

# the Cryer



## San Jose Unified Council of PTAs

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### President's Message

#### Autumn greetings ~

We are moving into that season that finds people spending more time indoors with family and friends. As the holiday season approaches and you find yourself taking off your PTA hats for a bit, I would like to ask that you make sure all of the items that are

needed by the PTA Council get taken care of sooner rather than later. :)

The following should be sent in as soon as possible:

- 1) Up to date Remittance of membership dues (We are doing great so far!)
- 2) Insurance payment of \$202.00
- 3) An approved current budget and your current audit dated ending July 2009.
- 4) A tax return (to be filed by Nov 15th)

If you need any help with this items, please be sure to let us know so that we can provide assistance!

I apologize that I was unable to attend our first meeting. One of the things that makes PTA so wonderful is the fact that everyone understands that "family comes first". I would like to thank **Andrea Wheeler** for taking my place on such short notice.

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**Council Meeting**  
**Monday, November 2, 7:00 pm**  
**John Muir MS Media Center**

**Guest: Shirley Bell**  
 SJUSD Manager, Professional Development

**Topic:**  
**Physical Fitness and Nutrition in Our Schools**



### Membership

The Council's PTA Membership drives are going very well! **We have 4127 members to date.** Some of our units are wrapping up their membership drives, but some are still going strong.

We had one unit, **Los Alamitos Elementary PTA**, that had the strongest drive in their history. **They set a goal of 100% membership and they accomplished it.** This equates to one member for every student enrolled, plus they have had every teacher and staff member join! At the October 22nd SJUSD School Board meeting, they were recognized by (past Council President and) SJUSD Board President **Leslie Reynolds** and Superintendent **Don Iglesias** with a framed certificate for their success. Representing the school and PTA were:

**Simone Nelson**, Los Alamitos PTA President; **Jenny Bradanini**, Los Alamitos PTA Membership Chair; **Shyrl McGuinness**, Los Alamitos Principal, and **Lynne Wach**, PTA Council President.



*L-R: Don Iglesias, Shyrl McGuinness, Jenny Bradanini, Lynne Wach, Simone Nelson, Leslie Reynolds*

Thank you to everyone of you for getting your remittance forms in so promptly! Please keep them coming!

-- **Lynne Wach** for  
**Ronda Wilson**, Council Membership VP.

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



I look forward to meeting many of you at our upcoming meeting on November 2nd. We will have a special guest join us at John Muir. Her name is **Shirley Bell**, and she is SJUSD Manager for Professional Development. She oversees a **PE/Nutrition grant** for the District and will

be giving us information on that topic. See you there!

As always, **please do not hesitate to let us know if you have questions, concerns or ideas to share.** We will do our very best to get the answers you need to be successful!

— Cheers! *Lynne Wach, Council President*

## Calendar and Reminders

### San Jose Unified Council of PTAs

November	2	<b>SJU Council Meeting</b> , 7pm, Muir MS
	3	Minimum/General Membership (15 members due to Council treasurer)
January		Elect Nominating Committee
	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/>

## TAXES Due November 15 From EVERY unit!!

Any unit with a Year End Annual Report under \$25,000 does 990N on-line. Very simple. Other units can use a small portion of their budget to have their taxes done by a CPA or tax service, if they wish and vote to do so.

The state of California is now requiring the PTA mission statement when filing taxes now.

**The mission of the California State PTA is to positively impact the lives of all children and families by representing our members and empowering and supporting them with skills in advocacy, leadership, and communication.**

— *California State PTA Board of Managers, July 2007*



Volunteer needed to be the webmaster for the PTA Council website.

### Will Train!

Contact **Lynne Wach** for more information: [flekwach@aol.com](mailto:flekwach@aol.com)

### From National PTA

Check out these websites, full of ideas for your PTA!

### Apply for \$1897 Today

All [PTA Take Your Family to School Week Award applications](#) are due by **5:00 p.m. CST, Friday, November 6, 2009**. Use 1500 characters (or less) to tell National PTA what your unit is planning for PTA Take Your Family to School Week, February 7–13, 2010, and be considered for an award of \$1897.

