

# 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 5 February 2008

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*The PTA is looking for members willing to be elected to a Nominating Committee for determining candidates for Officer elections.*

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## President's Corner

Your PTA President is Laurie Carter, who can be reached at [no.wonder@verizon.net](mailto:no.wonder@verizon.net)

Thank you to those parents who have volunteered their time, energy and creativity to our PTA. We are a prime example of how each person taking a small action can create a great movement! Keep up the good work!

I think I have volunteering in my blood. I seem to be kind of person who wants to zoom in and save the world! I came upon my first volunteering experience totally by accident. I was working as a cancer registrar for the government. Wanting to understand the patients behind the statistics I gathered, I joined a local American Cancer Society (ACS) support group. A few sessions into that, an ACS Board member asked me to join their unit board. I must have spent about a year or more on the board, learning how things work, before co-

**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.**

chairing the first Lompoc Relay For Life with Mike Good, who taught me the beauty and value of the volunteer spirit. I went on to chair that event myself the following year and became staff with ACS a year later. After a few years of working with volunteers in five communities, and raising large amounts of money and awareness, I returned to being the ACS volunteer. There is just something special about

giving of yourself without any personal benefit. I guess this sort of giving comes out of pure love.

There is much to do in the remainder of the school year. Opportunities big and small are available for those parents, siblings and grandparents who want to be involved in their special child's school. You can participate as much as your schedule will permit, as the jobs vary greatly. We want and need your support.

There is a place for everyone in PTA, the novice and expert, the working parent and the stay-at-home one. I think you will find it fun and rewarding! Take a look at the PTA Want Ads at the back of this newsletter and contact us to learn more or to sign up.

Fondly,

Laurie Carter





## Homework Club

Laurie Carter, Homework Club Coordinator

A new after-school program is on the horizon! Homework Club is planned to start sometime in February.

The idea behind Homework Club is to provide a safe, nurturing environment for children to receive help with homework assignments in math and language arts. The club will meet on Tuesday through Thursday weekly from 2:20 to 4:00 and will be staffed by volunteers.

Volunteers can include high school students, parents and grandparents. Volunteers with math strengths will be paired with a volunteer with language arts strengths.

Parents will need to give written permission for children to attend and transportation will not be provided. Homework Club does not meet when school is not in session or on minimum days.

To volunteer, contact Laurie Carter at [no.wonder@verizon.net](mailto:no.wonder@verizon.net) or call 733-1946.

## Special School Board Meeting - Budget Cuts

Buena Vista School Site Council

Saturday, February 9, 2008 is the date for a Special School Board Meeting. The meeting takes place at the LUSD Board Room at 1301 N A St from 9:00 a.m. to noon. This is the first of several meetings on the the subject.

In light of recent drastic budget cuts, the district will need to shave an additional \$2.5-\$3 million off its operating budget. This figure already takes into account the closing of Los Padres and El Camino schools. Meeting the goal for further reductions will be no easy task. The district is seeking the ideas of those who know their schools best: parents, teachers, and community members.

Your attendance at this meeting will give you the opportunity to hear and comment on how the district is considering meeting the requirement. It is also your chance to suggest alternatives and solutions. For the meeting agenda, go to [www.lusd.org/board/index#briefs](http://www.lusd.org/board/index#briefs). Just click on Board Briefs and then the Feb 9th meeting.

## Family Craft Night: Be My Valentine!

Contact Teresa McIntyre at 733-3036

What better way to show someone you care than to spend time with them? Children and parents are invited to Family Craft Night on Tuesday, February 5th from 6-8 pm for good old-fashioned valentine crafts.

There is no cost to join in the fun. Everything is provided by the PTA. Bring the whole family and make cards and gifts for those you love. The atmosphere is fun-filled and you can come and go as your schedule permits.

Donated supplies are accepted, if you have markers, glass jars, shallow boxes (like those that bottled water comes in) , hot cocoa and apple cider packets. And of course, volunteer labor is always appreciated.

The PTA provides Family Night activities as a means for families to do things together. Several Family Nights are provided throughout the year. If you have ideas for activities or who like to host a Family Night event, contact Teresa McIntyre at 733-3036.

