

# PTA CONNECTS

California State PTA Online Newsletter

October 2015

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## PTA is here for your child, your school and your community!

Parents want the best for their children. We want to be able to know what is going on in our children's classrooms and schools, and we want to support student success.

California State PTA is committed to connecting families, schools and communities by providing a range of information, resources and training to empower parents to actively participate at all levels of decision-making: from the school site, to local school boards, to state and federal government bodies.

Whether it is understanding the new state [standards](#) and [assessments](#), helping a child succeed with [homework](#), learning about high-school course options and [college/career readiness](#), or serving on a [school or district committee](#), families need information that allows us to be involved with our children and community.

### PTA is here to support all children

Find out more about our [free resources](#) to help you.



*De Anza High School PTSA leaders in El Sobrante (Bayside Council of PTAs, Thirty-Second District PTA) share resources and information with parents and students at the recent back-to-school night. [See more photos from this exciting event.](#)*

## PTA's School Smarts Parent Engagement Program earns White House Hispanic Education honor

The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics honored California State PTA's [School Smarts Parent Engagement Program](#) as a 2015 "Bright Spot" in Hispanic education.



The White House recognitions highlight the ongoing efforts to support Latino educational attainment and excellence that are helping to close the opportunity gap. The School Smarts Parent Engagement Program is a model for creating meaningful and diverse parent involvement. It brings parents from all backgrounds together in support of their common interest: helping their children and schools succeed.

"Well-informed and engaged parents make a difference for student success from preschool to high school," said California State PTA President Justine Fischer. "We're thrilled to receive the Bright Spot recognition, and will continue to work for engagement and education for all."

To learn more about bringing the School Smarts Family Engagement program to your school, contact [schoolsmarts@capta.org](mailto:schoolsmarts@capta.org).

## Scholarships mean \$\$\$ for you and your students

Did you know California State PTA offers scholarships? It's true!

PTA volunteers, teachers, counselors and school nurses are eligible for [continuing-education scholarships](#).



**Online applications are available now and are due October 15!**

Plus we've got [scholarships for graduating high-school seniors](#). Encourage your high school students to join your local PTSA today and learn more about applying for a PTA college scholarship!

**APPLY ONLINE**



## PTA votes! Speak out at the ballot box

Election Day is not far away: Don't forget to be informed about local issues affecting kids, schools and communities! See if your PTA is offering a local candidates forum or voter registration drive. These are both legitimate PTA activities.

**Be informed, and don't forget to get out to vote November 3.** For information on how to conduct a candidates forum, visit [capta.org](http://capta.org).

## Keeping your trick-or-treaters safe this Halloween

Halloween can be a fun time to dress up in costumes, attend parties and enjoy fall festivities. Here are a few tips to keep these celebrations safe *and* fun:

- Plan a healthy snack before attending a party or a night of trick-or-treating. This will reduce the temptation to snack on the trick-or-treat trail.
- Make sure children are supervised and have flashlights and reflective costumes.
- Watch out for candles and open flames.
- Be sure to celebrate in a neighborhood that you know and inspect treats before anyone eats them.
- Remember to set curfews and guidelines for older children.



Take a look at more health and safety information online at [capta.org](http://capta.org).

## Share your PTA stories and ideas

How has your PTA or PTSA made a difference in your school community?

We love to hear your stories and ideas. Email your pictures, tips and success stories to [communications@capta.org](mailto:communications@capta.org). And be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Pinterest](#) and [Instagram](#).



***California State "PTA Connects" is sent monthly to all PTA members and leaders  
as well as to all California principals and superintendents.***

***Please keep in mind that it's the dues of PTA members like you and the other thousands of parents, families, educators and  
community leaders throughout the state that we are able to continue to offer great resources and materials.***

