Have a membership drive.** Increasing parent participation is one of the primary goals of PTA. Keep an up-to-date membership list.
2. **Submit** dues, insurance payment, workers' comp form and annual report of volunteer hours to council PTA by the due dates.
3. **Have at least three officers** — president, treasurer and secretary.
4. **Have at least three general meetings per year:** September — approve the budget; January — elect nominating committee; March — elect officers.
5. **Have a budget** approved by the membership at the first meeting. Only spend money (any and all money) as approved by the membership at a general meeting and properly recorded in minutes of the PTA.
6. **Have two valid signatures** on all checks and have receipts for EVERY payment of any kind.
7. **Only undertake activities as approved** by the membership at a general meeting and properly recorded in minutes of the PTA.

— Continued on page 8

Reminders to units

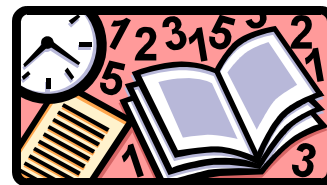
Find PTA forms at:
www.sjucouncilpta.org

End of Year Audits Due

End-of-Year Audits should have been completed BEFORE your books were delivered to your in-coming Treasurer and before checks are written on this year's budget. Send a copy of completed audit to the Council Auditor, **Jill Grellman**. You can contact her at jdgrellman@comcast.net if you have questions or need assistance.

Annual Financial Report

"Financial Form—Unit Treasurer's Annual Report to Council" is past due. If you haven't done so already, please send it to Council Treasurer, **Denise Johnson**, 1259 Chrismara Ct., San Jose 95120. Contact Denise if you have questions or need assistance, dhojohn-



San Jose Unified Council of PTAs 2009-2010 Executive Committee

President	Lynne Wach	flekwach@aol.com
1st VP, Membership	Ronda Wilson	bohica2939@yahoo.com
2nd VP, Cryer and Directory	Chris Gray	grayaspens@hotmail.com
3rd VP, Yahoo Group	Sandee Ruiz	sruiz@iname.com
4th VP, Parent Education	Open	
5th VP, Convention	Peggy Hertzberg	peghertz@earthlink.net
Secretary	Brandy Varni	varnimom@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Denise Johnson	dhojohnson@sbcglobal.net
Financial Secretary	Julie Chovanec	jchovanec@yahoo.com
Auditor	Jill Grellman	jdgrellman@comcast.net
Historian	Julie Herndon	onedoctorjulie@pacbell.net
Parliamentarian	Andrea Wheeler	awheeler@demoworks.com
Web site	Open	
Annual Luncheon	Robin Cruz	robin111@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

Unit Updates

Bachrodt Charter Academy PTA

School is in full swing at Bachrodt! It was wonderful to return to a **newly painted campus, a new play structure and many other awesome improvements to the campus.** We started the year with a terrific **Bachrodt Community Kick Off** event the weekend before school started. It was very well attended and it was a huge success! We had many community organizations present including the local **Rotary Club**, the **fire department** and a school **uniform vendor.** In addition, parents could have their **children finger-printed**, students had their faces painted and participated in a dance off with the school mascot! Many of the students participated in a **school uniform fashion show** which helped families better understand the school dress code. Student, parents, faculty and staff all had a great time!



During the second week of classes, Kinder parents attended a **Kinder Connection** social event. This event provided an opportunity for Kindergarten parents to meet each other, meet staff members, ask questions and spend time

together. We had a huge turnout from many enthusiastic families who are excited about their students' first year at Bachrodt.

Our **membership drive** is well underway and it is wonderful to have so many members renewing their memberships, and exciting to add so many new families to our roster! We will continue our membership drive at all school events and will hold a friendly competition amongst the teachers and the grade levels to see who can get 100% of their class to join the PTA.

