Increase the Span of Your Unit's Reach
Help Make 2012 the Year of WE

Our motto in PTA is: Every Child. One Voice. And that motto has never been more meaningful than now, here in our own district - open enrollment, program improvement school transportation of students, potential school closures and consolidation means that children at any other district school could at any time become students at our own schools. Yet so often we are so engaged in our local unit activities that it is challenging to take part in broader programs and advocacy efforts that have impact beyond our own campuses. Let's all commit ourselves to making 2012 the year of WE, and together we will:

- Work for Every child, with one voice.
- Work more Efficiently
- Work to Engage and Empower our members.
- Work to Extend our impact beyond individual school sites and across the district.

It's clear we have work to do, so here are a few ways we can get started on our effort.

5 Ways Your Unit Can Spread It's WE-ngs

1. Become an Organ-ization Donor (Contribute seed money to a neighboring new PTA unit). Here in Sacramento Council, we have a number of units that have recently chartered. These units are working hard to raise funds to support their organizational obligations, such as insurance premiums. The time spent fundraising has minimized these units' ability to establish partnership with the community, provide programs, and support advocacy efforts at the unit and Council levels. If your unit is financially stable and has a carryover balance, providing seed money is a great way to reach beyond your school's boundaries and support even more children. Seed money is also an allowable expense within the IRS 501 (c) (3) non-profit guidelines. You can contact your unit counselor for specific units that would benefit from your help.
2. Support Council Programs Are you a fan of the arts? Support the Reflections program with a donation to support the Awards program February 3. Help ensure our children are recognized accordingly for their commitment to art and willingness to share their talents. ..... Serving every school site within SCUSD, the PTA Children's Clothes Closet is truly a gem of the community. Our ability to sustain operations is dependent upon the contributions of our Sacramento Council units. Beyond financial donations, your unit can engage parent and student volunteers at your school site to assist with washing, folding, and sorting of clothes, or even to coordinate collection and transportation of school site clothing donations or lost and found materials. For those individuals truly passionate about this effort, there are opportunities to assist onsite at the Clothes Closet with families receiving referrals for services.
3. Get Engaged Authentic Parent Engagement is not only one of the most effective tools for

School-Family Partnerships, it is also a key component of a healthy, effective PTA organization. In today's on-the-go society, it is more important than ever that our PTA's engage parents on their terms. While our presence on the school site is at the foundation of our work, it's what we do beyond the campus that allows our units to truly blossom and become true cornerstones of the community. There are many ways to do it: start a Facebook page, hold a meeting at a local restaurant or other venue, support the Parent Teacher Home Visit Project at your school, either as a host family, visitor, or through funding.

4. Join the Network Networking at events and while out and about is a high effective and efficient way to keep your finger on the pulse of the community. Be an ambassador for your unit and Council by sharing with family, friends, neighbors, and other community members the great work that we are doing in PTA locally and across the country. Simply educating or re-educating someone about the true mission and vision of PTA can have a lasting impact. Attending School Board meetings and other district events and indicating your PTA affiliation opens eyes to our presence in varying efforts on behalf of children, and introduces you to friendly faces across the district and beyond.

5. Hop on the Train Continuing Education is a great way to gain new skills or refine existing skills, and provides exposure to many areas in which you can get involved. As you seek to engage new and existing leaders in your PTA, you should try to identify their areas of skill and passion and match them appropriately with service areas within the PTA umbrella. There are many people who would like to become involved with PTA, but don't feel like there is a place for them - it is our duty as PTA leaders to facilitate their entry into the PTA realm, and make their service experience enjoyable, rewarding and lasting. Now is a great time to begin your effort! Engage parents, teachers, and staff across your site and come out together to our Training on January 19th at Bret Harte Elementary. There is a workshop for EVERYONE! From PTA to Finance to Parent Education, this will be a rewarding experience for all who attend. Further details are provided to the left. We look forward to seeing you!

Meet Your Counselor

Did you know that as a member of Sacramento Council of PTAs, your unit has access to experienced PTA leaders to assist with any questions, provide training, and support your unit programs? If you haven't already interacted with you counselor, you can find the counselor assignments below. Feel free to reach out to your counselor for any questions, big or small.

HAVE QUESTIONS? - CONTACT YOUR SACRAMENTO COUNCIL COUNSELOR

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