

RIVIERA PTA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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Volunteer Tea
June 4



5th Grade Promotion Ceremony
June 9



Last Day of School
June 11



A MESSAGE FROM PTA PRESIDENT **MEGAN CHANDLER**



Dear Riviera Families,

As the school year wraps up and we prepare to swap lunchboxes for beach bags, I wanted to take a moment to thank the dream team behind the magic: your 2024-2025 Riviera PTA Board!

Christie Forshey, Principal: Thank you for believing in me, supporting me, and giving me advice along the way! It is an absolute pleasure to get to work so closely with you!

Katie Bergerno, Vice President: Thank you for being there for anything I needed this year and most importantly for always having a big smile on your face!

Missy Williams, Secretary: If it wasn't written down, it didn't happen. Thankfully, everything was written down. Meeting minutes, motions passed, and anytime anyone volunteered (we had proof to hold them to it). Thank you!

Sara McKown, Treasurer: The one that roped me (I mean invited me) into PTA. This year you were our keeper of coins. You balanced our budget and expenses, and made sure everyone was paid quickly. Thank you for always being there to teach me the ropes, answer my never ending amount of questions, handling our budget, and for the million other things you do for our school!

Jeff Love, Financial Secretary: You tracked every dollar and made sure we could continue to say "yes". Although you had to remind me of signatures, I did get another man on the board so maybe I get a "pass" for all those reminders you had to give me!?!

Allison Tanaka, 1st VP/Programs: Field trips, events like career day and talent show? If it made a kid smile, chances are your team planned it! You're one of the reasons the calendar is so full and the students are having fun. Thank you for stepping into this role with little direction, and rocking it!

Heidi Duncan, 2nd VP/Ways and Means: AKA "VP of Fundraising Fun!" You raise money that doesn't require us to sell our souls - or wrapping paper - and you do so well! Thank you for keeping our bank account happy and Riviera able to continue the programs and staff that makes this school so special.

Staci Resnick, 3rd VP/Community Service: With a heart bigger than the Lost & Found pile, you reminded us that giving back is the best way to move forward. Thank you for helping our kids make a difference, being my partner in crime, and wearing all the hats and juggling all the balls you have for our school this year!

A MESSAGE FROM PTA PRESIDENT **MEGAN CHANDLER**



Rachel McClurg, 4th VP/Membership: Your charm and smile got people to join the PTA and so much so that we have our most PTA memberships in the last 5 years! Thank you for working hard and keeping our PTA growing all year long.

Ellie Brisbin, 5th VP/Volunteers: You organized sign ups, filled every room parent position, and helped find volunteers when needed - all with a smile on your face. Thank you!

Sarina Henley, 6th VP/Hospitality: We all know that Riviera families know how to have a good time! Thank you for organizing so many events for parents, children and staff, and making them fun! You are the hostess with the mostest!

Tina Jordan, Historian: Thank you for capturing all the memories, even the ones we forgot were happening. Thanks to you, this year lives on forever in one very full Google Drive!

Kellyn Jezierksi, Parliamentarian: Thank you for keeping us in order and on track (mostly), and making sure we follow the rules. PTA has so many rules and you made sure we followed them - and still had fun along the way!

And to our amazing volunteers - Room parent, event helpers, committee chairs, library and AIA docents - you made this year unforgettable. Every voice mattered, and we heard yours loud and clear.

From Family Events, to cultural celebrations, Friendship Club, and fundraisers - this year was a celebration of connection, compassion, and community. Thank you for showing up, speaking up, and cheering loud.

Wishing you all a restful, fun in the sun, summer! See you next year for more laughter, more enrichment for our kiddos, and more fun!

Warmly,
Megan Chandler



Principal's Corner

A MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL PRINCIPAL **CHRISTIE FORSHEY**



As we enter the final month of the 2024-2025 school year, it is a time to reflect on an amazing school year! For two consecutive years, Riviera has been voted "Favorite Elementary School" in the South Bay Easy Reader/Daily Breeze. The Riviera community- teachers, staff, parents rally in every way to celebrate the diversity, inclusion and individuality of our students and to create an amazing learning environment for every child. Our community efforts help educate our bright and beautiful students who all have something amazing to contribute to our world!

