

Newsletter



Keeping the lines of communication open between parents, teachers, administrators and the community strengthens our school and benefits our children.

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue 1 Volume 7 April 2008

Online Fun!

Check out our new web links for this month. There really are plenty of sites that can make learning basic skills fun!

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Value of PTA Membership

Why be a member of the PTA? Read on to learn the value and benefits of PTA membership.

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Spring Fling!

Want to enjoy a laid back, fun family event? Well, read on because the Spring Fling will bring back the spirit of community found in the school dances of yesteryears.

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Flunk the Budget!

The California State PTA is opposing the Governor's proposed budget for 2008-09 because it would harm the youngest and most vulnerable in our state: our children.

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Annual Members Meeting and Elections

PTA Members are invited to our Annual Meeting to vote for next year's officers and enjoy awards and entertainment.

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Around and About

With the moderate weather of the Central Coast, there are many activities planned for Lompoc and surrounding communities.

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President's Corner

Your PTA President is Laurie Carter, who can be reached at no.wonder@verizon.net

Dear Friends of the PTA,

We have had some serious fun lately! Family Health and Fitness Night was a blast. I hope you learned some easy ways to work fitness into your lifestyle.

Book Fair was another big success! The kids were so great about playing the trivia game, which many asked that we make a part of the next fair, too! Congratulations to Mrs Lopez, who won the Klutz Build A Book Party for her class.

Spring Catalog Sales broke every goal we set for it! Thank you for your enthusiasm and hard work! The items should be arriving in early April, so watch your kids wrists for reminder wristbands.

PTA Vision: Making every child's potential a reality.

PTA Mission: To be a powerful voice for all children,

A relevant resource for families and communities, and

A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who have worked so hard and brought their creativity and energy to our little PTA! Without you, we could not have done any of this!

Speaking of volunteers, it is time again to elect officers to lead our PTA for the 2008-2009 school year. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, April

16th at 6 pm for our Annual Meeting, where we will elect new officers and give a few awards!

Be sure to check out the list of candidates on the window of the office at the school. You can also nominate additional candidates from the floor at the meeting.

I look forward to seeing you!

Fondly,

Laurie Carter





Value of PTA Membership

CA PTA Website

Becoming a PTA member opens up leadership opportunities, and builds skills in communication and advocacy strategies. Members who are willing to get involved are a valuable resource for starting and maintaining programs and projects to benefit children, youth, and the community.

Enrolling members in the PTA is a year-long activity that is carried out by a membership committee. The primary reason for developing membership in the PTA is to build an informed team of individuals to work on behalf of all children and youth. The committee plans, implements, and evaluates the membership campaign following the guidelines of the National PTA and California State PTA.

Memberships

Any individual who subscribes to the Purposes and basic policies of the PTA becomes a member upon payment of dues to a PTA or PTSA unit. Each member receives an official membership card from the unit. The membership card issued shows that the dues paid to the unit include membership in the California State PTA and National PTA and expires on October 31 annually.

Each PTA is separate from any other PTA and gives special services to a specific group of children. Members having children in more than one school may pay dues to support the PTA or youth in each child's school. (Article VII, Section 4 California State PTA Bylaws 8.1, 347)

All members of the California State PTA belong to:

- A unit;
- A council (if applicable);
- A district PTA (if applicable);
- California State PTA; and
- National PTA.

Membership Dues

Annual membership dues include per capita dues to the council (if in council), district PTA, California

State PTA, and National PTA. The remaining portion stays in the unit. Dues may differ in amount in each PTA.

What Dues Provide

THE UNIT LEVEL (Buena Vista PTA)

Administrative Reimbursement: Officers, Chairmen
 Convention Delegates
 Emergency Student Assistance
 Hospitality
 Insurance
 Newsletters, Web site, print and electronic notices
 Organization Expenses
 Parent Education, Study Groups
 Program Booklets
 Publications
 Reimbursement: officers, chairmen
 School-Student Projects
www.orgsites.com/ca/buenavistapta/

THE COUNCIL LEVEL (Lompoc PTA Council)

Administrative Reimbursement: Officers, Chairmen
 Community Projects
 Convention Delegates
 Directory
 Emergency Student Assistance
 Hospitality
 Leadership Training
 Materials
 Newsletters, Web site, print and electronic notices
 Publications
 Reimbursement: Officers, Chairs
 Workshops

THE DISTRICT PTA LEVEL (15th District PTA)

