

THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT PTSA

Valley Views

Volume 54 | Issue 4 | January 2020



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

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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

Happy New Year from the 31st District PTA President. Congratulations you made it through 2019! What an opportunity we have in front of us.

Hopefully everyone turned in their taxes - if not, please reach out to your Council Treasurers and they will help walk you through the process.

Now as we start to plan for 2020-2021 ...

How can that be? We are only at the halfway point.

Yes, but you have that planned already. So, while you are busy with more fundraisers, Spring Flings, Dances, and Graduations, don't forget to assemble your nominating committee and elect your new board.



The nominating committee is the only PTA committee that is not appointed by the president. This committee is elected by the membership at least two months prior to the election of officers. Determining when to elect the committee and how many people to elect is outlined in your bylaws. Don't forget to elect alternates, in the event an elected committee member cannot attend a committee meeting. Most units should be electing the nominating committee no later than January or February for the election of officers in March or early April.



The committee needs a balance of newer and more experienced PTA members, all of whom should be knowledgeable about PTA and who are:

- Aware of qualified potential nominees
- Familiar with the eligibility requirements and the qualifications necessary for the offices to be filled
- Willing and able to devote adequate time to the responsibilities involved and maintain confidentiality.

Don't overlook student and teacher members. Talk the PTA up and look for next year's board now. Have potential new board members work with you. Invite them to participate.

Then host a mid-year Membership Drive.

Start to plan who will go to convention. So much to do ...

31st District is so proud of all of your hard work. We are proud of everything you do. Reach out to us if you need support. We are here for you.

Happy New Year - may all of your resolutions come true.

LOS ROBLES COUNCIL HOLIDAY DINNER



FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATION

Submitted by Colleen Ross



Join us as we honor our founders at our Founder's Day celebration on March 25, 2020, at the 31st District office.

Our Red-Carpet celebration begins at 6:00 pm. We will be offering a boxed dinner for \$11 from Corner Bakery. Don't forget, that this is an Association meeting and you will need your membership card to vote.

For Founders Day background information go to <http://toolkit.capta.org/programs/popular-events/founders-day/>



REFLECTIONS

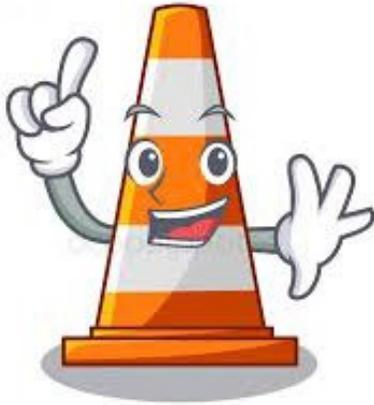
Submitted by Andrea Stuckey

Reflections submissions have been judged and the winning entries are being prepared for their trip to Sacramento to compete at state level.

The 31st District will host our annual Reflections Gala on Tuesday February 18, 2020 at the 31st District Office. Exhibits will open at 6:00 pm with the Awards Ceremony being held at 7:00 pm.

THE AUDIT

Submitted by Karen Green



The monthly bank reconciliation needs to be reviewed, signed and dated by a non-check signer, each and every month.

An Audit Review Committee needs to review the work of the auditor, after an audit is completed. (**NOTE:** If the audit is conducted by a qualified accountant an Audit Review Committee is not required. A qualified accountant is someone who has been trained/licensed to conduct audits and/or review accounting records, such as a Public Accountant or Certified Public Accountant (CPA). They do not need to be currently employed in the field.)

The audit review committee must be made up of at least two people and may include the auditor. Each committee member signs the audit report, then it's ready to be presented to the Executive Board and adopted by the Association.

It is important to follow these new guidelines to protect your insurance coverage. Coverage may be voided if the above requirements and conditions are not met.

AUDIT TRAINING

There have been a lot of changes recently to how audits need to be conducted and approved, as an insurance requirement.

