

San Jose Unified Council of PTAs Outstanding Service Awards -- April 24, 2015

Allen at Steinbeck K-8 PTA

Teri Breen and Jen Cuddie

"Teri and Jen have helped bring together Allen at Steinbeck families for Story Fun Night encouraging a passion for reading, parent involvement, and building community. Their leadership and contributions are greatly appreciated."

-- Eva Condron-Wells, President, Allen at Steinbeck K-8 PTA

Almaden Elementary PTA

Shelley Alberti

"Over the years Shelley has done everything for this PTA. Besides holding almost all of the elected board offices, she has organized the annual Book Fair, Craft Nights, Valentine Grams, Student Awards, and been involved in every event or program sponsored by the PTA. The PTA, students, families, teachers, and staff of our school are very grateful for all of her time, energy, and know-how."

- Almaden Elementary PTA

Bachrodt Charter Academy PTA

Toni Guevara

"We are pleased to recognize Toni Guevara, a parent of four at Bachrodt Charter Academy. Toni has always been involved in school activities as a volunteer and coordinator of events. She is always there to help anyone and will do it with great pleasure. Teachers can count on her for any kind of effort, whether it's for organizing parent groups to assemble student materials or any school activities. It is a pleasure to have Toni in our school!"

- Johanna Luerra, President, Bachrodt Charter Academy PTA

Rachel Carson Elementary PTA

Vanessa Wallace

"Vanessa has been very important behind the scenes, not only at Carson Elementary, but for the San Jose Unified School District. She is a vocal advocate for SDC students and volunteers her time wherever she can. Thank you, Vanessa, for all of your hard work that often goes unnoticed. You are a valuable part of our school!"

- Jill Matuk, President, Rachel Carson Elementary PTA

Empire Gardens Elementary PTA

Ramona Salinas

"Ramona has helped tirelessly for many years at Empire Gardens and at Anne Darling Elementary Schools, where her grandchildren have attended. This year alone she has participated in every PTA event (she is a PTA member and was going to be PTA treasurer for the sake of keeping our PTA going). She continues to participate in the Los Dichos program (through Project Cornerstone) at Empire. On top of that, she, with the help of one other outstanding mom, has implemented our Accelerated Reader programs for students who arrive early in the mornings. She is one AMAZING lady, and she deserves any and all recognition available."

- Katie Heredia, Empire Gardens Elementary PTA

Grant Elementary PTA

Sandy Lemus

"Sandy is always there when anyone needs help. Besides her outstanding volunteer work, she has helped with donations for many of our school events. She's such a nice person, and it is wonderful that she is a part of our school!"

- Juana Aranda, President, Grant Elementary PTA

Los Alamitos Elementary PTA

Shannon Brannan

"Shannon has been an integral part of our school for several years, from serving on the PTA board to chairing book fairs, being an active yard duty parent, to signing up to help at almost any event in some capacity or other. We appreciate her dedication and passion!"

- Maryann Allison, President, Los Alamitos Elementary PTA

Reed Elementary PTA

Dorthea Jansen

"Dorthea Jansen has been actively involved in PTA and the Reed School community for several years now. She selflessly dedicates her time and energy to each project to which she commits, and gives 100%. Dorthea has successfully chaired our annual Variety Show, assists with the school choir, contributes several hours to our Fall Festival each year, and volunteers for other projects. We are truly thankful for Dorthea!"

- Stacey McLaren, President, Reed Elementary PTA

Simonds Elementary PTA

Wendy Pikaar

"Wendy epitomizes volunteerism with her passion for Simonds Elementary evident in every role she's served. Whether on the PTA Board as VP of Volunteers or as Committee Chair for the Book Fair and Co-Chair for Simonds Clothes Closet, Three Weeks of Giving and Campus Beautification, Wendy's strong work ethic and dedication is only matched by her warmth and thoughtfulness. Fantastically responsive, Wendy is trusted by committee members, staff, students, and the community. Going above and beyond the traditional hours of a volunteer, Wendy even left her own home remodel meeting to race to school and fill in for an absent volunteer! Wendy's humble service is an inspiration!"

- Rachael Parakh, President, Simonds Elementary PTA

Terrell Elementary PTA

Ana Crowley

"We honor Ana Crowley for her on-going commitment to Terrell School, the staff, and students. Ana helps out in many areas around school including schools events, PTA, SELAC, fund raisers, in the classroom, yard supervision, and more! She is a go-to person for the office staff when they need a volunteer. Ana's reliability and willingness to lend a hand never go unnoticed and are very much appreciated."

-- Terrell Elementary PTA

Washington Elementary PTA

Juan Torres

Juan participates in all of our school and PTA activities. He is loyal to the group and very dedicated to Washington Elementary School. We are all so lucky to have him!

