

THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT PTSA

# Valley Views

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THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT PTSA  
be the change you want to see in the world



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## 2019-2021 VISION FOR 31<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT

"I am really excited for our next two years together. We are going to work together to build stronger units, start new ones and implement changes as they come at us. Together, we will take on the challenges that will come our way. We will support our schools' goals and missions. We will support programs that will benefit all of the kids in the 31st District."

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Submitted by Barbara Smith*

Thank you to everyone who came out to District Leadership Training. We accomplished so much. For those of you that missed this opportunity, please stop by the District Office, 17445 Cantlay Street, Van Nuys and pick up the training material. If you have questions - go to your Council Meetings or text/email your Council Presidents.

Just some quick highlights. Go to <http://31stdistptsa.org> and check us out on Social Media - Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @31stdistptsa. We are posting updates, training opportunities and celebrating your successes out there. **Follow us! Like us!**



[Capta.org](http://Capta.org) has the on-line Toolkit that provides guidance, instruction and ideas to ensure a successful term as a PTA officer or chairman. It has valuable information to assist your PTA/PTSA with the important work that you do on behalf of all children and families. You need to reference the online Toolkit on a regular basis. No one knows it all. We all need help from time to time. All forms and job descriptions are there. You do not have to re-invent the wheel.

The answers to many of your questions can be found in your bylaws. If you do not have a copy of them - reach out to us. We are happy to help.

Remember you are the face of your PTA - make it a happy and positive one. Promote your PTA - if you pay for something or support something, make sure your name is on it, make sure you sing your successes on Social Media and make sure to thank your school for allowing you to participate in their programs with your support.

Anyone who shares the goals and mission of the PTA can be a member; parent, student, extended family, community partners. Reach out and ask. Totem is an amazing tool, but it does not do the work of asking people to join. So, reach out to past board members and personally ask them to join your PTA. Remember Membership is a year-round activity.

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# LEADERSHIP

*Submitted by Kimberly Amado*

31<sup>st</sup> District PTSA recently held our fall officer training at Anatola Elementary. We were happy to see the more than 160 unit leaders in attendance to learn about their role in PTA. Remember to attend your monthly council meetings; this is where you will get advice and ideas from your peers.



The California State Regional Leadership Conference was held in Rialto on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Over 200 unit leaders were present to take classes and make their PTA units stronger. All of the handouts and materials are still available on the California State PTA website [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org) under programs and events.

On Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, we held our first **A Coffee & A Chat** at the Starbucks at 20566 Sherman Way, Winnetka from 8:30am to 10am. This was not a meeting; it was a “just drop in” to have a chat with district leaders or to get answers to all important questions.





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# COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE

*Submitted by Jennifer Anderson*

Greetings from the LOS AMIGOS COUNCIL! We are made up of 19 units from the heart of the Valley.

We have nine active units on Totem with a total of 314 memberships. Our number one Totem school is El Oro Way. Ten of our units have paid the minimum memberships needed to remain a PTA – Frost Middle School leads the way with 495 memberships so far.

Our units have been working hard to get all the end of last year paperwork done and turned in, plus getting their taxes ready. Here at the Los Amigos Council we like to have a little fun at our meetings. We have raffle items every meeting. All items are donated from vendors who are then able speak at our meetings. Everyone gets a raffle ticket for coming to the meeting. They get bonus tickets for turning in a copy of their minutes and treasurer's report, and an additional ticket for completing a President's monthly report. These reports are essential to giving the Council a view into what is happening at the unit level and where units might be struggling. We have added a bit more fun with a Valley Views trivia game. And are starting "Know Your Bylaws" trivia this month.

Remember your council is here to help you and they are the first people to call when you have a question or are having an issue at the unit level. Don't forget to invite your council to your fundraising events. In Los Amigos Council we have several officers that do not have children in school, so they are not participating at the unit level. I am sure if asked, they would love to volunteer at your unit. Send your flyers into the council and the district – we all have Facebook and can help your event out by posting to our pages too!

Have fun and enjoy your time on the PTA Board!



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# MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

by California State PTA



As a new leader, you may feel that you have to do everything yourself. This is not true, nor is it advisable... One of the advantages of a PTA is that you are not in this alone. The entire PTA board, including chairman, can help with the work.

Whether you're a new or seasoned leader, delegation is going to be a major key to keeping your unit, council and district PTA's performing at capacity and serving the children and families in your community in addition to keeping yourself sane during the term!

Delegating tasks is a skill that, like any skill, can be learned and improved on over time. This can also lead to building capacity of your leaders and increase motivation to take on more responsibilities by some. Put these delegation strategies into practice and remember not to "micromanage" the process. People work differently and it is the end result that counts.

