

CRESCENT COURIER



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Message From Our President . . .

Approaching the Home Stretch

It has been my pleasure to serve as the president of one of the best PTA districts in the State of California. We are a unique and diverse group of individuals who have been able, at least for the most part, to appreciate our differences and merge them with our abilities and talents toward a common goal of doing what is right for our children and all the 9 million children in the State of California. What makes our district so good is the result of the combined efforts of all those who have and continue to work diligently in our units, councils and district.

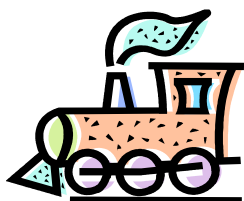
This has been an eventful year for Thirty-Third District PTA. We have faced many a challenge with perseverance and the desire to move forward. We have also learned that most issues that arise within our district are related to a need for greater training. We are making that training available, so I encourage everyone to take advantage of the opportunities we are able to provide in our district.

Our Board of Directors and Executive Board members are here to serve the needs of all of our councils and work in association with our councils to assist them in meeting the needs of their units. We represent a wide variety of experience, background, and knowledge and are ready to assist as needed. We do not, however, read minds nor are we able to guess when assistance might be needed. Please let us know if you need any assistance or when you just have questions or want to run something by us.

As we now approach the final stretch of this year's term, it is important to set the example of working right to the end. Our terms do not end after our Annual Meeting, or after State Convention, or our Leadership Workshops in June. Our terms, if we are not continuing next year, end on June 30th with the understanding, commitment and support to be there for those who continue on with the work that has been started in our PTAs.

I extend my gratitude for all the work that has been done this year and look forward to watching the game to the very end for the 2009/2010 year, knowing that the work that has been completed will be built upon in the year to come.

(Continued on Page 2)



Message From Our President . . . (continued from Page 1)

This year I have the opportunity to present a workshop at the California State PTA Convention in Sacramento on male involvement in PTA. I would appreciate the support and attendance of men and women interested in getting more men involved in their PTAs.

I look forward to seeing you at convention. Below is the title and a brief description of the workshop which is workshop number 419 on the schedule.

Men as PTA Leaders - Beyond the Paintbrush

Power tools to harness the under-tapped resource of male leadership will be presented in a workshop sponsored by the Parent Involvement Commission. The commission believes that PTA is no longer just women's work. It is time that men are not just considered a workforce for school painting projects. Men can do a lot more.

With changes in the economy, men have the opportunity to spend more time supporting their children's education. They need to be challenged to step up and get involved. Women need to make room for men in PTA and let them serve in leadership roles as well.

The workshop, while still in development, plans to focus on real life experiences and practical information which will help provide the tools to tap into this valuable resource, "PTA Power Dads."

Tom Horn, President

Set Aside Time For Evaluation

You're three-quarters through the PTA year. This is an opportune time to evaluate your PTA program and make needed improvements and changes. Assemble the board, perhaps even calling a special meeting. When you promote the meeting explain that you want to revisit the PTA goals and the activities necessary to achieve them while the PTA still has time to affect the outcome. Be sure to explain you are not being critical of the board for missing any targets. Discuss both the goals your team has met and those that are still unmet. Stay positive by focusing on the following:

- What programs, assemblies, or activities have you completed so far?
- How did you conduct them?
- Were they well attended and received?
- What worked, and what didn't?
- What surprised you along the way?
- What goals have been met? Did meeting goals deliver the expected results?
- Which goals should be your focus for the rest of the term? How will you achieve them?
- How can you adapt or revise your goals to meet current conditions?
- Are there goals that should be set aside?

Evaluate your progress, timetables, unmet needs, and human and financial resources. Refocus your board's time and energies where they will get the best results.

Source: PTA in California • March 2010

Views From Sacramento Safari



The following letter to Senator John Perez was from a student delegate who attended Sacramento Safari.

Dear Speaker Perez,

I would like to start by saying that I really enjoyed speaking with you earlier today at the airport. Thank you for taking time out of your day to speak with me and listen to what I had to say – I really appreciate it. (I hope I didn't interrupt your shoe-shining too much).

On behalf of the Thirty-Third District PTA, I want to thank you for your consistent support of our education system. We are so fortunate to have an Assembly Speaker who understands the value of our schools.

Over the last three days, we campaigned throughout Sacramento, advocating for increased funding for education. We spoke to a number of your colleagues on our visit and we advocated on behalf of the over 9 million children in the public school system. Although it is difficult, we will continue to work to make our voices heard in our campaign for increased funding and education reform. If there is anything Thirty-Third District PTA can do to work alongside your office in this courageous effort, we would be eager to help.

I know that you are working hard on a variety of issues – including education – and I want you to know that I am more than willing to help in any capacity possible in order to bring the reform that you are working toward to our wonderful state. I will be sure to follow your involvement closely.

Once again I would like to thank you for your time earlier today – it was the best ending to my stay in Sacramento.

Sincerely,

Austin Pritzkat
Redondo Union High School
Thirty-Third District PTA

Sacramento Safari

By Rachel Durbin - Student

Somerset High School was able to participate in the 2010 33rd District PTA Sacramento Safari. The PTA (Parent Teacher Association) is a nation-wide organization whose main focus is to improve the lives of America's youth and families. Their biggest concern at the moment is the budget cuts, which are causing many problems at our schools. The 2010 33rd District PTA Sacramento Safari was a great opportunity to go to our state's capitol and discuss the educational and economic issues we are experiencing in California.

