

Torrance Council of PTAs
2335 Plaza del Amo
Torrance, CA 90505

Communicator

Torrance Council
PTA
everychild.onevoice.®

Thirty-Third District PTA, California State PTA

www.TorranceCouncilofPTAs.org

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**Denise Mandel, President
Cindy Wermers, Editor**

President' Message

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! Welcome back as we begin a new decade! Where were you? What were you doing? A decade ago, I had three children, two in elementary school and one in preschool. Today, I have four children two children in college, one in high school and the fourth in second grade. A decade ago I was driving a mini-van with a taxi sign on top. Today, a bite my nails as two of my babies drive off with their own dreams, one is chopping at the bits until he can take his driving courses and my daughter riding a bicycle. A decade ago, I couldn't wait until Today, I just want to freeze time! I have loved it all and would have imagined being where I am today. How about you? A decade ago, Torrance Council was working on providing our children with the best possible learning environment and advocating for all children. Today, thanks to all of you, our dedicated PTA/PTSA members, we remain steadfast in advocating for our children and their education.

Nominating Committees: This committee is the most critical committee that you will have all year and is crucial for the continued success of your unit. The parliamentarian is responsible for organizing the committee. The management of this committee and the member's ability to adhere to proper procedure and respect confidentiality are at the core of the future of your unit. Your Bylaws and Section 2.2 of the Toolkit talk about Nominations and Elections in detail. Please take this process seriously and emphasize the importance to your unit. If your parliamentarian has questions, please have them contact our Council Parliamentarian, Terry Ragins.

Denise Mandel
Torrance Council President

"Reflect upon your blessings, of which every man has plenty, not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some."
~Charles Dickens



Upcoming Dates:

JANUARY:

29 Staff Dev—No School
30 End of Qtr (Mid/High)

FEBRUARY:

03 Open Council Mtg
07 Super Bowl Sunday
08 Lincoln—No School
14 Valentine's Day
15 Washington-No School
17 PTA Founders Day

The Census: A Snapshot

Census 2010 is fast approaching. April 1, 2010 is census day in the U.S. and it is important to have 100% participation so that all U.S. residents – people of all races and ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens, can be counted. Please visit www.2010census.gov to get more information and be sure to complete your census questionnaire when you receive it.

Education Matters:

CitiCABLE, Time Warner – Channel 3 and Verizon – Channel 31

Every week, CitiCABLE's "This Week In Torrance" program showcases the *Education Matters* segment, covering news stories and school events around Torrance Unified School District. Please tune in every week at 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. A new show starts every Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

Reminder: TUSD Board of Education Application Process for Vacated Homeowners Association Position on Independent Citizen's Oversight Committee Closes on Jan. 21, 2010. At the December 7, 2009 TUSD Board of Education meeting, Board Members accepted the resignation of Michael Wermers, Homeowners' Association (HOA) committee member on the Measures Y & Z Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee. Additionally, they approved opening the application process on December 8, 2009 to fill the HOA position on the committee. HOA members interested in serving on this committee may access the application from the District website at <http://www.tusd.org/>. The application process will close on January 21, 2010 at 1:00pm. Applications can be dropped off at the TUSD Office of Superintendent at 2335 Plaza del Amo. Or mailed to the same address.



Winners of the Honeywell Student Automotive Design Challenge

Hannah De La Pena, Jaqueline Recinos, Elan Palacios, Samantha Tsumaki
Richardson Middle School

Next Meeting of the Board of Education

February 1, 2010
7:30pm

Location: TUSD Board Rm
Educational Materials Bldg
(EMB), 2nd floor
2336 Plaza del Amo
Torrance, Ca 90501

For more information, contact
Tammy Khan
tkhan@tusd.org

To subscribed to the
TUSD Online Newsletter,
go to
<http://www.tusd.org>



**First History of Torrance Walk
Hickory Elementary**

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back! I hope everyone enjoyed their vacation and had a fun holiday season. Every year TUSD employees at the school sites and in the District offices combine their resources to help needy families in our community celebrate the holidays. The donations they collect are used to buy gifts and supplies for the children and provide provisions to their families for holiday meals. Every year I am amazed at the generosity and compassion of the special people who work for our District. They consistently work to better the lives of those living in our community. Thank you for your efforts during the holidays and all year long!

