

THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT PTSA

Valley Views

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2019-2021 VISION FOR 31ST 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."

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Submitted by Barbara Smith, President

November, warm winds, blowing leaves, kids at home???. How can that be? Together, we have started our year of education with the kids in full on-line school. I have been reviewing some test data and I can tell you that kids that were doing well, are still doing well and students that were struggling - are still struggling. The big change, is that it is happening at our kitchen tables and we are seeing first hand that they never could sit still. Teachers have known this for years.



LAUSD is working hard to get our kids back on campus. They are setting up the infrastructure to test and protect our kids. I don't know when campus' will re-open but LAUSD will continue to support full time on-line learning when they offer hybrid back to campus options this year. Keep following us on social media as well as LAUSD so that you can make the best decision as to what will work for your students and families.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our online District Training. We accomplished so much. For those of you that missed this opportunity, please check out the 31st District PTSA website <http://31stdistpts.org> to download the recordings.

Just some quick highlights - if you have questions –

- Go to your Council Meetings, text or email your Council Presidents.
- Go to <http://31stdistpts.org>.
- Check us out on Social Media - Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @31stdistpts.

We are posting updates, training opportunities and celebrating your successes out there. Follow us! Like us!

California State PTA (capta.org) has an on-line toolkit. You need to be referencing this 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 too 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 sure it is a happy and positive one. Promote your PTA - if you pay for something or support something, put your name is on it. Sing your successes in Social Media. Don't forget to thank your school for allowing you to participate in their programs.

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. Membership goal for all units this month - is to reach out to past board members and personally ask them to join your PTA. **Remember Membership is a year round activity.**

EDUCATION: SCHOOL REOPENING PRINCIPLES

From California State PTA

California State PTA's "School Reopening Principles" are based on our organizational goals and purposes, input from our local leaders and from our parent listening sessions last summer, our longstanding educational and legislative stances, and the most current information from reliable educational and health agencies. We encourage local PTAs and school districts to adhere to these principles during important conversations regarding school reopening.

Waiver Applications for Elementary School In-Person Instruction have become a difficult issue for local PTAs and the guidelines and explanation released today are intended to help local PTA leaders navigate this issue. By way of background: School districts in certain counties, which would otherwise be prohibited from allowing in-person instruction due to the COVID-19 category they are in, have the option of applying for a waiver to reopen for elementary grades. If the waiver application meets all the criteria, the county department of health can approve in-person instruction.

By state policy, the school district has to consult with parent organizations before submitting a waiver application. In Los Angeles County, the Department of Public Health has even made it a requirement to attach a letter of support from parent organizations (and also all employee associations and others). Other counties may be doing that as well.

This has led to many PTAs being pressured to write letters of support for their school districts to reopen for younger grades. This puts PTAs in an untenable position. Not only does it unfairly force PTAs to essentially reduce all parent/family input on a complex and nuanced issue into a single "yes" or "no" position, but it also puts PTAs at risk of liability for having officially supported in-person instruction. The decisions facing schools, PTAs, and families on important issues of educational opportunity and health are complex, and we hope that California State PTA's Principles for School Reopening and our guidance on waiver applications will assist you with these crucial conversations.

I'd like to share a document with you providing helpful guidance on two related issues that many of you may be facing right now: school re-openings and waivers for in-person elementary instruction.

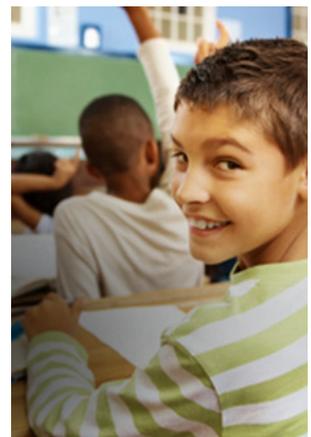
http://downloads.capta.org/adv/CAPTA_SchoolReopeningPrinciples_Oct2020.pdf

Thank you for all you do for children and families.

