



Orange County, CCPTS, National PTA
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Fourth District
PTA[®]
everychild. onevoice.

President's Message

Keeping Your PTA on Course

by Jackie Wood

During a game of golf, your goal is to keep the ball in play and in bounds. In PTA, you also want to make sure you and your playing partners are always on course and in bounds.

Unfortunately, people sometimes stray out of PTA bounds, resulting in discomfort and tension for those who are working with them. Do you deal with this or let it be?

You and your board model leadership skills for your entire organization. If someone is causing problems for your PTA, you must confront the situation and deal with it. Avoiding the problem may increase the negative comments at meetings and result in counterproductive parking lot conversations. Such a situation can distract you from your game plan and ruin your concentration.

It is up to you to set the tone and demonstrate creative problem solving. At an executive board meeting, put the problem on the table for discussion, without mentioning names.

Brainstorm with three questions in mind:

- What are the goals of our PTA?
- What obstacles are preventing us from attaining those goals?
- How can we fix the problem?

Usually, you will find that all the board members have the same goals, un-

derstand the obstacles and agree on how to solve the problems.

Listening is the number one attribute of a successful leader. Everyone in the group should participate and listen to what their peers have to say. They will come to realize that they are all there for the same reason – and that is for the kids. That must be our primary focus all the time!



Remember that conflict can be a good thing because it forces communication between people. We often learn important lessons from our mistakes. Dealing with a problem situation may actually turn into a team building exercise.

“Leadership is the courage to adjust to mistakes, the vision to welcome change, and the confidence to stay out of step when everyone else is marching to the wrong drummer.”

When someone goes out of bounds and causes damage to your course, fix it. On a golf course, the golf carts are equipped with containers of grass seed. When a player takes out a chunk of lawn, she pours grass seed on it to repair the damage.

You, too, can plant new seeds to refresh and repair your PTA. It's worth it. After all, for every minute you are angry, you lose sixty seconds of happiness. Let's spread those seeds of teamwork!

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Fourth District PTA

e-mail address:
fourthdistrictpta@sbcglobal.net

website:
www.fourthdistrictpta.org

Fourth District PTA

President

Jackie Wood

Vice President—Communications

MaryAnne Shults

Orange Leaves Editor

Gisela Meier

Orange Leaves Distribution

Sheli Easton

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Fourth District PTA is comprised of 21 councils in Orange County and over 400 unit PTAs.

Our office is located at 1833 E. 17th St., Suite 309 Santa Ana, California

Administrative Assistant

Karin Mowrey

Data Administrator

Leticia Keeling

Office hours

Monday through Thursday

9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Closed Fridays and all school holidays.

Office phone number

714-835-0805

FAX number

714-835-2805

E-mail address

fourthdistrictpta@sbcglobal.net

Website

fourthdistrictpta.org

The Book Corner

By Tuly Huntington, Fourth District PTA Reading Chair

Here are three new books for children that are both informative and entertaining:



Museum Trip, by Barbara Lehman (Preschool – Grade 2). Lehman offers another winning picture book that blurs real and imagined worlds. On a class trip to an art museum, a boy lags behind and becomes lost. While searching the galleries (filled with Lehman’s skillful reproductions of the masters), he finds a series of labyrinth drawings, then shrinks to a diminutive size and enters the mazes. Beautiful watercolor artwork enhances this clever story.

Little Lost Bat, by Sandra Markle, illustrated by Alan Marks (Grades 2 – 4). Through the story of one newborn bat that loses its mother, this beautiful picture book relates incredible facts about the 20 million Mexican free-tailed bats that live in a cave near Austin, Texas.

Across the Blue Pacific, by Louise Borden, illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker (Grades 3 – 5) Molly recalls her childhood on the American home front during World War II in this fully-illustrated fictional memoir. The graceful text and evocative art offer an introduction to the period and to the profound effects that even a faraway war can have on those at home.



Nov. 15 is the Deadline for CAPTA Scholarships and Grants

This year, California State PTA is offering a new Healthy Lifestyle Grant to units, councils and districts. The application was included in the summer service mailing.

Grants are also available for Outreach Translation, Cultural Arts, and Parent Education.

California State PTA offers scholarships up to \$500 for continuing education to PTA volunteers, school nurses, and credentialed classroom teachers and counselors employed in California public schools. Recipients must be PTA members in good standing.

Applications may be found in the *California State PTA Toolkit* or online at www.capta.org. The deadline for all grants and continuing education scholarships is November 15.

