

**President**

**Debbie Vincent**

On behalf of the Ninth District PTA Board I wish you a Happy New Year. I hope you enjoyed the holidays with your family and friends and are ready to begin a new year, fresh and energized. We at Ninth District PTA have all had a very busy 2008 and are looking forward to a great 2009.

While updating your calendars for the new year, please make sure you save several important dates for future Ninth District PTA events.

- Annual Meeting/Founders Day on February 11, 2009.
- The California State PTA Legislation Conference and Ninth District PTA Sacramento Safari on February 22-24, 2009.
- A Salute to Excellence-Awards Event on May 21, 2009.

- Summer Leadership Conference on June 6, 2009.

We hope to see you at all of these events.

Our initial membership numbers have been very encouraging. Thank you to our councils and units for sending membership dues in on time. We have had several units and councils that have shown considerable growth in their membership numbers; however, as of December 2, 2008, we have 68,132 members, which is 13,803 members short of our 07-08 final total. Please continue membership campaigns and recruit as many members as possible. Remember: membership recruitment is a year-round activity, not just something that is done at the beginning of the new school year. Look in your schools and communities and ask potential PTA members to be one of the

one million voices in California for all children.

There are many good membership articles and recruitment ideas in the California State PTA, October 2008 issue of *The Communicator*. This publication can be found on the California State PTA website at: [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org).



**Why Attend California State PTA Convention?**

**Carolyn Epple**

We know that finances are tight for everyone, especially the PTAs. Here are 12 reasons every PTA should budget to send officers to the California State PTA Convention:

- All PTA bylaws state that the president-elect shall be entitled to be a delegate to the annual convention.
- Excellent job specific training in workshops.
- Network with your unit, other unit members, your council.
- Network with your new Ninth District Executive Committee in our Presidential Suite at the San Jose Hilton and Towers -continental breakfast provided each day.
- See parliamentary procedure in action during the business meetings; learn how to properly conduct a meeting.

- Be a part of electing your California State PTA Board of Directors - yes, it's an election year!
- Learn first-hand about the bylaws changes, resolutions and legislation platform by attending the hearings. They're early in the day, but well worth it if you are a voting delegate.
- View the impressive Reflections Program entries; hear and see the California State PTA winners.
- Explore the exhibit hall -- all that gift wrap and food!
- Gain valuable parenting skills; renew your enthusiasm for PTA and develop new friendships.
- All PTA training is a legitimate PTA expense, so no excuses that there's no funding!
- Last, but not least, it's FUN!

Ninth District PTA  
 Annual Meeting  
 And Founders Day  
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## Ninth District PTA *Sacramento Safari 2009*



- WHO:** All PTA officers and legislation chairmen.  
Open to all PTA members.
- WHAT:** Ninth District PTA Sacramento Safari 2009  
in conjunction with the California State PTA  
Legislation Conference
- WHERE:** Sacramento
- WHEN:** February 22-24, 2009

The Sacramento Safari will take place on Monday and Tuesday afternoons during the annual California State PTA Legislation Conference. We will meet our elected officials at their offices in the State Capitol to discuss education and budget issues..

Units and councils should budget approximately \$650 per person for roundtrip airfare, hotel accommodations, conference registration fee and one lunch and one dinner, based on advanced airfare and a shared room.

Participants need to register separately with California State PTA for the Legislation Conference and housing. To download the conference packet which includes the conference registration and housing forms, please visit the legislation page on the California State PTA website: <http://www.capta.org/sections/advocacy/leg-conference.cfm>. *The conference ends on Tuesday morning but Sacramento Safari will continue through late afternoon, so be sure to schedule your return flight accordingly.*

For more information please contact:

Young Haagensen, Ninth District PTA Sacramento Safari Chairman

[yhaagensen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:yhaagensen@sbcglobal.net).

**Deadline to turn in registration & housing forms to California State PTA:**

**January 16, 2009**

## Oh No, Not Co!

Sue King

How many times have you heard this lament – many times or just a couple of times? Your answer may depend on the number of PTA units in your area. The California State PTA Bylaws for Local PTA/PTSA units has helped all of us with a perfect solution to the co-president dilemma. Article VI – Duties of Officers, Section 2 provides for an optional office of executive vice president. Sub-sections listed are the duties for this officer. The most important of these duties is *a. aide to the president.*

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, does not recognize *co-officers* - nor does Ninth District PTA, the California State PTA or the National PTA. *Co-officers* implies two people of equal rank sharing one position.

