



Carmeletter

Issue 08

El Carmelo PTA Newsletter

April 09, 2010

El Carmelo Calendar

April

April 1: BBQ & Earth Day Documentary, 5:30-7pm

April 6: PTA Exec. Board Mtg., 8:30am

April 8-10: School Play Performances

April 12 -16: No School, Spring Break

April 21: Earth Day Events at El Carmelo

April 29: PTA General Mtg. & Parent Education w/ Alicia B. Mendoza 7-8:30pm

April 29: Carmeletter Submissions Deadline for May 7th Publication

May

May 1: May Fete Parade

Celebrate Earth Day



Principal's Letter



Dear El Carmelo community,

A number of weeks ago, the Midtown Neighborhood Association held a community forum at which traffic was the main topic. Thanks to members of our community that were able to attend, I became aware of the level of concern about Loma Verde. I then spent several weeks observing the morning commute at the corner of Loma Verde and Bryant (and more recently at Loma Verde and Ramona). Here are some observations I've made and a few actions I've taken since then:

Observations

- The traffic on Loma Verde is both fast and heavy at commute hours.
- The four-way stop is both a help and a challenge, as it requires drivers to pay close attention to traffic but also requires that pedestrians do the same.
- An adult observer at that corner has a calming effect on traffic there.
- The peak commute time at each of the four corners of the school property is 8:15 am to 8:25 am, just 10 minutes!

Actions

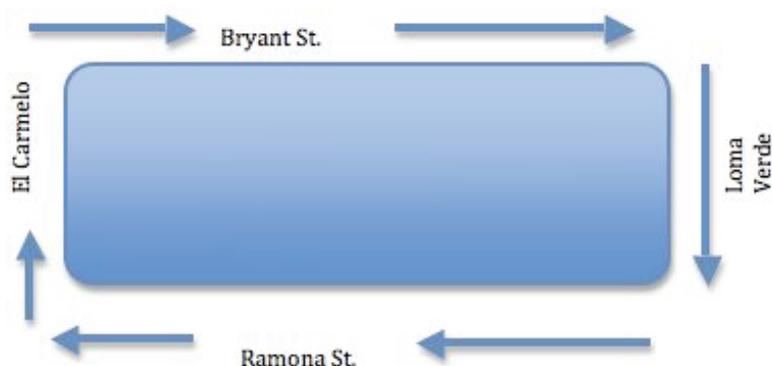
- I spoke with police officers assigned to patrol the area. They agree that adult observers (not responsible for directing traffic) are beneficial. Furthermore, the city does not want to move the crossing guard (neither do I) from Bryant and El Carmelo, as that is only a two-way stop.
- I recruited one of our neighbors, former El Carmelo dad Steve Chapel, to be an observer at the corner of Loma Verde and Bryant on the days that he can. This is a strictly VOLUNTEER effort, and if you think of it, would you please extend your thanks to him for this kind service to our school?
- I have been systematically discussing traffic at the four corners of the property with an El Carmelo dad and have determined that observers at each would be of great benefit to safety.

There are several results of my work so far. Palo Alto Police Department is even more aware of the school community's concerns about traffic around our school. The experiment in using adult observers to calm traffic has had a noticeable benefit. Finally, I as principal and we as a community know more about the traffic around our school than we did several months ago.

Going forward, I would like to expand the volunteer effort of traffic observation around the school. This involves a ten-minute commitment for however many days per week that you can to simply watch traffic at a corner of the school property. The mere fact of being there actually slows down traffic and causes both drivers and pedestrians to be more careful.

Thank you to the parents, neighbors and public safety personnel that have been advising me so far! Please call or email me if you would like to help in any way. The following are some tips to keep you safer as you walk or drive to school:

- Stay alert to what is going on around you, even if you are running late.
- Obey the traffic rules, even if they are not convenient at the moment.
- Use the drop off (yellow curb) zones to safely and efficiently let your kids out of the car. Please do not park there, blocking other commuters.
- Try to drive in a clockwise direction around the school to avoid the temptation to jay-walk or to make dangerous u-turns. See the drawing below:



Sincerely,
Chuck Merritt
 Principal

PTA President's Letter



Dear El Carmelo Parents and Teachers,

Happy Spring! This time of year at El Carmelo is always fun filled and buzzing with activity. Spring is here and flowers are blooming. Families explored a full afternoon of engaging math and science together. Parents and students enjoyed the opportunity to show appreciation for our fabulous teachers. Moms, Dads and staff celebrated our community and raised critical PTA funds at our amazing Auction Gala. Kids are preparing for our school play. April and May will also bring more fun class and school events.