-- Heidi Wolcott, President

Hammer & Galarza Elementary PTA

The Hammer & Galarza PTA started out trying to cool down with its **annual ice cream social** the day before school started. Students found out their teach-

ers while enjoying a free scoop of ice cream, connecting with friends and buying school logo uniforms. We recruited over 50 new volunteers for this year with our volunteer fair. We had tissues out for our parents at our **“tea and tissues” kindergarten welcome event**, but amazingly none of them were used. Our **membership drive** has started and we already have quite a few members; **our VP of membership is excited and hopes to exceed our last year’s membership number by 15%!**

We’ve already had some fun family events and are ramping up to do some things in the next few months. Our **monthly supper club** started out with some games and pizza as our families enjoyed themselves at **Chuck E. Cheese.** In September, they can enjoy a fabulous meal at **Aqui’s in Willow Glen.** We are walking, scooting, and maybe even skating down Lincoln Avenue at the annual **Willow Glen Founder’s day parade.** Our **Walk-a-thon** committee is working hard to make this an event that people won’t forget, with a raffle, scrumptious food, carnival games, face painting and of course lots of walking. We hope that our families can enjoy themselves and we earn money for our school since this is our biggest event of the year.



All that and we will be only two months into school! With all of our eager kindergarten parents and the knowledge and experience of our veteran parents, we hope that we can make this a wonderful year for the communities of Hammer & Galarza elementaries!

— Lori Stokes, President

Los Alamitos PTA

Our school year is off to a running start. Many of our PTA committees were busy helping families prepare for the 2009-2010 school year as we handed out **school supply packages, sold clothes from our clothes closet and welcomed all the kindergarten and new families** to Los Alamitos.

Under the leadership of our president, **Simone Nelson**, our **membership committee** is working hard toward surpassing last year’s numbers with 100% participation this year! We are only in the second week of school and have doubled our numbers from the same time last year! Maybe our bright yellow **“JOIN PTA NOW!” shirts** have something to do with it!

Our **walk-a-thon and silent auction** committees are



gearing up for our one annual fundraiser to be held on Saturday, October 3rd. Our theme this year is “Under The Big Top” and we are looking forward to our families joining us for a fun-filled family day of great food, music, activities and items to bid on at the auction.

In addition, our **site improvement committee** continues working hard to beautify our campus. Everything is blooming and growing so nicely and it’s a pleasure walking around school. Once our new field is in place, hopefully early 2010, our campus will look even better!

We wouldn’t be able to start the year with such a bang if it weren’t for the hard work of all our committees, especially **hospitality, staff appreciation and membership**, who work so hard at the beginning of the year and all year long to make Los Alamitos the great school it is!

— *Debbie Michels, Executive Vice President*

Reed Elementary PTA

Welcome back to a new school year! I can hardly believe that we are back in school and in full PTA swing.

Reed is currently offering its **Pride Package** which includes a PTA Membership, Yearbook and T-shirt for one price. This has been a fairly successful campaign for us in garnering PTA members. This year we also published a new **Reed PTA Brochure and Volunteer Handbook** to give a better description of what the PTA does and what programs we support.



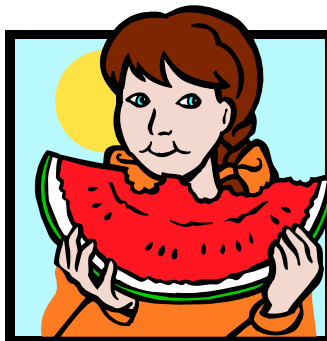
We are looking forward to our **Fall Festival** which is October 23rd, 2009. It’s a great night where families can come and celebrate. We have lots of food, games, drawings, pumpkins for sale, crafts, and vendor booths.

We have so many wonderful programs and events to look forward to this year, I can hardly wait!

— *Ronda Wilson, President*

Simonds Elementary PTA

We’re at the start of another great school year at Simonds Elementary. The Board, headed by new President **Kristine Pantiga**, is in full swing with the preparations for another truckload of events. We already had our first **Uniform Exchange** on the day the class lists were posted, a **Welcome Back Coffee** on the first day of school, our traditional **Simonds Cougar Spirit Day** with watermelon for everyone and our **annual Kindergarten Welcome Barbecue**. Our **membership drive** is going strong and we are confident that we will be able to increase our membership numbers this year.



— *Irene Paquet, EVP*

Terrell Elementary PTA

Terrell PTA started off the year with a **Root Beer Social** that helped to welcome back Terrell families and to introduce our new principal, **Lynn Hyssop**. PTA also sponsored a **Kindergarten Lemonade Social** to welcome new Terrell students.

