



Carmeleter

Issue 9

El Carmelo PTA Newsletter

February 2, 2007

Volunteers Needed!

Help with the Asian dinner
Help with the Book Exchange

TO DO

- Turn in auction donation form
- Send in your PIE Contribution

Rumpelstiltskin

With 32 kids involved in the show (3rd, 4th, and 5th graders), this should be a grand time! Listen to what the kids themselves are saying.

"More magic than in the original"

"Twenty-thousand thumbs up!"

"This is the awesomest show ever!"

"If you like magic, come to the play!"

"A great show with a mix of love, magic and surprises!"

Come see the cast / crew that will knock you off your feet!"

"A lot of friendly people!"

"Amazing and astonishing!"

"We've been working hard, so come see us!"

"It's really fun to act out your emotions!"

"You should come because many people in the play are your friends!"

And finally

"There's a surprise at the end!"

Tickets are \$8 for adult and \$4 for children,
Available from Children's Theatre Box Office (650) 463-4970 Tu-Sat 1:30 to 6:00pm OR
at the El Carmelo Office.

Please make checks out to the CITY OF PALO ALTO.

Come one, come all to "RUMPELSTILTSKIN"

Presented by Palo Alto Children's Theatre, now in its 75th year.

Yes, your eyes are not fooling you; join us for this wonderful production at El Carmelo Elementary School. Everyone mark your calendars, on Thursday 2/8 at 7:30 pm, (opening night) Friday 2/9 at 4:30 & 7:30 pm, and Saturday 2/10 at 2:30 pm.

CALENDAR

- Feb 6 — PAUSD School Board meeting, Attendance Area Action, 25 Churchill (7 pm)
- Feb 6 — Parent Ed: "Child time management and organizational skills" Fairmeadow Library (7 pm)
- Feb 8 — Visiting author, Annie Barrows
- Feb 8 — Carmeleter Deadline (3 pm)
- Feb 8-10— Children's Theater "Rumplestiltskin" performances
- Feb 11 — Asian Dinner (4-6 pm) (see page 6)
- Feb 15 — Auction donation deadline (for family item donations)
- Feb 16 — NO SCHOOL, Staff Development Day
- Feb 19-23 — Ski Week, NO SCHOOL
- Feb 28 — Spirit Day (Look-a-Like Day)



PTA President's Letter

There are two items important to El Carmelo that we would like to bring to your attention. Both have important impacts on our school and both culminate this month.

The first is Partners in Education (PiE). We *promise* we will stop bringing up PiE as soon as 30 more El Carmelo families make a contribution, of *any size*, to this year's campaign, which will be completed at the end of February. We need only these 30 families to reach the 50% participation mark. This level of support is important not only to help pay for staff here at El Carmelo, but also to demonstrate our commitment to help support great schools throughout Palo Alto. PiE funds are a large component of El Carmelo's budget. If you haven't already, please show your support for our schools by making your tax deductible donation of \$10 or \$20 or more to PiE. Contact Megan Fogarty or stop by the school office.

Second is the restructuring of attendance boundaries for the Palo Alto schools. The discussions on this subject have been going on for nearly one year now and important Board of Education action is imminent. Liz Cowie and Linda Jensen have been our voices in this discussion, through their participation in the Area Attendance Advisory Group (AAAG). The AAAG has provided feedback to the Superintendent, who has made recommendations to the Board of Education. These recommendations are complex and their impact on El Carmelo and its attendance boundaries is still unclear. Please talk with Liz or Linda, or visit the PAUSD website for more information on how this is likely to impact El Carmelo. The Board of Education is due to take action on these recommendations at their meeting on February 6th. If you have the time, attend the Board of Education meeting at 25 Churchill. The meeting is also televised live on channel 28 and streamed over the internet at www.communitymediacenter.net.

Please be informed and please get involved. We'll all be better off for it!

Eric Schuur Ana-Maria Dias
 President Executive Vice-President

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Submissions may be sent to:
Carmeletter@yahoogroups.com

Or a printed copy may be left in the Carmeletter editor folder in the main office (below the mailboxes). Submissions will usually be reformatted, so plain text is preferred. Although we try to include everything submitted, please be aware that we need to keep the length of the newsletter reasonable, so we may shorten articles.