As we enter the new year, California's economic challenges remain dire. The State is dealing with a \$6.3 billion budget gap for the current year. In the last two years TUSD has been forced to lay off 258 positions, which includes 160 certificated teaching positions. This translates to the loss of 12% of our certificated staff, yet the number of students we serve stays approximately the same. Class size has increased at every grade level. The average high school classroom now serves over 38 students. The District was forced to eliminate summer school, except for students who needed assistance with the California high school exit exam (CAHSEE). Counselors were eliminated at both the middle and high schools and almost all Tier 3 programs were negatively impacted, either significantly reduced in funding or completely eliminated. Some of the impacted programs include deferred maintenance, GATE, instructional materials, and the Arts and Music Block Grant program.

TUSD is committed to providing exceptional education to Torrance students. However, this task becomes increasingly challenging as the state's fiscal instability adversely affects the classroom. The state of California has some of the nation's highest academic standards and expectations, yet is the lowest in funding per student. The Governor and state legislators cannot continue to deplete our resources and continue to have the same expectations.

I will continue to provide updates to the community and voice our concerns to our state representatives. I urge parents, teachers, classified employees, and community members to also communicate with our legislators. We must collectively send the message that the state cannot close the budget deficit gap at the expense of our students' educational futures.

Dr. George Mannon



American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



The following health and safety tips are from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Feel free to excerpt these tips or use them in their entirety in any print or broadcast story with acknowledgement of source.

This tip, plus many others can be found at <http://www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/augschool.cfm>.

BULLYING:

Bullying is when one child picks on another child repeatedly. Bullying can be physical, verbal, or social. It can happen at school, on the playground, on the school bus, in the neighborhood, or over the Internet.

When Your Child Is Bullied

- Help your child learn how to respond by teaching your child how to 1) look the bully in the eye, 2) stand tall and stay calm in a difficult situation and 3) walk away. Teach your child how to say in a firm voice 1) "I don't like what you are doing", 2) "Please do NOT talk to me like that" and 3) "Why would you say that?". Teach your child when and how to ask for help. Encourage your child to make friends with other children. Support activities that interest your child. Alert school officials to the problems and work with them on solutions. Make sure an adult who knows about the bullying can watch out for your child's safety and well-being when you cannot be there.

When Your Child Is the Bully

- Be sure your child knows that bullying

is never OK. Set firm and consistent limits on your child's aggressive behavior. Be a positive role model. Show children they can get what they want without teasing, threatening or hurting someone. Use effective, non-physical discipline, such as loss of privileges. Develop practical solutions with the school principal, teachers, counselors, and parents of the children your child has bullied.

When Your Child Is a Bystander

- Tell your child not to cheer on or even quietly watch bullying. Encourage your child to tell a trusted adult about the bullying. Help your child support other children who may be bullied. Encourage your child to include these children in activities. Encourage your child to join with others in telling bullies to stop.

"The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything."

Unknown Author

TORRANCE RELAY FOR LIFE RETURNS TO SOUTH HIGH!



AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE

Celebrate.

Remember.

Fight Back.

Relay For Life is a life changing event that brings together more than 3.5 million people to...

Celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer

Remember loved ones lost to the disease

Fight Back against a disease that takes too much.



Torrance's 8th Annual Relay for Life will once again be held at South High, April 24-25, 2010 on the practice field! Teams of walkers will once again take to the track for 24 hours (because cancer never sleeps!) as participants in one of American Cancer Society's top fundraising events! This year's theme is "More Birthdays!"

At Relay For Life we **Celebrate** those living with cancer, **Remember** those who lost their battle, and **Fight Back** through raising awareness, education, and raising funds for research and cures! You can be involved by joining a team, purchasing a candle (luminary) in honor or memory of a loved one, donating your time or money, or simply joining us to walk a lap and enjoy some of the great entertainment!

We hope you'll be a part of Torrance's award-winning Relay For Life! It's a community event you don't want to miss!

Cindy Shields
TRFL Entertainment Chair
LAFNGIRL@verizon.net

For more information please visit <http://www.relayforlife.org/torranceca>.