To Riviera's Class of 2025... 102 Fifth Grade Students and Families- Congratulations to each and every one of you on the completion of elementary school. Your time at Riviera has prepared you for your future and you have mattered here. You have a voice and ideas that will impact the future. As you look back on your time at Riviera, know that your teachers, parents and I are all very proud of you. You and your families will be remembered and the Riviera community will be rooting for you every step of the way. Please stop by to let us know all of the amazing things you are up to.

Riviera staff and parents look forward to recognizing and celebrating our 5th grade students at a special Promotion Ceremony that will be held on Monday, June 9th @ 9:15 a.m. Later that day, past Roadrunners who are graduating from SHS will visit Riviera for Alumni Day at 1:15. It is sure to be a special day!

To Riviera's TK-4th Grade Students- ***You have a voice and ideas that will impact the future.*** Congratulations on completing 180 days of school. Look forward to next school year and the new learning and fun coming your way.

To Riviera's Sensational Staff- ***You have a voice and ideas that will impact the future.*** Thank you for all that you do for students, families, our school and for Team Riviera everyday. Your collective knowledge and experience provide an exceptional learning environment for every student.

To Rivera Parents- ***You have a voice and ideas that will impact the future.*** Thank you for surrounding our school community with love and support! Thank you for volunteering and participating in school events. Thank you to our amazing PTA President, Megan Chandler and Executive Board for your extra time, ideas and commitment to school excellence. Megan's motto for the school year was "Every Voice Matters" and this message stands true.

I value the input, ideas and voice of all stakeholders in our learning community! Each of you have a unique perspective, experiences and knowledge that contribute to our school's excellence. ***Every voice matters! You matter! Don't ever forget that!***

Principal's Corner

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HELLO SUMMER

As I close my 22nd year as Proud Principal @ Riviera, I want to thank our amazing staff and parents that support our school community. It is a partnership and a lot of hard work to provide our students with the best learning environment.

A special thank you to our graduating PTA presidents- Missy Williams and Sara McKown, who for over eight years have shaped the PTA vision and leave a legacy of love for our school community.



End of Year Information & Summer Learning Opportunities - At the end of every school year, TK-5 teachers administer grade level assessments in reading, writing and math and 1st-5th grades will administer the end of year iReady assessment. Third-fifth grade families will receive CAASPP Testing results this summer. Parents will review the final Achievement Report which highlights grade level mastery of essential skills. All of this information about student achievement will help inform our teaching practice so that we are ready to meet the learning needs of every student next year. Use your child/ren's marks to help your son/daughter practice essential skills over the summer.

Click on this link for Summer Learning Opportunities!
TUSD Summer Opportunities for Families - 2025

For summer learning, El Retiro Library hosts a summer reading incentive program! Librarian & Riviera Dad- Mr. Moses will speak flag assembly to get students excited about the El Retiro summer reading program. There is a suggested summer reading list posted on the Riviera website @ www.riviera.tusd.org . In addition, all Riviera students will have access to online learning activities that can be accessed via Clever including reading programs, iReady for math & ELA tutorials until August 15th. iReady instruction aligns directly to each student's individual progress levels. The program naturally adjusts to provide reteach in needed areas and extension exercises for next steps in instruction.

Riviera also plans to host **Camp Riviera** and will have 1st-5th grade target instruction groups that will take place the week of August 4th-August 15th. The Torrance Education Foundation also hosts the **South Bay Enrichment Academy** which will be at Hickory Elementary School. This is a fee-based program that provides enrichment and preparation for the next grade level. Visit www.tef4kids.org for more information.

