

The Contra Coaster

A publication of the 32nd District PTA,
serving Contra Costa County.

32nd District PTA

PTA[®]

everychild.one voice.

Wanda Waltman, President

Mona Ricard, Editor

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President's Report by Wanda Waltman

The school year is now in full swing with your plans laid, a budget approved, the committees formed and the membership drive well on its way. The Executive Board should have formulated its mission, goals and objectives as an overall guideline for what is to be accomplished for the year. The Mission is the much larger general plan which is defined by smaller, more refined goals and the objectives are the very specific ways in which the goals will be accomplished. After this is done, the budget is planned for the year and any fundraising should specifically support the goals. Fundraising for the sake of fundraising is not encouraged. When planning events at the school remember the 3 to 1 rule: for every one fundraising event, there should be 3 events that are not fundraising (building community within the school, parent education, advocacy, etc).

Every PTA must file a tax return this year by **November 15th** and there is no exception! This is not as scary as it sounds however. PTAs with gross receipts normally \$25,000 or less file a 990N which can be done electronically. PTAs with gross receipts over \$25,000 and less than \$1 million file a 990EZ. This one may require some assistance so consult your tax professional and remember that this is a legitimate PTA expense. The tax filing is required by the IRS and is needed in order to keep the PTA tax-exempt status (which means that though we do not pay taxes, we still have to do a tax filing)!

The latest edition of the Insurance & Loss Prevention Guide will be coming soon. It contains a wealth of information, any forms that would be needed and contact information. This is one of the "must haves" for your unit or council so be sure to let me know if you do not get it. The new insurance

rates for 2010-2011 will be \$196.00 for units and \$120.00 for Councils and Districts.

Bylaws are the informational "heart and soul" of your PTA. Be sure your units or council has theirs and that it is reviewed by the Executive Board annually and updated every three years. Each one of your board members should have one in their procedure book.

One of our roles as a District is training for officers at the council and units. An officer who is well versed in their duties will find it much easier to do their job and contribute to a smoothly running PTA. We had an officer training in October and will be having another one in June 2011 and we will keep you updated on that! The 32nd District Directory will also be coming to you soon and this is a good resource for contacting other Officers at other schools and councils for any questions you have. The Directory is not shared with anyone but PTA officers.

We have a few open positions on the 32nd District Executive Board and if you know of anyone who might be interested, please let me know. The job responsibilities in these positions are very similar to those at the council or unit level. The positions are Parent Education, Historian and Scholarship & Honorary Service Awards.

As a District, we are here to support you not only with material resources but with people resources as well! We are available to come to your council or school for trainings or any other needs you have so please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions or concerns. We always love hearing about all the wonderful things going on your council or school!

Wanda Waltman
32nd District President

Inside this issue:

District & Council	2
Due Dates	2
Dr. Owick's Message	3
 eBylaws	3
Parliamentarian Q & A	4
Nominating Committee Survey	5
Warren W. Eukel	6
Teacher Trust	6
Founder's Day	6
Economic Reality with Kids	7
Reflections	9
Legislative Advocacy	10
32nd District Board	11
Contact information	11
Keep Communications coming...	11
2010-2011 Calendar	12



Contact List for 32nd District PTA and Council Treasurers/Financial Secretaries

32nd District PTA (All of Contra Costa County)

Treasurer: **Elaine O’Hanlon** 925-648-2138 ohanlon@sbcglobal.net

Bayside Council (John Swett Unified, West Contra Costa Unified)

Treasurer: **Michele Fazio** 510-304-9321 michelefazio@sbcglobal.net

Delta Council (Antioch Unified, Brentwood Union, Byron Union, Knightsen, Liberty Union High School District, Oakley Union)

Treasurer: **Mitzi Reagan** 925-978-1979 reaganm@comcast.net

Financial Secretary: **Annette Lewis** 925-625-2915 annettel@ecis.com

Las Trampas Creek Council (Acalanes Union High School District, Canyon, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda Union, Walnut Creek)

Treasurer: **Mary Beth Moura** marybethmoura@yahoo.com

Martinez Council (Martinez Unified)

Treasurer: **Diane Beck** 925-372-8782 thebeckhome@sbcglobal.net

Mt. Diablo Council (Mt. Diablo Unified)

Treasurer: **Arnetta Jones** 925- 676-8356 arnetta1214@gmail.com

San Ramon Valley Council (San Ramon Valley Unified)

Treasurer: **Jenny Jensen** 925-828-6920 jennyjensen@hotmail.com

Financial Secretary: **Praful Patel** 925-968-1320 praful2nyc@yahoo.com

Important Due Dates



NOTE: All PTA units are in a council. Check list above for your council and council treasurer/council financial secretary contact information.

