

the Cryer



San Jose Unified Council of PTAs

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San Jose Unified School District

San Jose, California

President's Message

Happy 2009 to you all~

I like to begin each new year looking at what I wanted to do with the past year and how it actually stacked up. I have to say that 2008 was a successful year for me personally and in this life of PTA. I hope you all feel the same!

Having said that, 2009 is going to be a little different and will bring many challenges with it in regards to our state budget. I spoke briefly with our Board

Representative and the Superintendent and they were able to share that San Jose Unified is in a better place than most districts in the state, but it will still be very difficult. Unfortunately, they cannot make definite plans until the state budget cuts are announced. **We will have Mr. Iglesias as our guest at the meeting in March.** My suggestion to all units is to stick with your approved budget and review your plans

Continued on page 2...

SJUSD Board of Education: \$ Matters

The state of California is in historically dire straits financially, forcing us to make some serious decisions about how the diminished dollars get spent. Over half of all school districts in California will be financially upside down before summer with the kind of budget being discussed in Sacramento. Your superintendent and

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Council Meeting

Monday, January 12, 7 - 9 p.m.

(Executive Committee will meet at 6:15)

Hosted by: Pioneer PTSA
Pioneer High School Media Center
1290 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose

Program:

1. Barbara Spreng, President, 6th District PTA
2. Recycling in Your Schools!

Deb Bogart, City of San Jose GREEN

Please join us!
If you cannot make it,
please send a board member in your place.



Convention Update

Plan now to attend the 110th Annual Convention that will be held April 30-May 3, 2009 at the San Jose Convention Center.

2008 Convention, Long Beach:
Simone Nelson, Peggy Hertzberg,
Andrea Wheeler, & Rhonda Rodriguez

Registration begins February 2, 2009.

Why should you attend convention?

- *IT'S FUN!
- *you'll obtain the tools and resources you need to become an even more effective PTA leader
- *you'll meet new friends
- *you'll be able to participate in the business of the association and vote on resolutions
- *you'll learn more about important issues affecting children and families
- *you'll network with and learn from other volunteers
- *you'll increase your POWER as a volunteer
- *you'll be able to visit the PTA Store and Exhibit Hall
- *you'll feel proud to know that you are bringing back information that is not only going to make your unit successful but helping PTA be successful as a whole!

For more information; please visit www.capta.org
— **Peggy Hertzberg, Convention Chair**

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President's Message, *continued from page 1...*

through the end of the school year. Make changes now, if you need to.

The economy is having a profound effect on many of us, and parents who were able to stay home or work part-time are having to make hard choices. I am having to do this as well. I have started working more hours at a job I already have. What this means for my role as PTA President is that I will still be available to all of you via email on a regular basis, but I may not be able to call or return those emails as quickly. I hope you understand. I will do my best to stay on top of everything I need to do for you. The great thing about PTA is that there are so many resources we can tap into! If you are having to make the same changes in your life, I suggest tapping into your board and asking for help.



Working together is always the best way to make good things happen.

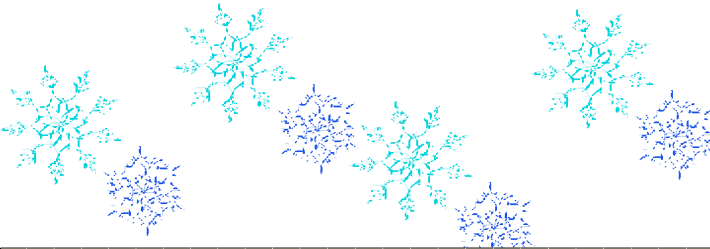
Our next meeting will be on January 12th at 7pm in the Pioneer High School Media Center. We will have two guests with us. Barbara Spreng, 6th District PTA President, will be talking to us briefly at the beginning of the meeting. The second will be Deb Bogart of the City of San Jose GREEN. She will be giving insight into recycling at our schools and how the City can be of assistance to you!



Lastly, I would like to thank all of you who gave me your comments on the school calendar. I will be sharing that information with Mr. Iglesias this month.

I look forward to seeing you,

Lynne Wach, Council President



Auditors' Reminder

Mid-year audits are due now. Please forward your adopted audit to **Mary Ruiz**, Council Financial Secretary, 4226 Meg Drive, San Jose, CA 95136 or e-mail to

mariamouse@sbcglobal.net.

If you have any questions or need any assistance with your audit, feel free to contact **Jill Grellman**, Council Auditor at jdgrellman@comcast.net.