Graduating high school seniors may apply for California State PTA scholarships. The deadline is February 1. Further information is available at www.capta.org.

The scholarship and grant program is supported by PTA units, councils and districts that participate in the California State PTA Honorary Service Program, and by individual donations.

Facts from Finance

Tips For Your Treasurer

By Julie Redmond, Fourth District PTA Treasurer

The school year is well underway and your unit is undoubtedly busy with its membership drive, fundraisers, and programs. Here are some things that financial officers should keep in mind at this time of year.

Audits

Financial officers should start thinking about preparing the mid-year audit, which is due Dec. 31. The audit must be approved by the association. This is usually done in February. Units must submit copies of their audits to their councils. Councils must submit their audits to Fourth District PTA.

Insurance

Insurance premiums must be paid by all units, councils and districts, through proper channels, and must be received in the California State PTA office by January 31.

Fiduciary Agreement

California State PTA has developed a new agreement form for units regarding the gifting of funds and items to schools. This agreement specifies that the donation will be used only as specified in the agreement and that funds not spent for that particular purpose will be returned to the PTA. Please ask your council president for a copy of this new form or contact me at treasurer@fourthdistrictpta.org.

Why Your PTA Should Have a Legislative Representative

By Shereen Walter, Legislation Outreach Chairman

Why bother having a legislative representative at the unit or council level? What does that have to do with PTA anyway?

PTA started as an organization concerned about and fighting for the safety of children. PTA fought for such things as school lunch programs, child labor laws, and the vaccination of all children to prevent Polio.

Securing adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth is one of the purposes of the PTA.

Today, the importance of advocating with our local, state and federal organizations for the benefit of all children is just as crucial as it was back when PTA was first formed. In order to do this, PTA must maintain an active legislation program, advocating with those who set public policy to secure laws that protect and benefit all children.

You can do your part by finding a legislative representative for your unit or council and encouraging them to become knowledgeable about the issues that affect children on the local, state and national level. Start small, think big!

For further information, go to www.fourthdistrictpta.org and click on "Advocacy."

Fourth District PTA Calendar	
November	
1	Due: <i>Membership Remittance (Chairman's Club Award)</i>
7	Election Day
14	Council Presidents Roundtable 9:30 a.m., 4th Dist. Office Due: <i>First Membership Remittance</i>
16	Executive Committee Meeting 9:30 a.m. 4th Dist. Office
23-24	Thanksgiving Holiday; 4th District Office closed.
December	
1	<i>Reflections entries from councils due to 4th Dist. Office</i>
7	Council Presidents Roundtable 9 a.m.; General Meeting 10 a.m.; Luncheon 12 noon Bowers Museum
22	4th Dist. Office closed for Winter Break; office re-opens Jan. 8



Council Corner



Saddleback Valley PTA Council

Located at the base of the mountain that gives us our name, Saddleback Valley Council PTA is comprised of 24 elementary schools, two high schools and one special education center in the Saddleback Valley Unified School District.

Our district includes 28 California Distinguished schools and 13 National Blue Ribbon schools. SVUSD serves the cities of Rancho Santa Margarita, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo and Laguna Hills.

Our council goals this year are:

- Strengthen units through training.
- Encourage more participation at the council level.
- Coordinate efforts and cooperation between schools.
- Increase Spanish outreach.
- Encourage legislative activity.
- Provide parent education at the council level.

Members of the council executive board are creating personal connections to each of our units. We are also developing a mentoring program for our new unit presidents. Our PTAs and PTSAs participate in council training each spring and workshops throughout the school year. We hold roundtables with our units monthly to discuss topics of their choice. Our units also earn rewards for attending council events, turning in paperwork and strengthening their schools.

As in past years, our schools send representatives to the Legislative Roundtables and to Sacramento Safari, where they meet with their local legislators to make sure the voices of our students and families are heard in Sacramento. We will also be present in Sacramento at the

California State PTA Convention.

Many of our units participate in the Reflections program and provide art and music programs at their individual schools. The council presents an evening of arts with the Reflections participants and their families each spring.

Within our council we have had Creative Membership and Outstanding Units award winners, many PTAs that have won Fourth District PTA awards and many that would be recognized if only they would complete the application.

Kim Henderson
President

Fullerton Council

Our council consists of two school districts that comprise 24 schools. The elementary and junior high schools are under the Fullerton School District and our high schools are under the Fullerton Joint Union High School District.

