RIVIERA PTA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

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EASY LINKS & DATES

Join The PTA!

5th Grade Party

Career Day 4/16



Bike Rodeo 4/17



2026 Riviera Gala 4/18

Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week: 5/4-5/8



Mother Son Dance: May 8th



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Megan Your PTA President



MEGAN CHANDLER

Welcome back, Riviera families!

We hope everyone had a wonderful and refreshing Spring Break.

We are so excited to share that our Fun Run was a huge success, raising over $46,000 for our school! A heartfelt thank you to our incredible Fun Run Chair, Andrea MacPhee, and her entire team for their hard work, dedication, and energy in making this event so amazing.

We would also like to extend our congratulations and appreciation to all of our Honorary Service Award recipients. Your contributions to our school community truly make a difference, and we are so grateful for each of you.

A special thank you to Ashley Fournier for coordinating the celebrations honoring our award winners and ensuring they felt recognized and appreciated—it was a beautiful tribute to such deserving individuals.

There is no slowing down this month as we look ahead to an exciting lineup of events, including Career Day, the Bike Rodeo, and of course our Riviera Havana Nights Gala. All of this comes on top of the incredible education and enrichment, arts programs, field trips, and so much more that our students will experience throughout the month.

We are so grateful for the continued support that makes all of these opportunities possible for our students—thank you for being such an important part of our Riviera community!

Warmly,
Megan Chandler
PTA President

Principal's Corner

2025-2026 Riviera Honorary Service Recipients - On March 23rd, Riviera PTA recognized Honorary Service Recipients for their service to the Riviera Elementary Community!

Congratulations and thank you to:
Honorary Service Award - Megan Chandler
Honorary Service Award - Chelsea Cook
Very Special Persons - Allison Tanaka, Sacha Mendivil, Mr. Marcello Ibarra
Outstanding Teacher Award - Mr. Jason Toy
Outstanding Administative Award - Amy Kuwayama & Sharon Wykoff

See pages further down the Newsletter for award recipient bios!

April is action-packed!
This month, Riviera students will learn about the Character Counts Pillar of Trustworthiness. Classroom discussions will include conversations about trust and making the right choices. Sometimes making the right decision is hard. You can ask yourself the questions on the checklist tool and if you have more yes checks than no checks, you are probably making a good choice.

***Be honest *Don't deceive, cheat or steal *Be reliable; do what you say you'll do**
***Have the courage to do the right thing *Keep your promises**

Golden Rule Test: If the situation was reversed, is this how I would want to be treated? Yes or No
Conscience Test: Will I feel good about this afterwards- no regrets, no guilt? Yes or No
Family Test: Will my family be proud of this?Yes or No
Headline Test: Would I want this reported on the news?Yes or No
What if Everybody Did This Test- Would I want to live in a world where everybody did this? Yes or No
What if it is still not clear what to do? Stop, think it over some more and seek additional insight from people whose character you respect

Autism Awareness Week is April 13th!

Career Day is on April 16th for Kinder-5th graders and the Bike Rodeo is on Friday, April 17th for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders!

Earth Week is the week of April 20th with Beach Clean Up on Wednesday, April 22nd at 2:30-4:00 at Torrance Beach. Meet at the bottom of the ramp to help beautify our community.

The last week of April, Riviera will host TK & Kindergarten Round Up on the 27th and 28th to welcome new families to Riviera. Riviera 5th grade students will also visit Richardson Middle School on April 27th to hear all about middle school transition.

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Other calendared events for the awesome month of April:

April 1- Autism Acceptance Month
April 7- 2nd Grade Field Trip to Wilson Park/Farmer's Market
April 8- School tour for incoming families @ 9:15
April 9- iReady Dance Party from 1:00-2:00 for grade level competition winners
April 10- Chorus Performs at City of Torrance Event
April 11- Super Saturday- Help Beautify our campus from 9-12
April 13- Autism Awareness Week
Kindergarten Field Trip to Tanaka Farms
April 16- Career Day from 1:00-3:13 & Dress For Success Day
TK to Kidspace Museum
April 17- 5th Grade Individual Photos & Class of 2025 Panoramic Photo
1st Grade Assembly @ 1:15
Bike Rodeo for 3rd-5th Graders
April 18- Innovation Festival @ El Camino College
Havana Nights Gala @ Los Verdes Country Club
April 20- Earth Week
April 21- 4th Grade to Mission San Juan Capistrano
5th Grade Parent Night @ Richardson Middle School & Open House
April 22- Beach Clean Up at Torrance Beach After School
April 23- Ms. Romeo's Class Play at 6:00 p.m. in the Riviera
April 24- 5th Grade Field Trip to Riley's Farm
April 25- South Area Basketball Tournament @ SHS
April 27- 5th Grade visits Richardson Middle School
April 27-28- TK/K Round Ups @ 2:15
April 30- 2nd Grade Aloha Performance @ 6:00 p.m. Riviera Cafe

5th Grade Parents- Save the Dates!

April 17- 5th Grade Individual & Panoramic Photo
April 21- Richardson Open House and 5th Grade Parent Meeting @ 5:00
April 24- 5th Grade Field Trip to Riley's Farm
April 27- 5th Grade Visit to Richardson Middle School
Monday, June 8th- 5th Grade Promotion @ 9:15-10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, June 10th- 5th Grade Party

Wednesday June 11th- Last Day of school- 5th grade parents are invited to watch the 5th grade commemorative video in the cafeteria at 9:30 on the last day of school.

Mrs. Forshey
Riviera Elementary Principal

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HONORARY SERVICE BIOS

Very Special Person Award - Sacha Mendivil

For 8 years, Sacha Mendivil has been a Very Special Person at Riviera, supporting our school the entire time her daughter, Sailor (7th grade), and son, Mako (5th grade), have been proud Roadrunners. Over the past five years in particular, she has been the driving force behind Riviera's annual Talent Show — a beloved tradition that celebrates creativity, confidence, and student achievement while giving every Roadrunner the opportunity to shine.

We are forever fortunate and grateful to have her as our PTA Talent Show Chairperson, where she has truly raised the bar to a professional-level production. Sacha's involvement spans every stage of the show: she helps audition student acts, sells tickets before and after school to encourage participation, manages the stage, and serves as the day-of director. Her organization, energy, and attention to detail ensure that each performance runs seamlessly and that every student feels prepared, supported, and celebrated. As a Dance Teacher at SHS, she even brings her entire dance team to assist with running the show, ensuring efficiency and adding an extra layer of expertise and polish.

Beyond the spotlight, Sacha's impact reaches across campus. She has supported 5th grade valet, chorus rehearsals, field trip chaperoning, class parties, special events, 5th grade celebrations, and even contributes to the success of the annual Gala. She consistently steps in wherever help is needed, strengthening our school community with her time, talents, and steady enthusiasm.

Sacha's dedication, leadership, and heart for Riviera enrich the experiences of students and families alike. She creates meaningful opportunities for children to grow in confidence and be celebrated — making her truly deserving of recognition as a Very Special Person.

Very Special Person Award - Allison Tanaka

Allison Tanaka serves this year as Riviera Elementary's 1st Vice President of Programs, but her impact reaches far beyond any single title. With a calm confidence and steady presence, Allison has an incredible ability to step into any role or activity at our school and make it better. She is the kind of volunteer who doesn't seek recognition or attention, yet whose contributions are deeply felt across our community.

Allison is often the extra set of hands that simply shows up — anticipating needs, filling gaps, and supporting others without being asked. Much of her work happens quietly behind the scenes, and while it may not always be visible, it is essential. She embodies the quiet contributions that keep Riviera running smoothly: thoughtful planning, follow-through, and a willingness to jump in wherever help is needed.

As 1st VP of Programs, Allison supports and elevates enrichment opportunities for our students, but her influence extends throughout campus events, PTA initiatives, and daily school life. A proud Riviera mom to her daughter Annalise, who is in fifth grade, Allison's dedication to our school is rooted not just in service, but in genuine care for the students and community she supports. Her reliability, thoughtfulness, and ability to improve systems make her an invaluable asset to Riviera Elementary.

For her selfless service, quiet leadership, and unwavering commitment to our school community, the PTA is proud to honor Allison Tanaka with the Very Special Person Award.