Get all the skills and information you need to make sure that your unit has a successful audit.

Audit Training will be available on Saturday, February 1st at 10:00 am at the 31st District Office and Wednesday, February 5th at 6:00 pm at the 31st District Office.

RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/audit-training-tickets-89297265525>

THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT PTSA

AUDIT TRAINING

PRESENTED BY KAREN GREEN

LEARN EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL AUDIT

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 1ST
10:00 AM

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 5TH
6:00 PM

31ST DISTRICT OFFICE
17445 CANTLAY ST, VAN NUYS, CA 91406

31STDISTPTSA.ORG



Scan me

BUNCO NIGHT

Submitted by Heidi Gilles



Bunco is a fun and easy game to play. Come on out and relax with your fellow PTA family. Bring your board or come with a friend. You can even come solo.

When: Wednesday, January 29th at 7:00 pm

Where: 31st District Office

Cost: \$20.00 per person **before 1/24/20** (\$25 thereafter)

This is a fundraiser for the 31st District PTSA.

Everyone is welcome. Light refreshments will be served, and prizes will be awarded.

To RSVP: Eventbrite (Credit Card) – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bunco-night-tickets-81421087665>

Mail/Drop Off (Cash or Check) – 31st District Office (17445 Cantlay St, Van Nuys, CA 91406 – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm)

For More Information: Email – secretary.31dist@gmail.com or Call – (818) 344-3581

NOW ACCEPTING MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Submitted by Houri Khatchadorian

The 31st District PTSA is proud to offer scholarships to students who wish to study music with private teachers. Each scholarship offered is valued at \$300.

It is our goal to encourage the discovery and development of the musical talent of our youth. We wish to inspire children to follow their passion for the arts at any level of study and assist those that may not have an opportunity to study privately.

The applications are due on February 7

Auditions are February 29 at Granada Charter High School. The concert is March 31, also at Granada Charter High School.

Categories: Brass Instruments, String Instruments, Wind Instruments, Percussion, Piano, Voice

We have made it easier for everyone to participate with the Music Scholarship applications available online at <http://31stdistptsa.org/music-scholarship/>.



BUILDING MEMBERSHIP IN THE NEW YEAR!

by California State PTA

Happy New Year, PTA leaders! Welcome back to Membership Monday, your weekly email full of resources, updates and news about PTA membership and the great things we can do together. Congratulations to all of the PTAs that qualified for the **Ready, Set, Remit and More Challenge** in 2019, and also to those of you who submitted your theme and goal for last year.

To continue to build your membership in 2020, there are two additional challenges that your PTA can participate in going forward: Teachers Matter and Best in 5.

- **TEACHERS MATTER:** Any PTA which has 100% of its full-time credentialed teachers as members and submits a completed Teachers Matter application form by February 1, 2020 will be entered into a drawing to receive one of 10 free registrations for the 2020 California State PTA Convention! All units, councils and districts that qualify will receive a recognition ribbon at the 2020 California State PTA Convention. Download the form at http://downloads.capta.org/mem/TeachersMatterApplication_MembershipChallenge.pdf and submit by 5:00 p.m. on **February 1, 2020**.
- **BEST IN 5:** Any PTA unit, council or district with a membership total that is higher than any year-end total since the 2014-15 membership year will be entered into a drawing to receive one of 15 free registrations for the 2020 California State PTA Convention. All units, councils and districts that qualify will receive a recognition ribbon at the 2020 California State PTA Convention. Membership must be received through channels by **March 15, 2020**.

One of the reasons we came up with these challenges was to give our local PTAs a little extra motivation to increase membership. Increasing membership is important to our organization for a number of reasons, including increasing our advocacy voice; providing us with new leaders to train and develop so that we can continue our legacy; and just as important, allowing us to connect even more families, schools, and communities.

