

THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT PTSA

Valley Views

Volume 54 | Issue 9 | January 2021



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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

Why PTA? Now more than ever - PTA matters. Virtual Association Meetings are reaching more members than ever before. We need to remember we are close to going back to school. We need to remember the lessons we have learned in the past few months. Reaching out to each other, making new connections in new ways. We need to incorporate these changes as we migrate back to our previous meeting formats.



When the 31st District was founded in 1953, we had 88 units that represented 87,161 members in the San Fernando, Sunland and Tujunga area. We ran the Lunch and Milk Programs and three Health Clinics. There was a District Clothes Closet to aid needy children with clothing. We had an Arts and Crafts show which provided funds for arts scholarships We created a Music Festival that provided music scholarships. It is now called the Darlene Panfill Music Scholarship Program and it is in its 67th year. We ran a survey in the district and received 13,000 replies to help obtain better radio programs for our children. We published a newsletter "Valley Views" which is also still in print. We sponsored the Future Teachers of America clubs, the formation of a Mothersingers Chorus, district-wide Parent Education series, Health, Education, Financial, and Leadership Training...

We advocated for our kids. We spoke to each other. We had conversations with our teachers and administrators. We attended School Board Meetings. We spoke to our local Radio stations about programing. We made a difference!



The 2021 Legislation Conferences is just around the corner. For the first time ever you do not have to travel to be a part of this amazing experience. You can register for a mere \$50 per person.

<https://capta.org/programs-events/legislation-conference/>

You might ask - why would I worry about legislation, when I am just trying to hold together my unit? Great question. Because elections matter and have consequences at the PTA school unit level, the PTA Council, PTA District, PTA State, and at the city, state, and national government levels too. Who is in charge and what they advocate for is how we get things done. Learning how to speak to our city, state and national leadership, how to advocate for our kids is how we get better funding, how our kids get better tools to work with in a safe and healthy environment. That is why.

Please vote out funds to send someone from your unit to this conference February 8-9.

Membership Matters - we had a slow start to our membership drives and everyone is low on membership, so our Spring Fling for new membership should be strong now that all of our units have leadership. Promote your membership drives on all of your social media and newsletters. Just include your Totem links and what those membership numbers go up. Send 31st District your link and promotional ideas and we will promote them on our social media.

CONVENTION 2021 IS GOING VIRTUAL!

From California State PTA



Dear PTA Members,

After many weeks of careful consideration, California State PTA has decided to hold an all-virtual convention next May.

On Saturday, November 7, the Board of Managers acted upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors and approved a virtual Convention 2021. The BOD & BOM concluded that this is the most responsible choice, based on the results of the convention survey, analysis of numerous financial scenarios, and evaluation of the latest public health guidelines and predictions about the COVID-19 pandemic.

While we are disappointed that we will not be able to see all of you in person, we feel that health and safety factors outweigh the joy of bringing everyone physically together. Furthermore, based on the success of the all-virtual Statewide Association Meeting last June and the Virtual Summer Leadership Academy in July and August, we are confident that Convention 2021 will be an engaging and exciting event.

We look forward to bringing you an innovative virtual experience during 2021, including an online vendor fair, numerous training sessions, 2021-2023 officer elections, the Reflections art gallery, and other business of the association.

Look for information in the coming weeks and months about dates, registration procedures, and the program of events. We hope to see you there!

Yours sincerely,

Celia Jaffe
President, California State PTA

Heidi Goddi
Vice President of Convention, California State PTA



Celia Jaffe, California State PTA President

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

From National PTA

What does diversity, equity, and inclusion look like? An organization that recognizes diversity values differences and similarities among people through its actions and accountability. These characteristics include age, ethnicity, gender, language and culture, socioeconomic status, among many different things.

When PTAs respect differences yet acknowledge shared commonalities uniting their communities, and then develop meaningful priorities based upon their knowledge, they genuinely represent their communities. When PTAs represent their communities, they gain strength and effectiveness through increased volunteer and resource support.

We Believe Diversity is Our Strength...

We represent parents, caregivers, educators and communities of all children, which enables us to best achieve PTA's mission to make every child's potential a reality. Our collective backgrounds, perspectives and ideas allow us to best reflect the rich fabric of 21st century children, families, educators and community members—and create the strongest future and direction for PTA.

To embody and live this belief, PTA volunteers and staff must:

- Acknowledge and appreciate individual ideas, knowledge and values that are different from our own.
- Seek out and learn from a diverse set of perspectives, skills and experiences, staying open to the unfamiliar and possibly uncomfortable.
- Actively recruit and elect a team of leaders who represent the school community you serve.
- Support units from less represented or resourced areas, backgrounds and perspectives.



We Believe Equity Drives Our Mission...

With schools facing challenges like shrinking budgets and increasing educational inequity, PTA is more important than ever. We continually learn and change to reflect an increasingly complex and changing 21st century landscape in which unforeseen crises can affect our children, families and communities. We seize opportunities to build and share new models and ways of working on behalf of children.

To embody and live this value, PTA volunteers and staff must:

- Champion fair, just and data-informed approaches to children's educational success, health and well-being.
- Prioritize and advocate for innovative, sustainable solutions that work for a diverse range of children and families, especially those underrepresented and/or marginalized in our communities.
- Persist in the face of challenges and hold ourselves and our partners—including educators and policymakers—accountable.

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DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

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We Believe Collaboration Must Be Inclusive...

We can only achieve our mission and vision in full collaboration and partnership with the broadest possible set of volunteers, staff, educators, schools and communities. We foster an association where everyone feels they belong, are integral to achieving our vision and have the opportunity to flourish and contribute at the highest level. That means tending to power dynamics where they occur and setting up a level playing field for all to engage in our work.

