

23rd District  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>

everychild.one voice.

Serving the  
Children of  
Riverside County

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# Dateline

## Parent Engagement

Kenn Young, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools



Research has shown that when parents are involved in their children's education, the children achieve higher levels of academic and social success. When schools involve parents and families with appropriate structures and strategies tied to student learning, everyone benefits. It is a win-win situation for all.

Riverside County Office of Education's partnership with the 23<sup>rd</sup> District PTA has continued to flourish over the past 30-plus years. Recently the partnership initiated an eight week program designed around the Epstein Framework of Parent Involvement and the California State PTA Parents Empowering Parents (PEP) Guide. A significant number of parents, teachers, and administrators have already been trained to bring this training back to their school district and

school sites.

The first step is to have the school identify parents who may be interested in recruiting and training the curriculum to other parents. They attend a "Trainer of Trainers" series and are given the full curriculum to take back to the school site. The program consists of eight modules:  
*Communication*  
*Testing and Assessment*  
*Positive Parenting*  
*Learning at Home*  
*Volunteering*  
*Advocacy*  
*Internet Safety*  
*Connecting the Dots*

The intention is to empower parents to teach other parents in the areas of parent-child relationships, school-home communication, and increasing engagement within the school community.

RCOE has continued the focus of empowering

parents with the creation of the Parent Engagement Leadership Initiative (PELI) and it is through this Initiative that the program will be delivered. Our goal is to bring the information in these classes to every district and school in Riverside County. We know this is an ambitious goal, however we believe parent and family engagement is vital to meeting the aim of the Pledge of the County Office of Education that "all students in Riverside County will graduate from high school well-prepared for college and the workforce."

"Enthusiasm is the sustaining power of all great action."  
 ~ Samuel Smiles, Scottish author

# Tenets from Tammie

“Planning with your new boards and celebrating your existing boards is an important “procedure” that you need to include.”

“Don’t forget during this busy time, that we are still having a membership campaign!”

“We are working hard in our county to promote Parent and Family Involvement at every level.”

May Greetings to you all!

During this beautiful time of year, we find ourselves in the throes of end-of-school-year activities. There is still much to do. Planning with your new boards and celebrating your existing boards is an important “procedure” that you need to include. As busy as you are right now, please take the time to thank those who have served as you welcome new members.

I also hope you are able to attend, or sent a representative from your PTA unit to Convention in Long Beach this year. As always, we had the opportunity to learn many strategies to bring home and share. With more than 80 workshops to choose from, there was something for everyone, from financial training, parent involvement, PTA membership and current issues.

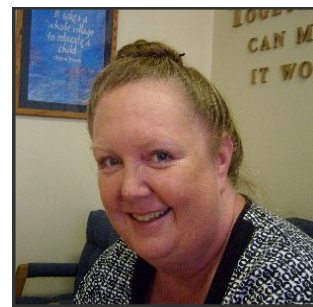
The keynote speakers were fantastic: National PTA President, Chuck Saylor, Marc Johnson 2011 Superintendent of the year, Ann Henderson, author of “Beyond the Bake Sale”; Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Darin Curtis, 2011 California Teacher of the year just to name a few. We had over 200 delegates register from Riverside County. Each received a t-shirt that with the silkscreened tagline “Every

child deserves a superhero, 23<sup>rd</sup> District PTA”. As a district we always stand out in a crowd....for kids that is!

If you missed convention, please note our Summer Leadership Academy coming July 22-23, 2011 at Ramona High School in Riverside. It is another great opportunity for training in every area.

Don’t forget during this busy time, that we are still having a membership campaign! We are accepting memberships through June 30, 2011. If you know someone who has not joined yet, please encourage them to do so. Lots of great membership ideas can be found at the state website: [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org) You can also view the video message supporting membership by Howie Mandel. Why not show that clip at your next meeting?

I hope you are checking the State PTA website regularly as they are always updating it with new information. Most recently you can see a video by Ed Source on “How the State Budget Impacts Education Funding”. I recently attended a local area forum with Governor Brown regarding our dismal fiscal situation. We are still facing very serious budget cuts to education. In case you were not aware State PTA supports the tax extension.



Tammie Blackmore, President  
23rd District PTA

Another current issue we need to stay on top of is Tax Filing for units. The State Website has a great section that you can check out; with one easy click you can be connected to The Federal IRS, The Franchise Tax Board, or Registry of Charitable Trust. There are no excuses not to file. If you don’t file for three years, your 501(c)3 status will be withdrawn and you’ll no longer have a PTA.

We are working hard in our county to promote Parent and Family Involvement at every level. You can check out the available classes at our website [www.23rdpta.org](http://www.23rdpta.org) We are encouraging each unit and council to have a Parent Involvement representative, in hopes that we can bridge the gap in student achievement through our partnership with 23<sup>rd</sup> District PTA and the Riverside County Office of Education.

As always, thanks for all you do for children; it is important work that you do.

