ISSUE 2 OCTOBER 1, 2023

# Riviera Review

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



## 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

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### Mark Your Calendars!

10/9 - No School

10/12 - Student Council Elections

10/13
-PTA Movie Night
-Progress reports posted
-Reflections entries due

10/19 - Earthquake Drill

10/19-20 - Invite-only conferences

10/23 - Red Ribbon Week

10/24 - GATE assessment for all 3rd graders

10/27 - Torrance Fire Department Assembly for 5th graders on Basic Aid Training (BAT)

10/29- Skecher's Friendship Walk

10/31 - Riviera Halloween Parade @ 9:15- Riviera parents & younger siblings welcome to attend!

# PTA President, Missy Williams

## Welcome back to Riviera for the 2023-2024 school year!

We did it! Parents, children, staff, and the PTA all worked together to get our children off to a great start this school year! September flew by, filled with fun activities and (if your family is anything like mine) jam-packed calendars. There definitely were some highlights here on the Riviera campus, perhaps the biggest of them all being our children getting to know their teachers and classmates. Building these new connections each year is both exciting and perhaps a little overwhelming too… but here at Riviera our kids have all the support they need to lay the foundation for a successful year.

Speaking of building new connections, I am excited to welcome our temporary principal, Dr. Argento. Her positive energy and enthusiasm are a perfect fit here at Riviera and I am looking forward to working alongside and collaborating with her during this period.

There are so many September PTA activities to highlight, perhaps one of the most fun being the Book Fair! I hope you were all able to stop by and browse the literature on display, perhaps to purchase your latest family favorite or to make a future wishlist. **Carolyn LaRocca** and **Michelle Simkin,** along with all of the parent volunteers, made this a special occasion for the entire school.

## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

This month the PTA is putting on our annual Family Movie Night. This is a free event for the entire family on October 13th, so bring your blankets, beach chairs, and dinner to enjoy as you watch Super Mario Bros under the starry sky. And don't worry, if you forget to bring food we will be selling dinner, desserts, and snacks throughout the night.

Our first Restaurant Night at HT Grill was a huge success. Thank you **Amanda Sten** for organizing these monthly fundraising events where we can all support the school and take a day off from kitchen duty at home!




## SCHOOL LIBRARY

Our school library opens this week. The kiddos will all have so much fun listening to stories, looking through the shelves, and checking out books this year. Thank you to **Jen Rauzon** and her committee for getting everything ready for a successful year of literacy.

## HALLOWEEN PARADE

The Halloween Parade returns on October 31st and parents are invited on campus to watch! I am so excited to see all of our little ghosts and goblins parading around the blacktop and hope many of you get to join the fun too.

Ok, I think that about covers it. I want to put out a final Thank You to all of the parents who have stepped up to volunteer in the many different roles here at school including Room Parents, Library Docents, and Adventures in Art Docents. **Ellie Brisbin** spent endless hours coordinating this team of helpers. There are still so many ways to volunteer and get involved. Stay on the lookout for requests both from the classroom and school wide for more rewarding opportunities, and don't forget to get Raptor approved. Simply go to the TUSD Riviera website and click Get Involved/Volunteer/Volunteer Application.

Wishing you a wonderful fall season,

Missy

# Principal's Corner

## Welcome to Dr. Amy Argento!

*Hello Riviera Families. I am thrilled to introduce myself as your acting principal while Mrs. Forshey is away. It is truly an honor to be joining this incredible school and community. With over 20 years in education, I am passionate about creating positive and inclusive learning environments. In fact, Mrs. Forshey and I have much in common in our style and love of creating a space where all feel valued and part of the Riviera Family.*

*Throughout my career, I have had the fortunate opportunity to teach at the elementary, middle and university level and within the district rolling out all of the 17 elementary school science labs as a District Science Resource Teacher. I come to you most recently from Victor Elementary School where I am the assistant principal. My three boys are Torrance Unified students and active soccer players. When I am not here at Riviera, you will find me teaching at Long Beach State, watching a soccer game, walking on the strand, or spending time with my family. I love connecting with families and students, so please stop and say hello when you see me and tell me more about you. I look forward to our time together. Don't hesitate to reach out to me for anything!*

