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Happy June!

I cannot believe this year is coming to an end! To those of you ending your term as a PTA leader, thank you for your hard work this term. To those getting ready to start your term, you are going to be great, and I am looking forward to working with you.

We need your voices now!!

PTA has a bold history of advocacy to protect children, youth, and families. In the May Revise, California's Governor has proposed withholding \$3.9 billion in Proposition 98 funds from public schools. Our kids can't vote. They can't lobby. But they live every day in the gap between a constitutional guarantee and a governor's budget maneuver. \$3.9 billion. \$643 per student. Contact your legislator now. Please share this with your family, friends, and neighbors. The more voices, the harder it will be for Sacramento to ignore. The June 15 deadline is here. capta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/take-action/

Before you close everything up for this year, don't forget to remit ALL of the dues that were manually collected for this year. Double check your accounting now to be sure it goes through channels and arrives at Ninth District PTA's office by June 25th.

This transition time is important to your PTA's success. Work closely with your fellow officers to make the transition seamless. Most PTA officers will take office on July 1st and although schools may not be in session, there's still plenty you can do to help make the start of the school year even better.

- If you haven't done so already, work together on a budget to present to your association at your first meeting. Remember, the budget is just a road map and can be adjusted throughout the year.
- Start on a membership campaign now! We're a membership organization and members are crucial to our organization's success.
- Meet with your principal to collaborate on PTA programs and school needs the PTA may be able to help with.
- Get organized and get trained. Look through materials on our website and the California State PTA's website for both ideas and training. Watch for information about our Ninth District PTA trainings.
- Have fun! Get to know your fellow officers and enjoy the work together. I have many lifetime friends because of PTA and cherish each and every one of them.

Let's make next year the best year ever for PTA.

Thank you to Vista Council and Palomar Council for the invitation to your awards events. We had a great time and loved celebrating with you.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our Summer Leadership Conference. Please come say hi and introduce yourself.

On a personal note, to all the parents like me, who have a student graduating this year- Congratulations to you and your child on reaching this milestone! (Go Timberwolves Class of 2026!) All the best on the next chapter in this journey.

Finally Happy Summer! I wish you all a safe, relaxing, restful summer break.

--Anne Emfinger, Ninth District PTA, President

president@ninthdistrictpta.org





Important Links

[Legislative Take Action Alert!](#)

[Info on Prop 98 Withholding](#)

[Treasurer Huddle: New
Treasurers - Tips to Get
Started](#)

[Treasurer Huddle:
Treasurer Reports and
Budget Adoption](#)

[Membership Grant](#)

[No Need to Fear Tax Reporting](#)

[PTA Volunteer Hours 2026-2027
Reporting](#)

Legislative Take Action Alert!

Why does the PTA exist? To advocate for our children.

Right now, our kids need us to speak up. Our children can't vote, and they can't lobby Sacramento—but we can. **This is how we advocate for them.**

The Governor's proposed state budget wants to withhold **\$3.9 billion** in constitutionally guaranteed funds from public schools. That strips **\$643 away from every single public school student** in California. For a school with 500 students, that is a **\$321,000 loss** for counselors, classroom support, and vital programs.

The Deadline: June 15

The final state budget is being negotiated **right now**. We must flood our legislators' offices with messages before the **June 15 budget deadline** so Sacramento cannot look away. It's a numbers game, and every voice counts.

How to Take Action Now (It Takes 2 Minutes):

1. **Send the Letter:** Go to capta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/take-action/ on your phone or computer. A pre-written letter to your local legislator is ready to go. Just review and hit send! (Open to all CA residents, PTA members or not).
2. **Share Widely:** Text the link to neighbors, post it on social media using **#PTA4Kids**, and email your school networks. **Want more details?** Find full resources, a video of the Capitol press conference, and a plain-language explainer on school funding at capta.org/prop-98-withholding/.

Thank you for standing up for California's students. Let's make our voices heard **before June 15!**

For more information please contact Amy Flicker, Ninth District PTA, Vice President, Legislation Director at legislation@ninthdistrictpta.org.