Both school districts are celebrating the opening of new school buildings and significant upgrades to the infrastructure of existing buildings and grounds. This was made possible by Fullerton voters, who passed two separate bond measures

in the November 2001 election and the March 2002 election.

In the Fullerton School District, we are looking forward to the annual Artists' Pin Auction. Professional artists donate hand-crafted miniature masterpieces. At a party sponsored by All the Arts for All the Kids Foundation, participants bid on these small pieces of art. All proceeds generated help provide teacher arts grants and lessons in fine arts. The All the Arts for All the Kids Foundation transformed a surplus school bus into a mobile, digital arts studio, the state's first mobile Arts Learning Activities Bus (Arts LAB). The bus travels from school to school, providing arts education to the children of Fullerton.

The Fullerton Joint Union High School District oversees eight schools in the cities of Fullerton, Buena Park, and La Habra. The district is building a new campus for our La Sierra and La Vista high schools. This new campus will renew and revitalize the district's alternative and continuation programs and will have a capacity for 750 students.

Susan Kinzinger
President

Thank you...

...to everyone who attended the Fourth District PTA Fall Workshops! We enjoyed meeting you and sharing information and ideas about the exciting work of PTA!

Please plan to attend our Spring Workshop on May 16, 2007!

Build Your PTA E-Mail Trees Now For More Effective Advocacy All Year

By Dennis Walsh, Fourth District PTA Legislative Tech Advisor

PTA is first and foremost an organization devoted to advocacy for children. In order to speak for “every child” with “one voice” when decisions affecting our children are being made in Sacramento or Washington D.C., PTA members need to receive information in a timely manner. They need to understand the issues, be aware of bills that are being considered by our legislators, and know when to act.

Our ability to communicate with each other quickly and efficiently through e-mail makes this possible. That is why the Fourth District PTA Legislation Team has been working to set up e-mail trees throughout our Orange County membership. This “Leg-Link” allows us to distribute information and updates on a regular basis. It also allows us to alert our members when immediate action is needed. As bills work their way through our state or national legislature, there are times when they come before a crucial committee or are scheduled for a general vote. There may be as little as 24 hours to respond

and communicate our concerns, support, or opposition. A well-planned e-mail system can quickly activate hundreds of PTA members to send a unified message by phone or Internet to their elected representatives.



In order for this system to work, the e-mail trees must be set up in advance. Each PTA unit and council should have lists of their members' e-mail addresses. The easiest way to organize them is to put them in distribution lists, as described in the September issue of *Orange Leaves*. That way, a message sent by Fourth District PTA can quickly be broadcast throughout the county.

Collecting and organizing the lists does involve some work. However, the time spent to create e-mail trees will save a tremendous amount of time and effort throughout the year when we need to let our representatives in government know

how important the needs of our children are.

If you have any questions, or need help setting up your distribution list, please contact me at leg-tech@fourthdistrictpta.org.

Every Unit and Council Should Have a Convention Chairperson

By Meg Cutuli, Fourth District PTA Vice President, Convention

It is more important than ever for every unit and council to have a convention chairperson. California State PTA is changing its procedures for convention registration and every level of PTA needs to have all of the necessary information.

This year, State PTA will offer options to register on line, by fax, or by mail. Fourth District PTA's role in convention registration will also change. Details will be available in the next issue of *Orange Leaves*.

Information about convention will be communicated from California State PTA to Fourth District PTA, which will schedule meetings with council convention chairs and use other means to explain the new procedures.

Council chairs will be responsible for making sure that unit chairs are informed. This is why it is important for each council and unit to have a convention chair.

There will undoubtedly be many questions about the new procedures. The Fourth District PTA Convention Committee wants everyone to have as much information as possible. Having a chairman ready to get the information, ask questions and disburse their new knowledge will make every delegate's convention experience smoother and more enjoyable and allow them to be outstanding representatives from your PTA!

Convention in Sacramento is a powerful PTA experience. Be sure to plan on attending May 3-6, 2007.



Build the Number of Men in Your PTA

It's often hard to get the men in our children's lives involved in school and PTA. Planning events with a more "masculine" theme can be a fun activity for both adults and children.

One example is a "Build-It! Night." Dads, grandpas, uncles, brothers and other male relatives are invited to come and "build-it!"

