

March 11, 2020

Dear Edison Families,

By now you have received a letter via Konstella from the PTA, informing us about the change to the upcoming PTA auction fundraiser. I can also echo the sentiment that Gretchen shared in her letter about how reluctant the PTA Executive Board was to make this change. It is a wonderful social event, and we were all disappointed at having to make this change.

However, as it became clear last night about how to handle the decision, both relief and optimism emerged from the discussion, and the decision was unanimous. Although we will miss the opportunity to celebrate together on that evening, the PTA is already working on making the online auction a memorable and worthwhile experience. And this is why I write to you today.

The funding that we receive through your generosity is critical to many of our school programs. Our Art program, which costs \$18,000 annually to run, provides rich and creative learning experiences for our students. The support in bringing Soul Shoppe to Edison this year through PTA funding has been greatly appreciated, as I hear from so many of you about the value you and your children find in providing a Socioemotional Learning Program at the school. This year, we asked PTA to support the Kindergarten Music program, as the grade level transitioned back to a modified school day. The \$4,200 spent on that program this year has been well worth it, providing foundational music lessons for our youngest students.

Edison also asks the PTA to fund numerous other programs, and the PTA has responded, through funding required for class field trips, materials supplies and equipment for classroom and school wide programs such as our recess program, library, books, assemblies, Chromebooks, counseling support, garden, and the generous support you provide in \$500 for each teacher in Classroom Betterment Funds, so our teacher have to dig into their own pockets less frequently. *There is no district or school funding for these services, and without PTA funds, they would likely be eliminated.*

Edison faces financial cuts in our Discretionary and Supplemental funding for next year, as these funds will be diverted to provide additional support staff at each school. As a result, our site based budget next year will decrease by \$15,000, which will impact programs such as our Reading Intervention program. This program serves our students in need of academic support, and provides valuable intervention for many of our students, at all grade levels. Edison teachers and administration are asking the PTA to help us close the gap so we can continue to fund this program.

This year's Edison PTA Auction is an opportunity to continue the tradition of substantial support for the school. The PTA has set an ambitious, but achievable goal of raising \$75,000. We hope that you will continue to give generously in such a manner that enables us to provide the rich program that makes Edison the school that it is.

Thank you sincerely,

Greg Sahakian  
Principal, Edison School