*All my best,*

*Dr. Argento*



Dr. Argento & Principal Forshey

## HAPPY FALL! THERE IS SO MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO THIS MONTH:

In October, the following groups meet with teachers and staff to receive information and give input into Riviera's School Programs: English Language Multicultural Committee (ELMAC), School Site Council (SSC) and PTA! All groups create goals and discuss spending of California State Categorical Budgets. Feedback from all parents ensures that our student, staff and community needs are being met.

SSC is a group of employees and parents/community members that meet to discuss school goals and expenditures of categorical budgets. With insight from a dedicated group of parents and staff SSC members, our SSC will bring a broad perspective to discussions regarding staffing, budget implementation and school programs.

The following staff members serve on Riviera's SSC. Mrs. Josic- 2nd/3rd grade teacher, Mr. Hicks- 3rd grade teacher, Mr. Musick- 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Miller- 2nd grade teacher, Mrs. Jacqueline Guy- Student Supervision Assistant. Please email any of the following parent SSC members with any questions/concerns/school issues that are on your mind. Thank you to our parent volunteers for serving on SSC.

TORRANCE COUNCIL OF PTA'S THIRTY-THIRD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA STATE PTA

PTA® everychild. onevoice.®

# THANK YOU TO RIVIERA'S SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL MEMBERS!

**Bridgette Ellis - ellisbmt@gmail.com**

Hello! My name is Bridgette Ellis. I am the proud Riviera parent to Mia (4th grade), Sutton (1st grade) and Macen (1st grade). I am a CPA and my husband, Bryan, and I have a Financial Planning, Tax & Accounting practice located in the Riviera Village. I have had the privilege of volunteering at Riviera since 2017 in a variety of ways, including as a classroom helper, library docent and AIA docent. I am looking forward to my 5th year as a parent representative in the School Site Council. It is exciting to learn more about the commitment of our amazing teachers and Principal to the success of our students at Riviera.

**Ryan Rauzon - ryan@summitstrategygroup.net**

I'm Ryan Rauzon (pronounced ruh-ZAHN). Jen and I have Lincoln in the Great Allison M. Williamson's 4th grade class. Linc's older siblings are both at South High. You'll find Jen volunteering with PTA in the library at Riviera (unless you'd like to take over her workload there). We're involved in PTA over at South High and at Torrance Council of PTAs. We're always open to talking about CAASPP standardized tests and sharing our experiences with how to produce good talks about a child's academic performance and mental health after Covid quarantine lockdown Zoom life. (We should all ask TUSD to give Riviera leadership the score analysis by domain/content standards so we can figure out which specific areas students have and have not yet mastered). Anyway, we're opinionated about all of this. Happy to serve on School Site Council unless you'd rather do it yourself which I strongly recommend! A big 'thank you' to everybody who serves on PTA. I've learned a ton from ed100.org and hope everyone visits that site to learn how California's education system works and how we can make a difference. Email, call or text me anytime. ryan@summitstrategygroup.net; cell: (310) 293-0286.

**Julia Kroyan - julia@intelino.com**

My name is Julia Kroyan and I have two sons. One attends Riviera Elementary in 2nd grade and my older son is in 6th grade @ Richardson. Volunteering at the school has given me insight as well as appreciation of what an exceptional school Riviera is. I have been working in the STEM education field for the last decade and am currently the VP of Education at Intelino, a robotics-based edtech company. I am honored and looking forward to serving on the School Site Council.

**Megan Chandler - megc1221@yahoo.com**

My name is Megan Chandler and I am the proud parent of triplet boys (Caleb, Logan, and Kyle) who are in first grade at Riviera, as well as two step sons (Dylan 17 who is a junior at West High and Brandon 23). Besides my most important role as Mom, I am a property manager, advocate, and also a Roadrunner alumni! This is my second year on Riviera's School Site Council. I love hearing about all the amazing achievements of Riviera, Ms. Forshey, and the amazing teachers. I am excited to continue to serve and learn so much more as the year progresses.

