

# the Cryer



## San Jose Unified Council of PTAs

Lynne Wach, Council President, 781-0607  
 flekwach@aol.com  
 Christine Gray, Editor, 629-0989  
 grayaspens@hotmail.com  
 San Jose, California

### President's Message



Happy New Year~  
 I like to begin each year reflecting on the positives of the previous year. I am happy to say that 2009 was a good year overall. We all had some challenges, but for me, at least, it ended well. It is my hope that you can all say the same. In 2010 we will continue to face state budget challenges.

Unfortunately, it will get worse before it gets better.  
 If you are being asked to spend money in places that are not currently in your budget, be sure to let that person know that the general association will need to be told, have discussion, and vote before changes can be made, (if you happen to have the money to spend). My suggestion to all units is to **stick with your approved budget and review your plans monthly, through the end of the school year.**

I met with **Superintendent Iglesias** and he has asked to come back to speak to us at the meeting in March. SJUSD will be conducting a new demographic study and he will share the results with us then, as

*Continued on page 2*

<b>Inside This Issue...</b>	<i>Calendar and Reminders</i>	2
	<i>Unit Audits</i>	2
	<i>Contacting Volunteers</i>	2
	<i>Cryer Due Dates</i>	2
	<i>PTA Scholarships for Graduating Seniors</i>	3
	<i>Unit Historians Reports</i>	3
	<i>Mid-Year Budget Revisions</i>	3
	<i>CA State PTA Convention</i>	4
	<i>SJU Council Units</i>	4
	<i>Council Yahoo Group</i>	4
	<i>2009—2010 Council Board</i>	4
	<i>Spotlight: John Muir and Lincoln PTSAs</i>	5
	<i>SJUSD Citizens Bond Oversight Comm</i>	5
<i>Spotlight: Hammer &amp; Galarza PTA</i>	6	
<i>Unit Updates</i>	7-9	
<i>The Nominating Committee</i>	10	
<i>Save the Date—Council Luncheon</i>	10	
<i>SJTA Letter to President Obama</i>	11	
<i>Honorary/Outstanding Service Awards</i>	12	

**Council Meeting**

**Monday, January 11, 7:00 P.M.**  
 Pioneer HS Media Center  
 1290 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose

**Guest: Norma Martinez-Palmer**  
 SJUSD Director of Elementary Education  
**Topic: Elementary Education Update**

**Guest: Sandy Engel**  
 SJUSD Director of Secondary Education  
**Topic: Secondary Education Update**

### Due January 8th! Insurance and Worker's Comp Forms



In order for your PTA to be in compliance with the State of California, your PTA needs to submit a **worker's compensation form** (with the applicable payment, if necessary) by January 8<sup>th</sup>. The worker's compensation form can be downloaded from [www.sjucouncilpta.org](http://www.sjucouncilpta.org). Please note that **if your PTA does not pay any employees directly** (which most do not), please write in NONE and send in the form.

Your unit's **annual insurance payment for 2010 is \$202.00** and also due on January 8<sup>th</sup>.  
**Send both of these in now.** All insurance payments and worker's compensation forms can be sent to: Denise Johnson 1259 Chrismara Court; San Jose, CA 95120. Thank you to all who have already sent their payments and forms in already.

-- **Denise Johnson**, Council Treasurer  
[dhojohnson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dhojohnson@sbcglobal.net)  
 408-268-5227

**President’s Message**, *Continued from page 1*

well as budget issues that he has access to at that time. The economy continues to have 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 have appreciated the support of my executive board this past year while I tended to family and work issues.



I know I sound like a broken record when I say, **“The great thing about PTA is that there are so many resources we can tap into!”** Our website is a wonderful resource, as is the California State PTA website. Also, do not hesitate to ask your board or the Council officers for help. Working together is

always the best way to make good things happen.

**Please join us at our next meeting, January 11th at 7pm in the Pioneer High School Media Center.** We will be having a short business meeting and then will be breaking up into two groups to discuss what’s going on, share ideas, etc. We will have one group for the Elementary School level and another for the Middle & High School level. **SJUSD Elementary Director Norma Martinez-Palmer will be there to let us know about how the changes to Primary education have affected the elementary schools this year. She will also be available to answer questions. We hope that the Secondary Director, Sandy Engel, will be able to join us as well to discuss middle and high school education.**

Lastly, I would like to thank all of you for continuing to make PTA a priority at your school sites and working hard for children!