Yours sincerely,



Celia Jaffe
President, California State PTA



LEADERSHIP

Submitted by Kimberly Amado

Although your PTA is not holding movie nights or selling spirit wear you can still support your PTA by making an investment in your future:

- **Council** – Network with your peers, share your stresses and successes at your monthly council meetings
- **District** – Hopefully you attend the 31st District new officer training, if not you can watch the replay on the district website 31stdistpta.org.
- **State** - Visit the Leadership Made Easy page on the California State PTA website at <https://capta.org/pta-leaders/service-mailing/>

While you are there review the Toolkit, learn about Honorary Service Awards and explore the Membership Drive Challenge



At the National PTA website (pta.org), learn about the Reflections art program and challenge yourself to become a PTA School of Excellence. You can also take eLearning courses such as:

- Understanding More About PTA's Mission & History
- Become an Amazing PTA Leader
- Gain Nonprofit Management Skills
- Grow PTA Membership & Resources
- Advance PTA's Mission

Now is the perfect time to get your PTA Board familiar with all of the resources available to them and set yourselves and your unit up for success for the future.

FUNDRAISING

Submitted by Heidi Gilles, Fundraising Chairman

FUNdraising Safely

As we approach a typically busy time of year for families, remember that you can safely fundraise for your school by organizing Family Dine-Out/In nights at your local eateries. Here are a few local businesses that regularly partner with schools for Family Dine-Out/In nights:

Chipotle	Sharky's	Corner Bakery	Panda Express	Dog Haus
Jersey Mike's	Islands	Pieology	Gus's BBQ	Panera Bread
Presto Pasta	Menchie's	Amici	Jamba Juice	
		Pizza/Pasta		

An online book fair is another way to safely fundraise while keeping students engaged with reading and learning. Scholastic makes it safe and easy to host a book fair for your school. Head to the Scholastic website to schedule your safe and easy book fair! REMEMBER, a Request for Authorization must be completed and uploaded to the LAUSD Fundraising online system for approval...GOOD LUCK!





Membership is a year-round activity. Many of you have heard us say this on a number of occasions, and the reason is it's never a bad time to join your local PTA. With this in mind, it's easy to look at these first couple of months as the opening quarter. And despite the non-traditional start for our membership campaigns this year, we're having a pretty good opening quarter.

Early Success

Over 100,000 members have joined our PTAs through TOTEM, our online electronic membership system. We also have over 300 individual PTAs that already have more than 100 members. In addition to those units that are having great success using TOTEM, we've also heard from many of you that your membership campaigns are off to a great start. A large reason for the success many of our PTAs are having is that they have found ways to ask people to be a part of their PTA. In addition to asking our families and school communities to join, many of you have gotten creative in how and who you ask to join your local PTA.



Just Ask

At the end of the day, the easiest way to get someone to join your PTA is to ask. So whether you're off to a great start, or just getting started with your membership campaigns, please think of all of the things your PTA provides for your community and continue asking people to join.

New TOTEM Directory

We have a couple of tools that you might find useful in asking people to join your PTA. One is a **new directory feature** for units that use TOTEM. This directory allows you to see a list of every unit that's activate on the TOTEM electronic membership system. Every district and council can get the directory link and promote it on social media, websites, and anywhere else that will reach prospective members for your PTA. This is also a great link to send to community leaders, businesses, and elected representatives that might be interested in joining more than one unit. If you would test out the directory, [click here](#).

Useful Resources

There are also a couple of items from the National PTA Membership Marketing Toolkit that should help you in asking people to join. The first item is a sample **"Membership Ask" message** in both English and Spanish that you can use when reaching out to possible new members. The second item is a customizable **FAQs and talking points document** that you can use to explain why someone should join your PTA. You can find both here: <https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/membership-campaign>.

Tell Us Your Goal!

Last but not least, please continue to share your membership goal and theme with us. There is still time for you to join us on our Membership Drive through the state. [Click here](#) to see the instructions and map in English, or [here](#) for Spanish.

If you have questions, comments or success stories, please send them to membership@capta.org.

TREASURER'S REPORT: IT'S TIME FOR TAXES

Submitted by Ira Weinreb, Treasurer

"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 30 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 detailed outline that I hand out at my Treasurer Tax Trainings.