We'd like to offer a big "thank you" to everyone for joining and supporting your local PTA in 2019. [Click here](#) to see shout-outs on our Facebook page to PTAs that hit big membership milestones in the past year. Let's aim even higher in 2020! Reach out to your friends, neighbors, and community members that have yet to join us. Because after all, **every member matters!**

SMART & FINAL

Submitted by Carla Niño



The Smart & Final Charitable Foundation is committed to giving back, improving the quality of life and nourishing the communities they serve. As one of the newest sponsors of California State PTA, Smart and Final is offering grant opportunities for local units, councils, and districts. Thirty-first District PTSA is a recipient of a grant to support the Music Scholarship Program, enabling 31st District to provide a scholarship to a deserving student.

THANK YOU, SMART AND FINAL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

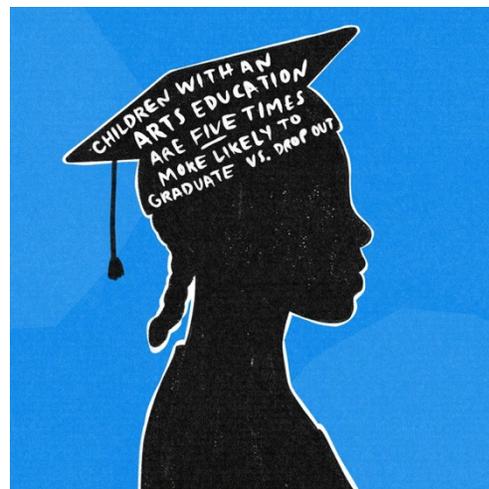
INCREASE ARTS EDUCATION, INCREASE GRADUATION RATES!

by California State PTA

Every school district has goals for its students, data to track how they are meeting those goals, and educators examining that data to determine how to adjust their programs to meet those goals.

We ask you to share arts education information with your school staff to show them how arts education can help them meet their goals.

Does your district want to increase college readiness?



A blue graphic with the word "ONLY" in white and "12%" in large, bold, black letters with a yellow outline. Below this, the text reads: "of schools are at the level of quality arts instruction that's mandated by the state." The background features a faint silhouette of a graduation cap.

If you have students who are at risk of not graduating, your district - and school - must guarantee that arts education is not optional. California's Education Code promises art, music, dance and theatre classes or instruction to every student in K-12, yet according to the latest data, only 39% of students get to participate in those classes because their schools don't offer all, or any, of the arts in their curriculum.

Arts equity means more students will graduate ready for the 21st century. Please join the Create CA Public Will campaign to advance arts equity by going to <https://www.createca.org/>



DECLARATION OF RIGHTS TO EQUITY IN ARTS LEARNING

by California State PTA

California State PTA adopted the Declaration of the Rights of All Students to Equity in Arts Learning to reaffirm its commitment to a full curriculum that includes the arts. All students in California deserve the opportunity to enroll in high-quality arts education curriculum that will provide them with the important skills they need to succeed in today's competitive workforce.



HOW YOUR COMMUNITY CAN SUPPORT EQUITY IN ARTS LEARNING



Alameda, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Santa Ana Unified, San Francisco, and other districts have all become Arts Equity Districts. But what does that mean? More funding? More professional development for staff? More dedicated rehearsal, studio, and practice space in more schools? You can decide what that means for your school district.

Your PTA, school, and community partners can ask your district to become an Arts Equity School District. Creativity supports academic success. Students who have an arts education are more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, receive a bachelor's degree, receive more A's in classes, and are more inclined to pursue a professional career.

Here are some steps you can take:

- Create a community advisory committee with local classroom teachers, arts providers, other PTA leaders, and community advocates.
- Determine what "equity" looks like for your community. Use specific examples.
- Report to your Board of Education and invite them to adopt the [Declaration of the Rights of All Students to Equity in Arts Learning](#).
- The community advisory group can continue to review arts programs as they are proposed to make sure that they are increasing access to all the arts.
- Promote your great work on social media!