Calendar and Reminders

San Jose Unified Council of PTAs

January

- Elect Unit Nominating Committee**
- Unit Mid Year Audit Due**
- Unit Parliamentarian and Bylaws Committee to review Bylaws**

- Monday 12 **Council Meeting, Pioneer HS, 7:00**
- Thurs. 22 Supt's Brown Bag, Rm. 337 Lenzen, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
- Saturday 31 **Unit Historian's Hours Due for 7/08 - 12/08**

February

- Wed. 25 6th District Luncheon, Decathlon Club
- Thursday 26 Supt's Brown Bag

March

- Monday 2 **Final Membership Remittance to Council**
- Monday 16 **Council Meeting, Muir**
- Wed. 25 Supt's Brown Bag (note change)

Our Great Units!

- Allen at Steinbeck 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 PTSA
- Castillero PTSA
- Hoover PTSA
- Muir PTSA
- Willow Glen Mid. PTA
- Gunderson PTSA
- Lincoln PTSA
- Pioneer PTSA
- San Jose High PTSA



SUPERINTENDENT'S BROWN BAG LUNCH

Thursday, January 22
12:00-1:30 P.M.
855 Lenzen Ave., Rm. 337

Be sure you send a representative to report back to your unit!



Here are the due dates for all school updates and articles for our upcoming Cryers:

Issue	Articles Due	Cryer to be Emailed
March	February 27	March 9
May	May 5	May 13

Articles and inquiries should be sent to:

Christine Gray, Council Cryer Editor
grayaspens@hotmail.com; 408-629-0989

Unit Historians

Please submit your unit's total volunteer hours for July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 to me by January 31, 2009. I do not need an itemized list, just the total number of hours.

Hello to all Historians or Presidents if you have no Historian.

What does a Historian do? The state PTA website lists everything from keeping records of activities, pictures and scrapbooks to keeping track of the volunteer hours. Most PTA units have shortened the job to the last. The Secretary keeps track of events in the minutes and some may even have pictures that get sent to the yearbook person.

The one job that has remained with the Historian is to keep track of the volunteer hours. There are many ways to do this and you need to figure out what works best for your PTA unit. Some collect the hours monthly, others biannually. You contact each parent with a letter asking them to send back a tally for their hours. Other ways are to look at the sign in sheets for visitors in the front office and ask your chairmen and officers to report to you. The hours you collect are for all hours donated whether they were at the school or at home working on projects or REPORTS.

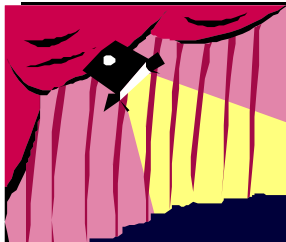
These hours are collected by me twice a year. I find **most parents underestimate their hours substantially** so be sure to encourage them to keep track of all that they do, again at home or at school. The total of the hours are sent to State PTA and the school districts also use them to show how much the parents have contributed to the schools. One thing to remember is that like the Secretaries minutes the hours reports need to be kept indefinitely. I have a really thick binder. **Any questions please feel free to contact me.**

— **Julie Herndon**, Council Historian
onedoctorjulie@pacbell.net, 408-323-9990

San Jose Unified Council of PTAs 2008-2009 Executive Committee

President	Lynne Wach	781-0607	flekwach@aol.com
1st VP, Membership	Sandee Ruiz	265-8316	sruiz@iname.com
2nd VP, Cryer and Directory	Chris Gray	629-0989	grayaspens@hotmail.com
3rd VP, Yahoo Group	Irene Paquet	580-1700	ipaquet@pacbell.net
4th VP, Parent Education	Susan Gaydon	323-9058	sgaydon@pacbell.net
5th VP, Convention	Peggy Hertzberg	972-5968	peghertz@earthlink.net
Secretary	Brandy Varni	268-6355	varbunin@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Marie Boyle	978-2846	mboyle@markpringle.com
Auditor	Jill Grellman	227-6657	jdgrellman@comcast.net
Historian	Julie Herndon	323-9990	onedoctorjulie@pacbell.net
Parliamentarian	Andrea Wheeler	297-2515	awheeler@demoworks.com
Web site	Carol Pecora	323-1531	carolpecora2000@yahoo.com
Annual Luncheon	Susan Gaydon	323-9058	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	371-8882	pam@effoley.com
SJTA Liaison to Council	Janice Allen	267-0411	SJTAPres@aol.com

If you would like information about an open office or chair position, please contact Lynne Wach.



Spotlight

John Muir Middle School's PTSA

Trying New Ways to Strengthen its CORE

At a District Seminar in 2006, a presentation was given by a previous SJUSD PTO President, Amy Huddlestun. She outlined the idea of strengthening the Core of your organization by focusing on five major Pillars (The 5 "C's"):

1. Communication
2. Capital
3. Community
4. Character
5. Commitment



This year, John Muir Middle School (JMMS) PTSA has chosen to focus and strengthen two ideas from Amy's presentation: Communication & Community.