— *Tanya Smith, President*



Williams Elementary PTA

We started our year off running full speed at Williams with a **volunteer faire** the morning of the first day of school. It was a great way to catch parents as they dropped their children off at school, introduce them to the PTA and Wins Foundation, and most importantly get them involved in school activities. On the second day of school we held our **annual ice cream social**, welcoming everyone back to Williams with an evening of free ice cream and catching up with



friends and teachers. We're looking forward to a few new developments at Williams this year to streamline our organization, including implementing **iVolunteer** (a wonderful online web-based tool) and creating an **online searchable school directory**. Our board is really looking forward to another great year at Williams!!!

— *Tina Lien, President*

Willow Glen Elementary PTA



There are a couple of new additions to Willow Glen Elementary – a new principal, Mr. **Al Rosell**, and this year we also will start a **new PTA-funded band**. We have kicked our year off with a **Kindergarten welcome BBQ** the day before school began which was very well-attended. We

have had a tremendous response to our **t-shirt sales** (our Willow Glen Tiger t-shirts can be worn as part of the uniform) and need to re-order already. Our first PTA event in the school year was an **ice cream social** on Friday, August 28th; this was a great opportunity for students, parents, and school staff to mingle. It's also a great opportunity for our **membership drive, volunteer opportunity sign-ups**, and to display our many **after school programs**.

— *Suzanne Carrig, President*

Castillero Middle PTSA

Castillero had a festive start to the school year by inviting all parents to a **Welcome Coffee** that was designed to put the incoming 6th grade parents at ease on a stressful first day. On Friday, our parent group launched the **Upstander Award** program that is designed to honor those students who don't just stand back and let other kids feel bullied or intimidated. Upstander t-shirts were purchased by PTA and will be awarded throughout the year to all nominated students, who will further the cause by wearing the "Bullying



Stops Here" shirt as part of their uniform.

Our **membership drive** has the same "Stay in the Picture" theme as last year, because of the obvious fit for middle school, where many parents tend to step away from school involvement. PTA President **Shana Moore** spoke to incoming parents at **Cobra Connection Day (6th grade orientation)** to tell parents exactly why it's important to stay involved and informed during the adolescent years that can be rife with high-risk behaviors.

The membership drive is yielding exciting news in a tough economy! We found that by changing the wording of our pitch and suggesting possible dollar amounts beyond the basic membership, people gave more than when we used to ask for "\$15 (or more)."

Our **first PTA meeting** takes place on September 9th, where we will give a special welcome to families new to our school. We also plan to mix things up by having our first meeting be more like a snapshot of the year's programs and events so we can generate early interest and show parents exactly how to get involved.

— *Shana McLean Moore, President*

John Muir Middle PTSA

Throughout the summer our board members have been busy updating our **e-mail communication database** to reflect existing and incoming parents of JMMS, **promoting our membership drive during the orientation and registration day**, and preparing for our PTSA-sponsored **back-to-school dance** at the end of September. We look forward to working with our principal, **Gloria Marchant**, and to meeting the needs of John Muir Middle School students and teachers.

— *Dianne and Scott Conry, Co-Presidents*



Gunderson High PTSA



Gunderson PTSA Recruitment Efforts Pay off right away!

Back to School is Gunderson's PTSA greatest opportunity to promote the benefits of PTA membership.

By the end of the 2nd day of new/returning **student orientation**, our unit increased membership by 10% over last year!

We had new members enter their contact information into our database, saving us time and minimizing mistakes.

All new members were given a voucher for **Back to School Night** to claim their official PTA membership card, and earn 3 chances to win the **GHS PTSA Back to School Night Drawing**.

— *Mary Pizzo, President*

Lincoln High PTSA

LHS PTSA encourages students to become members. We held our annual membership drive and we received more student members than ever before.

We also had more families join. **One incentive we offered this year was a 10% discount for only LHS PTSA members at Antonella's (PTA membership card required).** This restaurant



has graciously joined many donation efforts for both Hoover and Lincoln, and we are very appreciative of their efforts. Our next fundraiser is **Back to School** night; we will be selling authentic Mexican food to hungry parents. From there, we will have our **first meeting** on October 8th where we will welcome our new student members and encourage them to participate in PTSA activities and programs. One note of thanks to **Able Printing** located on the corner of Hamilton and Meridian who we used to print our membership handouts. Their customer service was exemplary!

