

APPTA NEWSLETTER



PO Box 23058 • San Jose, CA 95153 • 408-371-8709 ext. 2
www.orgsites.com/ca/autismprojectpta

**August 2006
Issue 1**

Meet Your New Executive Board



Roseanne Duncan President

The aunt of two children in the Autism Project. She works as a marketing manager for HP and is excited to start her new role as APPTA president.



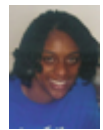
Miya Simontacchi Vice President

The mother of a son in the Autism Project. She is a stay at home Mom who is actively involved in the classroom as well as the PTA.



Cynthia Armon Treasurer

A veteran teacher in the Autism Project. She joins us as our 1st teacher to serve on the board. She also sits on the CAN committee for Walk Now.



Bana Jones Secretary

A 2nd year elementary teacher in the Autism Project. She joins us with a spirited perspective and valuable teacher feedback.



Mike Benipayo Historian

A father of a child with autism. He works as a nurse at Valley Med, and brings strong family and community involvement.



Trisha Burkhart Auditor

A big community supporter of autism. She works as a copy center supervisor, bringing a fresh community perspective to the Autism Project PTA.

Message from President

Welcome to the new school year, I hope you have all enjoyed your summer. I want to let you know how excited I am to be serving on the board as the new APPTA president. I would encourage every parent and teacher to join our PTA. By being a member and actively attending our bi-monthly meetings this year, you can make a difference in our children's lives. Your expertise and feedback is essential to our organization's success. We have many exciting events and activities planned for the year and we hope to have your support and involvement. I believe this group has great potential and you can take an active role in shaping our direction and making sure we are providing value to you, your children and your school community. We look forward to a productive, positive and fun-filled year.

Autism Project PTA team Raises over \$9,000 for CAN

The Autism Project PTA joined forces with parents, teachers, children and community supporters to make a strong presence at the CAN – Cure Autism Walk on June 10, 2006. This was just one way we could give back to the community who helps our children. We want to thank each and everyone who came out that day and anyone who sponsored a walker with a donation. GREAT JOB team!



45 team members participated in the 5K walk
For more information about CAN visit:
www.cureautismnow.org

Mark your calendars for the upcoming PTA meetings

The Autism Project PTA general membership meetings will be held the first Thursday of each month, from 6:00-8:00pm at Latimer Elementary School. FREE dinner and childcare will be provided.

Join us, **September 7, 2006** as **Janet Nunez, an Assistive Technology Specialist** discusses how assistive technology can help your child.

Autism Project PTA helping at the North-South All Star Football Game

Over a dozen Autism Project PTA volunteers sold programs and tickets at the San Jose North-South All Star Football game on July 19, 2006. The event was held at San Jose City College and was well attended. The efforts of our volunteers were greatly appreciated and we look forward to working with the North-South All Star game in the future.

What is autism?

Children with autism have difficulty communicating and interacting with others. Many individuals with autism seem to retreat into isolation or fixate on a word, an object, or an activity.

Sometimes symptoms are seen in infancy, while other children develop normally for a year or more before they begin to slip into their own private world. At best, a high functioning person with autism may simply seem eccentric, a loner. At worst, a person with more profound autism may never learn to speak or care for themselves.

How common is autism?

Autism is a national crisis. It is the fastest growing disability in the United States. A child is diagnosed with autism every 21 minutes and it now affects one in every 166 children.

What are common signs of autism?

Children affected by autism do not always experience the same symptoms. The symptoms depend on the severity of the disorder. Early signs of autism are:

- Loss or lack of speech around 18 months of age.
- Little or no eye contact.
- Loss or lack of gestures, such as pointing or waving.
- Repetitive speech or actions.
- Unusual reactions to the way things look, feel, smell, taste or sound.

Become a PTA member and help your child's class win a classroom party!

We are having a classroom membership contest, "Have a SWEET time with the APPTA!"



The classroom with the most memberships by Oct 3rd will be treated to a classroom party of their choice. When you join the PTA your child's class will receive credit. You can ask family members and neighbors to join as well. Membership is only \$10 per member.

Look for APPTA membership information the first week of school.

Ways to become involved: Join a PTA committee

The PTA has a number of committees that you can volunteer for. We welcome your involvement. The following committees are in place this year. We hope you will contact our committee chairs if you are interested in joining us.

Goals	Tim Anderson
Fundraising	Raquel Davis & Julie Rossetta
Bylaws	Netta Anderson
Budget	Cynthia Armon
Membership	Miya Simontacchi
Community Awareness	Roseanne Duncan
Nominating	TBA

If you are interested please call 408-371-8709

Did you know your teacher/class will receive \$200?

The APPTA will distribute \$200 to each classroom teacher so they can purchase school supplies, equipment or learning tools that will assist your child this coming year. Thank you to all of the members, volunteers and supporters who helped with the fundraisers that resulted in the funds for our classrooms. We are happy we are able to help our teachers and classrooms this school year.

APPTA Resources

The Autism Project PTA has a variety of resources available to you and we hope you will find them useful.

We encourage you to visit our website for the latest news and meeting information.
www.orgsites.com/ca/autismprojectpta

We have a yahoo group / email distribution list that you can join. This group allows you to share your expertise, experience, stories and feedback with a group of members.

To join please email us at: autismprojectpta@hotmail.com

We are based out of San Jose and we look forward to hearing from you.

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We are just a click away



Email us:
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