The first idea chosen to strengthen **Communication** is to send out a new **Weekly E-mail** each Monday Morning to communicate with the PTSA families about what is happening at John Muir. This E-mail, which encompasses up to date information from the JMMS website and weekly bulletins from Principal **Gloria Marchant** details "New This Week" news items as well as Reminders, Volunteers needed, Dates to Remember and other noteworthy sections.



The second idea to strengthen **Community** is to expand John Muir's PTSA Meetings to include a Guest Speaker series to address a full array of issues and concerns for its PTSA families (for example, in October and November, PTSA invited speakers from the **SJUSD Parent and Education Office** to discuss gang awareness and bullying). When families have a place to get together and talk about their concerns, they also forge connections with the people they meet and strengthen their sense of Community.

By focusing on these two Core Strengths of an organization, the hope is that John Muir families will feel that they are a part of their child's experiences in Middle School and see themselves as invested partners within JMMS.

— Mary Bitter, Communications



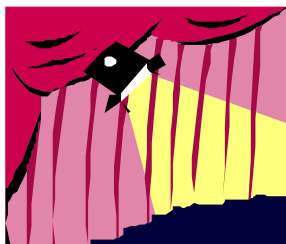
Citizens Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC)

San Jose Unified School District

The Board of Education is now 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.

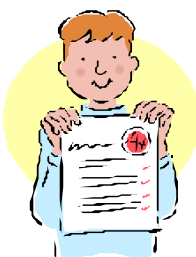
The purpose of the CBOC is to inform the public concerning the expenditure of bond revenues. Currently the committee meets four to eight times per year on Monday nights.

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



Spotlight Pioneer High PTSA

At Pioneer we have been able to support the students and staff many times already this year. We began the year with our **Back-to-School breakfast for the 90 staff members** at the opening day inservice. Our next activity was to work at the **Homecoming Dance** held in October. The PTSA coordinates the **coat check and provides water** to the students while they are at the dances.



Our third event was the **Academic Award Assembly**, which was also held in October. We recognize students who have earned a 3.00 or higher GPA and/or have had perfect attendance for the Spring 2008 semester. Each student is presented with a certificate and a “Bank Buck” which they

can use at the student store. Over 500 10th – 12th grade students were recognized at this assembly, and we will be holding a second assembly in March to honor all the students who have done well in the fall semester. We again helped with the **Winter Ball** in December.

In addition to these activities, we are volunteering to help in the **student store** and helping in the **office** with clerical support as needed.

We have been able to help support our nationally recognized **Service Learning Program** by providing funds for a digital video camera, which students use to document their activities. Additional monies have also been given to the school to purchase new **emergency supplies** that are stored in the classrooms. We are currently taking our **“Wish List” orders of classroom supplies** from the teachers, and then our Wish List Chairperson scours the country to find the best bargains to fill their requests. Our year will end with us supporting the **Senior Awards Night** and **Senior Breakfast**, as well as coordinating the **Senior Cruise** that follows their graduation in June.



I am proud to represent Pioneer and the wonderful parents, students, and teachers that we have on this campus. As with all of the PTA organizations, none of these things would happen without the dedicated support that parents provide. There are so many people working to make Pioneer a better place for all students. **My thanks to all who make our PTSA such a success.**

— *Coleen Montesano, Pioneer PTSA President*

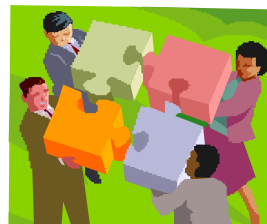
SJUSD Board of Education: \$ Matters

Continued from page 1...



school board members in San Jose Unified have been very careful and conservative with the finances in our care over these past four years, and unlike many of our districts here in Santa Clara County, **we have been able to keep the cuts as far away from the classroom as possible and maintain a positive credit rating from the county.**

We have an excellent Chief Business Officer and financial team in our district who will help us navigate these challenging times. Because of our strong team and personal commitment by your superintendent and school board, we will continue to work closely with our employees to reach a reasonable set of compromises that will ensure we continue to maintain the best possible education for your children. Your school board members work directly with the legislators at both the state and federal level, to help them understand the classroom impacts their actions have.



Do not be deceived into believing that school board members are getting rich while other employees suffer salary cuts. The fact of the matter is, all five of our board's annual stipends put together do not even equal half of the salary of a tenured teacher! All five of your school board members do this job out of pure love and commitment to the children of this district.

Your board welcomes your input, so please continue to communicate with us about your thoughts and concerns along with contacting your legislators. While the financial picture is far from pretty, you can be sure that your board and superintendent are working diligently on solutions that will benefit your children.

Now more than ever, let's stick together to make sure we reach a positive outcome for the kids!