In the spirit of spring renewal and building community, the PTA Nominating Committee is also working hard to build a new Board and list of Chairs for next year. Please consider participating in the PTA next year by Chairing an event, volunteering to help with next year's Auction, or donating money. Although the blooming spring flowers seem magical, the PTA does not happen by magic. It takes a team of dedicated parents. Please consider helping. The rewards are well worth the benefits to our special community and children.

Jennifer Mutz
 El Carmelo PTA President

Once Upon a Shoe

Our very own El Carmelo students, in conjunction with Palo Alto Children's Theatre, are performing *Once Upon a Shoe*, written by Joseph Robinette. Kids and grown ups of all ages will enjoy this funny story of how Mother Goose's children saved the family from moving from its large, comfortable shoe to an old sneaker in the wrong part of town.

Tickets are available at the door and are \$5 for children and \$10 for adult.

Performances:

MP Room, El Carmelo Elementary
 Thursday April 8 at 4:30pm, Friday April 9 at 7pm
 Saturday April 10, two shows at 2pm & 7pm

Ana-Maria Dias, Theater Chair
 650-326-5854, Anamaria_am99@yahoo.com

Parent Education - Eat, Greet and Learn!

By *Jennifer Mutz*

Thursday, April 29, 7-8:30pm

Did you know El Carmelo has a comprehensive Character Education Program?

Did you know that in addition to the monthly Character Education assemblies led by Principal *Merritt*, we have an onsite psychotherapist who teaches our children valuable lessons about this topic?

Come join El Carmelo parents for a parent education night sponsored by the PTA on Thursday, April 29 from 7 - 8:30pm. Our guest speaker, El Carmelo's very own *Alicia Becerra Mendoza* LCSW/DCSW, a licensed psychotherapist, will speak about the portion of El Carmelo's Character Education program she leads in your child's classroom. Alicia addresses topics with children in grade levels 1st through 5th including Respect, Anger Management, and Conflict Resolution. Learn the big picture schematic of El Carmelo's Character Education program. Meet Alicia and learn about her role in our Character Education instruction.

Gain insight into the tools we are giving kids to learn to respect themselves and others. Enjoy the company of El Carmelo parents!

Please join us for coffee, dessert and discussion from 7 - 8:30pm. As this is an adult topic, we request parents only. Principal *Chuck Merritt* will attend. Spanish translation will be offered, and free childcare will be provided in the library. Please RSVP to carrie_manley@yahoo.com if you need on-site childcare.

A Highlight of Ms. Becerra Mendoza's Character Education Lessons

By Carrie Manley

Character education is a high priority here at El Carmelo. This means that along with teaching children academics, our school is also committed to helping you to raise good, thoughtful citizens, who care about each other, our community and the world.

At this PTA parent education event, Alicia will share her customized lesson plans for our children, a plan based on one key word: respect. Alicia spends time with every class at El Carmelo, from grades 1-5, talking to students about the importance of respect. "School needs to be a happy place for kids to be able to learn and grow," she says. Chronic harsh teasing creates what she calls a "culture of disrespect" and a "toxic feeling" that can harden and harm children.

Alicia also hopes these lessons of respect and caring will continue at home for our El Carmelo students. "When a child comes home, it needs to be a refuge, a place of unconditional love. We can't always control what happens at school, but home needs to be safe and loving for every child." At the same time, she says, it also needs to be a place for reasonable limit-setting. For example, parents need to make sure children are responsible and accountable for their behavior and actions. "When a child is deliberately mean or unkind to a sibling, a parent needs to speak up: 'I can't allow you to do this. You need to love your brother or sister. This is our family and you are partners for life.' Parents need to have zero tolerance for disrespect of any kind from anyone. Home needs to be a safe place for everyone."