- **Learn to let go.** The biggest problem leaders' face is the inability to let go of their own work. Sometimes they feel so dedicated to completing their own work that they refuse to let other people help. Other times, they fear that nobody else has the skills or abilities necessary to execute the work effectively. Whatever the case may be, your first priority needs to be to learn to let go. Start small, delegating only the smallest tasks, and gradually work your way up. Get to know your team better and improve the trust among you and your board members. Take baby steps and know that eventually you will have to let go of your work if you want your team to be successful.
- **Play to your board members/volunteers strengths.** As a leader, you'll have to learn the subtleties of your teammates. You should know each individual's strengths and weaknesses, including his or her current, and potential, range of skills.
- **Always include instructions.** Even if the task process seems obvious to you, make sure to include instructions with each task you delegate. If you have specific preferences for how the assignment will be carried out, include that information. If you have a strict deadline or milestones you need to hit, be clear about them. Including details and straightforward instructions from the get-go will avoid most communication gaps and will allow your tasks to be executed effectively.
- **Trust, but verify.** Once a task is delegated, trust your team to execute it on his or her own terms. This will allow the person to tackle the work the way he or she feels is best. However, don't be afraid to occasionally step in and verify that the task is moving along as planned. For example, if you made an assignment a week ago that's due tomorrow, trust that they are on top of things, but send a quick verification email to make sure the person hasn't hit any snags. Doing so encourages more trust and respect within your team and helps prevent breaks in communication or understanding.

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# MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

*Submitted by Colleen Ross*

Hello, my name is Colleen Ross and I am the Vice President of the Membership and Organization Department, also known as M&O.

The M&O Department is responsible for numerous committees, including Membership, Dinner, Reflections, Music Scholarship, Awards, and Fundraising. This committee is very busy doing the work of 31<sup>st</sup> District.

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## MEMBERSHIP DINNER

*Submitted by Cyndi Krattiger*

"Every Member Matters" Membership and Association Dinner Meeting was held Monday, October 21, 2019 Airtel Plaza Hotel in Van Nuys.

The Membership Dinner was a huge success with 248 attendees; chicken was served. Membership was celebrated. Darby and Millikin took the win home with their amazing Membership Posters. A personal thank you to the Dinner Committee who helped put this amazing event together - could not have done it without you!

The Membership Dinner raffle was an amazing success with almost \$1400 raised for the music scholarship and general funds. The 14 baskets, procured by the six councils and donated by local businesses, kept Kelly and Cyndi on their toes selling raffle tickets. Much appreciation and thanks to those who donated towards these amazing PTA programs.





# MEMBERSHIP POSTER CONTEST

Thank you to all the schools who submitted a poster for the annual Membership Poster Contest! Congratulations to all the winners!

## The winners for the Elementary Schools are...

- **Winner** - Darby Avenue Elementary (NWV Council)
- **Best Student Submission** - Porter Ranch Community (NWV Council)
- **Most Creative Use of the State Theme** - Beckford Elementary (NWV Council)
- **Cutest Poster** - Parthenia Elementary (Los Amigos)
- **Best Family Outreach** - Granada Elementary (NWV Council)
- **Silver Award (runner up)** - Stagg Street Elementary (Los Robles Council)

## Honorable Mention goes to...

- Danube Avenue Elementary (Los Amigos Council)
- Dearborn Elementary Charter Academy (Los Amigos)
- Stanley Mosk Elementary (NWV Council)
- Andasol Avenue Elementary (NWV Council)
- Mayall Elementary (NWV Council)
- El Oro Way (Los Amigos Council)
- Toluca Lake Elementary (Valley Gateway)

## The winners for the Secondary Schools are..

- **Winner** - Robert A. Millikan Middle School (Valley Gateway Council)
- **Most Nostalgic** - Cleveland High School (NWV Council)
- **Best Family Outreach** - Holmes Middle School (Los Amigos Council)

## Honorable Mention goes to...

- Robert Frost Middle School (Los Amigos Council)
- Valley Academy of Arts and Science (NWV Council)
- Alfred B. Nobel Middle School (NWV Council)
- Chatsworth Charter High School (NWV Council)





# ABOUT CREATIVE KIDS



In 1982, Thirty-First District PTSA opened their school age childcare program at three elementary schools, Creative Kids.

The emphasis is on supervising children until they are able to go home with their parents.

Rooms are leased from LAUSD on the elementary school campus that the child attends.

This is a very popular with parents as they can bring their child to school in the morning and pick them up at the same location in the evening.

All programs are open on all regular school days during the school year, closing for all legal holidays/school

holidays and school Furlough days.

Hours of operation follow school dismissal time and remain open until 6:30 pm. Some sites also have a morning program in which drop off time is 6:30 a.m. In addition, some programs are open during vacation periods such as winter, spring, and summer vacation from 6:30 am – 6:30 pm.

