

Lending Library

Carolyn Johnson

Are you aware that there is a "take me" shelf and a lending library in the Ninth District PTA office? Most of this information is about drug, alcohol, and tobacco prevention and also a lot of PTA information. Below is a list of **FREE information** for the taking next time you're in the district office:

Keeping Youth Drug Free

When You Become 18

Kids and the Law

PTA Programs, National PTA (English and Spanish)

Why Your Schools Need a PTA (English and Spanish)

Get Involved for Your Child, Join PTA! (English and Spanish)

Rear View Mirror (DVD)

Lending Library:

Critical Issues Conference Book 2008

Drugs and Youth (VHS)

Natural High (DVD)

The Dark Side of the Sun (DVD)

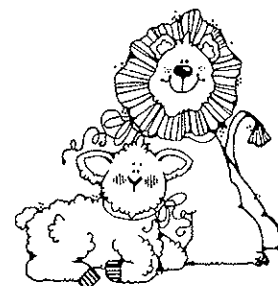
Youth Vs. Tobacco

Please take as many of the freebies as you can use. We will do our best to replenish supplies and add new publications.

Check out from our lending library, but we ask that you return items within two weeks.

Thanks for all you do for our children in Ninth District PTA!

Ninth District PTA Office Management Committee



Save the Date!

Karen Fleck

Ninth District PTA Summer Leadership Conference

Saturday, June 6, 2009

University of San Diego

Registration Cost: \$30.00 through May 21
 Registration Cost: \$50.00 after May 21

3 Workshop Sessions + PTA en Español
 Continental Breakfast and Buffet Luncheon
 Exhibitors – open 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
 and a beautiful ocean view and breeze!

Registration	7:00 – 8:30 a.m.
General Meeting	8:30 – 9:00 a.m.
Session 1	9:15 – 10:45 a.m.
Session 2	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Lunch	12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Session 3	1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Enjoy a day of important training and networking with your peers. All PTAs should send representatives from next year's board.

**Ninth District PTA's
 Convention
 Happenings
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Legislation**Lorene Joosten**

Education Week released its *Quality Counts 2009* report in January. The annual reports provided a comprehensive state-by-state analysis of key indicators of student success using a cradle-to-career framework. This year California received a C overall, with the following letter grades in six individual categories:

- The **Chance-for-Success Index** combines indicators intended to offer a perspective on the role that education plays as a person moves from childhood, through the formal K-12 school system, and into the workforce. **California's grade: C**
- In the **Transitions and Alignment** category, the report tracks and grades the states on 14 indicators assessing how well the states smooth the transition through the educational pipeline, including early-childhood education, college readiness, and the economy and workforce. **California's grade: B-**
- In the area of **School Finance**, the report calculates the degree to which education funding is equitably distributed across the districts within a state, and the average per-student spending in 2006 adjusted for variations in regional costs. **California's grade: C** (*A- for Equity and F for Spending; California's per-pupil expenditures were \$7,571 when adjusted for regional cost differences, compared to the national average of \$9,963*)
- The **K-12 Achievement** index examines 18 distinct state achievement measures related to reading and math performance, high school graduation rates, and the results of Advanced Placement exams. The index assigns equal weight to current levels of performance and changes over time. It also places an emphasis on equity, by examining both poverty-based achievement gaps and progress in closing those gaps. **California's grade: D**
- The **Standards, Assessments & Accountability** portion of the report looks at the quality of the state's standards and the process for updating them, the methodology of state testing and alignment to state standards, and performance and accountability measures in place for schools: **California's grade: A-**
- The **Teaching Profession** category measures state accountability for teacher quality, incentives and allocation, and building and supporting capacity: **California's grade: C-**

The report also provided in-depth analysis of our nation's diverse and growing student subgroup of English-language learners (ELLs). Nationwide enrollments of English-language learners increased by 57 percent from 1995 to 2005. This sweeping shift in demographic patterns has strained the capacity of school districts, and even state departments of education, to develop and pay for instructional programs to teach children who are still learning English. The task of ensuring that millions of children learn English—and succeed academically—is putting pressure on states and school districts as they push to boost student achievement overall.

Nationally, there is a significant achievement gap between English-learners and all public school students. For example, only 9.6 percent of 4th and 8th grade ELLs scored "proficient" or higher in mathematics on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in 2007, compared with 34.8 percent of students as a whole. The gap was similar in reading: 5.6 percent of ELLs scored proficient when measured as a group, compared with a national average of 30.4 percent.

