Our schools are honored to have incredible volunteers who put in countless hours of service to the benefit of our students and communities. While we acknowledge and appreciate every volunteer in the district, the PTA Council is proud to thank the following individuals with the Continuing Service Award for their outstanding and significant commitment to our Palo Alto school district.

ADDISON       Lesley Phillips | Peter Phillips
BARRON PARK    Donna Bohling
JUANA BRIONES  Amelia Tung
DUVENECK       Clara Dye
EL CARMELO     Rashmi Hunt | Chris Flynn
ESCONDIDO      Chris Philpot | Julia Murphy-Chutorian
FAIRMEADOW     Lindsey Hoole | Sara Gillman | Tiffany Aubin
WALTER HAYS    Satomi Okazaki | Meredith Martin
HOOVER         Naomi Wang | Bryna Chang | Peggy Basuki
NIXON          Tracie Crothers | Amy Ogawa
OHLONE         Elizabeth May | Chrys McColloch
PALO VERDE     Joselyn Leve
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**FLETCHER**  Cleia Dantas | Kristen Lee | Jennifer Carlstrom

**GREENE**  Karl Garcia | Lisa Daly

**JLS**  Lili Nova-Roessig | Christine Hodson

**GUNN**  Kristy Blackburn | Heidi Trilling | Office Staff

**PALY**  Katie Shade | Gabrielle Conway | Rachel Kellerman
David Shen & Susan Usman co-led a fantastic campaign to pass Measure Z, a $460 million bond measure to upgrade and enhance PAUSD’s aging buildings to meet our 21st century educational needs, which passed with 69.4% voter approval. It took dedication, quick wit and sheer determination to get this bond passed.

Together they recruited a team of amazing volunteers, raised campaign funds and educated the community on the importance of passing this bond measure that will be used towards upgraded facilities, equipment and safety features.

Here's a YES to David and Susan's leadership on this bond measure which will benefit students for decades.

David has co-chaired PTAC's Health and Wellness Committee for several years. He is an active advocate for children's health across the district, focusing on nutrition and food quality and also helping others advocate across a number of health and wellness areas.

Susan received PTAC's highest honor: the Sally Siegel Award in 2017. She is a past president of PTAC where she focused on teen mental health with Project Safety Net and also advocated for historically under-represented minority students. She has worked hard for children who can't or won't speak for themselves.
Alva Spence, our district’s Nutrition Services Director, goes above and beyond in her daily duties caring for our students’ nutritional health. In overseeing the execution of our district’s food service program she interacts with all 18+ school sites.

Alva works effectively with administrators, parents and students. She is a visible district face in our community, holding open forums for parent and student feedback, visiting with students at sites, and actively supporting school gardens. Her duties include working on environmental issues with the Sustainable Schools Committee and Green Team, curating the Annual Future Chef competition, holding quarterly Nutrition Committee meetings, supportively attending Student Wellness Council, and much more.

Alva inspires healthy eating, listens, cares and is always ready to go the extra mile.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Integrating student grown produce, offering tastings at schools and the popular A-Z salad bar.
- Encouraging students to show their cooking skills and involving the adults in our community as judges.
- Answering concerns with tasting surveys to improve offerings at lunch.
- Always trying to reach our broader community through newsletters and open forums.
- Tirelessly and collaboratively attending committees to speak up for further improvements to our school lunch program.
- Exhibiting exceptional people skills as she empathetically listens to our communities’ diverse needs and opinions.
It is with tremendous admiration that we award Ana Reyes, a Paly Alum, a PAUSD parent and employee, a Very Special Person Award. Ana has worked for PAUSD for 10 years, most recently as an Induction/Tenure Coach, as an Academic Enhancement TOSA, and as an Inclusion Specialist. Even as Ana worked full time, she still volunteered in the classroom and at PTA events. She has worn the hats of employee, parent, and parent volunteer successfully for many years.

In January of 2018, Ana became a cervical cancer survivor, and she now advocates for the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine, as well as cervical cancer prevention and early detection. Her goal is to raise awareness about not only how women can protect themselves from cervical cancer through HPV screenings and regular pap smears, but also how important it is for all children (boys and girls) to get the HPV vaccine.

2018 was the year she started to share her story with others and voice her experience with cervical cancer to increase the public health awareness around the HPV vaccination.

She attended Cervivor School and met many other survivors. Since then, Ana has written moving and poignant pieces for online HPV and cancer-related organizations and blogs, including HPV Free Family, 15-40 Connection, Girls Rocking Cancer, Vaccinate California, Cer-Real, and Cervivor. She's involved with ACS-CAN and represented women with Cervical Cancer at an Oakland Raiders game. She was featured in a front-page article for the Palo Alto Weekly [Oct. 26, 2018] about her story and the importance of the HPV vaccination.

Ana continues to embrace what life throws at her, and strives to educate and advocate with knowledge, humor, dignity, and grace. On her new journey, she'll be accompanied by many other survivors, her family and friends, and her fiance, Jeff Gielow. It is with great pride and admiration that we give the Very Special Person Award to a very brave mother, friend, employee, advocate, and survivor: Ana Reyes.
Stacey Ashlund has served Palo Alto for nearly two decades as an education leader and advocate for kids at the school, district, city and county levels. She has worked diligently on behalf of students, especially those with special needs.

Stacey initiated and helped build the infrastructure to connect the PTAs at each school with parents seeking inclusion for their children. A decade later, this successful PTA partnership between teachers and parents of all students, regardless of factors such as ability, race, gender, achievement gap, or historical under-representation, continues to thrive. Stacey helped educate parents about their legal rights and advocacy, as well as working with staff to implement emerging and evidence-based inclusion best practices.

Stacey’s depth of understanding of special educational issues, her courage, and her tenacity in working through difficult problems have made her a remarkable leader.

Stacey also serves as the SELPA1 CAC Co-Chair, where she brings together parents, teachers, and community members to contribute towards the education and inclusion of children with special needs. She has volunteered with PTAC, multiple school site councils, PiE advisory council, and the city’s Parks and Recs Commission, advocating for inclusive access to parks in the community.

Additionally, Stacey has contributed to our community in numerous other ways, including leading a Girl Scout troop, serving on the board of Magical Bridge Playground, working with Project Safety Net, and on inclusion efforts at her synagogue. Most recently, Stacey won the support of over 10,000 voters in our district, when she ran for PAUSD school board with her positive campaign of embracing students of all abilities. She is known for her grace and tireless commitment to support the education and well-being of all children.
Congratulations to the Gunn Culture Connection Club (CCC) for their service. Kelly Wang and George Cai are Co-Presidents of this club, established four years ago, to provide volunteer translation services. They currently have more than 50 students who utilize their bilingual language skills, interest and passion in areas such as marketing and graphic design to contribute to Gunn's parent community through their translation services in 5 languages (Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Spanish and French).

The Chinese language team, the most sizable and longest existing, has been translating PTSA’s eNews for more than 100 issues (around 36 issues per year). The club now translates the meeting notes of the Principal's Coffee Parent Network meetings as well as community event flyers.

The club developed an efficient and sustainable way to provide its language translation services using a highly coordinated and collaborative method, online and offline, by 5 language teams. Their service augments the outreach effort by the school and the district, and has set a stellar example to other local neighboring communities by generously sharing their best practices.

In addition to the language services, the club also focuses on knowledge-sharing of different cultures. We appreciate the benefit and impact their work has brought to our multicultural community.