Best Regards,

Rhonda Rodriguez-Leyva, President

San Jose High PTSA

We are happy to welcome our new principal, **Tom Scheid**, who was our long-time assistant principal. We are very proud that Mr. Scheid was interviewed by *ABC TV News* on 8/19 because of our school's 9% improvement in STAR testing math scores, twice that of the state average.

We are having our **PTSA membership drive** through 9/30 and are working with our **ASB** to increase their membership also.

We are planning to have a huge **Flea Market and Carwash** on 10/17, and then in early December we plan to have an **art show and art sale** featuring artwork from around the world and locally.

Thanks so much for this opportunity to provide info about our school!



— *Geneva Ebisu, President*

Twelve Things To Know or Do

(Continued from page 4)

8. **Follow PTA insurance guidelines** for appropriate PTA activities (summarized in the red/yellow/green light section of the Insurance Loss and Prevention Guide).
9. **Review the bylaws** at least once per year.
10. **Do audits twice a year**, January and July, or according to the bylaws.
11. **Attend Council PTA meetings** — the council is there to assist you.
12. **Work together** — Parents, principals, teachers, and staff are all one team!

— *Leadership Services Commission*

California State PTA

Www.capta.org

The Communicator

July 2009

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San Jose Teachers Association



Late State Budgets

Late state budgets have put California on the brink of financial collapse. The crisis millions of Californians are experiencing in their everyday lives is real, due in part to the failure of the process that controls approval of the state's spending plan – the required two-thirds vote of each house of the Legislature to pass a state budget and raise revenues.

California is one of only three states that require a two-thirds vote to pass the state budget. It is one of only 12 states that require a two-thirds vote or higher to increase taxes.

The two-thirds vote requirement is a big part of the reason the Legislature has missed the legal deadline for passing the state budget in 16 of the last 20 years. It has allowed partisan gridlock to rule the day in Sacramento.

Year after year, California's two-thirds vote requirement has allowed a small minority of lawmakers to hold the budget hostage to personal philosophical agendas that are not shared by the vast majority of Californians. Political party leaders refuse to compromise and have used the two-thirds requirement to hold up the budget process and make drastic cuts to

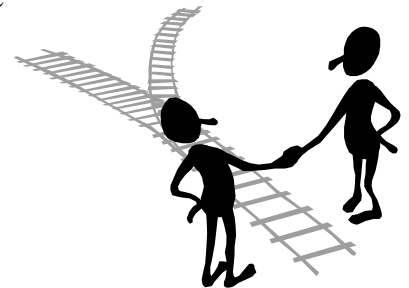


critical programs like education, health care, and social services. Most recently, some California lawmakers have used it to leverage concessions around protections for workers and weakening environmental regulations.

After researching California's two-thirds vote requirement, the nonpartisan California Citizens Budget Commissions concluded that "the current supermajority requirement fails to achieve its oft-stated goal of keeping budgetary spending in check, while at the same time it promotes gridlock, pork barrel legislation, and lack of accountability."

While California requires a two-thirds vote to increase taxes, tax breaks can be granted by a simple majority vote. This imbalance has allowed businesses and corporations to pressure lawmakers for targeted tax breaks, while reinforcing opposition to broader based taxes on businesses or the wealthy.

The California Teachers Association and SJTA support reducing the two-thirds vote requirement and are working with a coalition of labor unions and other organizations to change the law. **Changing the two-thirds vote requirement to a simple majority, or even 55%, will help ensure that California's budget is passed on time; ending economic uncertainty for local school districts and universities. It will help end partisan gridlock in Sacramento and hold the Legislature and the Governor more accountable to the voters who elected them.** We hope that school district leaders and school boards will join us in this coalition to place an initiative on the ballot.



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 CBOC 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.

Council Board Bio's

(Find contact information for our board members on page 4)

Lynne Wach, Council President

My name is Lynne Wach and I will, once again, be serving as the San Jose Unified Council PTA President. I have been involved in PTA for the past 9 years. I spent most of my PTA years on the board of the Los Alamitos PTA. I have made so many wonderful connections by participating in PTA on both the unit and Council level. I am looking forward to helping each unit have the same kind of experience. Our membership theme will continue on as "Be an Essential Piece". I also want to continue to strive to not just successful, but to be significant. I hope you will join me as we aspire to do this for all children through PTA.