Save the Dates

Ninth District PTA Legislation Meetings:

March 18 from 10:30 - noon

at the Escondido Unified School District's Carilyn Gilbert Education Center in the Maple Room.

April 15 from 7 - 8:30 p.m

at the San Diego County Office of Education, Room 508 boardroom

May - August, no meetings

April 17, 2009: EdSource Forum:

Each spring EdSource hosts a forum on California education policy featuring the nation's top education officials and researchers. EdSource's 2009 Forum will be held at the Hyatt in Irvine on Friday, April 17. This year the focus will be on the state's budget crisis, the implications for K-12 education, and what can be done to turn the situation around. For more information, log onto www.EdSource.org.



Reasons to Conduct Elections Before the School Year Ends

Sue King

Bylaws indicate when elections are held; but, WHY is it important to elect new officers before the new school year starts? If the new school year begins *without* new officers . . .

1. If the bylaws provide for an April election, four months of transition and planning time is forever lost.
2. The program and budget committees have inadequate time to develop and plan prior to the first association meeting, which leaves little time to give notice for and present plans to the membership for required approvals.
3. The PTA executive board must play catch-up. It can take months to feel organized and prepared to effectively lead the association.
4. Banking, check signatures, and bill paying can be impaired if previous officers have moved on and financial procedures have not been properly addressed at the end of one fiscal year and the beginning of another.
5. The transition of officers and chairmen after an extended break loses the momentum of sharing and passing on information and materials. If past officers or chairmen move to another campus or community, materials and procedure books often become lost.
6. Newly elected officers miss the opportunity to participate in counterpart training provided by the district and council PTA, as well as convention and other workshops.
7. Bylaws state the president-elect is entitled to represent the PTA at the annual California State PTA convention, if the budget allows. The annual convention is always held in late April or very early May.
8. Mailings of valuable resources and materials from National and California State PTA are missed.
9. The opportunity to promote PTA, build a relationship with the school, and publicize the PTA's role on campus is delayed and momentum is lost.
10. Administrators and school staff may be confused as to whom the PTA leaders are and lose sight of how valuable the PTA/PTSA is to the school community.
11. Opportunities for valuable community building, networking, and volunteer recruitment, which normally begin when officers take office, are lost.
12. The membership campaign begins too late for the PTA to qualify for Early Bird and Chairman's Club awards and may prevent the PTA from remitting the first required dues payment on time.
13. Students may lose the opportunity to participate in Reflections, PTA's fine arts program, because there is inadequate time to plan, kick off, and meet entry deadlines.

Source:

The Communicator January 2009

California State
PTA

www.capta.org



Carolyn Johnson

Convention Information

2009 California State PTA
Convention
San Jose'
April 30 - May 3, 2009

Have you registered for convention yet? It's easy as 1-2-3! Log on to www.capta.org and click on "110th Annual Convention." After registering, you will receive an email with your bar code and all registration information. Those of you registering between 2/2 and 3/31 will receive a magnetic card, workshop tickets and event tickets in the mail. **Do not forget these at home, as it will cost you \$35 to replace.** The only line

you will stand in is the *Tote Line*, to receive your tote bag and voting card. Those registering after 3/31 will stand in the *Express Pre-registration Line*. Registration changes can be made online until 4/20; after that date, changes must be made at convention.

Also in this edition of *The Observer* is an order form to pay for Ninth District PTA's fee, event tickets and a Hawaiian shirt. Please return these to the district office by April 3.

Don't forget to make your reservations at the Hilton San José, so you can be near all the Ninth District PTA action!

Have a wonderful experience at convention, and I'll see you there.



Preparing for Life After High School

Carmen Myers

Helping to prepare your teen for life after high school is one of the most important tasks you'll have as a parent. We want more than anything to see our children succeed in life. Going to college, getting a job, or taking time off is the choice your child will be facing.

For the college choice, preparations may begin well before the 9th grade year. This is the time that you will want to check with your child's high school counselor to learn what entrance requirements and tests are needed for the colleges your child is interested in attending. It is possible to "practice" taking college entrance tests as early as the junior year in high school.

Getting an early start at the admissions process is recommended because of the extensive research involved and the deadlines for the early admissions program. Teens should list their goals as well as their accomplishments, even if they haven't decided on a field of study. Ask your teen to write down a list of:

- Academic and personal strengths and weaknesses
- Extracurricular activities
- Awards
- Grade point average (GPA)
- Class rank
- SAT, ACT or AP scores

Both you and your child should attend "Career Days" and "College Nights" when they are offered. Now your teen needs to consider the qualities they're looking for in a college. Some of the factors to consider when looking for a college are: Does your child want to go away to school, stay home or take online courses? It is best to build a list of six to ten schools. Applications need to be taken very seriously. They should be out completed and be a sample of your child's absolute best work, even

the essay. Many schools will offer help with the application process.

