



In This Issue:

- Next Generation Science Standards in Your Child's School
- A Podcast for Parents, By Parents
- Low-Cost Internet for Families

Para leer en español, clic [aquí](#).

NEXT GEN SCIENCE IN YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

We send our kids off to school each day and when they get back home many parents ask “what happened at school today?” Often, their answer is “nothing much.” It’s easy to just sigh and change the subject. You feel slightly frustrated but at least you tried to find out what they learned in class.

Don’t stop there! Try conversation-starters like, “Tell me about the best part of your day?” or “Who did you play with today?” Research shows that it’s really important for parents to be actively involved in their children’s education, including knowing what they are learning in school and how things are being taught.

And indeed, teaching and learning in today’s classrooms looks different than it did “when you were a kid.” That’s particularly true when it comes to science. That’s why the California Department of Education has created parent guides about the new **Next Generation Science Standards**. You’ll find them [here](#) under Overview Brochures. They have also created [practice and training tests](#) that will provide you with a sneak peek at the kinds of questions kids are expected to answer when they take the state’s California Science Test. (All 5th and 8th graders take it. High schoolers take it in the year chosen by their school district.)

But you shouldn’t have to depend on just your own initiative – or your child – to find out what’s happening in class. In fact, school districts this year are required to use the [CA School Dashboard](#) to reflect on how their staff is engaging parents around what students are learning. The 2019 Dashboard comes out in December. It’s easy to look up your school district and find the Family Engagement/Priority 3 Local Indicator. Click past the first couple links to get to the actual report, which will tell you what is happening across all the schools in your district. Then ask your school principal:



- Are the results consistent with what is happening at your child's school?
- What is happening at the school to inform parents about classroom teaching and learning?
- Are there things your PTA can do to help bring the school staff and parents together around this goal, especially as it relates to changes in how science is being taught?

Just think... next time you have that conversation with your child, you might be the one telling them what happened in school today – or what's going to happen tomorrow!

A PODCAST FOR PARENTS, BY PARENTS

Notes from the Backpack: A PTA Podcast is a fantastic new podcast produced by National PTA which answers the burning questions you have about how to best support your child's education and development. It covers topics such as homework, bullying, school discipline, and the transition to middle school.



Notes from the Backpack is hosted by **LaWanda Toney, Director of Strategic Communications for National PTA**, and **Helen Westmoreland, Director of Family Engagement for National PTA**. Each 30-minute episode will give you the inside scoop on how to help your child succeed in and out of school, and will include unique perspectives, real-life advice and ideas you can use from experts, parents, and educator guests!

Click [here](#) to learn more, and to hear the most recent episodes. You can also find the podcast on streaming services such as Apple Podcasts, Google Play, Stitcher, Spotify, and TuneIn.

LOW-COST INTERNET FOR FAMILIES IN CALIFORNIA

Did you know that low-income families may be eligible for discount internet service at home for \$10-\$20 a month? Offers are available from AT&T, Spectrum, Comcast, Cox, and Frontier. Learn if your household qualifies by visiting www.everyoneon.org/capta.



Please distribute information at your school, community events and your organization's newsletters. You can find printable flyers in English and Spanish and access detailed information at www.internetforallnow.org/educators_toolkit.

TAKE ACTION!

Reflections Items Now in
PTA Store!

Grants to Help Build
Your PTA

Monthly Arts Poll
Question



Our store now has certificates, ribbons, medallions and lots of other items with the 2019-20 theme "Look Within."

[SHOP NOW](#)



Units are invited to apply for a monetary donation from the Smart & Final Charitable Foundation.

[READ MORE](#)



Help our arts education advocates by taking a quick survey about dance education in your child's school.

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

This email is being sent to all PTA members and leaders, as well as to all California principals and superintendents.

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

[VerifiedUnsubscribe](#) SM [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.