



TEACHER SURVEY: IMPACT OF PTA FUNDS IN THE CLASSROOM

SPRING 2015

2014-15 PTA BUDGET PRIORITIES SURVEYS

Why did the PTA Board send out a survey?

- In the Spring of 2015, the PTA Board sent out two surveys to help gain a better understanding of our future financial needs.
- The PTA Membership Budget Survey provided valuable information about the PTA Membership priorities.
- We also surveyed the teachers at Puesta del Sol Elementary to determine how PTA funds impacted the classroom.

TEACHER STIPENDS:

ARE TEACHER STIPENDS A VALUABLE RESOURCE?

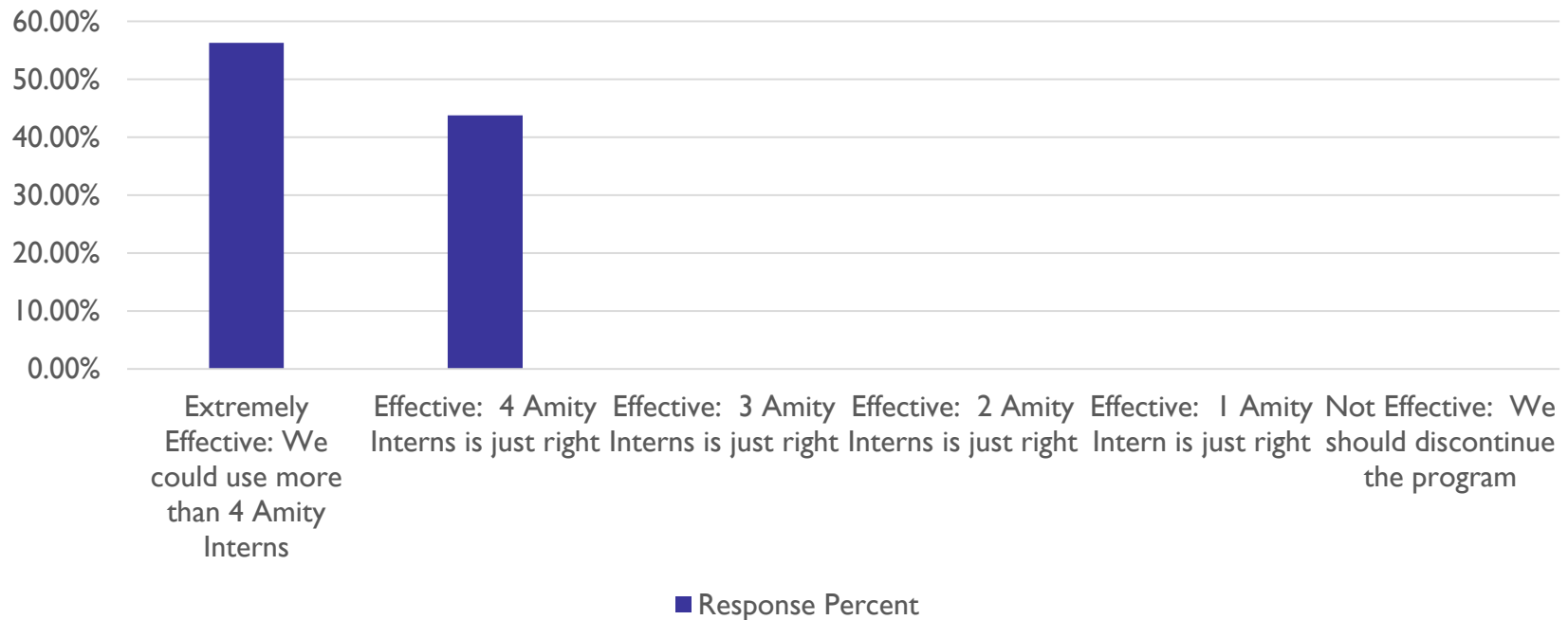
Teachers' Answer: Extremely Valuable

Examples of how teacher stipends are used:

- Classroom supplies and materials such as: notebooks, students' supplemental materials, staplers, pencil sharpeners, new books, colored pencils for creative writing, storage containers, small laminating machine, reward items and dictionaries.
- Art materials not covered by the school's budget.
- Unique books in Spanish for the class for reading time.
- Spanish books to compliment our science units, writing units, social studies, and virtues.
- Materials for our Daily 5 literacy program.

AMITY INTERNS: ARE THEY EFFECTIVE AT ENHANCING EDUCATION?