## Benefits Include:

- Year-round care
- 1:14 ratio staff to children
- Enrichment programs – Leap, Mad Science, Critter Squad etc.
- Homework time with assistance
- Nutritious Snacks
- Indoor/Outdoor Activities

## CALIFORNIA STATE PTA 2020 CONVENTION

MAY 15 – 17, 2020

RIVERSIDE, CA

**Budget Now and Attend!**

# FALL MEMBER PERKS

by California State PTA

As a PTA member, you advocated for children, promote parent and family involvement, and improve the lives of all children and families. **These membership perks are available exclusively for PTA members. For discount codes and more information, visit [www.capta.org/member-perks](http://www.capta.org/member-perks).**

**Smart & Final**, the grocery warehouse store with location throughout California, has been selected as the first-ever grocery partner for the California State PTA. Smart & Final has produced an exclusive program to fit the needs of the PTA community. The partnership provides exclusive offers and discounts to purchase food and service items. They are also offering donations from the Smart & Final Charitable Foundation, please visit [www.smartandfinal.com/donation-request](http://www.smartandfinal.com/donation-request) to apply online.

## Smart & Final.



Come celebrate the holidays with **Baskin-Robbins**! Visit today with a coupon and get \$3 off a holiday cake.

**California Emerging Technology Fund** helps your student or child explore the world with the internet for only \$10-\$20 a month! To learn more, visit [www.everyoneon.org/capta](http://www.everyoneon.org/capta).



**Swank Movie Licensing** USA's annual public performance license keeps your school legally compliant for all planned and unplanned movie showings, including fundraising initiatives, student incentives, before or after-school care programming, holiday celebrations and more! Our license covers films from top Hollywood studios, including: Walt Disney, Paramount Pictures, Warner Bros., Universal, Sony, Lions Gate, DreamWorks and many more. **Plus, CAPTA members receive around \$100 off our average rate.** If your School isn't licensed yet, contact us today: [www.swank.com/capta](http://www.swank.com/capta)

## Legoland

PTA Members only \$59! FALL 2019 ONLY-Show your PTA Child ticket at MINDSTORMS for LEGO giveaway, while supplies last! Prepay required @ **(760) 438-5346**. Online Store Coming Soon!



Take a journey of discovery through the world's largest ocean at the **Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach**. Experience Pacific Visions, the Aquarium's new expansion. Discover the aquarium of the future. Journey inside the new stunning glass building to experience a state-of-the-art immersive theater, interactive art installations, engaging multimedia displays, and live animal exhibits. Explore underwater realms, future possibilities, and help create a new planet right here

on Earth. There is always something happening at the Aquarium of the Pacific. Save over **30%** on adults and over **15%** on children general admission tickets. [\*\*Buy your etickets now to claim your exclusive discounts\*\*](#)



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# IT IS TIME FOR TAXES

Submitted by Ira Weinreb

*"In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." - Benjamin Franklin, 1789*

Taxes may be one of the only two certainties in this world, but they certainly don't have to be the death of you! For many Units, taxes are EASY, EASY, EASY, and will only take about 20 minutes or so. For other Units, they will be harder and take considerably longer. But even for those Units, YOU CAN DO IT! If you have any questions about anything, please feel free to ASK. Besides answering specific questions, I can email you my 8-page outline that I handed out at my recent Treasurer Tax Training.

## **1) Three Documents MUST be filed, on time**

EVERY Unit must file a federal tax return, a state tax return, and an "RRF-1."

## **2) Due Date**

If your Unit is on the standard PTA fiscal year (July 1-June 30), then all three filings are due November 15. But if you need more time, no problem! File the very easy, very fast IRS Form 8868 (by November 15), and you get an automatic 6-month extension of time, to May 15. But don't procrastinate past that – no further extensions of time are allowed. And if you do get an extension of time, include a copy with all three filings (990, 199, and RRF-1) when you do file them, so they know you had an extension.

## **3) Who Should Prepare the Documents?**

You can hire a professional tax preparer to prepare the documents if you want -- but that is likely to cost several hundred dollars (or more), and unless the preparer is accustomed to preparing non-profit tax returns, he/she may not do a very good job. A Treasurer who is willing to spend the time and attention required, can get these done properly -- the instructions are pretty easy to understand (although rather long). And if they were properly done in the past, you can use the prior year's returns as a guide (but watch out for any changes). And please, if you qualify for the easy-peasy 990N, do not hire a professional tax preparer! It is best if the outgoing Treasurer prepares the tax returns as they are most familiar with the income and expenses of the year. If the outgoing Treasurer couldn't wait to be gone, the current Treasurer needs to get them done.

## **4) Which Forms Do You Need?**

There are three "flavors" of the federal tax return (in increasing order of difficulty): 990N, 990-EZ, and 990. You use the super-easy, super-fast 990N if your Unit "normally has annual gross receipts \$50K or less." That is ALL money received, EXCEPT for money that you only receive on behalf of higher level PTAs -- i.e., the per capita dues amount Units pass on. And it is based on a 3-year average, of the tax year in question and the prior 2 years. So if you are just a bit over \$50K, may still be able to use 990N depending on the prior 2 years.

You use the 990-EZ if your gross receipts are less than \$200K (and assets less than \$500K), but not eligible for 990N. Otherwise you use the 990. For the State Return, there are only 2 "flavors" -- 199N or 199. The eligibility rules for the 199N are the same as for the 990N.