Administrative Reimbursement: Officers, Chairmen
 Commissioners
 Convention Delegates
 Directory
 Emergency Student Assistance
 Hospitality
 Leadership Training and Projects
 Programs
 Newsletter, Web site, print and electronic notices
 Publications
 Reimbursement: Officers, Chairs
 Workshops and Conferences

THE STATE PTA LEVEL (CA PTA)

Administrative Reimbursement: Officers, Chairmen
 California State PTA Convention
 California State PTA Offices in Los Angeles and Sacramento
 California State PTA Toolkit
 Electronic notices and communications
 National PTA Convention Delegates
 Newsletter (PTA in California)
 Publications and Supplies
 Reimbursement: officers, chairmen, legislation advocates, commissioners
 Service mailing
 Special Projects
www.capta.org

THE NATIONAL PTA LEVEL

Administrative Reimbursement: Officers, Chairmen
 Electronic notices and communications
 Field Services
 Legislative Office: Washington, D.C.
 Magazine (Our Children)
 National PTA Convention
 National PTA Headquarters: Chicago
 Reimbursement: officers, chairs and legislative committee
 Resources/Publications
 Special Projects
www.pta.org

Online Fun

Check out these sites for learning fun!

<http://www.funbrain.com/>

<http://www.gamequarium.com/>

<http://quizhub.com/quiz/quizhub.cfm>

<http://www.uptoten.com/>

<http://www.starfall.com/>

<http://www.eduplace.com/kids/>

<http://www.kidsknowit.com/>



The Governor's Budget Flunks the Basic Test of Government: It Hurts Our Children

The California State PTA is opposing the Governor's proposed budget for 2008-09 because it would harm the youngest and most vulnerable in our state: our children. The proposed budget would make across-the-board cuts to education, healthcare and other programs that have a direct impact on the safety and well-being of California's children.

Below is a list of budget cuts as proposed by the Governor. As the budget gets debated in Sacramento, we must make sure our children's voices are heard.

★ Cuts to Schools

Given that California has among the lowest per-pupil funding and largest class sizes in the country, the Governor's proposed budget reductions would make a bad situation even worse, and they are fundamentally inconsistent with the state's goal of improving student achievement. The Governor is proposing a \$4.4 billion cut to school funding. This could result in the loss of tens of thousands of teachers and increased class sizes throughout the state, not to mention a further erosion of programs and the support system for students provided by special education aides, reading specialists, counselors and other support personnel.

★ Cuts to Foster Care Programs

Current foster care reimbursement rates are already woefully inadequate. The proposed cuts would ultimately hurt children and lead to fewer families taking in children who have been abused and neglected.

★ Cuts to Child Welfare Services

The proposed 10% reduction to funding for child welfare services would cause an accompanying loss of federal funds, thus compounding the negative impacts. These cuts would endanger the health and safety of thousands of neglected and abused children. It would mean the loss of more than a thousand social workers whom children now rely on to investigate reports of abuse and neglect,



provide family maintenance services and reunite families.

★ Cuts to CalWORKs Program that Supports Low Income Families

Research links outcomes for children to the types of sanctions proposed by the administration. Enacting policies that drop children from CalWORKs and reduce the amount of resources available to their families would exacerbate the situation and reduce the likelihood of these families becoming self-sufficient.

★ Cuts to California Children's Services (CCS) Health Care Program

The proposed cuts to CCS could drastically affect the health care services provided to the severely ill children served by this program. Medical Therapy cuts would result in longer waiting lists for children to receive physical therapy. Delays in providing timely medical care to CCS children could result in greater emergency room usage.

★ Cuts to Medi-Cal Administrative Cuts

Nearly 160,000 Medi-Cal children would be required to re-apply for eligibility every three months, instead of the current annual requirement. While increasing the administrative burden, the budget proposal would at the same time reduce administrative funding. The result would be gaps in – or the loss of -- healthcare coverage for some of the most vulnerable and needy children in California.

★ Cuts to Juvenile Rehabilitation Facilities and Crime Prevention Grants

The proposed \$20 million reduction in funds for the Juvenile Probation and Camps program could mean closure or service reduction of county-operated residential facilities. Displaced wards would be placed in group homes, thereby increasing impacts on the foster care program. The \$11.9 million proposed cut to the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Grant program would cause gaps in the continuum of services that counties



have established to prevent, control and treat juvenile offenders.

