

La Jolla Elementary School PTO
Room Parent
Teacher Gift Guidelines

The gifts of the greatest value to all people who work with children is the gift of having your children in our classrooms and your support all through the year. At different times in the school year, however, especially at holidays and at the end of the year, parents often think about ways to thank the teachers and school staff for the wonderful learning and rich experiences their children have at our school. Many room parents have asked the PTO for guidance regarding group and individual gifts to teachers and staff at our school.

There are specific guidelines for gift giving in district policy and Education Code:

- Cards and small tokens of appreciation are a lovely gesture and the only gifts teachers and staff members, as employees of a public school, are permitted to accept.
- Collective gifts (from the class as a whole) are permissible if the contribution to the gift is voluntary and if the amount requested is a small dollar amount.
- Parents may give a collective or individual gift/donation of greater value if the gift is given for the teacher's classroom to be used for books and supplies. A gift of this nature would be done through the school secretary and would be put in the teacher's classroom account.

We appreciate your generosity and your cooperation in complying with the above stated guidelines. It puts teachers in an awkward position if parents give teachers personal gifts of high value.