I look forward to seeing you soon,

— *Lynne Wach, Council President*

## Contacting Volunteers



**It is important that your PTA board contacts every one of your members who has offered to volunteer, letting them know that their offer is appreciated.**

Most PTAs have forms listing volunteer opportunities so members can sign up to help. Sometimes projects are cancelled and sometimes just not all volunteers are contacted. **These people need to have their offer of help acknowledged.** It’s also a great opportunity to sign them up for another activity.

## Calendar and Reminders

### San Jose Unified Council of PTAs

January	Elect Nominating Committee
	Conduct a Mid-Year Budget Review
	8 General Liability Payment to Council
	8 Workers Comp Form to Council
	11 <b>SJU Council Meeting</b> , 7 pm, PioneerHS
	29 Unit Historian’s Hours Due, 7/09-12/09
March	22 <b>SJU Council Meeting</b> , 7 pm, Muir MS
April 29-May 2	CA State PTA Convention, Sacramento
May	19 <b>Council Annual Awards Luncheon</b>

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



## Cryer Due Dates

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Article Due Date</i>	<i>Email Out Date</i>
March	3/5	3/15
May	4/30	5/10



## Audits

**Thank you to the units that have submitted your year-end audits! If you have not submitted the year end audit for 6/30/09, please forward as soon as possible**

Recommendations for you to consider as you get ready for the midyear audit:

1. The audit form and checklist should be considered a package - both must be completed.
2. **One** audit form and checklist is required for **each** of your unit’s bank accounts: one for checking, one for savings, one for money market, etc.
3. Ensure that your unit has adequate processes in place: two verification signatures on cash forms, two signatures on checks and reimbursement request forms, one reimbursement request for each check, etc.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

— *Jill Grellman*  
 jdgrellman@comcast.net  
 Council Auditor

## Membership

Our Council's PTA membership drive has had 100% participation from all our units. To date we are 4653 members strong. Thank you to all of our units for your efforts and great work. Now that it is the new year, it's a great time to offer up memberships to anyone you may have missed back in August. Express the importance of membership dues and what it means to be a part of the PTA.

— Ronda Wilson, VP Membership



## Mid-Year Budget Revisions



It is very important to have a mid-year review of your unit's budget and make revisions as necessary. A committee can review the budget. A report and suggested changes should be presented for a vote at the following general meeting.

If your PTA is running short of funds, you may need to prioritize projects so the money available will go to the most important project that serve the most students.

Remember, there are many excellent parent education and service oriented projects that can be organized for very little money. Call **Lynne Wach** for ideas!

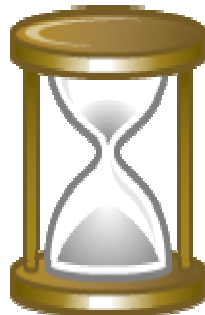
## Unit Historians

Please submit your unit's total volunteer hours for July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 to me by January 29, 2010. I do not need an itemized list, just the total number of hours.

*Hello to all Historians or Presidents, who 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 can 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 is sent to State PTA, and school districts use them to show how much the parents have contributed to the schools. Remember that like

the Secretaries minutes, the hours reports need to be kept indefinitely. I have a really thick binder.

**If you have any questions, please contact me.**

— Julie Herndon, Council Historian

## Scholarships & Grants Committee

# California State PTA Grants & Scholarships

The California State PTA has a variety of grants and scholarships available to units, councils, districts and members. Take a look at what is available.

### Due February 1: Scholarships for Graduating Seniors

When submitting scholarship or grant applications please be sure to provide all requested information. Note that applications are due in the California State PTA office via mail on or before February 1. **Facsimiles will not be accepted.**

The California State PTA scholarship and grant program is funded through Honorary Service Award donations. Please remember that when you honor a volunteer with an HSA Award, the money spent is doing double-duty by funding a scholarship or grant! What a "win-win" situation for all!

For applications and details, visit the *Forms* section in the *Toolkit* available on the California State PTA website at [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org).