To embody and live this belief, PTA volunteers and staff must:

- Work cooperatively and respectfully with colleagues with different roles, goals and approaches.
- Share information, tools, resources and leadership opportunities among association members, partners and communities to increase the impact of our collective work.
- Engage a diverse range of voices and lived experiences from members and prospective members—and seek to meet individuals and communities where they are—especially those currently or traditionally underrepresented and/or marginalized in our association.
- Solicit stakeholder input, incorporate it in visible and meaningful ways, and share credit.
- Account for cultural, status and power dynamics in our many relationship

Make It Easier for Families to Be Involved

PTAs can diversify their membership by removing some of the barriers that prevent families from engaging. All families care about their child's education, but some have more time and more resources to attend events and meetings. Instead of asking families to shift their schedules or miss work to attend, find ways to bring the information to them.

- Shifting PTA meetings from midday to nighttime
- Livestreaming PTA meetings for parents and caregivers who weren't able attend in person
- Providing more updates for families on the school website and via email blasts
- Offering scholarships for PTA memberships and for admission to events and programs

For more information:

<https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/Diversity-Equity-Inclusion>

<https://www.embracerace.org/>

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/>

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/>

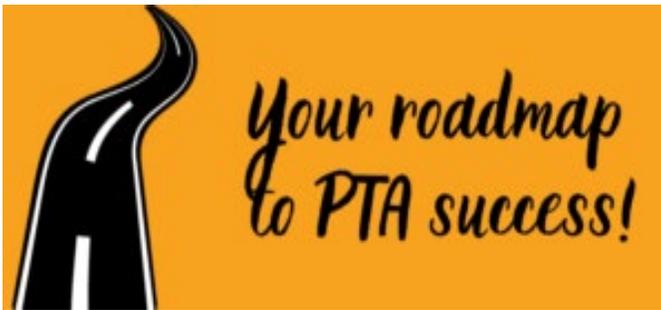
<https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/Awards-Grants/Jan-Harp-Domene-Diversity-and-Inclusion-Award>



Share how your PTA has championed diversity & inclusion for a chance to WIN \$1,000!

[PTA.org/DiversityAward](https://www.pta.org/DiversityAward)

[Find Out How](#)



Leadership Monthly Call

The next Leadership Monthly will take place on **Tuesday, January 26 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.** Topics we will discuss in January include how to hold a virtual election, ways to honor our volunteers, and other topics which will be added later.

Please register at

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeP58gUBc_V0-wSPsOzPxICp9mosu-BvTNihTBWj0bR6FJe0Q/viewform

Once you register, you will get an email with a link for the Zoom meeting. We hope to see you there!

LEADERSHIP

Submitted by Kimberly Amado, Vice President Leadership

Although we are leaving 2020 behind there are still many unknowns we face regarding the return to school and how that will impact our children and our PTA's. I am hopeful that you are reflecting on how to keep your PTA's relevant now and going forward.

Having all of the classes in an online setting makes it difficult for the children to connect with their fellow classmates. There is virtually no avenue for parents and families to connect during this time. Consider holding some social hours for parents to connect with each other, hold a game night, scavenger hunt or topic driven discussion. A couple of recent examples from our units:

- Stanley Mosk held a crafting event for their families to create an art project together
- Mayall held a recipe exchange via Zoom
- Riverside held a holiday bingo.

We all need the connect and maintain the strong community bonds that will hold our PTA's together now and for the future. I wish you all a happy and safe 2021.



Education does not need to end once a student graduates from high school. California State PTA has two scholarships to help graduating high school seniors achieve their college dreams and life goals.

OPPORTUNITIES EACH YEAR

Two scholarships are available:

- \$500 Volunteer Service Scholarship — This scholarship recognizes graduating seniors for their volunteer service in schools and communities, allowing them to register for courses at accredited colleges, universities, trade or technical schools.
- Applicants must be PTA members graduating from a California high school between January 1 and June 30 of the current academic year.
- \$500 Dr. Ralph E. White Graduating Senior Scholarship – Honoring the volunteer and public-service legacy of Dr. Ralph E. White and his wife, Eleanor, this additional scholarship provides \$500 each to two successful applicants of the Volunteer Service Scholarship who intend to pursue a career in a medical field.



Applications, reference forms and all supporting documents must be **received in the California State PTA office by February 1**. All applicants are notified of their status in March. Scholarship winners receive a letter of congratulations and recognition certificate from California State PTA along with a check.

Application Tips:

Don't forget to include these items in your application:

- Proof of your PTA membership
- Descriptive essay (no more than 500 words total — approximately 2 pages double-spaced) outlining your PTA responsibilities and your career plans, goals, objectives and any other information you feel would be valuable to the selection committee
- All of your school service-related activities including any service you provide to others in your school
- Your volunteer service in the community
- Two completed reference forms and letters, written specifically for this application (first reference written by a community volunteer leader unrelated to you and with whom you volunteered; second reference written by a member of the high-school faculty).

Download the application for a complete list of requirements using the link below.

Apply online! <https://capta.org/programs-events/scholarships/graduating-high-school-seniors/>

As you know, this has been a difficult year for membership-based non-profit organizations such as PTA. But California State PTA's work on behalf of families, children, and schools is more vital now than ever before, and we gain strength in numbers.

So, how can you help? Here are a few ways:

- If you're not already a member, join a PTA near you - Go to capta.org/join Golden State PTA or for a directory of your local PTA.
- Remind families to join PTA on your website, via social media, and in newsletters. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84963519701?pwd=L2hwOWNzSK1ZmSHg0c0xpSnNmTjQ2dz09> for social media templates
- Make a donation by clicking the green "DONATE" button at the bottom of the home page of capta.org.

More members means more support for schools and school districts; more people to advocate for school funding, arts education and racial equity; and more robust local PTA units, councils and districts.

Teachers Matter Deadline

The deadline for the annual Teachers Matter membership challenge is approaching! Teachers Matter is checkpoint #4 on the <https://capta.org/pta-leaders/run-your-pta/building-membership/incentives-and-awards/>

Here's a reminder of how Teachers Matter works: Any PTA that signs up 100% of its full-time credentialed teachers as members and submits a completed Teachers Matter application form by January 31, 2021 will be entered into a drawing to win a PTA tablecloth for your school.