[Let us know](#) what your district is doing to improve equal access to arts education

MORE ACTION YOU CAN TAKE TO SUPPORT THE ARTS

PRACTICAL NEXT STEPS

Information and data is our greatest strength when it comes to ensuring that every student has a dynamic, creative education. Strategies and solutions are available for every community, every school, and every student. Here are five steps you can take to navigate—and change—the system.

1. UNDERSTAND THE CURRENT DATA.

Look up data on your school, district or county at the Arts Ed Data Project: createca.dreamhosters.com/interactive-dashboard.

Total percentage of students participating in arts ed? _____ %

Which of the following are available:

- Visual Art Dance
 Music Media Arts

2. TALK TO THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE.

Look at your school district's website, and find the person who oversees Curriculum & Instruction or is in charge of Visual & Performing Arts. They might be an assistant superintendent or a coordinator. Meet up and understand what their goals are and how you can help.

Name: _____

Status: _____

Title: _____

Concerns: _____

Contact Email: _____

Important Dates: _____

Contact Phone: _____

3. DON'T DO IT ALONE!

Connect with—or start—a local advocacy group who can keep the energy moving ahead, provide solutions to decision makers, and support arts planning and implementation. We recommend joining the Arts Now Community program. See details below!

Parent: _____

Student group: _____

Local business: _____

Arts organization: _____

School leader: _____

Arts Now Community Contact: _____

4. MAKE A PLAN.

Go to your school district's website to see if your LCAP plan includes arts ed. What's missing? What could be better? While you're there, see if there's a district or county arts plan in place. What's the status, and how can you help implement it?

Status of arts plan _____

Arts Now Planning Initiative Contact: _____

5. NEXT STEPS:

- The California Alliance for Arts Education's Arts Now program can help you with arts planning and-or community organizing! Contact: artsnow@artsed411.org
- Find tools for advocacy, including sample presentations and background information, at: <https://www.artsed411.org/lcff>
- Sign up to be part of the statewide campaign at createca.org.

A FEW REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYEES/INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

Submitted by Ira Weinreb

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday. I want to say a few words about some upcoming reporting requirements regarding employees/independent contractors that your Unit may have hired.

1) Annual Workers' Compensation Annual Payroll Reports

First, your Workers' Compensation Annual Payroll Reports are due to your Council Treasurers by **January 10**. If you haven't yet turned one in (and if your President didn't turn one in at the last Council meeting), please do so ASAP. This form asks whether your unit paid anyone directly for their services, from 1/5/19 through 1/4/20.

For most Units, the answer will be "NO!" In that case, just write "No one paid" across the form, sign it, and bring/send 2 copies to your Council Treasurer ASAP. Remember, if your Unit pays money to your school to cover an employee's salary, you do NOT list that employee (because you are not paying them directly).

Examples of people that you WOULD list are:

- If you pay someone directly to provide childcare at your PTA meetings
- If you pay someone directly to provide tutoring or homework assistance before or after school
- If you pay someone directly to DJ at an event; etc.
- If you list anyone on the form, be sure to fill out the form completely, including whether each person carries their own workers' compensation insurance (and you have a copy of their certificate of insurance).

You then have to add up the total amount you paid all listed employees who do NOT carry their own workers' compensation insurance. (If they DO have their own workers' compensation insurance, then you do not include the amount you paid them on the form.)

If the total you paid the people WITHOUT their own Workers' Compensation is \$1,000 or less, congratulations -- you do not owe any money! If it is more than \$1,000, then you have to subtract \$1,000 and multiply the excess amount by 5% -- and send/bring a check for that amount, along with two copies of your form, to your Council treasurer ASAP. Also, please upload a copy of the form to PTA-EZ for archival.

