

## San Jose Unified Council of PTAs Outstanding Service Awards -- May 15, 2014

### **Allen at Steinbeck K-8 PTA**

#### **Kim Pifer**

Kim is one of our parent volunteers for the Allen Community. Art Vista and ABC Reading have benefited from Kim's commitment to the educational experiences of our students at Allen at Steinbeck. Our star volunteer helped Art Vista and ABC Reading for all of our first and second grade classrooms. In addition, Kim is managing our annual spring online auction, assisted with movie night, and provided assistance in the classroom. We are grateful for her dedication and willingness to help where and whenever needed. Thank you!

- Craig Sandoval, President, Allen at Steinbeck K-8 PTA

### **Almaden Elementary PTA**

#### **Gracia Lucatero**

Gracia is such an asset to Almaden. She attends all the parent meetings and is always willing to lend a hand. Gracia is also a Project Cornerstone Los Dichos reader. Not only does she read in her children's classrooms she reads in other classrooms as well. The students love when she comes in. Thank you, Gracia, for your dedication and your commitment to enrich the lives of Almaden's students.

- Shelley Alberti, President, Almaden Elementary PTA

### **Bachrodt Charter Academy PTA**

#### **Gerry Hartman**

Bachrodt would like to honor our faithful treasurer, Ms. Gerry Hartman. Gerry is the grandmother to two boys who were attending Bachrodt. She served as our secretary for two years and then last spring agreed to move to the Treasurer position. Over the summer her grandsons moved to Minnesota but Gerry agreed to stay on as our BCA-PTA treasurer. Throughout this year she faced many complicated financial problems and conquered all of them! BCA-PTA is so grateful for all the work she dedicated to our school and would like to recognize her for consistent perseverance, honest effort, and exemplary accomplishments. Thank you Gerry."

- Amanda Lubbs, President, Bachrodt Charter Academy PTA

### **Rachel Carson Elementary PTA**

#### **Lisa Macias**

Lisa, we are honoring you for all of your behind the scenes help at Carson: collecting box tops, delivering popcorn, stepping in at the Cougar Store, helping with the science lab.... the list goes on. We appreciate ALL you do! Thank you Lisa!!!

- Jill Matuk, President, Rachel Carson Elementary PTA

### **Anne Darling Elementary PTA**

#### **Michelle Blanco**

We are so grateful for the years of service and leadership Michelle has given to the students, staff, and families of Anne Darling School. She has always been ready to lend a hand with all of our activities.

- Anne Darling Elementary PTA

### **Grant Elementary PTA**

#### **Juana Aranda**

Juana is always there and willing to help with all of our projects at Grant Elementary. She is a wonderful person and mom.

- Marycruz Vasquez, President, Grant Elementary PTA

### **Los Alamitos Elementary PTA**

#### **Colleen Hamilton**

As Committee Chair of the Green Team for two years, Colleen has implemented changes giving students greater responsibility and ownership of the program. What was once a parent-driven committee is now a student led one. In striving to achieve this goal Colleen has donated countless hours — coming almost every day at lunch to ensure her student teams are running efficiently.

- Maryann Allison, President, Los Alamitos Elementary PTA

### **Reed Elementary PTA**

#### **Erin Nash**

Erin Nash has been an active PTA member for five years. Her organizational skills and creativity are unparalleled. She comes through 100% of the time, and she brings a level of professionalism and artistic ability that is rare. She has successfully run our Art Vista program, creates posters for PTA events, and volunteers in our Bobcat store and in the classroom. We are so thankful for Erin.

- Wendy Feierfeil, President, Reed Elementary PTA

### **Simonds Elementary PTA**

#### **Gale Bardel**

A marketing specialist, Gale Bardel brought her expertise to the Simonds PTA Board and served as VP of Communications for two years. In that time, she revamped website literature, formatted newsletter framework and put in place regulations for Grade Level Yahoo Groups. She is fantastically responsive, working hand in hand with Committee Chairs this year to vastly improve event communications.

- Rachael Parakh, President, Simonds Elementary PTA

### **Terrell Elementary PTA**

#### **Les Albert**

Les is a dynamic Terrell grandparent. He can always be seen on campus whether helping in the classroom or helping students at lunchtime. He is always willing to volunteer to assist the PTA in any manner and is present at our meetings.

- Tanya Smith, President, Terrell Elementary PTA

## **Willow Glen Elementary PTA**

### **Suzanne Carrig**

Suzanne Carrig has always been a firm believer in public schools. She works full time at the County Office of Education and has also spent the last eight years working to make Willow Glen Elementary a better place for all students. Suzanne has served as PTA President, on the School Site Council, and also twice planned the school's large Fall Auction fundraiser. She has volunteered for many other PTA events and is always quick to donate for classroom needs.

- Maren Sederquist, President, Willow Glen Elementary PTA

## **Washington Elementary PTA**

### **Juan Torres**

Mr. Torres spends a lot of time helping the students and Washington Elementary School. We are all so lucky to have him!