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HONORARY SERVICE BIOS

Continuing Honorary Service Award - Heidi Duncan

Heidi has been involved in Riviera PTA the entire time that her four children have been Roadrunners! Carly is a senior at SHS, Will is a junior, Brady is an 8th grader and Savannah is in 5th grade! For 10 years, she has been all in supporting her children, the community and Riviera Elementary School. Her positive energy, excellent communication skills and smile are her superpowers.

Heidi has been an integral part of the Riviera PTAs success serving as Co-Chair for our Annual Giving Campaign. Heidi has spent her summers perfecting strategies of how we can be most effective for this fundraiser and assuring everyone benefits from it. Heidi strategized how to keep communication fresh, appealing with logos and incentives wanted by Riviera stakeholders. Heidi speaks at the TK/K round up and New Parent's Tea to explain the benefits of direct donation. With her in this vital role, we achieve record breaking fundraising year after year.

Heidi also serves as a valet team member and has served our school in various roles including: Handbag Bingo, 5th grade party committees, Adventures in Art, library docent, Fun Run team, In-crowd Team and as Vice President of Ways and Means multiple times on the PTA board. She also helps out at Richardson and South with the FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) Club. Heidi is very involved at Kings Harbor Church as well- VBS, youth group, helping foster children. In 10 years….let's make a modest guess that she has been instrumental in raising over $1,000,000 dollars to benefit our students, teachers and school.

Very Special Person Award – Marcello Ibarra ("Mr. Marcello")

For the past 17 years, Marcello Ibarra—affectionately known as "Mr. Marcello"—has been a steady, compassionate presence in the lives of countless students at our school. As a paraeducator, he goes far beyond his role each day, supporting students academically, emotionally, and socially with patience, kindness, and genuine care. He has been with our program since its inception, helping establish it and get it off the ground—his impact has been part of its foundation from the very beginning.

Mr. Marcello is often one of the first to arrive on campus, making student safety a priority. As students head home, they know his classic reminder: "When you get to the gate, stop and wait!" His words and routines create the structure and security students count on.

Dependable is an understatement. He makes coming to work a priority and is rarely absent. Even off the clock, he's thinking about his class—shopping for materials, making tools, and developing strategies to better support his students. His dedication doesn't end when the bell rings.

His calm demeanor and encouraging presence help students feel safe, seen, and capable. He meets students where they are, celebrates their progress, and quietly guides them toward success. Teachers rely on him, students thrive because of him, and families carry his influence long after they've moved on.

We are deeply grateful for Marcello Ibarra's 17 years of service, his tireless support, and the countless ways he makes a difference every single day. He is truly a Very Special Person and so deserving of this honor.



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HONORARY SERVICE BIOS

Outstanding Administrative Award – Amy Kuwayama

Amy Kuwayama has served as our School Staff Assistant since 2009, and for seventeen years she has been the steady, reliable force behind a smooth and exceptionally organized school office. Each day, Amy supports a community of 611 students and more than 100 staff members with professionalism, efficiency, and grace—often anticipating needs before they arise and ensuring that everything runs seamlessly.

Amy stepped into this role during an incredibly difficult time for our school. She was hired following the unexpected passing of our beloved secretary, Kallie, who had served our community for 22 years. The loss was deeply felt, and the transition could not have been more challenging. With compassion, resilience, and quiet strength, Amy honored that legacy while building her own, earning the trust and respect of staff, students, and families alike.

Through her dedication, institutional knowledge, and unwavering commitment to our school community, Amy has become an indispensable part of our daily operations and our culture. Her work often happens behind the scenes, but its impact is felt by everyone. We are incredibly grateful for her seventeen years of outstanding service and proud to recognize her with the Outstanding Administrative Award.

Outstanding Administrative Award – Sharon Wykoff

Sharon Wykoff is a true embodiment of the Riviera community. As a Riviera mom whose three daughters attended our school, Sharon's connection to Riviera runs deep and personal. Her daughters—Skylar, currently attending South High School; Allison, who graduated high school last year; and Taylor, now attending UC Riverside—are a testament to the years Sharon has spent supporting and believing in our school.

In 2021, Sharon officially brought that dedication into the front office when she joined us as our Office Assistant. Since then, she has been a welcoming presence for students, families, and staff alike. Sharon's warmth, reliability, and firsthand understanding of the Riviera experience allow her to support our community with empathy, patience, and genuine care.

