



Welcome Back to Escondido - Existing and New Families! This is a historically unprecedented new school year, and while we embark on this new adventure, we want you to know that we are in this together. Our PTA is a group of dedicated, enthusiastic parents and teachers that want to build and maintain connections. We are dedicated to helping you receive the communications and physical tools for your child(ren) to succeed at distance learning.

Every year we start the year with our main fundraiser, and this year we need your support more than ever. As the distance learning/ hybrid school plans continue to evolve, the expenditures required to support our teachers and students are also evolving and in many ways increasing. We have already authorized payment to each classroom with grants of \$500 for books that can support your child at home (physical and e-books) and an additional \$250 for each classroom for other supplies (which will also directly benefit your child). We have committed to providing the at-home school supplies you are receiving in the initial distribution days, as well as ongoing student supplies, increasing the physical supply expense by an additional 50% at this time (which could continue to grow over the course of the year). We created a COVID supply line item in our budget to anticipate the purchase of additional PPE, thermometers for each classroom, face shields, and other campus requests that will help make the return to campus safe. We want to be able to fund the beloved traditional Escondido field trips, community programs and events (virtually or in-person). However, in order to fund our regular programs and the increased needs this year - **we need your help to reach our fundraising goals.**

We have completely updated our PTA website to include the back to school packet and some distance learning resources. Consistent with last year we will be using Konstella for PTA focused communications.

Here is what you can do: **Donate to the PTA.** There are two (2) important financial contributions that you can make this year to support your child - 1) Donating to Escondido's PTA Ice Cream Challenge and 2) Donating to Partners in Education (they fund our spectra art, music teachers, reading specialists and classroom aides). Donations are 100% tax deductible. Go to <https://2020escondido-pta.cheddarup.com> and <https://papie.org/donate/> to donate to these organizations.

Sign up for Konstella. We will be coordinating room parents, classroom and school wide virtual (and hopefully in person) events and communicating ways you can be connected to other classmates via Konstella. For existing parents, log into Konstella and join your child's classroom to enable classroom communications.

- For new Escondido parent:, create an account on Konstella. Register: <https://www.konstella.com/cd/YDSRAL> or download the Konstella app and use this code: **YDSRAL**. Then join your child's classroom to enable classroom communications.
- For year long Distance Learning families: Join the Distance Learning classroom so you can stay connected with other Distance Learning families at Escondido and receive Escondido wide communications.

Finally, get involved by joining and volunteering with the PTA. As a member of the PTA, you have a vote at the meetings and can influence how we best support our school. By volunteering, you are an active part of your child's school community and can help build and maintain connections that will make this year fun for your child. We are in this together and we are stronger and more successful when we all work together.

Let's make the most out of the 2020-2021 school year for all of Escondido! Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Julia Murphy-Chutorian, Escondido PTA President 2020-2021