Sincerely,

Leslie Reynolds

President, San Jose Unified Board of Education
President, Santa Clara County School Boards Asso.
Past President, San Jose Unified Council of PTAs

Unit Updates

Allen at Steinbeck K-8 PTA

Welcome back to school! I'll begin with a short recap of December. We shared in the fun of having a



tree at **Christmas In The Park** in downtown San Jose along with other great organizations that do so much for the community that we live in. We look forward to having a tree decorated

again for the next holiday season. At the time of writing this, we were able to collect almost 200 coats for the **One Warm Coat Drive** that is in partnership with the **Westfield Oakridge Mall Earning 4 Learning** program. This will assist keeping adults and youth warm during the winter months.

In January, we will have **The Hobby Show**. This is a place where students can bring an exhibit of their hobbies to school to be presented in a faire type setting.



Students are invited to share with others the joy of having a hobby. Exhibits from past shows have been things such as keychain collections, baseball collections, pandas and even scrapbooks!

All of us from Allen at Steinbeck K-8 wish you a happy, healthy and safe 2009! We look forward to informing you of the things we're doing in the next edition of the Council Cryer.

— *Peggy Hertzberg, President*

Almaden Elementary PTA

The PTA accomplished many things since the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year.

- Back to School Night, we worked with the 5th graders to help organize a **bake sale** they were holding for science camp.
- Held a **membership drive**, encouraging parents and teachers participation in the PTA
- Held a **Family and Friends fund raiser** at

our local *McDonalds* restaurant.

- We held our annual **Fall fund raiser** through *Great America*
- We held our 1st **movie night** in October. It was such a huge success that we held another one in December.
- We purchased **playground equipment** that all students will have an opportunity to use.
- We helped with purchasing gifts for students that came to our annual **Holiday Fiesta** in December.



For 2009 the PTA plans to accomplish the following:

- **Continue our membership drive, encourage parent participation in the PTA.**
- **Spring fling**, which will be kicked off with a walk-a-thon in April.
- Host an outdoor movie night
- Host an end of year **book fair**
- We plan to have more fundraisers at our local restaurants.

— *Shelley Alberti, Vice President*

Autism Project PTA

On January 9th from 6:00-8:00 p.m., Historic Hoover Theatre will be the site for "**Let's Put On a Show!**", a wonderful program of music and theatre sponsored by our PTA. Our program includes:



Angels on Stage

(A Theatre Troupe of Children with Differing Abilities)

IDPAC All Stars

(A performance program for our kids to "talk" to each other and the audience through the language of music)

The Magic Makers

(Young autistic music players paying tribute to The Beatles— directed by David Ladd)

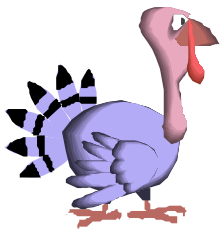
Admission is free; snacks provided. Come join us and meet teachers, families, and community members.

Direct any questions to: armoncynthia@yahoo.com

— *Cynthia Armon, President*

Unit Updates, continued

Bachrodt PTA



The Bachrodt Academy PTA had a busy fall semester! We had several successful fundraising events including the first annual "**Bachrodt Turkey Trot.**" The Turkey Trot (walk-a-thon) was held the week of Thanksgiving and was a great way to get

students to actively participate in supporting their school. In December, students enjoyed a wonderful "**Winterfest!**" They watched the Polar Express, won prizes and even took pictures with Santa Claus. The majority of Bachrodt students and their families attended and a great time was had by all. Finally, the PTA sponsored an **appreciation luncheon** for the teachers and staff to thank them for all of their hard work. It was a fun and festive event!

The PTA is looking forward to continued success in the spring semester.

— *Heidi Wolcott, President*

Carson Elementary PTA

Carson PTA has had a busy fall. We started off the year with our annual **Walkathon / Harvest Festival** - the teachers supervised the walking during the day and the whole family joined in the fun for the evening festival. The event was a huge success, enjoyed by everyone. Our next event was the **fall catalog sale** which was run with the school for science camp and PTA fundraising. In November, we participated in the **National PTA movie night** with a showing of Kung Fu Panda. The turnout was great and the kids really enjoyed it. December started with **Santa's Secret Shop**. This is a hugely popular event at our school as the kids really love to pick out gifts for their family and friends.

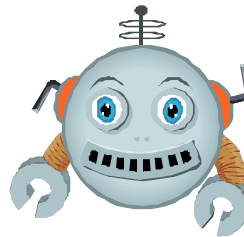


December started with **Santa's Secret Shop**. This is a hugely popular event at our school as the kids really love to pick out gifts for their family and friends.

— *Sandee Ruiz, Secretary*

Los Alamitos Elementary PTA

On your mark! Get set! LEGO! This was the call to compete that five teams from Los Alamitos heard at the **First Lego League Robotics Tournament**



held on December 13th. Thirty-six teams competed and ten awards were given out in various categories. Our **Robots Reloaded** team won a "dependability award" for having a combination of consistent robot game scores

and robust building techniques. **Lego Lasers** won the "teamwork award" for working well together and demonstrating respect for teammates. **Rust Rain-on Robots** had the highest average score of all Los Alamitos teams and a best score of 130.

