

Council News

Saddleback Valley Council PTA * Fourth District PTA * CCPTS
25631 Peter Hartman Way * Mission Viejo, CA 92691 * www.svpta.org
President: Julie Schwarz * Newsletter Editor: Ann Shaver

President's Message

By Julie Schwarz,
SVPTA President
svpresident@svpta.org

WOW... I can not believe the end of the year is upon us. We have had a busy and exciting year. Although the state budget crisis created more work and more meetings, I am confident that the unexpected result is that a lot more parents became involved. Many parents found out how much advocacy work the PTA does – and how powerful their one voice is ... when joined with many other like-minded parents. The reality is that we can make a much bigger difference by speaking out for our children than by holding “bake sales”. I am hopeful that many of these parents will continue to stay involved. Let’s make an effort to keep these parents interested and involved.

I would be remiss to not mention your AWESOME Council Board. This group truly works as a Board. Each and every officer not only independently carried the load of their job, but they also pitched in when all the “extra duties” surfaced. I am so grateful and honored to be a part of this group. I hope that you had a positive experience with your “buddy”. Make sure to thank them. We are also thankful to work with Dr. Kathy Dick. She has been extremely helpful. I truly appreciate her wisdom and insightfulness.

(Continued on Page 2)

Deadlines Are Approaching Fast!!!

Council Workshops— Please Register by May 12—See pages 5-6
End of Year Council Dinner—Register by May 23rd—See pages 7-8

Inside this issue:

Special Education—Collaboration and Inclusion	2
Mastering the Budget Process	3
Year End Thoughts	3
Convention Makes a Hugh Splash!	4
PTA Advocacy—Getting Parents to Vote!	5
Council Workshop information and registration form	6-7
End of Year Council Dinner information and registration form	8-9
Council Calendar	10

Upcoming Events:

May:

- 1-4 CA PTA State Convention
- 22nd—Council Meeting—6:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
Council Workshops

June:

- 5th SVPTA Council Dinner
6—8:30PM @ Claim Jumper,
Mission Viejo

Items to bring to May meeting:

- ✓ Registration and fees for End of the Year Council Dinner
- ✓ Orders for next year's membership envelopes, along with payment and a Unit Remittance Form
- ✓ A copy of the minutes from your most recent Association meeting
- ✓ A copy of your most recent Treasurer's Report
- ✓ Any items past due from prior meetings, such as copies of your Unit Annual Report.

(President's Message continued from Page 1)

Of course, as the year wraps up, it is time to focus on training. It is so important that your WHOLE board attends training. I know that when I was President, I attended several trainings so I could carpool with my fellow board members (my way of making sure they went!). A well trained board is the first step towards a successful year.

After all the May trainings, please plan to celebrate with us! Our annual PTA Dinner is scheduled for June 5th (invitations have been sent via email). Please plan to attend with either your incoming President (or if you are a continuing president – please feel free to bring another board member). This evening is always a fun and exciting way to end the year.

Again, I appreciate each and every one of you. I know that your units appreciate the work (... and endless hours) that you have dedicated to your units, but most importantly for the children. Hope you have a restful summer (Oh, and don't forget to keep up the advocacy pressure on Sacramento

Special Education Committee – Collaboration & Inclusion

Caroline Paltin, Ph.D.
SVPTA Special Education Chair
svspecaled@svpta.org

In April, I had the opportunity to be a part of SVPTA's first Ability Awareness Day activity, which was held at O'Neill Elementary School. Children were exposed to simulations of a range of ability challenges faced in the classroom by many children with special needs. They learned what it is like to struggle with pencil grasp, visual motor difficulties, speech impairments, dyslexia and other issues which are part of the daily life of many children. For some, the activities created a great deal of challenge, and there were even some tears of frustration as children who normally found life easy were suddenly faced with the obstacles of disabilities. All walked away with a greater understanding not just of what it feels like to be unable to do things with ease like fellow classmates, but what it would be like to be one of the *only* students in a classroom to be struggling in this way. The day was filled with moments of understanding what it is like to walk in someone else's shoes.

As this day sought to increase awareness and sensitivity to people with differences, I was perhaps most impressed with the enthusiastic volunteer showing from parents and individuals who came together to create this opportunity for the children. Volunteers ranged from parents, special education chairs of others schools and interested members of the community. It was a true collaboration. As we strive to broaden and strengthen the capacity of the special education component of SVPTA, I would like to encourage all of us to think ahead to how we can create inclusion through this sort of collaborative effort. What can we do to increase involvement and inclusion of all parents and children in the PTA activities? At the May Council Training Workshop, attendees will have the opportunity to explore ways of increasing inclusion and awareness for the benefit of all children. If you have any questions, as always, please contact me.