While 28 other Southern California students and I were in our state's capitol, I was able to gain more knowledge on the upsetting issues our state's suffering from. I was to speak with senators, representatives, and other state officials. We were also allowed to sit in on committee hearings. Our legislators told us that there are many actions we can take to help stress the importance of education, such as rallies, forums, and writing our state officials. If we don't take action, it's said that California's recession will only get worse. I had an incredible time on my trip. I would highly recommend visiting our state's capitol before the chance slips from your grasp. Also, if you'd like to know more information about what's going on in our government, don't be afraid to come and talk with me!

Source: Somerset Times Newsletter March 2010
Volume 10, Issue 8

**Thirty-Third District PTA
Reflections 2009-2010
Award of Excellence**

Literature:

Gregory Ovalle	Primary	Redondo Beach
Sophia Polard	Intermediate	Santa Monica/Malibu
Ava-Rose Beech	Middle	Santa Monica/Malibu
Soo Yun Kim	Senior	Torrance

Film/Video Production:

Sophia Muir	Primary	Long Beach
Ryan Kennedy	Intermediate	Palos Verdes Peninsula
Kayla Aguirre	Middle	Norwalk-La Mirada
Cora Chong	Senior	El Segundo

Visual Arts:

Williams M. Criley	Primary	Palos Verdes Peninsula
Marilia C. Muschett	Intermediate	Redondo Beach
Michelle E. Askar	Middle	El Segundo
Karteck Tavarageri	Senior	ABC Unified

Dance Choreography:

Karah Lee	Primary	Torrance
Julianna Yonis	Intermediate	Palos Verdes Peninsula
Jennifer Guy	Middle	El Segundo
Lorna Banuilos	Senior	Torrance

Music:

Aya J. Cohen	Primary	Palos Verdes Peninsula
Sophie S. Smyth	Intermediate	Santa Monica/Malibu
Delaney V. Kaufman	Middle	Palos Verdes Peninsula
Elena C. Silva	Senior	Culver City

Photography:

Maleha Innocent	Primary	Palos Verdes Peninsula
Jack S. Stauber	Intermediate	Beverly Hills
Brandi F. Estrada	Middle	Whittier-Pico Rivera
Yuxin Ouyang	Senior	Manhattan Beach

**Thirty-Third District PTA
Reflections 2009-2010
Award of Merit (2nd place)**

Literature:

Jordan Garcia	Primary	Norwalk-La Mirada
Daniella Vincent	Intermediate	Palos Verdes Peninsula
Amber Alvarez-Odle	Middle	Torrance
Emily Hwang	Senior	ABC Unified

Film/Video Production:

Mitchell Hyneman	Primary	Redondo Beach
Frank Wells	Intermediate	Long Beach
Tennyson Nelson	Middle	Redondo Beach
Lindsay Yamada	Senior	Torrance

Visual Arts:

Aniya Steele	Primary	Bellflower
Payton Poissant	Intermediate	Long Beach
Katherine Yoon	Middle	Palos Verdes Peninsula
Soo Min Chun	Senior	Torrance

Dance Choreography:

Carmelina Rogue-Brown	Primary	Santa Monica/Malibu
Miranda Huezo	Intermediate	Long Beach
Alexandra Appel	Middle	Torrance
Talia Gergely	Senior	Beverly Hills

Music:

Duncan Fure	Primary	Redondo Beach
Megan Chang	Intermediate	Torrance
Garrett Lash	Middle	Redondo Beach
Justine Abellera	Senior	Long Beach

Photography:

Eleah Kang	Primary	Torrance
Lucas Aguirre	Intermediate	Norwalk-La Mirada
Helena Rockwell	Middle	Culver City
Kristi Matoba	Senior	Torrance

**Thirty-Third District PTA
Reflections 2009-2010
Honorable Mention (3rd place)**

Literature:

Nikki (Esther) Ochra	Primary	El Segundo
Katherine Liu	Intermediate	Redondo Beach
Caden Milligan	Middle	Bellflower
Jonah Farahmand	Senior	Beverly Hills

Film/Video Production:

Cameron Greene	Primary	Palos Verdes Peninsula
Caterina Hyneman	Intermediate	Redondo Beach
Jack Kennerly	Middle	Santa Monica/Malibu
Rebekah Jin	Senior	Downey

Visual Arts:

Keya Gupta	Primary	Norwalk-La Mirada
Cameron Choi	Intermediate	ABC Unified
Georgia Capley	Middle	Long Beach
Susan Park	Senior	Palos Verdes Peninsula

Dance Choreography:

Kaylin Lee	Primary	Palos Verdes Peninsula
Ria Agrawal	Intermediate	ABC Unified
Emily Chun	Middle	Long Beach
Chelsea Rush	Senior	Norwalk-La Mirada

Music:

Skylar Babinski	Primary	Long Beach
Alan Lubinsky	Intermediate	Beverly Hills
Allison Beattie	Middle	Norwalk-La Mirada
Marissa Smith	Senior	Manhattan Beach

Photography:

Jonas Bar-on	Primary	El Segundo
Hana Escovar	Intermediate	Torrance
Jessica Lee	Middle	El Segundo
Melissa James	Senior	Bellflower

Memberships Got on the Right "Track"

In addition to the **253 units** recognized with the California State PTA's **Early Bird Award*** and the **247 units** recognized with the **Chairman's Club Award****, at our Annual Meeting on April 15th, Thirty-Third District PTA recognized the following units and councils for their amazing membership campaign efforts this year:

