

The Seventeena

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UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

JAN 13, 2012

HEALTH & SAFETY

Please save Friday, January 13, 2012 for lively community conversation on efforts to improve the health and safety of San Mateo County. The event will be held from 8 am to Noon at the College of San Mateo

POSTPONED TO FEB 1ST ARTS EDUCATION FORUM

California State PTA invites PTA Council presidents, arts education, Reflections and legislative chairs, and SMARTS parents to a free event at SMCOE from 9am - 1 pm. RSVP to arts@capta.org by Dec 5th.

FEB 6-7, 2012

LEGISLATION CONFERENCE

Sacramento
Registration is now open. For more info, <http://www.capta.org/sections/advocacy/leg-conference.cfm>

Welcome to the 17th PTA District!

Dear PTA friends,

Let me be among the first to say "Thank you" for being willing to give your time and talents to your PTA. As a PTA officer, you carry the responsibility and trust of your fellow parents and partners in education to work for the betterment of all children. You should thank yourself out loud!

I am so fortunate to have a high-quality Board of Managers, comprised of our elected officers and your council presidents and area counselors. I also enjoy the presence of no fewer than four State PTA board members among my officers. I am very lucky to have their expertise--and so spoiled!

We have many challenges facing us this year: several new superintendents in our area, many new principals, significant losses in school funding, all presenting us with a greater need to persuade more people about the benefits of associating with PTA. We have new tax requirements, CT number applications, new per capita dues, new insurance rates, new Toolkits, new Reflections rules. Plus, the National PTA

convention is coming to town! These challenges can be looked upon as opportunities to increase and improve our communication and interdependence with each other.

At the same time, we also have many reasons to celebrate: we are among the lucky few PTA districts with 100% units to have retained their tax-exempt status with IRS. And, in a time of economic hardship, our membership numbers are up, which tells me that parents and teachers truly do recognize the importance and necessity of working together to weather the storms affecting our public education system.

Visit our website, www.17thdistrictpta.org for updates and reminders about upcoming events. "Like" us on Facebook, and let us know that our outreach efforts are reaching you. And of course, please do contact us if you need anything!

Have a great new year!

Susan Bell, President

California is shortchanging the future of our children and our state. *We can and must do better.*

Today, our state ranks 46th nationally in what we invest to educate each student. California also ranks dead last, 50th out of 50 states, with the largest class sizes in the nation. Recent budget cuts are putting our schools even farther behind. We owe it to our children and to ourselves to improve our children's education.

The "Our Children, Our Future: Local Schools and Early Education Investment Act" will:

- Invest in our schools and early education to prepare our children to succeed and make a better future for our economy and our state
- Create a new, dedicated source of per pupil funding that will go directly to local public schools, including charter schools, with no interference from Sacramento. Provide funding for early childhood development and child care programs
- Establish tough new accountability, oversight and public disclosure require

Stay Informed on Our Progress

**PTA's Economic
Recovery Plan**



**Invest in
CHILDREN**

Today in Sacramento, The Our Children, Our Future: Local Schools and Early Education Investment Act was submitted to the Attorney General for title and summary for the November 6, 2012 ballot.

California State PTA supports this bold initiative, which will provide approximately \$1,300 per student in new funds each year that must be spent directly at school sites with local parent and educator input.

California State PTA had a role in crafting the final ballot measure language, and we plan to actively engage in the broad, grass-roots effort to qualify and pass this measure.

In the coming weeks we will continue providing information about this important initiative and how you can get involved to help.

More information at: www.OurChildrenOurFuture2012.com.

SAN MATEO COUNTY COURT AND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

By Lori McBride, 17th District PTA Court & Community Schools Liaison

I serve on the 17th District PTA, which is comprised of all the PTAs and PTSAs in San Mateo Co., as the Court and Community Schools Liaison. Keiko Smith, 17th District VP of Advocacy and Community Concerns, and I are working together to provide 17th District PTA support to the Court and Community Schools.

Have you heard of the Community Schools or Court School program? I really didn't know much until recently and I want to share what I learned with you. I know this is a lot of information, but please take a couple of minutes to read about the Court and Community Schools Programs run by the San Mateo Co. Office of Education. These students need our support.

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PROGRAM

This an alternative education program for students who are expelled from their school or are on probation. The Community Schools may also serve homeless students and students referred by their local school district with parent consent. There are four Community School locations:

1. North: South San Francisco Boys and Girls Club
2. Gateway: 3 teachers middle school through high school (Tower Rd. in San Mateo)
3. Central: Redwood City Boys and Girls Club

4. South: EPA Boys and Girls Club

Each school has a teacher, an aide, a group supervisor from the Probation Dept., and Special Education services. There are about 20-30 students per class. The Community Schools Program utilizes best practices for alternative education that promote positive student engagement and investment in their education and a culture of caring and respect. Strong relationships and rapport with staff and peers leads to changes in student attitudes. Most of the students attend for 1-2 semesters and then return to their district to a different high school.

How many students of the 441 who attended the Community Schools program in 2011-2012 were from your district?

- Jefferson High School District – 21
- Menlo Park – 1
- Millbrae - 1
- Ravenswood – 9
- Redwood City Elem. – 9
- San Bruno Park – 1
- San Mateo/Foster City – 4
- San Mateo Union High School District – 188
- Sequoia Union High School District – 192
- South San Francisco Unified School District – 12

In September, 17th District PTA Board members, Keiko Smith, Emily Sarver, and I met with Megan Price, Community Schools Educational Services Manager, for a visit and tour of the Central Community School at the Redwood City Boys and Girls Club location. Three students provided us with a tour and shared information about the support services they receive.