- Remit manual and all non-TOTEM electronic memberships through proper channels.
- Attend and report results at association meeting (virtual or otherwise). Ask for program ideas.
- Send out monthly membership emails and social media posts asking community to join.
- Check your map. Meet with your Membership Committee to review your progress towards your goal.

The application form will be available on the <https://capta.org/pta-leaders/run-your-pta/building-membership/incentives-and-awards/>, and must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on January 31, 2021.

Membership Reminders

Thank you for all the hard work you've put into the Membership Drive Challenge.



- Be sure to remit all the new memberships you have collected for this school year. This will help make your audit process go smoother and make sure we have your most up-to-date numbers for awards and recognition.
- Remember that your councils and districts are here to support you if you have any membership needs. The State Membership Team is also here for you -- send questions, comments or concerns to membership@capta.org.

Social Media Theme Kits have been going strong for FIVE months now!

SOCIAL MEDIA THEME KITS

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.

FINANCE

From California State PTA

Insurance Premiums Are Due Now



Just a reminder that your unit insurance premiums are due now, through channels. The premium amount for units is \$258, and for councils is \$178. Continuous insurance coverage, whether or not you are holding in-person PTA events, is crucial to protect your association and your leaders. Insurance is required in order to be a PTA in good standing. Contact your Council or District leadership (<http://31stdistptsa.org>) if you have any questions about this remittance. More information about PTA insurance can be found on the Leadership page (<https://capta.org/pta-leaders/services/insurance/>) of the California State PTA website.

Mid-Year Audit Reminder

Don't forget that all units, councils and districts are required to perform a mid-year audit. For the majority of PTA entities the audit period is July 1-December 31, 2020.

Please review the processes and procedures for completing this audit, which can be found in the Toolkit.

When you're done, don't forget to upload your completed audits to MyPTEZ.

We've also got detailed audit instructions on the California State PTA blog, in a five-part series called "Your Mid-Year Audit in 5 Easy Steps." <https://capta.org/your-mid-year-audit-in-5-easy-steps-step-3-fill-out-audit-report/>

- Step 1 - Gather Materials
- Step 2 - Review and Examine Bank Accounts
- Step 3 - Fill Out the Audit Report
- Step 4 - Present the Audit for Approval
- Step 5 - Present to the Association and Vote

For more guidance on Audit Completion:

Audit Checklist - http://downloads.capta.org/toolkit/forms/AuditChecklist_Regular.pdf

Gather materials - <http://toolkit.capta.org/finance/pta-audit/preparation-for-an-audit/> and

<http://toolkit.capta.org/finance/pta-audit/audit-procedure-and-recommendations/>

Review and Examine Bank Accounts - <http://toolkit.capta.org/finance/pta-audit/purpose-of-an-audit/>

Fill out the Audit Report - <http://toolkit.capta.org/finance/pta-audit/audit-report/>

Present the Audit for Approval - <http://toolkit.capta.org/finance/pta-audit/audit-report/>

Present to the Association and Vote - <http://toolkit.capta.org/finance/pta-audit/audit-report/>

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by Ira Weinreb, Treasurer

A FEW REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYEES/INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

1) Annual Workers' Compensation Annual Payroll Reports

It is very important to note that the entire process for reporting your Workers' Compensation Annual Payroll has CHANGED this year. So even if you're an old pro and have filed this form many times in the past, please be sure to note the significant changes for this year.

First, there is now an online system for filing your Report, which is the preferred method. You can file your Report at: <https://aiminsurance.formstack.com/forms/capta>

Second, you CAN file a paper form instead of using the online system (but you really should try to use the online system instead). However, the paper form has changed, so be sure to use the current version of the form. And very importantly, the paper forms are NOT submitted through channels (i.e., to your Council Treasurer) anymore. Instead, they must be mailed directly to AIM, the PTA's insurance broker (their address is on the form).

Third, the Workers' Compensation Annual Payroll Reports (whether done online or via paper form) are due by **January 31**. This Report (as in the past) asks whether your Unit paid anyone directly for their services, from 1/5/20 through 1/4/21.

For most Units, the answer will be "NO!" In that case, check the "NO ONE PAID" bubble on

AIM ASSOCIATION INSURANCE MANAGEMENT INC
AIM • 8144 Walnut Hill Lane, Suite 900, Dallas TX 75231 • 800-876-4044 • capta@aim-companies.com

Check this box if this is an **amended form**.
EVERY UNIT, COUNCIL, AND DISTRICT PTA IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS REPORT, EVEN IF NO ONE WAS PAID.

Check this box if **no one** was paid.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ANNUAL PAYROLL REPORT
Payment of any surcharge due must be postmarked or initiated electronically no later than January 31.
For more information about making payments electronically, please call 800-876-4044 or email capta@aim-companies.com.
If any additional surcharge is due, checks should be made payable to "AIM" and mailed to:
8144 Walnut Hill Lane, Suite 900, Dallas, TX 75231.

Name of PTA (as shown in bylaws) _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Federal EIN _____ PTA Unit ID _____ PTA Council _____ PTA District _____
School District (optional) _____

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

	NAME OF PAYEE (INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION)	TYPE OF WORK (BE SPECIFIC)	DATES WORKED (JAN 5, 2020 TO JAN 4, 2021)	AMOUNT PAID FOR SERVICES TO PAYEES:	
				WITH THEIR OWN WORKERS' COMP COVERAGE*	WITHOUT THEIR OWN WORKERS' COMP COVERAGE
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
A	Total paid to payees WITHOUT their own workers' compensation coverage				
B	Subtract \$1,000 (if Line A is less than \$1,000, enter "50" on Lines C and D)				
C	Total payments subject to surcharge (Line A minus \$1,000 on Line B)				
D	Surcharge due (multiply Line C by 5 percent)				

* Amounts should only be entered in this column if the payee has provided your PTA with a Certificate of Insurance (COI) specifying workers' compensation coverage and related limits. For any amounts entered in this column, a COI must be attached to this report. Please note, general liability is NOT workers' compensation insurance.

