



# Carmeletter

Issue 09

El Carmelo PTA Newsletter

May 07, 2010

## El Carmelo Calendar

- May 1: May Fete Parade
- May 3 - 14: STAR Testing
- May 14 - 16: 5th Grade Ship Trip
- May 23: International Potluck Dinner
- May 18 - June 7: Student Showcases for each grade
- May 31: No School, Memorial Day

*Happy Mother's Day*



## Principal's Letter



Dear El Carmelo families,

This coming month we will be holding grade level Student Showcases again. These events are meant to serve as performance assessments of student achievement. The following are the dates, times and descriptions of each:

**Kindergarten** - Tuesday, May 18 and Wednesday, May 19

You won't want to miss this end of the year conference led by your child. The hour will showcase your child's classroom accomplishments. Come celebrate! Group A: May 18th from 5-6pm; Group B: May 19th from 5-6pm.

**First Grade** - Thursday, May 20

Student-Parent Conferences, 5-6pm & 6:30-7:30pm

This is an opportunity for parents to show a positive interest in their child's progress, observe their child in the school setting as he/she explains work done in class, and provide their child with support and encouragement for his/her work at school.

**Second Grade** - Tuesday, May 18, 6:30-7:30pm

Come let your child be your tour guide through his/her second grade classroom. See current student work and projects. Teachers will be on hand to answer any questions.

**Third Grade** - Thursday, May 27

Student-Led Conferences, Group A: 5-5:30pm; Group B: 6-6:30pm

Students will share their work and accomplishments with you at this student-led conference. We hope you will be able to join us for this event. The children are looking forward to sharing their work with you.

**Fourth Grade** - Wednesday, June 2

Student-Led Conferences, 1:45-5:30pm (sign-up times to follow)

An opportunity for parents to celebrate their child's accomplishments this year, see their progress made in all subjects, and meet their California hero.

**Fifth Grade** - State Fair - Monday, June 7

The Fifth Grade State Fair showcases the work and learning completed in fifth grade. In this culminating activity, each student creates a display of his/her research of a state's history, geography, economy and government.

The Fair presents this work in an arena format with each student acting as ambassador of his/her state using displays and food to share his/her knowledge with family and friends.

Sincerely,  
Chuck Merritt  
Principal

## PTA President's Letter



Just over a month of school remains. On the heels of a fabulous school play, *Once Upon a Shoe*, a super Earth Day celebration, a valuable Parent Education Night about our Character Education Program, and a fun school outing at the May Fete Parade, we have some wonderful community events to enjoy as school winds down.

The 5th grade will be taking their PTA sponsored Ship Trip, an El Carmelo tradition that teaches problem solving and cooperation while on the "high seas." Have a great time, 5th graders!

The PTA and Teachers hope all parents will enjoy the opportunity to view highlights of your children's work during the Student-Led Showcases in May and June. Your children are excited to have you attend as their special guests so please plan to attend! Teachers will provide grade-specific details.

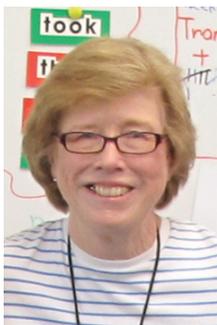
The PTA sponsored International Potluck Dinner is Sunday, May 23. It's a super school tradition where our whole community gets together. We bring lots of food to share, embrace each other's cultures, and celebrate the diversity and community spirit that makes El Carmelo such a special place. Join the fun! Sign up to profile your cultural heritage!

Please keep in mind, before we jump into the fun and think about lazy summer days, 2nd-5th grade students have STAR testing May 3 – 14. Teachers will provide grade-specific details. Encourage your children to get a good night's sleep, eat a balanced breakfast for sustained energy, and arrive at school on time during the days of testing.

As always, thank you for your support and have a great month.

Jennifer Mutz  
El Carmelo PTA President

## A Tribute and Farewell to Karen Lemoine, Second Grade Teacher



After teaching since 1966, including 23 years of teaching at El Carmelo, our beloved teacher Mrs. *Karen Lemoine* will be retiring in June. We are grateful for Mrs. Lemoine's dedication to El Carmelo and the children. She holds a special place in many families' hearts for her unique qualities and talents in the classroom. In particular, by having the children memorize poetry and compose their own poems, she has promoted a love of literature, rhythm and the power of words. Mrs. Lemoine often ties the class's poetry to nature themes, such as the sunflowers Room 10 students often plant in their garden. Mrs. Lemoine shares her enjoyment of gardening with the children as well, for example, by giving sunflower seeds to each student this year.

Having grown up as a daughter of two teachers herself, Karen possesses a rich understanding of how to reach and inspire children in many colorful ways. She has embraced her students' diversity and cultures, often celebrating these through music, drama and poetry. The children have always loved Mrs. Lemoine's guitar playing and singing – putting on many fabulous classroom plays with her guidance. Mrs. Lemoine has especially enjoyed sharing her love of Irish culture and music; parents fondly tell of play dates at which their second graders spontaneously burst into a chorus of Irish folk tunes after singing them in Room 10. Each year, Mrs. Lemoine enthusiastically welcomed a new class of children into her classroom each year with her sweet demeanor and belief in each child's ability to express themselves creatively. We are so grateful for her many years at El

Carmelo and will miss her greatly.