Climate Commotion had a best score of 130 and won the "outstanding programming award" for innovative and creative use of software tools to solve the challenges of the robot games. And we were very proud of **The Climb-it Girls**, our youngest team who competed for the first time. Los Alamitos is very proud of the boys and girls who competed in this year's tournament.

The Los Alamitos PTA was also very busy with the following:

Ø **GATE** students had the opportunity to attend a fabulous field trip at Almaden Lake Park to learn about the Steelhead Salmon and how the climate is affecting the fish in our lake;

Ø Our **Scholastic book fair** was held and is always very popular with parents, teachers and students;

Ø **Kinder** students received pictures taken of them by PTA on the first day of school to give as holiday gifts;

Ø A number of students participated in the **PTA "Reflections" program** and eleven of them were selected to compete at the 6th District level;

Ø Outstanding **Red Ribbon Week** activities were held for second through fifth grade students who were fortunate to hear several speakers talk about making healthy choices; and

Ø Our phenomenal **site improvement**



Unit Updates, continued

committee has been busy every week keeping our grounds looking beautiful with their fabulous gardening and maintenance efforts!

The Los Alamitos PTA is ramping up for 2009 as we look at ways to go “green,” support our music program with bake sales and family nights, and begin construction for our shade structures.

We’d like to say “**THANK YOU**” to all of our teachers, parent volunteers and students who work so hard on behalf of the Los Alamitos PTA. Wishing all of you a very happy and healthy 2009!

— *Debbie Michels, Executive Vice President*

Reed Elementary PTA

Reed PTA had about 75 students participate in the **PTA Reflections Program** this year. As always, we have many talented and creative students. The students’ artwork will be displayed at our annual **Art Show** in May.



The Reed community has been doing a marvelous job helping the greater San Jose community by participating in both a **Second Harvest Food Drive** and **Toys for Tots** toy drive. We are a small but impassioned school, with a wonderful core group of parent volunteers.

— *Ronda Wilson, President*

Terrell Elementary PTA

This past fall Terrell PTA hosted the school’s annual **Walk-A-Thon**. Much anticipated by students and staff alike, the walk-a-thon is always a great school spirit builder as well as our biggest fundraiser. Music pumped through the playground, balloons flew in the air and students and teachers walked and walked and walked! One of the top walkers won the coveted “Principal for a Day” prize!



We’re looking forward to our second annual **Spring Fling** and will soon start planning this fun and prize filled event.

— *Robin Ledbetter, Secretary*

Williams Elementary PTA

It’s been a very busy first half of the year for Williams PTA. We started our year with our annual **ice cream social and fall movie night**, followed by our **Jack-o-Lantern Jam** where students of all PTA members received a **FREE** pumpkin to carve. It was a great success! In order to increase membership this year, we offer our members “freebies” at PTA events including free popcorn at movie nights, free pumpkins at the Jack-o-Lantern Jam, and free tickets at the end of the year carnival. We also continued to offer a pizza party to classrooms with 100% participation. We posted pizza “pie” charts in front of each classroom to track their individual progress, which were updated weekly until the deadline. It was a great tool to inform parents where the membership gaps were. We’re looking forward to a wonderful 2009!



— *Tina Lien, President*

Willow Glen Elementary PTA

Fall is a favorite time for families at Willow Glen Elementary—and it only gets better as winter approaches. The Tuesday before Halloween, the PTA holds its annual **Harvest Festival** featuring games and activities galore, everything from a “pumpkin walk” to decorating activities. Adults and kids come in costume and bring treats. It’s a fun, safe way to bring families together, and volunteers are eager to help.

In late fall, the PTA also kicked off a **pledge drive** to encourage those who want to donate something “a little extra” to the school in addition to what they may have contributed during the back-to-school membership drive. We also provide donors the **option of donating goods or service to the silent auction the PTA holds every spring**—so people don’t feel obligated to donate cash. We aim to impart the message that every little bit helps our PTA fund enrichment activities for our kids.



One of the most magical nights of the year in Willow Glen happens the first week of December,

Unit Updates, continued

when our school's tree is lit up for the town to admire. We hold the **Scholastic book fair** during the festive tree lighting, which helps bring outside foot



traffic to the event. Besides shopping for books, people can get kids' photos taken with Santa, listen to carolers from other Willow Glen schools, and enjoy food and hot drinks. It's a great way to reconnect with other families and welcome winter.