"Tickets Please"

(100% Teacher and Principal Membership)

Long Beach Council, Inc.
 William F. Prisk Elementary
 Eugene Tincher Elementary
 James Whitcomb Riley
 Will Rogers Middle
 Elwood P. Cubberley

Redondo Beach Council
 Adams Middle
 Alta Vista Elementary
 Beryl Heights Elementary
 Alice McLellan Birney
 Jefferson Elementary

Nick G. Parras Middle
 Redondo Union High
 Tulita Elementary
 Washington Elementary

Torrance Council
 Adams
 Edison Elementary
 Fern Avenue - Greenwood
 Hickory Elementary
 Jefferson Middle
 Launch

Lincoln Elementary
 Madrona Middle
 Philip Magruder Middle
 Richardson Middle
 Seaside Elementary
 Torrance Elementary
 Towers Elementary
 Victor Elementary
 WALTERIA Elementary
 Yukon Elementary

"All Aboard"

(Highest Number of Memberships from City Council, School Board, District Administration & Local Businesses)

Bellflower Council
 Albert Baxter Elementary
 Stephen Foster Elementary
 Bellflower Intensive Learning Center
 Thomas Jefferson Elementary
 Esther Lindstrom Elementary
 Mayfair Middle/High
 Bellflower Middle/High
 Ramona Elementary
 Washington Elementary
 Craig Williams Elementary
 Frank Woodruff Elementary
 Las Flores Elementary
 Ernie Pyle Elementary

Long Beach Council, Inc.
 Minnie Gant Elementary
 Emerson Parkside
 Eugene Tincher Elementary
 Florence Bixby Elementary
 Elwood P. Cubberley

Redondo Beach Council
 Adams Middle
 Alta Vista Elementary
 Beryl Heights Elementary
 Alice McLellan Birney
 Jefferson Elementary
 Lincoln Elementary
 Madison Elementary
 Nick G. Parras Middle
 Redondo Union High
 Tulita Elementary
 Washington Elementary

Torrance Council
 Adams
 Anza Elementary
 Arlington Elementary
 Joseph Arnold Elementary
 Bert M. Lynn Middle
 Calle Mayor Middle
 Evelyn Carr Elementary
 Casimir

Edison Elementary
 Fern Avenue - Greenwood
 Hickory Elementary
 Howard Wood Elementary
 J. H. Hull Middle
 Jefferson Middle
 Launch
 Lincoln Elementary
 Madrona Middle
 Philip Magruder Middle
 North High
 Richardson Middle
 Riviera Elementary
 Seaside Elementary
 South High
 Torrance Elementary
 Torrance High
 Towers Elementary
 Victor Elementary
 WALTERIA Elementary
 West High
 Yukon Elementary

* Presented to units that submitted at least 15 memberships between July 1st and November 1, 2009

** Presented to units that submitted at least 50 memberships between July 1st and November 15, 2009



**"I Think I Can, I Think I Can"
(Largest Percentage of Memberships Based on Enrollment)**

Pacific Elementary Manhattan Beach Council 30%!

**"Bullet Train"
(Largest Increase by Percentage)**

La Merced Intermediate Montebello Council, Inc. 535%!

**"Super Train"
(Largest Increase by Numbers)**

Palos Verdes Intermediate Palos Verdes Peninsula Council 552!

Three councils had significant increases in their total memberships,
Redondo Beach Council - 2.90% (186 members)
Culver City Council - 14.44% (387 members)

...and our Grand Prize Winner:

Long Beach Council - 18.14% (2,422 members)

A Student's Point of View

There's something about cutting funding to schools during budget crises that makes me think that the people managing our money are simply daft. Education is instrumental to any economy. Why should fiscal problems now be an excuse to set us up for even more problems a generation down the road? Yes, I understand that money is hard to come by for our state. Yes, I understand that a recession is not a good time for tax hikes. I get it. But there is no excuse for the billions of dollars schools are losing!

Since when has a quicker economic recovery been worth jeopardizing the economic potential of an entire generation? It's an outrage that cuts this deep to education are even being thought of! Some of our best and youngest teachers are being forced out of a job! Not only will this generation be affected by these budget cuts, but the next generation of students will be as well. They'll be shorted on teachers once those currently in school realize that growing up to be a teacher is an economically untenable dream.

There are options. One of these is a national endeavor championed by Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa to pass a \$23 billion dollar educational bailout. Although this would be barely enough for California's need even if we were given all of the proposed money, every little piece counts. Hopefully, the bill that Harkin is sponsoring, or something like it, will pass.

We need to contribute at a state and local level in the quest for funding. We need to support the reduction of the local parcel tax passing threshold (from 2/3 to a simple majority) to enable local schools to help themselves more easily. We need to support federal educational stimulus measures and their counterparts at every level of government. Hopefully, we can get through this budget crisis unscathed, or at least reverse direction on the dangerous path we've been taking towards long-term economic and societal depression.