Next Issue

<u>Submission</u>	<u>Publication</u>
February 8	February 15

Family Math and Science Exploration

Please join us for some math and science fun!

What: Math games, puzzles, and experiments for Grades: K-5
When: Sunday, March 18th, 3:30 - 5:30pm
Where: MP Room



We could use a few more volunteers (all instructions included!).
 » For more information, contact Stephanie Youngquist at 327-4284, yoyo2000@pacbell.net.

Auction Update

CORRECTION

There is a correction in the ticket price that was published in the last edition of the Carmeletter. The auction ticket price will be \$60.00 and tickets will go on sale in March.



WANT A COMPLIMENTARY AUCTION TICKET?

The auction committee is looking for a small number of people to sell beverage tickets for 2 hour shifts the night of the auction. Anyone who volunteers will receive a complimentary ticket to the auction. Interested call or e-mail Jill Spain at 494-1988 or spainsdj@sbcglobal.net.

Book Exchange!

March 5-9

The El Carmelo Book Exchange is coming in MARCH but we NEED HELP NOW!

During the Book Exchange students bring in books they have read that are still in good shape to exchange for new reading material. We desperately need FOURTH/FIFTH GRADE LEVEL BOOKS!

All students receive at least one book so we need extras to distribute.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO NEEDED to help sort and count books during the Book Exchange March 5-9th. Volunteers are needed Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8:30a.m. -11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

COMPUTER PAPER OR HEAVY BOXES to transport the books to and from the rooms are also needed.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

» For more information, contact Elisa Schmit at elisaschmit@hotmail.com to sign up for a shift, or for any of the above needs!

Ten Mile Club

Congratulations to Diana, Sithara, Marissa, and Sarah on completing 10 miles (50 laps) within El Carmelo and earning that T-shirt!

We are so proud of our runners at El Carmelo and the effort they all make.

The students run on Tuesdays during lunch recess, starting in front of Mr. Danie's classroom.

» For more information, or if you are parent who would like to volunteer, please contact Liz Cowie at lizcowie@alumni.duke.

Editor's note: Thursday, Feb. 8 marks the return of a favorite PTA tradition at El Carmelo: **Visiting Author!** This year's literary guest of honor is **Annie Barrows**. She will meet with all of the classes at El Carmelo throughout the day to discuss her work as a writer. In anticipation of her visit, a number of classes have been reading her books, **Ivy + Bean** and **Ivy + Bean And The Ghost That Had To Go**. In this issue, The Carmeletter is pleased to present a student review of **Ivy + Bean**.



Spotlight-John Walton

By Andrea Christensen, dreakiya@hotmail.com



John Walton has been teaching third grade at El Carmelo for 10 years. “It’s always been third grade and always here,” said John, “and it’s been very enjoyable.”

Prior to teaching at El Carmelo, John’s background as a naturalist put him right in the heart of where children learn and explore. He worked for the City of Palo Alto as a Naturalist at the Junior Museum, eventually becoming the Director of the Junior Museum. Then, he took care of Foothill Park as the Superintendent of Open Space and Science. However, being the superintendent didn’t give John the opportunity to work with and teach kids, which is what he really enjoys.

“I really love to teach science,” John said. “In the 70’s I did field work and spent the summer fossil hunting.” He was a member of expedition parties that would spend three to six weeks out in the field. They unearthed part of a triceratops, tyrannosaurus rex and Pleistocene epoch mammals. These expeditions inspired John’s love of the West. “I have a love of the West and I transfer that to teaching,” said John.

When John is not teaching or fossil hunting he takes time for his other interests, such as reading, amateur cabinet making and the on-going remodel of his house, which has also made him an amateur carpenter. Outside of the home, John enjoys traveling throughout the Northern Hemisphere. “I am interested in geography,” he said. “I like the physical features of North America.” To round off his interests, he adds cooking, eating and photography.

With all of his interests, experiences and hobbies, there is still one mystery in John’s life. “I don’t know what I want to do when I grow up,” he said. “I love life and I don’t know what the next step will be.”