PTA IS DEVELOPING COMMUNITY UNITY

Hearty Holiday Luncheon Thank You's

A hearty thanks to all that attended the Torrance Council of PTAs Annual Holiday Luncheon. This year's event hosted over 100 folks at the Toyota Museum kicked off with the wonderful melodies of the Riviera Choral Group. After introductions and a brief meeting, we indulged in a wonderful luncheon of Chicken Picatta, Garlic Potatoes, Asparagus, Pasta and dessert catered by the wonderful Critic's Choice and end the day with our Opportunity Drawing which raised over \$1100.00 for the Council Scholarship Fund benefitting TUSD High School Seniors. Thank you to all the units that donated items for the drawing as well as everyone that purchase drawing tickets and donated the Torrance Police Department's Toys for Tots Drive . And thank you to the Toyota Museum staff for graciously hosting this memorable event.

Karen Cristy
2nd Vice President
Membership Chairperson

COLLEGE FAIR AND SCHOLARSHIPS

South High to host College Fair 2010

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 27, 2010 from 10am-2pm to attend this exciting and informative event! Open to all high school students (and their parents) and it's FREE! Due to its popularity, we're even offering an *extra hour by opening the doors at 10!* Details are still being confirmed but we expect to have over 100 representatives from colleges as well as expert presenters holding workshops. Some of the workshop topics will include but are not limited to: financial planning for college, raising SAT and ACT scores, college preparation, and how to stand out in essays and interviews. Counselors from each of the TUSD high schools will also be on hand to assist and answer questions as well. Last year over 800 students and parents attended and all agreed at how helpful and beneficial the College Fair experience was. For the latest updates, please check out the websites at www.TUSD.org and South High's at www.shs.tusd.org. This annual event is put on by the Torrance Council of PTAs in conjunction with (and rotated each year among) the four TUSD high schools. *South High* is located at 4801 Pacific Coast Highway, Torrance, 90505 and the College Fair will be held in the Gym. Hope to see you there!

Cindy Shields
3rd VP, Parent Education
Torrance Council of PTAs

Don't miss out on PTA scholarships for graduating seniors Feb. 1 due date

Looking for money for college? California State PTA offers \$500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Selection is based on community service. A PTA/PTSA membership card is required in order to apply. Click [here](#) to find more information and application forms. Completed applications, including a copy of each applicant's PTA/PTSA membership card, are due in the California State PTA office by February 1, 2010. Don't miss out on this opportunity to get help for the costs of college! Please share this with all members of your high school's PTA/PTSA.

everychild.onevoice.

The California State PTA has nearly 1 million members throughout the state working on behalf of public schools, children and families, with the motto, "Every child, one voice." The PTA is the nation's oldest, largest and highest profile volunteer organization working to improve the education, health and welfare of all children and youth. The PTA also advocates at national, state and local levels for education and family issues. The PTA is nonprofit, nonsectarian and noncommercial.

For more information about the California State PTA, visit www.capta.org.

TORRANCE COUNCIL OF PTAs OPEN COUNCIL MEETING AND LUNCHEON.

February 3, 2010, 9am
Social, 9:30 Meeting at
the Toyota Meeting Hall,
3300 Civic Center Drive,
Torrance, CA 90503

Ticket Tumbler? You Need It, Council PTA Has It!

Perhaps you've had a great idea for an opportunity drawing but lack of a ticket tumbler was holding you back from success. Or perhaps you had a little ticket tumbler envy at the Holiday Lunch. Well, turn that frown upside down, Torrance Council of PTAs can help. Our ticket tumbler is available for loan at no cost! That's right! We ask for a \$100 deposit in exchange for the tumbler. Please contact Karen Cristy kristy@socal.rr.com to reserve.

California State
PTA
everychild.onevoice.

www.capta.org

TUSD OPEN ENROLLMENT

TUSD Open Enrollment and Permits Available Beginning February 2010

Torrance Unified School District will again offer residents of Torrance the opportunity to choose where they would like their children in grades K-12 to attend school within the District if space is available. Parents wishing to continue in their neighborhood school are guaranteed a place at their home school and need not take any other action. Parents interested in participating in this program for the 2010/2011 school year should contact any Torrance School in February or March for an application. Please remember, moving to a new address in Torrance does not cancel or void Open Enrollment.

OPEN ENROLLMENT: FEBRUARY 1 – MARCH 13

If parents would like to apply for an Intradistrict or Interdistrict Permit for their student, please visit www.tusd.org for more information. The following dates are when the specific permits will be available to be submitted to the Child Welfare and Attendance Office.