As part of her teaching at El Carmelo, Alicia spends time talking with students about the emotion of anger, what anger feels like, what triggers it, and what students need to do to manage their anger in constructive ways. "Anger is energy, and it can be either channeled in a negative or a positive way. I want our kids to learn to be observant of their own feelings, and to have tools to know when it's time to calm down, and ways to calm down, before someone else gets physically or emotionally hurt." Alicia says anger can be a scary feeling for children because they sometimes realize they are losing control. "We talk about ways to calm down, like taking deep breaths, or taking a walk, listening to music, or playing with a pet, anything to relax and regain calm and control, before anger escalates to verbal or physical violence."

With years of experience counseling children and families, Alicia is a tremendous resource for our school community. She is here at El Carmelo one day a week to help individual students, as well as to teach her character education curriculum. Her April 29 PTA parent ed program will provide a tremendous opportunity for parents to learn first-hand Alicia's important lessons of respect and empathy. The more parents can learn this valuable curriculum, the better we can teach our kids at home. Thank you, Alicia, for helping our school, and our kids. We are all looking forward to your upcoming PTA program on **April 29th: "Character Education: RESPECT."**

Volunteer Opportunities

By the El Carmelo Nominating Committee: Chair *Julia Jacobsen*, *Alli Wong*, *Sherwin Wong*, *Maria Derrick*, and *Jen Wiener*

Parents generously volunteer both in the classroom and on the PTA to support our teachers, principal and children. Thank you to everyone who volunteers – your efforts truly make a difference.

The Nominating Committee is charged with filling the PTA positions for next year, and we have a few opportunities that are still available. Please consider signing up—it's informal, fun and often the position is what you make it. There are several opportunities that can be done from home! No matter what your circumstance is, there's a volunteer position that fits what you have to offer.

Some of the positions still open are listed below – if you think you'd like to do something that's not on the list, please let us know. We would love to talk to you and give you more information about any position or something new you might like to try. Please contact the Nominating Committee Chair *Julia Jacobsen* (juliacjacobsen@gmail.com or 856-7935) or any member of the Nominating Committee for more information. The Nominating Committee will post a complete list of both filled and open positions in the PTA case in early April. Thank you for helping!!!

| | |
|--|---|
| PTA Board Positions | |
| VP Fundraising | Board position (oversees fundraising strategy and efforts) |
| VP Communications | Board position (does 1x weekly eNews, and participates on Carmeletter editing team) |
| PTA Positions | |
| Book Fair (Spring Scholastic) | Coordinates spring book fair |
| Community Service Liason | Coordinates school-wide community service opportunities |
| PTA Council Rep | Attends city PTA meetings (1x per month) |
| Holiday Giving Chair | Coordinates efforts to donate holiday gifts with local charities |
| Health and Nutrition | Attend district programs on these issues. Provide articles on an ad hoc basis, for the Carmeletter. |
| School & Traffic Safety | Coordinates Walk & Roll Day & PAUSD Traffic Safety Rep |
| International Day | Coordinates & promotes annual international dinner |
| Theater/School Play | Produces school play |
| PTA Positions done mainly from home | |
| Carmeletter Editor | Compiles & Edits materials submitted for publication (1x per month on average) |
| Carmeletter Editor Back up | Assists/shares work with Editor |
| Data Entry One Check Form | Early fall, to share with Maya Venkatraman |
| Student Directory Assistant | Validate student directory information, as needed |

For more detailed descriptions visit the El Carmelo PTA Web site at: <http://www.elcarmelo.paloaltopta.org/board.html>

Earth Day is Coming!!!

Wednesday, April 21, 2010, 12:15 – 2:15pm At El Carmelo School

The Green Team has been hard at work creating a great event for El Carmelo. There will be lots of fun and learning about how to be greener and take better care of our world. Be sure to Walk, Roll or Carpool for a special prize that morning!