As nominating committees meet, parliamentarians need to advise the group to nominate one person to fill each position. If additional help is needed to complete the duties of the office, the president-elect can consider sub-committee chairmen. A program vice president could have as many sub-committee chairmen as

there are programs and a ways and means vice president could have as many sub-committee chairmen as there are projects. As for president, one person needs to be willing to accept the final responsibility for the association.

If your association would like to adopt this position for your executive board, a bylaw change is required. Seek the assistance of your unit, council or district parliamentarian if you have questions on how to implement this change.

## Audits

Elana Levens-Craig

All unit, council and district PTAs must conduct audits semiannually. An audit is a formal examination of the financial books and records of the financial officers of the PTA. The PTA audit serves as an official examination of the financial records conducted by the auditor or appointed audit committee. The person conducting the audit should always be impartial and not related by blood or marriage nor reside in the same household as the president or other financial officers or any chairmen handling funds. The auditor may be an elected officer, appointed individual or committee, or a professional hired by the PTA. The president, treasurer, financial secretary, secretary or committee chairmen handling funds may not audit the financial records.

In preparation for the audit, the auditor should collect all financial books, records and reports from the treasurer, including:

- A copy of the last audit report;
- Current bylaws and standing rules;
- Originals of checkbook register and canceled checks (including voided checks);
- Originals of bank statements, bank book and deposit slips;
- Cash receipts;
- Authorizations for payment;

- Itemized statements and receipts of bills paid;
- Monthly Treasurer's Reports;
- Original treasurer's books/ledgers;
- Annual Financial Report;
- Copies of board, executive committee and association minutes, which would include an adopted budget, any amendments that were approved during the year, approval of expenditures, and ratification of payments;
- Committee reports from chairmen (e.g., fundraising, membership, etc.);
- Any other information requested by the auditor;
- Copy of PTA-required Workers' Compensation annual Payroll Report form ;
- Copies of all required state and federal report forms if PTA hires employee(s);
- Copies of all required federal report forms if PTA hires independent contractor(s);
- Copies of the most recently filed IRS Form 990, 990EZ and 990N.

The auditor should prepare a written report. The following is a checklist of what the report must include and the procedures once the report has been completed:

- Bank name and address, type of account, account number, EIN,

beginning balance, a total of all expenditures, all deposits, outstanding checks, outstanding deposits, and an ending balance (Audit Report Form, Forms 383 Toolkit).

- A statement at the bottom of the report to be read upon presentation of the report, "The audit committee has/I have examined the records of \_\_\_\_\_ PTA and find them to be correct," or "find them to be substantially correct with the following recommendations," or "find them to be incorrect" Each member of the committee or the auditor should sign the report.
- Attach any recommendations to the report. List errors in arithmetic or posting. List unpaid bills and payments authorized, but not paid.
- Present the audit report to executive committee and the association as directed in the bylaws.
- Formally adopt the audit report with a motion: Attach a signed copy of the audit report to the association minutes.
- Forward copies of adopted audit to the next level PTA.

If you have any questions, please contact Ninth District PTA office.



6401 Linda Vista Road, Annex A San Diego, CA 92111-7319 (858) 268-8077 Fax (858) 268-8017 phoebe@sdcoe.net

### Honorary Service Award Nomination Form 2008-2009

The Honorary Service Award Selection Committee is seeking nominations for the 2008-2009 PTA year. Nominated individuals include those who have made significant contributions that positively impact the lives of children, youth or families within Ninth District PTA. (San Diego and Imperial Counties) Current members, officers, teachers and administrators may also be considered for this award.

Ninth District PTA honorees will be celebrated at Ninth District PTA's Annual Meeting and Founder's Day Celebration on Wednesday February 11, 2009. The event will be held at the Scottish Rite Center, San Diego, CA.

The Honorary Service Award program includes the Honorary Service Award, Continuing Service Award, Golden Oak Service Award (California State PTA's highest honor), as well as, Very Special Person Awards and donations in the names of individuals or organizations. Funds contributed to the Honorary Service Award program provide resources for the California State PTA Scholarship and Grant programs.

**Specify award category:**

- Honorary Service Award
- Continuing Service Award
- Golden Oak Service Award
- Very Special Person Award
- Donations

**Name of individual nominated:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Title or position:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Reason for nomination:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of person submitting the nomination:** \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit your nomination to Ninth District PTA at 6401 Linda Vista Road, Annex A, San Diego, CA 92111-7319. All nominations are due Friday January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009. All nominations will be considered. The Honorary Service Award Selection committee will select the recipient(s).  
With one voice for every child, Amy Everett- 2008-2009 HSA Committee Chairman

### Why learn music in schools?

Cathy Roth

#### Because music...

- Develops skills needed by the 21st century workforce: critical thinking, creative problem solving, effective communication, team work, and more
- Keeps students engaged in school and less likely to drop out
- Improves the atmosphere for learning
- Helps students achieve in other academic subjects like math, science and reading
- Helps communities share ideas and values among cultures and generations
- Is a disciplined human endeavor with intrinsic value to society

#### Research reveals strong correlations between quality music education in school and...academic achievement

Music enhances the process of learning. The systems they nourish, which include our integrated sensory, attention, cognitive, emotional and motor capacities, are shown to be the driving forces behind all other learning.