Treasurer

June has arrived, and it is time to finalize your books for the transition to the new treasurer. Please work with the new treasurer to ensure a smooth transition. If you have not already created a document that outlines routines and procedures, please do so. This not only assists the new treasurer but the unit as a whole.

Here are some things to check before you close the books for the year.

- Verify that all manual membership (dues collected outside of Totem) have been paid forward to either your council or, if your unit is out-of-council, to Ninth District PTA. These need to be submitted by June 15th.

- Contact members or vendors that may still have outstanding checks and encourage them to deposit the checks before June 30th to avoid outstanding checks at the end of the year.
- Make sure all expenditures for this fiscal year have been paid.

In the May newsletter, I reminded everyone to be sure to close your books and file the 2025-2026 filings with the [IRS](#) (990N, 990-EZ or 990), with the [FTB](#) (199N or 199), and the [Attorney General](#) (RRF-1 with the CT-TR-1 or the 990-EZ/990 form). I have included links to all these organizations and the slides from the training, [No Need to Fear Tax Filings](#).

Finally, prepare your books for the financial review. Here is the [financial review checklist](#). I find it very useful to help me make sure I have all the signatures and documents the financial review committee will need to review my books.

Thank you for your service to the students, families, and staff at your school. I know being the treasurer can be challenging, but without you, the PTA could not provide the benefits to all the people you support!

June Treasurer Huddles

New Treasurers - Tips to Get Started

When: June 11, 2026 @ 6:00 PM

Where: [Register here](#)

Treasurer Reports and Budget Adoption

When: June 29, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Where: [Register here](#)

--Deborah Childers, Ninth District PTA, Treasurer

treasurer@ninthdistrictpta.org

Summer Leadership Conference



See you tomorrow (June 6, 2026) at the Summer Leadership Conference! Tickets are available at the door for \$100.00 (lunch is not included).



Ninth District PTA is excited to launch our PTA Membership drive grant application for the 2026–2027 school year!

We know the start of the school year sets the tone for everything ahead, and we want to help PTA/PTSA units in San Diego and Imperial Counties kick things off with energy, creativity, and school spirit. Selected units may receive up to \$200 to support fun and engaging membership campaigns, kickoff events, promotional materials, family activities, and more!

Whether you're planning a themed membership launch, hosting a welcome event, creating exciting incentives, or finding new ways to connect families to PTA, we want to hear your ideas.

Our goal is to help units create excitement around PTA membership while building stronger school communities and encouraging family involvement from day one.

Applications open June 1, 2026 and the deadline to apply is June 30, 2026 at 11:59pm. Applications will be reviewed by the Ninth District PTA Membership Committee, and applicants

will be notified by July 10, 2026.

If selected, units will be asked to submit:

- Photos from their membership campaign or event
- A short follow-up report sharing how their membership drive went and how the funds helped support their efforts

We can't wait to celebrate all the amazing and creative ways your PTA/PTSA will make this year unforgettable!

Click here to apply [Membership Grant](#).

Questions? Contact: Jemima Dutra, Ninth District PTA, Membership Director
membership@ninthdistrictpta.org

Membership

As another wonderful PTA year comes to a close, I want to sincerely thank all of our volunteers across Ninth District PTA. Your dedication, and service helped strengthen our school communities and created meaningful opportunities for students and families.

Whether you welcomed new members, promoted PTA involvement, or encouraged student creativity through the Reflections program, your efforts truly made a difference. It has been an honor serving this year as Ninth District PTA Membership Director and Reflections Chair, and I am so grateful for the passion and teamwork shown throughout the district.

We look forward to another successful year ahead and continuing to grow our programs together!

For membership questions or support, I may be reached at membership@ninthdistrictpta.org. For help kickstarting your Reflections program, please contact me at reflections@ninthdistrictpta.org.

Thank you for all you do for PTA and our students!