- This form may be filed electronically at <https://aiminsurance.formstack.com/forms/capta>.
- Report ALL payees your PTA paid directly for services (attach additional report pages as necessary).
- This report should be signed by your PTA's treasurer or president.
- If your PTA's total payments to payees without their own workers' compensation coverage is \$1,000 or less, NO surcharge is due.
- Please do NOT send this report or any surcharge due to your council, district, or state PTA.
- This report must be completed and mailed to AIM **no later than January 31**.

Date _____ Name _____ Position _____
(Treasurer or President)
Phone () _____ Email Address _____ Signature _____

the online form, or check the red "no one paid" box on the paper form, sign it, and mail it by January 31.

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).

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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 in the total 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 mail a check for that amount, along with the form, to AIM. Also, please upload a copy of the form to PTA-EZ for archival purposes.

2) 1099's and DE-542's for Independent Contractors or Vendors

Any independent contractor or vendor who is not incorporated (or treated as a corporation for tax purposes) and who is paid \$600 or more for services in a calendar year must be issued an IRS Form **1099 NEC** by January 31. Any independent contractor or vendor who was paid less than \$600 for services and requests a 1099 NEC be issued must be provided one.

7171 <input type="checkbox"/> VOID <input type="checkbox"/> CORRECTED		OMB No. 1545-0116	
PAYER'S name, street address, city or town, state or province, country, ZIP or foreign postal code, and telephone no.		2021	
		Form 1099-NEC	
PAYER'S TIN	RECIPIENT'S TIN	1 Nonemployee compensation	Copy A
		\$	For Internal Revenue Service Center
RECIPIENT'S name		2 Payer made direct sales totaling \$5,000 or more of consumer products to recipient for resale <input type="checkbox"/>	File with Form 1096.
Street address (including apt. no.)		3	For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the 2021 General Instructions for Certain Information Returns.
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code		4 Federal income tax withheld	
		\$	
Account number (see instructions)	2nd TIN not <input type="checkbox"/>	5 State tax withheld	7 State income
		\$	\$
		6 State/Payer's state no.	\$
		\$	\$
Form 1099-NEC Cat. No. 72590N www.irs.gov/Form1099NEC Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service			
Do Not Cut or Separate Forms on This Page — Do Not Cut or Separate Forms on This Page			

Exceptions include:

- Payments of \$600 or more to a lawyer/attorney must be reported, regardless of whether the lawyer/firm employed is incorporated.
- Payments made via a credit card or financial payment processor (such as PayPal) do not require a 1099 NEC as the payment processor will issue a 1099K.
- Payments to other tax-exempt organizations do not require a 1099 NEC.

PTAs should request a *Form W-9 (Request for Taxpayer Identification Number)* from any contractor or vendor they expect to pay \$600 or more for services in a calendar year. The W-9 will indicate if the contractor/vendor is incorporated (or treated as an incorporation for tax purposes) and therefore if a 1099 NEC may be required. PTAs do not need to request a W-9 from vendors providing goods or merchandise.

PTA must report individuals who are independent contractors to the California EDD on *Form DE 542, Report of Independent Contractor(s)*, within 20 days of making payments of, or entering into a contract for \$600, or more within any calendar year.

The EDD may assess a penalty for each failure to comply with the required time frames. A penalty per instance may also be assessed for failure to report independent contractor information. **To obtain Form DE 542** visit EDD website at www.edd.ca.gov.

MEMBERSHIP EVENT & ASSOCIATION MEETING

Excerpts taken from video presentations shown at the event

On November 10, 31st District PTSA held a virtual Membership Event and Association Meeting. Board Members, Administrators, Teachers, Student Representatives and special guests were invited to attend this free event.



12th District Councilmember, John Lee, was the keynote speaker. He expressed the need for local government to partner with local schools to help our children succeed. He encouraged involvement on programs available to schools, especially “making movies that matter” which has become one of the largest youth film festivals and is open for all ages and all schools in the district. He wants PTA to think of his office as a partner in anything that we do.



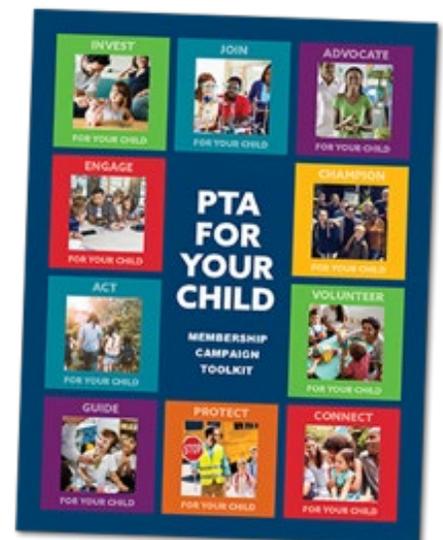
Kimberly Amado, Vice President for Leadership

When Kimberly first got involved with PTA, she didn't know the story behind it; she didn't know that it was larger than outside her school. Just like you, all the district and council leaders are volunteers with busy lives. Many have jobs, children in school, or take care of their grandchildren. Just like you, we started out as unit leaders. Our PTA experiences are all different, but those experiences gave us value that led us to step up into council and district leadership positions. All of our council and district leaders are here for you to help you personally succeed. This year, we are challenged more than ever. We are all in this together. PTA has embodied this for over 150 years.

Membership Recognition

Schools were recognized that had more TOTEM members this year over last year, schools that received the Membership Early Bird Award, schools that had over 100 TOTEM members, over 200 TOTEM members, over 300 TOTEM members.

- Granada Hills Charter K-8 was recognized as having the highest TOTEM membership.
- Los Amigos, Los Robles, and North West Valley Councils were recognized for doubling their total of TOTEM memberships over last year.
- Valley West Council tripled their total of TOTEM memberships.
- Valley Hills Council quadrupled their number of TOTEM memberships. Valley Gateway Council exceeded their number of TOTEM memberships.