Even when John sits down to read a good book, it mirrors his naturalist interest and his youthful outlook. One book he is currently reading is *1491*. “It is a study of people of the New World prior to contact with Columbus,” John said. “It shows that they had a richer culture than previously believed and that there were more of them. The other book he is currently enjoying is *The Complete Work of Calvin and Hobbes*.

When John sits down to dinner, he would like Abraham Lincoln and his grandparents on his mother’s side of the family to join him. He finds Lincoln to be a true wordsmith. “I am fascinated by his understanding and use of the English language,” John said. “I would also like to get his views of the world and life.” His grandparents would provide another view of life at the turn of the century. “My grandfather was a logger in Montana and my grandmother was a school teacher,” he said.

El Carmelo Students Report

Who's New! Eli and Inger Smuts

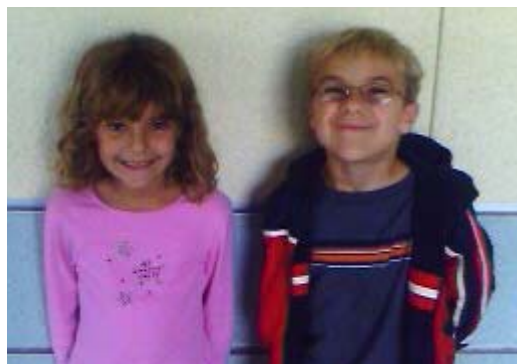
By Michael Schuur

I interviewed two new students at El Carmelo and their names are Eli and Inger Smuts. They are brother and sister. Eli is in the 4th grade in Mr. Siu's class and Inger is in 2nd grade in Mrs. Dosskey's class.

I asked Eli and Inger what their favorite food is. Eli responded "Ice cream." Inger said she likes spaghetti. Eli's favorite things to do are computer and reading. Inger likes to play soccer and read.

Eli and Inger used to live in Southern California in a town called Santa Clarita. Their old house had one story and their old school had doors to the classrooms both inside and outside. Their old school had two playgrounds. There was no door into the next classroom, instead there was just a little hallway. Sometimes Eli would slip over next door to walk around and watch.

I asked Eli and Inger what they liked about their new house and new school. Eli likes his new house because it has two stories instead of one and he can see Hoover Park from his room. Inger likes her new house because it is bigger. Inger likes El Carmelo because she can draw in the library at recess. Eli likes his new school, but he misses his old friends. Some of his old friends were Ryan and Kevin. Next time you see Inger and Eli say "hi" and "welcome to El Carmelo".



Ivy + Bean

By Clara Harrington and Sarah Rose

Ivy + Bean was a very good book. In the story, there is a new kid on the block (Ivy), but the other girl, named Bean, doesn't want to play with her. One day, Bean is in trouble and her sister is chasing her. The new kid, Ivy, tells her to hide in her house. Together they play for a day, doing things like dressing up and putting on face paint. When they are finished playing, they decide to go to Bean's backyard. When they get there, her sister finds Bean and tells on her, getting her into trouble. The book ends with Bean's mom walking Ivy home, and Bean and Ivy becoming better friends.

Even though the book explained almost everything clearly, we still have a few questions for author Annie Barrows. Will you continue the series any longer after Book Two? We also wanted to know if Bean had any hobbies, because we didn't find her doing something more often than the other things she did. Those are probably our only questions.

Our favorite part of the book was when Bean was making Ivy look more like a witch. We liked that part because it sounded like a fun place to be, and because you got to see all the fun things in her room. Our second favorite part was when Bean was trying to play her trick on her sister Nancy, because you didn't know if she was going to get caught or succeed. Those were the parts that we liked best about Ivy + Bean.

We had a lot of fun reading the book, because it was so unpredictable until you finally finished the book.

El Carmelo Asian Dinner- We Still Need Your Help!

Dear El Carmelo Parents,



We are holding the Asian Dinner on Sunday, February 11th, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. We still need your help so please volunteer, even if you're not Asian!

You can help in a variety of ways:

- Contribute a dish (should feed 10-15 people)
- Do or help with a demo or exhibit
- Contact a restaurant for food donations
- Help decorate a country booth
- Run a game that is from an Asian country
- Help set up for dinner
- Help serve dinner
- Help clean up after the event
- Cashiers

The dinner won't be a success without your help so please join us! Thanks for your help.