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# IT IS TIME FOR TAXES

*Continued from page 11*

## **5) Where to get the various forms**

Form 990N (and 199N) are filed ONLINE only

- <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/annual-electronic-filing-requirement-for-small-exempt-organizations-form-990-n-e-postcard> Your Unit has to register the first time it files 990N. You should have the login info in your unit (if not, just register again).
- 199N: <https://www.ftb.ca.gov/file/business/types/charities-nonprofits/199N.asp>
- Form 990-EZ and 199 are available as fillable pdf's, which you can get from the IRS and Federal Tax Board websites. Remember, use the forms for the correct year -- the form year is the year in which the fiscal year BEGAN -- so for your 2018-19 fiscal year, you use the 2018 tax forms.
- For Form 990-EZ, you also need 1 or more Schedules (additional forms). Everyone needs a Schedule A. Many of you will need a Schedule G. Most of you will need a Schedule O. Those of you lucky enough to have received a donation of \$5K or more from any one donor will need a Schedule B.
- For Form 199, you also need a Schedule, but this is not a form -- it is just an attachment that you type up with additional information called for by certain lines.
- There are instructions available for most Forms and Schedules. You'll want those too.

The RRF-1 is also a fillable pdf, and is available on the CA Attorney General's website.

- <https://oag.ca.gov/charities/forms> I have an annotated RRF-1 with some instructions and pointers for you to avoid common errors that I can email to you upon request.
- For most Units, the answers to the nine numbered questions will all be "NO" (unless you held a raffle, which is Question #7). In particular, Question #9 is "NO" (unless you paid to have an audit in compliance with GAAP prepared, which none of you probably did -- a standard PTA Audit does NOT count).
- If you think any of the other Questions should be answered "yes," please feel free to email me before you file it just to verify. And don't forget that EVERY Question you answer "yes" MUST have an explanation provided on a separate sheet of paper.

## **6) Filing fees & copies of other stuff needed (Fed Return, sometimes Bylaws)**

- There is NO filing fee for the federal tax return.
- There is NO filing fee for the state return, but you MUST check the box on Form 199 line L.
- For the RRF-1, if your "Gross Annual Revenue" is \$25K or more, there IS a filing fee (\$25 for \$25K-\$100K, \$50 for between \$100,001 and \$250K). IMPORTANT NOTE: "Gross Annual Revenue" is NOT the same as "annual gross receipts" as used to determine whether you can file the 990N/199N. It is much LESS, because it basically excludes direct expenses from fundraising events and the cost of inventory goods sold. It comes from Line 9 of the 990-EZ (NOT from Line L, which is what you use to determine 990N/199N eligibility). In the past, some units have overpaid the filing fee by ignoring this difference.
- Usually you include a complete copy of your 990-EZ with your 199 filing. And if your total "gross revenue" OR assets are \$50K or more, then you must include a complete copy of your 990-EZ with your RRF-1 filing.



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# IT IS TIME FOR TAXES

Continued from page 12

## **7) If you made "significant changes" to your Bylaws during the fiscal year:**

For the 990-EZ, you need to describe the changes in Schedule O, but do not attach a copy of the revised Bylaws (unless you changed your Unit's name -- then include a copy of the revised Bylaws). For the 199, you DO need to include a copy of the revised Bylaws with your state return. A "significant change" includes changes to your name, changes to your Executive Board structure such as the number of members, changes to quorums (for Board or Association meetings), etc. See the instructions for 990-EZ Line 34 for more details.

## **8) Mailing the Documents**

You should mail all three documents (Federal and State Tax Returns and RRF-1) in a way that provides tracking or at least delivery confirmation. For several reasons, USPS Priority Mail is probably best. That costs about \$40 for the three documents.

## **9) Don't Forget to Upload a Copy of All Three Documents to PTA-EZ for Archival**

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# INSURANCE: WE'VE GOT YOUR PTA COVERED

by California State PTA



## 2020 INSURANCE GUIDE



California State PTA is committed to ensuring you have the best possible insurance coverage and service to protect your unit and your members.

The 2020 *Insurance Guide* is here! [Download the current guide here](#) to learn more about how California State PTA provided insurance protects your PTA.

Coverage features include:

- Units, councils, and districts receive broad coverage for their events without the need for underwriting or additional premium on a case-by-case basis
- \$1 million limit for Directors & Officers coverage per PTA
- Under General Liability, fire damage coverage of \$1 million
- No to low deductibles on all included coverages
- Additional activities such as inflatables, bounce houses, and carnivals are included in the standard coverage; however, press consult and follow California State PTA guidelines as outlined in the Toolkit.

Have a question about your insurance? Our *Insurance Guide*, FAQs, contact information for PTA's insurance broker and additional information can be found at [www.capta.org/insurance](http://www.capta.org/insurance)

# PTAEZ MAKES PTA ACCOUNTING EASIER

PTAEZ is an online accounting program specifically set up to handle PTA needs.



PTAEZ PTA generates financial reports customized for PTA, strengthens financial controls and procedures, ensures a smooth transition of records from year-to-year and helps you prepare [tax filings](#).