Our San Jose Unified Unit PTAs work with parents, teachers, and administrators to enrich school programs and offer support in a variety of ways. The Council PTA is here to help each unit be as successful and significant as they can possibly be! One way we'd like to help is through membership to the PTA. If you need help with your membership drive, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will work hard to get you the help you need.

On this site you will find a short bio of each board member. We wanted you to have a little background about the person you are dealing with for your specific need. They are a terrific group!

On behalf of the San Jose Unified Council PTA Executive board, we look forward to a fantastic year. Please join us at each Council PTA meeting where you can get information to help you make your PTA strong as well as get any needed support.

Please feel free to [contact me, or any member of the PTA board](#), if you have questions or comments concerning PTA.

Here's to everyone being an Essential Piece!

Ronda Wilson, Council 1st VP, Membership

My name is Ronda Wilson and I have a 3rd grader and a 5th grader at Reed Elementary this year. I have

been involved with the PTA since my 5th grader was in Kindergarten. I began my "career" as the Stapling Chair for our weekly newsletter. I quickly moved through the ranks as Treasurer and am now in my 2nd year as PTA President. Along the way I took over Silent Auction and am currently working on setting up a PTA website. I am trying to elevate the image of PTA and increase membership by putting out a Volunteer Handbook and PTA Brochure that is specific to Reed.

My overall experience with PTA has been positive and encouraging. I enjoy working with all the students, teachers, administrator's and wonderfully talented people who are so giving of themselves each day.

Chris Gray, Council 2nd VP, Communications

I am the editor of the Council's annual Directory and the five issues of our newsletter, *The Cryer*. I have also been involved at my three kids' schools since my oldest was in Kindergarten, however he is 32 now! I spend a lot of

time being a grandmother now, but I still volunteer at our elementary school where I've taught 1st grade music for over 20 years. Over the years I have also served as a unit president several times, Council president, and held several positions on the Sixth District PTA board.

I will be asking each one of you presidents (or your designees) to submit a "unit update" for each newsletter — to share with everyone something that is going on in your unit. Also I will ask you to send me a longer article one time during the year, to be a "Spotlight" article, giving you a chance to go into a little more detail about a favorite project or your whole program. Be sure I have the email addresses of all of your board members so I can send a Cryer out to all of them (they can opt out if they wish).

Sandee Ruiz, Council 3rd VP, Yahoo Group

I have two children: my son is a freshman at Gunderson and my daughter is in 6th grade at John Muir. I have served in several positions at unit and council level – fundraising, auditor, secretary, membership, and historian. This year I have accepted a new challenge - membership for 6th District (all of Santa Clara



County). Since my father is the 6th District president, I should say that I was coerced!

Peggy Hertzberg, 5th VP, Convention

My name is Peggy Hertzberg and along with my job as 5th VP, Convention, I will be serving as PTA president for Allen at Steinbeck K-8 School for my second term. I have three children. My oldest attends Castillero Middle School, and I have two sons that attend Allen at Steinbeck K-8.

I had the opportunity to attend the PTA State Convention in Long Beach, California in 2008. Last year, I served on the Local Convention Committee as the Site Manager's Aide for the PTA State convention that was held in San Jose. I look forward to attending the convention that will be in Sacramento in 2010. I hope that you will be able to attend as well. PTA is a continuous learning process. To make progress is a willingness to accept the challenge of change, to learn and to grow in knowledge, skills and experience and participate in the business of the organization.



Brandy Varni, Council Secretary

My name is Brandy Varni and I am serving my second term as secretary for the Council PTA. I have also served multiple terms on the executive board at Los Alamitos. I currently have a sophomore at Pioneer High School and a fourth grader at Los Alamitos. I enjoy helping out in the community and look forward to a great year. Unit Secretaries can contact me anytime they have questions or concerns about their jobs.

Denise Johnson, Council Treasurer

My name is Denise Johnson and I will be serving as the Treasurer this year. I have been involved in the PTA since my oldest daughter was in Kindergarten at Los Alamitos. My most recent PTA position was Treasurer for Los Alamitos Elementary. I have 2 daughters: a 5th grader at Los Alamitos and a Freshman at Pioneer High School. I'm excited to meet new PTA members and to work together with the various schools this year.



