

# San Jose Unified Council of PTAs

## Outstanding Service Awards -- April 22, 2016

For outstanding service to the students of San Jose Unified School District, the San Jose Unified Council of PTAs would like to express its appreciation to the following people:



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

#### **Alisa Rappleye**

"Alisa has been an incredibly active parent volunteer and member of the Allen at Steinbeck PTA for three years. She has served in various roles on the Executive Board of the PTA, but in many ways you would not know that she fills just one role. She brings an incredible energy that spans all aspects of the PTA. Her devotion and commitment to the PTA is one that has helped bring others into PTA and learn and grow in their roles. She leads by example in how to own and run with a volunteer position, and whatever she is involved with is a success. We would not be where we are without Alisa's time, commitment and talent!"

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

### **Almaden Elementary PTA**

#### **Stephanie Beckler**

"Stephanie is the backbone of our PTA. Whenever we start an activity, whether it's our walk-a-thon, family movie night, or any other PTA activity, she takes the reins of leadership and puts her heart into it too. Her outstanding participation has benefitted all of our students, families, and staff at Almaden Elementary School."

- Monique Ventura, President, Almaden Elementary PTA

### **Bachrodt Charter Academy PTA**

#### **Bea Stephens**

"Bea Stephens has been a quiet but constant part of our background at Bachrodt for quite a few years. A mother of five, it's hard to figure out where she has the time to devote to our school like she does, but somehow she is always there, and most of the time without anyone having to ask. Always with a smile, she has a positive attitude that is inspiring. Bea doesn't do any of it for the recognition; in fact she's often the quietest one, never boasting or complaining. Yet she takes the initiative and does the things others won't, and she does them well. She is dependable beyond belief. We are proud to have her in our Bachrodt family and are thrilled to be able to recognize her hard work and dedication. Thank you Bea for all you do!"

- Johanna Luerra, President, and Michele Quanz, Vice President, Bachrodt Charter Academy PTA

### **Rachel Carson Elementary PTA**

#### **Jill Matuk**

"Jill served as president of the Rachel Carson PTA for two years and this year has been supporting our teachers and students. She spends most every day at school ensuring our teachers and students are being supported and have the resources needed for them to be successful. She has also been there for me during the past few months that have proven to be more time consuming than originally thought! Jill Matuk is very deserving of the Outstanding Service Award!"

- Theresa Chavez, President, Rachel Carson PTA

## **Empire Gardens Elementary PTA**

### **Pia W. Ramirez**

"Pia W. Ramirez is an amazing woman. She is kind, giving, and thoughtful. She has been at Empire for two years and has brought a smile to teachers, parents, and students. She is a huge part of Empire Gardens Elementary School. With all of her donations she has made it possible for us to have huge festivals. She is a hard worker and willing to lend a hand to anybody in need."

- Krystin Caughey, President, Empire Gardens Elementary PTA

## **Grant Elementary PTA**

### **Andi Elliot**

"Andi Elliot is our outstanding volunteer at Grant Elementary. Andi is always available to volunteer when asked. She helps in the cafeteria at lunch time, reads and prepares materials for "Los Dichos," and is involved in every activity of the PTA. Aside from donating her time, she donates materials to the School, PTA, and Los Dichos. She is loved by everyone at Grant."

- Sandy Lemus, President, Grant Elementary PTA

## **Los Alamitos Elementary PTA**

### **Maryann Allison**

"Maryann has served on the Los Alamitos PTA Board for the last five years in the capacity of President, VP Ways & Means, and Parliamentarian. She brought the Hicklebee's book fair to our school, and it has become an annual event that our students look forward to. She has volunteered numerous hours in the classroom, in the library, and at most of the PTA sponsored events over the last eight years at Los Alamitos. This is Maryann's last year at our school, and she will be missed!"

- Maria Soto, President, Los Alamitos PTA

## **Reed Elementary PTA**

### **Dan and Andrea Whitson**

"Dan and Andrea Whitson have been actively involved in PTA and the Reed School community for several years now. Andrea has worked in conjunction with the PTA for numerous events and fundraisers to help provide college student volunteers, who are invaluable assets at these events. Both Dan and Andrea selflessly dedicate their time to their children's classrooms. They also singlehandedly created a school garden program, from the ground up, including working with the PTA to secure funding and donations, building the garden beds, planting and maintaining the garden, and developing a science curriculum that every class receives on a monthly basis. We are truly thankful for Dan and Andrea and grateful to have them as parents and PTA members at Reed."

- Stacey McLaren, President, Reed Elementary PTA

### **Simonds Elementary PTA**

#### **Laurie Christian Neff**

"Laurie has been a parent at Simonds Elementary for ten years. She has always been giving of her time to the classroom and has had a special place in her heart for the Science Fair. Laurie has spent the past nine years chairing our Science Fair. Her passion for this event and her compassion for the young scientists so excited to share as they stand with their projects is amazing. She has been dedicated to this event and every year makes changes to make the science fair even better and more enriching for our students. We wish we had many, many Lauries, and we will miss her greatly. Thank you Laurie for all your time and dedication to the Simonds Community."

- Julie Boncher, President, Simonds Elementary PTA

### **Terrell Elementary PTA**

#### **Michelle Edwards**

"Michelle has helped with our annual walk-a-thon, both the day of and solicited for donations. She has volunteered in the classroom, worked our fall book fair and will be helping to plan the spring book fair. She has helped with our Pancake Fundraiser at Famous Dave's, working as a server, and has helped at other events. Michelle is a reader for Project Cornerstone at our school. Before being hired as the school's media aide, she also volunteered in the library."