INTRADISTRICT (WITHIN TUSD): MARCH 22 – MAY 7 **INTERDISTRICT (LEAVING TUSD:) APRIL 26**

Applications must be submitted in person on the following days to the Torrance Unified School District Child Welfare and Attendance Office located upstairs at 2335 Plaza del Amo.

REFLECTIONS 2009-2010 / "Beauty Is....."

Congratulations to all Torrance students who participated in the National Reflections Program "Beauty is".

The Award of Excellence was sent to the Thirty-Third District judges for the next round of judging. Torrance Council is very proud of the Reflections Program and would like to encourage every student in Torrance to participate in next years program.

Again, Congratulations to all.
Joyce Barney, Torrance Council of PTAs, Reflections Chair

There were almost
1500 entries from
27 schools.

Torrance Council of PTAs Reflections 2009-2010 Award of Excellence (1st Place)

Literature:

Halle Holzbauer	Primary	Riviera Elementary
Brooke Magidson	Intermediate	Fern Elementary
Amber Alvarez Odle	Middle	Magruder Middle
Soo Yun Kim	Senior	North High

Film/Video Production:

Hope Arnett	Primary	Walteria Elementary
Ruka Najashima	Intermediate	Hickory Elementary
Jonas Schumacher	Middle	Magruder Middle
Lindsay Yamada	Senior	North High

Visual Arts:

Shutaro Kato	Primary	Fern Elementary
Traci Kozawa	Intermediate	Victor Elementary
Karesa Yee	Middle	Bert Lynn Middle
Soomin Chun	Senior	North High

Dance Choreography:

Karah Lee	Primary	Towers Elementary
Claudia Baker	Intermediate	Walteria Elementary
Alexandra Appel	Middle	Bert Lynn Middle
Lorna Banuilos	Senior	West High

Music:

Eleah Kang	Primary	Towers Elementary
Megan Chang	Intermediate	Arnold Elementary
Elle Cheung	Middle	Bert Lynn Middle
Will Bingemann	Senior	South High

Photography:

Eleah Kang	Primary	Towers Elementary
Hana Escovar	Intermediate	Arlington Elem
Amanda Ramos	Middle	Calle Mayor Middle
Kristi Matoba	Senior	Torrance High

The Theme for
2010-2011 is
"Together we can".



Kacey Kim
Kindergarten, Age 6
2008-2009 State Reflections Winner



Alice Yang
8th Grade, Age 12
2008-2009 State Reflections Winner

REFLECTIONS 2009-2010 / "Beauty Is....." - cont'd.

**Torrance Council of PTAs
Reflections 2009-2010
Award of Merit (2nd place)**

**Torrance Council of PTAs
Reflections 2009-2010
Award of Merit (3rd Place)**

Literature:

Madeline Pierce	Primary	Adams Elementary
Gracie Martin	Intermediate	Seaside Elementary
Sherri Knappenberger	Middle	J. H. Hull Middle
Alyson Perez	Senior	South High

Sharanya Chahar	Primary	Victor Elementary
Emily Welch	Intermediate	Towers Elementary
Sara Park	Middle	Calle Mayor Middle
Miriam Kae	Senior	Torrance High

Film/Video Production:

Harry Kaplan	Primary	Hickory Elementary
Camron Amintinat	Intermediate	Victor Elementary
Chasen Tiratira	Middle	Madrona Middle
Lane Erickson	Senior	South High

Jennifer Lau	Primary	Arnold Elementary
Timothy Lau	Intermediate	Arnold Elementary
Shelby Bellomo	Middle	Bert Lynn Middle
David Wayman	Senior	West High

Visual Arts:

Connie Lee	Primary	Hickory Elementary
Matthew Shelden	Intermediate	Edison Elementary
Ella Gregory	Middle	Madrona Middle
Jane Lee	Senior	West High

Brandon Mizobe	Primary	Lincoln Elementary
Anthony Chong	Intermediate	Riviera Elementary
Helen Chen	Middle	J.H. Hull Middle
Andrew Core	Senior	Torrance High

Dance Choreography:

Faith Arnett	Primary	Walteria Elementary
Sanchita Kedia	Intermediate	Arnold Elementary
C. Ulualo Coleman	Middle	Madrona Middle
Tiffany Mikamo	Senior	North High