PTAEZ offers a simplified way to account for your funds and other organizational requirements through an easy-to-use online program. You don't need to transfer all of your files or download software between

computers from year to year, treasurer to treasurer.

The program features service representatives that speak the language of PTA who know the correct way to record and report your financial activity. With this unique program, you're able to:

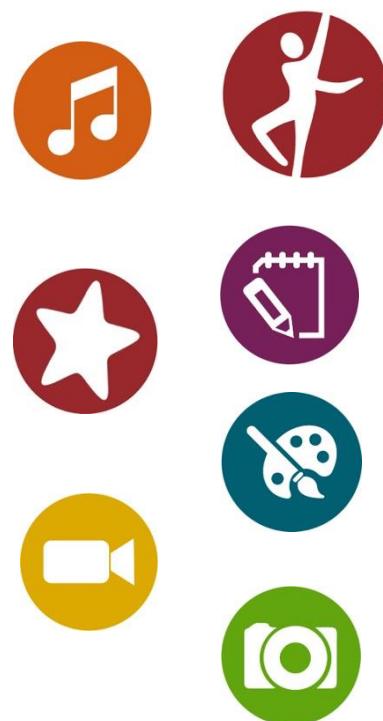
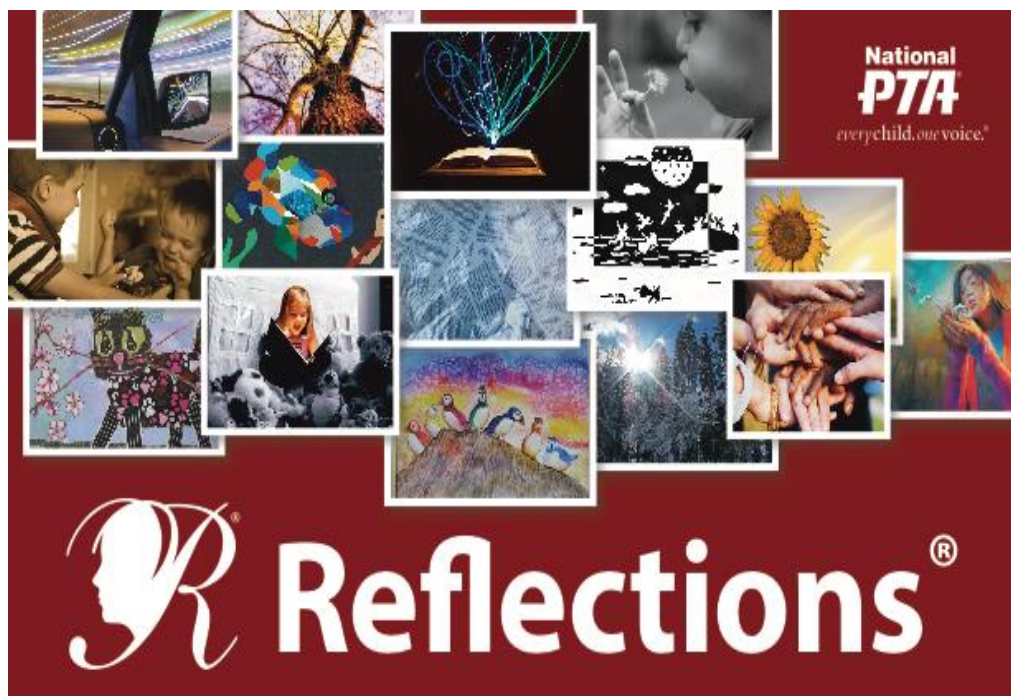
- **Easily record your transactions** within a secure ledger program that can be accessed from any desktop or laptop computer with internet connectivity. You can record checks, receipts, deposits, and electronic transfers, and you can even print your actual checks with the system
- **Manage budgets, fundraisers and programs**, and generate reports to review your progress
- **Broaden your fundraising reach** with an integrated online store that is easy to set up – sell memberships and receive donations from friends and family not in your area
- **Send emails** to individuals or groups with attachments
- **Provide limited access to others** for viewing, or even provide functional capability to others within your account
- **Generate a variety of PTA-specific reports** to include federal and California tax worksheets for tax-form completion.

For more information on PTAEZ, please email [ptaez@csmcentral.com](mailto:ptaez@csmcentral.com) or call **(877) 944-7798**.



# REFLECTIONS ART PROGRAM

*Submitted by Audrey Stuckey*



Reflections entries are due to the 31st District on Thursday November 21st from 10 am to 6 pm. If you have any questions please contact Andrea Stuckey at [31reflections@gmail.com](mailto:31reflections@gmail.com).

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

*Submitted by Alice Orchanian*

On September 19, 2019, I met with Valerie Griffin, FNP – BC at the Kennedy School Based Health Center to discuss access and services offered.