### MORE Provides Male Involvement Options

Is your PTA looking for ways to get fathers and father figures involved? Partners in the PTA MORE<sup>SM</sup> (Men Involved to Raise Engagement) alliance provide PTAs with plenty of ways to get men more involved in your group and in their child's education. The [PTA MORE page](#) lists the partner organizations as well as these resources:

- Male involvement event calendar
- Father Involvement How-To Guide
- Get MORE involved brochure (also in Spanish)
- Male involvement issue of Our Children
- Check out these resources at [PTA.org/MORE](http://PTA.org/MORE).

### What's New on the PTA Great Idea Bank?

The PTA Great Idea Bank is nearing 1,100 members. See what people are talking about and what ideas are being shared at [PTAgreatideabank.org](http://PTAgreatideabank.org).

Go to [PTAgreatideabank.org](http://PTAgreatideabank.org) for more ideas and discussion. ##

## 2010 California State PTA Convention

**Save the Date!**

**Join SJU Council  
In Sacramento**

**April 29—May 2, 2010**

Attendees have the opportunity to:

- Meet State and national PTA leaders
- Establish the priorities of the State PTA
- Vote on the legislative platform
- Participate in a variety of classes and workshops
- Exchange ideas and successes, network and learn from PTAs around the state
- Develop leadership skills

Celebrate the outstanding work of local unit, council and district PTAs.

*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](http://www.SJUCouncilPTA@yahoogroups.com)

# Yahoo!

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

President  
1st VP, Membership  
2nd VP, Cryer and Directory  
3rd VP, Yahoo Group  
4th VP, Parent Education  
5th VP, Convention  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Financial Secretary  
Auditor  
Historian  
Parliamentarian  
Web site  
Annual Luncheon  
Reflections  
Legislation  
Budget Advisory Committee Rep.  
SJUSD Wellness Representative  
SJUSD Board of Ed. Liaison to Council  
SJTA Liaison to Council

**Lynne Wach**  
**Ronda Wilson**  
**Chris Gray**  
**Sandee Ruiz**  
Open  
**Peggy Hertzberg**  
**Brandy Varni**  
**Denise Johnson**  
**Julie Chovanec**  
**Jill Grellman**  
**Julie Herndon**  
**Andrea Wheeler**  
Open  
**Robin Cruz**  
Open  
Open  
Open  
Open  
**Pam Foley**  
**Janice Allen**

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sruiz@iname.com  
  
peghertz@earthlink.net  
varnimom@sbcglobal.net  
dhojohnson@sbcglobal.net  
jchovanec@yahoo.com  
jdgrellman@comcast.net  
onedoctorjulie@pacbell.net  
awheeler@demoworks.com  
  
robin111@pacbell.net  
  
pam@effoley.com  
SJTAPres@aol.com

## Bachrodt Charter Academy PTA

Bachrodt Eagles are excited that fall is here and have had a terrific school year already! We enjoyed a hugely successful **outdoor movie night** as our first in a series of family night activities.



The weather was perfect for a movie under the stars, and everyone enjoyed the show as well as the delicious snacks for sale at the snack bar!

Our first **School Beautification Day** of the school year resulted in a sparkling campus and appreciative students and staff. Plans are already underway for our next beautification

event in November which will include some gardening projects as well!

Plans are well underway for our next family night - a **Halloween celebration**, the evening before Halloween. There will be carnival games, a (not so haunted) haunted house, a cake walk and food! The Bachrodt community is really looking forward to showing off their costumes and celebrating together.



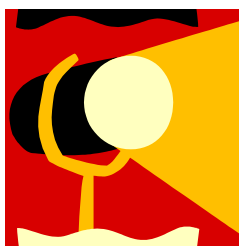
The PTA has had two well attended and very successful general membership meetings. **Membership goals have been exceeded and the number of volunteers at all of our events has increased dramatically.** We look forward to continued success throughout the rest of the year!

-- Heidi Wolcott, President



## Cryer Due Dates

Issue	Article Due Date	Email Out Date
January	12/17	1/4
March	3/5	3/15
May	4/30	5/10



## Reed Elementary PTA

In August, Reed students, teachers, parents and staff were welcomed back to our new school. With **Measure F Funds**, Reed received a **face lift** with a new floor plan, fresh paint and fresh attitude. There were some nail biting moments as to whether school would be ready or not, but alas it was.

Reed PTA managed to increase our **membership** this year and brought in more donations than in previous years. Considering the current economic crisis, we feel quite accomplished.

