

We want to thank you for attending California State PTA's annual convention in Long Beach earlier this month. We hope that you had a worthwhile experience and that you are now energized more than ever to do great things for the children and families in your community! We are always interested in hearing your thoughts about the convention – both what you liked and what you think could be improved. Feel free to email us at [convention@capta.org](mailto:convention@capta.org) with your comments.

As you know, staying informed and connected as a PTA leader is not a once-a-year activity. We have many resources available to you year-round to help strengthen your leadership skills and help you to run a successful PTA. Included in this email is just one example of these resources – it's the May edition of *PTA Connects*. This is our online monthly newsletter – it's short, to-the-point, and provides valuable tips, reminders and links to resources. And it's absolutely free each month for PTA members. We hope you find it useful.

Thank you again for all that you do on behalf of California's children and families! And thanks to those of you who spoke to us at convention and shared your concerns. You each inspire us to continue fighting on behalf of children's issues.

Sincerely,

Pam Brady, President

Charlene Pendergraft, Vice-President for Convention

# *PTA CONNECTS*

## CALIFORNIA STATE PTA ONLINE NEWSLETTER

May 2008

Visit the California State PTA website

<http://www.capta.org/>

Please encourage your members to subscribe. Send these via your email list to your PTA unit members.

### **Welcome to PTA Connects!**

This special edition of PTA Connects is being sent to everyone who attended the annual California State PTA Convention as well as PTA leaders throughout California. This e-newsletter brings you resources and ideas each month to help your PTA.

### **Inspiring. Educational. Energizing.**

We hope you returned from the California State PTA Convention full of ideas, motivation, and enthusiasm for the important work our organization does. Don't keep it to yourself! Share the information you received at convention with others in your PTA and in your community.

Here are some ways to do that:

- Talk about what you learned at PTA board meetings and association meetings.
- Prepare written reports to share with your PTA members, either as handouts or as newsletter articles.
- Make copies of the materials you received at convention and share them with your PTA board and other members.
- Send a letter or guest article to your local newspaper.

### **Didn't Go To Convention?**

If you were not one of the over 5,500 who attended convention, you can still get some great resources on the new California State PTA web site. Find it all at <http://www.capta.org/sections/convention-2008/>

### **Flunk the Budget**

Thank you PTA!! Your efforts and the work of PTA members throughout California have forced our legislators and Governor to look to budget solutions beyond "cut, cut, cut." Your phone calls and emails and letters and visits to your elected officials are making a difference! **But our work is far from over.** The latest version of the state budget still contains billions of dollars of cuts to education and other vital children's services. Make sure your PTA members keep this campaign

active during the summer. Designate a *Flunk the Budget Leader* for your PTA to keep your members involved and active in this campaign.

<http://www.capta.org/sections/advocacy/flunk-the-budget.cfm>

**Summer Planning Supports School Year Success!**

We've put together ideas and resources to get started for a new year.

Get Your PTA Ready with the 2008 Back to School Kit!

[http://www.capta.org/sections/communication/downloads/communicator-2008-05/Back\\_to\\_School\\_Kit.pdf](http://www.capta.org/sections/communication/downloads/communicator-2008-05/Back_to_School_Kit.pdf)

A Smooth Transition Sets The Stage For A Great Year. Check Out These Articles.

<http://www.capta.org/sections/management/toolkit.cfm>

Put Yourself in the PTA Picture with these Membership Tips

<http://www.capta.org/sections/membership/ideas.cfm>

Financial Planning For Your PTA

<http://www.capta.org/sections/finance/budget.cfm>

You can find more help on California State PTA web site

[www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org)

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