- The clinic hours at Kennedy are from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Healthy Start participants must have a physical to have their Medi-Cal started
- Physical exams are provided at the clinic for sports, camp, and other reasons a physical is required
- If you have Medi-Cal or insurance, the clinic will bill for you
- If you do not have insurance, the clinic visit is free
- Immunizations are free for children age 3 to 18 years
- Clinic services are free for special need children in school until the age of 22 years
- If your child is 16m two more immunizations are required - Meningitis and Meningitis B
- Confidential services for Kennedy students are provided for children from age 12 to 18
- Other students needing confidential services can go to Monroe High School

Telfair clinic will be reopening soon –they will have their vision and mental health support.

# MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Submitted by Houri Khatchadorian

Started almost 60 years ago, the Music Scholarship Program, sponsored by 31<sup>st</sup> District PTSA, enables talented secondary students to continue their music studies with outstanding teachers. Recipients of the scholarships are selected yearly through auditions before a panel of highly qualified professional musicians and music educators.

The scholarship program was originally named for Clarice Chaplin, a graduate of Manual Arts High School in Los Angeles. She was a piano teacher for twenty-seven years and loved working with children. The Music Scholarship program was renamed in memoriam of Darlene Panfill a long-time volunteer assisting in coordinating the program.

This year, Music Scholarship applications will become available for distribution on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

- Auditions will be held on February 29, 2020,
- A concert will be presented on March 31, 2020.
- The events take place at Granada Hills Charter High School.

The Music Scholarship Program is solely financed by donations from our units, councils, and individuals. **Help us to sustain this very worthwhile program by sending donations to 31<sup>st</sup> District PTSA, 17445 Cantlay St, Van Nuys, CA, 91406.** We appreciate your support.



## GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT

Each year on the **third Thursday in November**, the American Cancer Society sponsors the Great American Smokeout. The goal of this special day is quite obvious: to get people to quit smoking, and vaping, resulting in fewer health problems.

Included in the smoking crisis, is the outbreak of lung injury associated with the use of e-cigarettes, or vaping, products. As of October 22, 2019, thirty-four deaths have been confirmed in 24 states. THC is present in most of the samples tested by FDA to date, and most patients report a history of using THC-containing products. The latest national and state findings suggest products containing THC, particularly those obtained off the street or from other informal sources (e.g. friends, family members, illicit dealers), are linked to most of the cases and play a major role in the outbreak.

The American Cancer Society encourages all smokers to give up the "butt" and Join millions of other Americans to take a big step to a happier, healthier, longer life.

Learn more: <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/great-american-smokeout-day-thursday-before-thanksgiving/>  
[https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic\\_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html)  
<https://www.cancer.org/>





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# LEGISLATION CONFERENCE 2020 – INFORM & INSPIRE

*by California State PTA*

Whether you are a new PTA or a seasoned leader, come join the California State PTA and learn more about how to be an effective voice for all children.

The Legislation Conference is your chance to meet and network with other advocates from across the state interested in learning more about key issues that affect children, youth and families. Spend two days participate in learning activities and hearing from legislative leaders and experts on issues you care about. The two days culminate with an opportunity to advocate directly with your state legislators.

Be part of the statewide effort to advocate for the education, health, safety and well-being of all children.

**Dates:** January 13-14, 2020

**Location:** Embassy Suites by Hilton  
Sacramento

**Early bird Registration**

**deadline:** November 15, 2019

**Early bird cost:** \$240



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## CHARTER SCHOOL LEGISLATION SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

*by California State PTA*

PTA supported AB 1505 (O'Donnell) which reforms the Charter School Act of 1992 by allowing communities to consider the fiscal impact of new charter schools on existing schools in the neighborhood. This reflects an agreement by a wide range of stakeholders to overhaul charter school law.

"This is historic legislation that marks a new chapter of collaboration between charter and traditional schools in California," Governor Newsom said in signing the bill.

According to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond: "This represents the first significant overhaul of charter school law since it was introduced decades ago. This legislation allows for thoughtful consideration of the establishment of new charter schools by allowing us to weigh fiscal and community impacts when making decision about when to authorize a new charter school. It also provides clarity to authorizers and charter school applicants about how charter schools should be renewed."

Other charter school bills that were supported by California State PTA and signed by the Governor include:

- AB 1507 which removes exemptions in current law to require charter schools to operate within the geographic boundaries of their authorizing district.
- SB 126 which requires charter schools and charter management organizations to adhere to public records and open meeting laws.

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# UPDATE ON PTA CO-SPONSORED BILL AB 842

*by California State PTA*

Thanks to all of you who responded to our requests to contact the Senate Appropriations Committee and Governor Newsom regarding AB 842 (Limón). The bill would have provided nutritious meals to children in public preschools and childcare centers who met free and reduced lunch criteria.

Unfortunately, while it passed the Legislature, the Governor did not sign the bill. The veto recommendation by the Department of Finance was based on cost estimates made on an older version of the bill and made the bill appear more costly than it actually was.



PTA has a long history of taking positions that benefit children. Research shows adequate nutrition is critical to learning. Given what we now know about brain development, it is important to that our youngest learners receive nutritious meals. This is why PTA co-sponsored this bill.

The governor has indicated that preschool and early education are important issues for him. PTA will work to ensure that adequate access to nutritious meals for low income children is included in his future plans for early childhood education.