Under our teachers' guidance, students at El Carmelo are collectively creating a Memory Book which will be presented to Mrs. Lemoine at the end of the school year. If parents would like to express their sentiments, gratitude and best wishes to Mrs. Lemoine directly (separately from the students' Memory Book), please send your thoughts in writing to:

El Carmelo Elementary School  
Attn: Teacher Karen Lemoine  
3024 Bryant Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

## Community News - AYSO Soccer Programs

The Palo Alto AYSO soccer programs are on again this year! The parent volunteers of AYSO have organized summer camps and of course the fall program that is visible all over Palo Alto parks and school fields every year. Early registration has started and offers significant savings. You can find out more at <http://www.ayso26.org>.

Each fall, 500 Palo Alto parents produce the AYSO soccer program in the PAUSD. Over 2000 kids from PAUSD participate, from K through 12. Our parents are Safe Haven certified, insured, and trained to run kids soccer programs. Our soccer programs are run on your school fields, as well as other school fields all over Palo Alto. We are 100% Palo Alto volunteers. Our program is of high quality and our mission is to enrich kids' lives through soccer.

## Library News

Hope you all had a wonderful spring break!

We have had a busy few months in the library. Since January, students in grades K – 3 have heard and voted on the California Young Reader Medal (CYRM) Books. Older students read the books on their own if they wished. One of the El Carmelo Book Clubs also read *No Talking* and may start another book soon.

The CYRM books are listed below, and the school winners are marked with an asterisk. I will announce to students when I find out the district and California winner!

In March, we celebrated Read Across America Day, which happens to be the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Jeanne DuPrau, author of *The City of Ember*, visited us and gave a great presentation to the 3rd-5th graders. Some of the 1st graders had a visit from Palo Alto Historian *Steve Staiger*, who shared slides of old Palo Alto.

In April, we acknowledged National Library Week and National Poetry Month, and students were encouraged to check out a poetry book. We also celebrated Earth Day by hearing books and making posters.

In May, we will focus on the Caldecott and Newbery medal-winning books, which are some of the best! At the end of May, the JLS librarian will come to talk to the 5th graders. The Summer Reading List and Record Sheet will be available by the first week in June.

We are lucky to possess many new and wonderful books. Unfortunately, we have had quite a few overdue and damaged books this year. Please remind students to take good care of our books and keep them in a safe and clean place. All library books will be due by May 28, and hopefully, all students, especially 5th graders, will clear their records before the end of May.

Happy Reading!

Leslie Bell  
El Carmelo Librarian

### **CYRM Books**

#### **Primary**

*A Frog Thing* by Eric Drachman

*Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners* by Laurie Keller

\**My Life as a Chicken* by Ellen Kelley

*Velma Gratch and the Way Cool Butterfly* by Alan Madison

*Millie Waits for the Mail* by Alexander Steffensmeier

#### **Picture Books for Older Readers**

*Armando and the Blue Tarp School* by Edith Hope Fine and Judith Pinkerton Josephson

\**Owney: The Mail-Pouch Pooch* by Mona Kerby

\**Willy & Max: A Holocaust Story* by Amy Littlesugar

#### **Intermediate**

*No Talking* by Andrew Clements

*A Friendship for Today* by Patricia C. McKissack

*Crooked Kind of Perfect* by Linda A. Urban

## ***A SPECIAL 'Thank you' from the El Carmelo PTA and community to ...***

... School Play - *Once Upon A Shoe: Ana-Maria Dias* for chairing this fabulously funny and successful school play. She generously coordinated with the Palo Alto Children's Theatre to ensure our kids enjoyed a super experience. In addition, parents of 40 El Carmelo students participating in the play supported the PA Children's Theatre for six weeks with supervision, promotion and ticket sales. We are extremely appreciative of every parent's efforts.

... Earth Day Documentary & BBQ: *Carrie Manley* for bringing El Carmelo families together to view Earth Day Every Day. Families celebrated El Carmelo as a Green Leader and enjoyed wonderful community time together. We are also grateful to Chuck Merritt for his assistance.

... Earth Day Festivities: Teacher *Diane McCoy* as the Green Team leader and *Cynthia Tham* as our Traffic Safety Coordinator for spearheading a phenomenal Earth Day 2010! El Carmelo once again showcased its Green leadership with Walk & Bike Efforts, as well as a Green Faire after school. They were supported by the following Green Team members for the Walk & Roll in the morning and Earth Day exhibits in the afternoon:

Leslie Bell Bruno Colchen Megan Fogarty  
Brian Goncher Carrie Manley Jennifer Mutz  
Mary Lou Meeks Marjorie Sayer Rhiannon Wallace  
Annette Isaacson Jody Lieb Maria Derrick Calvin Woon

... Parent Education Night: *Alicia Becerra-Mendoza*, El Carmelo's Psychotherapist, for providing a valuable overview to El Carmelo Parents about Character, Education and Respect; *Carrie Manley* our Parent Education Chair for coordinating; and *Chuck Merritt* for his support in making it happen.