Julie Chovanec, Council Financial Secretary

My name is Julie Chovanec and I will be serving as Financial Secretary for the 2009-10 school year. I have a daughter, 13 and a son, 11 who both attend Castillero. While my kids were at Los Alamitos, I volunteered to work in the reading lab and in the

classrooms. I also reconciled the Scrip money for a year and then accepted the position of Los Alamitos PTA auditor which I held for 2 school years.

I have extensive Finance and Accounting experience as well as Management experience. My last position was Director of Finance and Accounting for a biotech start-up. I look forward to working for the Council PTA. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Jill Grellman, Council Auditor

My name is Jill Grellman and I will be serving as the Council Auditor this year. I have a daughter, who is a recent graduate of Pioneer High School and a son in 5th Grade at Allen at Steinbeck. I have served as either treasurer or auditor at both elementary and middle schools since my daughter was in 2nd second grade. This is my second year as Council Auditor. I have also served as Council Treasurer. I work as an accountant and have really enjoyed helping in the financial areas of the PTA. My experience working with PTA has been very positive and I am looking forward to meeting new people and assisting with audits in the upcoming year.

Working with such a variety of people at all levels is an enriching experience. I truly enjoy helping out and hope you'll contact me with any questions you may have. I may not know the answer, but I might know someone who does!

Julie Herndon, Council Historian

I will be returning as Council Historian this year. I have been involved on the board at Los Alamitos for 10 years, and served as president at Castillero for 2 years. I am the mother of 3 boys. I have a freshman and a sophomore at Pioneer High and one entering Castillero Middle School.

I look forward to seeing and collecting all of those PTA hours you will all be logging this year!

Andrea Wheeler, Council Parliamentarian

I have been involved in PTA since my kids started at Willow Glen Elementary School nine years ago. Both kids are now at Willow Glen Middle School. I have held many different positions at the schools including scrip chair, VP Communications, and President. I have been on the Council PTA board for six years, two as President and I have served a total of four years in my favorite job – Parliamentarian!

A Small Piece of San Jose Unified School District History

by
Cecil Mansfield

Principal of Valley View School 1959-1969

In the late 1800's and early 1900's schools in the San Jose Area consisted of those encompassed by the city limits of San Jose (managed by a City School Board) and a number of small grades 1-8 school districts outside the city limits, usually one room schools managed and paid for by the local resident taxpayers who were primarily fruit farmers and ranchers. To name a few, on the east side of the city there was **Pala School, Evergreen and Mt Pleasant**; to the west was **Sunol, Cambrian and Campbell** and to the south in the Almaden Valley there was **Valley View School, Pioneer, The Mine School and a Hacienda School**. When students graduated from the 8th grade they usually attended the closest high school which in this case was **San Jose High** at Seventh and San Fernando Streets. Others attended **Campbell High School District**.



As the City of San Jose expanded and annexed land, the city's school district boundaries also expanded and encroached on the small grades 1-8 school districts territory and authority. This rule of coterminous city and school district boundaries continued until 1954 when AB # 1 was passed by the state legislature and effectively froze all school district boundaries. As the City continued to expand, it no longer took over the territory and management of the small school districts. As a result, today we have several school districts within the city limits of San Jose, some of them rather large ones. (Alum Rock Elementary, Oak Grove and Campbell)

In the late 1920's the residents of the agricultural Almaden Valley decided that they could provide a better school program for their rural students if they combined efforts. All the small schools were closed and the **Almaden Union School District** was formed about 1929-30 to serve the grades 1-8 school population. A new multi-classroom school was built on the

southeast corner of Almaden and Blossom Hill Road. The attendance area for this new district stretched from Foxworthy Avenue to the north and to the Almaden and Calero reservoirs to the south. The territory was actually larger than the city limits of San Jose and the **San Jose Unified School District**. As the Almaden Valley began to grow in the late 1940's and early 1950's, Almaden Union School District needed to add school facilities to accommodate the growing student population. A small school was opened on McKeon Road and was named **Hacienda School**.