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 normally due November 15 (this year it's the 16th, because the 15th is a Sunday). But if you need more time because you have to use the more complicated 990-EZ, no problem! File the very easy, very fast IRS Form 8868 (by November 16), and you get an automatic 6-month extension of time, to May 17. 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. Please note that if you file the super easy 990N, you cannot get a time extension (the 990N is so easy, you don't need one).

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.

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TREASURER'S REPORT: IT'S TIME FOR TAXES

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4) Which Forms Do You Need?

For the Federal Tax Return, there are three "flavors" (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, such as 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, you 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.

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 2019-20 fiscal year, you use the 2019 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 #6). In particular, Question #8 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.

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TREASURER'S REPORT: IT'S TIME FOR TAXES

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

- For the Federal Tax Return, there is NO filing fee.
- For the State Return, there is NO filing fee, 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. If you file the 990-EZ, then you must include a complete copy of it with your RRF-1 filing.

REQUIREMENT FOR THIS YEAR – If you file the 990N, then you MUST complete the new CT-TR-1 form and submit it with your RRF-1. I have an annotated CT-TR-1 with some instructions and pointers that I can email to you upon request.

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

Dear PTA Leaders:

We know that 2020 has brought many changes, but we want you to know that we appreciate all that you do on behalf of children, families and your local communities. To help you successfully run the financial side of your PTA, every year California State PTA compiles a packet of financial information and resources.

These materials include:

- Tax filing information
- Workers' compensation insurance information
- TOTEM e-membership system information
- 2021 Convention save-the-date flier
- PTA Store flier, with new items
- CETF flier, with information about how to get low-cost or free internet access and computers
- The PTA Insurance Guide
- Much more!

A hard copy of the 2020-21 Financial Mailing packet should have arrived in your mailbox. You can also easily view or download a PDF version (in English) by [clicking here](#), and the PTA Insurance Guide [by clicking here](#).

Empowering local leaders and supporting your work are essential functions of California State PTA. We are in this together, asserting that "All Children are Our Children," and striving to speak up for every child with PTA's powerful one voice. Thank you for making a difference.



LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER

FROM THE COUNCILS

Submitted by Jennifer Anderson, President Los Amigos Council

LOS AMIGOS COUNCIL

Greetings from the Los Amigos Council. We consist of 19 schools in the heart of the Valley. While everyone is struggling with the difficulties surrounding our current situation our PTA's are here and trying to help. They have started their membership drives and are having to get creative with it because we can't see each other in person. Totem is a large part of membership in our most successful schools.

Our units are standing with their schools and trying to provide entertainment, education and fellowship while maintaining social distancing. They are doing dinner nights, read-a-thons, magic shows, science shows, reading time, movie nights, dance parties and drive by Halloween parades. The stamina and spirit of our parent volunteers constantly amazes me.

We at the council and district level are here to help in any way that we can. We have invited the Los Robles Council to join us for our monthly meeting. We are trying to have a bit of fun at our meetings, in October we had a virtual background contest - best fall or Halloween theme.

In December we are having a winter holiday theme costume/face mask contest, so we hope to have 100% participation (I already have my light up reindeer antlers!) Warmest wishes for the coming season from the Los Amigos Council!

LOS ROBLES COUNCIL

EMELITA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA



OCTOBER 2020

PTA NEWSLETTER

JOIN THE PTA

PTA especially needs the support of parents and caretakers this year! We have wonderful ideas for activities this year. Any time or resources you can contribute are greatly appreciated and will help us reach our goals for the year! Association Meetings are 3rd Thursday in Oct, Jan, March, May @7PM Annual Membership is only \$9!

IMPORTANT DATES

- 10/12 - MEMBERSHIP DRIVE BEGINS
- 10/15 - 1st ASSOCIATION MEETING 7PM (ZOOM)
Meeting ID: 828 7789 9252
Passcode: 788396
- 10/16 - PANDA EXPRESS FUNDRAISER
(Ventura and Louise 10:30am-9:30pm)
Must present event flyer
- 10/28 - DEADLINE TO SUBMIT HALLOWEEN PARADE VIDEO
- 10/30 - VIRTUAL HALLOWEEN PARADE (ZOOM)

INTERESTED IN BEING A "ROOM PARENT?" WE NEED ONE FOR EACH CLASS. CONTACT US SO WE CAN CHAT!