Whether assisting families, supporting students, or helping the office run smoothly each day, Sharon approaches her role with positivity and commitment. Her unique perspective as both a parent and staff member makes her an invaluable asset to our school, and her contributions help strengthen the sense of family that defines Riviera.

We are proud to recognize Sharon Wykoff with the Outstanding Administrative Award and grateful for all she brings to our school community.



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HONORARY SERVICE BIOS

Outstanding Teacher Award - Jason Toy

Jason Toy has been a TUSD employee for 26 years. Mr. Toy was a Behavior Support Assistant(formerly known as ASSISTT), a learning center teacher at Anza and for the last 17 years, he has been a special day teacher at Riviera. Mr. Toy and a selected team were chosen to pilot the ABA SDC program at Riviera. This program has now expanded to several sites across TUSD providing intensive behavioral and academic support for students diagnosed with Autism.

Mr. Toy's leadership is one of the core reasons for the success of our SDC program. Mr. Toy has been the backbone of Riviera's SDC program, mentoring and training student teachers, new staff members and paraeducators. He is a leader, reflective in his practice and a lifelong learner. Other site teams come to observe Riviera's SDC program. He is an excellent communicator and team member and he has created and modeled a team that supports each other.

Mr. Toy builds lasting relationships with his students and families. One past parent shared that her son was with Mr. Toy from kindergarten to 5th grade. Mr. Toy made sure that he knew his students and understood their special needs. He connected with his students and we were always in touch in order to help our son with his academics and behavior. He made sure that our son was part of general education classes and we felt the care, love and dedication of the staff.

Colleagues share that as a BCBA, Mr. Toy leads weekly PLCs to train our team members so we can consistently and effectively implement individualized academic and behavioral support. Mr.Toy devotes his time to help our students be successful each day. Mr. Toy is highly respected as both a person and professional, by colleagues, students and parents. He has earned the trust of parents for being honest, transparent and including parents as partners.

Mr. Toy has been nominated as Teacher of the Year in TUSD and received SELPA Community Advisory Committee recognition, nominated by parents for optimizing the educational outcomes of students with special needs. Mr. Toy is a Torrance resident and graduate of TUSD schools.

He and his wife both teach in TUSD and his children attend(ed) Torrance schools. Mr. Toy is so deserving of the PTA Outstanding Teacher Award! Congratulations to Mr. Toy and his sidekick from day 1…Mr. Marcello.



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HONORARY SERVICE BIOS

Honorary Service Award- Megan Chandler

Megan Chandler is being recognized for her exceptional dedication to strengthening and uplifting our school community through her service — and no one is more deserving of an HSA Award.

As PTA President, Megan has worked tirelessly to bridge the gap between families and the school, fostering a culture where parents, students, and staff feel united, supported, and deeply connected.

She consistently goes beyond the expectations of her role. Through her active involvement in Friendship Club, she promotes inclusion, kindness, and meaningful peer connections among students. Her leadership in planning and executing beloved family events — including Movie Night, the Mother-Son Dance, and the Father Dance — has created lasting memories while strengthening the bonds that make our community so special.

Megan also designs and manages the school's spirit wear program, building school pride and giving families a visible way to show their support. Striving for excellence in everything she does, she led Riviera Elementary to earn its first-ever Excellence in PTA recognition — a milestone achievement that reflects her vision, organization, and unwavering commitment.

And while she gives so much of herself to our school, she does so first and foremost as a proud mama of five incredible young men — triplets Caleb, Logan, and Kyle, who currently attend Riviera Elementary, and her older sons, Brandon and Dylan, who proudly graduated from the Torrance School District. Megan herself is also a proud Riviera alumna and a graduate of the Torrance School District, making her dedication to our community truly full circle. Balancing leadership, volunteerism, and motherhood with such grace makes her dedication even more extraordinary.

Behind the scenes, Megan's impact is just as profound. She serves as a Room Parent, supports teachers in the classroom, and quietly steps in wherever help is needed. If she sees someone in need, she takes action — ensuring every child, family, and staff member feels valued and supported.

