



## President's Message

Dear Friends of PTA,

Welcome to the new school year! As we navigate the changing circumstances that come from living with Covid – 19 and its variants, we need to be prepared to pivot to support our children and families as the virus and pandemic evolves. Fortunately, most of our schools will begin to open to full faculty and student capacity, but health and safety must remain at the forefront of our decisions to educate our children. As PTA leaders, we must respect the guidance of our school districts and local health leaders regarding health and safety rules for activities on campuses.

As our children return to school, the PTA will need to be creative in supporting our children and families. Distance learning has exacerbated the inherent inequalities due to the digital divide, family schedules, most especially for our socioeconomically disadvantaged families. Many of our students have suffered learning loss, and still more may have anxiety about returning to in-person learning.

So how can PTA help? Having fewer parents on campus leads to many challenges. However, our PTAs should continue to serve as the connection between families and school leaders to help facilitate the communication of best practices and protocols, needs of the school, and needs of students and families.

Please join us in our efforts to support local PTAs in building and maintaining their communities during this time. **Santa Clara Valley PTA** exists to do just that. The Sixth District PTA Board chartered the Santa Clara Valley PTA, in 2006, to facilitate supporting PTAs at low-wealth schools. We do that by offering mentoring and training as well as providing monetary gifts and grants to help them. We hope you will become a member, and we welcome your thoughts and ideas to help support our local PTAs.

**We value your support. Please become a member of the Santa Clara Valley PTA.**

Thank you!

**Laura Raimondi**

**President, Santa Clara Valley PTA**

## **You're Invited!**

**Come join us** at our next association meeting on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 6:30 pm. We will be approving our budget, adopting our audit and all the usual business items. We will then be continuing our discussion on race by sharing a portion of our program from March 2021 with Mr. Leon Beauchman MA, AMFT, and introducing our SCV PTA Book Club!

**Date: October 20, 2021**

**Time: 6:30 pm to 7:10 pm – Association Meeting**

**7:15 to 9:00 pm – Program**

In March of 2020, we had the pleasure of listening live to Mr. Beauchman's presentation. We felt we needed to continue the discussion and we will be sharing a portion of the recorded presentation this evening to get us started. We will also be introducing our **SCV PTA Book Club and our first reading selection!**

**A discussion hosted by Santa Clara Valley PTA**

**Recording of Speaker: Leon Beauchman, MA, AMFT**

**Topic: "A Parent's Guide to Talking about Racism"**

The pandemic has emphasized the inherent inequities in our society, bringing the issues of diversity and social justice to the forefront of our conversations. So how do we speak to our children about the social structures that support a society divided by race? How do we navigate the difficult questions that our children look to us to answer? Join us in learning how to speak to our children about racism.

Leon Beauchman is an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist working in local schools. He serves as President of the Santa Clara County Alliance of Black Educators and is a former board member of the Santa Clara County Office of Education and Campbell Union School District.

**Please register in advance for this meeting:**

When: October 20, 2021 6:30PM (Pacific Time)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZosdeyhqTooHNDNXIbtngxhFohdGIAiDAahh>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out by email to [president@scvpta6.org](mailto:president@scvpta6.org).

## Membership



We value your support. Please become a member of the Santa Clara Valley PTA.

Membership is only \$10 per person, and it is tax deductible. For a downloadable membership form, visit our website at [Join SCV PTA](#); or join online at [Join SCVPTA Online Totem](#).

Please feel free to invite family members, friends, and neighbors to join as well. You don't have to have a child in school to join the PTA. You just have to care about children and public education.

## Membership perks

Enjoy membership benefits with being a member of Santa Clara Valley PTA. Visit CA State PTA's website at <https://capta.org/join/member-perks/> to see what we have to offer. Some offers include 15% discount with Farm Fresh to You and PCR COVID-19 testing among others.

**Member  
Perks**

## Grants awarded!

SCVPTA Grant Program, Fall, 2021

SCVPTA's Grant Program is alive and well! Consistent with our mission to support and strengthen PTAs within Sixth District, SCVPTA was able to extend grant opportunities to over 50 units in the Santa Clara and Monterey counties. Our focus was to assist units struggling to maintain and grow membership. As the pandemic continues to limit creative methods to reach out to families and teachers, this late summer/fall grant endeavor allowed us to bolster membership campaigns from Monterey to Milpitas to Cupertino. Six units were granted up to \$75 allowing them to enhance their membership drives with such items as a PTA tablecloth to increase the visibility of their on-campus presence, a gift basket to award at an opportunity drawing, and a chance to go shopping at the CAPTA store! As the school year continues, SCVPTA looks forward to expanding this program to make available more essential tools for PTAs throughout the Sixth District region.



Susan Canty, SCVPTA Grant Program



**NO SMOKING/VAPING**

## **PTA, Nicotine, and Our Children’s Health**

The PTA has worked for many years to reduce smoking among teenagers. California State PTA still has on its books a convention resolution entitled [Smoking and Health](#), adopted in 1964.

In recent years, however, flavored tobacco products and vape products (health researchers call them “Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems”) have led to a startling rise in tobacco use and nicotine addiction among high-schoolers and even middle-schoolers.