Again, thanks to all of you who supported this work.

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## GUN VIOLENCE

*by California State PTA*

According to a study by Florida Atlantic University's Schmidt College of Medicine, 2,482 school-age children died from gun related injuries in 2017, a death rate six to nine times higher than other developed nations.

National PTA President Leslie Boggs participated in a U.S. House of Representatives Gun Violence Prevention Task Force Forum on the "Impact of Gun Violence on Children and the Need for a Senate Vote on Universal Background Checks" on September 18, 2019. Last week the National PTA Board of Directors added to a long list of many advocacy activities over the years by amending the association's position statement on [Gun Safety and Violence Prevention](#) to reinforce the unwavering call for universal background checks and the adoption of 'red flag' laws, among other measures that will decrease gun violence and make our schools and communities safer for everyone.

National PTA sent a [letter](#) in early September to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell urging him to bring the Background Check Expansion bill to the floor and facilitate its passage in the Senate. National PTA demands that Congress and the president act today and put laws in place that address our nation's gun violence epidemic and protect our children and families.

PTA continues to advocate for common-sense and comprehensive gun safety and violence prevention measures, while preserving the lawful use of firearms for sport and personal protection. It has been and remains a top priority of the association to prevent and eliminate violence in schools, communities and at home.



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# CALIFORNIA STATE PTA APPLAUDS GOVERNOR NEWSOM'S SUPPORT OF SB 328 – LATER SCHOOL START TIMES

by California State PTA

California State PTA, co-sponsor of State Senator Anthony Portantino's later school start time bill, applauds Governor Newsom's decision to sign SB 328.

The California PTA co-sponsored bill will prohibit middle schools from beginning their school day before 8:00 a.m. and high schools from beginning their school day before 8:30 a.m.



*"The California State PTA was an early champion of this bill, which represents an enormous victory for youth across the Golden State," said California State PTA President Celia Jaffe. "Our members believe later school start times address the very real biological changes that every teenager experiences. The research is clear that sleep deprivation is an epidemic among adolescents, and those who get sufficient sleep not only perform better academically, but are also less likely to be involved in traffic accidents, have a reduced risk of obesity and depression, and have overall better quality of life."*

*"We recognize that this bill will require structural changes in the way schools operate, which is why we worked with legislators to ensure that SB 328 provides a three-year period for local districts to determine how to best implement these changes in their own communities," she added. "Despite the challenges posed to schools, we feel the passage of this important bill puts kids' needs first. Governor Newsom's decision to change school start times will improve the health, safety and academic success of students, and PTA members across the state are so pleased to see that the efforts of the current and past board, as well as the outstanding advocacy efforts of our local leaders, helped this bill become law. We thank Senator Portantino for championing this worthy issue."*

California State PTA would also like to thank advocate, Carol Kocivar for her extensive work on the bill. PTA was assisted in our efforts by local PTA leaders and members from all over the state who responded to our action alerts as well as made visits to their local legislators to express their support of the bill.

Additional thanks go out to the entire Legislation Team, past Legislation Director Lea Darrah, Past President Dianna MacDonald, President Celia Jaffe and current Director of Legislation Shereen Walter for their work and support of the bill.

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# TAKING ACTION FOR HEALTHY CHILDREN

by California State PTA

That's why California State PTA members are dedicated to promoting effective health education programs and services in schools and communities in order to offer children, youth and families the skills, tools and abilities they need to make healthy choices. Through action in the State Capitol, in our schools and in our neighborhoods, concerned California parents and community members advocate for statewide health programs, and we actively participate on a wide variety of statewide committees addressing mental, physical and environmental health issues.

Our current efforts include:

- **Supporting** immunization legislation to protect vulnerable children
- **Promoting comprehensive health education** taught by qualified personnel as an integral part of the core school curriculum
- **Supporting efforts to provide equal access to quality, affordable, basic and preventive healthcare** for all children, youth, pregnant women and their families
- **Supporting solutions that enable all children with chronic illness or other healthcare needs to be safe in California schools**, such as by promoting education of parents and school personnel on the complexities of disease management
- **Educating families to recognize the importance of a healthy environment** and the potential dangers that environmental contamination poses for children's developing minds and bodies.
- **Bringing greater awareness of behavior-health issues and social/emotional development** through collaborating with the school community and creating a full range of services to help all kids thrive.

It's up to all of us to bring concerned people, agencies and organizations together to act on the urgent health needs of California's children: the bright future of our Golden State.



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# CALIFORNIA'S NEW APPROACH TO TEACHING AND LEARNING SCIENCE

by California State PTA

As school got underway this year, it's likely that science was on the minds of your school's teachers and principal. That's because the state is in the middle of a dramatic change in how science is taught, based on the Next Generation Science Standards or NGSS for short.

**Here are quick answers to three frequently asked questions about California's new approach to teaching and learning science.**

- **What's different in how children learn science under NGSS?**

The basic idea is that students will learn about science and engineering by doing science and engineering. Instead of being told about the properties of matter, for example, students might use water and butter to investigate how heating and cooling affects each differently. Students observe real events in their everyday experience and then are taught how to use scientific methods to understand what is happening and why. This is called "phenomena-driven" learning.