Megan Chandler's leadership, service, and heart for our school make her a truly deserving recipient of the HSA Award.



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HONORARY SERVICE BIOS

Honorary Service Award- Chelsea Cook

Chelsea Cook is being recognized with the HSA Award for her dedicated service and meaningful contributions to the school community. Through both visible leadership and behind-the-scenes support, she consistently has worked to enhance the experience of students and families throughout her children's time at Riviera- Bella (7th Grade) and Jack (5th Grade).

Chelsea has played an integral role in the planning and execution of the school's annual Gala, helping ensure its success through organization, collaboration, and attention to detail. Her efforts directly support fundraising initiatives that benefit students and school programs.

Behind the scenes, Chelsea manages the school's website, ensuring families have access to timely and accurate information. She responds quickly to requests, updates content to support fundraising efforts, and works diligently to keep communication clear and accessible. Her technical support strengthens engagement between school and home.

Chelsea also serves as 5th Grade Valet Chair during a year marked by significant changes to long-standing traditions. She has approached this transition with flexibility and care, helping maintain meaningful experiences for students. As 5th Grade Party Chair, she helps create a memorable celebration that honors students as they prepare for their next chapter.

Chelsea Cook's steady leadership, adaptability, and commitment to supporting students and families make her a truly deserving recipient of the HSA Award.



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DAY IN THE LIFE OF A ROADRUNNER



APRIL 2026

DAY IN THE LIFE OF A ROADRUNNER



APRIL 2026

DAY IN THE LIFE OF A ROADRUNNER









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Join Riviera PTA
Calling all of our amazing Riviera Teachers,
Staff, Famly, and Friends!!
Your $15 PTA Membership Supports State, District & Local School Programs

APRIL 2026

Dear 5th Grade Parents,

The countdown is on! On **Wednesday, June 10th**, our wonderful 5th graders will come together for an unforgettable day-long celebration on the Riviera Elementary grass field. This year's theme? Ride the Wave to Middle School! It's going to be a day packed with fun, laughter, and cherished memories as they bid farewell to elementary school and gear up for their exciting next chapter.

Here's the best part—it's a surprise! Let's uphold this beloved tradition by keeping the details under wraps so the kids can enjoy every moment of the big reveal.

To make this day truly magical, we need your help. Here are two simple ways you can pitch in:

1. **Contribute to the party fund:** Your donation ensures we can provide lunch, games, themed t-shirts, and plenty of special surprises to make the day everything your kids deserve. Click Here to Join In.
2. **Volunteer your time:** We'll be sharing a SignUp Genius link soon with opportunities to help out on the big day. In the meantime, we encourage all volunteers to also contribute to the party fund to help cover costs.

With your support, we can create a celebration that our kids will remember for years to come. Thank you for helping us send them off to middle school in style!

Warm regards,
The Riviera 5th Grade Celebration Team

QUICKLINK:

WWW.RIVIERAPTA.COM/5THGRADEPARTY-2026

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CAREER DAY 2026

Career Day is coming up and we're looking for speakers. Every career has a story to tell. Sign up coming soon!

Thursday, April 16th



Contact: Rebecca Love 714-981-5901
rebecca.markovich@gmail.com

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BIKE RODEO



Hey 3rd, 4th, and 5th Graders! Come show off your bike-riding safety skills!

Friday, April 17 @ Riviera Elementary

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AT THE BIKE RODEO PLEASE SIGN UP HERE

HTTPS://WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/10C0F45A9AD23A4FCCE9-63122526-BIKE#/

