

## 06-07 Outstanding Service Awards

### xALLEN AT STEINBECK Kathryn Longtin

Kathryn chairs the Art Vistas program at Allen at Steinbeck PTA. This year she has secured a dedicated classroom/art studio for the program. She and her co-chairs, Ana Collins and Helen Shetty, have recruited Art Vistas volunteer docents to serve in all 34 classrooms in our school, and they have organized all of our Art Vistas lessons and teaching materials into a user-friendly method for all volunteers. Additionally, she has spearheaded the acquisition of a new kiln for the school in an effort to expand the ceramics program. Kathryn works tirelessly for the school and has donated thousands of hours to the Art Vistas program.

### xALMADEN

Robin Jean Langston

In her individual, energetic way, Robin Jean Langston has brought the Almaden Elementary School community together. Her work as a PTA leader was totally defined in the way she brought the PTA Reflections Project to the school, her organization of the fund raising projects at the school, but especially her leadership in bringing the school's English and Spanish speaking communities together, which enabled them to close the communication gap!

### xAUTISM PROJECT

Cynthia Armon was the first teacher to serve on the Autism Project PTA's Executive Board and to lead committee work and various PTA sponsored activities and events. Cynthia is a proud special education teacher who is always willing to volunteer for any PTA meeting or event. She enthusiastically joins and leads the organization in a number of ways, such as: she leads the CAN-Cure Autism Now walk (which built awareness and raised funds for a cure), the family BBQ at Camp Costanoan (which built community), presented at the transition meeting (teaching parents and educators what they can expect when a child transitions) and the ID bracelet distribution (which addressed safety and medical needs of the children/students)! Cynthia deserves this Outstanding Service Award!

### xBACHRODT

Shukuko Matsune has been a devoted Bachrodt PTA member who has never missed a meeting (to the point where she has rescheduled her summer vacation in order to be present at the last PTA meeting!) and has volunteered for every event in the past three years. Mrs. Matsune, your dedication to PTA is greatly appreciated and the families and staff at Bachrodt look forward to your continued support in the 2007-2008 year.

### xCARSON

Irene Shoberg has set a wonderful example as a media clerk and a PTA supporter. She encourages the children to start a lifelong love of reading. She gladly volunteers her time at PTA events! She has helped build a caring community at Carson!

### xA DARLING

Ana Frias has been involved with Anne Darling Elementary School since her children entered kindergarten. She now works as the Parent Liaison at the school. Ana wants to see each student at Anne Darling become a successful, productive adult and works to help them achieve their goals. She works with parents so they feel comfortable talking with teachers about their children and working in their classrooms. Ana has been an instrumental part of Anne Darling's PTA.

### xEMPIRE GARDENS

Diana Greenhalgh is the communications chair for Empire Gardens PTA, but this year she went over and beyond her duties by not only taking care of that job, but taking complete charge of the Harvest Festival which is Empire Gardens' biggest event, and she did a FANTASTIC job. She has also taken on other events for PTA.

She is an asset to the community and the PTA, and they have appreciated all her hard work this year and can not thank her enough.

#### xHAMMER/GALARZA

Vandana Kaushal is the treasurer for Hammer/Galarza PTA. She works tirelessly for the PTA, spending several hours a day on any PTA business that needs doing. She volunteers to help with all activities, and is always cheerful.

She is just fantastic!

#### xLOS ALAMITOS

Sarah Kateley has worked tirelessly as the Los Alamitos PTA coordinator for the scrip program, which solely supports K-3 Music education at the school. She took a successful program and added new elements, brought in new people to help and is taking it to new heights. She does this along with actively helping other groups at school as well! Los Alamitos students, families and staff are extremely fortunate to have her as a PTA member!

#### OLINDER

Martha Gil has been a great president and a wonderful leader. She has been involved with Olinder PTA for more than ten years of which half she's served as an officer or on committees. She has always been willing to give up her time to help the school and encourage other parents to get involved also. Martha always has great ideas, is a very honest person, a good team player, very responsible, and has big dreams for the students of Olinder Elementary.

sincerely;

Maria Lopez

#### xREED

With a 4th grader at Reed and a little one that will start Kindergarten in the fall, Rob Dewis is currently in charge of the yearbook and takes about 90% of the pictures that are used in the book. He also put together and narrated a video of Reed School that shows all of the school's events, such as the Young Author's Tea, Spring-a-thon, school plays, International Day, and the bookfair, while also capturing action inside the classrooms with the teachers and outside the classrooms with children at play. Principal Juan Correa runs this video during the Kindergarten tours at the school. It is an absolutely fabulous view of student life at Reed Elementary School.

#### xSIMONDS

**Sara Goss**--Sara has contributed her time in many ways, including co-chairing this years Auction Dinner, Art Vista, publishing the Grapevine newsletter, working in the library, helping in the classroom, working on the yearbook, and making Simonds a more beautiful place to be by caring for the rose garden and the garden in front of the Simonds sign. Thank you Sara!

#### xTERRELL

Pat Mocek has been PTA president at Terrell two times, vice president, and is currently serving her second term as treasurer. She has given much time and energy to bettering the school, and she is always at the ready with words of encouragement and support for her fellow parent volunteers. PTA President Tony Macias says, "Pat Mocek is the heart of the Terrell PTA."