California State PTA      [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org)  
The Communicator      October 2009

# 2010 California State PTA Convention

**Save the Date!**

**Join SJU Council In Sacramento**

**April 29—May 2, 2010**

*Let's send one delegate from every school in SJU Council!*

Contact **Peggy Hertzberg** for Scholarship information.



## 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



Have you signed up for the **Council Yahoo Group**?  
 Share information; ask questions; learn new things!  
 Go to

[www.SJUCouncilPTA@yahoogroups.com](mailto:www.SJUCouncilPTA@yahoogroups.com)



## San Jose Unified Council of PTAs 2009-2010 Executive Committee

President	<b>Lynne Wach</b>	flekwach@aol.com	781-0607
1st VP, Membership	<b>Ronda Wilson</b>	bohica2939@yahoo.com	448-1854
2nd VP, Cryer and Directory	<b>Chris Gray</b>	grayaspens@hotmail.com	629-0989
3rd VP, Yahoo Group	<b>Sandee Ruiz</b>	sruiz@iname.com	265-8316
4th VP, Parent Education	Open		
5th VP, Convention	<b>Peggy Hertzberg</b>	peghertz@earthlink.net	972-5968
Secretary	<b>Brandy Varni</b>	varnimom@sbcglobal.net	268-6355
Treasurer	<b>Denise Johnson</b>	dhojohnson@sbcglobal.net	268-5227
Financial Secretary	<b>Julie Chovanec</b>	jchovanec@yahoo.com	997-6576
Auditor	<b>Jill Grellman</b>	jdgrellman@comcast.net	227-6657
Historian	<b>Julie Herndon</b>	onedoctorjulie@pacbell.net	323-9990
Parliamentarian	<b>Andrea Wheeler</b>	awheeler@demoworks.com	297-2515
Web site	Open		
Annual Luncheon	<b>Robin Cruz</b>	robin111@pacbell.net	268-5455
Reflections	Open		
Legislation	Open		
Budget Advisory Committee Rep.	Open		
SJUSD Wellness Representative	Open		
SJUSD Board of Ed. Liaison to Council	<b>Pam Foley</b>	pam@effoley.com	
SJTA Liaison to Council	<b>Janice Allen</b>	SJTAPres@aol.com	

# John Muir PTSA



# Lincoln High PTSA

Dances at John Muir Middle School are a **BIG** event. We have had three dances already this year with two sponsored by our PTSA, and the other dance put on by

the students in leadership class.



The success of our dances starts at the very top with our dedicated staff at the school. How many **principals** (Ms. Gloria Marchant) are out selling tickets the night of the dance?

How many **assistant principals** are helping DJ and chaperoning? (Mr. Bui and Mr. Chamberlin) Our **art teacher**, Mrs. Berumen, takes photos and turns around and buys supplies for her art class. There are many **parents** who help decorate, sell glow products, work the snack shack, and check in coats. Did we mention our **dynamic husband and wife team**, Dianne and Scott Conry, who work as co-presidents of the PTSA who float everywhere and pick up trash after the dance?

The saying "it takes a village" is true, and the "village" at John Muir is thriving!

— Lisa Sherard and Lauri Tatum, Dance co-chairs

## Spotlights

Happy winter season from Lincoln High School! The **Little and Big Bone fundraisers** went great this year. The LHS PTSA made their goal of contributing to our **senior scholarship** program. *On a somber note, the PTSA extends their*

*heartfelt thoughts and support to the family of San Jose High football player **Matt Blea** who was injured during the Big Bone Game.*



One of LHS PTSA's proudest moments comes when we honor our **Student of the Month** recipients. Parents are encouraged to join the celebration which honors up to 60 students per month with treats and snacks.

Students who receive this award are recognized not only for academic success but personal growth and achievement.



Special thanks to **Bernadette McCann** and the **parent volunteers** for their continued efforts towards this very important PTSA program.

The LHS PTSA also recognizes just how important **our teachers and staff** are to us. They really enjoy the home made goodies that our many PTSA parents so thoughtfully donate for the **monthly teacher luncheons**. Thank you to each and every one of the parents who have shown their dedication to our teachers by bringing treats to share.

