

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: Tina Dunn

President's Message

By Julie Schwarz,
SVPTA President
svpresident@svpta.org

Happy Thanksgiving! Fall is such a wonderful season – the weather has finally cooled down and I can get my sweaters out of the closet. I really love this time of the year. I know that fall is a busy time – with the holidays upon us shortly. Yet, on the other hand, it is a time that we naturally take a moment to count our blessings (isn't that the point of Thanksgiving?).

I know that I will take time out of my busy schedule to spend time with family and friends – to reflect on the many blessings we have. I am not only grateful for my family, but also for the wonderful "PTA" family that I am privileged to be a part of. Both at my local school and at Council, I have the honor of working along side some of the most dedicated, hard working parents who want their children to get the best education possible. You are part of that group – Many thanks for all that you do!

In this time of much uncertainty, I strongly encourage you to take inventory of your blessings. We have a stock market that looks more like a roller coaster, a political future that is bound to bring change, a state financial situation that is grim and guarantees to only get worse in the short term etc, etc. I can go on and on, but that is not the point I am trying to make. Despite all of the frustrating things around us – we all still have much to be grateful for. I know I mentioned this at our last Council meeting, but as leaders, we need to remain positive (realistic, but yet positive). The best way I know to accomplish this is to focus on positive things and accomplishments.

(President's message continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events:

November:

- 3rd—Reflections entries due to Colleen Logomasini's house
- 18th— School Board Meeting—6:15 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
- 20th—Council Meeting—7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
President's Roundtable— 6:15PM@
District Board Room
Topic: Legislative Roundtable

January:

- 14th— Superintendent's Forum —9:30 AM @ SVUSD Board Room
- 22nd—Council Meeting—7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room (No Presidents Roundtable)
- 30th—4th District Roundtable—9:30AM @ OCDE Room D1001

Items to bring to Nov. meeting:

- ✓ 2009 Insurance Premium check for \$190.00, payable to Saddleback Valley PTA Council
- ✓ One copy of Federal Tax Form 990 or Form 990-EZ, or Extension Form 8868 for the year ended 6/30/2008 (**worth 2 incentive points**)
- ✓ A copy of the Annual Financial Report for 2006-2007
- ✓ Completed Workers' Compensation Annual Payroll Report 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 your 2008-2009 Budget or your Audit.

UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

⇒ SVPTA Roundtable	November 20th	6:15—7:00 pm @ SVUSD Board Room
⇒ District Advocacy Roundtable	January 30th	9:30 am @ OCDE Room D1001
⇒ CA State PTA Legislative Conference	February 22-24	Sacramento
⇒ Sacramento Safari	March 30-31	Sacramento

Inside this issue:

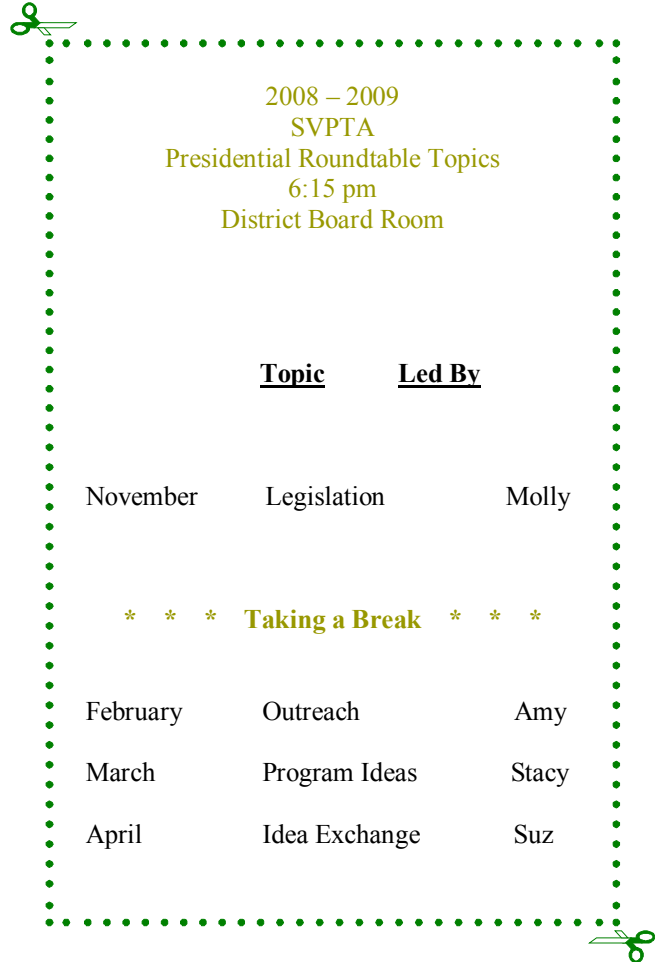
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For your schools and individual PTA units, I am sure that budgets are tight. However, keep in mind that the greatest asset your PTA has is *your membership*. Manpower is your greatest asset, not your pocket-book. We can make a huge difference on each and every campus – by being more creative and selective in how we use both the financial resources we have and the volunteer hours we have available. We need to make sure that we are using these resources wisely, efficiently and effectively.

