

Saddleback Valley PTA 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

It is hard to believe that it is already October! I hope that your first meeting of the year was a success and that your unit is off and running with your Fall Events. Please do not hesitate to contact me or your Council "Buddy" if you have any concerns, questions or comments. We truly enjoy working with you – that is why we volunteered to serve on Council.

I recently attended a meeting for the Saddleback Valley Alliance for Arts Education. The purpose was to discuss the advancement of arts education in the Saddleback Valley School District. The meeting included community leaders, school district leaders, community stakeholders and arts advocates.

Most educators agree that arts education plays a significant role in the learning process for all our students. You may be thinking – why am I bringing this up in our council newsletter. Well, I want to encourage our school PTAs to promote and support the visual and performing arts in our schools. During this environment of strained district budgets and limited resources, I believe that we can make a difference.

First of all, I want to thank and commend all the schools that participate in the PTA Reflections Program. Every opportunity that students have to create and display their "masterpieces" is beneficial. Additionally, the recognition that our students receive for their efforts is also very important. If your school is not participating in the Reflections program, please contact Colleen Logomasini, our Council Reflections Chairperson. She would be happy to help you get started.

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Upcoming Events:

October:

- 21st—Candidates' Forum—7 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
- 23rd—Council Meeting—7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
President's Roundtable— 6:15PM@ District Board Room
Topic: Promoting Healthy Living

November:

- 3rd—Reflections Entries due to Colleen Logomasini's home
- 18th— School Board Meeting—6:15 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
- 20th—Council Meeting—7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room

Items to bring to Oct. meeting:

- ✓ A copy of the Annual Financial Report for 2007-2008
- ✓ Membership dues remittance with a Unit Remittance Form (**worth incentive points!!!**)
- 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 LEGISLATION ACTIVITIES

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| ⇒ SVUSD Board of Education Candidates Forum | October 21 |
| 7:00pm-8:00pm SVUSD Board Room | |
| ⇒ 4th District Advocacy Training 6:30pm-8:00pm | October 28 |
| USD Educational Svcs. Ctr., 4999 Casa Loma, Yorba Linda | |
| ⇒ General Election - PLEASE VOTE! | November 4 |
| ⇒ Speakers from Sacramento 11:00am-12:pm | November 7 |
| CUSD Education Ctr., Training Rm. 2 | |
| 33122 Valle Rd., San Juan Capistrano | |
| ⇒ SVPTA Council Roundtable | November 20 |
| 6:00pm-7:00pm SVUSD Board Room | |

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Secondly, I know that many of our units financially support supplemental arts programs at their schools (for example, Meet the Masters and various assemblies). Again, this provides wonderful opportunities for our students to learn more about the arts – whether it is fine arts, instrumental music or possibly a dance production.

However, I do understand that financially supporting the arts may not be a feasible goal for your unit – at this time. Therefore, you might consider supporting the arts in another fashion. Many of our students have no avenue to display or showcase their artistic talent (whether fine arts or performing arts). May I suggest that your PTA sponsors an Art Gallery Display and/or Talent Show? This would be such a wonderful way to support the arts (without a lot of financial resources needed). You may want to consider a special evening event ... or how about an Art Gallery at your monthly meetings or your Family Fun Nights? You can invite your students to perform one act of their classroom play for the whole community to see. If this seems like an area that your PTA board would like to explore, you should consider appointing an “Art Chairperson”.

On a side note, our school district is in the process of implementing a very exciting Visual and Performing Arts Program within the district. Dr. Dick will be sharing more about this effort at our next meeting.

Before I close, I want to remind you of a very important event sponsored by our Council – the Candidates Forum for the Saddleback Valley School District Board. There are four candidates running for three positions. I can not stress enough how important this election is for our school district. Please publicize this Candidates Forum to your community – Tuesday October 21, 2008 at 7 pm in the SVUSD School Board Room.

Hope to see you there!



FINANCIAL NOTES

By Dennis Walsh
Council Treasurer
svtreasurer@svpta.org



Each PTA unit is required to file with the IRS this year. The filing deadline for the 2007-2008 fiscal year is November 15th! If you are unable to file the tax returns by that date, it is imperative that you submit Form 8868 to receive an extension. In past years, some units have incurred penalties for not filing on time. Don't let this happen to your unit! Forms and instructions are at www.irs.gov. Also, Council needs one copy of your return after it's been filed, at the November 20th meeting. Please contact me if you need additional assistance.

As soon as I know the amount of the insurance payment, I will let the Unit Treasurers know. It will be due at the November 20th meeting. The check should be made payable to the Saddleback Valley PTA Council, and should be submitted with a transmittal form. In addition, each unit must also submit the **Workers Compensation Annual Payroll Report**, Toolkit page 302. I will give you a copy at our October meeting. Even though you don't have employees, each unit must file this form. On it, write NO EMPLOYEES. I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Membership Update!