CONTACT US:
EmelitaPTA@gmail.com

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR ONGOING UPDATES AND INFO!
Facebook: Emelita PTA
Instagram: @EmelitaPTA

REMINDERS

The classroom with the highest PTA membership sign-ups now until 11/2 will win custom class t-shirts for each student! Parents, grandparents, caretakers, community members ALL welcomed to join!

FUNDRAISERS

OCTOBER FUNDRAISERS:
FRI. 10/16/20
PANDA EXPRESS TAKEOUT
GOFUNDME AND BOOK FAIR FUNDRAISER DETAILS TO BE SHARED SOON!

STAY INFORMED!

MAKE SURE YOU ARE REGULARLY CHECKING CLASS DOJO, FACEBOOK, AND INSTAGRAM FOR NEWS, UPDATES, AND LINKS

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS

From National PTA, a sponsored post from Lysol, a proud national sponsor of PTA

How To Reduce Germ Spread and Illness in Our New Normal

This back-to-school season is filled with uncertainty. The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offer these tips about germ transmission, best practices for back-to school and CDC classroom cleaning protocols.

Germ transmission

Germ transmission are microscopic organisms capable of causing disease. The three major types of germs are viruses, bacteria and fungi. Germs can be spread through the air (by sneezing, coughing or talking), by physical contact between people, contact with contaminated surfaces or objects, contaminated food and water or by animals and insects.



One way to help prevent the spread of germs is by disinfecting commonly-touched surfaces. While cleaning removes microorganisms from surfaces, disinfecting helps to destroy them. Cleaning without disinfection can leave microbes behind on surfaces, which can cause infection or illness. Disinfectants will not only clean away the bacteria but will also kill up to 99.9% of germs that remain on the surface. Disinfecting both at home and in schools should focus on high-touch surfaces, bathrooms and areas where food is prepared and consumed.

Germ prevention and back-to-school best practices

The more people a student or staff member interacts with, and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Because of this, it is important to follow the CDC's recommended best practices for returning to school. This includes practicing healthy habits such as staying home when sick, proper handwashing, disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and reinforcing the use of cloth face coverings.

In order to support the health and well-being of students, schools should ensure that they are making mental health a priority, being sensitive and accommodating to students living with disabilities and remembering the importance of nutrition. Parents should continue to educate themselves on best practices by visiting [CDC.org](https://www.cdc.org) and teach their children healthy habits to use both at home and in the classroom.

CDC classroom cleaning protocol and best practices

It is important to promote and practice behaviors that help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Hygiene should be promoted in school curriculums to ensure that students are aware of proper procedures. Students should be taught to wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, and to use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available. They should also be taught to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, throwing the used tissue away after and washing hands immediately. Supplies that school will need on hand include soap and water, hand sanitizer, paper towels, tissues and cloth face coverings.

The CDC also recommends that schools use List N EPA-registered disinfectants regularly, especially on commonly touched surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, phones, faucets, tables and countertops. Schools should also develop a cleaning and disinfection plan to be implemented and maintained. Objects that cannot be cleaned and disinfected regularly (such as area rugs) should be taken out of use. Additionally, discouraging the use of shared items, such as toys and books, will help to reduce the spread of germs.

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS

From California State PTA

Good News for Children's Mental Health

As the legislative session ended, the governor signed two bills that addressed mental health issues for children and youth which were supported by California State PTA.

AB 2112 (Ramos) authorizes the State Department of Public Health to establish the Office of Suicide Prevention within the department in order to provide best practices on suicide prevention policies and programs as well as encouraging stakeholder collaboration and coordination of resources for suicide prevention. The Office is responsible for reporting on progress to reduce rates of suicide and is authorized to apply for and use federal, state, and foundation grants for its work. PTA supported the bill because of its focus on groups with the highest risk including youth and LGBTQ people at a time when suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth ages 15-24 in California.

