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Palo Alto Council of PTAs
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On the Calendar Sept-Oct

*Note: All PTA Unit President, Council and School Board meetings are at 25 Churchill unless otherwise noted. School Board meetings also on cable channel 28.

Nov 1, 6:30pm **School Board (Special-Elementary SIPs)**

Nov 1, 8:15am **School Board-Candidates Coffee, Hays**

Nov 2, 8:15am **School Board-Candidates Coffee, Fairmeadow**

Nov 6, Tuesday: Election Day

Nov 6, **CAHSEE (Testing)**

Nov 7, 9am **PTAC Exec Board Meeting**

Nov 12, **Holiday, School closed**

Nov 13, 6:30pm **School Board (Regular)**

Nov 22-23, **Thanksgiving Holiday**

The Councilor

The Newsletter of the Palo Alto Council of PTAs

Your PTA Council at Work--

The race for school board trustees is in full swing and the candidates are busy going from forum to forum speaking to the school community. I encourage you to take advantage of this terrific opportunity to participate in one of these questions and answers sessions at your school.

These forums were organized at the PTA Council level by our parent education chairs, Carrie Manley and Wendy Kandasamy. They have done an outstanding job coordinating these events with the individual schools who presented their forums particular to their school community. This is a perfect example of the type of district-wide leadership, program development, and unit assistance that the PTA Council provides. Another good example is the work done by our traffic safety chair, Penny Ellson, who, besides working with the District, the City, and the police department on traffic safety issues, was the lead organizer for the Palo Alto Walks and Rolls campaign to celebrate International Walk to School Week, October 1-5. My thanks to these individuals for their hard work and dedication to all our children.

We are looking forward to the next community-wide parent education event at 7:00 PM on Oct. 24th, at Jordan Middle School, where you will have the opportunity to listen to and be heard by our new superintendent, Dr. Kevin Skelly.

Happy Halloween!

Dan Dykwel
President, Palo Alto Council of PTAs

California State PTA issues statement regarding President's veto of SCHIP legislation

Pam Brady, President of the California State PTA, issued the following statement regarding this morning's veto of federal legislation to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Plans (SCHIP) program:

"The President's veto this morning of legislation to expand the SCHIP program is a historic setback for millions of children and families, including approximately 800,000 in California, who need medical insurance. It is unfortunate for these children that the President doesn't share the Congress' bold bipartisan commitment to ensure that as many children as possible have access to quality medical care. The public, as well as the Congress, overwhelmingly supported this legislation. By vetoing the increased funding for SCHIP, the President's action especially damages California's ability to address the critical health care crisis for families. We know without question that healthy children are much more likely to succeed in school, and to be strong contributors to our democratic society and economy – our leaders must do whatever it takes to give all children the best chance to succeed."

For more information, please contact Carol Kocivar, Vice-President for Education, California State PTA, at (415) 577-1125.

The mission of the California State PTA is to positively impact the lives of all children and families by representing its members and empowering and supporting them with skills in advocacy, leadership, and communications.

The Councilor

The Newsletter of the Palo Alto Council of PTAs is published monthly.

Dan Dykwel

PTA Council President

Darice Koo

Councilor Editor

Dr Kevin Skelly

PAUSD Superintendent

The mention of any business or service in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by either the Palo Alto Council of PTAs or the Palo Alto Unified School District.

On the Calendar (continued from page 1)

Nov 27, 6:30pm **School Board (Special- Student Dinner)**

Nov 28, 9am **PTAC President's meeting**

Dec 6, 5:30pm **Community Conversation on Achievement Gap in PAUSD**

Dec 11, 6:30pm **School Board (Regular- Organizational)**

Dec 18, 6:30pm **School Board (Special-HSTF)**

Dec 21, **Districtwide Minimum Day**

Dec 24- Jan 4, **Winter Break- District Closed**

Bullying Prevention: You Can Help

Join in the nationwide effort to reduce bullying in our schools and communities. Participate in **National Bullying Prevention Awareness Week**, October 21-27.

The sponsor of the week, PACER Center's National Center for Bullying Prevention, has several tools to help educate your community about bullying.

- Direct parents of elementary school kids to [PACERKidsAgainstBullying.org](http://www.pacer.org/bullying/bpaw/), which uses animated characters, games, real life stories, and more to teach kids what bullying is and how to respond.
- Encourage middle and high school students to share their own experiences and talents and help build PACER Center's new [Students Against Bullying website \(http://www.pacer.org/bullying/bpaw/\)](http://www.pacer.org/bullying/bpaw/).
- Share PACER Center's [bullying prevention resources](http://www.pacer.org/bullying/bpaw/) with parents through the PTA or school newsletter.
- Organize a special bullying prevention event. Use PACER Center's [Toolkit for Elementary School Classrooms \(http://www.pacer.org/bullying/bpaw/toolkit.asp\)](http://www.pacer.org/bullying/bpaw/toolkit.asp) to talk to kids about what they can do about bullying.

PTA is a cosponsor of National Bullying Prevention Awareness Week. Check out the [Parent Resources: Safety section](http://www.pta.org) of www.pta.org for additional information about bullying, including cyberbullying.

Community-Wide Conversation with New PAUSD Superintendent Dr. Kevin Skelly

Wed Oct 24, Jordan Middle School Cafetorium, 7 to 9 p.m.
Location: 750 N. California Ave., at Newell Rd.

Candidate Forums

- Mon. 10/15: **Young Fives/PreSchool Family**, 4120 Middlefield Ave. 8:30 - 9:30a.m. All-Candidates Coffee
- Mon. 10/15: **Juana Briones Elementary**, 4100 Orme Street, 7p.m.- 9p.m. All-Candidates Forum
- Thurs. 10/18: **Palo Alto High School**, 8:30a.m-10a.m. All-Candidates Coffee & Forum
- Fri. 10/19: **Nixon Elementary**, 1711 Stanford Ave. 8:00a.m.-9:30a.m., All-Candidates Coffee & Forum
- Thurs.10/25: **Hoover Elementary**, 445 East Charleston Rd. 8a.m. - 9:30a.m., All-Candidates Coffee
- Thurs. 10/25: **Barron Park Elementary**, 800 Barron Ave., 7p.m. - 9p.m. All-Candidates Forum
- Fri. 10/26: **Jordan Middle School**, 750 N. California Ave., 8:30a.m.-9:30a.m. All-Candidates Coffee
- Mon. 10/29: **Terman Middle School**, 655 Arastradero, 7p.m. - 9p.m. All-Candidates Forum

About PTA...

PTA comprises more than 5.5 million parents and other concerned adults devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of parent involvement in schools. PTA flourishes in more than 25,000 school communities nationwide by harnessing the energy and talents of millions of volunteers to be: voices for all children; relevant resources for families and communities; and champions for the education and well-being of every child. PTA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who is concerned about the education, health, and welfare of children and youth.