As we enter 2009, the PTA will be planning on assisting with our school's **kindergarten tours**. The PTA aims to have a presence at these tours to both help our principal and roll out the welcome mat for future PTA members. We're also in the early stages of planning our **annual talent show**, another favorite evening for families.

Willow Glen Elementary wishes you and your family a safe, healthy new year!

— *Marilyn Ritchie*

Burnett Middle PTSA

I would like to thank **Janette Saavedra, Juan Saavedra, Mando Saavedra, Kristin Luz, JennieRae Paker, and Melissa Scott** for making this happen: 3rd **Book Fair** Sept. 22-26, 3rd annual **Walk-a-thon** October 16, **Craft Night**, November 12, **Movie Night** November 11.

— *Marie Barajas, President*

Castillero Middle PTSA

In November, our PTA members who are involved with our **Project Cornerstone** parent group continued to meet twice a month for our middle school book club and organized a student **Character Awards Lunch** for 40 kids who had been singled out by their teachers. The **staff appreciation** committee also hosted a hearty and festive breakfast for the staff on the 21st during their in-service day.

December was fairly quiet for our PTA with the main focus being the coordination of the **Sugar &**

Spice Dance that was held on the 19th. We also supported the leadership classes' **food and toy drives** by supplying wrapping paper and assisting with wrapping gifts that were donated to a local Head Start preschool.



We are currently gearing up for our biggest yearly event, **Student Appreciation Day**. Parents will soon be gathering to make 1400 paper flowers for our 2nd annual **Fiesta de Castillero** to present to each student and staff member.

— *Shana Moore, President*

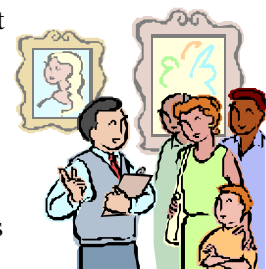
Willow Glen Middle PTA

Our first semester has been a busy one for the PTA. We kicked off the school year before school started with **WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) Day** where incoming 6th graders are welcomed with games, tours and food. A large team of PTA volunteers coordinated snacks and purchased t-shirts for 8th grade student WEB leaders and the lunch for leaders and 6th graders. In addition, a **Welcome Back Lunch** was served for teachers and staff and a **Welcome Coffee** for new parents!

Our **Ram Pride Package** (one check to support many functions at the school, plus student planner) brought in many PTA memberships. Our membership is up - 168 families and 26 teachers/staff! Our members step up to volunteer for the almost weekly requests for help with many school activities.

In September, we kicked off our **Fall Gift Wrap Fundraiser**; one-third of the profits went to PTA. The top sellers competed in a battery-powered pig race, featuring SuperPig, HoboPig, HockeyPig and NakedPig (completely shaved).

January will be a busy month as PTA volunteers assist with **tours and refreshments for 5th grade students and families**. Our recruiting culminates with our **Ram Power Breakfast and tours** highlighting all the great things WGMS has to offer.



Unit Updates, continued

In addition our **Copy Cats program** will start. In order to support teachers, a team of parents provide copying services for 2-3 hours each Friday.

A big highlight of the semester was **filing our taxes on time** - a first for WGMS! A huge thanks to **Sue Lipsey**, our dedicated treasurer!

— *Shari Rodenberger*,

Gunderson High PTSA

Co-President



GHS PTSA assisted in promoting the a College and Career Center's **CAL-SOAP Orientation Night** and had one of our bi-lingual members present the benefits of PTSA membership to the school's SELCA meeting.

We are finding the advantages of the **Earning 4 Learning** program to assist with fundraising. This program is easy to promote, both shopping and community service earning points for our school. GHS PTSA is currently 14th in the group of 28 schools and other non-profit groups participating in **Earning 4 Learning**.

San Jose Teachers Association Report:

State Budget Crisis: Growing Daily



December 1, 2008, marked a big day for the State of California - eleven new Senators and twenty-eight new Assembly members took their oath of

office. A few hours later, Governor Schwarzenegger declared a "fiscal emergency" and called a special session to deal with the growing budget deficit. Now, you may be thinking, "Didn't we just have a special session to deal with this crisis?" We did, but legislators failed to agree on a solution, and, of course, the problem didn't go away. The governor has now called a special session under Prop. 58 in order to fill a state budget hole that is predicted to reach \$28 billion over the next 18 months.

This means the Legislature will be taking another look at the governor's proposal of midyear cuts and some revenues. CTA and the Education Coalition are projecting that without any additional revenue increases, our schools and community colleges could be looking at cuts of up to 8 billion this year, \$7.2 billion of which are cuts to K-12 schools. These cuts are equivalent to shutting down every school across the state for twenty-five days; increasing class sizes statewide by over 50%; reducing per student spending by almost \$1,200; laying off 160,000 classroom teachers or 180,000 bus drivers, janitors, food service workers, maintenance workers,

and other education support professionals; cutting more than \$31,500 per classroom; cutting \$12.4 million per school district (assuming 10,000 students in the district); or eliminating all music, art, and career technical education programs statewide, with room to cut even more.