Lane Erickson, Student Involvement

**California State PTA Awards Thirty-Third District PTA
With 2009-2010 Membership Challenge Awards**

This year's California State PTA Membership Challenge was for councils and units to increase their membership by 5% over last year. The following councils and units were awarded for meeting this challenge:

<u>Councils</u>				
Culver City	Inglewood	Lawndale	Long Beach	Paramount
<u>Units</u>				
ABC Mary E. Bragg Elementary Burbank Elementary Carmenita Middle Charles J. Carver Elementary William F. Elliott Elementary Fedde Magnet Middle Melbourne Elementary Patricia Nixon Elementary Faye Ross Middle Tracy High		Little Lake William W. Orr Paddison Elementary		Out of Council Buford Elementary Juan Cabrillo Elementary Eucalyptus Elementary Felton Avenue Elementary Lennox Middle Abraham Lincoln Elementary Kenneth L. Moffett Theodore Roosevelt Elementary Washington Elementary
Bellflower Bellflower Middle/High Stephen Foster Elementary Las Flores Elementary Mayfair Middle/High		Long Beach Avalon Combined Alicia McLellan Birney Elementary Florence Bixby Elementary William Cullen Bryant Elementary David Burcham Elementary Mary Butler Dooley Elementary Minnie Gant Elementary Samuel Gompers Elementary Patrick Henry Elementary Charles Evans Hughes Middle Helen Keller Elementary Charles F. Kettering Elementary Henry W. Longfellow Elementary James Russell Lowell Elementary Robert A. Millikan High James R. Monroe Newcomb Academy for Academic Excellence Polytechnic High Jackie Robinson Academy Will Rogers Middle Leland Stanford Middle Eugene Tincher Elementary Mark Twain Elementary Woodrow Wilson High		Palos Verdes Peninsula Montemalaga Elementary Soleado Elementary Sunrise Capt. Raymond Collins Wesley Gaines Elementary Leona Jackson Jefferson Mark Keppel Lincoln Major Lynn Mokler Paramount High Paramount Park Howard Tanner Harry Wirtz
Beverly Hills El Rodeo Elementary		Manhattan Beach Grand View Elementary Pacific Elementary		Redondo Beach Alla Vista Elementary Beryl Heights Elementary Jefferson Elementary Lincoln Elementary
Compton Union George Washington Carver Elementary William Jefferson Clinton Elementary Compton High Ralph Waldo Emerson Elementary Thomas Jefferson Elementary Laurel Street Elementary Ronald McNair Elementary Frank L. Walton Middle		Montebello Bell Gardens High Bell Gardens Intermediate Bella Vista Elementary Cesar Chavez Elementary Garfield Elementary La Merced Elementary La Merced Intermediate Laguna Nueva Montebello Gardens Elementary Montebello High Montebello Park Elementary Schurr High Suva Street Elementary Winter Gardens Elementary		Santa Monica-Malibu Grant Elementary Malibu High S.M. Child Development Services Santa Monica Alternative
Culver City Culver City Middle El Marina Language Farragut Drive Elementary La Ballona Elementary		Norwalk-La Mirada Corvallis Middle Earl Edmondson Elementary Escalona Elementary Foster Road Elementary D. D. Johnston Elementary La Pluma Elementary Los Alisos Middle Julia B. Morrison Elementary New River Elementary		Torrance Adams Elementary Calle Mayor Middle Hickory Elementary LAUNCH Bert M. Lynn Middle Madrona Middle Phillip Magruder Middle Richardson Middle Torrance Elementary Walteria Howard Wood Elementary
Downey Alameda Elementary Gordon Griffiths Middle Ed C. Lewis Elementary Old River West Middle				Whittier Wallen L. Andrews-North Whittier Elementary Carmela Elementary Walter F. Dexter Intermediate Evergreen Elementary Granada Middle La Colima Elementary Leffingwell Elementary Howard J. McKibben Elementary Murphy Ranch Elementary South Ranchito Elementary Valencia Elementary
El Segundo Center Street				
Inglewood Centinela Elementary Oak Street Elementary Frank D. Parent Elementary Beulah Payne Worthington Elementary				
Lawndale Jane Addams Elementary Lawndale High Leuzinger High Billy Mitchell Elementary Will Rogers Intermediate Roosevelt/Carson Lucille Smith Elementary Mark Twain Elementary				

Legislation

Legislation is not sexy but it can be addicting! Did I get your attention???? Good! That is exactly what I was hoping to do. Most of us think of legislation as boring, and anytime the topic comes up we tend to skip the article or move on to another topic of discussion. Why is that? Is it because we think we are not politicians and we should avoid it at all costs? Where would we be today if our founders decided they didn't want to get involved? We are PTA ... we are **one million members** strong in California – **seven million nationally** and we are the only group of volunteer advocates. We are listened to and respected in Sacramento and in Washington, D.C. So why are we so afraid?

All it takes is one experience to get hooked on legislation. Speak to the people who have attended Sacramento Safari. Speak to people who have attended our Legislation Conference in the fall. Ask them about their experiences and what the turning point was for them.

Come to our workshop at the Leadership East and West Workshops on June 3rd and 5th and learn more. More information and reservation forms are included in this newsletter. We will be presenting information on how to become involved and how to advocate. If you have questions, concerns, whatever ... email me at joanej125@aol.com.

I look forward to working with each of you next year as we strengthen our voices and have our voices heard.

Joan Jakubowski, Director of Legislation

DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOUR BYLAWS WERE LAST SIGNED? IF IT'S BEEN MORE THAN THREE YEARS, IT'S TIME TO REVIEW THEM AGAIN ...

Every year the California State PTA sends out the latest copy of "Bylaws for Local PTA/PTSA Units". To remain a unit in good standing, the unit bylaws should be reviewed and updated every two to three years.