Don't limit your child's list of colleges because of finances. For information on scholarships being offered or other programs that may help, ask the school counselor and the colleges' financial aid offices. There are also Federal aid programs available and can be researched online.

If college isn't your child's first choice, perhaps a job is in their immediate plans after high school. Teens that go this route need to learn how to search for employment, write a resume, and develop interviewing skills. Some companies will reimburse costs for continuing education in areas related to their employment. There is also the option of an internship. Your child could spend a year or so exploring several careers through internship programs. Internships provide participants with the opportunity to learn about a particular career, make contact, and develop mentoring relationships.

Taking time off could be the choice best for your teen. This is a time when your teen could travel, volunteer in a third world country, or volunteer in their own community.

Community service organizations offer a wide variety of choices where teens can match their skills and interests. Americorps, for example, offers hundreds of programs across the United States with a small stipend, plus a chance to obtain money for college or vocational training. Many religious organizations provide community service programs as well.

This choice must be made very carefully, with the teen keeping in mind; brochures can embellish the actual situation considerably. The reality of the situation is that work in developing countries can be very difficult due to the differences in living conditions. Working in this type of a program can be life changing, the rewards may far outweigh the hardship incurred. Speaking with previous participants should give your teen a realistic view.

When the subject of the future is presented, some teens may try to shrug it off. Remember to keep communication open between you and your teen. Remember to:

- Really listen to your teen. Share a story or two about a tough choice you had to make.
- Provide respect and support while giving up some control. This is a time for your teens to develop decision-making and problem-solving skills.
- Prepare your teen to be self-sufficient away from home. This includes making major decisions regarding dating, drugs, and day-to-day living skills (cooking, cleaning, laundry, grocery shopping, paying bills, and managing a budget).

Don't be afraid to set limits on how much you can financially support a teen who decides to take time off. It's important for teens to learn independence.

In the end you must realize that it is your teen's life. Be supportive and enthusiastic, even if your teen keeps changing his mind. Help them out with your own experience and try not to be judgmental. This is a new world for your teen, and change takes time. Be there with positive, unconditional love and support.

References: kidshealth.org and California State PTA Parent Involvement Pocket Pal



Election Results – Why we need ‘em

Karen Fleck

All units have their elections in either March or April as stated in the by-laws. The day you have your election, gather the contact information for ALL of the newly elected officers while they together. You need to know their:

Full Name
PTA Position
Home Address (not the school address)
Home Phone
Cell Phone
Email address

Send this information to:

Your council (if in council)

If you don't know your council contact, or you do not have a council, send to the Ninth District PTA office at phoebe@sdcoc.net or by mail to our office (address on the back of this Observer)

Each other – so that you may begin meeting & planning

A common mistake is for the OUTGOING board to think the INCOM-

ING board should send in the information, while the INCOMING board thinks the OUTGOING board did it. **Outgoing President:** please do your new board a favor and ensure they will receive the summer mailing by sending in their information for them. **New, incoming board:** ask the outgoing president if he/she did it, and if not – do it. It takes two boards working together to make the whole system work.

It is important to send in contact information for your entire board because sometimes there is information, legal, informative or just interesting, that council or district would like to send directly to the treasurer, the parliamentarian or the membership chairman.

Email address: this is particularly important for the president. There is a lot of information that only comes this way, and you will miss out on it. If you do not have a personal email address, many school's will allow you a school district email address (like their teachers use) that you can use from a school computer or a library. Another alternative is to use a spouse's work email or perhaps a neighbor's or friend's.

The *Observer* should go to the homes of the treasurer and the president. Often they are the only reminder of due dates or amounts due. Sending PTA mail to the school address, in some cases, never reaches the PTA board. Ninth District PTA and California State PTA already have your school's address. Some information will go to the school. PTA will not give this address to anyone outside of PTA. Over the summer, there is a lot of information that will come to you from State and National PTAs so that you can prepare for the new school year. It will not go to the outgoing president, and it will not go to the school.

If council and Ninth District PTA do not receive new board information, we assume that you did not have an election, or you are not planning to be a PTA for the new year. Congratulations to your new board for next year, and thank you in advance for sending in your new board information as soon as you have an election.