We hope you'll be inspired to begin something new in your family. If you do, please send me an e-mail at marylounet@netzero.com, and we'll post them next month. Here are some ideas to start you thinking with more to come in future e-news:

- * Rediscover the library and donate used books
- * Unplug appliances when off
- * Think before you print
- * Turn heating down 1 degree
- * Install low-flow shower heads
- * Don't idle car more than 10 sec.
- * Unload car of excess weight
- * Don't buy veggies in trays
- * Keep car tires properly inflated
- * Start a compost heap
- * Wipe spills with reusable towels
- * Use a bucket not a hose
- * Use reusable bags for groceries (and for all your shopping!)
- * Hang dry your clothes

We want to highlight some of our very own families and their green commitments. Following is a reprint of some great ideas which have already been implemented:

- **Principal Chuck Merritt and his family:** We drive a car with good gas mileage and recycle like crazy.
- **Fogarty family:** Gave up plastic bottles. We realized we were buying too much Gatorade and other items purely for convenience. After learning more about the environmental crisis of plastic in our landfills and oceans, we just gave it all up. We buy lots of reusable bottles and fill them with either pre-mixed beverages or water. The side benefit, we are drinking a lot more water and are saving money!
- **Decreau family:** We take more showers and less baths to save water.
- **Dean family:** My wife has volunteered over 20 years every Friday for the community offering dancing to help keep kids off the street and offer healthier living options.
- **Kindergarten Teacher Denise:** I ride my bike 90% of the time.
- **Tracy-Seiders family:** We eat beef every other week instead of every week now to help reduce methane in the atmosphere. We sponsored a neighborhood expired medicine drop at our house and delivered it all to the Palo Alto hazardous waste collection.
- **Youngquist family:** We are making a big effort to harvest our fruit trees and either use it or share it, which reduces food waste and provides more organic fruit for our neighbors. We waste less food in general.
- **Class aide Mona:** I reuse water from washing produce to water plants outside.
- **School Secretary Ginny:** I walk to the grocery and use cloth bags.
- **Librarian Mrs. Bell:** We do basic recycling and re-use the newspaper plastic bags for scooping up after my three dogs.
- **Klein-Cohen family:** We compost. When the shower water is warming up, we use a bucket to collect it and use it to flush the toilet.
- **Krugler family:** We do a lot of little things, including using washable bento boxes in my kids' lunches instead of plastic baggies. We no longer buy plastic bottles.
- **Quo family:** When we order takeout food, we bring our own reusable containers to bring it home and ask the restaurant not to put the food in styrofoam.
- **Caren family:** We turn off lights when we're out of the room, reuse lunch baggies, and recycle.
- **Anonymous family:** We pass on our kids' clothes and welcome hand-me-down clothes. We also use aluminum instead of throw away plastic bottles, wash our baggies to reuse, and recycle.
- **First Grade Teacher Diane McCoy:** My husband and I are empty nesters now so it is especially easier to live a little more green than usual: low thermostat (63-64), recycle and reuse (only cloth bags for all shopping, even at Bloomies!), use lots of Tupperware, conserve water, etc. We bought a Honda SUV Pilot 4 years ago and did feel a little guilty. It was our last big car to pack stuff to college and use on field trips. To offset its carbon footprint, we joined Terrapass.com two years ago. You calculate your car's carbon footprint, air travel footprint, etc. and donate a related \$ amount for the year, which they channel into alternative energy research and production.
- **Teacher Marilyn:** I ride my bike to work every day, even in sprinkling rain. We try to eliminate as much waste as possible so we can avoid even having to recycle.
- **Derrek family:** I walk everywhere.
- **Chalmers family:** We installed solar panels on our roof.
- **Singh family:** We walk to school every day and recycle.
- **Cowie family:** We stopped watering our plants, now use reusable lunch containers, walk and bike to school, and save boxes that we use for art projects at home.
- **Ryan family:** We bring canvas bags to the grocery, turn off all lights that we're not using, use the smaller energy saving light bulbs, and use a power strip for all our electronics (like our computer) so we can turn everything off and not leave it running all the time.
- **Froehlich family:** We do not wash our car or water our plants anymore, do not use Ziplock baggies in lunches anymore, and use recycled plastic containers made from yogurt cups (from Whole Foods).
- **Anonymous family:** We installed solar panels on our house. It was a big initial expense and will take a few years to see the return on our investment. But we feel it was an investment worth making both financially and on principal.
- **Shaw family:** We have turned off our irrigation system, walk to school, make sure the kids turn off the water while brushing their teeth, and planted our first garden last year. The kids love being able to eat strawberries, green beans, broccoli, cauliflower and cherry tomatoes right off the vine.
- **Hodson family:** We use rechargeable batteries and recycle those batteries that are not rechargeable. We ride bikes, especially in the summer, to the library, the pool, wherever we go. We have reusable lunch containers and canvas grocery shopping bags.
- **Napaa family:** We recycle clothes and shoes at the 76 gas station on the corner of San Antonio and Charleston. We installed a pump at home to recycle water from a well (for outside use). Our son insists we bike everywhere.
- **Cox family:** We compost almost everything including paper/paper towels/tissues/food. We have a 5 gallon bucket in the shower to collect the water while it's heating up and then use that to water the plants. We have reusable grocery bags.
- **Sui family:** We just completed a house construction project and purposely replaced all our appliances with new/energy efficient appliances. We also remodeled to incorporate as much natural sunlight as possible so we can limit having to turn on lights. For the lights, we use CFL bulbs. We do other things like bringing our own bags to the store, collecting water from the shower for plants and biking as much as we can.