It's important to remember that the \$3 billion

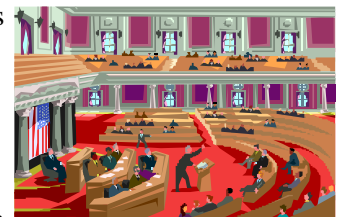
California schools already suffered in cuts this year are crippling local school systems and threatening the future success of our students. Schools and teachers are working hard to continue to meet the ever-rising academic achievement standards, even while the state's lack of funding threatens to erase all of the improvement we've made. And, the governor's proposed



midyear cuts would force us to cut the very programs our community values halfway through the year.

Our elected leaders need to be reminded of what hard-working Californians already know:

these devastating cuts to public education are undermining our state's future. That's why parents, teaches, and other educators across California must be united against further mid-year cuts.



— *Janice Allen, President*,

Grow Your Membership! Grow Your Volunteer List!*



California State PTA
Membership Committee

Have You Invited the *Special People* in Your Community to Join PTA?

In addition to your school's families, students, teachers and staff, a good PTA membership invitation list is never complete until it includes the often overlooked *special people* in your community or in your school and PTA's past.

- Past PTA presidents**
- Past PTA board members**
- Past Honorary Service Award recipients**
- Famous student alumni**
- Retired teachers**
- Retired principals**
- School Board members**
- Local legislators**
- Local members of the California State PTA**

An excellent membership procedure book will contain lists of these potential members. Any one of them would appreciate the honor of being asked to join your PTA. Does your PTA have such an invitation list? If not, it's time to get started!

**Honor the special people of
your PTA's past
with an invitation to join PTA!**

**Boost your PTA membership
and PTA's voice of ALL Children!**



California State PTA

www.capta.org

The Communicator

October 2008

* "Grow Your Membership" and "Grow Your Volunteer List" is a continuing column in *The Cryer*. If you have terrific ideas for increasing membership and/or volunteers, please send them to Chris Gray: grayaspens@hotmail.com.

San Jose Unified Council of PTAs

Honorary Service Award and Outstanding Service Award 2008 —2009 Nominations

The San Jose Unified Council of PTAs is requesting nominations for the Honorary Service Awards and Outstanding Service Awards to be given at the annual luncheon in May. We ask PTAs and individuals to please take some time to consider someone you know who has given outstanding service to children.

Honorary Service Award Nominees have provided service to children over a long period of time or in many schools and/or community. Nominees can be parents, teachers, school staff, District staff, or community members. It can also be a group of people. **Nominees and people submitting nominations do not need to be PTA members.** The Council HSA committee will choose up to four HSA winners from the nominations received. San Jose Unified Council of PTAs honors the recipients through a donation to the HSA Program of the California State PTA. Funds from this program are used for scholarships to further the education of young people beyond high school. At the spring luncheon, each HSA winner will be the guest of the Council and receive an award.

Outstanding Service Award Honorees have provided outstanding service to children at a particular school site. Each school uses its own criteria to choose one person or group to be recognized. Honorees can be parents, teachers, school staff, District staff, or community members. **Honorees do not need to be PTA members.** Outstanding Service Award Honorees will be recognized at the spring luncheon. Each PTA/PTSA is urged to pay for its OSA Honoree to attend the luncheon.

Contact Lynne Wach at 781-0607 or <flekwach@aol.com> with any questions.

**Please complete this form and mail to Lynne Wach,
5689 Coniston Way, San Jose CA 95118 by April 2.**

HONORARY SERVICE AWARD INFORMATION:

Name of Person Making Nomination: _____ Phone: _____

Name of Nominee: _____

Phone: _____

PTA Accomplishments. List each job/office this person has held. Consider the effectiveness of the person, not just the fact that they held an office or sat on committees. Include number of years in PTA, if applicable.

School Involvement. If more than one school, you might want to include the activities at the other school. List committees, booster clubs, School Site council, BAC, etc.

School District Involvement.

Community Involvement. Include service to children and youth in the community.

Other:

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD INFORMATION:

Name of School Making Nomination: _____

Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name of Nominee: _____

Phone: _____

Please write one paragraph of no more than 60 words explaining why your school has chosen this person to receive the Outstanding Service Award.

Use back of page or additional paper for above responses

Provides quality hardback children's books and a reading program for parents with students in K – 3rd grades.

September 2008 – April 2009

The workshops and classes are available at all school sites.

Classes and workshops can be offered in English and in Spanish.

Number of classes and workshops are determined by the curriculum and the principal's needs to serve his / her parent's needs and request.

