**Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, March 2018**

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

* Sixty-four parents and one high school student participated in this year’s Sacramento Safari. They had two main requests for the legislators.
  1. Amend the Local Control and Accountability Plan to include Family Engagement. The current law has a key area on parent involvement, but it is not well-defined. PTA wants more specific language.
  2. Hold legislative hearings to explore ways to increase school funding. California is still at or near the bottom nationwide both in per pupil funding and in academic achievement. PTA would like to bring the state up to the level of the top ten states in funding and achievement.
* The Advocacy Forum on March 9 will be on student mental health. The speaker will be Lynne Pedersen from One Recovery, a mental health program that is being used in Newport Mesa Unified School District. The forum is free and open to all PTA members.
* The next State PTA advocacy conference call will be on Monday, March 26 at 7 p.m. Directions are in the Communicator.
* A new research study has found that the additional funding from the Local Control Funding Formula does have a positive impact on the academic achievement of students.
* California State PTA supports an initiative that would require commercial and industrial properties to pay more property taxes. There would be no change in Prop. 13 protections for homeowners and agricultural property.
* Students are planning a walk out on March 14 to protest gun violence. California State PTA urges us to participate by calling our national legislators and demanding stronger gun control measures.

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