Mastering the Budget Process

By Molly O'Grady
svtreasurer@svpta.org



Over the summer the major task for your PTA unit will be to plan and develop the budget for the 2008-09 school year. The budget is the plan to achieve your unit's goals for the coming year, July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. The Treasurer chairs the budget committee. The Committee should consist of the Treasurer, the President, and chairmen who are responsible for most of the most funds. The principal is an advisor as well. No more than 5 people are needed for a successful budget committee!

Basic budgeting procedures suggest estimating expenses high and income low. Gather the past few years' budgets and all actual results of income and expenses per budget category. Ask the outgoing Board any questions. While it is helpful to review the past, be sure to factor in all new potential programs and expenses.

Prepare the budget in a format that is easy to understand. This will make the budget useful to all members. The proposed budget should be reviewed by the new Executive Board (line by line) at your August meeting, expect changes! It must be voted on by the Board and *recommended* for adoption by the association. Present the budget to the association at the first meeting in September for adoption.

Remember that good budgets are created through a collaborative process and are based on good research. For more information refer to the *Toolkit*, Section 5.2. A sample budget is on page 294 of the *Toolkit*. Treasurers should go to the SVPTA Council's Spring Workshop on May 22nd for more detailed information and to ask questions.

My term as the Saddleback Valley PTA Council ends this year on June 30th. Thanks to all of you for all the on time work that you've done with me and for your PTA service. Best wishes for you and your family!

Year-End Thoughts

*Borrowed with adjustments from SVPTA Newsletter, April 2007,
Written Jennifer Bodenhoefer*

In a very short time, this school year will be complete. Whether you are leaving your position or have been elected to serve another year, this is a good time to look through your records and do a little spring cleaning.

Have you taken the time to keep your records up to date? You should try to stay current throughout the year, but we know that "life happens" and you may be a little behind. Now is the time to ensure that all of your records, reports and other important documents are properly filed for future reference.

This is also a great time to make sure your procedure book is current. Do you have the most recent copy of your unit's bylaws? Have you documented your normal procedures or noted any changes to existing procedures? Do you have the current job description from the PTA Toolkit? These are all valuable resources to be kept in your procedure book.

If you are leaving your position, please make it a point to have your records clean, tidy and up to date for the person who will follow. It would also be helpful for you to meet with your successor, to familiarize her/him with the documents and basic procedures and processes. Please encourage your successor to attend the Council workshops on May 22—hope to see you there!

CONVENTION MAKES A HUGE SPLASH!

The 2008 California State PTA Convention held at the Long Beach Convention Center concluded on Sunday, May 4th. It was four action packed days of fabulous speakers, the opening day included State Superintendent of Schools, Jack O'Connell, and a smashing closing with Erin Gruwell, former Long Beach HS teacher whose story was depicted in the motion picture, *The Freedom Writers*. Countless delegates enjoyed the state PTA private party at The Aquarium of the Pacific on Thursday, and the highlight on Friday was speaker, Craig Scott, brother of Rachel Scott who was killed in the Columbine HS shootings, as he moved the entire audience to tears with his story of the tragedy.

I am proud to report that Orange County's fourth district had a record attendance of OVER 600 Fourth District Delegates. Our district dinner topped out at 260. And, that was on a Saturday night close to home! The general sessions were a sea of Tropical Shirts!

Our council had over 50 delegates attend and vote with the 1,795 delegates state-wide on the five resolutions. All of the resolutions presented passed this year.

In total, there were 5,513 delegates who turned out to network, be trained and support this wonderful organization we call PTA. "Every Child, One Voice."

Remember to report back to your unit about your experience and the results of the resolutions.

Do you know the way to San Jose? I hope so as that's the location for the 2009 State PTA Convention. Don't forget to budget to send delegates from your unit!

Dolores Winchell
SV PTA Convention Chairman

TAKE A STAND AGAINST CRIME... JOIN NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH!



The Orange County Sheriff's Department and the City of Mission Viejo believe community involvement is essential in the fight against crime. Our goal is to educate residents and encourage participation in the City's crime prevention effort through Neighborhood Watch. Volunteers are needed to host an initial meeting and/or distribute flyers to activate the program on your street.

If you are interested, or would like more information about the program, please call the Mission Viejo Crime Prevention Office at (949)470-8401.

With your help, we can make a difference in our community!

PARENTS PLEASE VOTE!

PTA ADVOCACY is all about being a positive force for children.

If you believe the State should be fair and prioritize public education, then **VOTE** for politicians who **SUPPORT PROPOSITION 98 (Constitutional amendment passed in 1988)**.