The last day of school is June 11th. Dismissal will be at noon on the last day of school. It is a long-standing tradition that Riviera students meet at Torrance Beach after school to kick off summer. PTA has also planned a Rock N Brews restaurant night on June 11th for before or after beach fun.

Save the dates for the Riviera Back To School Expo on August 20th from 2:00-3:00 p.m. for TK/Kindergarten and 4:00-6:00 p.m. for 1st-5th grade students. The First Day of School 2025 is on Thursday, August 21st.

Mrs. Forshey

RIVIERA PTA 2024-2025

Thank You's

From 1st VP of Programs Allison Tanaka

Thank you to this amazing group of volunteers whose efforts and commitment throughout the year gave our students the opportunity to create, explore, and shine!

Debra Volpone, thank you for all your work to coordinate this year's Reflections art contest. Your support made it possible for students to explore their thoughts, feelings, and ideas on "Accepting Imperfection" and allowed each of them to feel recognized and celebrated through their art.

Nyssa Wilson, the International Fair has grown to become a beloved Riviera event as a result of your years of tireless work and dedication. Thank you for highlighting the beautiful diversity of our community and bringing our families together in such a fun and meaningful way.

Danica King, a million thanks for returning to coordinate this year's bake sale. The event and its sweet treats always bring such joy (and sugar rushes!) to the students. The holiday season wouldn't be the same without this Riviera tradition - thank you for making it happen!

Ashley Fournier, you should have your own crafting with kids show - this year's Craft Fair was on a whole new level! I am in awe of your creativity, organization and planning, which made the event an amazing success. I know the holidays were made more special thanks to the special keepsakes the kids created that will be treasured for years to come.

Sacha Mendivil, you are a superstar - thank you for spearheading another fabulous talent show! From ticket sales through to the final bow, you kept things running smoothly and managed to keep a cast of a 100+ students energized and engaged (not an easy task)! Thank you for giving our students the chance to showcase their unique abilities and build their confidence and creativity.

Rebecca Love, thank you for returning as our Career Day Chair! This is such an important event that highlights the diverse careers of our Roadrunner parents, ignites the curiosity of our students, and helps them explore new possibilities for their future. It's a day the kids look forward to each year - thank you for making it all possible!

Staci Resnick, I can't begin to thank you enough for your dedication and commitment to leading Run Club each year. Your energy, caring, and connection with the kids is what keeps them moving and motivated, especially when it's cold and soggy on those early Tuesday mornings! Thank you for helping our students develop healthy habits, bodies, and minds.

Megan Chandler, thank you for being our fearless and thoughtful leader! The genuine caring and compassion you have for all members of our Riviera community is evident in all you do. I am truly grateful to have had your support, leadership and guidance during my first year as part of the PTA board.

Thank You

From 2nd VP of Ways & Means Heidi Duncan

Thank you to EVERYONE who helps and participates to bring class, fun and style to FUNDRAISING here at Riviera!

Thank you **Sara McKown** for another year as chair for the Fun Run. It goes off without a hitch each year because of your attention to detail and planning. I have loved working with you on this and will miss you. Also, **Sara**, Thank you for organizing, ordering and distributing the 5th grade shirts. Each Riviera student looks forward to the year they get their name on that blue shirt with their graduation year! You are leaving HUGE shoes to fill with this being your last year at Riviera. Thank you for ALL your years of service to our school. We appreciate you more than words can express.

Thank you **Staci Resnick** for not only co chairing Fun run but going the extra mile as a bottomless Roadrunner! I love your all in attitude both behind the scenes and on the track. **Staci**, your work as chair for BOTH Handbag Bingo and Gala is... wow, just wow. You bring so much fun and class to fundraising. I can't begin to calculate all your hours of hard work and I know thank you isn't enough for all you do but it's a start. Each year we all anticipate these two events and you have made them epic!

Thank you to **Vanessa Hattenburg** for co-chairing Handbag Bingo. This night is so fun for so many and it's because of all your hard work. Your eye for style and your attention to detail elevates this event. Thank you!