As a leader, I have an additional suggestion. Help your board separate the issues that you can directly control from the items that you can not. There is little value in worrying about the things you have no way to control. For example, as individuals, we can not control the state of the California budget ... but we can continue to write to our legislators and make sure they keep education a priority. We can not control the amount of funds raised by a particular event, but we can control the expenses and financial obligations our unit commits to. Spend time and energy on things you can influence and control.

All in all, I am confident that we will have another great school year. I know that parents, staff and teachers are all rallying around the same goal – to provide the students of the Saddleback School District a safe, welcoming place to learn. I am thankful for each and every one of you. Again, Happy Thanksgiving!



2008 – 2009
SVPTA
Presidential Roundtable Topics
6:15 pm
District Board Room

	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Led By</u>
November	Legislation	Molly
* * * Taking a Break * * *		
February	Outreach	Amy
March	Program Ideas	Stacy
April	Idea Exchange	Suz

EVERY PTA MUST FILE A FEDERAL TAX RETURN

Just a reminder that every PTA must file a federal tax return this year. There are no exceptions. PTAs that end their fiscal year on June 30 must file forms by November 15. If you are unable to file the tax returns by this date, it is imperative that you submit Form 8868 to receive an extension.

Forms and instructions can be found at www.irs.gov and remember to bring a copy of your return after its been filed to this months meeting on November 20th.

Contact Dennis Walsh at svtreasurer@svpta.org if you need additional assistance.

Special Education Committee

By Carolyn Paltin
SVPTA Special Education Chair
svspecialled@svpta.org

With the school year well underway, elections freshly behind us, and holidays fast approaching, it is time to ask ourselves what goals we will be implementing in the coming months. As you become acquainted with the specific needs of your school with regards to the support of students in special education, you may now begin to examine what will be the best ways to provide these students, their families and their teachers with a supportive and inclusive experience throughout the school year.

I am thrilled and encouraged by the growth of our committee as it continues to expand to new schools, and extremely impressed with the wonderful diversity and expertise of the individuals who have stepped up to serve their schools in the role of special education chair. Some of our chairpersons are educators, many have more than one family member living with challenges, and still more are volunteering for organizations assisting individuals with special-needs in addition to their work as chairs. All of our chairpersons are unique and creative individuals, and I am proud to work with each of them! Here is just a highlight of what has been happening so far:

- ❖ **Montevideo** : Co-Chairpersons **Deborah Sollom** and **Dawn Ellen Ferry** are in the process of developing their school's first Abilities Awareness Day.
- ❖ **Robinson: Joanna Kerner** has students with special needs participating in Reflections. She has also sent out an "FYI" in the PTA newsletter, and is compiling a resource binder for parents.
- ❖ **Linda Vista: Susan Monk** assisted the PTA in creating and modifying activities for their "Amazing Race" boot-camp style fundraiser, so that all children could participate.