California State PTA
everychild.onevoice.
2327 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95816-5014 • (916) 440-1985 • FAX (916) 440-1986 • Email info@capta.org • www.capta.org

EVERY UNIT, COUNCIL, AND DISTRICT PTA MUST COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM EVEN IF NO ONE WAS PAID

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ANNUAL PAYROLL REPORT
(Attach insurance premium payment to Report and forward to council/district PTA as directed by their deadline date. Payment must be received from district PTA on or before January 31)

Name of PTA _____ District _____
Address _____ Council _____
City _____ Zip _____

Please note: List only those payees that PTA pays directly for services. Do NOT list payees when monies are donated to a school district to pay workers.

LINE	NAME OF PAYEE (INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION)	TYPE OF WORK (BE SPECIFIC)	DOES THE PAYEE CARRY THEIR OWN WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE?		DATES WORKED (JAN 5, 20__ TO JAN 4, 20__)	AMOUNT PAID FOR SERVICES
			YES	NO		
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
A	Total for ALL Payees					
B	Less \$1,000					
C	Gross Pay					
D	Premium due for additional Workers' Compensation insurance coverage, 5% of Gross Pay (Line C)					

* If "yes," the payee must provide a Certificate of Insurance from their Workers' Compensation insurance carrier to the PTA. The Certificate must list limits in the Workers' Compensation section and be attached to this report form. Please note, General Liability insurance is NOT Workers' Compensation insurance.

This report form must be completed and forwarded through channels to reach the California State PTA office no later than January 31.

- Unit, council and district PTAs are required to file this form, even if no one was paid.
- Report ALL payees PTA paid directly for services -- attach additional Payroll Report detail page(s) as necessary.
- Write "NO ONE PAID" across form if no one was paid.
- Signed by treasurer or president.
- Forward through channels (unit to council to district). DO NOT send directly to the California State PTA office.
- Insurance premium received in the California State PTA office after January 31 is subject to a \$25 late fee by State PTA.
- See California State PTA Toolkit, "Workers' Compensation Annual Report," for more information.

Date _____ Signed _____
Phone (____) _____ Position _____

FOR COUNCIL/DISTRICT PTA USE ONLY				
PAYMENT DATE	CHECK NUMBER	AMOUNT OF CHECK	TOTAL ADDITIONAL PREMIUM (LINE D)	AMOUNT DUE
SIGNATURE (Council/district PTA president or treasurer): _____				

(continued on page 12)

A FEW REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYEES/INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

(continued from page 11)

2) 1099's and DE-542's

If you paid any person OR **unincorporated** business at least \$600 for **services** (i.e., not goods) in calendar year 2019, you need to prepare a 1099-MISC for them, which you must mail to them no later than January 31, and which you also need to file along with a 1096 with the IRS. So, for example, if you hired "We Got the Beat DJ Service" for a dance and paid them \$1,000, you need to do this. If, on the other hand, you hired "We Got the Beat DJ Service, Inc." (a corporation), you do not. For individuals that you paid at least \$600 for services as independent contractors, you also should have filed an EDD DE-542 Report within 20 days of either making such payments or entering into a contract to do so.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me! Ira Weinreb -- ira@fosterparents.com

2020 CENSUS

Submitted by Kimberly Amado

I am working as a recruiting assistant for the 2020 Census and I need your help. We will be hiring thousands of people in our local community. Please help me by allowing me to come to your next association meeting or school event to give a quick presentation for the 2020 Census.

Why Apply?

Competitive Wages

Jobs for the 2020 Census offer competitive wages that are paid weekly. Authorized expenses, such as mileage, are reimbursed for employees doing field work. The pay ranges from \$19.00 - \$23.00 per hour depending on the position.



Support Your Community

Census results are used to determine your representation in Congress, and they help inform how billions of dollars are distributed for hospitals, schools, roads, and more. Help ensure that everyone in your community is counted in the 2020 Census.

Fit Your Schedule

Temporary positions for the 2020 Census feature flexible hours—a perfect fit if you are looking to earn extra money, even if you already have other commitments.