• **Jelks family:** We bike everywhere we can using the "xtra cycle" attached to my husband's bike. It has saddle bags for each side and a place where two kids can sit on it. We do all our errands on it and stay out of the car on the weekends. We compost all our food waste and also plan to re-landscape with fake grass that doesn't need to be watered.

Stay tuned for more to come!

Mary Lou Meeks

Celebrate Earth Day - Take the Drive Less Challenge

By Cynthia Tham

Wednesday April 21

Walk, Bike, Ride the Bus, Carpool to School

El Carmelo will celebrate Earth Day on April 21 as part of a district-wide event designed to teach students and families about greenhouse gas emissions and to encourage more students and families to walk, bike, ride the bus, or carpool to school.

Drive Less Pledge

Students can make a "Drive Less Pledge" to help reduce school commute related greenhouse gas emissions by using alternative transportation as often as possible. (Pledge cards will be provided in Friday folders. Students can decorate and post their "Drive Less Pledge" card on our Earth Day collage.

New this year: Sign up online to track your family's greener mileage between April 22 and May 5 and become eligible to win prizes at <http://drivelesschallenge.com>. See the creative ways other people reduce their car trips, and see how together we can make a difference for our planet.

Learn About Our Changing Climate

Did you know that the typical single family car commute to and from school generates two pounds of CO₂, enough to fill a balloon larger than three feet across each school day? Multiply that by 180 days a year, and again by 13 years. Multiply again by 11,565 students who commute to Palo Alto schools each day. That's a lot of gas! The individual choices we make add up.

For information about safe, sustainable school commutes, visit www.saferoutes.paloaltopta.org.

"Earth Day, Every Day"

By Carrie Manley

About 35 El Carmelo students and their families recently strolled down the green carpet earlier this month for our premiere school viewing of the "Earth Day, Every Day" documentary, featuring our own El Carmelo kids! This locally-produced documentary tells the story of last year's Earth Day Clean-Tech Expo at El Carmelo; several innovative companies came to share their services and technologies with our students. We are very grateful to these companies, including A+ Japanese Auto Repair, Deloitte, GroundSource Geothermal Inc., Mariah Power, Palo Alto Green, Sopogy, Sustainable Spaces, Vista Solar and 3 Degrees. Additional thanks go to the El Carmelo Green Team, Palo Alto PTA Council Traffic Safety Chair Penny Elson and bike instructor Richard Swent (www.bikeclass.swent.net) for their valuable contributions. The entire El Carmelo community is also indebted to our midtown neighbor and friend, Andrew Mellows. He generously donated his outstanding video and editing services for the production of this unique program, which has also been featured on the Midpeninsula Media Center's local public access channel. Thank you, Andrew!