Fun building projects which use the five senses (touch, taste, smell, sight and hearing) are featured. They might include:

- Building bridges with toothpicks and marshmallows.
- Exploring touch and guess boxes (boxes that you can reach into and guess what you are feeling).
- Sniffing small bottles with various odors and identifying smells such as roses, chocolate, vanilla, lilacs, etc.
- Playing family crossword where parents answer across and children answer down questions.
- Building edible creations such as spiders and other creepy crawlers
- Building an edible campfire of pretzels, candy corn, marshmallows.
- Building high-rise towers with graham crackers and frosting.

You might also ask your high school if there is a robotics team or Lego League team that would come out and give demonstrations. Add a couple of fun hands-on science experiments, such as Alka-Seltzer bottle rockets,

pushing a long wooden toothpick through an inflated balloon without popping it, or "seeing how much air is in your lungs."

If your PTA wants to increase the involvement of males, consider hosting your own Build It! event in the evening or on a weekend. Teachers like this event because there is lots to learn—and it is so much fun!

"Build" the participation of men in your PTA! "Build" your membership numbers by signing up more men! You can accomplish both goals with a Build It! event.

Source: National PTA website, www.pta.org/local-leader/idea

Respect all Beliefs During the Holidays

By Patty Christiansen, Fourth District PTA Executive Vice President

The holiday season is upon us...a time to open our homes to our friends and family, and welcome them in.

As an organization which represents a diversity of cultures, ethnic backgrounds and political and religious beliefs, PTA opens its doors to everyone, regardless of creed, color, race, or economic status. PTA is hospitable to all, supporting no one religion or culture over another, and offering each group equal respect and consideration.

PTA acknowledges the importance of spiritual faith in the development of children. The first purpose of the PTA is "to promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship." The final purpose is "to develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education."

As we approach the celebration of our faith during this season, please be aware of your school district's policy regarding religious holidays. Work closely with your administrator and follow guidelines that have been established.

The holiday season always brings a feeling of festivity. Repress the urge to decorate PTA agendas and handouts with clipart graphics depicting symbols of your faith. Add these fun images to your personal correspondence, but always remember that PTA has a nonsectarian policy.

As PTA leaders, be ever diligent in making sure that all your members, regardless of their beliefs, feel comfortable and welcomed at your meetings and activities.

Coming to a Council Near You!

To help educate PTA members about the importance of advocacy, the Fourth District PTA Legislation Committee now offers a "Speakers Bureau." We will come to your council meeting with a 15 minute presentation on topics such as:

- **Is PTA Too Political?** Why PTA gets involved in Advocacy
- **Paying for My Child's Education...**the Basics of School Finance
- **Whose Idea is this Anyway?** How Decisions are made for our Schools
- **Alphabet Soup...**What do NCLB, API and APY have to do with my child's education?

Contact Barbara Paxton, Fourth District Vice President of Legislation, at legislation@fourthdistrictpta.org to schedule a speaker today!

Every PTA Should Have PEP!

By Karen Gibo, Fourth District PTA Vice President, Parent Involvement

Every PTA needs PEP, the *Parents Empowering Parents* Guide published by the California State PTA.

The PEP Guide is a practical resource that assists PTA leaders in carrying out an effective parent involvement program. Each section in the PEP Guide highlights one of the six National PTA standards for parent and family involvement.

With more than 30 years of research and 100 years of practice, the National PTA developed these standards in collaboration with parent involvement researchers and other national leaders. Nearly 100 professional education and parent/family involvement organizations, state departments of education, colleges of teacher education, and school districts endorse the following six National PTA standards.

- *Communication* – Communication between home and school is regular, two-way and meaningful.
- *Parenting* – Parenting skills are promoted and supported.
- *Student Learning* – Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.
- *Volunteering* – Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought.
- *School Decision Making and Advocacy* – Parents are full partners in decisions that affect children and families.

- *Collaborating with Community* – Community resources are used to strengthen schools, families, and student learning.

Each of these standards addresses a different area of parent involvement, and the presence of all six standards indicates a strong parent involvement program.

If you are looking for a simple, organized tool to strengthen the parent involvement program at your school, make sure you have PEP...the *Parents Empowering Parents* Guide! Use PEP as your guide and reap the benefits of a quality program in your school community!



Watch for Future PTA Leaders

By Patty Jordan, Fourth District PTA Vice President, Leadership Services

It is already November and soon it will be time to elect your nominating committee. As a PTA leader, it is important to keep your organization strong by looking for new leaders. Always be on the lookout for members who have the interest and skills to lead. The sign of a good leader is one who trains his or her replacement.