Be a Part of History

Every 10 years since 1790, the United States has undertaken the momentous task of counting its population. This is your chance to play a role.

JOIN THE
2020 CENSUS TEAM

APPLY ONLINE!
2020census.gov/jobs

United States
Census
2020

The U.S. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Contact me at: Kimberly Amado, 818-614-0026, Kimberly.amado@2020census.gov

CALIFORNIA STATE PTA CONVENTION

Submitted by Mireira Moran

The California State PTA Annual Convention is the place to get the training, information, and motivation to help you and your PTA to positively impact the lives of all children and families. Featuring nationally renowned speakers, engaging presenters and empowering programs, this event will give you the tools and resources you need to help your children, school and PTA succeed!

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for

California State PTA's 121st Annual Convention

May 15-17, 2020 | Riverside, California

Registration opens on March 3, 2020!



To get more information about convention 2020, visit www.capta.org/convention, or scan the QR code to the right. You'll be entered into a contest and get the chance to win free registration!



General Meetings are your opportunity to influence the direction of the California State PTA. Let your voice be heard through the debates on the resolutions, bylaws and the Legislative Policies of the organization.

Workshops are your opportunity to gain skills in areas of leadership, finance, membership, parliamentary procedures and more necessary in running your local



PTA. Skilled board of managers, professionals and specialists will also present workshops on education, health, advocacy and more to enrich your learning experience.

One of the great things about this convention is how close it is, which makes it much more affordable and makes a one-day visit an option as well!

Visit <https://capta.org/programs-events/convention/> for the latest info and a chance to win a free registration to convention by answering a short survey.

Riverside Convention Center | May 15-17, 2020
Registration Opens March 3, 2020

CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIP

31st District PTSA will be awarding two full convention scholarships (up to \$700) for first time attendees to the 2020 California State PTA convention. This will be used to cover travel, accommodations, registration, and other related expenses.

In order to be eligible for this scholarship, you must *not* have attended a California State PTA convention before, must currently hold an officer position in either a unit or council, and be able to attend the full convention (May 15-17).

Applications will be made available February 1st. Make sure to check out <http://31stdistptsa.org/> for updates.

8th ANNUAL EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE

Submitted by Kelly Mattinson

31st District was honored to have been invited by Councilman John Lee, CD12, to the 8th Annual Educators' Roundtable attended by an elite group of educators, Principals, nonprofit organizations, and LAPD officers

The event was opened by a performance from the Northridge Middle School Mariachi de Northridge. Our pride was evident in seeing "our kids" perform. They were amazing.



The most moving flag ceremony was delivered by a WWII veteran representing Wings Over Wendy's. This gentleman told the story of the flag, no script, just deep admiration and pride; there was not a dry eye in the house. Wings Over Wendy's is a group of veterans, veteran supporters, aviation and military

aficionados that honors all veteran's past and present and who meet weekly at the neighborhood Wendy's, sharing their stories, their experiences and their history with local students. **(For more on the flag ceremony, see next article.)**

After the salute, everyone joined in and sang God Bless America. The program continued with a variety of nonprofits sharing information to benefit our students, not just in the classroom, but also in their lives. Other presenters included the LAPD, LAFD, New Horizons, The Museum of Tolerance, and Urban Promise. Each of these agencies and businesses offered information on their services, presentations and outreach programs for our local schools; all were touching and informative.

There are so many amazing opportunities in our own backyard. Reach out, seek educators and businesses, charities that offer FREE or low-cost services to enhance curriculum. Thank you for all you do to make learning fun and exciting for our kids. Let us know when you use other programs, there are so many great ones out there and we love to share unique opportunities and experiences!

Did you know CD 12 offers FREE busses, 1 per school, per year? This could help make a field trip a reality. Other Districts also offer similar programs. Just do a little bit of research; it will be worth the effort.

