



In This Issue:

- Monthly arts poll question
- Are you ready for a new year of supporting arts education?
- Why we must resolve to fight for arts education for all children

Para leer en español, clic [aquí](#).

MONTHLY ARTS POLL QUESTION

Have you checked out the Arts Education Data Project to see how your school compares to others in terms of arts education enrollment?

Help our arts education advocates by answering our one-question poll. Click [here](#) to take the poll.



ARE YOU READY FOR A NEW YEAR OF SUPPORTING ARTS EDUCATION?

All over the state, PTA members like you have been making New Year's resolutions for arts education. Here are some of our favorite suggestions for ways you can resolve to support arts and creativity at home, at school, and in your community.

At home:

- I will do art at home once a week (or every day!) *Need some inspiration? We've provided some ideas below.*
- I will talk about the costumes, lighting, and set of the TV show or movie that we are watching.
- I will tell my children about [creative careers they can have](#).



At school:

- I will create a PTA art event at my school.

- I will share the [PTA Visual and Performing Arts Guide](#) with staff and teachers at our school.
- I will create a schoolwide art program or project.
- My school will commit to participating in the [Reflections](#) program next year.
- I will invite a school board official to an art event or performance at our school.
- I will thank my child's teacher every time I see a piece of work my child has created at school.
- I will thank the music, art, dance, drama teacher at the end of every performance/art show.
- I will talk to parents at my school about the importance of arts education.
- I will post photos on social media of arts education at my school, and tag the Board of Education, local government, and #CreateCA.

In my community:

- I will attend local arts events. My community needs to see that residents value the arts, so that they will put more funding into the arts.
- I will follow California State PTA and Create CA on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter so I stay up-to-date on any arts legislation or full funding initiatives which will help get more arts education into our schools.
- I will look up schools near me on the [Arts Education Data Project dashboard](#) to see what they are doing well. I will then encourage my principal to talk to them to find out how they were able to bring those programs onto their campus.
- I will share a link to the [Creative Connection newsletter](#) on my social media accounts and encourage my friends to subscribe. I want everyone to get this information in their inbox!
- I will admire and appreciate the creativity in the world around me!

Need some ideas for how to be creative at home? Try these suggestions:

- *Make a place card for each person at your dinner table.*
- *Have a dance party with your family. Make sure everyone gets to choose a song!*
- *Use a filter on your phone when you take a photo of something beautiful: a flower, a sunset, a puppy.*
- *Read a book out loud and act it out. You can even make costumes and props!*

WHY WE MUST RESOLVE TO FIGHT FOR ARTS EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN

I grew up in Northern California. As a child, I struggled in school and was considered at best a mediocre student. There were a lot of reasons why; mainly because I was dyslexic. But there was one thing in school that I could excel at – the arts! Not drawing; no – I can't do that to save my life...not even a stick figure. But singing and dancing – well that was a different story! We had music almost every day in school with Mr. Harris, our music teacher at Piner Elementary school.



Now this was post-Prop. 13, so a significant amount of resources had been cut from our schools, but during this time we still had music with Mr. Harris. I can remember taking chorus, honors chorus and singing in trios, duets – and of course, if I was lucky enough, solos. I wasn't doing well in math; English was a disaster for me at times as a child; but the one place I could excel, the one place that connected me to school, was music with Mr. Harris.

As a child, I had trouble reading, so I had to memorize the words. This helped me to develop an incredible memory. The arts gave me a stage – literally – to practice on, so that I could learn how to perform, how to engage with my audience. I have used these skills in public speaking throughout my entire career.

In the sixth grade, we had our end-of-the year performance. During practice at the Coddington Mall, I sang my solo, "Just When I Needed You Most," for the upcoming evening performance. I can still remember what I wore, how it felt when I stepped forward to do my part, and what it felt like when I finished.

All children should have this opportunity to find their passion and develop the critical skills that the arts help us develop.

Right now, we need you – our members – the most, to stand up for all children and to demand that they have access to a full fine arts program in their schools. Now is the time.

Just when our children need us the most.

Dianna MacDonald
Past President, California State PTA
2017-2019

TAKE ACTION!

Honorary Service Awards
available in PTA Store!



Give an award to an individual or organization who has offered outstanding service to your community.

[SHOP NOW](#)

Tax Filing
Support Center



Visit the tax filing support center on our website to learn about your unit's tax filing obligations, deadlines and best practices.

[READ MORE](#)

Win Free Registration to
Convention 2020!



Take a brief survey about what PTA means to you, and get a chance to win free registration to convention.

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

This message was sent to deckman@capta.org by californiastatepta@capta.org
2327 L Street, Sacramento, CA, 95816

 [Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage Subscription](#) | [Forward Email](#) | [Report Abuse](#)



★ **This is a Test Email only.**

This message was sent for the sole purpose of testing a draft message.