Warm regards and Happy New Year,

-- Rhonda Rodriguez-Leyva, 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](mailto:diane_duenas@sjusd.org). Applications will continue to be accepted until all positions are filled.



## Spotlight

# Hammer & Galarza PTA

WOW! It's hard to believe that we are half way through the year! The Hammer & Galarza PTA spent the semester working hard for our kids and schools. We are lucky to have some enthusiastic parents, and more parents are volunteering to help this year!

Our year started out with participation in two of Willow Glen community events. First, we joined Councilman **Pierluigi Oliverio** at his **movie night** at Bramhall Park in Willow Glen in August. We originally had planned to have a movie night the same night, but Councilman Oliverio suggested we join him, and our students had a blast. Not only did they interact with students from Hammer and Galarza, they were able to hang out with neighbors and friends from other schools too. Who doesn't love WALL-E! We also joined the Willow Glen community and walked at the **Founders' Day Parade**. It was a great way for our students to show pride in their schools and to show the Willow Glen community that although Hammer Montessori & Galarza Elementary are separate schools on the same site, we come together as one community.



Our biggest event of the year, the **Walk-a-thon**, was fun, fun, fun! The Hammer & Galarza PTA was pleased to accomplish its main mission which is to bring the two school communities together. We had families from both schools enjoy the homemade Mexican food, carnival games, face-painting, and our popular raffle with fantastic prizes from many generous donors. And of course walking with a fun warm-up exercise and enthusiastic lap support for the kids provided by the YMCA. We went GREEN this year, and the kids received water bottles from **Sylvan Learning Center** and backpacks for participating. It was great that so many parents took different leadership positions for the walk-a-thon!



**Art Vistas** is at our school this year! The Hammer & Galarza PTA is supporting Art Vistas and the coordinator, **Julia Salm**, has been working hard to make it a great success for our kids. We hope to have all 28 classes participating come January.

Our students are learning about helping the community through our **Warm Coat Drive** for Sacred Heart. We're grateful to see our bins overflowing with coats that our families donated. It is great to see such generosity in these hard times! With it being so cold lately, even some of our students have benefitted from these donations! It is what the season is all about!



Whew! We've done a lot already and we have a whole semester to go! There are lots of opportunities to build community, help our schools, and support our kids.

We invite everyone in our community to be a part of this effort by joining the Hammer & Galarza PTA. Upcoming events include our **parent education speaker on bullying**, our **book fair with a literacy night**, a **science night with Children's Discovery Museum**, **spare change drive**, **Garage Sale** and **end of year party!** What a great year so far and more fun to come!



— *Lori Stokes, President  
Hammer & Galarza PTA*

## Unit Updates

### Allen at Steinbeck K-8 PTA

Things are continuing to move forward at Allen at Steinbeck K-8 School. **We are reminding volunteers of the importance of their role at our school and how programs such as Art Vistas, ABC Reading, Los Dichos, helping in the classroom and a PTA events are improved with their assistance.**

After spending the December break with our loved ones, we've come back in January refreshed and ready for PTA events such as the **Hobby Show, Story Fun Night, the Walk-a-Thon and Multi-Cultural Faire.**

We hope that you were able to visit the **Christmas in the Park** and see our school's **tree** that was across from the Children's Musical Theatre. The Sixth Graders at our school made the ornaments as part of their elective this past semester.

— *Peggy Hertzberg, President*

A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

### Almaden Elementary PTA

What a fun year 2009 was at Almaden Elementary. PTA hosted a few events. In September we held a **Back to School BBQ**. It was great to see so many families come out to support the PTA. The students at Almaden enjoyed the **Reading Around the World Book Fair**. Profits were down from last year as we also saw with our **Fall Fund-raiser** with QSP. PTA hosted a **Winter Celebration** before winter break. We invited all Almaden families to come enjoy hot chocolate and cookies while Santa handed out gifts to all students. Many of our teachers donated money to help ensure we had enough presents, and of course we did!

Looking ahead to 2010 **we are making parent involvement a top priority**. We will hold more round table discussions with **Mr. Pin**, our principal. One of our goals is to host a **Spring Fling** in May. Planning stages will begin in a few weeks.