Please contact Carrie Manley at carrie_manley@yahoo.com if you would like more information on getting a DVD copy of "Earth Day, Every Day."

Make Your Classroom Volunteer Time PAY!

By Judy Priest

If you are a full-time and regular employee of Cisco Systems, and you are personally volunteering time in your child's classroom, El Carmelo is now approved by the Cisco Matching Gifts Program! Go to Community Connections from the internal homepage and log your hours. Cisco will match \$10/hour of your volunteer time as a gift to El Carmelo! Make sure you also log them in the office every time you volunteer as Jennifer Fernandez, our School Secretary, will have to verify the time. Note that spouses, contractors, and part-time employees are not eligible for gift matching. For questions, contact Judy Priest (jypriest@yahoo.com).

Please check if your company has a volunteer matching program - many of the Bay Area companies do. It's a great way to increase the impact of your volunteer time and give back even more to El Carmelo!

El Carmelo Creative Works Show & Sale

Saturday, April 24, 10am - 3pm

El Carmelo Elementary School is hosting our first ever "El Carmelo Creative Works Show & Sale" on April 24, 10am to 3pm in our MP room.

This is an opportunity to display your creative talents and sell the items you make. The cost is \$10 to participate. This will get you table space. In addition, we ask that you contribute 10% of your sales. All proceeds go to El Carmelo PTA. Contact Ana-Maria Dias if you are interested in participating.

For those not wishing to sell their items, come look! Come visit the show and see what treasures await. You might just find the perfect piece of jewelry or art!

If you have questions, please contact:

Ana-Maria Dias, Auction Chair

650-326-5854, Anamaria_am99@yahoo.com

Set Your Sights on Site Council

By *Carrie Manley*

Would you like to help our school in a very special way? Please consider running for the El Carmelo Site Council.

Our site council is a collaborative team of teachers and parents who meet regularly with Principal Chuck Merritt, with the shared mission of supporting all aspects of our school. You don't have to be an expert in education. All that's required is a willingness to serve. We are looking for two parents to join our council in the coming school year.

It's a two-year commitment, but the meetings only last for about an hour and a half on the first Monday of the month. In that short amount of time, you have a tremendous opportunity to help shape policy and procedures at our school that impact every child—including yours!

Anyone is welcome to come and sit in on our site council meetings, and this can be a great way for you to decide if you might like to consider joining the team! If you are interested in learning more about this unique opportunity to join the El Carmelo Site Council, please contact Principal Merritt, either by stopping by the front office, or emailing him at cmerritt@pausd.org.

El Carmelo parents Liz Cowie, Asmita Runge, Laura Tannenwald and I are all currently serving on the El Carmelo Site Council. Special thanks to both Liz and Asmita, who who are completing their second and final year on Site Council. Please feel free at any time to contact the four of us with any questions or concerns you may have that you would like to bring to the attention of our site council. You are also welcome to talk with us about what it's like for a parent to volunteer in this capacity.

This has been my first year on our site council, and so far I've found it to be a completely fun, interesting experience and a great way to help support our school community in many different ways. I hope you'll consider joining Laura and me as a parent representative on the site council next year!

Noon Recess Activities!

Did you know the PTA sponsors Noon Recess activities for your children?
Noon Art! 10 Mile Club! Reading Garden!

In addition to Noon Recess activities sponsored by Teachers and Staff such as Leadership Club, Book Club and Soccer, PTA volunteers offer your kids fun and inclusive ways to enjoy recess. If you relish gardening, help nurture our beloved Reading Garden – a quiet spot many children enjoy during recess. If you have a love of art and creativity, help with Noon Art on Wednesdays. If you enjoy encouraging kids to exercise, help staff the 10 Mile Club on Tuesdays. Just contact the PTA President *Jennifer Mutz* (mutz@pacbell.net) for details!
In the meantime, enjoy this thank you letter from a parent whose child loves Noon Art:

Dear PTA,

I want to thank the PTA for providing Noon Art. My son loves it. He has been enjoying his flying saucer that he made this week. He told me all about before bed: how he designed it, its special features, and that it was drying. Once Noon Art didn't get announced and he was so disappointed that he missed it. When I come down the hall right after lunch on Noon Art days I've seen the kids with some great projects. They proudly show off their creations. When I'm walking down the hall at recess I hear lots of kids excitedly talking about their art and showing their friends. I especially liked the big, wacky pipe cleaner glasses. There has been a lot of creativity in the projects this year that appeal to both boys and girls. You are creating a lot of fun and joy for those kids.

