JUNE 2024

Riviera Review

Riviera Elementary PTA | 365 Paseo De Arena, Torrance, CA 90505 | 310-533-4460 | riviera.tusd.org



Inside This Issue

President's Message

Principal's Message

Summer Learning Opportunities

Thank You's

Limited Edition Rivie Wear Sale

Mark Your Calendars!

June 10 - 5th Grade Promotion

June 13 - Last Day of School!

STAY CONNECTED THIS YEAR:

1

RIVIERA WEBSITE

Important school and district announcements and news.

VIEW

2

E-BLASTS

Weekly reminders, PTA events, and updates.

VIEW

3

PTA CALENDAR

All school and PTA sponsored and school events.

VIEW

PTA President, Missy Williams


PTA President Missy Williams

Riviera Roadrunners,

June is finally here and summer vacation is upon us! Do any of you have a kiddo like mine who doesn't want the school year to end? I am personally looking forward to lazy mornings with sunny skies, but I do agree that when a school year has been as fun as ours, it is difficult to say goodbye for the summer months. Speaking of goodbyes, I'm saying my farewell to my role as your PTA President. It's been an amazing two years leading our team of Riviera families and my time spent as president is something I'll hold dear to my heart always.

Our final Riviera Review of the year is special in that your PTA Executive Board gets to thank the volunteers that put on the 50+ programs here on campus. We couldn't bring these extraordinary activities to our Roadrunners without the generous support of our families. From the Annual Giving Campaign to the Fun Run, from Handbag Bingo to the Gala and more, we've all stepped up to ensure our kids get a stellar education.

I hope you'll take a moment to read these meaningful messages of gratitude because they give a peak behind the scenes of the Riviera Elementary PTA powerhouse. So without further ado…

***Christie Forshey* (Seriously, the best Principal EVER)**: One of the many things I'll miss as PTA President is working so closely with you. It's no wonder you are held in such high regard with every Rivera family, because your guidance, attention to detail, graciousness, work ethic, and true heart are second to none. I adore you!

Katie Bengerno *(Executive Vice President)*: Katie, you're been the perfect person to have at my side all year. You exude a calming energy and are always there with a bright smile and sparkle in your eye. Thank you for always being ready and willing to take on everything that I couldn't!

Hilary Forester *(VP of Ways and Means)*: We were both new to our positions last year, and I hope you'll agree that this year we hit our strides! Leading Riviera's many fundraising teams is an enormous job and you manage to stay on top of it all. This year's gala was a huge success, and even though you don't like to take credit for it, you were an instrumental part of that team. You'll be soooo missed here at Riviera next year!

Erica Glinsky *(VP of Community Service)*: You have made such a lasting impact during your time as a Riviera parent. I can't believe you're finally saying goodbye after so many years here… the school certainly won't be the same without you. Thank you for overseeing all of our community service projects. Riviera families give back to the community in endless ways and you always made sure every detail was perfect.

Staci Resnick *(VP of Membership):* Once again you did lots of counting here at Riviera… PTA memberships, Run Club laps, and *all of that money* after our handbag bingo fundraiser! Like I said last year, at least you don't have to count sheep at night because you must be exhausted after doing it all! Staci, you're always a huge support to me and you're ever-ready to take on more. We're truly lucky to have you on our team.

Ellie Brisbin *(VP of Volunteers)*: I can't think of a more perfect role for you on the board than VP of Volunteers… especially because you are always the first to personally volunteer in ways both big and small whenever extra hands on deck are needed! You never hesitate to take on additional responsibilities and your commitment to the school is evident in everything you do. Many thanks!

Sarina Henley *(VP of Hospitality)*: Riviera may be known for academic excellence combined with enrichment experiences, but our school families also know how to have a good time! Sarina, you planned so many wonderful hospitality events… for the teachers, the children, and the parents. Thank you for being the epitome of a fabulous hostess!

Megan Chandler *(Recording Secretary)*: This was your first year on the board, but you dove right in and got involved in every way imaginable. The school is so crazy lucky to have you leading the way as President next year. Fun fact: My first position on the board was as recording secretary many (many) years ago. Now the two of us are switching board positions next year… you'll be president and I'll be taking all the minutes once again!

Sara McKown (Treasurer): Ok, thank goodness we are dear friends outside of school, because otherwise I doubt you would have put up with my financial ineptitude so graciously. Being treasurer is both tedious and time-consuming, but you never once let anything slip… not even when you were called to duty and stepped in as a K-1 teacher at school. Multi-talented Mama!