Thank you **Sara Habib-Stubbs** as our matching Chair. The matching donations we receive from companies is a key component to our Annual Giving Campaign. This is not an easy job and it takes a bit of detective work, but you don't complain. No one really sees what you do but we all benefit from it. The funds that matching brings in is such a boost to our budget.

Thank you **Amanda Sten** for being our Restaurant Night chair. We love dining all around the village AND bringing money to our school while doing it. You pick such fun places for us to gather, dine and fundraise!

Thank you **Megan Chandler** and **Staci Resnick** for chairing and co chairing Fashion wear. We love ALL the Riviera gear! It's a nod to your creative eye and fashion sense that it sells out each year. Thanks for keeping our spirits up throughout the year!

Thank you **Bayley Falls** for our student wear. This is somewhat a thankless job, but, THANK YOU!!! The kids all love their grade level Ts and it wouldn't be that same with you! I always smile and think of you when I go to Monday morning assemblies and see the kids all in their grade level colors!

Thank you **Amber Vaness** for stepping in and taking on our Escript Partners. This is a long standing partnership we have with businesses in the community, and we are thankful for you taking this on.

And last, but definitely, absolutely NOT least... Thank you **Jenny Yiakas** for chairing the Annual Giving Campaign with me. You are my Ride or Die gal and I would not & could not do this without you. We have spanned 7 years together doing AGC, and it is what it is today because of your tireless commitment to excellence. I know that I've required A LOT of patience and you've been gracious to give it. We got this girl, one more year, our swan song with AGC. Then we pass the torch to the next generation to carry on the legacy of giving we have fought and worked so hard for all these years.

There are SO MANY who have worked with us all to make these events a success and to make sure our school is able to meet our budget. Each chair/event has a committee, and I speak on behalf of each chair to their committee, there's no possible way we could do any of this without you. We know who you are, you know who you are, please know how thankful we are for you and your willingness to volunteer. Your time and talents are a treasure and we are truly grateful. They say it takes a village, and I'm a believer, thank you to our magnificent Rivera village! Another year for the books!

With Gratitude, Heidi Duncan - VP of Ways and Means

Thank You

From 3rd VP of Community Service Staci Resnick

COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRS – THANK YOU!

Mischa Morishita & Michelle Simkin, Book Fair
A huge thank you to Mischa Morishita and Michelle Simkin for their incredible leadership in organizing our Book Fairs—not once, but twice a year! The Book Fair is a beloved tradition in our school community, and it's no small task to pull it off. From planning and setup to coordinating volunteers and managing the event each day, you both make sure everything runs smoothly and joyfully for our students. Your time, energy, and enthusiasm are what make this event such a success year after year. Thank you for bringing the joy of books to our school and for making the Book Fair a highlight of the year!

Megan Chandler, The Friendship Club
A heartfelt thank you to Megan Chandler for stepping into the role of chair for The Friendship Club. This group plays such an important part in fostering kindness, inclusion, and connection among our students—and your leadership has made a meaningful difference. It's inspiring to see the Riviera community come together under your guidance to support all students and create a welcoming environment for everyone. Your compassion and dedication shine through in every aspect of the club's work. We're so grateful for all you've done to strengthen the spirit of friendship at our school!

Shira & Jon Markovich, Bike Rodeo
A big thank you to Shira and Jon Markovich for planning and executing this year's Riviera Bike Rodeo for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders! This event takes a tremendous amount of coordination, planning, and volunteer support—and you both handled it seamlessly. Your hard work made the day both fun and educational for our students, promoting bike safety and confidence in an engaging way. We are so grateful for the time and effort you put into making the Bike Rodeo a success. Thank you for all you do for our school and for giving our students such a memorable experience!

Luke Hellinga, Blue Ribbon Week
Thank you to Luke Hellinga for leading the charge on this year's Blue Ribbon Week. Your thoughtful planning and outreach to law enforcement and military personnel made this event especially meaningful for our students and families. Blue Ribbon Week is an important opportunity to honor and connect with those who serve and protect, and your efforts helped create a powerful and memorable experience for everyone involved. We truly appreciate your dedication and the time you put into making this event such a success!