**Valentine's Day**

Q	R	F	X	T	W	L	U	U	B	F	X
A	J	T	R	P	F	Y	S	E	V	O	L
W	U	U	S	I	R	W	F	B	K	H	L
F	B	U	V	A	E	B	Z	X	L	T	G
F	O	A	S	E	I	N	J	W	T	S	Z
W	R	S	T	I	K	N	D	T	G	D	T
K	L	R	B	C	N	T	T	S	F	R	F
V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	E	I	A	I
B	P	F	C	G	V	V	L	X	X	C	G
B	H	S	I	R	E	H	C	I	D	A	N
D	O	I	L	Y	Z	Y	P	G	A	X	M
X	A	S	N	H	A	P	P	Y	R	B	K

CARD  
CHERISH  
DOILY  
FRIENDS  
GIFT  
HAPPY  
LOVE  
SAINT  
SWEET  
VALENTINE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## Fundraising for Schools, Version 2.0

*Reprinted with permission from PTA Fundraising Essentials 2008 by Jan Harp Domene, 2007-2009 PTA National President*

Fundraising is necessary and important in most schools - so you should consider doing it less.

Before treasurers throughout PTA start cursing the day I became president, allow me to clarify my suggestion. Contrary to some widely held beliefs, hosting more fundraising events does not always bring in proportionately more money. In fact, having lots of special events often results in more fundraising fatigue than fundraising efficiency. Too many events (be it carnivals or car washes) can be more taxing than rewarding because of the time required to organize those individual events and the repeated requests that inundate supporters. Yet it's indisputable that our schools depend on the financial support that comes from fundraising. So what is the alternative?

Many PTAs around the country are finding success in abandoning the series of small, one-time events in favor of the tactics often found in the non-profit sector. In search of fundraising methods that are less time-consuming, but equally (if not more) fruitful, PTA members are turning to annual giving campaigns, grants, major donors, and more.

One of the easiest (and most successful) fundraising methods now sweeping through PTA is direct donations. Donations can be solicited through downloadable forms posted on a Web site or tear-out ads in school newsletters. What's more, direct donations open the door for employer matching contributions.

For parents and principals not experienced in soliciting major donations or grant writing, don't be discouraged by concepts that may sound more complicated than they are. You can find an article and several resources for grant writing on [pta.org](http://pta.org). You could also try reaching out to community members who have tried fundraising through these avenues before. The important thing is that these alternative ideas allow families to spend less time fundraising.

One local PTA has done away with door-to-door product sales by engaging its community businesses in the unit's fundraising efforts. Local pizzerias, movie theaters, flower shops and hair salons were asked to sponsor school events; additionally, products sold by these businesses were advertised in weekly newsletters, with each purchase made earning rebates for the school. Another local unit found willing community partners when it wanted to install accessible equipment on their playground. The unit was awarded \$1,000 from a community grant program to make it happen.

If a project or campaign supports clearly defined goal to benefit children, people will be more inclined to contribute. If new playground equipment is your objective, create an appeal campaign for people who have an interest in encouraging improved health and fitness among children. Schools can find similarly receptive audiences (and potential donors) for just about any need, whether it's related to technology, art, civics, or the sciences.

However you decide to tackle fundraising at your school, your best chance to avoid burnout from volunteers and supporters is to think strategically. Product sales and school festivals require logistical work and purchase of materials. Think of how much more you could accomplish with so much less effort through a direct-donation campaign or a grant request. So, let's fight fundraising fatigue. Remember to stay focused, keep the number of fundraising appeals down, and always connect with the community

## WANT ADS

Wanted: Volunteers for Spring Catalog Fundraiser. Work with others to distribute sales kits to kids. Collect forms and money. Receive and distribute presorted orders. Contact: Deanna Liberotti at 733-2972.

Wanted: Volunteers for Spring Book Fair. Must be available during 7-14 March, with a couple meetings prior. Send out Book Fair publicity, plan "store" layout, displays and activities. Set up/tear down

Fair. Contact Laurie Carter at 733-1946 or [no.wonder@verizon.net](mailto:no.wonder@verizon.net)

WANTED: Homework Club volunteers. High School students, parents, grandparents welcome. Must be available at least one day a month from 2:20-4:00 and have patience with children. Contact Laurie Carter at 733-1946 or [no.wonder@verizon.net](mailto:no.wonder@verizon.net).

WANTED: Volunteers for Family Health and Fitness Night on 3/14. Fitness and health gurus are a plus, but all are welcome. Contact Teresa McIntyre at 733-3036.

WANTED: DVD player for kindergarten classrooms to share. If you can donate one, see Ms Schroeder.

WANTED: One or two people to be responsible for changing the marquee on the front of the school. See office staff to volunteer.