Here are a few ways to identify and encourage future leaders:

Funding for the Arts

By Georgia Freedman-Harvey, Fourth District PTA Cultural Arts Chairman

Legislation that allocates \$105 million for arts and music programs in public schools was signed by the governor in September. The law also authorizes \$500 million in one-time funding for arts, music and/or physical education professional development, supplies and equipment. Grants will be allocated to school districts, charter schools and county offices of education at an equal amount per pupil.

"This new law is the single largest investment in music and arts education programs in the history of our country," says the California Alliance for Arts Education.

Further information is available at the California Alliance for Arts Education web site, www.artsed411.org.

Each school district will be responsible for making a district-wide plan for the arts. If you have any questions about how to get involved at your school and district level, contact me at cultural-arts@fourthdistrictpta.org.

- Think outside the box. Have you considered all members — grandparents, teachers, staff, dads, and special education parents?
- If your unit is a PTSA, are you including students?
- Create a supportive atmosphere. This will bring out the best in people and your members will want to continue to be involved.
- Implement a mentoring program. Allow your more experienced members to encourage and offer support to your newer members.
- Delegate responsibility. This not only says, "I trust you," it may open the door to new responsibilities for the volunteer in the future.
- Celebrate individual successes and recognize how they benefit the organization. Everyone wants to be part of a winning group.
- Publicize the good work your PTA is doing.

Orange County Superintendent of Schools' Message

More Leaves From OCDE

By William M. Habermehl



Every day, parents and caregivers send their children to school feeling confident that they are leaving their children in safe hands. Recent news reports about acts of violence taking place on school campuses can cause concern among students, staff and parents.

Keeping our schools safe is everyone's responsibility. Being prepared to manage critical events takes thoughtful planning and training; two things that educators do very well.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

When it comes to violence prevention, there is no one-size-fits-all solution. If all schools were the same, we could feel safer advocating a common policy. But schools are not like that. That is why developing a comprehensive program that meets the unique needs of each school is so important.

Violence prevention programs can be categorized in the following way:

- *School-management-based programs.* These are programs that focus on discipline and student behavior, alternative schools, and cooperative relationships with police and law enforcement.
- *Environmental modification.* These are programs based on changing student behavior by changing students' social or physical environment. This includes hiring security guards and school resource officers,

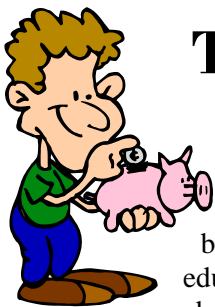
and also includes larger-scale programs like setting up after school programs.

- *Educational and curriculum-based programs.* These are programs based on teaching students behavior-management skills and nonviolent conflict resolution.

READY TO RESPOND

Schools are well organized systems that function with great efficiency under normal circumstances. During an emergency, however, schools face unusual demands and must quickly adapt to unexpected and unpredictable influences. Schools have done an excellent job in preparing for emergencies of all magnitudes. Teachers are dedicated to the safety of their students and are ready and willing to protect them during times of crisis. But when a crisis does occur, it can take an emotional toll on the teachers, students, and parents. It is imperative that schools are prepared to meet the emotional needs of the school after a crisis event. Adult and child victims need assistance from a caring crisis response team that can provide a warm and supportive response.

Keeping schools safe and free from violence takes the dedication of parents, schools, districts and other community partners. We will continue to work together so that we can persevere in providing quality education in a safe learning environment where every child has the chance to succeed.



Teaching Your Child About Money

By Lindell Belote, Fourth District PTA Vice President, Community Concerns

With the holiday season fast approaching, shopping for gifts will be a high priority. Use this time as an educational tool to teach your child about money and financial responsibility. Here are six ways for you to begin your child's financial education.

1. Take your child shopping. Explain how you choose products based on price, quality, and need.
2. Help your child make his or her own spending decisions. Help children set spending limits, thereby learning discipline through the use of simple budgeting.
3. Set up a savings account. Teach your child that some things need to be saved for. Help establish a fixed

amount that can be saved each week, further teaching the budgeting lesson. Your child will be impressed as the amount increases, and interest is paid on the money.