FROM THE COUNCILS

Submitted by Tali Lerea, Valley West Council President

Valley West Council consists of 10 local school PTA units in the San Fernando Valley.

2020 is gone, but the school year keeps on going! During these times, every school site is struggling with the difficulties surrounding our current situation, our PTAs are here and trying to help. They have been working behind the scenes to make sure that the schools are still working hard to make sure the kids, families and staff all feel as connected as ever!

While most kids miss seeing their friends and teachers, and while we're all trying to get used to our new normal, we know that our main goal is to stay safe and keep each other safe. Our schools are continuing in their efforts to plan more fun ideas for their families, as well as continuing to get new PTA members involved.

In addition to the restaurant night fundraisers and the virtual book fairs our school's PTAs have been working hard thinking outside the box with new fun ideas to keep their school families engaged

- Capistrano Elementary held a fun Trivia night for their families on Kahoots
- Justice Street Elementary had their first Turkey Trot over the Thanksgiving Break getting active in the community
- Woodlake Elementary & Hamlin Elementary put on a Holiday Zoom Party and the kids had a BLAST!
- Hale Charter Academy has partnered with local pet and food shelters and organized a "12 Days of Donations" all while still keeping connected with our communities by creating local rock gardens and showing kindness across their campuses.

With the Holidays over, and Winter Break coming to an end, our units are already working on planning new fundraisers, silent auctions, yearbooks, recycling programs, and of course creating special memories for all the 5th Grade Classes of 2021. Support our school PTAs. They need our help! Valley West Council is small but mighty!

Congratulations to the following units who won awards in

- Early Bird Memberships
- Over 100 members on Totem: **Hale Charter Academy**
- Over 300 members on Totem: **Justice Street Academy Charter**
- **Valley West Council** with 100% of all units on Totem for 2 years in a row
- **Valley West Council** for tripling OTA memberships!!

Way to go team! So proud of all your hard work!!

Valley West Council: Early Bird Awards

- Capistrano Avenue Elementary PTA
- Columbus Middle School PTSA
- Hale Charter Academy PTSA
- Hamlin Street Elementary PTA
- Justice Street Elementary PTA
- Lanai Road Elementary PTA
- Team Pomelo PTA
- Woodlake Avenue Elementary PTSA

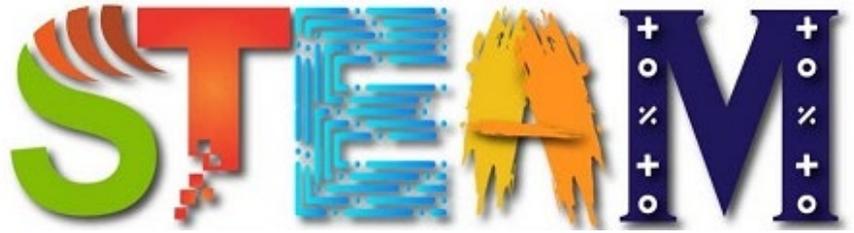
Valley West Council: Schools That Have More TOTEM Members This Year Over Last Year

- Capistrano Avenue Elementary PTA
- Columbus Middle School PTSA
- Hale Charter Academy PTSA
- Justice Street Elementary PTA
- Team Pomelo PTA
- Woodlake Avenue Elementary PTSA

HOST A STEAM EXPERIENCE AT YOUR SCHOOL

From California State PTA

Building the capacity of young people in science, technology, engineering, and math – and doing so within the humanistic frame that the arts help provide – is essential. Young people will need a high level of STEAM literacy to make decisions about their daily lives and to fulfill their role as informed citizens and PTA can play a key role.



There are many ways your PTA can promote STEAM! Showing parents how to discover alongside their children during a STEAM Experience is one of our favorites! You can inspire the families in your community and school to #DiscoverTogether by hosting your own PTA STEAM Experience – either in person, or virtually.

Tips for Hosting a Successful Meeting

- Set a Clear Goal a. A clear objective for each meeting is key in order to keep everyone on track. Providing meeting goals beforehand allows participants to come to the meeting prepared with ideas, discussion points, and possible blockers.
- When planning an icebreaker activity, try to adapt one to discuss STEAM subjects.
- Greet each individual as they enter the meeting or during the first few minutes of the meeting if time permits.
- Keep a Timeframe
 - Respect the time of your attendees. By receiving the goal and objective prior to the meeting, participants should arrive ready to discuss.
 - Try to divide topics of the meeting into timed increments.
- Stick to the Agenda
 - As the host, it is your duty to keep the meeting on topic and flowing smoothly.
- Propose Questions
 - Rather than opening the floor to Q&A, start with a few questions that provoke thoughts the whole group can discuss.
- Have a Call to Action
 - Answering the questions on the agenda and achieving the goal of the meeting will result in key decisions being made to move the project forward.
 - Make a note of all resolutions reached and assign actions to those who are responsible for completing them.

Download the STEAM Experience Guide today. Share the link with other PTA leaders!

http://downloads.capta.org/edu/stem/STEAM_Experience_Toolkit_2020_v3.pdf

For more ideas and a step-by-step guide to hosting your own STEAM Experience, visit

- <https://capta.org/focus-areas/education/curriculum/stem/host-yourown-steam-experience/>
- http://downloads.capta.org/edu/stem/What_Your_PTA_Can_Do_to_Promote_STEAM_Education.pdf

VAPING FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Statistics about E-cigarette Use among U.S. Youth

- Among middle and high school students, 3.6 million were current users of e-cigarettes in 2020.
- More than 8 out of 10 current youth users of e-cigarettes use flavored e-cigarettes, with fruit, mint, candy, and menthol flavors among the most commonly used.
- According to a 2013-2014 survey, 81 percent of current youth e-cigarette users cited the availability of appealing flavors as the primary reason for use.