## Computer Learning is Fun!

*Lori Fredrich, Computer Lab Technician*

Looking for some computer fun? Check out [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com). Click on Learn to Read to see a lot of really neat holiday things, such as 100th Day of School (Feb 1st), Ground Hog's Day this weekend, and a snowman where you can change his buttons, mouth, hat, etc. It also reads each word to you as you click on it.

Then try [www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com) for more neat games, especially grammar gorillas for parts of speech.

## Cool Links for Parents!

Issues and advice: <http://www.pbs.org/parents/issuesadvice/>  
 Homework Help: <http://www.cityoflompoc.com/library/>

# 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!*

## West Coast Nationals Tractor Pull

February 09, 2008  
This annual Tractor Pull and 4-Wheel Drive Pull will feature participants and spectators from all over the country involved in the World Ag Expo and the Pacific Tractor Pullers Association. Don't miss the fun! The gates open at noon, with the main event starting at 1 p.m. Admission is \$12-\$20. Santa Maria Elks 1309 N Bradley Road Santa Maria CA Phone: 805-922-6006

## Free Friday Flicks

February 01, 2008 - February 01, 2009  
The Blue Planet: Seas of Life is the featured film for

February's Friday Night Flicks sponsored by the Wildling Museum. This film is about the threat posed to our planet by global warming. Produced by Davis Guggenheim (HBO's "Deadwood"), this 90-minute film captures the former Vice President in the midst of waging a passionate campaign for the environment. Laying out the facts of global warming, Gore urges his audience to act "boldly, quickly, and wisely" before it is too late to act at all." The movie begins at 7:00 p.m. and will be shown at the Wildling Art Museum's administrative offices, 2948 Nojoqui Street, Suite 4. For more information or directions, call 688-1082.

The Wildling Art Museum  
2948 Nojoqui St. Los Olivos  
CA Phone: 805-688-1082  
website:  
[www.wildlingmuseum.org](http://www.wildlingmuseum.org)

## Father-Daughter Dance

All daddies are invited to bring their favorite little valentine to our annual dance! Enjoy dancing, games, flowers, pictures and refreshments all night long. Make a lasting memory for your daughter by giving her this special evening with her dad. Polaroid pictures are included in the cost of the ticket and professional portraits will be available for purchase. The doors will open at 5:00 pm for pictures only, with the dance

and activities beginning at 6:00 pm Pre-registration is required. Friday, Saturday & Sunday Session: 001 Feb 8; 002 Feb 9; 003 Feb 10; Time: 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM  
Location: Anderson Recreation Center  
Deadline: Jan 25  
Fees: \$16.00 per couple / \$7.00 for second child

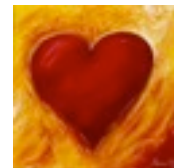
to enjoying this program is remembering: It is 1822!  
<http://www.lapurisimamission.org/>

## Cabrillo High School Madrigal Musical

"Bye Bye Birdie" Feb 29 - Mar 1, 2008. 7:30 PM at the Little Theater.

## The Cabrillo High School Aquarium

Open House: JASON Project. Feb 20, 2008, 7:00 - 8:30 pm.



## Elections are Coming!

Nominating Committee positions are still available, as we did not have a quorum of the membership at our January Membership meeting. Please watch email boxes and backpacks for a notice of a special meeting to conduct this business.



In the meantime, please consider being a part of the Nominating Committee, who is charged with finding the best candidates for each elected officer position.

The elected positions are President, 1st Vice President/Programs, 2nd Vice President/Membership, 3rd Vice President/Ways & Means

(Fundraising), Auditor, Treasurer, Secretary and Historian.

## Kids' Quotes

Home is where the house is. --Age 6

It would be terrible if the Red Cross Bloodmobile got into an accident. No, wait. That would be good because if anyone needed it, the blood would be right there. --Age 5

Think of the biggest number you can. Now add five. Then, imagine if you had that many Twinkies. Wow, that's five more than the biggest number you could come up with. --Age 6

It sure would be nice if we got a day off for the president's birthday, like they do for the queen. Of course, then we would have a lot of people voting for a candidate born on July 3 or December 26, just for the long weekends. --Age 8

## 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**

## Contact Info:

Laurie Carter at [no.wonder@verizon.net](mailto:no.wonder@verizon.net) or 733-1946.

**Buena Vista Elementary PTA**  
**100 Aldebaran Ave**  
**Lompoc, CA 93436**