Stephanie

Family Math and Science Exploration Day

By *Stephanie Younquist*

The El Carmelo PTA hosted its third Math and Science Exploration Day on Sunday, March 7. It was a fabulous event for kids and parents alike!

We had about 15 science stations and 15 math games and puzzles. There was an excited buzz in the MP Room as families went from station to station. At the roll back can station, a parent told her child that it must be magic. Her son said, "Mom, it is NOT magic. It is SCIENCE!"

One of the parent volunteers said, "The best part? Watching the kids change from not even being sure they're curious when they first approach the table to smiling and excited once they see something delightful occur that they didn't anticipate!"

This year many of the science stations were brought by a number of families. Thank you for sharing your talents and interests.

Tais Schmidt and *Jim Barbera* brought: Foam It! Exothermic Chemical Reaction, Sound Wave Display, Mixing Colors – an Optical Experiment, Magic Color Breakdown, and a microscope.

Marjorie Sayer brought a Treasure Hunt that had kids searching all over the MP Room.

Mike and *Sarah Youngquist* brought Electromagnets and used them to make doorbell strikers.

Ken Tracton brought Magnet Motors.

Eiko Baldwin brought an invisible writing station.

Maya Venkatramen brought a hydraulic lift.

We also had Hovercrafts, Space Sand, roll back cans, gravity defying frogs, surface tension experiments, knot puzzles, and an endothermic reaction. There were perplexing math puzzles, Think Fun Games, Cork Puzzles, Nine Men's Morris, Shongo networks and more.

We had a record number of raffle entrants this year. Our principal Mr. Merritt drew the names of the lucky winners. Congratulations to our raffle winners who are *Rebecca, Sakura, Sam, Alan, Eli, Tony, Sophia, Jonathon, Miranda, Aska, Joy, Eitan, and Trevor*.

Thank you to all of the volunteers that manned stations – *Maria Derrick, Linda Lee, Nina Hansen, Anne Rafn, Ana-Maria Dias, Robert Howard, Fabian Klass, Jason Lewis, Michele Kasper, Anna Chan, Jennifer Chu, Blandine Chaperot Merino, Sherwin Wong, Dave Hodson, Andy Mutz* and *Jennifer Mutz*. This event wouldn't be possible without you!

Thank you to the El Carmelo PTA for sponsoring this event!

Auction Thank You's

It takes many people to put the auction together. Thank you to the following:

Family Donations & Ticket Sales Database Management

Oi Ha Lam

Merchant Donations

Mona Napaa, Shirley Siu, Nancy Bain, Erina DuBois, Stephanie Youngquist, Carrie Manley, Karole Goldie

University Club Sponsors

Heidi Jackman and Gardner Grout

Logo and Invitations/Catalog Design

Andrea Christensen

Posters

Erina DuBois, Celina Tracy, Nancy Bain, Andrea Christensen

Articles

Carrie Leontis, Rachel Golden

Catalog Review Committee

Erina DuBois, Jeannette Cheng, Oi Ha Lam, Robert Howard, Stephanie Youngquist, Liz Cowie

Ticket Sales

Oi Ha Lam, Celina Tracy, Erina DuBois, Karole Goldie as the Big Bunny, Asmita Runge, Tracy Chen, Lucie Thomas, Susy Kim, Jeff Richardson, Christine Hodson

Seating Arrangements

Carrie Leontis

Photographers at Large

Jeannette Cheng, Karole Goldie, Jen Mutz, Katie Kinnaman

Decorations

Michele Kasper, Adriana Reyna, Doreen Rehbock, Jeannette Cheng, Andrea Christensen, Angela Dunnigan, Asmita Runge, Shirley Siu