Amity Interns Effectiveness in the Classroom



AMITY INTERNS: FEEDBACK FROM TEACHERS

- They are a serious need in Kindergarten and lower grades. We could not survive without them especially with our large class sizes.
- It would be very helpful for 3rd, 4th, and 5th to have at least two interns instead of one.
- Amity Interns provide the additional practice our non-Spanish speakers need.
- Amity Interns help with small group instruction, whole group instruction and one-on-one support.
- Amity Interns help with reading groups, social studies lessons, authentic language conversations, International night, and provide a private tutoring source.
- Students are exposed to different Spanish dialects and cultures. Amity Interns develop great relationships when working one-on-one, in small groups and a whole class. They assist the teacher by using numerous interventions, bring lots of new and positive energy to the classroom, etc.
- Teachers are better able to differentiate instruction. Students are working in small groups and receiving additional support plus extension activities.

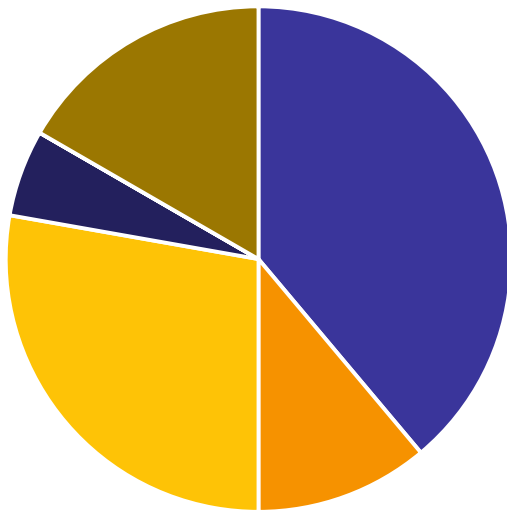
PTA PROGRAMS:

PTA PROGRAMS IN THE CLASSROOM

- **The PTA Board wanted to know how teachers believed In-Classroom PTA Programs benefit the overall education of students.**
- **The following 5 pages gives both the overall effectiveness ratings and additional feedback from teachers about each In-Classroom PTA Program.**
- **Each In-Classroom PTA Program came back as providing valuable experiences for student learning.**
- **The Committee Chairs of each of these In-Classroom PTA Programs will use this information to make improvements in following years.**

PTA PROGRAMS: ART APPRECIATION IN THE CLASSROOM

Art Appreciation



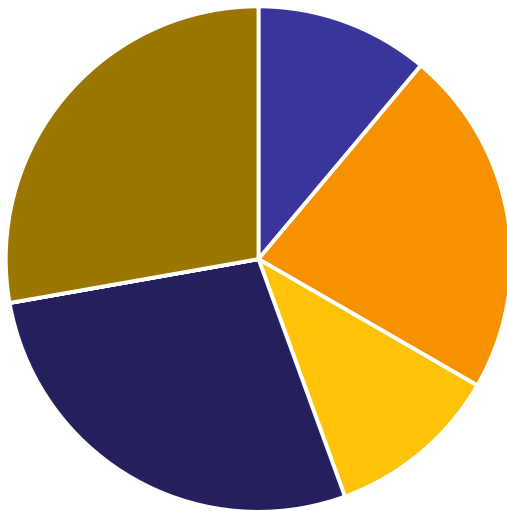
■ Very Valuable ■ Highly Valuable ■ Valuable
■ Some Value ■ No Value ■ Do not use

COMMENTS:

- I use this opportunity to use art as a catalyst and connect it with our curriculum.
- It is fun, but I would rather have more money for more Amity Intern support in kindergarten
- Art is one of my great weak areas and my students have had an awesome experience with these talented and gifted volunteers! I would NEVER be able to provide this opportunity.
- Can be difficult to recruit parent volunteers to help with clean up, set up, and support the lesson.
- Gives opportunities to students for their own ideas and creativity.
- High value when it's done by volunteers with commitment and expertise.

PTA PROGRAMS: PASSPORT IN THE CLASSROOM

Passport



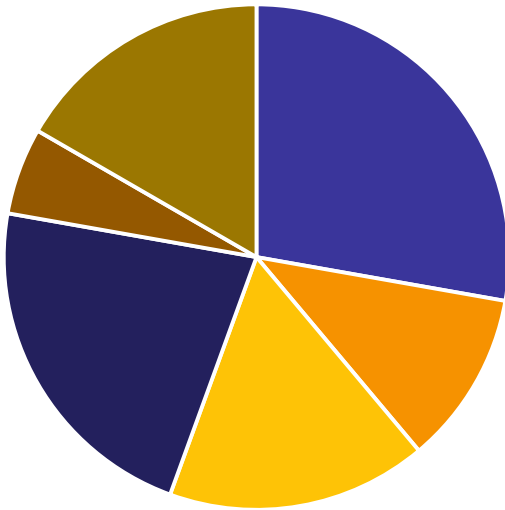
■ Very Valuable ■ Highly Valuable ■ Valuable
■ Some Value ■ No Value ■ Do not use