**Jacqueline "Jacquei" Guy - Guy.Jacqueline@TUSD.org or InfoFORJ.Guy@gmail.com**

My name is Jacquei Guy and I have been a Riviera Parent since 2018 when my now 5th grader (Kathryn) started Kindergarten with Ms. Hirokawa. I also have a 2nd grader (William) who has been at Riviera since 2020. I have volunteered my time where needed. Keeping in mind, not to overdo it (as I have Fibromyalgia) I have volunteered as the classroom parent (numerous times), chaperoned Field trips, AIA docent, helped as a teacher aide, set up/broke down and helped with schoolwide & classroom events, helped with book fair, I've also handled our schools Lost and Found and I've helped out during lunch breaks on the playground. With PTA, I was the Reflections Chair, Adventures in Art Chair & as the Historian. Last school year I was given the opportunity to apply and work at Riviera as a noon aide by Principal Forshey. Since I was there volunteering my time doing the same thing anyway I applied and became a Riviera Employee. (Still volunteering where I could on top) Recently, I heard about our School Site Council and possibly getting the opportunity to become a parent representative and/or a staff representative. This is something that I would love to be able to do. Being a part of my kids educational path to their best possible future is important and it would be an honor to be able to help.

# October Calendar

## HAPPY FALL! THERE IS SO MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO THIS MONTH.

**October 2nd** - Riviera's Library will open this week

**October 3rd** - Vision & Hearing Screening for Grades TK, K, 1st (Boys only), 2nd & 5th Grades

**October 3rd** - PTA Bettolino Restaurant Night

**October 6** - Shelter In Place Drill

**October 9th** - Student Free Day for Staff Professional Development

**October 10th** - Picture Day-Get your smiles ready , GATE Enrichment After School

**October 12th** - 4th/5th Grade Student Council Elections

**October 13th** - Family Movie Night…Super Mario Brothers, Reflections Entries Due and First Progress Report Available for viewing on Powerschool

**October 19th** - Great California Shake Out-Earthquake Drill

**October 19/20** - Invite Only Conferences 2:13 Dismissal

**October 23rd** - Red Ribbon Week

**October 24th** - 3rd Grade GATE Testing

**October 27th** - 5th Grade Basic Aid Training with Torrance Fire Department

**October 29th** - Skecher's Walk- Let's be the top school in Torrance!

**October 31st** - Halloween Parade @ 9:15 a.m.- Students will come to school dressed in costume and bring a change of clothes. Parents can enter campus at 9:10 to watch the parade!




## GREAT CA SHAKE OUT DRILL

Riviera Students and faculty will participate in a statewide emergency drill on October 19 at 10:19! Riviera joins 7.7 million Californians that are preparing and practicing how to respond during an earthquake.

Students will Drop, Cover and Hold, evacuate classrooms and staff will simulate search and rescue teams. Our emergency bin and supplies will be inventoried and Emergency Kits will be relocated to our emergency bin (the storage bin by the cafeteria). The office will test emergency radio connections to the school district office and the City of Torrance's command center.

October safety drills also include Torrance Fire Department Fire Drill and Safety Inspection and Torrance Fire Department Basic Aid Training (BAT) for 5th Grade Students. Riviera will practice a fire drill, shelter in place and earthquake drill this month.

# JOIN THE RIVIERA ROADRUNNER TEAM FOR THE SKECHER'S WALK!

**Skechers Pier to Pier Friendship Walk.** ***Sunday, October 29th – Register Today!***

The Skechers Friendship Walk is an **amazing** community event, where walkers walk from Manhattan Pier to Hermosa Pier to raise money for education. All $30 registration proceeds from Riviera's school team walkers will come straight back to Riviera Elementary School. If Riviera has 100 walkers register, we will receive $3000 plus an additional $1000 bonus! Let's get a big Riviera Roadrunner team together for a fun, family-friendly event for a great cause. Riviera Roadrunner walkers will meet at MB pier in the TUSD/Riviera area and will walk together.