Source: Konrad, R.R., "Empathy, Arts and Social Studies," 2000

The College Entrance Examination Board found that students in music appreciation scored 63 points higher on verbal and 44 points higher on math than students with no arts participation.

Source: "College-Bound Seniors National Report: Profile of SAT program test takers," Princeton, NJ: The College Entrance Examination Board, 2001

U.S. Department of Education data show that students who report consistently high levels of involvement in instrumental music during the middle- and high-school years show significantly higher levels of mathematics proficiency by grade 12.

Source: Catterball, J., Chapleau, R., and Iwanaga, J., "Involvement in the Arts and Human Development," 1999

Young children who received a year of musical training showed brain changes and superior memory compared with children who did not receive the instruction.

Source: Fujoka, T., Ross, B., Kakigi, R., Pantev, C., and Trainor, L., Brain, "A Journal of Neurology", Oxford University Press, September 2006

The vast majority—96 percent—of the school principals interviewed in a recent study agree that participation in music education encourages and motivates students to stay in school. Further, 89 percent of principals feel that a high-quality music-education program contributes to their school achieving higher graduation rates.

Source: Harris Interactive Poll, 2006

A study of rural and urban inner-city schools found that arts programs helped schools in economically disadvantaged communities develop students' critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

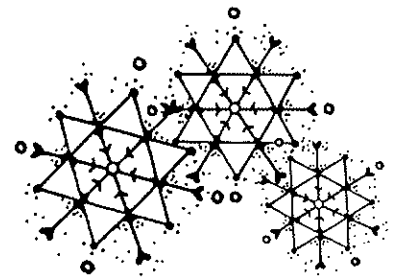
Source: Stevenson, I., Deasy, R., "Third Space: When Learning Matters," AEP, 2006

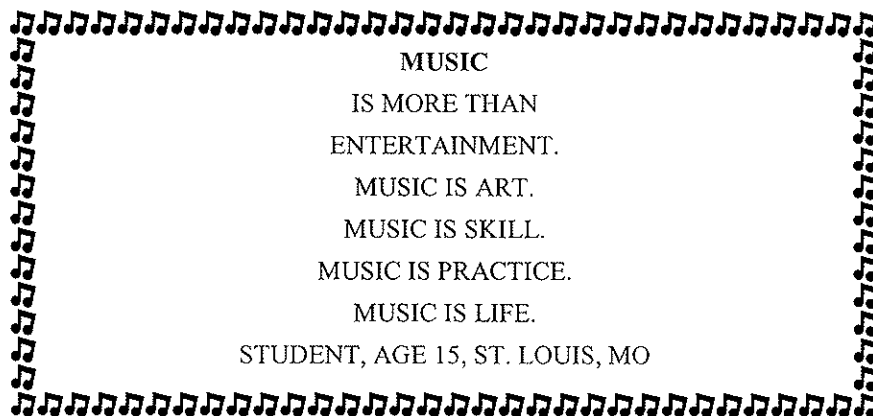
A study examined the influence of music education on nonmusical abilities, the effects of music lessons on academic performance, and cognitive abilities. The study revealed that students who participated in music lessons showed statistically higher intelligence quotients.

Source: Schellenberg, G., "Music Lessons Enhance IQ, Psychological Science," Vol. 15, No. 8 2004

A recent Harris Poll revealed that 93 percent of Americans agree that the arts are vital to providing a well-rounded education for children. Let's work together to strengthen our commitment to quality music education for all children.

To learn more click on California State PTA: SMARTS, October, 08; [Keep Music Education Strong--Support Music](#)




  
MUSIC
  
IS MORE THAN
  
ENTERTAINMENT.
  
MUSIC IS ART.
  
MUSIC IS SKILL.
  
MUSIC IS PRACTICE.
  
MUSIC IS LIFE.
  