In the 2019-2020 school year, Palo Alto Council of PTAs developed a convention resolution entitled [E-Cigarettes/Vaping, Flavored Tobacco Products, and Youth Health](#). It was adopted at our Statewide Annual Meeting in June 2020.

Palo Alto Council continues to do important work on vaping within Palo Alto Unified. SCV PTA is working in other areas, building on the efforts begun by Palo Alto Council.

(1) We have attended, and spoken at, meetings of the San José City Council, in support of a proposed ordinance restricting the retail sales of vaping products and flavored tobacco. On September 28, [the City Council voted unanimously to adopt it](#).

Several other cities in the Bay Area, including Palo Alto, San Francisco, and Oakland, and Santa Clara County itself, which has jurisdiction over unincorporated areas, have adopted similar ordinances.

Last year, the State Legislature adopted, and the Governor signed into law, a similar statewide bill. The tobacco industry mounted a campaign to force a statewide referendum before the law can take effect. The referendum is scheduled for November 2022. Stay tuned!

(2) To stay informed and connected, we participate in the monthly meetings of the Santa Clara County Tobacco-Free Coalition.

(3) Vaping and flavored tobacco are important problems everywhere, so we have formed a Resolution Committee to explore bringing to National PTA some of the ideas and policies expressed in State PTA’s resolution. Erwin Morton (SCV PTA VP Advocacy) is the committee chair; Jade Chao and Eileen Kim also serve on the committee. Jade was the “maker” (author) of the 2020 Resolution; Eileen and Erwin were on her committee for that effort.

(4) If your school, your community, or your PTA is struggling with problems caused by these products, SCV PTA will be happy to share ideas, information, and resources.

-- Erwin Morton, VP Advocacy, [advocacy@scvpta6.org](mailto:advocacy@scvpta6.org)

## SCV PTA – A brief history

Santa Clara Valley

**PTA**<sup>®</sup>

*everychild.one voice.*<sup>®</sup>

Santa Clara Valley PTA was chartered within Sixth District in 2006 to be a PTA unit untethered to a specific school. SCV PTA is the vehicle for people who support PTA and/or had “aged out” of traditional school PTA membership and/or wanted to be active in PTA to do just that. One of the original ideas for creating SCV PTA was to expand the capacity of Sixth District PTA by being able to do PTA unit tasks that a District PTA cannot do.

Some of the tasks that SCV PTA has done, and continues to do, is role model PTA operations for rookie PTA leaders who are SCV PTA officers that take their learning back to their children’s schools, comprise Sixth District scholarship committees to award the Barbara Emerich scholarships to high school seniors as well as PTA Convention scholarships to emerging PTA leaders within Sixth District and assist Out of Council units.

Programs SCV PTA has offered to our members and the broader Sixth District community include: the very popular EBTKS (Everything but the Kitchen Sink) where SCV PTA officers hold an open session for PTA leaders come to ask questions and get help on whatever issue they are facing, Tax Help Days, Book Club where an education-issue book discussion is led by a SCV PTA officer, help struggling units and providing monetary grants to Councils and units.

SCV PTA has also authored a number of documents to help PTA units both function as an organization and resources to make their work easier. Some examples include: Essential Calendar, Program Resources Guide, etc.

Marcie Brown, SCVPTA Historian

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### 2021-2022 Adopted Goals:

- Attain membership with 80 members.
- Mentor one or two struggling/new units and assist the Sixth District OOC chair as needed.
- Provide financial assistance through an ongoing Grant program.
- Advocate on behalf of children families, schools in Sixth District.



**Our 2021-2022 Officers:**

President:	Laura Raimondi
Executive VP:	Naomi Higaki
VP Membership:	Wendy Akers-Ghose
VP Communications:	OPEN
VP Advocacy:	Erwin Morton
Secretary:	Susan Canty
Treasurer:	Tami Borba
Auditor:	Dinah Showman
Parliamentarian	Diane Foote
Historian:	Marcie Brown

Visit SCV PTA online at <https://scvpta6.org/> for more information about our PTA.

Email President Laura Raimondi at [president@scvpta6.org](mailto:president@scvpta6.org) or EVP Naomi Higaki at [communications@scvpta6.org](mailto:communications@scvpta6.org) if you have questions, comments or concerns.



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## **Santa Clara Valley PTA is better...with YOU! Your SCV PTA membership helps support PTA units in Sixth District PTA!**

*“Santa Clara Valley PTA is unlike any other PTA you’ve ever been a member of – we have no school, no principal, and no students!”*

We exist to support other PTAs, in particular, low-wealth PTAs through grants and mentorship.

To assist PTAs as they worked to support their school communities in 2020-2021, we provided grants for:

- purchasing hotspots to help close the digital divide,
- providing a community bonding Family Virtual Paint Event, and
  - funding materials for an afterschool program.

In 2021-2022, we have awarded six grants to help with membership outreach and will continue to provide additional grants to PTAs this year.

*We invite community members to join Santa Clara Valley PTA, as we work to support PTAs in the counties of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito.”*

*- Laura Raimondi, SCVPTA President*



### **Here’s how to join Santa Clara Valley PTA:**

Join [online](#) or by [mail](#)

For more information:

Visit <https://scvpta6.org/>

Santa Clara Valley PTA  
1290 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95131 \* <https://scvpta6.org/>