

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

Phone: 650-326-0702  
Web: <http://www.paloaltopta.org>

### On the Calendar May-June

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

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

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

May 9, 9:00 am, **PTA Council Exec Bd**

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

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

May 19, **San Mateo PTA Council Leadership Training** (\$10)

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

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

May 24, **City of Palo Alto GREENLIGHT Earth Day Film Festival**, Cubberley

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

June 2, 8:30 am, **6<sup>th</sup> District Leadership Training**

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

June 6, 9:00am, **Incoming/Outgoing PTA Council Exec Board Meeting**, 25 Churchill

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

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

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

# The Councilor

## The Newsletter of the Palo Alto Council of PTAs

### What Would You Do With \$2.7 Million?

When school districts across California opened their doors last Fall, Palo Alto Unified found a nice surprise from Sacramento – an unprecedented \$2.7 million payable to our students. Here's the latest on how this money will be spent.

Questions or ideas?

Contact Lauren Janov ([JanovLL@yahoo.com](mailto:JanovLL@yahoo.com)) your PTA Council Legislative Co-Chair.

#### Spending Not Yet Approved

**Arts, Music & PE** -- one-time grant of \$855,000

3% for administrative indirect costs

8% for professional development

The remaining 89%:

- 1/3 will be used for PE (including dance for secondary schools)

- 2/3 will be used for visual arts, music and drama (including dance for elementary schools)

**Arts & Music** – recurring grant of \$177,401

3% for administrative indirect costs

8% for professional development

89% will be spent on K-12 visual arts, music and drama.

Funds will be allocated on a per student basis district-wide. At the elementary schools, funds will remain at the district. At the middle and high schools, funds will be disbursed to the sites. The District expects to report spending decisions to the School Board in May.

**District Discretionary** – one-time grant of \$64,000

Anticipates that these funds will be pay for a Charter School Task Force if needed and to extend the work of the Attendance Area Advisory Group Task Force.

#### Spending Approved by School Board

##### **One-Time Grants**

**Site Discretionary** -- \$677,000 ~ \$58.74/student

To be spent as proposed by each school's Site Council.

**Instructional Materials, Library & Technology** -- \$171,000

- Half will be used to purchase library books

- The other half will go to selected elementary sites which in Fall 2007 will set up prototype tech classrooms.

**District Discretionary** -- \$160,000

Will fund the High School Task Force and Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools (FLES) Implementation Plan.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Palo Alto PTA Council Honors Outstanding Service To Children

Members of Palo Alto's PTAs, schools and community devote energy, enthusiasm and initiative in countless ways that benefit our youth. Each year, PTA awards are presented to individuals who have given outstanding service to children. This year's awards will be presented at the 2007 PTA Council Honorary Service Award Luncheon on Friday, June 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the University Club. This event is an annual highlight!

The Palo Alto Council of PTAs honors service with local and California State PTA awards in several categories. Among considerations are longevity and significance of service, breadth/depth of service, and contributions that benefit more than an individual school. Questions? Contact Dan Dykwel, PTA Council EVP at [dykwel@comcast.net](mailto:dykwel@comcast.net).

### 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

The mention of any business or service in this newsletter does not imply an endorsement by either the Palo Alto Council of PTAs or the Palo Alto Unified School District.

### New on the PTAC Website!

#### Parent Education Resources

<http://www.paloaltopta.org/parented>

Offering book titles, links, and past presentations.

Have a book title or link to suggest? Send to Carolyn Williams [carolyn@vtmedia.com](mailto:carolyn@vtmedia.com)

## The Klutz Store 12th Annual Give-it-all-Away Day!

Saturday, May 19, 10 AM - 6 PM

*What Would you do with \$2.7 Million? (Continued from page 1)*

### Recurring Grants

**Counselors** -- \$340,000 ~ \$66.22/student

Used to hire more school counselors in Grades 7-12.

**Economic Impact Aid** -- \$246,710 expected

Will fund the English Language Master Plan for English language learners and help close the achievement gap.

### District Application Not Yet Approved by the State

**English Language Learners** – one-time grant of \$25,384 expected

Will upgrade instructional materials and pilot Dyn-Ed (a computer-based English language program) at Briones.

**Career Technology** – one-time grant of \$15/Regional Occupational Program student expected

Will buy equipment and supplies if Santa Clara County Office of Education distributes these funds to school districts.

## Help Students in Need: Ecumenical Hunger Program's Back to School Supply Drive

Most of us don't think twice, when we pay for lengthy lists of binders, folders, scissors and glue sticks. But back-to-school necessities are simply not a priority when a family struggles to afford housing or food.

Friederike Buelow is working on a School Outreach program to provide back to school supplies for students in need. She is working in partnership with two nonprofits: East Palo Alto's Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP) and Kits for Kidz™.

EHP is a 32 year old, private, non-profit, community-based organization that provides emergency food, case management and household essentials to families in need.

Kits for Kidz™ is a program dedicated to supplying new school supplies to children who otherwise might go without.

The mission of the partnership program is to provide school supplies to less fortunate children in East Palo Alto and surrounding communities. Last year about 200 out of 1000+ students received this assistance.

Several PAUSD classrooms have joined with EHP to help. Margo Wixsom, photography teacher at PALY, integrates fundraising into her curriculum as "service based learning." Some students are filling backpacks with pencils, highlighters, boxes of crayons, binders and notebooks for this program. "Backpack Rally" is the name they gave the project. Others have chosen to raise money to

buy backpacks filled with Back-to-School supplies for a bargain price of \$17 at [www.kitsforkidz.org](http://www.kitsforkidz.org). The class will document the process in a photography project; everybody who participates- in real time or virtually- earns extra credit towards the final grade. Jordan Middle School's Teal Team is assembling kits in April under the orchestration of teacher Tami Warr. Meanwhile, Gunn's German Club, under the leadership of teacher Kertin Helbling, has chosen to do a fundraiser to buy backpacks online.

Palo Alto's PTA Council has endorsed the partnership program and EHP hopes to grow the effort in 2007, so that every child in our community will be prepared to begin a new school year.

If you would like to help, EHP encourages student groups and their families to:

- Collect supplies, assemble them into kits, and deliver them to EHP.
- Raise money to order fully assembled backpack kits to be distributed through EHP from [www.kitsforkidz.org](http://www.kitsforkidz.org).

The website has a drop-down menu listing EHP as its partner. Any number of kits can be ordered.

Questions?

Contact: Friederike Buelow, [rolbue@aol.com](mailto:rolbue@aol.com), or Maleah Choi, [maleah@ehpcare.org](mailto:maleah@ehpcare.org).

## Incoming PTA officers

Mandatory Training by PTA Council - May 23, 8:30 AM to noon, 25 Churchill Avenue