Jemima Dutra, Ninth District PTA, Membership VP & Reflections Chair

PTA Spotlight: Bella Mente Leopards PTA

There is a unique magic that happens when a school community truly connects. It is found in the shared laughter of children, the supportive nods between parents, and the open dialogue between educators and caregivers. This year, the Bella Mente Leopards PTA set out to cultivate that magic intentionally through an inspiring six-part community impact series designed to bring vital outreach and educational workshops straight to our doorstep.

Backed by a generous **\$550 grant from the Ninth District PTA**, each installment of the series was thoughtfully structured to blend practical parent education with collaborative, hands-on activities:

- **Event 1: Vision Boards & Mingling** – To kick off the new year with intention, families gathered to dream big, creating personalized vision boards while mingling and building early connections with fellow caregivers.
- **Event 2: Cyber Security Parent Workshop** – Navigating the digital landscape can be daunting. Guest speaker and former BMA parent **Victor Steven Morales** shared invaluable, practical strategies to keep our families safe in the digital world.
- **Event 3: 'Why My Kid Acts The Way They Do' Parent Workshop** – Understanding childhood development is a universal parenting challenge. Safety and Compliance Director **Pat Broughton** led an insightful session that helped families better decode and support their children's everyday behaviors.
- **Event 4: Standardized Testing Parent Workshop** – Testing season can bring anxiety. **Pat Broughton** lent her expertise once again, helping families understand the framework of standardized testing and how to best guide their students through it calmly.
- **Event 5: Montessori Night** – The true crown jewel of our series, where school staff and the PTA partnered deeply to support families both during the school day and beyond.
- **Event 6: Rock Painting Grand Finale** – To end a beautiful year, families came together for a highly popular gathering to paint vibrant rocks, which will permanently fill the school's beautiful Rock Garden as a symbol of our shared bond.

While every event left a lasting impact, **Montessori Night** emerged as a true highlight of our partnership with Bella Mente Academies. While the school has wonderfully hosted this tradition in previous years, our PTA used the Ninth District grant to expand it into something even more meaningful and impactful.

Serving as the fifth event in our series, the evening invited both new and current caregivers directly into the heart of our school. It provided parents with the invaluable opportunity to tour classrooms and speak face-to-face with teachers about the learning process at every grade level.

The real magic, however, happened the moment families arrived. Our PTA Secretary, **Pam Kalinowski**, set a beautiful, welcoming tone right at the door, greeting families with smiles, delicious snacks, and a dedicated art station.

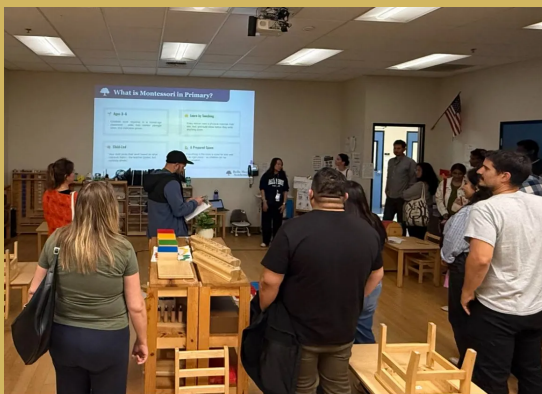
Children were invited to sit down and paint with us while waiting for classroom sessions to begin or between rotations. This simple, thoughtful addition changed everything. While little hands stayed happily busy with crafts, the atmosphere naturally softened and barriers dropped. It created comfortable, organic opportunities for casual conversation. Parents found unhurried moments to chat with PTA members, ask candid questions, and receive the reassuring, real-world perspectives that only fellow Bella Mente parents can genuinely offer.

By the end of the evening, the energy in the room was electric. The PTA was absolutely thrilled to hear how many new families left the event feeling genuinely interested, inspired, and excited to get involved with our PTA in the future!

An initiative this impactful takes a dedicated village. The Bella Mente Leopards PTA extends its deepest gratitude to the school administration, our wonderful teachers, our expert speakers, and every single family who showed up to learn and grow with us.