4. Explain "money substitutes," like credit or debit cards, and paying by check. This is also a good time to explain how to balance a checkbook.
5. Encourage your child to get a job. Younger children can do chores for an allowance, while older children can actually get a job. Both teach that "money doesn't grow on trees". Older children can also learn about taxes withheld from their paychecks, and where those taxes go.
6. Teach by example. Parents are their children's best life teachers. Handle your own money wisely, and your children are likely to as well.

Mensaje de la Presidenta: Manteniendo su PTA en Línea

Por Jackie Wood

Durante un partido de golf, la meta es mantener la pelota adentro de la línea de juego. En PTA, se quiere asegurar también que su juego y el de sus compañeros se mantenga en línea.

Desafortunadamente algunas veces la gente se sale de la línea de PTA, resultando en tensión y desconcierto para los que trabajan en el equipo. ¿Debe lidiar con ello o dejarlo pasar?

Usted y su consejo directivo son el modelo de la organización. Si alguien está ocasionando problemas en su PTA, usted debe de confrontar la situación y lidiar con ella. Evitar el problema puede incrementar los comentarios negativos en las juntas y puede traer reacciones contraproducentes. Puede distraerle de su objetivo final y arruinar su concentración.

Es su responsabilidad marcar el tono y demostrar creatividad para resolver los

problemas. En su junta del comité ejecutivo discuta el problema sin mencionar nombres.

Realice una lluvia de ideas con las siguientes preguntas en mente:

- ¿Cuáles son las metas de la PTA?
- ¿Cuáles son los obstáculos que existen para alcanzarlas?
- ¿Cómo podemos arreglarlas?

Usualmente se dará cuenta que la mayoría de los miembros del consejo tienen las mismas metas, entienda los obstáculos y haga acuerdos para resolver los problemas.

Escuchar es el mejor atributo de un líder exitoso. Todos en el grupo deben participar y escuchar respetuosamente lo que sus compañeros tienen que decir. Ellos se darán cuenta que están ahí por la misma razón- la cual son los niños. ¡Ellos tienen que ser el enfoque primario todo el tiempo!

Recuerde que el conflicto puede ser positivo porque fuerza a la comunicación entre la gente. Frecuentemente, aprendemos lecciones muy importantes de nuestros errores. Lidiar con una situación problemática puede ser una buena oportunidad para un ejercicio de trabajo en equipo.

“Liderazgo es la motivación para adaptarse a los errores, es la visión para darle la bienvenida al cambio y la confianza de ir en contra de la corriente”.

Cuando alguien se sale de la línea y causa daño, hay que arreglarlo. En los campos de golf, los carritos están equipados con envases llenos de semillas de pasto. Cuando un jugador desprende un pedazo de pasto, hay que echar las semillas para repararlo.

Usted también puede hacer lo mismo para reparar su PTA. Vale la pena. Después de todo, “Por cada minuto que se enoja, se pierden 60 segundos de felicidad”. ¡Repartamos las semillas del trabajo en equipo!

Cada PTA necesita Padres Apoyando a Padres (PEP)

Por Karen Gibo, Vicepresidenta de participación de Padres del 4to. Distrito

Cada PTA necesita PEP, *Padres Apoyando a Padres* (por sus siglas en inglés) La guía publicada por la PTA estatal. Esta guía también está disponible en español.

La guía PEP es un recurso muy práctico que ayuda a los líderes de PTA para ejecutar un buen programa de participación de padres. Cada sección de la guía PEP señala uno de los seis estándares de la PTA nacional para la participación de padres y familias.

Con más de 30 años de investigación y 100 de experiencia, la PTA nacional ha desarrollado estándares en colaboración con investigadores y líderes nacionales. Casi 100 organizaciones de participación familiar y educativa, Departamentos de Educación del Estado, Liceos de magisterio, y Distritos Escolares apoyan los siguientes 6 estándares de la PTA nacional:

- *Comunicación* – Entre la casa y la escuela será regular, bilateral y significativa.
- *Educación para Padres*- Es promovida y apoyada.

- *Aprendizaje Estudiantil*- Los padres juegan un papel muy importante en el aprendizaje de los estudiantes.
- *Voluntariado*- Los padres son bienvenidos en la escuela, y se apoya su participación.
- *Toma de decisiones de la escuela y defensa* – Los padres toman parte en las decisiones que afectan a los niños y las familias.
- *Colaboración con la comunidad* – Los recursos comunitarios son usados para solidificar las escuelas, familias y el aprendizaje de los estudiantes.

Cada uno de estos estándares trata un área diferente sobre la participación de los padres, y la presencia de los 6 estándares indica un sólido programa de participación.