Payment	Due Date from Unit to Council	Due Date from Council to District
Early Bird (at least 15 members)	October 1	October 15
Chairman’s Club (at least 50 members)	October 1	October 15
Last day to remit per capita to remain in good standing (at least 15 members)	Bayside – October 15 All other councils – November 1	November 15
Insurance premium and Worker’s Comp form (late fees apply)	Check with council	December 1
Last day to remit to avoid charter withdrawal for nonpayment	Check with council	March 15
2009-2010 Tax Returns or extensions must be filed by November 15, 2010		

REMINDER: Per capita should be remitted through channels (unit to council to district) at least monthly. Invitations to join PTA should continue to be extended throughout the year.

A Message from Our County Superintendent of Schools

Joseph A. Ovick, Ed.D.



It is important to remind everyone to vote on Tuesday, November 2. As American citizens, we have a tremendous responsibility that enables us to participate in a democracy. The transition of power in our nation continues to occur in a very effective manner.

Before Election Day, I would highly recommend an event in which we, as a family, have participated prior to each election. As a family, with our two sons, we would have a “ballot dinner.” Each of us would be assigned either a candidate and/or an initiative, and we would research both pros and cons with regard to each individual running for office or the initiative. At our dinner, we would establish ground rules that would ensure a civil dialog as we reviewed each of the initiatives and candidates running for office. At the end of our dinner, we would have a secret ballot, and each of us would vote. However, we would not share the voting results until the day after the election.

As the children grew older and went off to college, I would continue the event but would invite friends and neighbors to participate. Often lively discussions would take place, but the ground rules would always ensure that the conversations would focus on the candidates and the initiatives. We would never attack one another because of our right to decide individually on how we would vote.

As you look at the candidates running for various offices, I would recommend that you consider using the following **standard** for considering for whom you should vote: **his/her commitment to our children and our children’s future.**

Remember to vote. It is a right and a privilege.



California State PTA’s 

32nd District PTA units are now set up for e-bylaws. A new, quicker way for you to revise and update your unit PTA/PTSA bylaws! <http://www.capta.org/sections/management/e-bylaws.cfm>

Parliamentary Q & A



The Right Person for the Right Job

The **nominating committee** is one of the most important committees of the PTA. This group of people must identify qualified nominees for the elected officer positions. The members of the committee, therefore, have a tremendous influence on the future of the PTA and should be carefully selected.

It's not too early to begin asking members to consider serving on the PTA's nominating committee. Planning ahead will ensure that qualified individuals will be prepared to step forward when it's time to elect the nominating committee.

The nominating committee is the only PTA committee that is not appointed by the president. This committee is elected by the members at an association meeting at least two months prior to the election of officers. Check the PTA bylaws to determine when to elect the committee and how many people to elect. Don't forget to elect alternates, in the event an elected committee member cannot attend the first committee meeting. Most PTAs should be electing their nominating committees no later than January to be prepared for a March election.

The committee needs a balance of newer and more experienced PTA members, all of whom: should be knowledgeable about PTA; are aware of qualified potential nominees; are familiar with the eligibility requirements and the qualifications necessary for the offices to be filled; and, are willing and able to devote adequate time to the responsibilities involved and maintain confidentiality. Don't overlook students (if you have a PTSA) and teachers.

Election of the nominating committee is not a popularity contest or appointment by default of whomever is willing to serve, nor should it consist solely of PTA executive board members. The PTA president never serves on the committee and the parliamentarian serves only when elected to serve. The principal may be elected and should at least be an advisor to the group. No person may serve on the committee for two consecutive years. Be sure to elect your nominating committee wisely!

Thirty-second District PTA Nominating Committee Survey

Please complete and return this form by November 15, 2010 to Thirty-second District PTA Parliamentarian Brenda Steffen at 4523 Deer Ridge Way, Antioch, CA 94531 or email the information to ptasteffen@aol.com. This information will assist the nominating committee in preparing a slate of officers for the 2011 - 2013 term.