Jeff Love *(Financial Secretary)*: The question everyone wants to ask is "How did you put up with all the female energy on the board?!!" We were so lucky to have a dad join our executive board team this year. Depositing checks at the bank isn't the most exciting of positions, but it certainly is one of the most important ones. Thank you!

Melissa Lumaco *(Financial Reviewer)*: I bet most parents don't know that the PTA has to audit itself twice each year, which is enough to cause most of us major anxiety. But you do it with what looks like total ease. Your attention to detail is phenomenal and we are going to miss you at Riviera so much next year!

Tina Jordan *(Historian)*: There are so many events to document at Riviera and you keep track of them all so that future years can look back in awe at what an amazing community we have here. You also log all of our parent volunteer hours, which I'm pretty sure are unrivaled across the district. Drumroll, please, for that grand total… !!!!

Alexis Ryan (*Parliamentarian):* Who knew there were so many rules for PTA meetings?!! After two years as President, I can say that I finally know them all. JUST KIDDING. Thank goodness I had you to learn them all and gently remind me each step of the way. You will be missed at Riviera next year too!

Jennifer Laun *(Corresponding Secretary)*: Jen, our eBlasts and Newsletters have never looked better. You are seriously such a talented graphic designer and your skills have changed the way we digitally communicate with our Riviera families. Thank you for making such a huge impact and keeping us informed all year long!

To each and every one of you, my Rivera Community:

Thank you for your smiles, your hellos, your expressions of gratitude, and your words of support. Thank you for your volunteer service, your ideas, your creativity, and your contributions. Our theme this year has been ***"Together We Shine"*** and I think we can all agree that Riviera is shining as bright as ever!

Best, and with love,

Missy

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

As we enter the final month of the 2023-2024 school year, it is a time to reflect on an amazing school year and the road ahead!

Speaking of the road ahead… I love the cover that **Mrs. Nyssa Wilson**, PTA Yearbook Chair selected for the 2023-2024 PTA Yearbook! The license plate and moving toward the sunset remind me of Walt Whitman's poem "Song of the Open Road."

Afoot and light-hearted I take to the open road,

Healthy, free, the world before me,

The long path before me leading wherever I choose…

Strong and content I travel the open road.

Every school year is an open road with new opportunities and learning for us all. It is inspiring to know that we move forward and yet, the yearbook is also a record, a snapshot of time, a compilation of moments spent that capture this year…the road behind us. Our experiences throughout the 23-24 school year have prepared us all for what lies ahead.

To Riviera's Class of 2024 -105 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. You should feel excitement for the road ahead… leading you to middle school, high school and "wherever you choose". As you look back on elementary school, also 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 cheering you on every step of the way! Stop by sometime to let us know all of the amazing things you are up to on your journey!

Riviera staff and parents look forward to recognizing and celebrating our 5th grade students at a special Promotion Ceremony, Monday, June 10th @ 3:45-5:00 p.m.

To Riviera's TK-4th Grade Students

Congratulations on completing 180 days of school. Look forward to next school year and the new learning and fun coming your way.

To Rivera Parents

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, Missy Williams and Executive Board for your extra time, ideas and commitment to school excellence.

To Riviera's Sensational Staff

Thank you for all that you do for students, families, our school and for Team Riviera everyday. You are the driving force…with the power to impact the lives and learning of your students every day.

A special thank you to **PTA President, Missy Williams** for serving as PTA President for two years. Working with you has been very fun & rewarding and I thank you for your commitment to Riviera Elementary students and community! Congratulations on your well deserved Honorary Service Award this year!

*It is not too late to order a yearbook. Click on the following link to have a yearbook sent to your home… ***After Deadline purchase.pdf***

Rivie Roadrunner & I are also ready to celebrate a remarkable school year and "look to the open road ahead" to the 2024-2025 school year! Here we Roadrunners…here we go… Beep! Beep!



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 - 2024

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. 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 plans to host **Camp Riviera** and will have 1st-5th grade target instruction groups that will take place the week of August 5th-August 16th. TUSD is also providing a **Summer Learning Academy** for students that are working below grade level in K-2- Literacy and 3-5 Math. 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 13th. 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 13th for before or after beach fun.

****SAVE THE DATES****

Riviera Back To School Expo *on August 21st from 3:00-4:00 p.m. for TK/Kindergarten and 4:00-6:00 p.m. for 1st-5th grade students.*

The First Day of School 2023 is on Thursday, August 22nd!