# Kay's Komer

Life is about surrounding yourself with people you love and who love you back. Motherhood has done that for me. Mother's Day always brings a myriad of emotions to my heart and mind. I miss my mother terribly and it is always a day to reflect on my own mothering skills and the role I had as a mother/teacher in the lives of my own children.

I recently emailed my kids, asking them to tell me something *good* they learned as they grew up and attributed to me. This is what I got back:

**From Jennifer, 39, nurse, New Jersey:**

- ♥ to plan a menu
- ♥ to food shop
- ♥ to cook
- ♥ to budget
- ♥ a sense of humor
- ♥ to do laundry
- ♥ to be a good mom
- ♥ to never give up

**From Robert, 35, police detective, Portland:**

- ♥ a love for reading
- ♥ a thirst for knowledge and education
- ♥ financial sensibility
- ♥ to love and appreciate good food
- ♥ to be well-balanced in all things
- ♥ a sense of humor
- ♥ unconditional love

**From Brenda, 33, teacher, Vermont:**

- ♥ how to make gravy
- ♥ to LOVE loud music
- ♥ a love of reading
- ♥ how to nurse a baby
- ♥ be friendly to strangers so you'll

always have someone to talk to

- ♥ keep a tidy—but not necessarily white glove—house
- ♥ jeans match anything
- ♥ to not underestimate anyone

**From Morgan, 30, a research scientist in San Diego:**

- ♥ a love of music
- ♥ how to clean a house
- ♥ to make the perfect spaghetti sauce
- ♥ how to sew
- ♥ that a mother's love means no matter what
- ♥ that I could do anything if I put my mind to it
- ♥ you believed in me
- ♥ a love of books and the library which I am also teaching to my kids

**From Tina, 27, Riverside:**

- ♥ music transcends generations
- ♥ to check up on your kids like the C.I.A.
- ♥ exercise is important
- ♥ "You might actually have to move something to find \_\_\_\_\_."
- ♥ Compassion for the homeless and hungry

I did my best to teach them what was what and found, along the way, that I learned an awful lot from them:

- when a kid can be trusted, trust them
- don't project my personal insanity on my kids
- worry less about being friends with them and more about being their mother
- motherhood never gets any easier

- little kids have little problems; big kids have big problems
- pick my battles
- eating a roly poly bug is not fatal
- a lot of dirt never killed anyone
- my kids are not little me's
- my kids are little me's
- no two kids are alike
- you never stop worrying. Ever.
- they may be grown up but they will always be my babies
- you don't have to have two arms to be able to do everything
- you never sleep at night if your kid is out in a car
- to believe in The Mother's Curse
- having kids is my greatest daily joy
- having kids is sometimes my greatest pain
- grandkids are my reward for having my kids
- dads are very important
- a kid can survive a nose stuffed full of dry beans
- size doesn't matter when it comes to being bullied
- unconditional love
- patience
- tolerance
- not all moments are teaching moments
- it's always OK to remember but not always OK to reminisce
- sometimes you need to back off and let them fix their own problems
- it's almost always better to listen than lecture

(Continued on page 4)

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→ everything I know about prosthetics  
→ that I wouldn't have missed learning these lessons for anything

A mother's heart has no limit on her capacity to love. The experience of motherhood has been priceless. I wouldn't change it for the world.

Happy Mother's Day.

Kay Rookhuyzen  
Leadership Liaison

"I know fame and power are for the birds. But then suddenly life comes into focus for me. And, ah, there stand my kids. I love them."

~ Lee Iacocca

"If you bungle raising your children, I don't think whatever else you do well matters very much."

~Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis



Join your local PTAs in honoring teachers during [PTA Teacher Appreciation Week](#) May 1-7, 2011.

- Here are some ideas on ways state PTAs can celebrate PTA Teacher Appreciation Week: Post a message of thanks to teachers on the state PTA website and through [PTA's Thank-A-Teacher group on Facebook](#).
- Send thank-you notes to the state teachers association and state department of education.
- Ask the governor to issue a proclamation declaring May 1-7, 2011, as PTA Teacher Appreciation Week in your state.
- Work with the state teachers association to publish a "teacher feature" in your state PTA newsletter.
- Work with local units to issue press releases to publicize teacher appreciation events. Send state PTA representatives to local events. Share event pictures through the PTA Teacher Appreciation Week event page on Facebook; create a Facebook event page for your state.
- Send thank-yous to your children's teachers!

More ideas and resources are available at [PTA.org/Teachers](http://PTA.org/Teachers).



23<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT PTA's  
***SUMMER LEADERSHIP  
CONFERENCE***

JULY 22 & 23, 2011

Ramona High School, Riverside

Are you ready for the 2011-2012 PTA term? If you are like me, you are never ready enough – right? Well, we have just the right event for you!