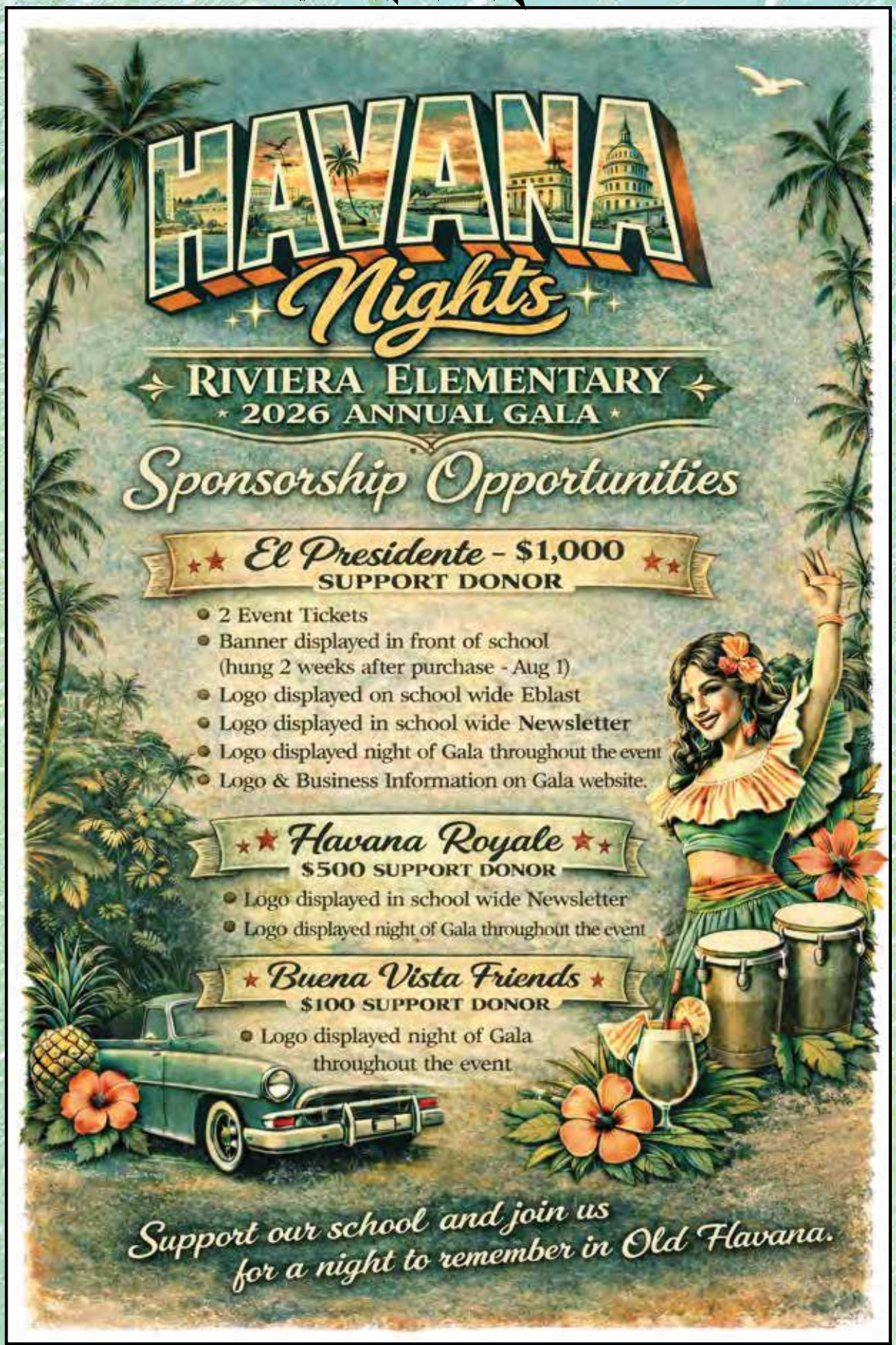
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Hyperlink To Purchase Tickets:

https://www.rivieraptа.com

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Hyperlink To The sponsorship Webpage:

https://www.rivieraptа.com/gala-sponsor

APRIL 2026



THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS PLACE

SHINE SO BRIGHT!

TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

RIVIERA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MAY 4 - MAY 8, 2026

MONDAY:

MAKE YOUR TEACHER SHINE BY BRINGING A PERSONALIZED NOTE OR ART

TUESDAY:

FILL YOUR TEACHER WITH SUNSHINE BY ADDING CLASSROOM SUPPLIES

WEDNESDAY:

THANK YOUR TEACHER BY WEARING YELLOW AND SUNGLASSES

THURSDAY:

BRING YOUR TEACHER A FAVORITE TREAT!