— *Shelley Alberti, President*



### Autism Project PTA

Our Autism Project PTA students were busy before the holidays making decorations for our **tree** downtown at **Christmas in the Park**.

Our PTA also sponsored a **Christmas Party** for the Autism Project at the Santa Clara County Office of Education on December 18. We invited 339 students, 46 teachers, the SCCOE Board members, principals, parents, siblings, speech and OT therapists. Pictures were taken with Santa & Mrs. Claus. Children with differing abilities from *Angels on Stage* sang Christmas songs, and musicians from *Magic Makers* played instruments. Presents were given to ALL children. Dinner was served.

A slide show of previous engagements was shown, such as the first Bay Area **"WALK FOR AUTISM"** that was here May 30, 2009. The Autism Project PTA helped bring awareness to San Jose along with San Jose's **Mayor Chuck Reed**, who was the speaker. That event raised over \$250,000 and had over 3,000 walkers. I loved co-chairing the event.

-- *Cynthia Armon, President*



### Bachrodt Charter Academy PTA

The Bachrodt Eagles have had a fabulous fall semester! Amidst all of the learning and growing, they have been busy participating in school activities sponsored by the PTA.

Our **Halloween Carnival** was a terrific success! Students and their families were treated to a night of games, food and even a haunted house. Students really enjoyed getting their faces painted and seeing each other dressed up in their costumes! This is sure to become an annual event!

November was a busy month for Bachrodt families. At the beginning of November, students and their families spent half a day scrubbing and cleaning to make the campus shine! This **School Beautification** event has proven to be a wonderful way to build community and encourage pride in the school. Right before the Thanksgiving holiday, students enjoyed our



**Unit Updates, continued**

2nd annual **Turkey Trot!** Several thousands of dollars were raised to support school programs and initiatives. At the end of November, many of our 5th graders attended **science camp**. They returned to campus excited and energized about everything they learned!!

Throughout the semester, Bachrodt students of all grade levels have been attending **Ballet Folklorico classes** after school. These classes have been taught by faculty and staff and are excellent. This year, students have also had the opportunity to join the **Bachrodt Eagle Choir**,



conducted by a faculty member. The three dance groups and the choir all performed at our annual **Winterfest!** The performances were outstanding and the students' families and friends were so excited to watch the show. After the performances, students were able to make special holiday crafts, win prizes and eat some delicious food. Best of all, Santa Claus made a special visit to Bachrodt and took pictures with the students. This was a terrific way to celebrate the holiday season with our school community.

On behalf of Bachrodt Charter Academy, we would like to wish everyone a terrific 2010!!

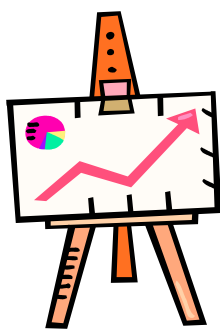
-- Heidi Wolcott, President

**Los Alamitos PTA**

The Los Alamitos PTA continues to keep up a busy pace with many wonderful activities. At our last board meeting, we celebrated the success of our **Walk-A-Thon and Silent Auction**, which increased earnings by 15% over last year, and our amazing **100% membership, which increased 40% over the last two years.**

Cookies and sparkling cider were enjoyed by all who attended! We continue to be proud of the wonderful commitment and participation by our school community, and that involvement continues with the following activities:

- Our **school directory** is being finalized and distributed to all families;
- Approximately **15 trees** will be installed around the perimeter of our new field and the installation will be



used as a **science lesson** for our students;

- Two assemblies were held for all grade levels including one on **anti-bullying**;
- **Accelerated Reader** awards for the first grading period were passed out;
- We've held three successful **family fun nights** to benefit our **music program**;
- PTA passed out "**100% Membership**" buttons to all students and staff to commemorate our membership achievement;
- **Red Ribbon Week** was held in October with red ribbons handed out to all students and class curriculum designed to support the "make good choices" message;
- Four **Robotics** teams competed in our local robotics tournament for the First Lego League;
- Third graders went on a **field trip** to Sandborn Park to learn about the Ohlone Indians;
- Many students participated in our **Reflections** program and their art will be displayed for all to enjoy; and
- We had a very successful **book fair**, with proceeds benefiting our **media center**.