PTA has already had our first major fundraiser of **gift-wrap sales**. We are anxiously waiting to see if we met our goal. If the school succeeds, our Principal, **Mrs. Thurston** has promised the students an afternoon of popcorn and a short movie. Our **Fall Festival** was on October 23, where we enjoyed a Pumpkin Patch, Haunted House, Drawings, Silent Auction, Vendors, Maze and lots of delicious food. It was a great time had by all.



We are extremely excited to announce that **Valerie Lewis**, renowned author and owner of **Hicklebee's Bookstore** will be celebrating a **family literary evening** with us on November 4th at 7:00pm in our cafeteria. **Anyone and everyone is welcome to join us for this very special evening.**

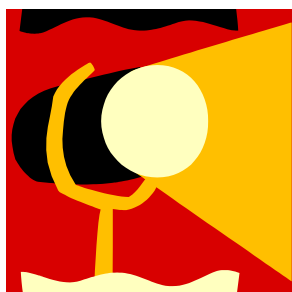


Our first **music performance** of the year is coming up on October 27. The children have been working very hard with our beloved **Ms. Kritzer** on fun new songs and movement. Should prove to be a song-filled evening. **Ms. Kritzer** is also working with our drama kids on "The Magic Jukebox".

The **Lego Robotics team** will be competing on November 14 in the first round of tournaments this year. These junior engineers are the future of technology advancement, so we wish them lots of luck.

We are so lucky and proud to offer our students so many well rounded activities here at Reed. We continue to look forward to a rewarding and accomplished year.

— Ronda Wilson, President



## Spotlight

# San Jose Teachers Association

### Not Business As Usual!

As California students and educators returned to school this fall, they faced the harsh reality of more than **\$17 billion in cuts to education**. Class sizes are larger, entire art, music and sports programs have been eliminated, and resources are scarce. Many people in communities across California aren't aware of what is happening in their neighborhood schools. Many do not have children attending California's public schools.

We believe we cannot continue business as usual and go through the year as if nothing happened. It's time to change the budget process and reform Sacramento.

Beginning this fall, CTA (California Teachers Association) has reenergized the **"Stand Up for Schools"** web site, [www.standupforschools.org](http://www.standupforschools.org) that was utilized last year in planning Pink Friday events. Local educators are planning "Stand Up for Schools" events and town hall meetings to bring their community together to discuss what can be done to make education a priority in this state.



On October 13<sup>th</sup>, local association presidents from across Santa Clara County met at SJTA and that was definitely the major topic of discussion.

At the first SJUSD Board of Education meeting this year, I spoke about getting rid of the two-thirds vote requirement in California to pass the state budget and raise taxes, about tax breaks given to large corporations, and having big business pay their fair share of property tax.

**SJTA is encouraging the public to join CTA's statewide "Stand Up For Schools" campaign**, which is designed to bring structural change to the broken political system in Sacramento that keeps robbing students of a well-rounded education.

When you degrade and impoverish our schools, you impoverish our communities, and that's what all the massive cuts to education are doing. It's time to stand up for public education. **Quality public schools build strong communities, and that's worth fighting for.**



*Janice Allen, President  
San Jose Teachers Association*



## 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.

# Unit Updates

## Allen at Steinbeck K-8 PTA

Happy Fall Everyone! The Allen at Steinbeck K-8 School has been keeping busy with the beginning of the year activities. Last month, we had a great time building our community at the **Annual Fall Family Festival**. Families had fun playing carnival games, eating ice cream cones, hoping to win a prize at the silent auction, and catching up with other families that evening.

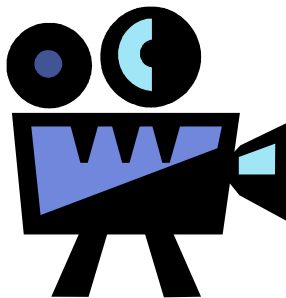


The PTA is still continuing to build our **membership and stressing the importance of volunteerism** to help support PTA funded programs such as **Art Vistas, ABC Reading, and Los Dichos**. These programs make the children's school experience a little more memorable and also teach them great life skills!

I look forward to giving you another update next issue.

— *Peggy Hertzberg, President*

## Carson Elementary PTA



Carson PTA has really been working on its annual **membership drive** and it shows! Last year we had 95 memberships, and this year we have already signed up 214! Our work continues!

Our Walk-a-thon was very successful. We also implemented a **family movie** during our **Harvest Festival**. Our families loved it!