Contact Information	
Name	
Street Address	
City, Zip	
Home Phone	
Work/Cell Phone	
E-Mail Address	

PTA Membership

Name of Unit:
 Name of Council:
 Present Position(s):

Interests	
I am interested in serving in any of the following positions:	
_____ Officer _____	_____ Chairman _____
_____ Officer _____	_____ Chairman _____
_____ I do not wish to be considered for an office this term	

Experience
List positions held within the past four years:
Council:
District:

I suggest the following individuals be considered for a district board position (please include contact information):
President: Vice President: Treasurer: Secretary: Other:



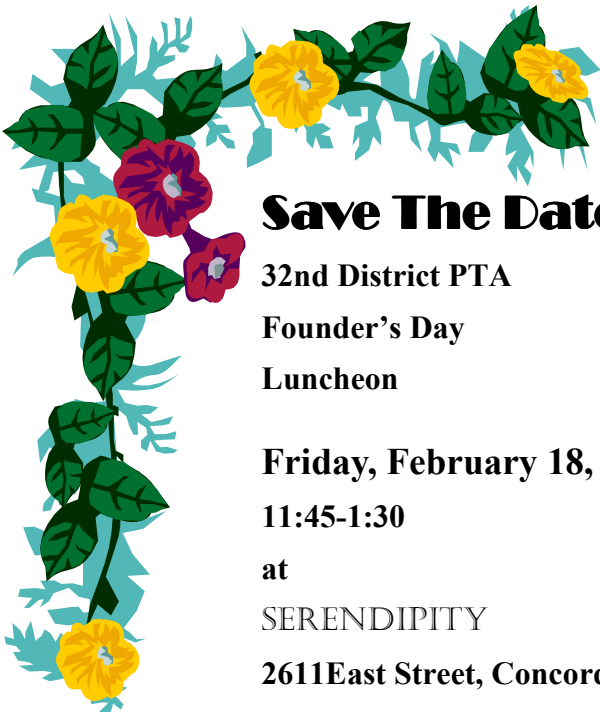
Warren W. Eukel Teacher Trust



Elaine Newman from Wilson Elementary School in Richmond has each child in her class trace his or her foot on a piece of paper and sign it at the beginning of the school year. Later in the year, needy kids will find that a new pair of shoes has magically appeared—and they fit perfectly. William Pence, a science teacher at California High School in San Ramon, created and facilitated a research program for two students that resulted in a discovery regarding cancer and genetics that received worldwide attention. When a disabled student's mother could no longer be accommodated in a women's shelter, Linda McAninch from Ellerhorst Elementary School in Pinole welcomed the mother and the student into her own home. A warm friendship developed and they stayed for five years.

What these three teachers have in common is that they were all winners of an award from the **Warren W. Eukel Teacher Trust**. Each year, three outstanding Contra Costa County teachers are given a \$10,000 no-strings-attached award in recognition of their excellence as educators. Since 1992, the Warren W. Eukel Teacher Trust has honored 52 teachers with monetary grants totaling more than \$420,000.

The Eukel Teacher Trust's main fundraising event is an annual awards banquet hosted by the acclaimed food and wine critic, Narsai David. This year's event will be held on November 18th at the Diablo Country Club. Our award winners this year are Randy Kinavey of California High School, Jeff Quittman of Orinda Academy and Renee Travis of Morello Park Elementary in Martinez. Tickets are \$150, tables of ten are \$1,500. For more information, call (925) 945-0200 or visit online at www.eukelteachertrust.org.



Save The Date

32nd District PTA

Founder's Day

Luncheon

Friday, February 18, 2011

11:45-1:30

at

SERENDIPITY

2611 East Street, Concord

SERENDIPITY is a HERO (Home Economics Related Occupations) /ROP Tech Prep Career Pathway and has been a part of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District for more than 20 years. Located on the campus of Mt. Diablo High School, the restaurant and bakery are open to the public for lunches, and special events.

Back to the future – economic reality with kids

Budget planning

Budget for the entire year, not just during the back-to-school time.

Have children do the math! Make a list of needs for back to school, each month, entire year.

- Shop newspaper and online ads, create comparison price lists.
- Review the lists and determine what's really necessary.
- These exercises teach children the importance of research, budgeting and planning, while reducing impulse shopping.

For older children: Indicate the budget per child for the year, and how much they will have to spend each month.

- Shop the ads. Clip styles they like. Plan amounts to spend.
- Provide cash monthly. Teach them to use the envelope system – insert the amount for each group of purchases in an envelope.
- Teach them to use a check register to record received cash, expenditures and returns.
- Children can save to spend more on bigger ticket items like a winter coat or prom dress.
- Stick to the budget. No extra cash except holiday and birthday gifts. Offer ways children can earn more for their budget.
- Recycled clothing suddenly has value when you are on a budget.

Clothing

- Clean closets. Toss clothing that is worn and too small.
- Repair items of value. Recycle clothing from siblings and acquaintances.
- Check out discount and thrift stores.
- Require children to try outfits on before purchasing to reduce impulse shopping.
- Organize community and family clothing exchanges – especially for schools where uniforms are worn

School supplies

- Just the basics – and not large quantities
- Classroom teachers may have different expectations than local store promotions.
- Students can see what their friends have and either chose to be similar or stand out.



