

## Talking Points for Advocates, September, 2015

Details are in the September issue of the *Advocacy Communicator*.

- The theme for this year's Fourth District PTA advocacy program is **Count me in.**  Fourth District is encouraging everyone to get involved in speaking up for children – in your local school or school district and at the county, state and national levels. It's what PTA is all about! Some specific goals are to encourage voter registration drives, make sure that parents are involved in our Local Control and Accountability Plans, and improving school climate. Fourth District PTA will help us in all of these efforts.
- Fourth District PTA will present an Advocacy Workshop on Friday, September 25, from 9:15 a.m. to noon, at National University. The keynote speaker will be Neal Kelley, the Orange County Registrar of Voters. There will be separate breakout sessions for beginners and advanced advocates. It's free and open to all PTA members. Who wants to go with me?
- Lawmakers in Washington D.C. continue to work on the long-awaited reauthorization of No Child Left Behind. Both the Senate and the House of Representatives have passed reauthorization bills, but they are different. A House-Senate Conference Committee will have to meet and try to iron out the differences.
- The California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) is no longer being given because it does not coincide with Common Core State Standards. This summer, the state legislature passed emergency legislation that allows this past year's seniors who needed to retake the test to graduate if they have fulfilled all the other requirements.
- The September *Communicator* has a list of all the programs and resources that Fourth District PTA provides for parent advocates, and a calendar of events for the coming year.

###