★ Cuts to Early Childhood Education/Child Care

The proposed \$198.9 million reduction for child development programs, as well as subsidy criteria changes, translates into nearly 106,000 children losing access to pre-school and after-school programs, and services that assist with disabilities.

Please take action today to give California's children a voice in Sacramento. Log onto www.capta.org – Flunk the Budget.

- Let your State Assembly and Senate representatives know this budget is unacceptable.

- Forward this message to your PTA unit, council and district to alert parents and community members.

Our children did not create this financial crisis. Their future should not be undermined because of it.

SPRING FLING!

A new event comes to Buena Vista this season - Spring Fling!

This is planned as a community-building activity that will be pure, old fashioned fun!

Want to help plan it? Contact any officer to join the committee! We'd love to hear your ideas!

Around and About

With weather as moderate as that of the Central Coast, you can enjoy year around outdoor fun! And for the few days that it rains, you'll find plenty of indoor distractions, too!

SANTA BARBARA — The Ty Warner Sea Center, 211 Stearns Wharf, presents "SHARKS ...bite size," an exhibit that brings you face-to-face with sharks and reveals fascinating facts about their biology, anatomy, and struggle for survival. Learn more about the species found in the Santa Barbara Channel and the impact humans have on sharks and their habitats. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Cost: \$8, seniors and teens \$7, children \$5, ages 2 and younger, free. Info: 962-2526 or www.sbnature.org.

SANTA BARBARA — The Gladwin Planetarium, at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 2559 Puesta del Sol, invites you to experience the wonders of

the night sky as never before with a fully digital star projection system. Tickets: \$4 per person with paid museum admission, members free. Museum admission: \$8, seniors and teens \$7, children \$5, ages 2 and younger, free. Info: 682-4711 or www.sbnature.org.

LOMPOC, to April 13 — The Lompoc Museum, 200 South H St., presents "Blocks of Freedom: Freedom Quilts and the Underground Railroad." Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Friday, 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Donation: \$1. Info: 736-3888.

GUADALUPE — The Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center 1055 Guadalupe St., preserves the geology, flora and fauna of the dunes

environment and its multi-cultural history. It features natural science exhibits and the Cecil B. DeMille Lost City exhibit of artifacts from the film location for his 1923 movie "The Ten Commandments." Tour hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday to Sunday. Donation: \$2, children 11 and younger free. Info: 343-2455 or www.dunescenter.org.

Santa Maria Safari April 06, 2008 Five local museums and the Santa Maria Public Library are partnering for a free day of fun adventures. It's called the Santa Maria Safari and it happens from 1-4pm. Kids are invited to bring their families and join at the base camp in front of the library to get their special passport, then set out for some or all of

the museums. The base camp is the upper level of the parking structure along South McClelland. South McClelland Parking Structure Santa Maria CA Phone: 805-925-0994

Earth Day Street Faire April 20, 2008 Celebrate Mother Earth and a day learning about "trees of life", the theme for this year's event. Fun for the whole family, the day will include live music, non-profit booths, fossil digs, Native American dancers, and Earth Day Conservation awards. Keynote speaker is nationally acclaimed landscape architect Isabel Greene. The Natural History Museum 412 S. McClelland St. Santa Maria CA 805-614-0806 website:

www.naturalhistorysantamaria.com

Santa Maria Valley Strawberry Festival April 25, 2008 - April 27, 2008 The Valley's most popular crop is the focal point of a weekend of music, food, carnival rides and continuous entertainment. This festival includes a farmer's market, agricultural displays, wine tasting, strawberry specialty booths, cooking demonstrations, and much more. Santa Maria Fairpark 937 S Thornburg Santa Maria CA Phone: 805-925-8824 or 1-800-549-0036

Lompoc Spring Arts Festival April 18-20, 2008 Ryan Park <http://www.springartsfestival.org/>

Buena Vista PTA Annual Members Meeting

April 16th at 6 pm in the MPR

Agenda:

Brief Business

Officer Elections 2008-2009

Budget Amendment

Special Awards & Entertainment

Hope to see you there!

Officers of the Board

Laurie Carter — President
Teresa McIntyre — 1st Vice President/Programs Chair
LaDawn Davis — 2nd Vice President/Membership Chair
Alison Prochazka — 3rd Vice President/Ways & Means Chair
Lynette Martin — Treasurer
Beverly Wilson — Secretary
Deanna Liberotti — Parliamentarian
Stephanie Ledgerwood — Historian
Lynda Gordon — Auditor

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