SB 855 (Weiner) requires every health plan contract and disability insurance policy to provide coverage for medically necessary treatment of mental health and substance use disorders under the same terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions. It defines medically necessary treatment as a service or product addressing the specific needs of that patient for the purpose of preventing, diagnosing, or treating an illness, injury, condition, or its symptoms, including minimizing the progression of that illness, injury, condition or its symptoms. PTA supported this bill because it would require insurance companies to provide the same level of care for mental health and substance abuse disorders as is provided for physical health issues. Practically speaking this means children and youth will receive more services for mental health and substance use disorders.



California State PTA thanks the authors, legislature and governor for recognizing the inadequacy of current services and their willingness to increase support for the mental health and wellness of children and youth.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE RESOURCE LIBRARY?

The [Resource Library](#) has lots of great new content this month. Check out these items aimed at helping parents undertake home-based experiments with their families in celebration of all things October!

- [7 Great and Fun Home Chemistry Experiments for Kids](#), from Interesting Engineering
- [Oil Spill Experiment Video](#), from The Center for Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology
- [Halloween Science Experiments](#), by Science Bob

If you've never used the Resource Library before, why not give it a try? It's chock full of at-home learning activities, videos and documents that support the Next Generation Science Standards – and a whole lot more!



And the Resource Library is easy to use – the search function can help you quickly find what you need by keyword, category, topic, audience type, grade level, and language. [Click here](#) to browse.

Social Media Theme Kit: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

PTA's monthly **Social Media Theme Kits** have been going strong for two months now! This toolbox of images and text is easy to copy and use on your unit/council/district's social media accounts. We hope you have been finding them pertinent and easy to use. The most recent Theme Kit is yet another new theme: **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion!**

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion shouldn't just be buzzwords that we toss around at our PTA meetings – they should be a true focus of our units, councils and districts. If we truly believe in the mission of PTA – to positively impact the lives of ALL children and families – we must do our part to ensure that our PTAs, our schools, our communities, our nation and our world are as inclusive and equitable as possible.

**SOCIAL MEDIA
THEME KITS**

What's in the monthly kit:

For Social Media Platforms:

- Facebook – sample posts and customizable images, page cover image
- Instagram – sample posts and customizable images
- Twitter – sample posts and customizable images, profile header image

[Click here](#) to view the Kit, which consists of a series of **sample posts and downloadable images** for all the major social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, plus social media support graphics such as Zoom backgrounds, and supporting information and diversity, equity and inclusion.

CDE LAUNCHES “EDUCATION TO END HATE” INITIATIVE



On September 21 State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced a new, multifaceted **“Education to End Hate”** initiative designed to empower educators and students to confront the hate, bigotry, and racism rising in communities across the state and nation.

Under a new effort outlined during a virtual press conference, the State Superintendent said that the California Department of Education (CDE) will lead a series of strategies — including **educator training grants, partnerships with community leaders, and virtual classroom sessions** — that leverage the power of education to create a more just society.

For information on this initiative and how you or your school can participate, [click here](#).

Ideas for Socially Distant, Safe Arts Education

Arts education is especially important during this time of uncertainty and distance learning. Not only do the arts benefit children academically, but can be an excellent outlet for the stress and uncertainty that they may be experiencing right now.

When the Chino Hills High School Chamber Singers' concert was cancelled due to COVID-19 school closures, they didn't let that stop them. This dedicated group of students decided that the show must go on, even it was from each of their individual living rooms, bedrooms and kitchens. What a great reminder of the role arts can play in our lives – a role that brings healing, connection and social engagement.



If your children are not getting in-person or online arts instruction, they can still be creative at home or outdoors in a million ways. Here are some things you can pledge to do at home, in your local community, and in your school community to keep the arts front and center.

At home:

- I will do art at home once a week (or every day!) There are some great ideas on the California State PTA website.
- I will talk about the costumes, lighting, and set of the TV show or movie that we are watching.
- I will tell my children about creative careers they can have.

Within your school community:

- I will create a PTA art event virtually or at my school.
- I will share the [PTA Visual and Performing Arts Guide](#) with staff and teachers at our school.
- I will invite a School Board official to an art event or performance that is virtual or at our school.
- I will thank my child's teacher every time I see a piece of work my child has created at school.
- I will thank the music, art, dance, drama teacher at the end of every performance/art show.
- I will talk to parents at my school about the importance of arts education.
- I will post photos of arts education at my school and tag the Board of Education, local government, and #CreateCA on social media

In your wider community:

- I will attend local arts events virtually and in person. My community needs to see that residents value the arts so that they will put more funding into the arts.
- I will follow local arts organizations on social media.
- I will follow California State PTA and Create CA on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter so I stay up-to-date on any arts legislation or full funding initiatives.