Attend the *Summer Leadership Conference* (aka: Counterparts Workshop)! Our goal is to:

**SHAPE** – to give form to your PTA!

**STRENGTHEN** – to grow stronger leaders and teams!

**SHARPEN** – to make sharp, penetrating and effective goals and differences in your school community and the lives of families!

There will be sessions on Leadership, Financial Training, Membership, Reflections, How to Run a Meeting, Bylaws, Parent Involvement and more. We will also hear alarming info on child trafficking in our county, and how you can make a difference.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE and watch for registration info!!

You will not be disappointed.

See you there!

Sandra Ramirez  
Leadership Director  
23<sup>rd</sup> PTA



# Passions

In my family, there are various passions—quilting, running, music, photography, surfing, writing. My personal passion--along with writing--is reading. I may have four and five books on the table beside my reading chair or on my desk that I am reading at the same time. I read poetry, historical novels, children's books, memoirs, cereal boxes, billboards, nutrition labels, emails, Facebook . . . well, you see what I mean. If it's in print, I read it. While I can honestly say I am *addicted* to reading, *passionate* sounds healthier. How did this happen? I believe my *passion* developed early in my life. I cuddled on my uncle's lap while he read The Little Engine That Could--over and over again. One of my earliest memories is walking downhill from our small apartment to the library in Springfield, Vermont, to return borrowed books and search the bookshelves for more. When we moved to Fullerton, CA, Mom always made sure we enrolled in the public library's summer reading programs. It was then I discovered Clara Barton and Nancy Drew. Sometimes when Dad took us to the library, he would allow me to look at all the choices in the grown-ups section of the library. Both of my parents modeled their love for reading. Mom

subscribed to "Good Housekeeping" and "Home and Garden" and other lady's magazines and although he'd often catch a catnap, Dad always had a novel open when he wasn't working. Aside from my family, I can honestly say that school had a small influence on my reading passion. I remember little about the stories I read in the SRA kits, but I do remember Dick and Jane, the boxcar children, One Day on Beetle Rock, and Kon Tiki. I also remember awaiting the arrival of the Book Mobile. Not only would my teacher let us out of class to visit the Book Mobile, but often she would accompany us, choose her own book, and read it out loud to us after lunch. Library visits, modeling reading yourself, reading aloud to your child from a very young age, having abundant print material available and accessible, and allowing your child to choose his or her own reading materials will help your child develop a passion for reading. A multitude of studies tell us that the more a child reads, the greater his/her vocabulary, imagination, and writing abilities. Plus for busy families, reading allows children to experience a world outside of their own. It expands their sphere of influence and builds important

background knowledge that may help in other subject areas in school as well.

Teachers work hard to identify students who may have reading difficulties. If your child has reading difficulties, the California Reading Association (CRA) publishes a packet of activities called Parent Reading Intervention Packet: Reading Activities Designed to Assist Parents of At-Risk Students in the Primary Grades. Based on specific skills development, this packet contains ideas parents can use to enhance and support the work being done in the classroom. It is also useful for teachers to have on hand as they may copy specific learning activities to give to parents of at-risk children at conference time. If you or your PTA would like to purchase one or several packets from CRA, you may visit the online store at [www.californiareads.org](http://www.californiareads.org) or email me at [cra.siddons@yahoo.com](mailto:cra.siddons@yahoo.com).

Beverly Siddons  
Vice President  
California Reading Association



# Calendar



## Special Dates to Remember

### MAY

**12—District Dinner and Installation of Officers (2011-2013 term)**

### MAY

- 5 District Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, RCOE-Riverside
- 11 Celebrating Educators, 11:30 AM, Riverside Convention Center
- 12 District Dinner and Installation, 6:00 PM, Riverside Convention Center
- 13 District Leadership/Executive Committee, 11:30 AM, RUSDNS
- 19 Head Start Policy Council Meeting, 10:00 AM, RCOE
- 30 *Office Closed—Memorial Day*

### JUNE

- 2 District Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, RCOE-Riverside
- 9-12 National PTA Convention, Orlando Florida
- 15 Leadership/Executive Committee meeting, 11:30 AM, RUSDNC
- 16 Head Start Policy Council Meeting, 10:00 AM, RCOE Board Room

## 23rd District PTA

**HAS 61,157+ MEMBERS AS OF February 2011**

**Last year's total: 71,093**  
**5% challenge 3,555**  
**Total goal: 74,648**



“Parenthood: the state of being better chaperoned than you were before marriage.”

~ Marcelene Cox

“Who is it that loves me and will love me forever with an affection which no chance, no misery, no crime of mine can do away? It is you, my mother.”

~ Thomas Carlyle

# 23rd District **PTA**<sup>®</sup>

*everychild.one voice.*

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**M 9-1 PM**

**T-TH 8-1 PM**

**CLOSED FRIDAY**

Serving the Children of  
Riverside County

The Dateline is a  
publication of  
23rd District PTA.

**23rd District PTA**

*The Heart of Riverside County*

## Officers & Chairmen

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