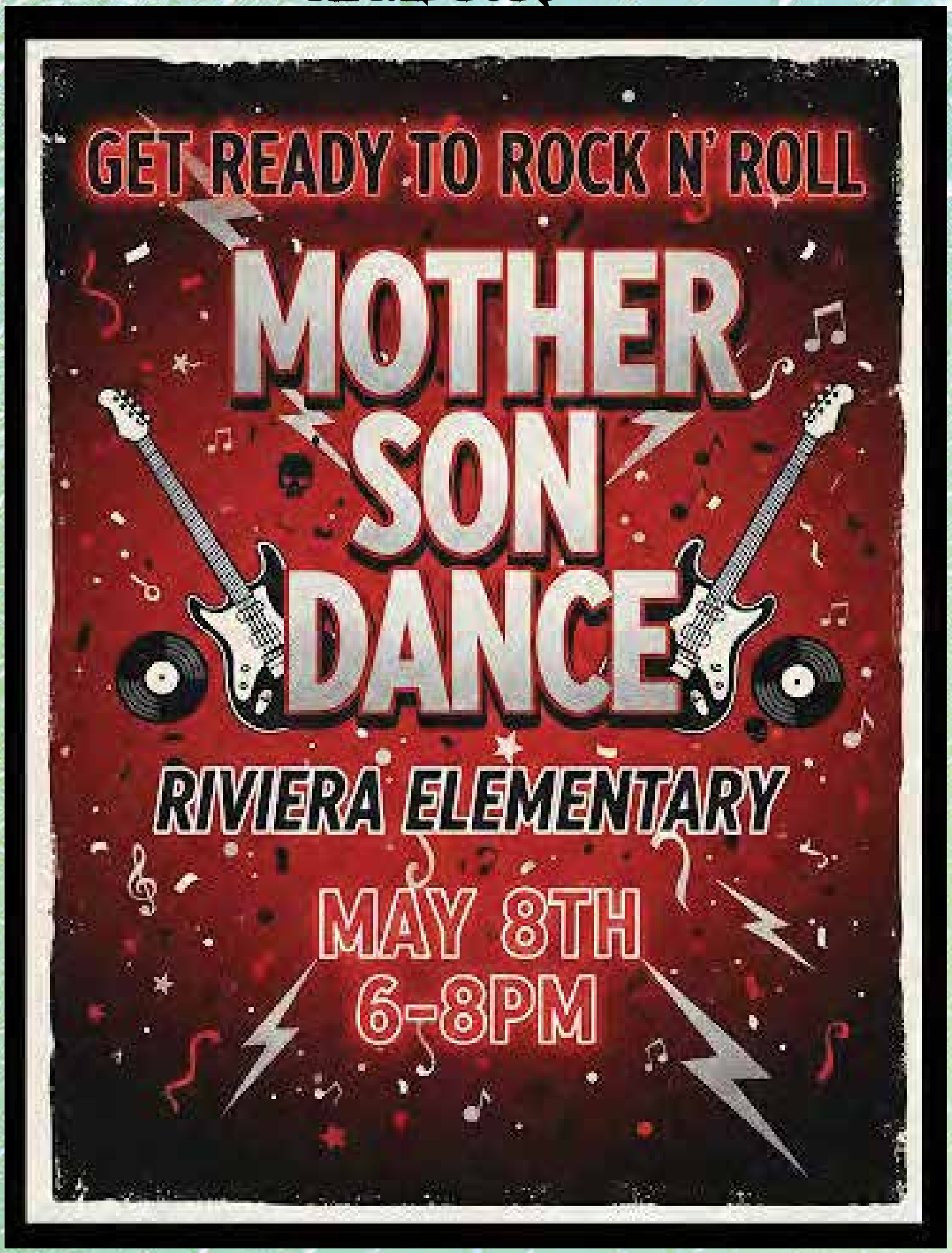
FRIDAY:

THANKS FOR BEING SO AMAZING!
BRING YOUR TEACHER SOMETHING SPECIAL!

OUR FUTURE IS SO BRIGHT!!

WE APPRECIATE ALL YOU DO - THE RIVIERA SCHOOL PTA

APRIL 2026



SAVE THE DATE! GET READY TO PARTY LIKE A ROCK STAR AT OUR RIVIERA ELEMENTARY MOTHER SON DANCE ON MAY 8TH FROM 6-8PM. VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS TO COME!