#### xWILLIAMS

The nominee for the Outstanding Service Award at Williams Elementary is Mollie Tobias. Through eleven years and four daughters, Mollie has been an incredible asset to Williams. She has boundless energy, unfailing enthusiasm, and an unusually good memory for details. Never afraid to take a leadership role, Mollie has been an innovator of programs to help families feel more comfortable and welcome at school, has enabled Project Cornerstone to take flight at Williams, and has always been a big believer in, and supporter of, PTA. Thank you, Mollie, for your extraordinary service to Williams Elementary School!

xWGES

Marylea Adams.

Marylea started an art docent program at WGES about eight years ago. It has grown into a program that provides art lessons in every classroom twice a month. The lessons not only expose the children to various art mediums but also tie each lesson to an individual artist. Marylea is now providing lessons to other public and private schools in the area as well as providing lessons out of her studio in Willow Glen. She has truly added a component to Willow Glen Elementary children's education that was missing. She deserves recognition for bringing back arts education.

xBURNETT

Marie Barajas, PTSA secretary, has been available to help with any and every project, and is constantly out in the community building relationships and soliciting involvement. Her energy is creating wonderful and successful programs for the current year, and for the year ahead.

xCASTILLERO

Like an Olympic athlete, Jean Hendrickson leaves nothing on the field. Whether she is motivating students in her classroom with her "Math is Power!" mantra, coaching the girls basketball team, or devoting countless hours bringing out the best in kids through the programs of Project Cornerstone, Jean's days are full. She gives of herself in a way that inspires everyone around her to do the same.

xHOOVER

Ed Hodges

Over 30 years as a science teacher, Ed Hodges is continuing his service to Hoover Middle School students into retirement. He has led annual student hikes over Donner Pass and other exciting places, and led a student work day on a recent Saturday recently after working with Our City Forest to get trees and tan bark. Ken continues to work with the District and community to update Emergency Preparedness at Hoover, and he worked to secure funds to obtain a golf cart for campus maintenance and security purposes. He's worked tirelessly for the students, to make Hoover Middle School the best it can be.

xMUIR

Lou Ayala

Lou Ayala, "Coach" or "Mr. A" to the kids, has run an Open Gym program at Muir for 24 years, providing a safe place for students to congregate. He is involved in the "Bridges" program helping incoming sixth graders transition to middle school. He has mentored countless new teachers and coached hundreds of kids in basketball, in addition to 34 years of teaching language arts. In teaching, coaching, and his life, Mr. Ayala symbolizes his philosophy, "You only really fail when you blame someone else."

xWGMS

PTSA President Maria Fox said, "When Shari Rodenberger came on board as the new Treasurer of the Willow Glen Middle PTSA, our tax filings were in arrears, and she took on the task of sorting out the finances so that we could send in our tax filings from last year as well as this year. It was a major project and unexpected responsibility that could not be ignored. And she is going to remain as our Treasurer for 2007-2008 (even after all that)!!!"

Additionally she is a strong advocate for the MS Library, organizing volunteers for various projects that help the Librarian to run the center smoothly."

Maria Fox

President, WGMS PTA

xGUNDERSON

A mother of six and advocate for all children, Carmen Torrecillas has been an active PTA/PTSA member for 24 years, 22 of those in San Jose Unified: Allen Elementary 6 years, James Randol Elementary 9 years, Steinbeck Middle School 10 years and Gunderson High School 21 years.

Carmen has been involved in many areas: room mom, chaperone for fieldtrips, dance and cheerleading chaperone, school newsletter editor, School Site Council, Parent Advisory Committee, Community Conversations, voting delegate at the California State PTA Convention, PTSA Board Member, Athletic Booster Club Board Member and Merchandise Chair, and Grad Night Chair.

xLINCOLN

Marlene Wintink Snell has been an outstanding volunteer for the PTA since her two girls were in elementary school. She has faithfully been the treasurer for many, many years all through her daughters' elementary, middle and high school years. Her youngest daughter is graduating from LHS this year, and they are very sorry to see her go. Her experience and trustworthiness have been invaluable assets. We are all deeply appreciative of all she has done for San Jose Unified School District's PTAs.

xPIONEER

Pioneer PTSA would like to recognize Susan Pine, its current Vice President and Wish List Coordinator. For the past few years, Susan has worked single handedly, putting in unknown hours of shopping research, to stretch the Wishlist budget enough to fulfill the Wish Lists of the entire teaching staff at Pioneer High School. She has been a valuable asset to Pioneer's PTSA as well as its teachers, and we all applaud her.

Leanne Luebke  
Pioneer PTSA President

xSJHA

Eduardo Gonzalez

Eduardo Gonzalez is a campus supervisor at San Jose High Academy, where he is also an alumnus. Eduardo has volunteered countless hours, money, supplies AND his artistic talent to provide meticulously decorated prom events, homecoming dances, sports banquets, and murals. He truly connects with our students; they look to Eduardo for advice, reassurance, and respect. Eduardo is one-in-a-million and the school and community are truly blessed to have him.