STUDENT, AGE 15, ST. LOUIS, MO

*2009 Annual Meeting and Founders Day  
Brunch and Celebration*

*Wednesday, February 11, 2009*

*8:30-11:00 a.m.*

*Scottish Rite Event Center*

*1895 Camino Del Rio South*

*San Diego, CA 92108*

Reservations received by February 2, 2009: \$20.00

Reservations received after February 2, 2009: \$30.00

**Reservations will not be accepted after February 9, 2009**

Mail completed form and check to:

Ninth District PTA

6401 Linda Vista Road, Annex A, San Diego, CA 92111

All PTA checks require 2 signatures

*2009 Annual Meeting and Founders Day Reservation Form*

Unit or Council Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope to allow us to mail tickets to you.**

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**STAR Tests**

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**Carmen Myers**

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**STAR Testing**

Every year, starting with 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, our children are assessed on their knowledge of the core curriculum standards for their grade. These tests are known as the STAR (Standardized Testing and Reporting) tests. The following is a Q and A from the California Department of Education website. I believe it is important to understand the reasons behind the testing and what it means to our children.

**Who participates in the STAR Program?**

All students in grades two through eleven in California public schools participate in the STAR Program each spring. This includes students with disabilities and English learners.

**What are the tests in the 2008 STAR Program?**

- The **California Standards Tests (CSTs)** measure the achievement of California content standards in English-language arts, mathematics, science, and history-social science. These tests are given in grades two through eleven.
- The **California Achievement Tests, Sixth Edition (CAT/6 Survey)** measure the achievement of general academic knowledge in core subjects. These norm-referenced tests are given in grades three and seven only and provide national comparisons for these grades.
- The **California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA)** measures the achievement of California content standards in English-language arts, mathematics, and science. This alternate assessment is given to students in grades two through eleven, who have significant cognitive disabilities and are unable to take the CSTs even with accommodations or modifications.
- The **California Modified Assessment (CMA)** measures the achievement of California content standards in English-language arts, mathematics, and science. In 2008, this assessment is given to students with disabilities in grades three through five, who meet CMA eligibility criteria approved by the State Board of Education.
- The **Standards-based Tests in Spanish (STS)** measure the achievement of California content standards in reading-language arts and mathematics in Spanish. In 2008, these assessments are given to Spanish-speaking English learners in grades two through seven.
- The **Aprenda, La prueba de logros en español, Tercera edición (Aprenda 3)** measures the achievement of general academic knowledge in Spanish. In 2008, this norm-referenced test is given to Spanish-speaking English learners in grades eight through eleven.

**Must all students participate in STAR Program testing?**

Yes. All students must participate unless their parents or guardians have submitted a written request to the school to exempt them from STAR Program testing (*Education Code* Section 60615). It is very important that all students take part in the STAR Program. Each school district and school must have at least 95 percent of its students participate in statewide assessments in order to meet federal accountability requirements.

**When will I receive my student's STAR Student Report?**

Most parents and guardians will receive the STAR student reports by the end of September.

**What information will my student's report include?**

Your student's STAR Student Report will provide results for the CSTs, CAT/6 Survey, CAPA, CMA, or STS, depending on the test taken. The CST or the CAPA report will show scores and performance levels for each subject tested. Performance levels of proficient or advanced indicate that your student is meeting or surpassing the state's target for academic achievement. Performance levels of basic, below basic, or far below basic indicate areas of learning that need improvement. The CMA or the STS report will show a percent correct score for each subject tested.

In addition, the STAR Student Report for the CSTs will include scores for specific content areas within each subject tested and a California Reading List (CRL) Number. An explanation about all of the information included in your student's report will accompany the report.

Note: Parents and guardians are reminded that their students' results are confidential and are maintained only by the school district.

**How will results of the STS or Aprenda 3 be reported to parents and guardians?**

Student reports for the STS or Aprenda 3 must be distributed to parents or guardians within 20 working days after the

## STAR Test continued

Carmen Myers

school district has received them. The STS and Aprenda 3 student reports should arrive in school districts by the end of September. The student reports for these two tests will be provided in Spanish.

### How are the 2008 STAR Program results used to improve my student's education?

STAR Program results provide information about each student's progress that is used to help parents or guardians and teachers work together to improve student learning.

Schools use STAR Program results to help make decisions about how best to support student achievement.

STAR Program results also can be used, along with other available data, to assist in identifying students for promotion or retention and for special intervention or enrichment programs. Test results, however, should never be used as the only source of information to make important decisions about a student's education.



California Department of Education  
1430 N Street

### How to help your child prepare for testing

#### Eleven Tips to Help Your Child Prepare for Tests

To help children prepare adequately for tests (whether teacher-made or standardized), you can do several things to provide support and create a positive test-taking experience.