There are two items which you should check in your bylaws which might need updating to conform:

- According to the latest communication from the California State PTA, elections must be held no later than the first two weeks in April.
- Corporate law states that board meetings must be held at least fourteen days prior to the association meeting.

If you cannot find the latest copy of your unit's bylaws, check with your council parliamentarian or the Thirty-Third District PTA office which has a copy of every unit's bylaws. (There will be a charge of fifty cents (\$.50) for each copy.)

It's time to update your bylaws now!

Gloria Blackwell, Parliamentarian



FINANCIAL - END OF YEAR REMINDERS:

Treasurer's Annual Reports are due now. Hard copies of this form were given to council presidents in January and the Excel spreadsheet and form for units were emailed to council treasurers and presidents in March. Units, if you have not received either one, please contact your council treasurer immediately. This report is extremely important and when completed has most of the information you will need to file your tax returns.

Filing Federal Income Tax Returns for the fiscal year ending February 28, 2010 should not be overlooked. For total gross receipts over \$25,000 and less than \$1 million, you must file a 990EZ tax return. For gross receipts less than \$25,000, you must file a 990-N, e-postcard. *There are no exceptions.* California State PTA recommends you consult a tax professional with nonprofit 501 (c) (3) experience for assistance. Hiring a tax professional is a legitimate PTA expense.



DO NOT IGNORE letters from the IRS – NOT FILING TAX RETURNS IS NOT AN OPTION. Nonprofit organizations may not have to pay taxes, but they *DO HAVE TO PAY FINES* for not following the rules and regulations. Failure to file tax returns for 3 years will result in the loss of your nonprofit exemption and costs up to **\$850.00 to reapply**. It is the responsibility of the outgoing treasurer to ensure taxes have been filed before leaving office. Tax returns need to be filed by July 15th. If you need more time, you must file for a 3-month extension request.

Note - This is the third year that the 990-N, e-postcard, has been in existence and it is the last year of the grace period. Filing this form is easy and **must** be filed for all PTAs with gross receipts less than \$25,000. **There are no exceptions.**

State Income Tax Returns for PTA units, councils and districts that are unincorporated are under the jurisdiction of the California State PTA. Make sure your tax preparer does not file a state tax return if your unit or council is unincorporated.

Outgoing Financial Officers

End of school year audit is to be completed by **outgoing** auditor.

Give procedure books to and share your experience with your successor at the end of your term. If you were not given a procedure book at the beginning of your term and still do not have one, please start now to put one together.

Forward all printed and electronic material you received during your term that will assist your successor in doing the best job possible.

At the completion of the end of school year audit, you must turn over everything to the incoming financial officers.

Outgoing treasurers will no longer be able to write checks. Signature cards will need to be changed by the outgoing treasurer. Until this is done, the incoming treasurer will only be able to make deposits.

Incoming Financial Officers

Attend both sessions of the financial workshop at either Leadership Workshop West June 3rd in Hawthorne or Leadership Workshop East June 5th in Montebello.

Budget meeting for 2010/2011 is to be chaired by the incoming treasurer.

Review information you receive from the outgoing board. Familiarize yourself with the bylaws and financial section of the *Toolkit*. Doing so will make your job much easier.

Terry Shore, Treasurer

California State PTA Convention in Sacramento April 29 - May 2, 2010



The 111th California State PTA Convention will be held in Sacramento from April 29 to May 2, 2010. Although it is now too late to register online or by mail, you can still attend and register on site. Registration Books were mailed to all unit and councils, and are also available online at www.capta.org or on our website at www.33rdpta.org.

Convention Orientation was held on Monday, April 5th, with 67 registered delegates in attendance. Our Thirty-Third District PTA Convention Delegate Handbook was distributed and reviewed by our Convention Committee. The handbook is now available online at www.33rdpta.org. If you are a registered convention delegate who could not attend the orientation, please contact your council president or council convention chairman for your handbook and delegate packet.

There are many new things from the State PTA to look forward to this year. They are holding a "Sleep In" on Sunday morning, May 2nd, to promote and recognize the importance of sleep for children and adults. Make a \$20 donation to PTA Healthy Lifestyles Grant Program: be heart healthy, model healthy sleep habits, and get an official PTA sleep shirt! Instead of an official statewide evening event, there will be a "Rally at the Capitol" on Thursday, April 29th, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. There will also be a "Candidates' Debate for the Office of State Superintendent of Education" on Friday, April 30th, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Our District Hospitality Dessert Reception will be held in a banquet room on the second floor of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The event is free and is scheduled for Thursday, April 29th, from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. The District Convention Committee will be providing delicious morning snacks during the three morning General Meetings. Grab your favorite morning beverage and join us at the general sessions early to enjoy a yummy treat! Also, new for this convention, we will have a scavenger hunt! Game cards will be distributed at the first general session. Complete all tasks to win a special prize!

Our District Dinner will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center on Saturday, May 1st. At this late date, reservations can only be accepted on an availability basis. If interested, please contact Vera Johnson at 562-927-7545 as soon as possible to check into the possibility of attending this wonderful event. The theme of the dinner will be "School Spirit!"

All units and councils should be represented at our California State PTA Convention. It is your best opportunity to obtain the best possible training and information to successfully run your PTA. It is also our State PTA's Annual Meeting! Remember . . . It is not IF you are attending convention, but WHO!