1. Go to **https://www.friendshipfoundation.com/skechers-walk/**

2. Click on Register

3. Click on join an existing team

4. Enter **Riviera Roadrunners**

5. Complete the registration process.

6. **Be sure to check the box for Torrance Education Foundation to receive the support of your contribution.**

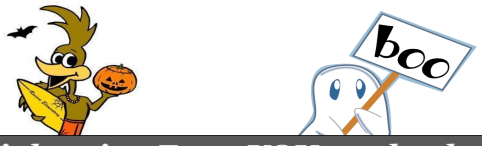
7. You will receive an email confirming your registration.

Proceeds from the Skecher's Walk will be allocated for site improvements On the list so far are: murals on walls, garden maintenance & additional playground equipment.




## STAY CONNECTED!

RIVIERA PTA WEEKLY E-BLAST
INSTAGRAM
FACEBOOK
PTA CALENDAR




## *Frightening Facts YOU need to know!*

**A QUALITY public education is no longer free.**
Government funding no longer pays for any extra-curricular programs in public schools such as library, assemblies, art, music, iPad, science, PE and field trips.

**California is ranked one of the lowest states in spending per student and in class size.**
K-3 class size in California has nearly doubled in the last 7 years.
California student : teacher ratio remains almost 70% higher than most of the nation.

**TUSD gets 10% less funding than the average California School**
In addition, property taxes contribute very little to local schools.

# Don't let the facts spook you!

Our job as the PTA is to ensure that your child's education does not suffer due to lack of government funding. Donate to the **PTA ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN** today. We ask $365 per child from each family **in order to continue providing the excellent programs, services and support teachers we already have in place**. *These are not funded by the State, District or our tax dollars.*

## $365 is just "a dollar a day"

for your child's educational future!

**DONATE NOW:**

**https://www.rivierapta.com/agc!**

*Questions? Please contact AGC Chairs, Heidi & Jenny* @Annual Giving riviera.pta.agc@gmail.com

# Red Ribbon Week




Red Ribbon Week is coming up on Oct. 23-27 and all Roadrunners will be promoting an Anti-Drug AND Self-Esteem campaign. Our theme this year is, **"Be Kind To Your Mind, Live Drug Free".** Check out the spirit days we have planned and join in the fun! We will also have a raffle if you wear/bring your provided ribbon to school each day!

**Monday,** 10/23 **Make Healthy, Positive Choices. Let's shade out DRUGS.** Wear sunglasses with your Riviera grade level shirt!

**Tuesday,** 10/24 **Voting for my future to be DRUG Free.** Wear Red, White, and Blue.

**Wednesday,**10/25 **Keep a lid on DRUGS**. Wear your favorite hat!

**Thursday,** 10/26 **Team up against DRUGS.** Wear your favorite team jersey/uniform!

**Friday.** 10/27 **From Head to Toe, I am DRUG Free!** Wear crazy hair and mix matched clothes.

***Note to Elementary Parents: Drug free messaging in Grades K-5 is age appropriate.***
****Never take medicine/drugs unless your parents or doctor tell you to.***
****Don't eat or share foods, drinks with others.***
****Have parents check items that you receive from strangers- example- Halloween Candy***
****Keep your body healthy with exercise and a healthy diet.***

## RIVIERA PTA PRESENTS

# FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT




| OCT 13 2023 | RIVIERA ELEMENTARY | STARTS 6:30 PM |
|---|---|---|

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!
WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.
SIGNUP GENIUS COMING SOON!
-Megan and Kim (family event co chairs)

NATIONAL PTA® REFLECTIONS®

# I am Hopeful Because...

2023-2024

## CALL FOR ENTRIES!

**Explore the arts and express yourself!**

**Learn more and get involved!**
**PTA.org/Reflections**

| Deadline for Entries: | For Details: |
|---|---|
| October 15th 2023 | Email Megan Chandler at: megc1221@yahoo.com |