

Palo Alto Council of PTAs
25 Churchill Avenue
Palo Alto CA 94306

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On the Calendar Mar-May

All PTA Unit President, Council, and School Board meetings are at 25 Churchill unless otherwise noted. School Board meetings are usually broadcast on cable channel 28 and streamed live at <http://www.communitymediacenter.net/watch/schedules/index.html>

Mar 30-Apr 6, **No School: Local Holiday**

Apr 10, 7:00 pm, **School Board Student Dinner/Study Session** 25 Churchill

Apr 11, 9:00 am, **PTAC Exec Board**

Apr 11, :00 pm **OneCareNow Community Meeting**, Palo Alto Unitarian Church.

Apr 14, 9:00am, **Shaping the Future: A Community Engagement Conference**. Avenidas

Apr 17, 7:00 pm, **School Board Meeting**

Apr 18, 9:00 am, **PTA Unit Presidents**

Apr 19 – May 17 **STAR Testing Window**

Apr 24, 7:00 pm, **School Board Study Session: Facilities Plan** 25 Churchill

Apr 25, 9:00 am, **PTAC General Mtg (Election)**

May 3-6, **State PTA Convention**, Sacramento

May 8, 7:00 pm, **School Board Meeting**

May 9, 9:00 am, **PTAC Exec Board**

May 11, 7:30 pm, **SOS Keynote: Drs Madeline Levine & Wendy Mogel. Open to the Public**, Kresge Auditorium Stanford

May 16, 9:00 am, **PTA Unit Presidents**

May 22, 7:00 pm, **School Board Meeting**

May 23, 8:30-Noon, **PTA Unit Leadership Training Day**, 25 Churchill

Jun 1, 11:30am, **PTA Council Honorary Service Awards Luncheon**

June 5, 7:00 pm, **School Board Meeting**

June 14, **School Ends, Summer Vacation Begins**

June 19, 7:00 pm, **School Board Study Session, Work Plan**, 25 Churchill

June 26, 7:00 pm, **School Board Meeting**

The Councilor

The Newsletter of the Palo Alto Council of PTAs

Talk to Your Child About Alcohol

In the hands of teenagers, alcohol is a true WMD (Weapon of Mass Destruction). This is based in fact, not politics. Alcohol is

- The leading cause of death among teenagers
- The leading cause of motor vehicle accidents among teenagers
- The leading cause of date rape in teenagers
- The leading cause of teenage suicide
- Increases the risk of severe depression 4 times

Daily, teenagers try alcohol for the first time 11,318 times vs. 386 for heroin.

Alcohol exposure in teenagers 15 and under lead to 4 times the incidence of alcoholism compared to those who wait until they are 21.

In a study of teenagers the AMA found that modest alcohol consumption lead to definable permanent brain damage. This sensitivity continued until age 21.

The adolescent brain is more susceptible to memory loss with alcohol which is permanent. It blocks the ability to learn new memory. This is due to its effects on the juvenile hippocampus which is not seen in adults.

Alcohol has a less sedative effect in juveniles which leads to more consumption and thereafter a higher risk of alcohol poisoning.

Teenagers are more likely to binge drink. Binge drinking with multiple withdrawals lead to higher risks of seizures, cognitive difficulties, learning difficulties, memory, and spatial orientation difficulties.

All of these are scientific facts, based on multiple studies from multiple institutions. They have lead to laws which were written to protect us.

David Gregg, MD, Trauma Surgeon, Stanford University Medical Center

California State 2007 PTA Convention Sacramento Convention Center - Wednesday, May 2- Sunday May 6, 2007

Your PTA will benefit by sending members to Convention. Convention provides numerous opportunities to instruct, inform, and inspire your PTA leaders and so the California State PTA strongly encourages its units, councils and districts to budget for and send delegates to each annual convention.

Planning for Convention and providing an opportunity for delegates to attend is a membership priority. Convention is an authorized expense and should be a line item in every PTA budget.

Each unit in good standing is entitled to be represented at the California State PTA convention by the president or president elect (or an elected alternate) and one additional elected delegate. PTA units with 250-500 memberships are entitled to two additional elected delegates. Units with 501-750 members are entitled to three additional elected delegates. Units with 751 or more memberships may send three additional elected delegates

Top Ten Reasons to Send a Unit Delegate to PTA Convention

1. The California PTA is the biggest child advocacy organization in California and their legislative agenda for the coming year is determined by the annual statewide convention. **BUT you have to be there to vote!**
2. TRAINING! It is a great training place for new presidents and other board members. Many of the sessions are focused on specific topics relevant for your incoming board members.
3. Find out what Membership REALLY provides. The Convention provides many opportunities to learn more about the PTA's programs and services. If your only interest is the workshops – and they are almost universally high quality and worth your time – consider going there just for the day.
4. You don't need to know who will be on next year's Exec. Board to register someone today. You can register a "Delegate A" and "Delegate B" for the convention and insert the correct names when you know them.