Have a safe & happy summer,

Your Principal, Mrs. Forshey


RIVIERA PTA 2023-2024
THANK YOU'S

WITH GRATITUDE WE THANK THE ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN (AGC) COMMITTEE,

FROM JENNY YIAKAS & HEIDI DUNCAN, AGC CHAIRS

Thank you to our AGC & Back-to-School Expo committee for helping us to keep our commitment to raising funds for Riviera and asking for matching donations. The Annual Giving Campaign is Riviera PTA's largest fundraiser and it can't be done alone. It definitely takes a village, and the AGC village is awesome!
Thank you for your support, hard work, dedication and most of all....COMMITMENT TO OUR RIVIERA STUDENTS! ...and to all the additional people who pitched in to make Expo and AGC another successful year!
Special thanks to Chelsea Cook for being available and willing to help us manage the backend of expo and donations throughout the entire year.
Special thanks to **Kimber Brown** for setting up the online payment platform and for your graphic design genius in creating our logo each year.

Amanda Sten
Chelsea Cook
Kimber Brown
Julia Kroyan
Hilary Forrester
Chrissy Olson
Sarah Whittington
Melissa Lumaco
Kellyn Vila
Louise Reardon

Chelsea Cook
Kimber Brown
Louise Reardon
Staci Resnick
Missy Williams
Brett Egan
Jeff Cook

HUGE THANK YOU TO THE BACK TO SCHOOL EXPO COMMITTEE FROM BECKY EGAN, EXPO CHAIR & AGC MATCHING CHAIR

A BIG THANK YOU FROM HILARY FORRESTER, VP OF WAYS AND MEANS

It is hard to believe that this will be my last year here at Riviera. I have seen so many volunteers work so hard over the years and I feel so lucky that I got to be involved. Everyone that has chaired or been on a committee under the umbrella of Ways and Means has been integral to keeping our school running. Every student benefits from your hard work. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart!

AGC - Thank you to **Heidi Duncan** and **Jenny Yiakas** for your incredible dedication to this enormous job! This has been a year round endeavor for you both and I know that it has required so much time, planning, organization, patience, creativity and hard work. You two are amazing and our school has been so lucky to have you at the helm of our Annual Giving Campaign!

Fashion Wear- Thank you so much to **Kimber Brown** for taking on this role once again! Your skills have ensured that graphics, logos, and merch are always on point. But we all know that you are the unsung IT hero of Riviera! You work so hard behind the scenes for our school helping with the website, graphic design and all the other tech stuff that I don't understand! We all appreciate you so much!

Student Wear - Thank you **Bayley Falls** for another amazing year of Student Wear! Our kiddos are always looking great as they show off their school spirit sporting Roadrunner merch!

Gala - Oh **Chelsea Cook** where do I begin? Thank you so very much for leading the charge for this year's epic Gala Fundraiser! I know that this is a thankless job and you worked tirelessly to ensure that every aspect of the Gala was perfection. The money we raised for our school is a tribute to your dedication and your vision.

I would like to add a special thank you to the entire **Gala Committee.**

We would not have had such incredible success without all of your hard work! So, thanks so much to: Amanda Sten, Ellie Brisbin, Erin Murphy, Alicia Newport, Holly Valentino, Megan Simmons, Karina Banales, Staci Resnick, & Sacha Mendivil!

Handbag Bingo - **Staci Resnick** and **Vanessa Hyttenberg**, thank you so much for doing such a great job on this year's Handbag Bingo Fundraiser! This is a crowd favorite event and you worked hard to make it so special and fun! Everyone loved the bags, the DJ and the great memories! I'm not even bitter that I have never won a handbag! It's all for the children. :-)

Fun Run - Thank you so much **Sara McKown** and **her entire team** for another successful Riviera Fun Run! The students had a blast raising money for their school while enjoying the DJ and that pesky leprechaun!

Restaurant Nights - **Amanda Sten** thank you so much for taking on this role again! You always put so much thought into which restaurants in our community we partner with, and when is the best time to pair with each one. Plus you're always giving busy parents a night off from cooking, which we all appreciate!

Matching Donations - Thanks so much to **Becky Egan** for heading this up! These donations are such a benefit to Riviera and I appreciate all of your hard work!

Escrip/Partnership - **Susie Moon** you are helping us raise money for our school while we shop! I think that is called a win/win! Thank you so much for taking on this role!