Back to the future – economic reality with kids

(Continued)

Lunches

- Check out the school lunch program/meal ticket purchases
- Pack lunches. Make it a family fun time to pack a lunch each evening or several on the weekend, freezing sandwiches, adding fruit and extras daily.
- Explore cookbooks together for nutritious entrees or treats to prepare together.
- Children can use ads to comparison shop for cooking supplies, and plan meals.
- Assign each child a day of the week to plan and prepare the lunches or evening meal with or without adult supervision according to age and according to a budget, of course!

Transportation

- Check out discount bus passes.
- Plan walk/bike to school routes; alternate parent responsibility each day or a.m./p.m.
- Coordinate ride share opportunities

Child care

- Cooperative preschool programs help reduce preschool expenses.
- Join or establish a babysitting cooperative

Entertainment

- No “Facebook” or video time until after homework is done!
- Get a small monthly fee video subscription or check out videos from the library.
- Have family movie nights after homework is done.
- Plan ahead for a suitable movie for special events with friends.
- Treats can be popcorn or fruit.
- Making cookies is a fraction of the cost and many times the fun.
- Regular trips to the library keep kids up on Goosebumps and other popular series, and help with homework. Most libraries have books in Spanish available.

Some toys are better homemade.

- For toddlers, metal pans and a footstool make a play stove.
- Plastic measuring cups with colored water help teach fractions.
- A bookcase with furniture made of felt-covered boxes becomes a dollhouse.
- Teens can use basic sewing and woodworking tools to create their own décor.

PTA Reflections Program

41 Years of Achievement in the Arts



2010 – 2011 Theme “Together We Can”

For 41 years, the national PTA Reflections Program has encouraged students across the nation and in American schools overseas to explore their artistic talents.

The PTA Reflections Program is designed to enhance quality arts education for students in preschool through grade 12, encouraging them to create works of art in the areas of dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts. More than 500,000 students participate through their local PTAs each year – millions over the course of the program’s 41 years.

The Reflections Program was established in 1969 by National PTA board member Mary Lou Anderson. Since that time, more than 10 million students have participated in the program. The program's longevity and participation figures attest to its strength. The excitement and enthusiasm that the program generates for children, parents, schools and communities is unmatched. Participation and appreciation for the arts is the Reflections Program's goal. Although the Reflections Program follows a "contest" format, winning should not be the emphasis.

Students may submit an entry in any of the six arts areas listed below. Only original works of art are accepted. Depending on local PTA guidelines, students may enter more than one work of art. The six arts areas are as follows:

Literature

Musical composition

Photography

Visual arts

Dance Choreography

Film/Video Production

**The Councils’ deadline for submission of Reflections entries to 32nd District is
Friday, December 10, 2010.**



Rules and entry forms are available at <http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/reflections.cfm>

PTA Reflections fliers and posters for the 2010-2011 program year are available at PTAReflections.org.

For more information please contact **Sara Hall-Cottrell** at (925) 522-9836 or

sarahallcottrell@antioch.k12.ca.us.



Legislative Advocacy News

State Budget Hurts Kids: A record 100 days late, the State budget contains more cuts and deferrals to education and particularly devastating slashes to children's services. Many of the cuts were line-item vetoes from the Governor after the legislature had passed the budget. The California State PTA's legislation information alert that details PTA's concerns is available on the state website.

November Election: A few of our members have questions about PTA's positions on the propositions, particularly on Proposition 19. When fielding these questions, it is important to explain that PTA takes positions on legislation based on *authorities* approved by its members. Authorities comprise resolutions passed by delegates at the annual convention, as well as the Legislation platform, principles and planks. As it happens, PTA had no authority to take a position on Proposition 19 because it addresses adults over 21 only. The neutral position was taken because of the interest from units, councils and districts.

PTA supports Propositions 24 and 25. Many people are getting the impression (probably from the opposition ads) that Proposition 25 will raise taxes. This is untrue. Revenue increases will remain at 2/3 under this proposition. What it will do is make it easier to pass an on-time budget without the gimmicks of past budgets. One of the compromises the legislature had to do last year to get enough votes to pass the budget was to agree to corporate tax cuts beginning next year. Proposition 24 would roll back these cuts. It is important to note that the cuts have not yet taken effect, and that they will have significant negative impact on education and children's services if Prop 24 fails.

Other key issues are the elections for Governor, State Superintendent of Schools, federal and state legislative offices and local school board members. It is important that voters be informed on what these candidates stand for, and that they vote. We encourage all PTA units to remind their members to vote and consider putting the election on the school marquis.