— *Cherry Sanders, President*

## Hammer & Galarza Elementary PTA

The students at Hammer Montessori & Ernesto Galarza elementary schools are putting on their walking shoes and doing a whole lot of walking. The students and their families walked down Lincoln Avenue at the annual **Willow Glen Founder's Day parade**. The two schools showed their solidarity as a community by walking side-by-side as one community.



The Hammer & Galarza PTA is also having their annual **walk-a-thon**. The students have been challenged to see if they can walk more than **Principal Susana Paredes and Assistant Principal Art Gonzales**, who have pledged to walk 55 laps. In conjunction with our theme, "*Preserving our future – Go Green!*", all students that bring in one pledge receive a canvas backpack with the walk-a-thon logo on it and a BPA free water bottle donated by **Sylvan Learning Centers**.



Their families are going to cheer them on, while enjoying homemade tamales, pozole, horchata, pizza and shaved ice. The students and families are also going to try their luck in

our annual raffle, with donated prizes from **our families, principal, Great America, Hickbees, Tech Museum, Aqui, and many other generous donors**. In between eating and walking, the students can make a free spider craft, have their face painted and try their luck at some carnival games.

Our annual **membership drive** is still under way. We have already met our goal of 5% more than last year and are still going strong. All PTA members get to participate in a member-only raffle at the walk-a-thon, where they can win 4 tickets to the California Academy of Sciences. It should be a great day!

— *Lori Stokes, President*

## Los Alamitos PTA

Hurry! Hurry! Step Right Up! This was the call heard around Los Alamitos as we kicked off our **one and only fundraiser of the year, our 20th annual Walk-A-Thon** with the theme of "Under the Big Top!" Held on October 3rd, students, parents, teachers, staff members and friends came out on a beautiful day to walk, play and shop at this year's WAT and Silent



Auction. Participants had their first glimpse of our **newly redone field and track**, earned treats and prizes for their efforts and had a great time at the Dutch raffle table and crazy hair booth. At the end of the day, our candy station and world famous BBQ had sold out of everything. In addition, the energy was high at the silent auction, where bidders counted down the last few seconds in hopes that they would win their coveted class baskets, sports memorabilia and other wonderful items. It was a memorable day!

And talk about "stepping right up..." our Los Alamitos Families made us proud when they heard our call to reach a **PTA membership goal of 100% participation**. Not only did we reach 100%, but the memberships continue to come in, and we are extremely proud to be one of only two schools in all of Sixth District (Santa Clara County) to reach such a momentous goal. **Our membership committee creatively campaigned with the use of**



**bright yellow shirts saying "JOIN PTA NOW!" worn by members of the executive board**, they set their goal and used brightly colored stars on the doors of each classroom indicated which families joined in each class. We also employed flag salute announcements as well as personal letters to remind families who had not joined yet.

In addition to our big campaigns and events that always kick off the start of the school year, we have several other programs underway. **Art Vistas and Project Cornerstone** have both trained volunteers who are now beginning to work in the classrooms.

It takes an endless number of volunteers who put in countless hours to make all of these programs, events and activities run as successfully as they do, and we'd like to thank each and every person who has

contributed to the success and wonderful community spirit of Los Alamitos Elementary School! We couldn't do it without you!

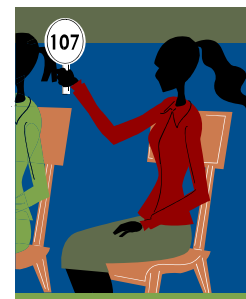
— *Debbie Michels, Executive Vice President*

## Castillero Middle PTA

Castillero is thrilled and proud to announce a \$1,000 increase in PTA donations so far this school year. It is heartening to see that parents value the work we put into our programs and events enough to increase their donations during a tough economy.

The **secret to our success, it seems, comes from a reliable weekly email blast** that we send out detailing upcoming events (both for PTA and other organizations) to some 600 Yahoo Group subscribers. In these weekly emails, we take the time to encourage participation and express gratitude for the people who have come out to support the school.

**Our first PTA meeting set a tone for involvement with a one-minute presentation by each of the 22 committee chairs who presented us with a year-in-preview.** Each of the **80+ meeting attendees** was registered to a specific **silent auction paddle number**. When a committee chair explained the time commitment and description of their event or program, parents were encouraged to "bid" to participate by holding up their paddles. The secretary wrote down the numbers of the bidders and we later passed along the contact information to the committee chairs. Castillero parents raised their paddles to volunteer for future events more than 300 times during this 30-minute activity!



