

PAEA **BUZZZ**

FEB 2010

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PALO ALTO EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

STEPS CHALLENGE

WOW! We have **377** walkers and **33** teams district wide. Every site is participating. I know this because I have visited each site to deliver those super, stupendous, fabulous, incredibly accurate, dependable and error-free pedometers. ;-)

It has been great fun to walk onto a site and right away see folks asking each other, “What are you up to today?”, “How many did you get yesterday?”... Some teachers have gotten their students involved. Mangla Oza’s kids at Duveneck remind her to keep pacing as she teaches. Students at Hays tap their feet to keep their teacher moving. We do not know the results of the Step Challenge as of today. I will issue an announcement as soon as we do.

If you see Allye Mullins give her a thumbs up she has done yeoman’s work keeping all this information organized.

DISABILITY INSURANCE

Did you know that teachers are not eligible for State Disability? The Standard a CTA endorsed disability insurance company is offering a No Questions Asked open enrollment this month, **February** 2010. If we have 10% of our members sign up at this time they will waive all medical exams and cover preexisting conditions. The insurance guarantees you 75% of your income should you be unable to work for any medical reason including pregnancy. Paul Brunetta a representative from The Standard will be coming out to the sites to answer questions and help folks sign up. The pamphlets should be in your staff room and the link is on the CTA home page <http://www.cta.org/home.aspx>. **DON’T MISS OUT ON THIS CHANCE** to insure income for you or your family in the event of an injury or illness. The schedule of visits is on page 3 of this Buzzz.

SUPPORT THE PARCEL TAX

The school board gave the go ahead for the parcel tax campaign at their last meeting. Ask your PTA person at your school where you can get a button or a lawn sign. The election will be a mail in ballot on May 4th. The committee has joined Facebook as SupportPaloAlto Schools2010.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Folks are worried about their jobs. All around we see teachers being laid off and class sizes going back to the early 1990 levels. Cupertino recently decided to go back to 30 to 1 and that district is looking to cover an \$8 million shortfall. The state cola is a negative .38%.

In Palo Alto administrators are not planning on sending out layoff notices on March 15th.

Palo Alto gets most of its funding from property tax and this year growth is flat. The district is counting on the renewal and expansion of the parcel tax as well as use of this years positive ending balance to meet our structural deficit. We are all counting on passage of the parcel tax to help get us through this economic crisis. Please plan on doing your share to help the campaign.

Projected budget shortfall for next year	(5.1 million)
Positive ending balance in June 2010	6.4 million
This will be used to offset budget deficits going forward at approximately 2 million per year.	
Parcel Tax renewed and expanded brings in new \$s	1.8 million
That leaves a shortfall for next year of	(1.3 million)

The budget reduction talks we all went through this past semester were undertaken to find the 1.3 million that needs to be cut. The board will hear the staff recommendations on February 9th in a mid day study session. The recommendations will be available in the board packet for that evenings regular board session.

PARCEL TAX

The District is planning on asking the community to renew and expand the current parcel tax to \$493 this coming May. The new tax would add an additional \$96 a year per parcel and a 2% COLA in future years. The current tax brings in 9.4 million dollars the new tax approximately 11 million. **Think of this as 110 teachers jobs.** One out of every 8 teachers. PAEA heartily endorses the parcel tax. The educational experience in Palo Alto will not be the same without these funds.

Several local districts proposed parcel taxes on the November ballot which did not pass. Every teacher needs to campaign in favor of the parcel tax. Wear a button, volunteer at a phone bank, take or hand out lawn signs. Talk to your PTA person.

SCHEDULE FOR DISABILITY INSURANCE VISITS AT SITES

DATE	LUNCH	AFTER SCHOOL
Tuesday February 2		Terman
Wednesday February 3		Barron Park
Tuesday February 9	Briones	Children's Hosp.
Wednesday February 10	Duveneck	
Tuesday February 16	Fairmeadow	GUNN High
Wednesday February 17	Hoover	JLS Middle
Thursday February 18	Jordan	
Friday February 19	Escondido	
Monday February 22	Nixon	
Tuesday February 23	Ohlone	Paly High
Wednesday February 24	Palo Verde	Addison
Thursday February 25	Hays	
Friday February 26	El Carmelo	

MEMBER SURVEY

We will be sending out another online survey in February. It will be on the subject of health care cost concerns which we will need to address in the coming years. If you have not yet given your private email to us please do so when you get the email request. Free email accounts are available through google mail.

Your site rep has information comparing PAUSD to surrounding basic aid districts. When it comes to spending on salaries and benefits PAUSD ranks # 1. Ask your site rep. for the details.

Feb. Rep Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 2/18 4:00–6:00 PM at Palo Alto High School. Your hosts Magdalena Rivera and Eric Bloom

Stop in to the meeting when it is at your site.

Site Reps for 09-10

Addison- Teri Baldwin	Barron Park Rusty Tooley	Briones Mary Goodkind Sue Garadis	Children's Hospital Kevin Danie	Duveneck Mangla Oza Grace Bunya	El Carmelo Diane McCoy
Escondido Richard Garcia Amanda Dungan	Fairmeadow Barbara Carlson Valerie Sabbag	Greendell Marion Krause	Hays Rachel Shepherd Kevin Rouse	Hoover Lonnie Spencer Peter Lee	Nixon Beryl Deremigio Janice Mulholland
Ohlone Kim Prescott Ashley McCrea	Palo Verde Matt Lindner Sheri Cundall	Traveling/Music BJ Floersheim	Traveling/PE Karen Dolkas	25 churchill Room for one or a share	
Terman Lynn Repetsky Mark Dungan Martin Vetter Tijen Sambul	JLS Julia Brown Hayley Dupuy Andrea Gruner Linda Howard Tom Kang Tim Sato	Jordan Keith Clarke Sarah Pierce Joleen Roach Mary Sano Maria Thomas	Gunn G. Garger Ken Plough ROOM FOR MORE	PALY Eric Bloom Magdalena Rivera ROOM FOR MORE	

If you would like to be a Representative for your site contact Triona Gogarty. There are once a month meetings for which you receive a stipend. Each site can have more than one representative and rep. positions can be shared.

Please send comments, suggestions or requests for the Buzzz to

Triona Gogarty - trionago@gmail.com

Buzzz is posted online at paeacta.org