It was clear that the building boom of the 1950's was going the direction of the Almaden area. The rural residents of the area could see that there would be a major financial burden to provide schools for all the bedroom subdivisions planned for the area. The agricultural tax base did not provide funds for this kind of expansion. In 1954-56 the voters in the Almaden Union School District elected to join the tax rich San Jose Unified School District giving the responsibility of building and supporting new schools to the greatly expanded Unified District. The Almaden School on Blossom Hill and Almaden Ave. continued to be used into the 1970s. The small Hacienda School on McKean Rd. was used as a public school until the 1980s.

In September of 1959, one of the first new schools to be built in the expanding area south of Foxworthy Avenue was opened and located on the corner of Vistamont Drive and Kimberly Ave. It was built in a new subdivision that was being served by the crowded **Moses Schallenberger School** about a mile to the north. It opened with 10 classrooms on an approximately 10 acre site that was home to a giant oak tree estimated to be 250 to 300 yrs. old. Cecil Mansfield was appointed its first principal. The Board of Education was partial to naming new schools to preserve the history of the area as well as prominent pioneer personalities. (**Benjamin Cory**, first doctor in San Jose; **Moses Schallenberger**, early settler



Cecil Mansfield was appointed its first principal. The Board of Education was partial to naming new schools to preserve the history of the area as well as prominent pioneer personalities. (**Benjamin Cory**, first doctor in San Jose; **Moses Schallenberger**, early settler



as well as prominent pioneer personalities. (**Benjamin Cory**, first doctor in San Jose; **Moses Schallenberger**, early settler

and civic personality; **James Frazier Reed**, famous member of the Donner Party.) The history of the small schools that had been the original houses of learning for the pioneer kids must have been important to the Board because they subsequently renamed a few schools to preserve this heritage. The original Valley View School stood on the south west corner of Hillsdale Ave. and Almaden Blvd. where commercial buildings and a restaurant now stand... just a few hundred yards from the new school at 1290 Kimberly Drive. The new school was named

Valley View School. Several elderly Almaden Valley residents who had attended the original one room school attended an open house and dedication program in the spring of that school year. They brought pictures and scrap-

books and shared memories of their days at the old school. One older gentleman remarked, "They built this new school right in the middle of my hay field.....I used to eat lunch in the shade of that big oak tree." The new Valley View opened with approximately 250 students and in ten years grew to over a thousand students in grades K-6.

In 1969, a new principal by the name of **Fred Ross** was assigned to the school. Mr. Ross was an experienced principal with a background in science education. In fact, he was the unofficial science education "guru" of the District's elementary science program. He was primarily responsible for getting the District's 6th grade students involved in the *Redwood Glen Outdoor*

Science program that was a rich and unique experience for kids. On the teaching staff at that time was a teacher



named **Edith Young**, and she also had a science background as did her husband **Joe Young**. This trio was the source of ideas that were to transform the school's campus and science instruction program into an exemplary elementary experience for children. The details of this evolution are best described by those who were involved, be they teachers, ad-

ministrators or students.

By 1979, San Jose Unified School District was experiencing an enrollment loss, particularly at the elementary level due to a number of reasons. The bulk of the "baby boomers" had moved on through the system and the number of children per household began declining in the early 1970's. Since the early 1950's the District had experienced a 25 to 30 year period of frantically trying to keep up with growth by building new schools, adding portable classrooms to existing sites and searching for qualified teachers all over the country. Suddenly, the District faced teacher layoffs and school closures. Between 1980 and 1983 approximately thirteen schools were closed. It was during this period of reorganization that Valley View School was closed as a "neighborhood" school. Also closing was the Hacienda School which had a quality science program.



The District's efforts to deal with the problem of ethnic imbalance fostered the *Magnet School Program*. Valley View School was closed June of 1982 (?) as a neighborhood school and reopened in September of that year as a District Magnet School, enrolling students from all attendance areas of the District to help achieve desegregation. The teaching staff was selected based on strength in science education. Many of the teachers at Hacienda School were transferred to the new magnet school. Some of the Valley View teaching staff remained at the magnet school as well. The school was named "The Hacienda Science Magnet School at Valley View". It wasn't long before it became "Hacienda Science Magnet" and then just "Hacienda".

Cecil Mansfield, 2/10/08