Jenny & Damian Peters, Earth Week
A heartfelt thank you to Jenny and Damian Peters for bringing such energy and enthusiasm to this year's Earth Week! Your thoughtful planning and creative activities reminded all of us—students and families alike—how important it is to care for our planet.
The kids had an amazing time participating in the fun challenges and hands-on experiences you organized. Your passion for the environment and dedication to our school community truly made this week both educational and inspiring. Thank you for making Earth Week such a memorable and meaningful experience!

Siegrun Smith, Emergency Preparedness
A sincere thank you to Siegrun Smith for your dedicated work in organizing and assembling our school's emergency kits. While it may not always be in the spotlight, your role is vital to the safety and preparedness of our students and staff. We truly appreciate the time, care, and effort you put into making sure our school is ready for the unexpected. Your behind-the-scenes work brings peace of mind to our entire community. Thank you for your commitment to keeping Riviera safe and prepared!

More Thank You's

From 3rd VP of Community Service Staci Resnick

Kristin Jacobson, Firefighter Appreciation

A big thank you to Kristin Jacobson for organizing one of Riviera's favorite annual traditions—Firefighter Appreciation Day! From planning the assembly to coordinating the visit from our local heroes (and their firetruck!), your work made the day truly special for our students. This event not only brings excitement and joy but also helps our students build appreciation for the brave individuals who serve our community. Thank you for your thoughtful planning and warm hospitality in welcoming the firefighters to campus. We're so grateful for your dedication in making this day a memorable one!

Jenny Peters, Giving Tree

Thank you to Jenny Peters for leading the Giving Tree—one of Riviera's most meaningful holiday traditions. Your care and coordination ensured that every gift was collected, wrapped, and delivered to those in need, including families within our own community. This tradition reflects the heart of Riviera, and your efforts made the season brighter for so many. We are so grateful for your kindness, organization, and commitment to making sure everyone had a special holiday. Thank you for bringing the spirit of giving to life at our school!

Allison Williamson, Red Ribbon Week

A big thank you to Allison Williamson for making this year's Red Ribbon Week such a fun and meaningful experience for our students! From the creative daily themes to the exciting prize drawings, your thoughtful planning brought so much energy and excitement to campus. The decorations were fantastic, and the students truly loved participating each day—especially listening for their numbers and showing off their spirit. Most importantly, you helped spotlight the important message behind Red Ribbon Week in an engaging and memorable way. Thank you for all the time, care, and enthusiasm you put into this special week!

Natalie Davis, Scholarship

A big thank you to Natalie Davis and your committee for selecting two outstanding students to honor with this year's scholarships. With so many remarkable former students to choose from, your work in making this decision is truly appreciated. It's a special opportunity to support our alumni as they continue their journeys beyond high school, and your efforts ensure that Riviera's legacy of excellence continues to inspire future generations. Thank you for your dedication to celebrating our students' achievements and helping them as they move forward.

Frances Zambros, DEI

Thank you, Frances, for your dedication and for inspiring us all to build a more inclusive future together. Under your guidance, our community has embraced inclusivity and celebrated the diverse voices that make our school a vibrant place for all students and families.

And thank you to our ***Riviera Girl Scouts*** and leaders for making our Valentine's for Vets project such a success. A big thank you to ***Amber Jones*** for this year's support in getting the Vets their Valentines! This was a true group effort, and I can't thank you enough for your support with this project!



Thank You

From 4th VP of Membership Rachel McClurg

Nyssa Wilson - Yearbook
The yearbook is such an incredible undertaking, thank you so much for the love and care you've poured into creating the book that captures the most beautiful memories from such a precious time in our children's lives. The joy it will bring to Riviera families, now and for years to come, is truly immeasurable. We can't wait to see what you've created this year!