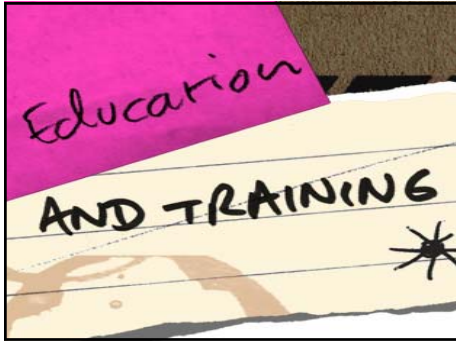
Check the California State PTA's website at www.capta.org and our Thirty-Third District PTA's website at <http://www.33rdpta.org> for more convention information.

I hope to see you all in Sacramento!

Vera Johnson, First Vice President & Convention Chairman

Education

As the new PTA boards begin planning for the 2010-11 school year, consider taking the time to survey parents on what they found helpful during the year and what they would like to have as programs during the upcoming year. Include this survey in the last newsletter of the year or in a summer mailing/packet. Scheduling speakers is easier when done ahead of time. Use the California State PTA Toolkit, under "Programs" and "Advocacy," for appropriate resources and ideas.



Plan to attend the training workshops offered by Thirty-Third District PTA on June 3rd and June 5th, 2010. Please make every effort to have unit Reflections and council Reflections chairmen be present to learn the details of this worthwhile multi-faceted art recognition program. See the Reflections article in this issue of the *Crescent Courier*.

So many of the local schools participated in Read Across America Dr. Seuss Day. How wonderful to have former students, parents, and professionals such as firefighters, police, medical personnel, retired teachers, school board members, taking time to come to school to read to our students. Did you know there is a section in the 2009 Toolkit (page 270) that addresses reading and writing too? A summary of this would make for an excellent and informative article for unit newsletters.

A guide to assist parents/students in kindergarten transition is found on the www.capta.org website. This is a printable guide. The full link to this publication is:

<http://www.capta.org/sections/communication/downloads/communicator-2009-01/SuccessfulKindergartenTransition.pdf>

There are many other important parent and educational references found at this PTA website under programs and services, parent involvement, children's issues, and education.

Are you interested in all aspects of public education K - community college? Check out the EdSource website, www.edsource.org, and read our Board Liaison's article on the EdSource Conference.

Daniel Pink, author of A Whole New Mind and Drive, spoke about the importance of Art Education and what motivates people. If you have a chance, check out his website. The PTA has a monthly newsletter - *SMARTS, Bring Back the Arts* - which has a wealth of information about art education advocacy. Just click on the SMARTS newsletter on the PTA website: www.capta.org. Also, encourage your school's participation in the Reflections program. This may be one of the few opportunities some students have for expressing their creativity.

Mary Ross, Director of Education

Sexting

As part of its Anti-Bullying Task Force activities, Culver City Unified School District recently provided an evening of parent education about “Sexting” - the practice of sending sexually explicit texts and/or photos. If parents are aware of this activity which is appearing amongst tweens as well as teens, they are aware of the horrifying few cases which ended in suicide or in the frequent escalation into cyber-bullying with all the consequences that bullying of any sort incur. These aspects were certainly addressed in the presentation, as well as the legal aspects which will be addressed here. No matter what latitude parents may have in terms of how their youth dress, speak, and express themselves, parents usually draw the line at illegal behavior, as do many tweens and teens themselves. However, they do have to know that an activity is illegal and what the penalties might be before they can make an informed decision. As parents know, long-term consequences are a difficult concept for tweens and teens who live in the here and now.

Here are some of the facts parents and their children need to know. It is a federal crime to have sexually explicit photos of a minor on a cell phone. Period. Possessing or controlling photos of minors engaging in or simulating sexual activity is illegal. Period. If you are a person under 18 and you have sexually explicit photos on your phone, **EVEN IF IT IS YOUR OWN PICTURE**, you can be found guilty of possessing child pornography. If you then send that picture to anyone, you can be found guilty of disseminating child pornography. If you receive the picture, you can be found guilty of trafficking in child pornography. If you are successfully prosecuted for child pornography possession or dissemination, you could end up a registered sex offender for life. And, parents should not forget that they are liable for the torts (civil crimes) committed by their minor children.

Under federal law, persons convicted of child porn or exploitation may face a minimum sentence of 5 years in prison. A maximum sentence could be up to 20 years. Sending sexually explicit images of minors on cell phones is punishable by California law (up to 3 years and \$2500 fine). Lifetime duty to register as sex offender.

Although much of the sexting takes place off-campus, studies have shown that it very soon trails back to the school. If a cell phone with photos is confiscated on campus (as per campus rules), it establishes jurisdiction for the school. If it can be shown that the photos contributed to any sort of disruption of education, the owner of the cell phone can be suspended or expelled. Employers have always done background checks, but now colleges are asking more often for the behavior file as well as the academic transcript.

Parents and youth should know that there is no double-jeopardy. A student can be prosecuted for sexting according to the Penal Code, and can also be disciplined by the school or school district under the Education Code.

The laws about child pornography were written by legislators who had adult predators in mind. The wording of the laws encompasses children under 18 as perpetrators as well - this may have not been the intention, but it is now the law. It is a good example of how legislation is lagging behind technology. Your child may be astounded to think that he or she cannot possess photos of his or her own body on a cell phone or computer, but the fact remains that if that cell phone or computer were to be searched for any reason, it would be regarded as child pornography and he or she could be prosecuted. In other words, a minor child even as young as 15 or 16 years old could actually be legally prosecuted for possession and distribution of child pornography. The eventual outcome could be the requirement to register as a sex offender for the rest of his or her life, first as a minor and then as an adult.