- I will look at the Arts Education Data Project dashboard for schools near me to see what they are doing well and encourage my principal to find out how to bring those programs onto the campus.
- I will share the Creative Connection newsletter on my social media and encourage my friends to subscribe. I want everyone to get this information in their inbox!

Arts Education In A Time of Budget Shortfalls

All California students deserve to have access to quality arts education to provide them with the skills they need to succeed in college, career and life. Yet particular groups of students experience significant barriers to access, participation and success in arts learning that are directly linked to pervasive inequities in our educational system.

Arts education is especially important right now, but budgets are being cut. With the coronavirus looming over everything, some school districts are already slimming down arts programs for this current year.



However, even in this new world of distance learning and reduced academic offerings, schools are still legally obligated to provide students with a full curriculum — one that includes all five arts disciplines: dance, drama and theatre, music, visual and media arts. The arts touch our emotional core, whether it is song or dance or drama or drawing. The arts can connect the mind and the spirit and help guide children from crisis to confidence.

There is a growing body of research proving that social and emotional learning (SEL) is fundamental to academic success and must be woven into the work of every teacher in every classroom and every after school and summer learning program, if we truly want to prepare all our students for college and careers.

The Arts Education and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Framework is designed to illuminate the intersection between arts education and social-emotional learning. Our goal is to increase the number of students with access to arts education as a discrete subject in order to further support teachers in achieving their Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) goals.



Create CA has produced [this two minute video](#) which details how the arts are unique in relation to all other subjects and should be available to all students, especially during this critical time. Click the image to watch!

Reflections: It's All About the Arts

"I Matter Because..."

That's the theme for the 2020-21 Reflections Art Program which has been bringing the arts to life for more than 10 million students since 1969. And California State PTA and its members, families and kids are on the forefront of this amazing program, which increases community awareness of the importance of arts in education.

Reflections encourages students of all ages to:

- **Unleash creative talents** and be inspired
- **Express themselves** imaginatively in their artwork
- **Experience the fun and joy** of making art
- **Tap into critical-thinking skills** to create art inspired by the annual theme
- **Receive positive recognition** for their original works of art.



Participation in Reflections Is Easy, Exciting And Empowering

All students attending PTA schools sponsoring the program are invited to participate and submit original artwork in one of six areas:

Dance Choreography, Literature, Photography, Film Production, Music Composition, Visual Arts.

Artworks are submitted first to school-level PTAs, where they are first recognized, celebrated and judged by five grade-level divisions, while a non-judged Special Artists division celebrates student artists with special needs. School PTAs then choose a selection of entries to be judged by local PTA units, which are then sent on to councils and then districts for consideration. The final artworks submitted to California State PTA by districts are then considered for Outstanding Interpretation, Awards of Excellence or Awards of Merit.

State-level Outstanding Interpretation honorees receive:

- Onstage recognition at the California State PTA Annual Convention
- The opportunity to showcase their artwork at the California State PTA Convention Reflections Gallery
- Prizes including an Outstanding Interpretation plaque, award and certificate

State-level Award of Excellence honorees receive:

- The opportunity to showcase their artwork at the California State PTA Convention Reflections Gallery
- Prizes including an Award of Excellence medallion, award and certificate

State-level Award of Merit honorees receive:

- The opportunity to showcase their artwork at the California State PTA Convention Reflections Gallery
- Prizes including an Award of Merit medallion and certificate

Outstanding Interpretation and Award of Excellence entries go on to represent California in the final National PTA judging round. National-level Outstanding Interpretation honorees are recognized at the National PTA Convention, plus their artwork, along with any National Award of Excellence and Merit winners, are featured in Reflections' popular traveling national exhibit.

The 31st District PTSA Deadline for Reflections Submissions is: December 3, 2020

What You Need To Know As A PTA Legislative Advocacy Chair



If you are the advocacy chair or legislative officer for your unit, council, or district PTA, thank you for taking this important position. PTA has a proud history of advocating for programs and legislation that help children be safe, healthy and successful. Now you are a part of that vital mission.