- **Do teachers know how to teach this way?**

Experts say that many teachers need to learn new strategies, especially in elementary schools. For one, the science standards and science classes are supposed to start in kindergarten. That's a big change for many teachers and the state is working to help teachers understand how to make that happen. One part of that is the use of a concept called "3-Dimensional Instruction." Through 3-dimensional instruction, you may hear teachers talk about 1) science and engineering practices, 2) core disciplinary ideas, and 3) cross-cutting concepts.

- **How might this look in my child's classroom or school**

The California Department of Education has published some helpful parent guides to answer this question by grade level. These resources can be found at

RESOURCES:<https://capta.org/focus-areas/education/curriculum/next-gen-science/>

## THE 3 DIMENSIONS OF NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE

- **Science and engineering practices = what scientists and engineers do.** For example, asking questions, planning investigations, analyzing data, and providing explanations. For a kindergartener this might be asking about seemingly simple experiences, like why some days they need a jacket on the playground and some days they don't.
- **Core disciplinary ideas = what scientists and engineers know.** The ideas are organized into three main categories: physical science, life science, and earth and space science. Under each, topics are introduced in the early grades and then expanded and deepened as kids get older.
- **Cross-cutting concepts = the ways that scientists and engineers think and link knowledge together.** For example, they look for patterns. In the classroom you can expect students to measure things, look at how whole systems work, and identify what is stable and what is changing.





## Social Media & PTA Advocacy

GREEN	YELLOW	RED
Sources you can retweet or share immediately.	Sources you should consider/research before retweeting or sharing.	Sources you should never retweet or share from a PTA owned/named account.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National PTA</li> <li>California State PTA</li> <li>Your District PTA</li> <li>Your Council PTA</li> <li>Your County Office of Education</li> <li>Your School District</li> <li>Your School</li> <li>Your PTAs events</li> <li>Ed100</li> <li>Items pre-approved for distribution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other State PTAs</li> <li>EdSource</li> <li>California Department of Education</li> <li>State elected officials: Governor, Assembly Members and Senators</li> <li>Federal elected officials: President, Members of Congress, Senators</li> <li>Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO)</li> <li>Allied Agencies</li> <li>Other PTA officers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Political Parties</li> <li>Support for a political candidate</li> <li>Federal legislative positions or national issues that differ from the National PTA position</li> <li>State legislative or ballot positions that differ from the California State PTA position</li> <li>Local ballot, tax or bond positions that differ from your PTA council or district position, OR those you haven't voted to support</li> <li>Anything that is mean spirited, accusatory, or not true</li> </ul>
Go for it!	Think*Research*Ask	Not from a PTA account

National PTA and/or California State PTA positions can be found on the following websites:

<http://capta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/position-statements>

<http://capta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/resolutions>

<http://capta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/current-legislation>

Elections and candidates have their own section in the California State PTA online *Toolkit*:

<http://toolkit.capta.org/advocacy/election-campaigns>

Quick responses are important for social media; so this guide can help you feel comfortable re-tweeting, sharing and posting on social media. Some pre-planning can also help with quick responses. BUT always remember, if in doubt leave it out. This is offered as a guide it is not an all inclusive list.

**Be respectful | Be honest | Be discreet | Be responsible**



# THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT PTSA

## Valley Views

*"be the change you want to see in the world"*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:**

Barbara Smith  
b.smith.president.31dist@gmail.com

**Executive Vice President:**

Mireira Moran  
mireira.moran@gmail.com

**Vice President Leadership:**

Kimberly Amado  
kamado4pta@gmail.com

**Vice President****Membership and Organization:**

Colleen Ross  
colleenross4pta@gmail.com

**Vice President Community  
Involvement and Education:**

Alice Orchanian  
alice\_laff78@msn.com

**Secretary:**

Andrea Pichler  
ptsa31stdistrict2019@gmail.com

**Treasurer:**

Ira Weinreb  
ira@fosterparents.com

**Council Roundtable Chair:**

Tali Lerea  
tlerea@gmail.com

### 31<sup>st</sup> District PTSA Office

**Address:**

17445 Cantlay St.,  
Van Nuys, CA 91406

**Business Hours:**

Monday – Friday  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Phone:**

Office: (818) 344-3581  
Fax: (818) 344-7230

**STAFF:****Marilyn Ickes**

Office Manager/ Bookkeeper  
[pta31dist@aol.com](mailto:pta31dist@aol.com)  
(818) 344-3581 ext. 3

**Anna Ruth Hernandez**

Office Secretary  
[Secretary.31dist@gmail.com](mailto:Secretary.31dist@gmail.com)  
(818) 344-3518 ext. 5

**Valley Views Editor:**

Carla Niño  
[cnino710@gmail.com](mailto:cnino710@gmail.com)



@31stdistptsa



@31stdistptsa



@31stdistptsa