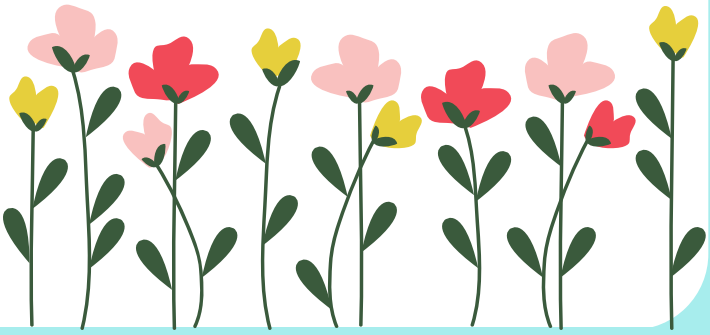
Motoko Maki – Newsletter
Where do we even begin with the newsletter? It was absolutely stunning! The time, thought, and heart you put into it blew us all away. Thank you for your incredible dedication and for working so hard to keep Riviera families informed. The addition of "A Day in the Life" was just ***chef's kiss,*** such a perfect touch!

Motoko Maki - Student Directory
What? You again? Where do you even find the time?! Thank you for everything you've done to keep our families connected this year. You even managed to showcase all the kids' art throughout the directory, which is always one of our absolute favorite parts!

Jennifer Laun - Eblast
Thank you so much for being such an essential part of the team that keeps all of us Riviera families in the know. The e-blasts always looked amazing, and no doubt saved many of us when it came to remembering spirit days, after-school clubs, concerts, events, and so much more! We truly appreciate all the effort you put into keeping us informed!

Mischa Morishita – Marquee
Thank you for your dedication in keeping our outdoor school marquee up to date! It's always such a fun and helpful reminder of all the great things happening at our wonderful school. THANK YOU Mischa!





Thank You

From 5th VP of Volunteers Ellie Brisbin

A heartfelt thank you from Ellie Brisbin, VP of Volunteers.

AIA Chairs, **Anne Bollman, Julia Kroyan and Chelsea DeRossi** thank you all so much for leading our Adventures in Art program each year. Your hard work and dedication ensures that our children get to experience and gain an appreciate for the arts!

Library Chair, **Jen Rauzon**, thank you for having run our library year after year. Under your guidance, the library has been kept organized, updated, and beautiful. We are all so grateful for all that you have done to enhance our library program.

Super Saturday, **Cristina and Scott Cummins**, thank you both for leading Super Saturday each year to make our campus sparkling and refreshed. Our playground and outdoor areas look amazing!

Valet, **Missy Williams**, thank you so much for having led all our families through a safe drop off each morning this year. We so appreciate you and your hardworking 5th grade Valet team!

Honorary Service, **Katie Bengerno**, thank you for having recognized and celebrated those who have gone above and beyond as volunteers at our school each year. Each award recipient was is always so very surprised to be honored and appreciated!

Last but absolutely not least, a HUGE thank you to all our dedicated Room Parents:

Ikumi George
Francis Zambros
Kim Cesario
Lisa Boston
Melissa Wright
Ashley Robelotto
Siegrun Smith
Ellie Brisbin
Diana Nolan
Vianet Gomez
Daniel Renzi
Joselyn Flemming
Megan Chandler
Amber Jones
Debra Chan
Judy Mintz
Sarah Whittington
Natalia Cade
Manuel Reynolds
Karina & Luke Hellinga
Teri Weideman
Ellie Brisbin
Michelle Simkin
Courtney Pupa Curtis
Sara Mckown
Katie Bengerno
Nicole Minniti



Thank You

From 6th VP of Hospitality Sarina Henley

We bring the heart and the fun wherever we go! Thank you to the amazing ladies who helped me bring life and joy into this year...

Andrea MacPhee, Back to School Expo:
You are organized, efficient, and we are thankful for you!

