

## Towers PTA Budget Notes

Dear Towers Parents,

I know that reading and understanding a budget may be difficult to those that do not work with such reports on a daily basis as I do. I take full responsibility for posting our budget without these accompanying notes. Please take the time to read through this before you look at the budget. As always, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me at [kball90503@verizon.net](mailto:kball90503@verizon.net) and I will do my best to answer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Ball  
Towers PTA Treasurer

Over the summer, a committee is formed to take all of last year's suggestions as to what did or did not work in the past as well as new ideas for programs to benefit our Towers community and try to predict what can realistically be done.

Our budget is divided into five main categories:

1. Fundraising – These are the activities that make everything else we do possible. We felt that it is best to raise money as painlessly as possible. Rather than using student, staff, parent, and volunteer time to sell chocolate bars and wrapping paper, we ask parents to make a one-time direct donation of \$65.00 per student. We understand that this may be a hardship for some families, especially in the current economic environment so we also have some other ways parents can contribute throughout the year. These activities range from zero cost to the contributor (buying scrip through Towers for items you normally purchase, registering your grocery cards online through e-scrip, clipping box tops from items you purchase, purchasing your family portrait through Towers) to small donations throughout the year (jog-a-thon and ice cream social).
2. Student Services – These activities are things we would like to provide to make Towers a better place, but are too expensive to provide without charge. We want these events and services so we try to charge just enough to make this section more or less breakeven. The two main sub-groups are “campus enhancements” (library, student store, t-shirts and yearbook) and “family events” designed to be fun activities that promote a sense of community at Towers (Halloween carnival, father/daughter event, mother/son event, overnight campout at Towers). Again, these activities are essentially paid for by the participants and not with your PTA contributions.
3. School Department Support – Unfortunately, this has become a larger share of the budget due to the under-funding of education by the state. Simply put, there is no longer enough money at the campus level to provide basic necessities. We try to help where we can to provide these items. We have new computers in our lab thanks to your generous donations of last year but there is not enough money to provide current educational software. Towers

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PTA, in partnership with the district and possibly the Torrance Educational Foundation are trying to provide this. We provide classroom teachers with money to purchase supplemental materials for their classrooms (books, craft supplies, etc.), which used to be provided by the district.

4. Student Programs – This section also has two main sub-groups – “Traditional PTA Activities” and “Program Replacement”. These programs primarily depend on parent volunteers and PTA provides the organization and funds. Variety show, spelling bee, bike rodeo, etc. are traditional PTA activities that have been an integral part of the school experience for decades. Adventures in Art, field trips and assemblies have also been integral throughout the years but districts can no longer fund these activities so PTA has provided them.
5. Organizational Expenses – A small portion of our budget (less than 3%) goes towards the nuts and bolts of running the PTA (insurance, tax preparation, office supplies, etc.).

I personally know of very few organizations who can say that 97% of the money you donate will be applied directly to the benefit of your students. Towers PTA is an all volunteer organization. None of us make any money doing this. We do it to help your children and ours.

Towers PTA depends on you, the parent, to accomplish its goals. We need your support and involvement to help Towers Elementary remain the great school that it is. If you cannot support us with a donation, perhaps you can volunteer for a few hours. If you don't have time or extra money, you can still help by registering your grocery cards through e-scrip, clipping boxtops and buying scrip cards for your shopping or gifts.