*A special thank you to **Lindsay** from the Bella Mente Leopards PTA for her invaluable help in contributing and shaping the essential content for this article.*

Together, we aren't just sending our children to the same school—we are building a lasting community where every family belongs. Here's to continuing this beautiful momentum at Bella Mente Academies!



Ms. Michelle is presenting to the parents what a day in the Montessori entails for a TK/Kinder student.

Shunya Wade, Bella Mente Leopards PTA Membership Chair, shared how she brings the Montessori approach into her home. She demonstrated how at-home worksheets can be paired with toys like number blocks and simple art materials to make learning hands-on and engaging. This provided a collaborative space for parents to ask questions, exchange ideas, and discover practical ways to extend Montessori learning beyond the classroom.



Pictured below: The families and children got to paint rocks that will be a permanent fixture in their rock garden.



-- Sonya Vargas, Ninth District PTA, Vice President, Communications Director

Parliamentarian

Thank you to all unit and council PTA leaders who worked on updating bylaws.

I will be working on bylaws during the summer break.

Appoint a committee who can review and update during the summer. Use the new FutureFund Connect platform - it's easy.

If you have questions, be in touch.

-Sue King, Ninth District PTA, Parliamentarian

parliamentarian@ninthdistrictpta.org

Health

June is both National Safety Month and Internet Safety Month.

Water & Sun Safety:

- Active Supervision: Assign a dedicated "water watcher" for kids swimming in pools or natural bodies of water.
- Swim Lessons: Enroll children in YMCA Swimming Lessons or local community pools to teach water survival skills.
- Sun Protection: Apply broad-spectrum SPF 30+ at least 30 minutes before heading outside and reapply every two hours.
- Heat Exhaustion: Children's bodies struggle to regulate temperature, so ensure that they take frequent hydration breaks and recognize signs of heat fatigue.

Digital Safety:

- Parental Controls: Use built-in device features or platforms to monitor screen time and filter inappropriate content.
- Open Dialogue: Establish boundaries for app downloads and gaming. Encourage kids to talk openly about online interactions so they know it's safe to report cyber bullying or strange messages.

Outdoor & Bike Safety:

- **Helmet Rules:** Require children to wear correctly fitted helmets for all wheeled activities, including biking, skateboarding, and scooters.
- **Safe Playground:** Inspect playgrounds for hazards and ensure equipment is age-appropriate.

Around the Home:

- **Lock and Protect:** Keep medications, cleaning supplies, and firearms locked and away and out of reach.
- **Poison Awareness:** Identify and avoid contact with local summer hazards like poison oak, which is common in Southern California.

Thank you for a great 2025-2026 year!

Stay Safe and Enjoy Summer Break!

--Mary Patterson, Ninth District PTA, Vice President, Director of Health

health@ninthdistrictpta.org

Historian Report

This year was our first full year that we are not required to turn in a historian report showing the amount of volunteer hours to the California State PTA. With that said, I do hope you have kept track because keeping track of this information is important record keeping for your PTA. When documented, it shows future leaders the time and dedication it takes to have the success you had this year. If shared with your school staff, it shows them how much time you have spent supporting the students and families both at your school and in your community. As we continue to collect the hours for 2025-26, let's celebrate all of the success your PTA has had this year! You still have time to submit, so don't forget all of the other volunteers that assisted your PTA's, not just the elected board members. Show your worth and use this link by June 15th [CLICK HERE](#) and share your success!

Thank you for a wonderful 2025-2026 year!

--Lori Fentress, Ninth District PTA, Historian

historian@ninthdistrictpta.org

Financial Reviewer

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at Summer Leadership Conference to finish out a great year. I'll be presenting both our mid-year Financial Review at the general meeting and a

workshop titled: Financial Reviews 101: Protecting Your Officers and Your Funds. If you have any questions, please contact me at financialreviewer@ninthdistrictpta.org.

--David Rogers, Ninth District PTA, Financial Reviewer.



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Ninth District PTA
6401 Linda Vista Rd., Annex A
San Diego, CA 92111
(858.268.8077)

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