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Para leer en español, clic aquí.

TAKE THE CONVENTION 2021 SURVEY

While we are ever hopeful for an in-person convention in 2021, we also need to prepare for a possible virtual convention.

Help us by completing a very brief survey by October 26. We'd like your thoughts on travel, and whether or not you have concerns about in-person attendance in times of social distancing. Click here to start.

Include your contact information and you'll be entered in a drawing for one of 10 Starbucks gift cards!

WE NEED REFLECTIONS THEMES!

Help us pick the theme idea that will spark fun and creativity during the 2022-23 Reflections program! The student who submits the winning entry will receive a $25 prize from California State PTA, and a $100 prize from National PTA.

National PTA's Reflections program has helped students explore their own thoughts, feelings and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence and find a love for learning that will help them become more successful in school.
and in life.

Each year, over 300,000 students in Pre-K through Grade 12 create original works of art in Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts in response to a student-selected theme.

Past themes and duplicate submissions are not considered. This means we’re looking for the most original theme ideas.

To participate, please submit your theme idea online by **November 1, 2020. Click here** to submit, and **click here** to learn more about the Reflections program and see past themes.

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**NOVEMBER ELECTION UPDATES**

**Pledge your vote for Props. 15 and 16**

California State PTA currently supports Propositions 15 and 16 on the November 3 ballot. We encourage you to pledge your support of both propositions by signing our petitions, which you can do by clicking here:

- [Pledge your vote for Prop. 15](#)
- [Pledge your vote for Prop. 16](#)

**Prop. 15: More money for schools and local communities!**

Proposition 15 would require that commercial and industrial real estate property worth $3 million or more be taxed on current market value, raising as much as $11.5 billion in additional funding for schools and local communities. It protects all homeowners and renters by maintaining tax protections for ALL residential property.

**Prop. 16: Restores critical equal opportunity policies in state hiring, contracting, and education**

This constitutional amendment, placed on the November 2020 statewide ballot by the legislature, asks the voters of California to vote on permitting the use of race, gender, and ethnic diversity as factors (but not decisive factors) in education including college admissions, government hiring, and government contracting. It would restore affirmative action in California and level the playing field so that all Californians can succeed.

For information on both measures, go to [https://capta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/state-ballot-measures/](https://capta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/state-ballot-measures/)

**#CreateTheVote October campaign**

#CreateTheVote is a get-out-the-vote campaign from our partner Create CA aimed at highlighting how civic engagement ties to arts education, and encouraging your community to engage in local elections.

Create CA has designed some unique non-partisan campaign elements that you can use in social media, newsletters and emails:

1. Review sample posts and the components on [this flyer](#).
2. All 58 California counties have their own unique graphic. Grab yours [here](#) and use it in your email signature, your social media posts and your communication NOW through November 3rd.
3. Share the [Create the Vote video](#), which leads with our shared values as a nation and connects all five disciplines.
to the reminder to VOTE!
4. Use the hashtag #CreateTheVote!

#DISCOVERTOGETHER THIS OCTOBER

October boasts some of the coolest celebratory weeks all year: World Space Week, Earth Science Week, National Chemistry Week, Solar Week, and Nuclear Science Week. There something for everyone and there couldn’t be a better time to choose a few activities from our Resource Library and have some fun (and learn some science) with your family.

Have you found some time to #DiscoverTogether? If so, share with us what’s worked for your family by taping a short and easy testimonial video here. If not, October is a perfect time to get started.

SOCIAL MEDIA THEME KIT FOR OCTOBER: DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

PTA's monthly Social Media Theme Kits have been going strong for two months now! This toolbox of images and text is easy to copy and use on your unit/council/district's social media accounts. We hope you have been finding them pertinent and easy to use.

For October, we've got yet another new theme: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion!

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion shouldn’t just be buzzwords that we toss around at our PTA meetings – they should be a true focus of our units, councils and districts. If we truly believe in the mission of PTA – to positively impact the lives of ALL children and families – we must do our part to ensure that our PTAs, our schools, our communities, our nation and our world are as inclusive and equitable as possible.

Click here to view the October kit, which consists of a series of sample posts and downloadable images for all the major social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, plus social media support graphics such as Zoom backgrounds, and supporting information and diversity, equity and inclusion.

CDE LAUNCHES “EDUCATION TO END HATE” INITIATIVE

On September 21 State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced a new, multifaceted “Education to End Hate” initiative designed to empower educators and students to confront the hate, bigotry, and racism rising in communities across the state and nation.

Under a new effort outlined during a virtual press conference, the State Superintendent said that the California Department of Education (CDE) will lead a series of strategies — including educator training grants, partnerships with community leaders, and virtual classroom sessions — that leverage the power of education to create a more just society.

For information on this initiative and how you or your school can participate, click here.
WHAT'S NEW IN THE RESOURCE LIBRARY? FALL SCIENCE ACTIVITIES!

The Resource Library has lots of great new content this month. Our three featured items revolve around Halloween and learning at home, two things that are definitely on the agenda for most families this Fall.

- **Halloween Science Experiments and Ideas**, from Science Bob
- **Science & Nature Activities for Cooped-Up Kids**, from The Cornell Lab of Ornithology K-12 Education
- **7 Great and Fun Home Chemistry Experiments for Kids**, from Interesting Engineering

If you've never used the Resource Library before, why not give it a try? It's chock full of at-home learning activities, videos and documents that support the Next Generation Science Standards – and a whole lot more!

And the Resource Library is easy to use – the search function can help you quickly find what you need by keyword, category, topic, audience type, grade level, and language. Click here to browse.

TAKE ACTION!

**Attend the Oct. 29 Arts Education Webinar**

*Arts Education in the New Normal*

Essential Resources for Right Now
October 29 at 4:30 pm
Hosted by Create CA and California State PTA

Join CA State PTA and Create CA as we share the newest resources and essential information about arts education in the new landscape of distance learning. **REGISTER NOW**

**Leadership Town Hall Recording Now Available**

Did you miss the Leadership Town Hall meeting on September 21? Don't worry, you can watch a recording of it on the California State PTA website. **WATCH NOW**

**New Episode of "Notes from the Backpack"**

In the latest episode of National PTA's award-winning podcast, education expert Merve Lapus helps you sort through the good, the bad and the ugly of online resources. **LISTEN NOW**

This email is being sent to all PTA members and leaders, as well as to all California principals and superintendents.
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This message was sent for the sole purpose of testing a draft message.