The small, nurturing environment, enables them to have a successful educational experience. This facility has a computer lab, digital recording studio (Adobe Youth Voices Peapod Academy), gym, dance studio, and kitchen. They offer many enrichment activities. Megan said the schools at the Boys and Girls Club locations offer the richest experiences.

COURT SCHOOL PROGRAM

On October 25, 17th District Board members Keiko Smith, Emily Sarver, Susan Bell, and I met with Dr. Toni-Sue Passantino, Interim Director of Court & Community Schools, and went on a tour of the Hillcrest Court School at the San Mateo Youth Services Center. Hillcrest is a lock down residential facility for students who are either waiting for a court hearing or have been placed there by the court as a result of their hearing.

There are eight teachers who teach English, Math, Social Studies, Science, PE, Special Day Class (SDC), Resource Specialist Program (RSP), and GED (General Education Development) for 8th through 12th graders. There are four paraprofessionals and probation officers. There also are special education services. There is a computer lab where students can do word processing (no internet is available), and a small library. About 1,300 girls and boys go through Hillcrest in a year, and up to 120 can be there at a time. Those who are at Camp Glenwood have drug or alcohol problems and those at Canyon Oaks have therapeutic needs.

WHAT DO THESE SCHOOLS NEED?

It has been requested that the 17th District PTAs/PTSAs provide funding for sets of novels for the English classes and paperback books for the libraries.

They specifically would like sets (140 copies, with a cost of about \$1,000) of Pete Nelson's novel, *Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice to the USS Indianapolis*,

There also was a request for:

1. Art instruction
 2. Restorative Justice Training
- All the schools are working towards Restorative Justice processes such as Restorative Circles which are facilitated community meetings attended by offenders, victims, friends, family, community members, and representatives of the justice system. Megan said that \$3,000 could support all three of these needs.

HOW YOU AND YOUR PTAs/PTSAs CAN HELP THESE STUDENTS

These students do not have a PTA/PTSA to provide for them. You or your PTA/PTSA can help support these students in two ways:

1. Make a financial donation which your PTA/PTSA can send to the 17th District with the 17th District PTA Remittance Form (the form used to send in dues, which has a line for "SM County Community Schools (donations to support at-risk youth)").
2. Donate a minimum of \$10 to the Follett Titlewish on-line book

fair where the teachers can order the novels with your on-line donations. Follett will provide you with a printable donation receipt once you place your donation.

Go to
<http://www.titlewish.com/101169>
and click on "Help Your Kids, Donate Today".

If you have any questions, you can contact me, Lori McBride, Community Schools Liaison at: communityschools@17thdistrictpta.org

Check out these music videos and movie produced by Community School students:

In 2006, the Boys and Girls Club in Redwood City received a grant by the Adobe Youth Voices Peapod Academy, which is a partnership between the Peapod Foundation and Adobe Youth Voices.

"Demonstrating the power of technology to engage middle- and high school-age youth, Adobe Youth Voices provides breakthrough learning experiences using video, multimedia, digital art, web, animation, and audio tools that enable youth to explore and comment on their world."

The students have written, produced, and performed three music videos and won the National award. They were flown to Washington, DC, to perform for the President and the National Youth Conference Summit at the White House!

Below are three music videos produced by the Community

Schools students that I think you will enjoy viewing:

- <http://vimeo.com/9357600>
- <http://vimeo.com/15761211>
- <http://vimeo.com/20627976>

On Nov. 10, 2011, I attended the Fox Theatre (Redwood City) debut of "Angel in My Sky,

"ANGEL IN MY SKY" is a coming of age story of young man who searches for answers during a tragic time in his life. He learns a powerful lesson in faith, forgiveness, and staying true to your word. Members of the Adobe Youth Voices Peapod Academy worked together to write, produce, film and edit this short film.

The student stars arrived in a limo and were greeted by a cheering crowd! Here is the link for your viewing:

<http://vimeo.com/26212070>

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Registration is now open for the 2012 California State PTA Legislation Conference to be held Monday and Tuesday, February 6 and 7, in Sacramento.

Whether you're an experienced advocate or interested in learning how you can become a more effective advocate for the children in your school and community, this conference is for you. Now, more than ever, California's children need your voice. Learn what California State PTA is doing, and how you can be involved to make a difference!

For more information and to register, please [click here](#)
 (http://bit.ly/u00tLf)

FEB 22, 2012

17th District PTA Founders Day Luncheon and annual meeting at Domenic's Oyster Point, SSF

MAY 9-12, 2012

California State PTA Convention in Anaheim, CA

Finance Matters**State Tax Filing Options**

For the 2010 tax year (filed in 2011), PTAs whose gross receipts are normally equal to or less than \$25,000 may choose to file electronically (online) using form **199-N**. All others must file form **199**.

To file a State tax return a PTA must be issued a *state entity identification number*. The Franchise Tax Board mailed letters to PTAs to inform them of their entity numbers. If a

PTA did not receive this letter and does not know its entity number it should contact its district PTA president for guidance on how to obtain it.

When to File a Tax Return

Both state and federal tax returns are due the 15th day of the fifth month after the fiscal year-end (see table below). PTAs may request a three-month extension to this due date by filing form **8868**. A second request for extension can be made using the same form.

Tax Year Ends	Initial due date	First extended due date	Second extended due date
June 30	November 15	February 15	May 15
Dec. 31	May 15	August 15	November 15
July 31	December 15	March 15	June 15
August 31	January 15	April 15	July 15

17TH DISTRICT

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