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALL THE COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRS FROM ERICA GLINSKY, 3RD VP

Peter Brown and **Brett Egan**, Bike Rodeo

Thank you for planning and executing the Riviera Bike Rodeo for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders! It takes a lot of coordination and volunteers to pull this off and you both did an amazing job again this year! Riviera will miss you both!

Luke Hellinga, Blue Ribbon Week

Thank you for heading up this important event. Thank you for your attention and reaching out to law enforcement and military. This was such a special, memorable day for all who were able to attend!

Carolyn LaRocca and **Michelle Simkin**, Book Fair

The Book Fair is a huge undertaking, and it happens twice a year! You are both there everyday making sure the event runs smoothly for our students. Planning, set-up, gathering volunteers, manning the event; it has a lot of moving parts! Thank you both for chairing this very favorite event!

Becky Egan, Earth Week

Thank you for your energy in planning and running this incredible week! It reminds all of us to be gentle to the earth, and the kids loved all the activities and challenges you organized for them!

Megan Chandler, Family Events

Planning Movie Night, the Someone Special/Father/Daughter Dance, and the Someone Special/Mother/Son Sock Hop; this job is one of the biggest ones in the PTA! All of the events were loved by our Riviera families! Thank you for planning such fun gatherings for our Riviera community!

Andrea Delap, Emergency Preparedness

Thank you for putting together all the emergency kits. It may not get a lot of attention, but this is such an important job and a lot of work! Thank you for supporting the safety preparedness of our students!

Kristin Jacobson, Firefighter Appreciation

This is another favorite assembly day at Riviera each year. Having a firetruck on campus is always an exciting event! Thank you for organizing, planning, and welcoming our firefighters to campus!

Jenny Peters, Giving Tree

Thanks for collecting all the presents and delivering them to those in need, including some of our own Riviera families. It is such an important tradition at Riviera and we so appreciate you organizing and making sure everyone gets a special holiday.

Rebecca Lew and **Megan Chandler**, The Friendship Club

Thank you for taking on the chair role for this very important school group. It is wonderful to see our Riviera community come together to support all our students. We are lucky to have your guidance!

Allison Williamson, Red Ribbon Week

The campus looked amazing this year! The kids get such a kick out of the themes and listening for their numbers each day. Thank you for organizing great days, prizes, and for spotlighting this important week!

Louis Barrere and **Ellie Brisbin**, Relay for Life

Thank you for heading up the Riviera Elementary Relay for Life Team again! This is an important event in the fight against cancer and means a lot to our Riviera families and the community.

Natalie Davis, Scholarship

A big thank you to you, and your committee, for picking two Riviera Alumni to honor. It is always a hard choice with so many wonderful former students from which to choose. It is special to be able to support our former students in their journey after high school.

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 **Michelle Simkin** for this year's guidance AND to **Nyssa Wilson** for her leadership of the event last Valentine's Day! This was a true group effort and I can't thank both of you enough for your support with this project!

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM ELLIE BRISBIN, VP OF VOLUNTEERS!

AIA Chairs, **Anne Bollman** and **Julia Kroyan**, thank you both so much for all your hard work and dedication in giving our children the art experiences they deserve!! The art show display at the book fair this year was absolutely fabulous!!

Library Chair, **Jen Rauzon**, thank you for running our library year after year with such ease! The library is kept organized, updated, and beautiful because of your leadership. We are all so very grateful for all that you do!!

Super Saturday, **Cristina** and **Scott Cummins**, thank you both for helping to make our campus sparkling and refreshed each year. Our playground and outdoor areas look so amazing because of your guidance and hard work!

Valet, **Suzanne Brown**, thank you so much for leading all our families through a safe and quick drop off each and every morning. We so appreciate you and your hardworking 5th grade Valet team!

Honorary Service, **Katie Bengerno**, thank you so much for your leadership in recognizing and celebrating those who go above and beyond as volunteers at our school. Each award recipient was so very surprised to be honored and appreciated by you!!

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DEDICATED ROOM PARENTS:

Diana Kenney
Siegrun Smith
Susie Moon
Rachel McClurg
Morgan Palm
Jennifer Laun
Erin Mellano
Megan Chandler
Nina Tolbert
Sarah Whittington
Kaleen Ogden
Allison Tanaka
Jenny Peters
Michelle Simkin
Kara Younes
Sara McKown
Katie Bengerno
Debra Chan
Brooke Villapudua
Bonnie Kopf
Jacqueline Guy
Amber Jones
Holly Valentino

THANK YOU FROM SARINA HENLEY, VP OF HOSPITALITY!