The Councilor

The Newsletter of the Palo Alto Council of PTAs is published monthly.

Melissa Baten Caswell

PTA Council President

Mona Siegel

Councilor Editor

Dr. Mary Frances Callan

PAUSD Superintendent

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California State PTA Convention (Continued from page 1)

5. Get fundraising ideas. The Convention draws many exhibitors who provide interesting ideas for "turnkey" fundraisers.
6. Find special deals for your teachers, staff and students. Many exhibit vendors offer PTA Convention attendees products and services at special prices.
7. Stock up on PTA "STUFF". Pick up pamphlets specific to executive board positions (Treasurer, President, Secretary, Auditor...), as well as unique PTA pins, buttons, pens, stationery, tee shirts, etc.
8. Hear big name speakers up close. The convention always draws big name speakers. Often the Governor (or a member of his senior staff) will be a speaker.
9. Good network opportunity for incoming officers. Get to know the other incoming Palo Alto PTA Presidents and Council members (in a relaxed environment), before the year starts.
10. In addition to being a meaningful opportunity to influence state PTA policies and expand your "tool kit" of expertise.....it's *fun!*

Questions? Contact PTA Council Executive VP and Convention Chair, Dan Dykwel at dykwel@comcast.net

Congratulations Palo Alto Student Artists!

The following are the 2006-2007 6th District (Santa Clara County) PTA Reflections Arts Contest Winners!

Literature

Primary Literature (K-2)

*1st Mikhail Saliba Lebanon-My Favorite Place Walter Hays
2nd Peter King My Favorite Place Duveneck

Intermediate Literature (3-5)

5th Divya Saini My Favorite Place Hoover

Senior Literature (9-12)

4th Frederick Chen My Favorite Place Gunn HS

Photography

Senior Photography (9-12)

3rd Lauren Koo My Favorite Place Gunn HS
4th Julia Benton Sails Palo Alto HS

Visual Arts

Primary Visual Arts (K-2nd)

2nd Hollis Caswell All Together With My Family Duveneck
3rd Anwasha Mukheji My Grandma's Cozy Lap Duveneck

Intermediate Visual Arts (3-5)

3rd Wilson Wang My Favorite Place Duveneck
4th Annie Chen One Day In Big Sur Duveneck

Senior Visual Arts (9-12)

2nd Maya Fielder The Apple Tree Palo Alto HS
4th Tim Qin My Room Palo Alto HS

Dance Choreography

Senior Dance Choreography (9-12)

*1st Leah Rosengaus Sea & Light Gunn HS

Music Composition

Senior Music Composition (9-12)

5th Abraham Wilson Recapturing Isenguard Palo Alto HS

* 1st Place Winners have been entered in the California State PTA Competition. Winners of the State Reflections Competition will be showcased at PTA convention and go to the National PTA Reflections Competition!

American Dream Act Introduced in the House

On Thursday, March 1, Rep. Howard Berman of California introduced the American Dream Act ([H.R. 1275](#)) to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. The bill's cosponsors are Reps. Lincoln Diaz-Balart of Florida, Lucille Roybal-Allard of California, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida.

The American Dream Act is the latest version of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, which was first introduced in 2001 and has enjoyed wide bipartisan support. The bill affects students brought to the United States more than five years prior to the bill's enactment who have not yet reached the age of 16 and who demonstrate good moral character. Under the American Dream Act, once such a student graduates from high school, he or she would be permitted to apply for conditional status, which would authorize up to six years of legal residence.

During the six-year period, the student would be required to graduate from a two-year college, complete at least two years toward a four-year degree, or serve in the U.S. military for at least two years. Permanent residence would be granted at the end of the six-year period if the student has met these requirements and has continued to maintain good moral character. The American Dream Act would also eliminate a federal provision that discourages states from providing in-state tuition to undocumented immigrant residents; this change would restore to the states full authority to determine state college and university fees.

PTA believes that all children should have access to education and that every student should be afforded every opportunity to graduate from high school and pursue postsecondary education, including vocational education. Students who go on to postsecondary education provide benefits to society as a whole by increasing their long-term earnings potential, decreasing incarceration rates, and lessening the burden on social safety net programs. PTA, along with the other members of the United We DREAM Coalition, supports the passage of the American Dream Act and believes that the bill opens the door to a better, brighter future for the children of immigrant families who want to go on to school, better their lives, and become contributing members of society. PTA further believes that an educated, successful populace benefits the United States as a whole.