Research Suggests Vaping Is Bad for Your Heart and Lungs

Nicotine is the primary agent in both regular cigarettes and e-cigarettes, and it is highly addictive. It causes you to crave a smoke and suffer withdrawal symptoms if you ignore the craving. There are many unknowns about vaping, including what chemicals make up the vapor and how they affect physical health over the long term. People need to understand that e-cigarettes are potentially dangerous to your health. Emerging data suggests links to chronic lung disease and asthma, and associations between dual use of e-cigarettes and smoking with cardiovascular disease.

Electronic Cigarettes Aren't the Best Smoking Cessation Tool

Although they've been marketed as an aid to help you quit smoking, e-cigarettes have not received Food and Drug Administration approval as smoking cessation devices. A recent study found that most people who intended to use e-cigarettes to kick the nicotine habit ended up continuing to smoke both traditional and e-cigarettes. The CDC advises adults who use e-cigarettes for smoking cessation to weigh the risks and benefits and consider use of other FDA-approved smoking cessation options.

A New Generation Is Getting Hooked on Nicotine

Among youth, e-cigarettes are more popular than any traditional tobacco product. Johns Hopkins medical experts indicated there are three reasons e-cigarettes may be particularly enticing to young people.

- Many teens believe that vaping is less harmful than smoking.
- E-cigarettes have a lower per-use cost than traditional cigarettes.
- Vape cartridges are often formulated with flavorings such as apple pie and watermelon that appeal to younger users.
- Both youths and adults find the lack of smoke appealing. With no smell, e-cigarettes reduce the stigma of smoking.

<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/wellness-and-prevention/5-truths-you-need-to-know-about-vaping>

https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/index.htm

<https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/products-ingredients-components/vaporizers-e-cigarettes-and-other-electronic-nicotine-delivery-systems-ends>

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/fda-voices/how-fda-regulating-e-cigarettes>

<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/want-quit-smoking-fda-approved-products-can-help>

WHAT'S NEW IN THE RESOURCE LIBRARY?

From California State PTA

The Resource Library (<https://capta.org/resource-library/>) has lots of great new content for fall. Check out these items aimed at helping parents undertake home-based experiments with their families in celebration of all things autumn!



- [Parents as Learning Partners](#), from Digital Youth Divas: What roles do you play in your child's STEM learning? In this activity, mark the roles you play frequently with a sticker or a check.
- [How to Talk About Race and Injustice in America](#), from National PTA: PTA's Center for Family Engagement has compiled resources to help you begin these conversations. Explore resources from Embrace Race, The National Museum of African American History & Culture, Common Sense Media and more.
- [ArtsEd Leaders Guide: Improving Arts Education with a Stronger Family-School Partnership](#), from National PTA: Learn how to start a PTA ArtsEd Committee at your school, engage more families, build stronger community partnerships and lead improvements to ArtsEd programs, practices and policies.

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. Go the Resource Library page on the California State PTA website to browse. <https://capta.org/resource-library/>

APPLY FOR A GRADUATING SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

From California State PTA

If you know a student who might be interested in applying for one of our two senior scholarships, act fast, because the application deadline is **February 1!**

Two scholarships are available:



- **\$500 Volunteer Service Scholarship** – This scholarship recognizes graduating seniors for their volunteer service in schools and communities, allowing them to register for courses at accredited colleges, universities, trade or technical schools. Applicants must be PTA members graduating from a California high school between January 1 and June 30 of the current academic year.
- **\$500 Dr. Ralph E. White Graduating Senior Scholarship** – Honoring the volunteer and public-service legacy of Dr. Ralph E. White and his wife, Eleanor, this additional scholarship provides \$500 each to two successful applicants of the Volunteer Service Scholarship who intend to pursue a career in a medical field.

Visit <https://capta.org/programs-events/scholarships/> of the California State PTA website for application forms and instructions.

THE ARTS: 31st DISTRICT MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Submitted by Houri Khatchadorian, Music Scholarship Chair



Since 1953, the 31st District has hosted an annual music scholarship program. Every year, young students audition in front of professional musicians and get one-on-one feedback and guidance. Every year, students are chosen from this group to receive scholarships for private lessons. Every year, those same students perform in a public concert.

All of the money for the scholarships come from the schools

of the 31st District PTSA and benevolent donors. Each school and Council generously donates funds from their budgets to keep this program going. Last year we had enough money to award twelve (12) \$300.00 scholarships. In 2021, we need our schools to donate again, so that we can keep this program going.



Last year for the first time ever, 31st District PTSA was not able to have our Music Scholarship Concert because we went virtual. In 2021, we are hopefully going to be able to Zoom not only the auditions, but a concert as well! Thank you for your support of this vital program

THE ARTS: REFLECTIONS

Submitted by Andrea Stucky, Reflections Chair

The theme for 2020-2021 Reflections Program is, "I Matter Because..."



All students attending PTA schools sponsoring the program were invited to participate and submit original artwork in one of six areas. Artworks were submitted first to local unit PTAs. Unit PTAs chose a selection of entries which were forwarded to councils and then to 31st District for consideration.

The final artworks submitted to California State PTA by districts were then considered for Outstanding Interpretation, Awards of Excellence or Awards of Merit. Outstanding Interpretation and Award of Excellence entries then went on to represent California in the final National PTA judging round.

A Google Doc entry form was developed so that children attending PTA schools did not miss an opportunity to participate in the Reflections Program.

31st District is in the process of judging entries received by the deadline in December.

2021 LEGISLATION CONFERENCE

California State PTA is excited to announce that we will be holding an all-virtual Legislation Conference on **February 8-9, 2021**. All PTA members are welcome – it is open to anyone interested in improving the lives of children and families in their communities, and across the state. We hope you will join us for this new and exciting format!



During the conference, whose theme is "**A Path to Equity**," you'll hear from legislators and other leaders from around the state on matters that are important to the children and families of California. You can meet and network with other advocates from across the state and participate in learning activities. There will also be a strong focus on how to schedule, plan and execute a meeting with your legislator (or person with decision-making power over your issue).