For more information please contact:

Office of Parent Education and Involvement

Elizabeth Bliss, Manager

408 535 - 6405

Martha Pinedo, Staff Secretary

408 535 - 6404

Sara Arevalo, Parent Trainer and Coordinator

408 535 - 6603

TBA, Academic Counselor and Parent Resource Teacher

408 535 - 6707

TBA, Parent Liaison

408 535 - 6497

**Distrito Escolar Unificado de San José
Oficina de Educación y Participación de Padres
Calendario de eventos programados para el ciclo escolar 2008-2009**



RESERVE ESTAS FECHAS

1. Capacitación para padres para estar preparados en casos de emergencia

31 de enero de 2009

Preparatoria San José

9:00 AM - 1:30 PM

2. Conferencia de Educación para Padres (El valor de integrar las artes y la tecnología en las materias académicas)

28 de febrero de 2009

Oficinas del Distrito

9:00 AM - 1:30 PM

3. Convención Anual de la PTA del Estado de California en el Centro San José McEnery

Del 30 de abril al 4 de mayo de 2009

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

4. Feria de Salud y Seguridad en la Escuela Primaria Washington

5 de mayo de 2009

Escuela Washington

3:30 PM - 6:30 PM

5. Tributo a las mujeres copatrocinado con la Iniciativa de Mujeres

La Iniciativa de Mujeres para el Autoempleo brinda un entorno seguro y de apoyo en el cual las mujeres con alto potencial y bajos ingresos pueden recibir la ayuda que necesitan iniciar su propia empresa y hacer que progresen sus negocios.

19 de mayo de 2009

Salones # 129, 133

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Se darán clases y talleres en las escuelas o en las Oficinas del Distrito durante el ciclo escolar.

(Las fechas y horarios están pendientes.)

6. Soluciones positivas para niños en la escuela primaria (Fecha y horario pendientes)

Asambleas y programas a petición de los directores de las escuelas o de las organizaciones PTA, Club del Hogar y la Escuela/ SELAC

Liga del mediodía (Noon League): Un lugar seguro y divertido para interactuar unidos de manera positiva y

regresar al salón de clases con energía renovada, contentos y listos para aprender.

El patio ideal (*The Best Yard*): Actitud positiva y respeto, expectativas, confidencialidad, consistencia, consecuencias. Un programa intenso de resolución de conflictos.

Buena condición física (*Positive Fitness*): La vida es el “deporte” que exige más retos. Cada mes se da una nueva lección de vida y una nueva actividad para lograr en conjunto la meta común de mantener buena condición física: **Mente sana en cuerpo sano.**

Los niños hacen valer su voz (*Kids Speak Out*): Mediación y resolución de conflictos, qué hacer en casos de intimidación y acoso, responsabilidad, opciones y el reto de hacer el bien sin mirar a quién.

Estudiantes de Primaria/Preparatoria Ayudantes de Maestros: Estudiantes ayudando a estudiantes: En el salón de clases y en la Liga del mediodía

Seguridad vial: Líderes de la escuela, el vecindario y la comunidad trabajando unidos para garantizar la seguridad de los estudiantes y las familias de ida y regreso de la escuela.

7. Se ofrecerán clases para mejorar las destrezas que requiere ser padres en todas las escuelas en inglés y en español:

Clases de orientación para padres de habla hispana cuyos hijos ingresarán a la escuela secundaria.

(Las fechas y horarios están pendientes.)

8. Clases o talleres de matemáticas, lectura, conocimientos de computación, cómo ser padres activos, disciplina positiva, Los niños bien educados, nutrición y desarrollo del cerebro, Rosetta Stone – Clases para aprender inglés: Las fechas y horarios están pendientes.

9. Fundación "Bring Me A Book" una galardonada organización no lucrativa dedicada a la alfabetización que proporciona libros infantiles con pasta dura y un programa de lectura para padres de estudiantes en los grados Kinder a Tercero.

Septiembre 2008 – Abril 2009

Favor de ver el documento adjunto

Estos talleres y clases se ofrecerán en todas las escuelas.

Las clases y los talleres se pueden ofrecer en inglés y en español.

La cantidad de clases y talleres se determina de acuerdo al plan de estudios y las necesidades de los directores de las escuelas para satisfacer las necesidades y las solicitudes de los padres de su comunidad escolar.

Para obtener más información, por favor comuníquese con la Oficina de Educación y Participación de los Padres

Elizabeth Bliss, Administradora

408 535 - 6405

Martha Pinedo, Secretaria

408 535 - 6404

Sara Arevalo, Coordinadora y Capacitadora de Padres

408 535 - 6603

TBA, Consejera Académica y Maestra

408 535 - 6707

de Recursos Académicos para Padres

408 535 - 6493

TBA, Parent Liaison

408 535 - 6493

HAPPY NEW YEAR

