



July 2011

Hello Sunnyside Families,

The Sunnyside PTA welcomes you to our community. We are proud to have a school that reflects the diversity inherent in San Francisco. Though our life experiences and backgrounds may be vastly different, we are all committed to creating a safe school environment filled with joyful, successful learners.

In an effort to soften the blow of state and city budget cuts, our community of Sunnyside families, teachers, and volunteers contribute thousands of hours of volunteer work, talent, and donations to bring amazing changes to our school. Here are just a few things we can accomplish thanks to generous donations of time and money.

****NEW** Technology Upgrades** – Last year, the PTA purchased \$13,000 worth of state-of-the-art document cameras and digital projectors for our classrooms. Parents also installed wireless modem routers and classroom computers, expanding wifi access to the entire school. In 2011-2012 our goal is to add a mobile laptop lab for all of our students to use. The PTA needs to raise \$10,000 this year to purchase our laptop cart.

Healthy Lunch Program – Sunnyside PTA spends over \$2,500 each year to support a healthy lunch recess with paid lunch monitors and volunteer parents who help daily in the cafeteria and on the schoolyard. We also purchase playground equipment to ensure fun and safe activities for our children.

Arts Education – Sunnyside PTA has been able to keep arts education alive, despite chronic budget cuts. This year the PTA will spend almost \$10,000 for our children to participate in visual arts instruction, music lessons, and dance/movement classes with professional artists-in-residence.

Literacy – The PTA supports reading skills by providing a paid consultant who helps struggling readers. We are also buying new classroom books this year. In 2011-12 we will spend over \$12,000 on these vital services.

****NEW** Math Enrichment** – The PTA is allocating \$11,250 this year to support a NEW project-based math learning program that will teach math through hands-on activities.

****NEW** Organic School Garden** – In 2011-2012 the PTA will spend \$12,000 to hire a new part-time garden coordinator to bring science into the schoolyard.

The school district provides only a fraction of the resources needed to support these and other programs. Your donations, employer matches, and participation in our events provide consistent funding so that we can continue to provide these programs – as well as classroom supplies, field trips, science supplies, and more.

Sunnyside families also like to have fun together! SAVE THESE DATES:

- **Kindergarten Play Date** – August 6 from 10:00 to noon at Sunnyside Playground
- **Kindergarten Meet and Greet** – August 8 from 2:00pm to 3:00pm at Sunnyside Elementary
- **Kindergarten Orientation** – Thursday, August 11 from 6:00 to 7:00pm in the school auditorium
- **Welcome Coffee** – Monday, August 15 after drop off, on the first day of school in the auditorium
- **First 2011-12 PTA Meeting** – Monday, August 22 at 5:30pm
- **Parents Night Out (Happy Hour for parents)** – Saturday, Sept. 17 from 5:00 to 7:30 pm
- **Run to Sunnyside (walk-a-thon and family picnic/potluck)** – Sunday, Sept. 25, 10:00 am to 1 pm

Get involved today! Please take a moment to review the enclosed volunteer opportunities and to fill out the “PTA Membership and Pledge Form.” Thank you!

See you at school!

Cathy Meyer

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Mom of Brandon (3rd Grade) and Keira (1st Grade)