Si usted está buscando una herramienta simple, organizada para solidificar la participación de los padres en su escuela, asegúrese de que tiene la guía PEP... ¡Padres apoyando a padres!

La Convención de PTA

Por Meg Cutuli, Vicepresidenta de Convención de PTA del 4to Distrito

Es importante que cada unidad y consejo tengan un miembro ejecutivo a cargo de la Convención de PTA. La PTA de California está cambiando los procedimientos para el registro de la convención y cada nivel de la PTA deberá tener la información necesaria.

Este año, la PTA estatal ofrecerá opciones para el registro electrónico, por fax o correo. El papel del 4to. Distrito durante este registro también cambiara. Los detalles se explicarán en el siguiente número de este boletín.

La información sobre la convención será comunicada de la PTA estatal al 4to. Distrito, quienes organizarán juntas con los miembros ejecutivos a cargo de la convención en los consejos para informar de los cambios. Los miembros del consejo serán responsables de que las unidades reciban dicha información. Por ello es importante que cada quien tenga una persona a cargo.

La convención en Sacramento será una experiencia muy poderosa. Por favor planee su asistencia del 3 al 6 de mayo del 2007.

Incrementalmente la participación masculina en su PTA con la organización de un "evento de construcción"

Es siempre difícil involucrar a los hombres en la escuela y en la PTA. Planear eventos con temas "masculinos" pueden ser divertidos para chicos y grandes.

Un ejemplo es "La noche de construcción"; Papás, Abuelos, Tíos, Hermanos y otros familiares son invitados.

Proyectos de construcción divertidos en donde usen sus 5 sentidos (tocar, probar, oler, mirar y oír) son organizados e incluyen:

- Construir puentes con palillos de dientes y malvaviscos.
- Explorar cajas sorpresas (cajas con objetos escondidos que serán adivinados con el tacto).
- Oler botellas pequeñas identificando olores diferentes como rosas, chocolates, vainilla, flores, etc.

- Jugar crucigramas familiares donde los padres contestan las palabras horizontales y los chicos las verticales.
- Crear objetos comestibles como arañas y otro tipo de criaturas rastreras.
- Construir una fogata de pretzels, chocolates y malvaviscos.
- Construir torres con galletas marías y merengue.

Si su PTA quiere incrementar la participación masculina, considere organizar su propio evento de construcción durante una noche o el fin de semana. ¡A los maestros les gusta este tipo de eventos porque hay mucho aprendizaje involucrado además de ser muy divertidos!

"¡Construya" la participación masculina en su PTA! "Construya" sus números de membresía teniendo mas

miembros masculinos. ¡Usted puede lograr ambas metas con un evento de construcción!

Fuente: Sitio de la PTA Nacional, www.pta.org/local-leader/idea

Enseñe a su hijo el valor del dinero

Por Lindell Belote, Vicepresidenta de asuntos comunitarios del 4to. Distrito de PTA

Con la época navideña acercándose, la compra de regalos será de alta prioridad. Use esta época como una herramienta educacional para enseñar a su hijo sobre la responsabilidad financiera. He aquí seis maneras para empezar la lección:

1. Lleve a sus hijos de compras. Explíqueles como escoger productos basados en precio, calidad y necesidad.
2. Ayúdelos a hacer sus decisiones de gastos propias. Ayúdeles a fijarse un presupuesto con el propósito de fijarse límites en lo que gastan.
3. Ábrales una cuenta de ahorros. Enséñele que siempre se necesita ahorrar. Ayúdele a establecer una cantidad fija para ahorrar cada semana. Su hijo se sorprenderá cuando vea que su ahorro se incrementa con los intereses que su nueva cuenta produce.
4. Explique lo que son las tarjetas de débito y crédito además de los cheques. Esta es una buena oportunidad para enseñarle a balancear su cuenta de cheques.
5. Anime a su hijo a buscar trabajo. Los chicos pequeños pueden ayudar en la casa a cambio de una mesada, mientras que los mayores pueden obtener un trabajo real. Ambas experiencias les enseñan que "el dinero no crece en los árboles". Los mayores también aprenderán que los impuestos serán retenidos de sus cheques de pago y para que sirven dichos impuestos.
6. Enseñe con ejemplos. Los padres son los mejores maestros de la vida de los chicos. Maneje su dinero con cuidado y sus hijos le seguirán la pauta.