- Sara Ellman, President, Terrell Elementary PTA

### **Washington Elementary PTA**

#### **Merced Aguilera**

"Compromiso en todo momento.

El mejor esfuerzo para toda actividad."

Merced is committed to our students and PTA at all times. She gives her very best effort with all of our activities.

- Adriana Leon Salazar, President, Washington Elementary PTA

### **Willow Glen Elementary PTA**

#### **Leslie Chamberlain**

"The embodiment of positive attitude and unending energy, Leslie Chamberlain has been a spirited presence on campus for many years. She has taken on a PTA Presidency, coordinated Talent Shows, chaired Walkathons, donated auction parties...the list is endless! She leaves a legacy of heartfelt volunteerism at Willow Glen Elementary."

— Erica H. Bulycz, President, Willow Glen Elementary PTA

### **Burnett Middle PTSA**

#### **Lee Assaf**

"Our award goes to Lee Assaf, our treasurer. Lee has transformed our records into an organized, easy to follow system and has continually kept all of our reports up-to-date, even during her busy season as a tax accountant. Our unit has been very fortunate to have Lee and to know we can always rely on her to educate us in all financial and legal matters."

- Anna Heckman, President, Burnett PTSA

### **Castillero Middle PTSA**

#### **Darlene Dueck**

"We'd like to honor Darlene Dueck, our Student Activities Director and teacher. Darlene has created a very fun and positive environment for the students at Castillero and is always coming up with new ideas and ways to keep them engaged and excited about school. She is truly passionate about her role as a teacher and as Castillero's Activities Director."

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

### **Hoover Middle PTSA**

#### **Sandra McSweeney**

"Hoover would like to honor this year's treasurer, the amazing Sandra McSweeney, for our unit's Outstanding Service Award. As a new family to our school, Sandra heard that our unit was in need of a treasurer. She did not hesitate to offer to help. Sandra re-organized our previous records, reconciled the books, worked tirelessly to account for all expenditures and submitting final reports. She has kept this year's records impeccably and always works to insure full transparency for our unit. Our board appreciates her professional attitude and service to Hoover. Serving with her is a pleasure. Thank you Sandra!"

*- Amanda Lubbs, President, Hoover PTSA*

### **John Muir Middle PTSA**

#### **Lori Stokes**

"As John Muir PTSA's Treasurer, Lori Stokes has worked tirelessly to keep our budget accurate and up-to-date for the past two years. Besides keeping meticulous track of the money, she has also volunteered to help with the Jog-A-Thon, book fair, fundraisers, and many other John Muir events where volunteers were needed. Lori's hard work has made a huge difference to our PTSA and school, and we truly appreciate her many contributions."

*- Leigh Dewis, President, and Tanya Summers, EVP, John Muir PTSA*

### **Willow Glen Middle PTA**

#### **Rebel Stedman**

"We are pleased to recognize Rebel Stedman for her great work with the school in helping to coordinate and implement the Emergency/Safety program. Her efforts include coordinating evacuation plans and emergency supplies for teachers and students. She has spent much time and energy planning and helping to run the drills so teachers and students can evacuate the school safely. She has also gathered and organized the necessary supplies in case of an emergency while on campus, ensuring everyone will be taken care of. Her time and effort is very much appreciated."

*- Ana Manzano, President, Willow Glen Middle PTA*

## **Gunderson High PTSA**

### **Vandana Kaushal**

"Vandana has been instrumental in running the Gunderson High PTSA. She has been a tremendous help with every position she has held and even helps with other positions. She will be greatly missed at Gunderson High School."

- Holly Polizzi, President, Gunderson High PTSA

## **Lincoln High PTSA**

### **Susan Raymond**

"Despite not having a current student attending Lincoln, Susan is always offering to help in every area with an enthusiastic smile. Two years after her daughter graduated, she continues to volunteer many hours and offer up wonderful ideas. Hospitality Chair like no other, Susan has provided incredible spreads of goodies galore for all Lincoln staff to enjoy and stay refueled. She has helped on several PTSA committees including significant contributions to our Speaker series, volunteering at many PTSA events, and supporting several Lincoln academic departments. Her family is also a significant contributor in the corporate matching program. Thank you, Susan, you are a gem!"

- Jennifer Thesing, President, Lincoln High PTSA

## **Pioneer High PTSA**

### **Laura Raimondi**

"Laura has demonstrated continued dedication in her volunteer work for the PTSA. She is always available to help and provide guidance, and she has been very active in on-boarding and training new Pioneer PTSA board members to ensure continuity. Laura is a real pleasure to work with and a key member of our PTSA organization."

- Ruby Luna, President, Pioneer High PTSA

## **San Jose Unified Council of PTAs**

### **Sandee Ruiz**

"Sandee has been involved with PTA for almost fourteen years. She has not only served on her children's school PTA boards, she also has served on Council and 6<sup>th</sup> District PTA Boards for over ten years. If this wasn't enough, she also volunteers at State PTA conventions and on her daughter's softball team. Above all this, she works full time. She is one of those people who prefers to stay behind the curtains but accomplishes so much!"

- Vandana Kaushal, President, San Jose Unified Council of PTAs