

President's Letter
October 2009

No pessimist ever discovered the secrets of the stars, or sailed to an uncharted land, or opened a new heaven to the human spirit. –Helen Keller

Being optimistic can cause people to want to slap your perky face or call you Pollyanna. But we're hoping that optimism is contagious, and that a perennial sunny outlook on the future will create an environment of discovery and new ways to solve the problems of the state budget crisis.

Thankfully, this forward thinking mentality is what led the voters to pass the Measure V parcel tax this summer, and the Peninsula Education Foundation to increase their pledge to the district to \$2MM, \$1MM going to teacher salaries. If those plans had not been put in place by very optimistic people, we would be looking at a much greater budget deficit. Currently, the state has reduced the PVPUSD budget by \$1,100 per student, or about \$13-\$14MM. Almost assuredly, more cuts will be imposed in the January revisions, due to continued lost revenue to the state.

What can we do? As a PTSA, we can continue to look for ways to cut costs and assist the school with basic needs that have been cut from the district. As parents, we can send copy paper, toner cartridges and other school supplies to your student's classroom. We can consider upping our donation to PEF to help achieve the increased pledge, or perhaps donate for the first time ever. Remember, PEF can pay for salaries, PTSA cannot. As volunteers, we can continue to find an hour here or there to help the school.

As announced last month, one of the biggest areas for cost savings was in discontinuing the printing and mailing of this, THE WAVE, newsletter. Please let us know if you would like a copy printed and mailed to you by one of us on the board. We are happy to do so, because staying connected to the school is one of the best ways you can help your child succeed and the best way to help the school. At the same time, by emailing it to you, we save \$18-\$20,000 that can be used to help the school in other vital areas.

It is the perfect time for us all to hear the uplifting and motivational speech of Scott Greenberg, who is speaking to our students all throughout the day in assemblies on **Tuesday, October 27th**, and again at night to us parents at the **night PTSA Meeting, 7pm, in the MPR.**

Please join us!
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