» For more information, contact Eiko Baldwin (Asian Dinner Chairperson) at (eikobaldwin@gmail.com or 650-251-9301).



PiE Announces a New \$100K Participation Grant

We still need 30 more El Carmelo families to donate to meet our minimum participation goal!

For those who have not donated as yet, now you can double or triple the impact of your gift. Starting January 15th, we have launched our second Participation Challenge for the 2006-07 campaign. The challenge is being made possible with the generous support of multiple anonymous donors and foundations. All contributions will be matched up to a total of \$100,000.

For those who have never donated to PiE before, your matching will be doubled. So please get your donations in before the campaign ends on February 28, 2007.

Envelopes are available in the office or go to www.papie.org to donate online.

» For more information, contact Megan Fogarty, meganfogarty@sbcglobal.net

Lice Check Update

After the holidays unfortunately many kids come back with more than one type of present. The representatives in your child's classroom will be checking for lice, but you as parents can be helpful and check your own kids as well. Unfortunately we have seen some cases now, and as it gets warmer we expect to see more. Help us manage the situation. Check your child at home. If there is a teeny egg attached to their hair and it is not flaking off-it might be a nit (a lice egg.) If there are any on your child's head, please inform the office so they can send a lice notice out to the classroom. That way we can monitor the classroom. There are several parents at El Carmelo that can give you advice and support based on their personal experience. If you have any questions, your lice representative can direct you. Thank you.

Elizabeth Maulick, lize@psiww.com

Child Passenger Safety Week

February 11-17



Booster seats protect children and save lives.

Children who use booster seats are 59% less likely to be injured in a crash than those wearing a safety belt alone. So don't take chances with your child's life -- use a booster seat.

Raise your child right. If they're shorter than 4'9" tall, put them in a booster seat.



Why is a booster seat important?

It's all about safety! In a crash, poor-fitting adult seat belts can result in serious injury to your child's abdomen, neck, and head. **Until your child is 4'9", he/she needs a boost up.**

- * Use the **best safety restraint** for your child's size.
- * Restrain your child on **every trip, every time.**
- * Keep your child in the **back seat until age 12.**
- * Use the child safety seats and belts **correctly.**



For more information: www.boosterseat.gov

COMMUNITY KIOSK

Community Events for the Palo Alto Area –January 26, 2007– Issue 9

UPCOMING PAUSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Jan 30—**Mandarin Immersion** Proposal to be discussed and then voted upon.

Feb 6—**Attendance Area analysis**; enrollment growth and boundaries are to be discussed and voted upon.

Meetings start at 7 pm, and the public is welcome. The staff reports and recommendations are posted the Friday prior to the meeting at www.pausd.org/community/board/agenda.shtml

Superintendent Search

A search firm will be selected to assist in recruiting a new superintendent and organizing public input. Search firm selection meetings: Feb 1, 5pm: proposals to be presented, Q & A, and discussion; Feb 3, 10am: selection of search firm. Once selected, there will be public discussion of the process to gather and synthesize public input, present the characteristics sought in a superintendent, interview candidates, and develop timelines. All meetings on the process for selecting the superintendent are open to the public and to public input. Watch for invitations to offer input in February and March. Meeting dates and times may change or more added; check www.pausd.org/community/board/agenda.shtml for meeting notices.

PTA WARDROBE NEEDS WARM CLOTHES!

The weather has gotten colder, & the PTA Wardrobe is in need of additional warm clothes. Especially needed are: sweaters & coats in adult sizes. Donations (tax-deductible) are welcome during open hours: Wednesdays 2-5 & Sat's 10-1, at Jordan Middle School, Middlefield Rd. at N. California. Enter thru Middlefield driveway; our portable is right in front of you, behind the red wooden fence. Questions? Call Maria, at the Wardrobe, 858-0654. Info: <http://paloaltopta.org/news/wardrobe.html>.

THANK YOU PALO ALTO!

Curious George has his shelf.
Harry Potter has his chair.
Pippi Longstocking has a table or two
And the Children of Palo Alto have adults that care!