If you have never done this job before, you may wonder how to begin. If you have some experience with the job, you may still have questions. The state legislative process is complex and the issues can be confusing. There is a lot to learn.

Never fear! California State PTA is here to make your job as easy as possible.

Educate yourself! There is a wealth of information available at capta.org.

- Find the job description for Legislative Advocacy Chair and lists of useful websites in the [Toolkit](#).
- Sign up here to receive the [Advocacy Insider newsletter](#) every month.

Look for PTA training opportunities.

- Attend any advocacy events sponsored by your PTA council or district.
- Join the monthly Advocacy Webinars presented by CAPTA Director of Legislation Shereen Walter and members of the Legislation Team. The schedule and registration link can be found [here](#).
- Plan to participate in the [Legislation Conference](#), to be held virtually this year, date TBD.

Another invaluable resource is [Ed100.org](https://ed100.org), a free online course on California education, broken into brief lessons. The site also offers blogs on current education issues, many written by former California State PTA President Carol Kocivar. Encourage your members to visit Ed100 to become informed parents and to win possible prizes for their school.

Make sure that advocacy is on the agenda for every PTA meeting. Share what you have learned and get your members excited about advocacy. It's the heart of PTA!

2021-2022 School Funding Update

California Needs to Close a Projected \$20 billion Education Shortfall Despite urgent calls to the legislature and Governor by the Education Coalition to prioritize and identify additional revenue to close a projected \$20 billion* education state budget shortfall, the legislative session closed with NO new funding.

“We can’t continue to kick the can down the road when it comes to funding our schools and students,” said Celia Jaffe, California State PTA President. “We need to address the

***2021-22 Education Budget Shortfall**

	K-12	CCC	Total
Deferrals	\$11 billion	\$1.5 billion	\$12.5 billion
Foregone COLA (20-21)	\$1.2 billion	\$167 million	\$1.4 billion
Projected Prop 98 Reduction	\$5.6 billion	\$693 million	\$6.3 billion
Total:	\$17.8 billion	\$2.4 billion	\$20.2 billion

growing student equity gap that is continuing to worsen during this global pandemic and we call on our state leaders to take this opportunity to create a long-term, stable funding source for schools.”

To date, the federal Government has not provided any new additional relief to California schools. To balance the budget, California is projected to use deferrals—late payments to schools—to “balance” the budget. This can create additional expenses for local school districts and cash flow problems, as they await payment of funds owed by the state.

California State PTA is supporting several additional revenue streams, such as suspending or eliminating tax expenditures (which includes credits, deductions, exemptions, and exclusions) and imposing additional taxes on high income individuals, or corporate tax changes. PTA supported AB 1253 Santiago that would have imposed an additional personal income tax on taxpayers with incomes above \$1 million but this did not get through the legislature this session.

The Education Coalition is comprised of the nine statewide K-12 education associations including the California State PTA that work closely to advocate for the 8.4 million students in California's public schools.



California Bans Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products (SB 793 Update)

Thanks to the efforts of California State PTA and a broad coalition of health organizations and local municipalities, California **outlawed the sale of flavored tobacco products**. When the bill was signed into law by the Governor on August 28th. This was a hard-fought campaign. The tobacco industry waged a major opposition campaign, making this a sweet victory.

California State PTA had strong PTA authority for this bill. It had just adopted a convention resolution this summer that specifically called for the prohibition of all sales of flavored tobacco, not just to kids. Recognizing that tobacco companies were more than happy to prohibit the sale to kids as long as they could continue marketing and selling to adults, convention delegates voted to outlaw all sales. This was to ensure flavored tobacco would not be available as an entry level product to create a lifetime of addiction.

In writing to the legislature, the PTA said:

"Flavored tobacco, and specially flavored e-liquids for vaping promote tobacco use by California's youth. Over 5.3 million kids in the U.S. now use e-cigarettes. 27.5% of high school students used e-cigarettes in 2019 compared to 11.3% in 2016. Flavors are driving the demand for use. 97% of youth e-cigarette users report using a flavored product, and 70% cite flavors as the reason for their use. While we understand the tax implications and potential loss of revenue as a result of this bill, we believe the health benefits to our children and youth should hold more sway when deciding the future of this legislation."