Harry Kaplan	Primary	Hickory Elementary
Kristi Smith	Intermediate	Fern Elementary
Noah Choi	Middle	Jefferson Middle
Jane Kang	Senior	Torrance High

Music:

Jordan Atkinson	Primary	Hickory Elementary
Edward Xu	Intermediate	Seaside Elementary
Ru Ekanayake	Middle	Richardson Middle
Kristi Nakashima	Senior	Torrance High

Randall Scharpf	Primary	Hickory Elementary
Cindy Cao	Intermediate	Riviera Elementary
Eric Xu	Middle	Calle Mayor Middle

Photography:

Harry Kaplan	Primary	Hickory Elementary
Megan Tsubota	Intermediate	Towers Elementary
Luke Wieten	Middle	Richardson Middle
Erika Harris	Senior	West High

Gideon Song	Primary	Lincoln Elementary
Kyle O'Neal	Intermediate	Anza Elementary
Ivan Yi	Middle	Jefferson Middle
Anastassia Olmos	Senior	North High

REFLECTIONS 2009-2010 / "Beauty Is....." - cont'd.

**Torrance Council of PTAs
Reflections 2009-2010
Participation Awards**

Aadya Naveen	Anza	Mackenzie Holloway	Seaside
Abigail Palompo	Arnold	Maile Kamada	Magruder
Addison Evans	Hickory	Megan Maekawa	Anza
Airi Sekine	Adams	Melissa Smith	Edison
Alexander Zhao	South	Mia Kobayashi	Anza
Alice Lee	Riviera	Mia Tyrell	Hickory
Amanda Goepfner	Madrona	Michael Nishida	Bert Lynn
Andrew Choi	Anza	Michelle Park	Bert Lynn
Andrea Caballeo	Fern-Greenwood	Monica Yee	Arnold
Anna Radmilovich	Walteria	Natalia Fleming	South
Ben Tyrrell	Hickory	Nicolas Petrus	Jefferson
Brennan Tominaga	Arlington	Nicole Lee	Arnold
Brooke Barnard	Victor	Nisha Nirmal	Walteria
Cameron Taylor	Seaside	Noah Yi	Fern-Greenwood
Christian Song	Lincoln	Nona Chai	Jefferson
Christioher Doninquez	Arlington	Rachel Lemke	Richardson
Christoher SooHoo	Lincoln	Riley Saavedra	Torrance El
Daichi Kakazy	Magruder	Riley Symons	Riviera
Daniel King	Wood	Rory Abberton	Edison
David Montefalcon	Wood	Ryan Smith	Fern-Greenwood
Dayuen Kim	Arnold	Ryan Wolff	Walteria
Drew Sasaki	Arnold	Sabrina Kim	Walteria
Eliana Pandian	Victor	Sajid Manzoor	Victor
Ellen Yamaguchi	Seaside	Sakura Oshimo	Hickory
Emily Pereira	Adams	Samantha Tito	Torrance El
Gabrielle Straten	Walteria	Savannah Ponce	Adams
Gene Hotta	Arlington	Serena Jauregui	Torrance El
George Fu	Towers	Shane Cotton	Riviera
Jacob Wong	Edison	Shane Inaba	Fern-Greenwood
Jacqueline Tran	Seaside	Shashank Coorapati	Victor
James Gack	Edison	Shelby Bellomo	Bert Lynn
Jared Maekawa	Anza	Siera Misumi	Arlington
Jaymie Taniguchi	Adams	Simran Sharma	Victor
Jenna Gebhart	Anza	Stefan Ecklund	West
Jenna Ikemoto	Casimir	Szonya Shackelford	Fern-Greenwood
Jessica Rivello	Wood	Thea Domingo	J. H. Hull
Josh Witherspoon	Riviera	Ty Koeller	Madrona
Joycelyn Peng	Richardson	Tyler DaRocha	Edison
Jung Lakin	Edison	Uialii Coleman	Hickory
Justin Gebhart	Jefferson	Wesley SooHoo	Lincoln
Kassie Cochran	Torrance El	Yeji Cho	Seaside
Kaylin Ham	Adams	Yo-Han Seol	Calle Mayor
Kira Escovar	Arlington	Yuki Sugiyama	Richardson
Lin Onn Seto	Torrance El		