Phew! It's been a busy Fall and Winter at Los Alamitos! Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2010!

— Debbie Michels, Executive Vice President

**Reed Elementary PTA**

Reed PTA has had a very busy first half of the year with **membership drives**, various **fundraisers** and our ever popular and wildly successful **Harvest Festival**. After relaxing a bit during the holiday season we are gearing up for the second half of the school year.

We will look forward to our **Bookfair** and our 2nd annual **Crab Feed/Silent Auction**. We are so grateful for the support that we get from our families, students and faculty. May the New Year be wonderful for all.



— Ronda Wilson, President

**Unit Updates, continued**

**Willow Glen Elemen. PTA**

The Willow Glen Tigers received some news to roar about this fall! Our students leapt past our 5-point achievement goal and **improved API scores** by 29 points! Hard work and **many volunteer hours** were sure contributors to this success! In October, we introduced the **Discovery Science online program** in which students can learn science at their own pace while teachers monitor progress. At our annual **Harvest Festival** in October, WGE families met for fun *and* raised donations for **Second Harvest Food Bank**. After Halloween, we sent treats and hand-written notes to **US troops** abroad.

Our new **PTA-funded band** is off to a great start! In a display of unprecedented Tiger spirit, 470 WGE students and family members marched, kazoo'd and displayed banners asking for band instrument donations in September's *Willow Glen Founder's Day Parade*. Our

talented 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade musicians debuted in concert December 16. Our new **K-3 music education program** should have our Tigers reading music by the time they leave 3<sup>rd</sup> grade! Our annual **December tree lighting ceremony** was a fun holiday hit for the entire WG community. Hosted by PTA representatives from the WGE's **Two-Way Bilingual Spanish Immersion program**, the tree lighting festivities included music from WG schools, activity booths and Mexican fare: hundreds of churros and homemade tamales were sold, bringing in unexpected funds for the PTA.

By combining most PTA flyers into one weekly *Tiger Flyer*, we've **saved 22,800 pieces of paper** so far this year and spared many hours of copying time! Finally, our **PTA Tiger Gala**, our largest fundraiser of the year, is in final planning stages and scheduled for February 27! We look forward to a busy 2010.

-- *Erika Friedman, VP Communications*

**Hoover Middle PTA**

For the 2009-10 school year, the Hoover Middle School PTSA has organized a **jog-a-thon fundraiser**, assisted with funding for **field trips**, and helped with creating a **student incentives program**. Our PTSA **membership** enrollment is growing thanks to our wonderful membership committee. We have had one **parent education night** in 2009 and are planning two more in 2010.



-- *Holly Aspiras, President*

**Gunderson High PTSA**

**Happiness is new faces and fresh ideas!**

This year we are enjoying **new faces at our PTSA meetings**. These individuals are bringing energy, ideas and fresh perspectives on our mission and accomplishing our objectives. As a result of these new members, we are:



- using internet tools for organizing volunteers;
- selling old merchandise - making room for new materials; and
- establishing new friendships with students, faculty and families.

Throughout 2010 I'll be reminding myself of Lynn Povich's message: "Change is often rejuvenating, invigoration, fun ... and necessary."

— *Mary Pizzo-Maggio, President*

**Pioneer High PTSA**



The first semester with Pioneer's PTSA was fairly quiet. Our volunteer efforts were utilized with **fall orientation, the Homecoming dance and Winter Ball**. We also sponsored a **Welcome Back Breakfast for the Pioneer Staff**. We look forward to the spring semester where we will **coordinate several of the senior activities** as well as **volunteer at the spring dances**.

-- *Maureen Fickett, President*

**San Jose High PTSA**

Our student, **Matt Blea**, a junior and star football player, unfortunately sustained a serious head injury at the annual **Big Bone Game**, which is held every Thanksgiving with Lincoln HS. Our community rallied around Matt and his family. The San Jose High PTSA held a bake sale on 12/5, which was very well-attended by the community and covered by the media. We raised \$3700 and donated the funds to Matt and his family. To date, friends and alumni from San Jose High Academy have donated about \$8000 to the Blea family. **We are all very happy that Matt is now doing much better with a good prognosis for the future.**



— *Geneva Ebisu, President*

## Bylaws Committee

# The Most Important Committee

**The nominating committee is one of the most important PTA committees. This group of people must recognize and seek qualified nominees for the elected leadership of your PTA.**

**The committee members, therefore, have a tremendous influence on the future of your PTA and should be carefully selected.**

The nominating committee is the only PTA committee that is not appointed by the president. This committee is elected by the membership **at least two months prior to the election** of officers.