- Prop. 98 is a minimum funding guarantee for K-12 schools and community colleges.
- Prop. 98 minimum funding can be suspended for one year with a 2/3 vote of the legislature at the detriment of our children.
- Prop. 98 funds come from local property taxes, state income taxes, and state sales taxes.
- If Prop. 98 is suspended for next year, then the following year's public education funding will start at a lower base level.

PTA cannot endorse candidates, but it can and does endorse propositions and bills that help all children. On June 3rd, many of our legislative representatives are up for re-election. This is your opportunity to vote for the individual who truly represented you.

A small united voice can be heard, but a colossal voice can shift the way government does business. Please become a part of this voice, and -

VOTE on June 3rd for YOUR CHILDREN!!!

Dorelle Kmetz (svlegislative@svpta.org)

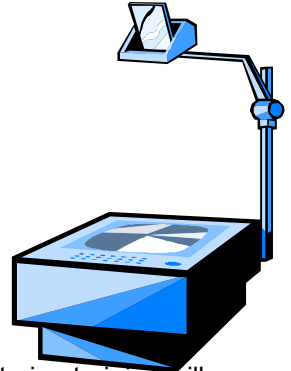
Advocacy Benefits Children

The Saddleback Valley Council PTA
cordially invites you to our

Workshops are offered for the following positions (if enrollment permits):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>President</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Secretary</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Membership</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Ways & Means</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Advocacy/Leg
Rep</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Reflections</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Newsletter</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Special Education</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Historian</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Treasurer/Financial Secretary</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Auditor</i> | |

be



Parliamentarian training will
be offered in the fall.

Thursday, May 22, 2008
6:00 p.m.—Registration and Dinner
6:30 p.m.—Council Meeting and Awards
7:00 p.m.—Workshops

The FINE Print:

Please register by Monday, May 12.

Cost—\$5.00 per person if you register by May 12 or
\$7.00 per person if you pay at the door.

Fee includes dinner and handouts for each workshop participant.

Advance registration is **required** to ensure we have enough handouts and food for everyone.

Cancellation Policy:

If you cancel on or before May 12, fees paid will be fully refunded.
If you cancel after May 12, fees paid are transferable but not refundable.

Please note that Council training is MANDATORY for the President and Treasurer.
These workshops run longer than the rest. If you are carpooling, we recommend
that these participants drive separately from the rest of the group.

Childcare is not provided.

Saddleback Valley Council

PTA

everychild.one voice.

Join us in the SVUSD Board Room
25631 Peter A. Hartman Way, Mission Viejo



Celebrate!

Saddleback Valley Council PTA
Invites you to join us for our
Year-End Dinner and Installation of Officers

Thursday, June 5, 2008
6:00—8:30 p.m.

Meet us at the Claim Jumper Restaurant
27845 Santa Margarita Parkway, Mission Viejo, California 92691

Outgoing Presidents are requested to bring their
Incoming Presidents.
Returning Presidents are welcome to bring another
valued board member.

The cost is \$30 per person.*

Choose from one of the following entrées:

Rotisserie Chicken
Black Tie Pasta with Blackened Chicken
Vegetarian Black Tie Pasta
Roasted Tri-Tip
Crab Wedge Salad
Barbecued Chicken Salad

All dinners include a non-alcoholic beverage and dessert.

→ Please make your reservation by Friday, May 23. ←
Questions? Contact Suzann Gastreich at
svvp@svpta.org or 455-0522.

*This is a legitimate PTA expense.
This is our last Council meeting of the year, so it is important that
at least one representative from your unit is in attendance.

Saddleback Valley Council



everychild.onevoice.®

**Registration for
2008 Year-End Dinner**

Unit Name

Name

Entrée Selection

Name

Entrée Selection

Contact
Phone #

Entrée Selections:

Rotisserie Chicken — Black Tie Pasta with Blackened Chicken — Roasted Tri-Tip
Crab Wedge Salad — Barbecued Chicken Salad — Vegetarian Black Tie Pasta

Please make your check for \$30 per person payable to
Saddleback Valley Council PTA
and mail it with this form to:

Molly O'Grady
27431 Abanico, Mission Viejo, CA 92691

Please remember the registration deadline is
Friday, May 23, 2008

For Council Use Only:

Payer: _____ Amount: _____ Date Received: _____

2007—2008 SVPTA CALENDAR

May 2008

1—4 CA PTA Convention

22nd Council Training - Workshops

6:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room

29 Elementary School Open House

Time TBD by individual school

June 2008

5th SVPTA Council Dinner

6—8:30PM @ Claim Jumper, Mission Viejo