COMMENTS:

- Parents resist the burden of preparing kids for Passport, however the program is hugely beneficial to the kids.
- Most students seem excited. There should be more emphasis and/or incentives to encourage all students to participate.
- It really promotes students' awareness and knowledge of the world where they live. Parents find this is an easy way to support their children, since homework is done at home.
- It is stressful for some students.
- My students are extremely excited when Passport check day comes around. I would love to have parents participate in class.
- It is a great way to make connections to cultures around the world.
- Medium value as some families do not support this program

PTA PROGRAMS: READERS ARE DOERS (R.A.D.) IN THE CLASSROOM

Readers Are Doers (R.A.D)



■ Very Valuable ■ Highly Valuable ■ Valuable
■ Some Value ■ No Value ■ Do not use

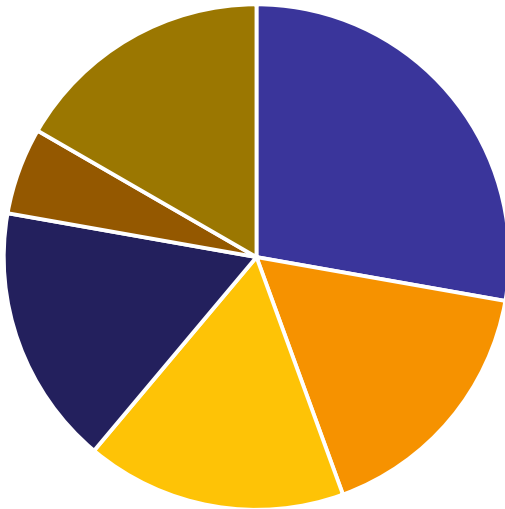
COMMENTS:

- Kids love the reading interaction in the classroom, but the burden of counting minutes at home is stressful to parents. The prizes are probably unnecessary and removing them could save money without impacting the enjoyment of the program.
- Many students enjoy the challenge. Some classrooms count classroom reading minutes, while other do not.
- Very motivating.
- It is fun to read, but we do not need a contest to do it. I do not see a lot of value in it.
- A fabulous way to encourage students to snuggle up with a great book with less electronics.
- Parent volunteers that come to read are generally non-Spanish speaking and it takes away from keeping our reading instruction in Spanish.
- Students were motivated to read more in their homes.
- Low value as it needs to be more challenging.

PTA PROGRAMS:

S.I.T.A. (SPANISH IMMERSION THROUGH THE ARTS) IN THE CLASSROOM

S.I.T.A.



■ Very Valuable ■ Highly Valuable ■ Valuable
■ Some Value ■ No Value ■ Do not use

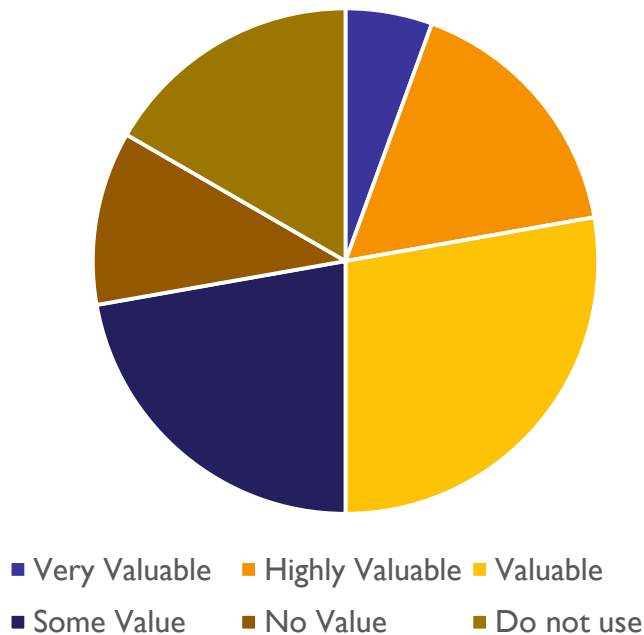
COMMENTS:

- This is hugely important as we are teaching Spanish culture in addition to language. This program adds so much strength to our program.
- It would be beneficial for students to see this program develop even further and allow more SITA opportunities.
- It supports classroom activities and provides the cultural awareness students need to experience in our particular program.
- SITA provides unique experiences.
- Unique way to enhance students' talents who are not strong in academics.
- With the amount of curriculum we have to teach, it is difficult to make the program tie in with what we are already doing. It becomes something in isolation.
- Low value this year as not much of an impact as prior years.