Parents must take the time to talk with their children about sexting. Most parents will be surprised at how much their children already know about this subject without being aware of the legal consequences. Parents also need to consider taking an active role in reviewing and monitoring the contents on their children's cell phone before they receive a call from the school or a law enforcement agency. Sometimes the simple knowledge that parents are going to check will act as a deterrent to a child's participation in sexting.

[See Penal Code PC 311.11 (specifically about engaging in or simulating sexual activity) for further clarification.]

THIRTY-THIRD DISTRICT PTA



Leadership Workshop – East

FOR: COUNCIL and UNIT OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

DATE: Saturday, June 5, 2010

TIME: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
8:30 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. Call to Order

PLACE: MONTEBELLO INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
1600 Whittier Boulevard
Montebello, CA 90640
(See directions on reverse)

FEE: Pre-registration: \$5.00 per person – deadline May 24, 2010
After May 24, 2010: \$10.00 per person

Units - please submit reservations through your council and observe council deadlines.
Workshop materials will be guaranteed to pre-registered participants.

Please photocopy and submit individual registration form for each participant.

La traducción española estará disponible.

Verifique por favor la caja debajo, si usted querría aprovecharse de este servicio.

Leadership Workshop - East, Saturday, June 5, 2010

Send reservations to:
Thirty-Third District PTA
Attn: Mary Helen Carrillo
PO Box 1235, Lakewood, CA 90714-1235

Thirty-Third District PTA due date: May 24, 2010

Council due date: _____

NAME: _____

UNIT/COUNCIL: _____

PHONE: () _____

PTA POSITION: _____

SESSION 1: _____
9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

SESSION 2: _____
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Units - please submit reservations through council and observe council due dates!

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP – EAST DIRECTIONS

1600 Whittier Boulevard, Montebello, CA

From East

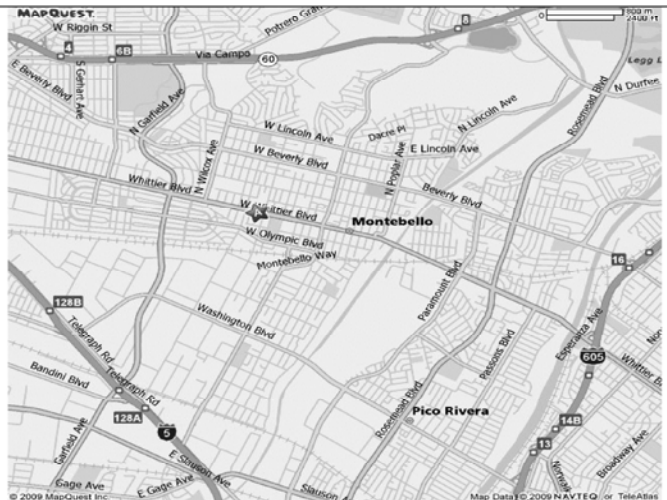
Take 60 Fwy and exit at GARFIELD
Make RIGHT onto GARFIELD
Turn LEFT onto WHITTIER BLVD.
School is on the corner of VAIL AVE. and WHITTIER BLVD.

From I-605 N to I-5 N towards Los Angeles

Take EXIT 128A toward GARFIELD AVE.
Turn LEFT onto TELEGRAPH RD
Turn RIGHT on GARFIELD
Turn RIGHT on WHITTIER BLVD.
School is on the corner of VAIL AVE. and WHITTIER BLVD.

From West

Take I-110 N
Merge onto CA-91 E/GARDENA FWY
Merge onto I-710 N toward PASADENA
Exit OLYMPIC BLVD and go RIGHT on OLYMPIC
Turn LEFT onto VAIL AVE.
School is on the corner of VAIL AVE. and WHITTIER BLVD.



Workshop Choices

1st session 9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

2nd session 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

_____ President (both sessions)

_____ President (both sessions)

_____ Communication (newsletter, media),
Education/Parent Involvement

_____ Bylaws Workshop

_____ Programs – Founders Day, HSA
Directories, Inspirations, Resources,
Red Ribbon, Safety Awards,
and Earth Day

_____ Legislation and Advocacy

_____ Spanish Overview of Workshops

_____ Reflections

_____ Membership

_____ Secretaries & Historians

_____ Financial (both sessions)

_____ Financial (both sessions)

THIRTY – THIRD DISTRICT PTA
Leadership Workshop – West
Everychild.onevoice.

FOR: COUNCIL and UNIT OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

DATE: THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2010

TIME: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
8:30 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. Call to order

PLACE: HAWTHORNE MEMORIAL CENTER
3901 W. El Segundo Boulevard
Hawthorne, CA 90250

FEE: Pre-registration: \$5.00 per person – deadline May 24, 2010
After May 24, 2010: \$10.00 per person

Units – please submit reservations through your council and observe council deadlines. Workshop materials will be guaranteed to pre-registered participants.

Please photocopy and submit individual registrations for each participant.