1. The best way to prepare for tests is to study, know the work, and take the right courses.
2. If your child is nervous at test time, ask her teacher for tips on helping her relax.
3. Make sure that your child is in school during the testing sessions. Do not plan any doctor or dental appointments on test dates.
4. Make sure that you are aware of your child's performance and that you can help interpret the results when they become available.
5. Remember to keep well-informed about your child's tests. Know how test results are used, and how they will affect your child's placement in school.
6. If there are major differences between standardized test scores and school grades, find out why.
7. Encourage your child to study over a period of time rather than "cram" the night before.
8. Encourage your child to listen carefully to all test-taking directions

given by the teacher and to ask questions about any directions that are unclear.

9. See that your child gets his/her regular amount of sleep before the tests and is well-rested.
10. Make sure that your child eats his/her usual breakfast on the day of the test. Hunger can detract from a good test performance.
11. Encourage your child to do his/her best.

Brought to you by the American School Counselor Association

### Community Concerns Programs

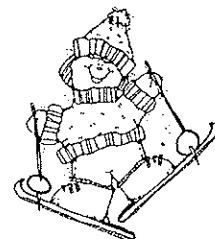
Carol Green

A new year is a great time to evaluate your PTA's impact on community concerns. There are many free and low cost programs you can present to benefit your membership and community. If you are looking for ideas check out the Ninth District PTA's new resource shelves. We gathered resources on health, community concerns and parent education that could be of great interest to our PTAs. You can pick up information on Kids and the Law, nutrition, drug prevention, safe driving and internet safety among other things.

If you are looking for speakers we have some exciting news. The Cyber Safety for Children Coalition and the California State PTA are pleased to announce there is a new free resource for Ninth District PTA members. The Cyber Safety for Children Speakers Bureau will help you find a speaker for a parent event at your PTA. The presenters will provide information, tools and resources to help parents recognize and protect children from the dangers facing them in cyberspace. Topics include: Safe Social Networking, Kids and Digital Media, Cyber-bullying, Protecting Your

Computer and Protecting Your Family.

The Presentations last one hour and include time for questions. They are designed for audiences of parents and teachers with a minimum attendance requirement of 70. To find out more or to schedule your event visit the Cyber Safety for Children website:



Ninth District  
 CA Congress of PTA, Inc.  
 National PTA  
 6401 Linda Vista Road, Annex A  
 San Diego, California 92111-7399

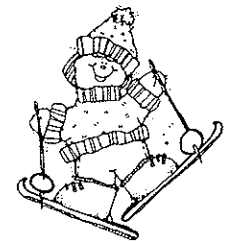
Debbie Vincent President  
 Judy Williams Editor

Serving San Diego and  
 Imperial Counties

# Ninth District PTA®

everychild.onevoice.

“Celebrating 91 Years of Service”



# JANUARY

Spanish Observer Offer:  
 For a **FREE** subscription to our Spanish *Observer* (one per PTA) call the Ninth District office: 858.268.8077

The Ninth District PTA does not control and cannot guarantee the relevance, timeliness, or accuracy of the material provided by other agencies or organizations, nor does the Ninth District PTA endorse other agencies or organizations, their views, products or services.

### Important Numbers

#### Ninth District PTA

Phone.....858-268-8077  
 Fax.....858-268-8017  
 Email.....phoebe@sdcoe.net  
 Website . . . . . [www.ninthdistrictpta.org](http://www.ninthdistrictpta.org)

#### California State PTA

Phone.....916-440-1985  
 Fax.....916-440-1986  
 Email.....info@capta.org  
 Website.....[www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org)

#### National PTA

Phone.....312-670-6782  
 Fax.....312-670-6783  
 Email.....info@pta.org  
 Website.....[www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

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## IMPORTANT MEETINGS AND DUE DATES

### Calendar of Meetings

- February 11 Ninth District PTA Annual Meeting and Founders Day - Scottish Rite Event Center, Mission Valley
- February 11 Legislative Meeting, 7 pm, SDCOE, rm 508
- February 17 District Board, 9:30 am, Tierrasanta Library 4985 LaCuenta Dr., SD, 92124

### Due Dates

- February 1 Graduating High School Scholarships, MY PTSA Awards due to California State PTA—PLAN AHEAD

### Save the Dates

- February 22-24 California State PTA Legislation Conference, Sacramento
- April 30-May 3 California State PTA Convention, San Jose
- June 6 Ninth District PTA Summer Leadership Conference, University of San Diego
- June 26-29 National PTA Convention, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

### Plan Ahead

- February Take Your Family to School Week (8-14 )
- March Arts in Education Month
- April Alcohol Awareness Month, Volunteer Appreciation Week
- May National Physical Fitness Month, Teacher Appreciation Week