PTA PROGRAMS:

CLASSROOM GARDEN PLOTS IN THE CLASSROOM

School garden



COMMENTS:

- The garden is attractive and Recess Garden Club is very popular.
- Although a great idea, we have had no parent volunteers to help out with the garden. Need additional hands in order for it to be successful.
- This is our first time using the garden. I will provide more feedback next year.
- It's so new that it's hard to tell.
- Great hands on experience for students to learn a lot!
- Opportunities for hands on experience with nature.
- Medium value as a volunteer is still needed

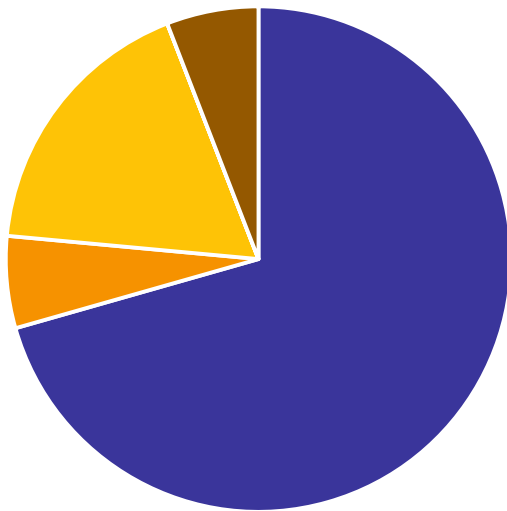
CURRICULUM MATERIALS

- We asked teachers to give us feedback on the relevance of the different Curriculum Materials provided by the PTA over the years.
- The Curriculum Materials surveyed were: Reading A-Z, RAZ Kids, agendas, Handwriting without Tears, Spanish language magazines, English language magazines, supplemental math materials, classroom books, thesauruses & dictionaries, and primary journals.
- The PTA Board used this information, as well as the survey input from PTA Membership, to determine if cuts should be made to Curriculum Materials and if so, which Curriculum Materials.

FIELD TRIPS

ARE FIELD TRIPS VALUABLE FOR STUDENT LEARNING?

Field Trips



■ Very Valuable ■ Highly Valuable ■ Valuable
■ Some Value ■ No Value

COMMENTS:

- Students can connect the curriculum with the outside world and it also allows parents to take part in their child's learning.
- They engage students and connect our curriculum to real life situations.
- Performing in other locations is an incentive for growth.
- Supports curriculum and it's fun!
- Reinforces our Math, Science and Social Studies curriculum.
- Making connections to learning in the classroom.
- Memorable hands on experiences!
- Curriculum extensions.

ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK

What needs are not currently being met?

Teachers were asked about their unmet needs. This information has been shared with the School Administration to see how in partnership with the PTA and School, some of these needs can be met in the future.

- More school wide events that foster a stronger community (Walkathon, School Play, etc.) Also, more events that offer hands-on learning.
- We need a Spanish reading specialist.
- We need an additional day for Dibels and TRC testing for K-2.
- Still need more appropriate bookshelves/furniture and books
- Reading Specialist is crucial to our school. We desperately need a qualified English/Spanish reading specialist!!!
- Additional funds for purchasing books to continue to support the virtues program, math units, science units and reading materials for literacy.
- It would be great to have a reading specialist.
- Reading support in English
- Reading Specialist is needed. Homework Club. Currently we have very few options/tools to provide to families of struggling learners.
- Reading Specialist

ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK

In an ideal world, how would you like the PTA to help enrich student learning at Puesta del Sol Elementary?

- Trained volunteers for reading at all levels
- We need more 'Specialists' to help with students who struggle - whether it be with Math, Reading, English or Spanish. The Amity Interns are frequently used as best they can be with this need, but they don't always have training.
- More programs that teach about caring for the environment and the community. All of us making a difference inside and outside our school grounds.
- The Academic Challenge supports students who are ready to take the extra mile.
- We would highly benefit from additional reading and math support before or after school.
- A reading specialist is one of our needs. More direct support for students who need accommodations in class. We need more space or classrooms with less students. I know this is not a reality for our program. Always human resources are more valuable than material resources.
- Anything related to academics in Spanish done after school would be really beneficial for our students.
- Support language acquisition and language development. Provide resources and materials for students to use at home.
- The PTA does a fabulous job supporting students. Thank you so much for everything!

THANK YOU TO THE TEACHERS FOR THEIR INPUT

- Thank you to the teachers for taking time to give the PTA feedback through the Teacher Survey.
- The current and future PTA Boards will use this information to find ways to continue to support the learning community at Puesta del Sol Elementary.
- **Big take-away:** Students need more support. A Reading Specialist would be ideal, but trained volunteers would go a long way to help students.
- Parents, if you have ideas and would like to volunteer to help support students and teachers, please contact the Puesta del Sol PTA at president@puestadelsolpta.org.