For more information

- Some amazing art programs include: Making Movies that Matter: <http://cd12movies.com/>
- If your students are interested in collaboration, creativity, non - competitive theatre; check out <https://www.campbravo.org/>
- Wings Over Wendy's, please visit <http://www.wingsoverwendys.com/>

Tribute to the “Ragged Old Flag”

Submitted by Carla Niño

On June 14, 1977, Johnny Cash delivered a moving poem to celebrate the bicentennial of the U.S. flag to the U.S. House of Representatives. Johnny Cash's deep feelings about his country and its history as symbolized by our flag, have been immortalized in his sensitive poem, “This Ragged Old Flag.”

*I walked through a county courthouse square
On a park bench an old man was sitting there
I said, “Your old courthouse is kinda run down.”
He said, “Naw, it’ll do for our little town.”
I said, “Your old flag pole is leaned a little bit,”
And that’s a ragged old flag you got hanging on it.”
He said, “Have a seat.” And I sat down. . .*



The old man relates to the narrator that the flag had flown through numerous wars and crises, concluding,

*And she's getting threadbare and she's wearing thin
But she's in good shape for the shape she is in
Cause she's been through the fire before
And I believe she can take a whole lot more
So we raise her up every morning
Bring her down slow every night
We don't let her touch the ground and we fold her up right.
On second thought, . . . I do like to brag.
Cause I'm mighty proud of that ragged Old Flag.*

The entire poem can be read at:

<https://www.google.com/search?q=ragged+old+flag+lyrics+johnny+cash&oq=ragged+old+flag+lyrics&aqs=chrome.2.69i57j0l7.11291j1j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND EDUCATION

Submitted by Alice Orchanian

The Kennedy Parent Center led by director Alejandra Zapata reported they will be offering a Spanish Literacy program. Those participating can earn an Elementary or Middle School diploma from the Mexican Consulate. The classes are in Spanish and will prepare participants to obtain a GED.

You can contact the Parent Center after January 13, 2020 for the start date of the program. For more information, The Parent Center located in the A building across from the Main Office. Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; (818) 271-2971.

NEXT GEN SCIENCE IN YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

by California State PTA



We send our kids off to school each day and when they get back home many parents ask, “what happened at school today?” Often, their answer is “nothing much.” It’s easy to just sigh and change the subject.

You feel slightly frustrated but at least you tried to find out what they learned in class.

Don’t stop there! Try conversation-starters like, “Tell me about the best part of your day?” or “Who did you play with today?” Research shows that it’s really important for parents to be actively involved in their children’s education, including knowing what they are learning in school and how things are being taught.

And indeed, teaching and learning in today’s classrooms looks different than it did “when you were a kid.” That’s particularly true when it comes to science. That’s why the California Department of Education has created parent guides about the new **Next Generation Science Standards**. They have also created practice and training tests that will provide you with a sneak peek at the kinds of questions kids are expected to answer when they take the state’s California Science Test. (All 5th and 8th graders take it. High schoolers take it in the year chosen by their school district.)

But you shouldn’t have to depend on just your own initiative – or your child – to find out what’s happening in class.

In fact, school districts this year are required to use the CA School Dashboard to reflect on how their staff is engaging parents around what students are learning. The 2019 Dashboard comes out in December. It’s easy to look up your school district and find the Family Engagement/Priority 3 Local Indicator. Click past the first couple links to get to the actual report, which will tell you what is happening across all the schools in your district. Then ask your school principal:

- Are the results consistent with what is happening at your child’s school?
- What is happening at the school to inform parents about classroom teaching and learning?
- Are there things your PTA can do to help bring the school staff and parents together around this goal, especially as it relates to changes in how science is being taught?

Just think... next time you have that conversation with your child, you might be the one telling them what happened in school today – or what’s going to happen tomorrow!

Next Generation Science Standards: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/sc/ngsstandards.asp>



THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT PTSA

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:**

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