Hechos Financieros

Consejos para su Tesorero

Por Julie Redmond, Tesorera del 4to. Distrito de PTA

El año escolar esta en curso y su unidad deberá estar muy ocupada con sus campañas de membresía, recaudación de fondos y diferentes programas. He aquí algunos temas que sus oficiales financieros deben tener en mente.

Auditorias

Oficiales financieros deberán estar pensando en preparar la auditoria de mitad de año, la cual tiene como fecha límite el 31 de diciembre. Las auditorias deberán ser aprobadas por la asociación. Esto se hace usualmente en Febrero. Las unidades deberán presentar copia de sus auditorias a los consejos y al 4to. Distrito de PTA. Los consejos a su vez deben presentar sus auditorias al 4to. Distrito de PTA.

Seguro

Cuotas de seguro deberán ser paga-

das por todas las unidades, consejos y distritos, de acuerdo con los canales adecuados, y deberán ser recibidos en la oficina de la PTA de California no después del 31 de Enero.

Acuerdo Fiduciario

La PTA de California ha desarrollado una forma de acuerdo nueva para las unidades acerca de las donaciones de dinero en efectivo y otros objetos a las escuelas. Dicho acuerdo especifica que la donación será usada única y exclusivamente como se identifica en el acuerdo y que los fondos no utilizados para dicho proyecto deberán ser reembolsados a la PTA. Por favor pida a su presidente del consejo una copia de esta forma o contácteme a la siguiente dirección de correo electrónico: treasurer@fourthdistrictpta.org y con gusto le enviare una copia.

Fourth District PTA
 Sacramento Safari
Linking Your PTA to Sacramento
 March 13 - 14, 2007

Registration Deadline: February 1, 2007



- ★ Meet with state lawmakers and their staff to express your concerns and ideas.
- ★ Hear from a variety of experts in state education policy.
- ★ Network with parents from throughout Orange County.

Safari Orientation

March 2, 2007
 9:30 a.m.
 Location TBA

Please attend this important meeting to prepare for the Safari and to receive your airline ticket!

Schedule: Depart on March 13 from Orange County airport. Return on the evening of March 14.

Registration Fee: \$425.00. This includes registration, airfare, hotel, ground transportation in Sacramento, and lunch and dinner on Tuesday.

Who Should Attend? Unit and council legislation chairmen, unit and council officers, principals, superintendents, school board members, and all PTA members who are interested in advocacy.

Airfare is non-refundable.

Room and banquet charges may be refunded before March 1, 2007.

For more information: Barbara Paxton, Fourth District PTA Vice President of Legislation
 (714) 990-0289 or legislation@fourthdistrictpta.org

Sacramento Safari 2007 Registration Form

Please fill the form out completely and legibly for each person attending. **Completed forms and payment must be in the Fourth District PTA office by Feb. 1, 2007.** For multiple persons attending from the same unit or council, please send one check. Please make the check for \$425* per person, payable to Fourth District PTA.

NOTE: All students must have signed parent permission slips. Students traveling without a parent must have a parent-designated chaperone traveling on Safari. **Please request forms.**

Send check and registration form to: Barbara Paxton, c/o Fourth District PTA, 1833 East 17th Street, Suite 309, Santa Ana, CA 92705-8629

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Fax _____

Mailing Address _____

PTA Unit _____ Council _____

Smoking/Non-smoking (Circle one) _____ Vegetarian? Yes/No (Circle one) _____

Roommate Request _____ *Single Room (Add \$75) _____

Are you a student? Yes/No

Will you be traveling with a parent? Yes/No



PTA VOTES!



California State PTA has taken positions on the following propositions:

- Prop. 1D — SUPPORT
Prop 1D will allow more students to attend new state-of-the-art school facilities and allow public colleges and universities to improve their facilities.
- Prop. 86 — SUPPORT
California PTA supports this effort to provide equal access to quality affordable basic preventive health care for all children and youth and their families.
- Prop. 88 — OPPOSE
California PTA believes this proposition is so poorly drafted that it could end up costing schools more money than it would provide.

For more information about these ballot measures, go to www.capta.org

Websites with information about candidates and propositions:

Secretary of State
www.ss.ca.gov

Legislative Analyst's Office
www.lao.ca.gov

California Budget Project
www.cbp.org

California Voter Foundation
www.calvoter.org

Easy Voter Guide
www.easyvoter.org

General Election ★ Tuesday ★ November 7

Fourth District

PTA[®]

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2006**