Information on the election can be found in the Special Election issue of PTA in California, which can be downloaded at http://www.capta.org/assets/managed/whatsnew-pdf/PTA_in_CA_Special_Edition.pdf

California State PTA Legislation Conference: This terrific annual conference will be held February 7 & 8 in Sacramento, a Monday and Tuesday this year. Registration will be \$165, and includes three meals over two full days. Please ask your units to consider sending their president and/or legislative chairman to the conference

National PTA Advocacy Awards: Application packets were emailed to council presidents and the Legislative Advocacy Committee. Please consider applying for the awards. Applications are due on December 3.

Join Our Education and Legislation Email List

Would you like to get regular updates on issues affecting children and youth? Join our 32nd District PTA E-mail list by contacting Nancy Vandell, VP of Education & Legislation, at nmvandell@comcast.net.

Join Our PTA Legislative Advocacy Committee

We welcome any PTA member to join our Legislative Advocacy Committee. Contact nmvandell@comcast.net for meeting times and more information.

32nd District PTA Executive Board Contact Information

President	Wanda Waltman	925-685-3483	wandawalt@astound.net
1st VP Leadership	Kathy Rabun	925-798-5331	krabun@astound.net
2nd VP General Meetings & Special Programs	Chris Low	925-778-0446	poochcfl@aol.com
3rd VP Communications	Mona Ricard	925-586-3446	ricard@silcon.com
4th VP Education & Legislation	Nancy Vandell	925-829-2355	nmvandell@comcast.net
5th VP Parent Education & Community Concerns	-open-		
6th VP Membership	Sue Woodworth-Bennett	925-964-0491	bennettela@aol.com
Secretary	Linda Mayo	925-935-6938	mayolk@aol.com
Treasurer	Elaine O'Hanlon	925-648-2138	ohanlon@sbcglobal.net
Auditor	Janet Abelson	510-525-7709	abeljanet@aol.com
Historian	-open-		
Parliamentarian	Brenda Steffen	925-779-9718	PTASteffen@aol.com
Reflections	Sara Hall-Cottrell	925- 522-9836	sarahallcottrell@antioch.k12.ca.us
Founder's Day	Maureen Chang	925-743-0464	chngng@aol.com
Council Presidents:			
Bayside Council	Laura Ramos	510-724-3341	ramosla@aol.com
Delta Council	Bobbi Nugent	925-240-7912	nugentsix@yahoo.com
Las Trampas Creek Council	Kathy Ranstrom	925-376-2929	kranstrom@gmail.com
Martinez Council	Carolyn Griffith	925-228-2895	griffdoggs@aol.com
Mt. Diablo Council	Michele Miller	925-376-0194	millermtdpta@yahoo.com
San Ramon Valley Council	Anaite Letona	925-829-2456	letona4188@sbcglobal.net



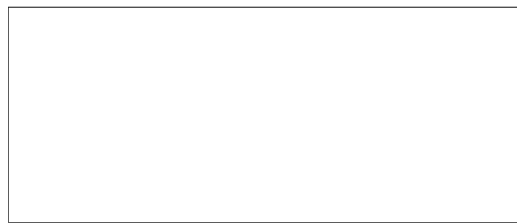
Keep Communications Coming to your PTA

Mona Ricard— VP Communications

(Please mail or email to Mona Ricard, 94 Jennie Dr., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523, ricard@silcon.com)

32nd District PTA 2010-2011 Calendar

Date	Time(s)	Location	Description
2010			
15-Nov	9:30 AM	CCCOE	32nd District PTA Executive Board
13-Dec	9:30AM	CCCOE	32nd District PTA Executive Board
2011			
10-Jan	9:15 AM	CCCOE	32nd District PTA Executive Board
22-Jan		Alhambra High School, Martinez	<i>Reflections Showcase</i>
28-Feb	9:30 AM	CCCOE	32nd District PTA Executive Board
21-Mar	9:30 AM	CCCOE	32nd District PTA Executive Board
22-Mar	6:15 PM dinner	CCCOE	GENERAL MEETING 32nd District PTA
	7:00 PM meeting		
18-Apr	9:30 AM	CCCOE	32nd District PTA Executive Board
<i>April 28 – May 1</i>		<i>Long Beach</i>	<i>California State PTA Convention</i>
16-May	9:30 AM	CCCOE	32nd District PTA Executive Board
20-Jun	9:45 AM	CCCOE	2nd District PTA Executive Board
25-Jun		Willow Creek Center	Leadership Academy



or current resident

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Concord
Permit 464
California 94520

PTA
everychild, one voice.
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