Auction Day Set Up

Erina DuBois, Michele Kasper, Adriana Reyna, Raymundo Salgado, Annette Isaacson, Geeta Iyer, Jeannette Cheng, Asmita Runge, Jennifer Chu

Auction Photographer

Angela Dunnigan

Auction MC

Michele Kasper

Auction Night Helpers

Asmita Runge, David Merrill, Robert Howard, Tania Goldszmidt, Nancy Bain, Alex Kass, Ann Holum, Yuhong Kong, Christine Hodson, Dave Hodson, David Duran, Erin Duran, Susy Kim, Maria Whealan, Denise Dauler, Serena Chandley, Jen Mutz, Cynthia Tham, Celina Tracy, Samantha Lemonnier, Benoit Lemonnier, Adriana Reyna, Elisa Schmidt

Information Technology

Stephanie Youngquist, Mike Youngquist, Maria Derrick, Sherwin Wong, Nina Hansen, Jennifer Chu, Jeannette Cheng

Check-Out

Simone Klass, Jeannette Cheng, Jennifer Chu, Mona Napaa

Clean Up

Rachel Golden, Baldeep Singh, Robert Howard, Mary Sano

A HUGE 'Thank you' to all these volunteers ...

A Huge 'thank you' to all these volunteers from the El Carmelo PTA and Community....

...El Carmelo Auction: Auction Chair *Ana-Maria Dias* for a spectacular community building event and our most important PTA fundraiser! We are extraordinarily grateful for her incredible efforts for the second year in a row. We are also extremely appreciative of the hard working Auction team (listed above in Auction Thank You's).

... Math/Science Exploration Day: Chair *Stephanie Youngquist* and a super team of parent helpers - *Maria Derrick, Linda Lee, Nina Hansen, Anne Rafn, Ana-Maria Dias, Robert Howard, Fabian Klass, Jason Lewis, Michele Kasper, Anna Chan, Jennifer Chu, Blandine Chaperot Merino, Sherwin Wong, Dave Hodson, Andy Mutz and Jennifer Mutz* .

... Teacher Appreciation Week: Chair *Yuhong Kong* who spearheaded a lovely week of activities to honor our fabulous teachers. Helping Yuhong were the Room Parent coordinator *Sherwin Wong*, the Room Parents in each of the classrooms, a host of parents who brought tea and snacks each day, and the following list of parents who generously made contributions to the first day breakfast: *Nancy Bain, Yvette Bovee, Seung Eun, Audrey Finot, Megan Fogarty, EJ Hong, Yuhong Kong, Elena Kostrygina, Sandra Lewis, Wen Li, So Ra, Adriana Reyna, Debra Wittenbrink, Alli Wong*.

..... Stories Under the Stars: Co-Chairs *Alli Wong* and *Laura Tannenwald* for coordinating this beloved El Carmelo annual event along with our generous readers Principal *Chuck Merritt*, *Sharon Merritt*, teacher *Mr. Walton*, *Dave Howell* and our custodian *Rickey Moore*.

...PTA Council Speaker *Ken Ginsburg*: Parent Education Chair *Carrie Manley* for once again providing invaluable PTA leadership in helping to organize this super parent education night.

....10 Mile Club: The parent team *Angela Dunnigan*, *Tony Dunnigan*, *Marie Decreau*, *Susan Gordon*, and *Jennifer Mutz* who have quietly managed and staffed the 10 Mile Club for the El Carmelo students at noon recess every Tuesday since September and will continue through the end of school in June. Many students are participating!

...Noon Art: Chair *Angela Dunnigan* who has been managing the Noon Art program since the beginning of the year for the kids at noon recess. Thank you also to the parents who support *Angela* with set up, staffing during recess, and clean up. The kids love their noon art!

...“Earth Day Every Day” Documentary and BBQ: Parent Education Chair *Carrie Manley* for spearheading this touching and powerful documentary starring “El Carmelo.” We appreciate her bringing families together to celebrate our green community. Also thanks to Principal *Chuck Merritt* for supporting this effort.



Thanks for Guest Layout - *Bart C.*



Thanks for Guest Layout - *Conrad C.*