Nicole Gonzales, Holiday Staff Luncheon:
You brought so much joy to our wonderful teachers! You transformed the teacher lounge into a winter wonderland, miraculous!

Megan Chandler, Kinder Playdate:
You are amazing at everything! Much appreciated!

Joselyn Fleming, Kinder Round Up:
You brought joy to our wonderful new families! Also bonus points for learning to draw Rivie!

Lauren Csaki, New Parents Tea:
You made everyone feel welcome with your homemade treats and thought of all the details!

Sarah Whittington, Teacher Appreciation:
You are so appreciated!!! Your time and energy has not gone unnoticed! Big, big thanks!

Essie Musailova, Welcome Back Luncheon:
The teachers were welcomed big time! You rocked this one!

Livia Neilson, 5th Grade Party:
Our kids will have a party they will never forget because of you! Go Livia!



A Day in the Life @ Riviera


































HERE COMES THE SUN



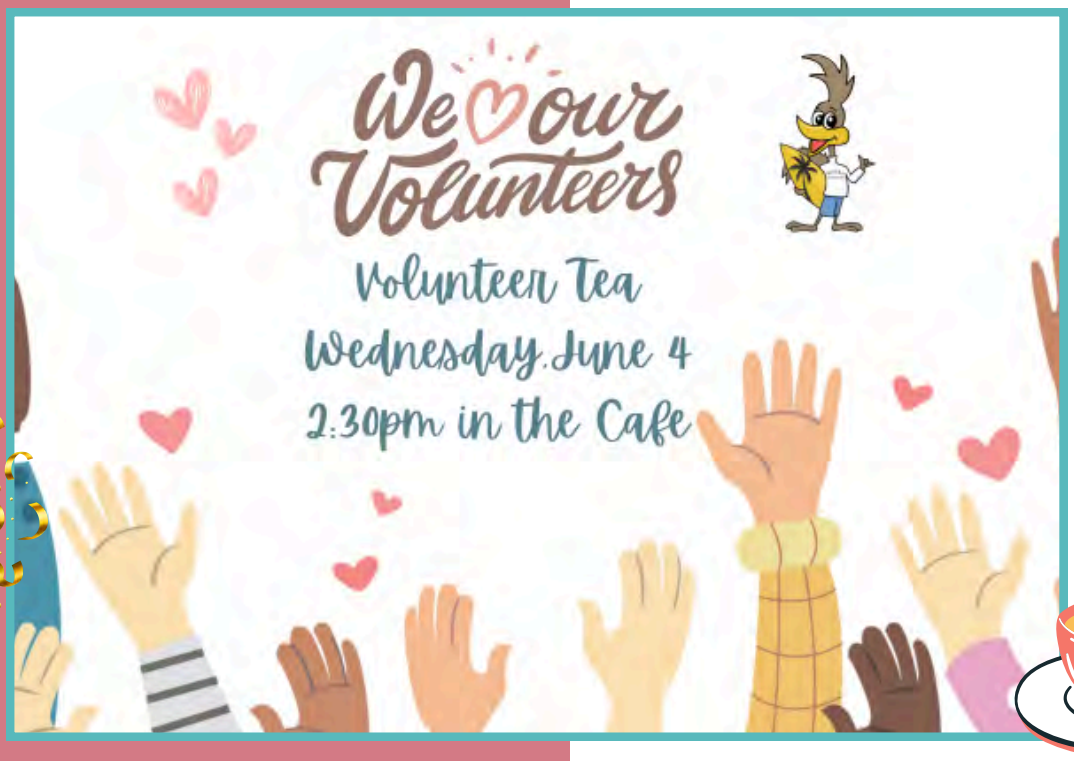
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

UPCOMING PTA EVENTS

PTA CALENDAR EVENTS

June 4	Volunteer Tea
June 9	5th Grade Promotion @ 3:30
June 10	5th Grade Party
June 11	Last Day of School, 12pm Dismissal / Achievement Reports





IMPORTANT INFORMATION