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…

Becky Egan, Back to School Expo: Rockstar! Our school will miss you so much! You were so organized and your smile warms hearts!

Sarah Turk, 5th Grade Party: The 5th graders scored with you! You are throwing the best party ever!

Hilary Forrester, Holiday Staff Luncheon: You are amazing! The teachers felt your cheerful spirit!

Missy Williams, Kinder Playdate: Amazing Playdate! You are the best! :)

Ellie Brisban, Kinder Round Up: Amazing organizing all the moving pieces, including many many 5 year olds! Your smile helped everyone feel welcome!

Lauren Csaki, New Parents Tea: She exceeded everyone's expectations and baked everything from scratch! Those new parents felt extra welcomed!

Sarah Whittington, Teacher Appreciation: The award for most behind the scenes goes to you! We need a Sarah W appreciation day! You rock!

Katie Bengerno, Welcome Back Luncheon: You welcomed the teachers in style with everything but margaritas! We appreciate you so much!

1ST VP OF PROGRAMS, BIG THANKS TO ALL THOSE THAT MAKE OUR SCHOOL SO SPECIAL

There are so many amazing chairs to thank under Programs. Beginning in the fall and continuing through spring, these powerhouses put together some truly amazing activities for our students and their families.

Megan Chandler, *Reflections*. Thank you for being our Reflections chair! This year's theme was "I am Hopeful" and you did a great job coordinating our contest and helping to select our winning submissions.

Nyssa Wilson, *International Fair.* This is one of the most special events at Riviera. Thank you for spearheading it once more and allowing the beautiful diversity of our school community to take center stage.

Danika King, *Bake Sale*. Thank you for organizing this annual family favorite activity. Those holiday goodies are the perfect way to start the sweetest season of the year.

Debra Volpone and **Vanessa Hyttenberg**, *Craft Fair*. Once again brought our crafts to a new level. Thank you for taking on such an important event, because the holidays just wouldn't be the same without adorable homemade keepsake gifts from our kiddos.

Sacha Mendivil, *Talent Show*. Thank you for directing another fabulous night to showcase the stars fo Riviera. You coordinated everything from the auditions all the way through to the final curtain call with grace, efficiency, and a huge smile.

Rebecca Love, *Career Day*. This is such a unique opportunity for our roadrunners to be inspired by our parent community and their tales from the workforce. Thank you for making it all happen!

Staci Resnick, *Run Club*. Thank you for running the Run Club all year long. You motivated so many tiny feet to get moving around the school track… and entertained the parents with your pun-filled emails!

THANK YOU'S FROM STACI RESNICK, VP OF MEMBERSHIP

There are so many wonderful chairs to thank under Membership that keep our school informed for students & parents alike!

Nyssa Wilson, *Yearbook Queen*: There are not enough thank you's in the world for me to send your way. I appreciate your willingness to tackle such a large, detailed, & important job. You did so with determination, organization, and your 'let's figure out how to get it done attitude. I am excited to see the incredible final project that you created for our families & we appreciate you keeping the memories alive for years to come! You are amazing Nyssa - *THANK YOU!*

Jennifer Laun, *Newsletter:* Thank you so much for creating our monthly newsletter with ease & beauty! Your detailed work allows us all to stay well informed about our school events and so much more. We could not have all survived the school year without he wealth of information you provide in our newsletter.

Motoko Maki, *Student Directory:* The Riviera Student Directory is an amazing resource that so many of us look forward to & use each year. Motoko - thank you for your time & dedication to making this wonderful tool available for our school. I truly appreciate your time & the energy that went into such a time-consuming task!

Jennifer Laun, *Eblast Chairperson*: The eblast was again, a work of art this year! You are the most creative. Thank you for all you do to keep us all informed.

Misha Morishita, *Marquee Chairperson:* A huge shout out to you for keeping our outdoor school marquee up to date each month! So many of us busy parents rely on it to remind us of the important things coming up in our school community.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM LAURA SAVTIZ, MUSIC TEACHER

A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM LAURA SAVTIZ, OUR AMAZING MUSIC TEACHER

Hello Riviera community!

Thanks to all of you for supporting the music programs at Riviera!

It is a joy to be able to share my passion with all your kids!

Special thanks also to the **Palos Verdes/South Bay Alumni Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon** for awarding me a grant which funds the 2 music subscriptions I will use to bring new music for all my programs next year!

I am very grateful for their support and yours!

