

Hello Incoming PTA Leader!

Starting this term may remind you of beginning a school year as a student. You wonder how it is going to go. You look forward to spending time with your friends and colleagues. And you hope to accomplish important things.

Our board at California State PTA has the same sense of excitement and possibility. Like you, we want to make a difference for children and families by our work this term. We always start with setting goals and priorities. I encourage you to do the same because it helps to focus your efforts on what is most important. Each PTA gets to design itself. Figuring out the needs and interests of your school community is one of your first tasks, so that you can customize your PTA unit to fit.

Find ways to connect your school and your community. Help parents and families support the education and wellbeing of their children. Speak up to decision-makers on behalf of children. These are some of the key purposes of PTAs everywhere.

We have compiled the enclosed packet of materials to help you have a great year. Please take a look through everything yourself and then distribute the contents to other members of your board. Sharing resources and empowering others is part of what makes leadership groups successful.

California State PTA has much more to offer your local PTA unit. Many details of how to run a PTA are explained in the California State PTA *Online Toolkit*. Our website (capta.org) contains information on children's issues, such as education, health, community concerns and family engagement. Of course, the personal touch and interaction with your PTA human resources can be the most important. Council and district leaders living close to you are your first stop for guidance and advice as you take on the important mission of *positively impacting the lives of all children and families*.

Together, the efforts of dedicated PTA volunteers in communities all around our state and nation are making the world a better place for every child and speaking up for children with PTA's one voice. Thank you for your dedication to this cause and the difference you make in the lives of children.

Yours truly,



Celia Jaffe
President, California State PTA