The cost is \$50 per person. For the registration link and further information, visit <https://capta.org/programs-events/legislation-conference/> on the California State PTA website.



THE ELECTION IS OVER ...NOW WHAT?

Now that the election is over, what can you be doing as an advocacy chair in your unit, council or district? It's a great time to introduce yourself and PTA to your newly elected State Senator and Assembly member after the regular session convenes on December 7th. If you are unsure who your state legislators are, you can find them at <http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov>.

Schedule a meeting with your legislator. Many legislators are holding virtual meetings with their constituents, so you can call either their local or their capitol office

Establish your agenda and goals. Know what PTA issues you want to discuss. Stick to no more than two or three issues. Since there are no introduced bills right now, talk about PTA's priorities Advocacy Goals.

Assign roles to facilitate the visit:

- **Team leader** – keeps the visit focused and moving forward.
- **Opener** – thanks the member for the meeting, introduces PTA and states your wish to discuss issues important to your PTA and community, and introduces the rest of the team.
- **Summarizer** – keeps track of the meeting timing, summarizes the issues discussed and thanks the legislator for the meeting.
- **Do your research.** Know your legislator's areas of interest and try to find common ground.

Educate the legislator about PTA and our priorities. Personalize the issues when possible telling how they affect your children, their school or your community

Develop a positive relationship with the legislator and their staff members. Communication should be ongoing

Follow up with a thank-you note to the legislator and helpful staff members!

If you are nervous about taking this step, speak to your council or district legislation chair and see if you can join a meeting with other PTA members from your community.

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RACIAL EQUITY BOOK CLUB

As part of California State PTA's commitment to equity, the Legislation Team is learning more about systemic racism and its effect on children and families. Our first step is a monthly book club that focuses on public policy decisions and how these decisions can perpetuate racial injustice. This knowledge can guide and expand PTA advocacy efforts to support opportunity for all.



You might want to host a book group in your PTA in order to increase awareness in your community about the issues around systemic racism. For some ideas on how you can use *The Color of Law* by Richard Rothstein to help students understand one cause of racial injustice and how it affects their lives, read *One Way Your School Can Address Racism*.

<https://www.epi.org/publication/the-color-of-law-a-forgotten-history-of-how-our-government-segregated-america/>

Our monthly book list includes:

- *How To Be an Antiracist*, Ibram Kendi
 - *The Color of Law*, Richard Rothstein
 - *The New Jim Crow*, Michelle Alexander
 - *White Fragility*, Robin DiAngelo
 - *Ghosts in the Schoolyard*, Eve Ewing
 - *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Ijeoma Oluo
 - *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*, Carol Anderson
 - *My Grandmother's Hands*, Resmaa Menakem
 - *We Gon Be Alright*, Jeff Chang
 - *A More Beautiful and Terrible History*, Jeanne Theoharis
 - *We Want to Do More than Survive*, Bettina Love
 - *Dying of Whiteness*, Jonathan Metzl
 - *Stamped from the Beginning*, Ibram X. Kendi
 - *Caste*, Isabel Wilkerson
- Here is what we have learned so far:
 - ***How To Be an Antiracist*** by Ibram Kendi: "Structural racism is the problem – not people."
 - ***The Color of Law*** by Richard Rothstein: This is a forgotten history of how our government segregated America. It includes details on redlining, bank refusals to provide housing loans, and local discriminatory decision making.
 - ***The New Jim Crow*** by Michelle Alexander: Mass incarceration spurred by the war on drugs has created a caste system for people of color both in jail and in our communities. Read a review of this book by a member of the Leg Team <https://capta.org/author/kelowitt/>

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MORE WORK TO DO TO RESTORE EQUITY IN CALIFORNIA



California’s children and families lost opportunities for improved equity and greater chances for educational success with the defeat of Proposition 16. This initiative would have allowed California to consider race sex, color, ethnicity, and national origin in public employment, public education, and public contracting.

“Unfortunately, racism and sexism still deny equal opportunities in California. Everyone deserves the opportunity to succeed – regardless of their gender, what they look like, or where they were born, ” said Celia Jaffe, President of California State PTA.

“This initiative promoted fairness, upward mobility and pay equity, and reduction of the racial wealth gap.”

“California State PTA will continue our work to address the legacy of systemic racism, sexism and unequal treatment of underserved communities. We must provide opportunities for all our children and families.”

THE #DECLINETOSIGN CAMPAIGN AND SB 793

Big Tobacco continues its effort to overturn SB 793, which would outlaw flavored tobacco products in California. The bill was signed by the Governor and is set to take effect on January 1st, 2021.

Please remind parents and community members to #DeclinetoSign if they are approached by paid signature gatherers (funded by large tobacco companies) who are trying to get a referendum on the next ballot in an attempt to overturn the new law.

We also encourage you to spread the word about #DeclineToSign via social media. Click here to find a template with suggested wording and images for your newsletters, Facebook posts, Instagram posts, and tweets.



CA State PTA Works with Governor's Office on the Safe Schools for All Plan

The Governor unveiled the Safe Schools for All Plan. California State PTA has been involved in numerous aspects of the plan including discussions on school centered testing, vaccine priorities, distance learning guidance and more. California State PTA President, President-Elect, and Director of Legislation will continue to share PTA's perspective.

Celia Jaffe, California State PTA President expressed the PTA position. "A safe return of kids to the classroom is on the wish list of countless California families, and Governor Newsom's Safe and Successful Schools for All Plan paves the way. The plan is rooted in science, health and safety – all key tenets to any conversation about returning to in-person instruction."



Below is an outline of Governor's Plan in consultation with Senate and Assembly Education leaders, SSPI, Dr. Linda Darling Hammond and Health Officials.