- Cristina Magana, President, Washington Elementary PTA

Willow Glen Elementary PTA

Karen and Jay Kreshel

"The Willow Glen Elementary PTA Board has chosen Karen and Jay Kreshel to receive the Outstanding Service Award. This dynamic couple had the brilliant idea of getting the whole community involved in fundraising for the students at our school, while providing a fun, community-bonding event that also promoted health and fitness, and so they founded our PTA's top fundraiser, the Willow Glen 5K, now in its 6th year! Their vision was also to simplify fundraising and have this one fabulous fundraiser replace all of the small ones we did for years."

-- Maren Sederquist, President, Willow Glen Elementary PTA

Burnett Middle PTSA

Laura Wolford

"Laura has worked diligently in her six years at Burnett to establish school programs such as musical theater, and community events such as our Halloween Carnival. Her ability to mobilize other parents and organize everything from meetings to events for up to 500 people is amazing!"

-- Burnett Middle School PTSA

Castillero Middle PTSA

Dawn Steffler

"Dawn's tireless work with Project Cornerstone and PBIS has made Castillero Middle School a fun, positive, and safe environment for our students. She is always coming up with new and innovative ways to get the students involved and excited about Castillero. From our new book club, to Cobra Cash lunches, to the annual Survivor game, the kids have lots of ways to have fun and get involved in student activities at Castillero."

-- Denise Haswell and Fiona Kaufman, Co-Presidents, Castillero PTSA

Hoover Middle PTSA

Emily Eguchi

"The Hoover PTSA would like to recognize our Assistant Principal of Activities, Ms. Emily Eguchi, for her consistent support this year. Ms. Eguchi is serving in her second year at Hoover and has made a tremendous impact on the Hawk community. She is a constant source of encouragement for the students, a helpful source of information for staff, and a supportive resource for parents. We would like to thank Ms. Eguchi for her dedicated presence at our meetings. We appreciate her faithfulness to accomplish what we ask of her. Even while completing her own schooling this year, she was able to promote responsibility and respect among the students through continuing the Hawk of the Month program and Project Cornerstone recognitions. Ms. Eguchi is a pleasure to work with and a great inspiration to our community. Thank you Emily for all you do!"

-- Amanda Lubbs, Executive Vice President, Hoover Middle School PTSA

John Muir Middle PTSA

Monika Ryser

"As John Muir PTSA's Vice President of Membership, Monika Ryser has worked tirelessly to promote the importance of membership, raising our membership numbers 75% over her two year term. She also chaired this year's book fair, coordinating volunteers and finances for that event. She is happy to help whenever she can, and she always does so with a smile!"

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

Willow Glen Middle PTA

Becky Morgan

"Becky has been a great help as treasurer this year, and last year she developed a teacher Grant program to help teachers with items needed in the classroom. This new program has been a great success!"

-- Veronica Sharp, President, Willow Glen Middle School PTA

Gunderson High PTSA

Varun Kaushal

"The Gunderson High PTSA includes students, hence the "S" in PTSA! Varun has been an active participant in the PTSA for all four years of his high school career. He attended the meetings and provided critical student feedback when necessary. Varun is the perfect choice to represent all of those students that have been dedicated to the PTSA and have taken the time out of their busy schedules to attend the meetings and engage in the improvement of their academic community."

- Joni McConnell, President, Gunderson High PTSA

Lincoln High PTSA

Darlene Shafer

"Darlene Shafer is currently the PTSA Treasurer at Lincoln High School and has helped in many areas over the years in SJUSD. Darlene has volunteered consistently throughout her children's elementary, middle, and high school years, volunteering in countless areas helping parents, staff, and students. She is always willing to help no matter the task. Humble, sweet, reliable, and hardworking, she never expects thanks, but she is so appreciated!"

- Jennifer Thesing, President, Lincoln High PTSA

Pioneer High PTSA

Ariane Phipps

"Our Vice President for Performing Arts, Ariane Phipps, is always ready with a smile to help out our Pioneer Family. When our previous VP had to step down suddenly, she willingly stepped into learn a complicated job. She quickly, accurately, and consistently is a Pioneer every week to process our many bills and deposit for the Band, Choir, Drama, and Orchestra Departments. She works with three different teachers that know she will get the job done. We have been so fortunate to have Ariane as part of our valuable team!"

- Laura Raimondi, President, Pioneer High PTSA

San Jose Unified Council of PTAs

Sandee Ruiz

"We have been blessed by Sandee Ruiz's breadth of knowledge in so many PTA roles. As a second generation PTA Officer, she provides her Unit, our Council, and 6th District with tireless and superb expertise ranging from Secretary to Historian, Treasurer to EVP. Sandee, we are grateful for your service to PTA."

-- Mary Pizzo, President, San Jose Unified Council of PTAs