Since that first meeting, PTA has hosted our first **Family Fun Night**. The event took place at **Chevy's** and brought in \$900 to our PTA coffers. We also served a yummy buffet of desserts and fruit & cheese trays during **Back-to-School Night** and supported the Leadership teachers by providing dinner during the school's **Climate Improvement Movement conference** for 80 students. This past Friday, more than 60 parent volunteers were on campus at lunch to celebrate **Ice Breaker Day** with ice and snow-themed activities that encouraged students to "break the ice" and get to know new people while having fun with the whole school community of staff, students and parents.

— *Shana McLean Moore, President*

## Gunderson High PTSA

Our PTSA is pumped up from meeting new families attending school events. Our board members are taking advantage of these opportunities to **listen to the new families' impressions of our school and hear their ideas** for improving our PTSA programs.



We are asking for their help and accepting what is offered. So far this year I've been wonderfully surprised by the results of letting others try their hand at our PTSA activities. **New members pitched in** by performing a **mass membership mailing, creating a Yahoo Group and purchasing all the refreshments for our Homecoming Dance**. Our faculty membership drive is being led by a board member that came up with a creative approach to including a friendly competition and a father who has just enough time to organize the faculty luncheon.

And, I'm enjoying watching how others tackle tasks and programs with enthusiasm and a creativity which leaves me more time to write them personal thank-you notes!

— *Mary Pizzo, President*

## 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 November 15:

- Scholarships for Continuing Education for PTA Volunteers
- Scholarships for Continuing Education for Credentialed Teachers and Counselors
- Scholarships for Continuing Education for School Nurses
- Grant for Parent Education for Unit, Council and District PTAs
- Grant for Outreach and Translation for Unit, Council and District PTAs
- Grant for Healthy Lifestyles for Unit, Council and District PTAs
- Grant for Cultural Arts for Unit, Council and District PTAs

### 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** the above-stated due dates. **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 HAS Award, the money spent is doing double-duty by funding a scholarship or grant! What a “win-win” situation for all!

For an application and details, visit the *Forms* section in the *Toolkit* available on the

California State PTA web site at [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org).



# H1N1

## H1N1 Influenza At School – What is SJUSD doing?

October 21, 2009

SJUSD is working under the direction of the Santa Clara County Public Health Officer to follow all protocols regarding H1N1.

### What is SJUSD doing to track H1N1 Influenza?

- Health Clerks, School Nurses, and Attendance Clerks are working together to track attendance and absences at each school site and reporting to SJUSD Health Services Department.



### What happens when students have flu like symptoms or have been identified with positive Influenza A?

- At this time Public Health has given the direction that exposure notices are not necessary when cases of H1N1 have been identified at the school sites.

- When 20% of a classroom or grade level is out ill at an individual school site, a “Fighting the Flu” notice created by Public Health will be sent out to all parents at that school site and Public Health is notified of the absentee rates.
- When 20% or more of the student population at an individual school site is out ill, a “Fighting the Flu” notice created by Public Health will be sent out to parents at that school site and Public Health is notified of the absentee rates.

### What happens when a SJUSD student is hospitalized with confirmed H1N1?

- We will continue to follow the protocols of the Public Health Officer.
- Exposure notices are not necessary per Public Health protocol.



- We will continue to monitor the attendance rates at the school site and if 20% of the students are absent in a school, classroom, or grade level we will follow the protocol

above.

- While respecting the student’s confidentiality we will carefully monitor the class that the student attends.

### How is SJUSD Fighting the flu?

- Students with Influenza Like Illness (ILI) will be sent home from school.

ILI = fever and cough, sore throat, and/or nasal congestion

- Students must stay home if they are sick and stay home until they have been fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.

- Students are encouraged to wash their hands often, cover their cough and/or sneeze, and keep their hands away from their mouth and nose.

- Students are encouraged to get both the seasonal and H1N1 influenza vaccination.



**Remember, the symptoms and severity of pandemic H1N1 and seasonal flu are very similar. Most healthy children and adults will recover from the flu without any special medical attention. If symptoms worsen and you are concerned contact your medical provider.**

**As guidelines from the Public Health Department change we will keep you informed.**

**You can access the SJUSD website at: <http://www.sjUSD.org> for more information, Updates and Spanish translation.**