Determining when to elect the committee and how many people to elect is outlined in your unit bylaws. Don't forget to elect alternates, in the event an elected committee member cannot attend a committee meeting. Most units should be electing the nominating committee no later than January or February for the election of officers in March or early April.

**The committee needs a balance of newer and more experienced PTA members, all of whom should be knowledgeable about PTA and who are:**

- Aware of qualified potential nominees;
- Familiar with the eligibility requirements and the qualifications necessary for the offices to be filled;
- Willing and able to devote adequate time to the responsibilities involved and maintain confidentiality.

Don't overlook the possibility of student and teacher members.

The election of the nominating committee should not be a popularity contest based on willingness to serve nor should it consist of the PTA executive board. The PTA president never serves on the committee, and the parliamentarian serves only when elected to serve. The principal may be elected, but should at least be an advisor to the group. No person may serve on the committee for two consecutive years. Be sure to elect your nominating committee wisely!

California State PTA

[www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org)*The Communicator*

October 2009

## SAVE THE DATE:

Wednesday May 19th is the **Annual Council Luncheon** at *Fiorillo's*. Details to follow as the event gets closer; please plan on joining us.

Do remember to invite your principal to be your PTA's guest at the luncheon.

**Budgeting:** It is an acceptable PTA unit budget expense to pay for the principal, the current and the in-coming presidents.



*Robin Cruz, Luncheon Chair*

**I want to share with the PTA a letter that I sent to President Barack Obama on November 25<sup>th</sup>.**

**— Janice Allen, President, SJTA**



Dear President Obama,

On Election Day in 2008, I was thrilled that you had been elected because I had volunteered in the campaign, donated my time and money, and I knew how important it was to have you elected. In the interim, I have been told that hope and change are on the way. But today, I am demoralized.



When dealing with the bonuses that were paid out with stimulus money, you remarked that you didn't speak about that which you didn't know. I would respectfully like to ask why you haven't applied that same standard in your remarks about public education? The comments that I have heard from your administration demonstrate a clear ignorance about my profession. I expected better from you, and today, I am demoralized.

Many others, I'm sure, have written you and done so far more eloquently than I. But it is clear from the path that Secretary of Education Arne Duncan is pushing for public education, that all of the information from all of the education community is being ignored. You, sir, as well as Secretary Duncan, have a duty to public education. The push to close "low performing" schools and replace them with charter schools run by private corporations is more of the backward policies that your predecessor, George W. Bush, so loved. Making student achievement synonymous with test scores based on one, high-stakes, standardized test will require the 1700 teachers I represent to continue committing what we feel are acts of educational malpractice. This is negligent, and thus today, I am demoralized.



Please, Mr. President, I challenge you to educate yourself about the true state of public education. I extend an invitation to you and Secretary Duncan to visit San Jose Unified School District to witness, firsthand, the amazing accomplishments and achievement that are happening on a daily basis in our schools. Come and see for yourself the innovative approaches that our schools and teachers are using to help make our district a model

for large urban districts across our state and nation.

Please, Mr. President, do not listen to those who would privatize public schools or those who want to run schools like a business. Do not listen to those who want a cheap worker delivery system as if students are widgets or those who wish to put a large portion of the \$800 billion spent on public education in their own pockets at the expense of our students.

My fellow teachers and I will continue to be demoralized until public education policy-makers demonstrate a true understanding that public education is the cornerstone of our democratic republic.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I sincerely hope that you will accept my offer to come to the San Jose Unified School District and visit some of our schools, including a conversion, dependent charter school, to see for yourself the innovative and exciting learning opportunities experienced by our students.



Sincerely, **Janice Allen**, President  
**San Jose Teachers Association**

# San Jose Unified Council of PTAs

## Honorary Service Award and Outstanding Service Award 2009 —2010 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. **We give one Outstanding Service award at each school.**

**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