March is Art Education Month

Cathy Roth

Now is the time to get involved and speak out on the importance of arts education in our schools. We know that when there are talks of budget cuts, that the arts are usually the first on the chopping block. Let's take a stand and support the arts. According to California Alliance for Arts Education Budget Update, the Governor's proposal to reduce 2008-09 Proposition 98 spending on K-14 programs includes legislation that provides "schools complete and permanent flexibility with respect to categorical funding." The proposal would authorize the transfer of funding for categorical programs, including the Arts and Music Block Grant to a district or county office of education general fund.

Use these Talking Points to communicate with your school district..

ACCESS - The Arts and Music Block Grant is intended to rebuild the infrastructure of arts education in school districts so that every child may benefit from arts education.

EQUITY - Students attending high poverty schools have significantly less access to arts education than their peers in more affluent communities. The Arts and Music Block Grant have only just begun to redress the great inequities that have occurred over the past thirty years. The block grant funds are allocated on a per pupil basis, enabling arts learning opportunities at all schools for all students.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY – The arts are central to a complete education. Our students need and deserve the kind of education that will enable them to be competitive for the jobs of

the 21st century. The arts cultivate those critical skills and creativity.

QUALITY – Districts are making progress reviving quality arts programs by hiring visual and performing arts teachers and administrators, purchasing instructional materials, and providing much needed professional development. Progress will only be sustained with time and an unwavering commitment by policymakers and education leaders to provide a complete and well-rounded education for every child.

More information

California Alliance for Arts Education: <http://www.artsed411.org>

Keep Arts in School
http://www.keepartsinschools.org/Advocacy_Day

Reflections Award Winners**Mindy Thomason**

Congratulations to all!

What an awesome year for Reflections!

Award of Excellence Winners have been forwarded to State Level!

Award of Excellence

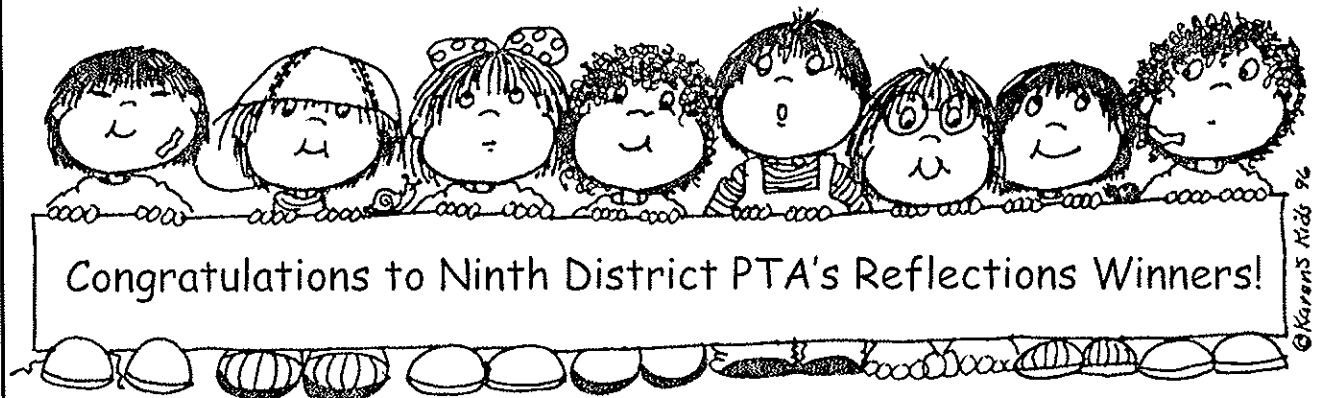
<u>Council</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Student Name</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Division</u>
Escondido	Reidy Creek	Braeden Lopez	Literature	Intermediate
Mt. Helix	Murdock	Melanie Johnson	Music	Intermediate
Mt. Helix	Murray Manor	Julia Martinez	Photography	Primary
North Coastal	Avaira Oaks	Bryan Souza	Film	Middle
North Coastal	Carmel Valley	Megan Wu	Visual Arts	Middle
North Coastal	El Camino Creek	Jonathan Pugmire	Music	Primary
North Coastal	El Camino Creek	Logan Snodgrass	Music	Middle
North Coastal	Valley Middle	Kathryn Park	Dance	Middle
Out Of Council	Bonsall Elem.	Elise Trouw	Photography	Intermediate
Out Of Council	Bonsall West	John Phillips	Literature	Primary
Out Of Council	Potter Jr. High	Katrina Gaines	Literature	Middle
Palomar	Mesa Verde	Nikita Morozov	Photography	Middle
Palomar	Mt. Carmel	Allsion Ashworth	Dance	Senior
Palomar	Mt. Carmel	Nina Zhu	Music	Senior
Palomar	Mt. Carmel	Natalie Ermolaeva	Visual Arts	Senior
Palomar	Park Village	Zachary Wu	Film	Intermediate
Palomar	Park Village	Anastasia Schas	Visual Arts	Primary
Palomar	Park Village	Olivia Huang	Visual Arts	Intermediate
Palomar	Rancho Bernardo	Julia Brown	Photography	Senior
Palomar	Westview	Hayden Boal	Film	Senior
Palomar	Westview	Ashley Peterson	Literature	Senior
San Diego Unified	Ericson	Cameron Minor	Dance	Primary
Tierra Del Sol	Sycamore	Kayla Papalardo	Dance	Intermediate

