

SMARTS

Bring back the arts! To our schools. To our children.

California State PTA Newsletter

March 2018

SMARTS, Parents for the Arts Network is California State PTA's program to encourage arts education.

Please spread the word about the benefits of arts education for all of California's K-12 students.

Para leer este en español, haga clic [aquí](#).



Saturday, April 7, 2018

ARTS NOW BAY AREA SUMMIT

featuring the Student Voices Campaign

Oakland Museum of California



Join California State PTA and the California Alliance for Arts Education at the Arts Now Bay Area Summit at a FREE event to recognize and share the individual and collective work in support of arts education in the Bay Area! Hear success stories and learn how the arts can serve as a powerful tool for equity in our schools. Attendees will engage in meaningful discussions and workshops, as well as gain access to local and statewide strategies and resources for including the arts in LCFF/LCAPs, Title I, district strategic arts plans, and student advocacy.

The theme of the Summit is "Action for Arts Equity" and will feature strides being made to increase access to arts education in the region, including in the Bay Area and surrounding counties.

We're thrilled to announce a student-led lunchtime forum at the event with the 2018 candidates for Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI): Assemblymember from the 15th Assembly District Tony Thurmond and former CEO of Partnership for Los Angeles Schools Marshall Tuck. This forum will focus on addressing students' questions regarding arts education policy, equity, access, and other relevant topics.

[Learn more here.](#)

March is Arts Education Month

It's California Arts Education Month! This observance celebrates arts education, including dance, music, theater, literature, design and various visual arts. These experiences encourage creative learning in children and young adults. We believe that arts learning is an essential part of a comprehensive education for all students.

A well-rounded education should include the stimulation and creative thinking that the arts help to develop. It is important that we recognize and celebrate the essential role of arts education in our schools. That's why California State PTA continues to advocate for a complete education that includes the arts for every child.

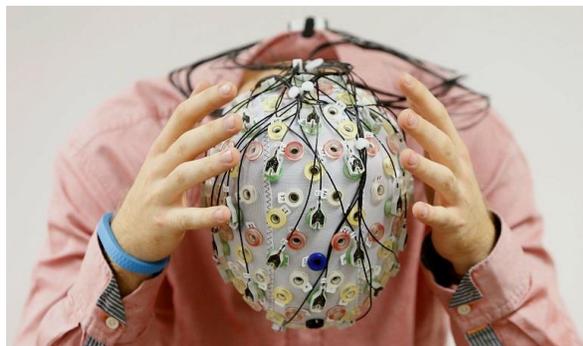
Learn more about how we supports arts education at www.capta.org/arts-education.



The Creative Brain

We know the arts are vital to student success – a fact that is supported by numerous studies that show creativity supports brain development. California State PTA shares resources and articles about the creative brain:

- [Creative People's Brains Really Do Work Differently](#) – "Contrary to the "right-brain" myth, creativity doesn't just involve a single brain region or even a single side of the brain. Instead, the creative process draws on the whole brain."
- [Creativity in Early Brain Development](#) – "Creative activities that encourage positive relationships can support the rapid blooming of synapses, leading to the formation of well-rounded personalities, good attachment, self-esteem and better mental health."
- [The Importance of The Creative Arts for Children and Teens](#) – "Everyone has an imagination. Art takes it a step further. Through art, children create something that, until that point, was only imagined. Thus, they create visual manifestations of abstract ideas."
- [Help Your Child Learn Through Creativity](#) – "Although the arts have traditionally been considered fun frills, they're actually a central piece in the education puzzle. And it's not just the visual arts. Music can help with math and reading; dance sets a foundation for physical health and also furthers self-awareness; acting can boost vocabulary."



Arts Activities and Training at Convention

Looking for hands-on training opportunities? Want to learn more about issues affecting children and families while making your PTA job easier? Let the workshops and table talks at the 2018 Convention help!

The 2018 California State PTA Annual Convention is happening in Ontario, CA from April 27 – 29, and offers attendees more than 40 workshops and table talks to help you learn new skills, share your thoughts and network with fellow PTA members and leaders. There are multiple art-related workshops and table talks, including:

- Why Art?
- School Smarts: A Family Engagement Strategy to Support the Arts
- Create a "Heroic" Reflections Program



And don't miss the Family Arts Experience on Friday, April 27 from 5:30 – 7 p.m.! The Family Arts Experience was one of the most popular events at last year's convention. Join California State PTA for this hands-on event which will showcase research-based strategies to engage families and build awareness about the relevance of the arts in increasing student achievement.

Plus, every participant will be eligible to win a FREE Family Arts Assembly for their school!

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

Do you have an amazing arts program at your school?
Email arts@capta.org and share your story.

*This message is being sent to the SMARTS Parents for the Arts Network as well as unit, council and district PTA presidents.
Please feel free to forward this message to your members and other interested parties.*