But wait, our work may not be done. On August 31, a request for a referendum on SB 793 was submitted to the Secretary of State. The Attorney General gave it a title and on September 10 and it was approved to collect signatures. The group submitting has to collect 623,212 signatures by December 10, 2020. According to the Secretary of State website, "if the required number of registered voters sign this petition and the petition is timely filed, there will be a referendum challenging the 2020 law on the next statewide ballot after the November 3, 2020 general election." This means the challenge would prohibit the law from being enforced unless the voters vote in favor of the law when the referendum is on the ballot. The next general election will most likely be 2022.

The Legislation Team's October social media challenge is **#DeclinetoSign**. This social media challenge is in opposition to Big Tobacco's attempt to repeal SB 793 by collecting signatures to "refer" the new law outlawing flavored tobacco products to the next general election ballot (November 2022). Big Tobacco is spending millions on this effort to ensure the state law cannot take effect, hoping to keep an estimated \$1.1 billion in revenue in their pockets, while hooking more California kids on harmful nicotine.

Please visit the [Advocacy page](#) on the California State PTA website to find social media post templates which you can post to your unit, council or district social media accounts.

PTA Resolution and Background Statement: [E-Cigarettes/Vaping, Flavored Tobacco Products and Youth Health](#)

Protected Family Leave

Governor Gavin Newsom signed legislation in September ensuring that millions more Californians can utilize the Paid Family Leave benefits they pay for without the fear of job loss.

Authored by Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) and supported by California State PTA, SB 1383 ensures job-protected leave for Californians who work for employers with five or more employees (instead of 50 or more) to bond with a newborn, care for a seriously ill family member, address a military exigency, or care for their own illness. Job protections will cover workers for up to 12 workweeks of unpaid protected leave during any 12-month period. Under California's Paid Family Leave Program, eligible individuals may receive wage replacement benefits for eight weeks in the amount of approximately 60% to 70% of their weekly salary; the program is funded by worker contributions via the State Disability Insurance tax.



California State PTA supported this bill because CAPTA believes that a successful future for all children is ensured by eliminating barriers to family engagement. Circumstantial barriers, such as conditions and situations that distress the family, may inhibit or impede parents' ability to perform their engagement roles and responsibilities in the learning, development, and well-being of their children. SB 1383 (Jackson) eliminates the barrier of potential job loss that may prevent family members from offering needed support for each other during vulnerable times – such as when parents are bonding with a newborn or providing care for a seriously ill family member.

Since California's Paid Family Leave Program was enacted more than 15 years ago, lack of job protections has prevented millions of workers from accessing their benefits due to the size of their employer: 40 percent of California workers have been at risk of losing their jobs if they take leave to care for a seriously ill loved one or themselves because they work for a business with fewer than 50 employees. SB 1383 expands job-protected family leave to care for one's own illness to nearly 6 million more Californians, and ensures that workers affected by COVID-19 can take time to care for themselves or a sick family member and keep their workplaces and communities healthy and safe.

CAPTA thanks Governor Newsom for signing this legislation in support of California's families.

Members of our Board of Managers have been busily working behind the scenes to produce fun videos of STEAM experiments they are doing with their families. These videos will be used as part of a **STEAM Experience Program** we are creating that you'll be able to use to plan a (virtual) STEAM Experience event at your own school.



Look for information about the STEAM Experience in just a few weeks and check out this [Marshmallow Play-Doh Experiment](#). We know you just can't wait to get sticky!

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Valley Views

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
pta31stdistrict2019@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Ira Weinreb
ira@fosterparents.com

Council Roundtable Chair:

Jennifer Anderson
Tigermommy2@hotmail.com

31st 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

(818) 344-3581 ext. 3

Anna Ruth Hernandez

Office Secretary

Secretary.31dist@gmail.com

(818) 344-3518 ext. 5

Valley Views Editor:

Carla Niño

cnino710@gmail.com



@31stdistpta



@31stdistpta



@31stdistpta