All award entries will be on display at the San Diego County Office of Education, rooms 401-402 during the month of March.

Further celebrations to be announced soon.

Award of Merit winners are listed on our website: <http://www.ninthdistrictpta.org/>

All non-award entries can now be picked up by a council representative at the Ninth District PTA office.



Convention

Carolyn Johnson

Ninth District
PTA[®]
everychild.onevoice.[®]

Dear Ninth District PTA Delegates for the California State PTA Convention:

Congratulations on registering for the 110th Annual California State PTA Convention in San Jose. We are confident that you will learn a great deal of pertinent information to take back to your units and councils. Also, you will have the opportunity to vote for the incoming California State PTA Board of Directors.

As in previous years, delegates from Ninth District PTA are required to pay a \$20 district fee. This fee helps offset the convention orientation, materials and welcoming packets, district suite which will be used for daily continental breakfast, snacks and water and to help lower the cost of the Open House for everyone.

Ninth District PTA is hosting an Open House on Friday, May 1, in the Presidential Suite of the Hilton San Jose. Refreshments and soft drinks will be served. While the fee is \$20 per person, the actual cost \$22.40. Come meet the 2009-2011 Executive Committee and say "thank you and so long" to the out-going 2007-2009 executive committee members.



We are offering an optional Hawaiian Shirt to identify us as Ninth District PTA delegates. They are 100% cotton with double-stitching, single pocket and coconut buttons. They are machine washable and have been pre-washed and preshrunk. They are men's sizes, so it is recommended that you purchase one size down from what you normally wear. \$15.00 for S, M, L, XL, XXL or \$17.50 for 3XL.

For your convenience, please use the tear-off sheet below to remit the district fee, Open House reservations and Hawaiian shirt orders.



Unit: _____ Council: _____

Name of delegate(s): _____

Contact info: _____

District Fee - \$20 Qty: _____ Total: \$ _____

Hawaiian Shirt - \$15 or \$17.50 for 3XL Qty: _____ Size(s): _____ Total: \$ _____

District Event May 1 Open House- \$20 Qty: _____ Total: \$ _____

Total Amount of Check \$ _____

Please remit payment by **noon on April 3.**

Make checks payable to Ninth District PTA; all PTA checks require two signatures.
Send to Ninth District PTA, 6401 Linda Vista Road, Annex A, San Diego, CA 92111.

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

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Debbie Vincent President
 Judy Williams Editor

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Important Numbers

Ninth District PTA

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 Fax.....858-268-8017
 Email.....phoebe@sdcoe.net
 Website www.ninthdistrictpta.org

California State PTA

Phone.....916-440-1985
 Fax.....916-440-1986
 Email.....info@capta.org
 Website.....www.capta.org

National PTA

Phone.....312-670-6782
 Fax.....312-670-6783
 Email.....info@pta.org
 Website.....www.pta.org



Calendar of Meetings

- March 17 District Board, 9:30 am, SDCOE, rm 301
- March 18 Legislative Meeting, 10 am, Maple Room, Escondido Union School District Offices

Due Dates

- March 20 Last remittance of membership to district PTA for 2008-09
- March 31 Last date for program books, newsletters, and websites to be submitted for awards
- May 19 2009-2010 officer rosters due to Ninth District PTA office. We will accept the rosters as soon as you hold your elections.

Save the Dates

- 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

- March Arts in Education Month
- April Alcohol Awareness Month, Volunteer Appreciation Week
- May National Physical Fitness Month, Teacher Appreciation Week