By Andrea Padian
SVPTA Membership Chair
svmembership@svpta.org

I want to thank all our 27 units for turning in their membership dues in September. Every school submitted dues for at least 50 members - which means everyone qualifies for both the *Early Bird Award* and *Chairman's Club Award*. Esperanza, our smallest unit, along with Laguna Hills High School, one of our largest units, has already shown an increase in their membership over last year – this is terrific! Please remember to keep your membership campaign going all year. Our goal is to increase our membership by 5%, and it is doable. If you need any help or materials, please let me know. As I said in the last newsletter, there are many web sites designed to help build your membership – so go to the state and national PTA web sites and see if they have some suggestions that you can use at your school. The state's educational budget is going to be a constant challenge for the next few years. We need all parents together as a unified group to help secure the funds our children need so that the schools and families in our district don't look to the PTA as a last resort for funding the programs that are being denied through a decreasing state budget and our district wide decreasing enrollment.

Since everyone will receive the Chairman's Club Award, I want to encourage all units to consider submitting the paperwork and form for the PTA/PTSA Creative Membership Award. I know many of you use many clever and effective marketing tools to get new PTA members – from pizza parties, to X-Games, and more. Share your ideas. Everyone is looking for a new way to reach people. When you share ideas that have proven successful to your school, everyone needs to know about them. Plus, to win this award is a huge honor and something your PTA will be proud of for years to come. Please take a look at the information available on the web site or in the toolkit regarding this award and go for it!

I also want to reiterate once more how important it is to forward the membership dues to council every month. Please don't hold back these funds. If you have 500 members, submit dues for all of them. We will ask for dues up until March this year, so while you have time to get them in, they need to be sent in the month they are received. That money allows all levels of the PTA to operate. With all of the advocacy that we will be doing in the next year, the money is well spent and needed more than ever.

If you need more membership cards, please let me know. If I can help you with anything else, I'm just an email away.

Happy Halloween!



October Health Roundtable
“Getting Fit and Having Fun”
How to implement some simple and fun fitness
programs for your school that encourages students to get moving.

Thursday October 23, 2008
6:15 pm SVUSD Board Room

Search is on for 2010-11 PTA Reflections Theme



By Fran Sdao
Fourth District Reflections Chairman
From Orange Leaves, September 2008/Volume 75, Issue 1

I can make a difference by...
My Favorite Place
I wonder why...

These are all past themes for the National PTA Reflections Arts Recognition Program. Each of these themes was suggested by a student who submitted an entry with their idea to National PTA.

The National PTA is looking for a theme for the 2010-11 Reflections Program. The student who submits the winning entry will receive \$100, and his or her theme will be presented at the 2009 National PTA Convention. You will find the entry form for the 2010-11 National PTA Reflections Program Theme Search in the Reflections Program packet or by going to www.capta.org. Click on Reflections, then on Theme Search Application under Fill-In Forms. ***(This form was given out to all attending unit representatives at the September 2008 Saddleback PTA Council Board meeting).***

Students must submit their original theme idea to the California State PTA at the address shown on the entry form. All entries must be received by November 1, 2008. Faxes are not accepted.

REMINDER- UNIT AUDITS ARE DUE!!!

Please turn in a copy of your audit (for January 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008) to the SVPTA Auditor. Remember to include on your report the DATE it was adopted by your membership.

THANK YOU!!!!

SVUSD Board of Education Candidates' Forum

Please join us for this public forum to question the candidates for the SVUSD Board of Education. This is *your opportunity* to get answers for the decisions the candidates will make if elected.

**Tuesday, October 21, 2008
7:00PM – 8:00PM**

**Saddleback Valley Unified School District Board Room
25631 Peter A. Hartman Way
Mission Viejo, CA 92691**



Sponsored by Saddleback Valley Council of PTAs & League of Women Voters of Orange Coast

**BE THE CHANGE
THAT YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD**

Mohandas Gandhi,
Political and spiritual leader in India

2008—2009 SVPTA CALENDAR

October 2008

21st	Candidates Forum	7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
23rd	Council Meeting—Membership Due (Executive Board Meeting 6 PM)	7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room

November 2008

4th General Election

18th	School Board Meeting	6:15 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
20th	Council Meeting (Executive Board Meeting 6 PM)	7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room

January 2009

14th	Superintendent's Forum	9:30 AM @ SVUSD Board Conf Room
22nd	Council Meeting (Executive Board Meeting 6 PM)	7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
30 th	Fourth District Roundtable	9:30 AM @ OCDE Room D1001

February 2009

26th	Council Meeting (Executive Board Meeting 6 PM)	7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
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March 2009

19th	Council Meeting (Executive Board Meeting 6 PM)	7:00 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
26th	Fourth District Administrators Dinner	TBA
Mar 30th-		
Mar 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 (Executive Board Meeting 6:30 PM)	7:30 PM @ SVUSD Board Room
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
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