One focus of our committee is to create unity in the PTA with regards to the inclusion of special needs families. I encourage you to reach out to parents of both children with special needs and those in general education to share in the work of creating a unified team which addresses the needs of *all* children. **If your unit does not currently have the Special Education Chair position filled**, please feel free to contact me to discuss possible ways to locate a person who would best serve in this position. If you would like to discuss other ideas or have questions, I look forward to hearing from you.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDTABLE

Presidents, please remind your PTA Unit Legislative Reps, that we are having a Legislative Roundtable in the School Board Room on Thursday, November 20th @ 6:15 pm prior to the General Meeting. Remember, if you do not have a Leg Rep yet assigned to your unit, feel free to send along another member.



Nominating Committee Workshop

- WHEN:** Thursday, December 4, 2008
- TIME:** 6:30 – 8:30 P.M.
- PLACE:** Saddleback Valley District Board Room
25361 Peter A. Hartman Way, Mission Viejo
- INVITEES:** Unit Parliamentarians (*Presidents welcome, but bear in mind that this is the only committee you may not serve on!*)
- PURPOSE:** To provide Unit Parliamentarians with all the tools they need to guide and manage their nominating committee process.
- WHY:** To ensure a smooth transition of continued leadership in every PTA in Saddleback Council.
- RSVP TO:** Dolores Winchell, Council Parliamentarian @ dolores1@cox.net
by **Tuesday, December 2, 2008.**
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110th California State PTA Convention to be held in San Jose!

Please mark your calendar with the following Important Dates regarding the 110th Annual PTA Convention...



January 13

Council Convention Chair

Orientation

10:00am at the Fourth

District PTA Office

(This is a Council orientation... I included this date for your information only).

This year's 110th annual California PTA Convention will be held from April 30th to May 3rd in the San Jose Convention Center. Please plan to attend Convention this year as it is a wonderful way to learn about all things PTA. Your Unit representatives will gain valuable knowledge about how to make your local PTA Units better. They will have the opportunity to meet State and National PTA leaders, learn about how PTA works as an organization; hear from experts regarding issues of concern to PTA, participate in workshops where ideas and skills are learned; exchange ideas; develop leadership skills; create helpful lists of contacts, and celebrate the outstanding work of local

unit, council and district PTAs. Your voting delegates will also have the opportunity to: participate in the business of the organization; vote on the legislative platform that will direct the advocacy efforts of our organization; establish the priorities to be addressed; and participate in the election of future state leaders.

If you have any questions, please contact me at svconvention@svpta.org. I will be more than happy to assist in any way I can.

For more information about the benefits of attending PTA Convention, please go to the 4th District Website at fourthdistrictpta.org, click on Communications, look up the November 2008 Edition of Orange Leaves, see Page 8, article by Karen Schroeder. In addition, I found information regarding the benefits of going to PTA Convention at the capta.org website. Thank you.

By: Brenda Tettermer
SVPTA Convention Chair
svconvention@svpta.org

2008—2009 SVPTA CALENDAR

November 2008

4th General Election

18th School Board Meeting 6:15 PM @ SVUSD Board Room

20th Council Meeting 7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
(Executive Board Meeting 6 PM)

January 2009

14th Superintendent's Forum 9:30 AM @ SVUSD Board Conf Room

22nd Council Meeting 7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
Executive Board Meeting 6 PM)

30th Fourth District Roundtable 9:30 AM @ OCDE Room D1001

February 2009

26th Council Meeting 7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
(Executive Board Meeting 6 PM)

March 2009

19th Council Meeting 7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
(Executive Board Meeting 6 PM)

26th Fourth District Administrators Dinner TBA

Mar 30th--

31st Sacramento Safari

April 2009

15th Superintendent's Forum 9:30 AM @ SVUSD Board Conf Room

16th High School Open House Time TBD by individual school

23rd Council Meeting 7:30 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
Executive Board Meeting 6:30 PM)

23rd Intermediate School Open House Time TBD by individual school

24th Fourth District Roundtable 9:30 AM @ OCDE Room D1001

Apr 30-

May 3 CA PTA Convention San Jose, CA

May 2009

21st Council Meeting - Workshops 6:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room

28th Fourth District Training
Elementary School Open House Time TBD by individual school

June 2009

11th SVPTA Council Dinner Time/Date TBD