Leadership Workshop –West, Thursday, June 3, 2010

Send reservations to:
Thirty–Third District PTA
Attn: Rosaline Turnbull
P O Box 1235, Lakewood CA 90714-1235

Thirty–Third District PTA due date 5/24/2010
Council due date: _____

NAME: _____

UNIT/COUNCIL: _____

PHONE: (____) _____

PTA POSITION _____

SESSION 1 _____

SESSION 2: _____

9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

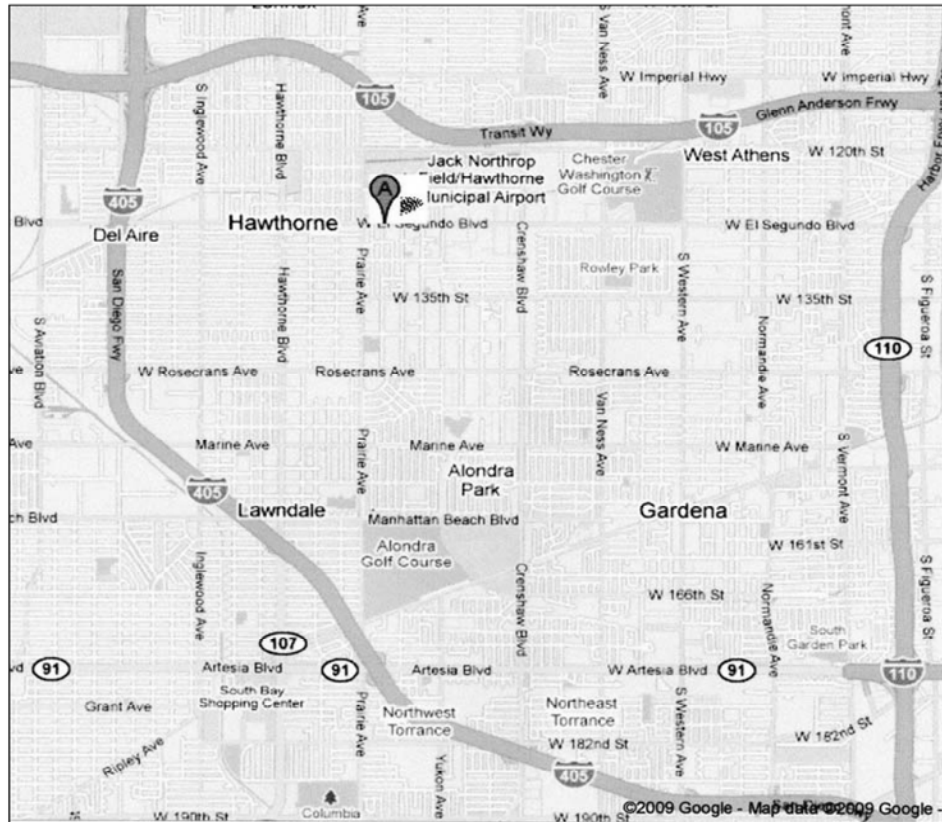
FEE: \$ 5.00 per person
\$ 10.00 per person

Pre-registration
Late registrations after May 24, 2010

Units – please submit reservations through council and observe council due dates!

DIRECTIONS

Parking is in the front on El Segundo Boulevard or in the back of the building off Prairie Avenue (first turn in)



Workshop Choices

1st session 9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

2nd session 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

President (both sessions)

President (both sessions)

**Communication (newsletter, media),
Education/Parent Involvement**

Bylaws Workshop

**Programs – Reflections, HSA
Founders Day, Red Ribbon,
Safety Awards, Earth Day
Resources, Directories
and Inspirations**

Legislation and Advocacy

Membership

Secretaries & Historians

Financial (both sessions)

Financial (both sessions)

Spotlight: Compton Union Council PTA

The Compton Union Council PTA celebrated its annual men's participation banquet on Thursday, November 19, 2009. The theme for this occasion was "Men United for Children." This banquet is given to honor the men who have done great things for the children, parents, schools and community of the Compton Unified School District. More than 100 people attended this gala affair. Such distinguished guests in attendance were Dr. Kaye Burnside, Superintendent of CUSD, School Board Members Mr. Fred Easter, Ms. Margie Garrett, Ms. Marjorie Shipp, Ms. Emma Sharif and Ms. Mae Thomas. Other guests included Dr. Ortha Scott, Ms. Gloria Blackwell with Thirty-Third District PTA, and our guest speaker, Dr. Willie O. Jones of Compton City Council. What a wonderful evening we had filled with singing, dancing, laughter and showing our appreciation to the honorees of Compton Union Council PTA.

Christine Jones, President



**Need a hard copy of
Crescent Courier?**

**PTA Presidents, Officers, Chairmen,
Treasurers, and Principals**

**Contact Thirty-Third District PTA
at 562-804-4519**

**Enjoy Your Summer Break.
See you in the Fall!**



California State PTA Grant and Scholarship Recipients

The California State PTA recently announced recipients of the 2009-2010 Scholarship and Grant Awards and the Continuing Education Scholarships for Teachers and Volunteers. Funds for these awards are derived from contributions to the Honorary Service Awards program, where PTAs throughout California honor individuals and organizations for their efforts on behalf of children.

Congratulations to the following grant and scholarship recipients from our own Thirty-Third District PTA.

Cultural Arts Grants for Unit, Council and District PTAs

Eastwood Elementary PTA, La Mirada - \$1,457

Continuing Education Scholarships for Teachers - \$500

Carolyn Ozimok
Stanford Middle School, Long Beach

Continuing Education Scholarships for PTA Volunteers - \$500

Jena Borzilleri
Millikan High School PTA, Long Beach

Details about the grants and scholarships can be found in the *Toolkit Programs* sections 7.17 and 7.28. The Honorary Service Awards Program information can be found in the *Toolkit Programs* section 7.6 under Awards.