- Cristina Magana, President, Washington Elementary PTA

## **Burnett Middle PTSA**

### **Anna Heckman**

Anna is a Burnett parent and PTSA Secretary. She has taken our performing arts program at Burnett to the next level. She has coordinated our last two Fall shows and this year organized a Spring musical. We are so proud of her positive energy and eagerness to make a difference in the lives of Burnett students. Anna gets a standing ovation in our book.

- Laura Wolford, President, Burnett Middle PTSA

## **Castillero Middle PTSA**

### **Marybeth Torpey**

Castillero PTSA is honoring Marybeth Torpey for her incredible dedication, first as President at Los Alamitos where she worked tirelessly to create an environment where our children, teachers, and parents can work together. She then continued to donate her time and talent as a photographer at the Castillero dances, taking photos that are beautiful and give the children and their parents incredible memories to keep forever.

- Amy Sechrist and Barbara Carbone, Co-Presidents, Castillero PTSA

## **John Muir Middle PTSA**

### **Lauri Tatum**

For the past six years, Lauri Tatum has made a huge difference at John Muir Middle School. She has served on the PTSA Executive Board as both president and parliamentarian, and has chaired our jogathon for the past 3 years. She has helped in countless other areas, including hospitality, school dances, fundraisers, and 8th grade promotion activities. We are grateful for her many contributions!

- Tanya Summers and Leigh Dewis, Co-Presidents, John Muir Middle PTSA

## **Willow Glen Middle PTA**

### **Becky Morgan**

Becky has done a fantastic job. This is her first year as treasurer and has made the transition pretty smooth. We really appreciate her balancing everything for us!

-- Veronica Sharp, President, Willow Glen Middle PTA

## **Gunderson High PTSA**

### **Dianne Conry**

Dianne has been active in PTA throughout her children's school years. Dianne's youngest will be a senior at Gunderson High next year, and we are very appreciative of her hard work over all those years. Dianne is currently our VP of Membership and will hold the position of Executive Vice President next year at Gunderson. In addition to her active role in our PTSA, Dianne is a parent leader/mentor for the Gunderson P.R.I.D.E program. Gunderson strives to promote a positive school culture by clarifying, teaching, and modeling the P.R.I.D.E. behavior expectations of Personal Responsibility, Respect, Integrity, Diversity and Excellence, and by acknowledging and rewarding desired behavior. Dianne is also actively involved with our local community association VEP, helping organize community service events that bring our community together to help clean-up or beautify our neighborhood.

- Marc McGeever, President, Gunderson High PTSA

## **Lincoln High PTSA**

### **Linda Funk**

Linda Funk is a teacher, a mother, and a grandmother to students in the San Jose Unified School District. She also serves as Vice President at the Lincoln High School PTSA and still substitutes at Trace Elementary.

Her involvement over the years with numerous schools in the District exemplifies what a true volunteer and what an advocate for children can be. She has served on Trace Elementary's parent club board, Hoover Middle School's PTSA, and Lincoln High School's PTSA. Long after her children graduated (her son is now Superintendent of East Side Union School District), Linda continues to be on the campuses helping out in any way possible. As Vice President she is involved with helping at the High School's orientation days making calls to numerous parents to get volunteers. She also is in charge of our Scholarship Committee, making calls to each senior who is eligible for a scholarship to make them aware of the opportunity. She stays in close contact with the administrators and counselors at the school advocating for services or items that staff is in need of and getting donations to make sure we can pay for everything.

There is not much that we do that does not get her full attention and endless enthusiasm. We all feel so lucky to have someone so dedicated and so entrenched in the history of the schools she has helped.

- Linda Dittes, President, Lincoln High PTSA

## **Pioneer High PTSA**

### **Julie Hartman**

Julie Hartman has been on the Pioneer Foundation for a many years, serving as President since 2010 after being President at Castillero for several years. Under her direction, the Foundation has funded classroom projectors, partnered with E-waste, supported the Pioneer robotics team, school newspaper, NHS, Service Learning Program, and many, many other programs. Julie is truly a 'worker' in all respects. She is always there for the needs of the school and the students. Julie's tireless efforts have helped make Pioneer a truly outstanding school that is envied by many other schools. Parent involvement is always important. Parent leadership is rare - and we are lucky to have had Julie's leadership for so many years.

- Laura Raimondi, President, Pioneer High PTSA

**San Jose High PTSA**

**Marissa Martinez**

The SJHS staff would like to nominate Marissa Martinez as an outstanding PTSA member this school year. Marissa has attended all the PTSA meetings this year and has helped to re-establish our PTSA at the school site. As a parent she is committed to fostering an environment that supports, informs, and advocates all members of the PTSA group at our school and the feeder schools.

- Christina Castro, Assistant Principal of Instruction, San Jose High School