- **Funding.** The Budget will propose for immediate action in January, \$2 billion for the safe reopening of schools beginning in February, with a priority for returning the youngest children and those who are most disproportionately impacted first, then returning other grade levels to in-person instruction through the spring. These funds will provide approximately \$450 per student to school districts offering in-person instruction and will be weighted for districts serving students from low-income families, English learners and foster youth.
- **Safety & Mitigation.** To further ensure health and safety in the classroom, the Administration will focus on implementation of key measures, including testing, PPE, contact tracing, and vaccinations.
- **Testing.** The Administration will support frequent COVID-19 testing for all school staff and students, including weekly testing at schools in communities with high rates of transmission. Any interested public school will be on-boarded to the state-owned Valencia Branch Lab for PCR tests at one-third the market rate and the State will establish a hotline to help schools implement testing.
- **PPE.** All staff and students in schools are required to wear masks. Furthermore, surgical masks will be recommended for school staff, and the Administration will distribute millions of surgical masks to schools at no cost.
- **Contact Tracing.** Schools will continue to be on-boarded onto the School Portal for Outbreak Tracking (SPOT) to improve collaboration between school and health officials, and members of the state contact tracing workforce will be deployed to improve communication with schools.
- **Vaccinations.** School staff will be prioritized in the distribution of vaccines through the spring of 2021.
- **Oversight & Assistance.** Dr. Naomi Bardach, a UCSF pediatrician and expert on COVID-19 transmission in schools, will lead the Safe Schools for All Team, a cross-agency team composed of dedicated staff from CDPH, Cal/OSHA, and educational agencies.
- **Transparency & Accountability.** A state dashboard will enable all Californians to see their school's reopening status, level of available funding, and data on in-school transmissions. Additionally, a web-based "hotline" will empower school staff and parents to report concerns to the Safe Schools for All Team, which will lead to escalating levels of intervention, starting with technical assistance and ending with legal enforcement.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Safe-Schools-for-All-Plan-Summary.aspx>

SCHOOL SMARTS IS GOING VIRTUAL!

The School Smarts Parent Engagement Program is a model for creating meaningful and diverse parent involvement. It brings parents from all backgrounds together in support of their common interest: helping their children and schools succeed.



For the past 10 years School Smarts has inspired more than 10,000 parents to more deeply engage in their child's school experience.

The seven-session School Smarts program provides training and knowledge to help parents understand how they play an integral role in their student's educational outcomes. Each session offers opportunities for participants to share their own experiences, ask questions, and consider how they can take a more active role in their child's education.

School Smarts graduates are able to:

- Explain why parent involvement matters so much
- Identify ways to prepare their child for a successful high school experience to support college and career possibilities
- Summarize ways to learn how their child is doing in school
- Describe how to cultivate relationships with the school board, principal, teachers and staff
- Share how to prepare for a successful parent-teacher conference
- State different ways to practice leadership within a school community

Student success relies on the involvement of parents, teachers and school administrators working together for a common goal. The School Smarts program increases parents' knowledge of the importance of their role as their child's first teacher, why involvement in their child's education is essential, and encourages the continuum of learning at home. The School Smarts program strengthens the school community by educating a diverse group of parents on meaningful parent involvement and effective communications with school personnel.

The School Smarts program provides valuable information on:

- New Common Core State Standards, assessments, local funding, college readiness and more.
- How school districts can implement family engagement strategies as part of their Local Control Accountability Plan.
- How through leadership development, parents can become more informed, confident and comfortable to serve in their PTAs and on school or district committees.

School Smarts currently is offered in:

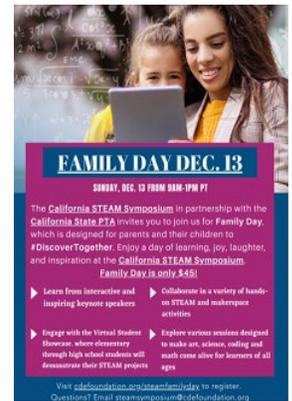


Contact schoolsmarts@capta.org to find out how parents, schools and districts can get involved!

Thank You For Discovering Together

It's been a challenging back-to-school season, but we hope you've taken some time to #DiscoverTogether with your family. Kids who do well in school do so because their families encourage learning at home and involve themselves in their child's education. <https://capta.org/discover-together/>

So, give yourself a pat on the back for all you've done over the past few months and remember, science is everywhere and for everyone. You don't need any fancy tools or expensive tech to take the time to discover the world around you with your child. You just need a little time, creativity, and curiosity.



Discover even more during a day of learning, joy, laughter, and inspiration. The California STEAM Symposium invites families to join us for Family Day, which is designed for parents and their children. The Symposium is only \$45 per family! **Sunday, Dec. 13 from 9am – 1pm (Pacific Time).**

Learn from interactive and inspiring keynote speakers and explore sessions designed to make art, science, coding and math come alive for learners of all ages. To register, click <http://cdefoundation.org/steamfamilyday/> Finally, you can do us a favor by sharing what you've learned through #DiscoverTogether by recording a quick and easy video. <https://capta.org/discover-together/> Your message will help us spread some positive messages about ways families can support science and STEAM education.

School Reopening Guidance



A few months' ago we circulated a couple of reports that provide helpful guidance on the issue of school re-openings. We wanted to draw your attention to these documents once again, as many of you may be facing a new round of school reopenings in January.

The first, titled *California State PTA's School Reopening Principles* (<https://capta.org/resource/guidance-document-for-school-reopenings/>)

is based on our organizational goals and purposes, input from our local leaders and 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.

The second document, by Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE) in cooperation with California State PTA, is called *Navigating the Uncertainty of Reopening Schools: A Guide to Parents, Families and the Public*. (<https://capta.org/hub-resource/navigating-the-uncertainty-of-reopening-schools-a-guide-for-parents-families-and-the-public/>). This report summarizes the current state of knowledge about key issues and suggests a set of questions that parents and educators should ask when considering plans for reopening during the pandemic. It is accompanied by a summary infographic (<https://capta.org/resource/pace-policy-brief/>), which serves as a valuable handout for community discussions.



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Valley Views

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