The "What's Missing?" Campaign to furnish Children's Library has reached its goal! With your generous donations we can now purchase everything needed to turn books and a building into a library. Look for the library to reopen by September!

PALO ALTO LIBRARY FOUNDATION
www.palf.org

AUDITION FOR A LITTLE PRINCESS

Come audition for Palo Alto Children's Theatre's production of A LITTLE PRINCESS, Based on the classic novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett. This wonderful musical will be performed in the Theatre's Patricia M. Briggs Auditorium on March 16, 17, 22, 23, and 24.

Auditions are on Jan 30 & 31 at 3:45 and are open to ages 8 through high school. You need to come to only ONE of these two days in order to audition. No appointment is necessary. You do not need to prepare anything in order to audition. Just bring comfy shoes, flexible clothes, a huge smile, and a great attitude! Auditions are at the **Palo Alto Children's Theatre** at 1305 Middlefield Road, PA.

SHOP FOR A CAUSE- BOUTIQUE FUNDRAISER FOR PİE

When: Thursday, Feb 8th, 9am - 3pm

Where: The Home of Kelli Glazier, 100 Island Drive, Palo Alto

What: A unique collection of local hip children's designers coming together for the benefit off all PA schools. No need to travel to Melrose Lane to find the latest trends, join us on Island Dr, right here in PA. Questions? E-mail Pamelahornik@yahoo.com or call 823-9454 for list of vendors.

Community Events for the Palo Alto Area – January 26, 2007

SUMMER TAIKO AT STANFORD

July 9 – 13

For all young people drawn to the boom of big drums, San Jose Taiko and Stanford Taiko announces the start of registration for Summer Taiko at Stanford 2007. The week-long day camp is designed for students 9 to 14 years-old who want to learn the basics of taiko, Japanese American ensemble drumming. Information and registration materials at:

<http://taiko.org/stas/index.html>,
or contact Linda Uyechi
uyechi@stanford.edu

PARENTS PLACE WORKSHOPS

Workshops of interest to parents of school-age children

- **Changing Behavior of Difficult Children** (2nd–6th grade, geared to parents of children whose behaviors are difficult to manage including those diagnosed with ADHD), Weds, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, Noon-1:30 p.m. with Marleen Didech, MA
- **Technology and Kids, Keeping Them Safe** (4th–8th gr), Weds, 2/7, 7–9 p.m. with Denise Salin, LMFT
- **Talking to Kids About Sex** (2nd–5th gr), Tues, 2/13, 7 – 9 p.m. with Sheila Dubin, MA

Parents Place

200 Channing Ave, Palo Alto.

To register: 650-688-3040 or www.ParentsPlaceOnline.org

Soccer Tryouts

Stanford Lightning, Class 3, U12 Girls (born after July 31, 1994) is looking for a few more enthusiastic and well-rounded players to complete our fall roster. Interested girls are invited to tryout during our weekday practices. For info, contact Coach Ed at prospero1960@yahoo.com and Joe at JERizza@sbcglobal.net.

A Celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day A special pre-game event on Sat, Feb 10th

Prior to the Univ. of Washington game will be a free fitness clinic & activities co-hosted by Stanford, the Bay Area Women's Sports Initiative (BAWSI), & the American Association of University Women. Girls are invited to meet Stanford student athletes & learn how to get fit & have fun. 2007 is the 35th anniversary of Title IX, which ensures equal funding & opportunities for women to participate in collegiate athletics.

Special discount game tickets are available. General Admission tickets are \$4.00 – 60% off the Adult price. Reserved seat discounts available. For special discounts, call Bob Wilmot of Stanford Athletics at (650) 736-8191, mention this ad.

BE AN INTERNET SUPER-SEARCHER

Students learn efficient ways to use the internet for schoolwork and home use. Develop techniques for effective search query formation and evaluation of the trustworthiness of visited web sites. Students should be familiar with the operation of a web browser. Instructor Dan Russell, a senior expert at Google.

Grades 6 and up: Fee: \$20 members, \$30 non-members. Sat, 1-3pm, Jan 27

Museum of American Heritage, MOAH,
351 Homer Ave, PA. To register: call 321-1004 or www.moah.org/education

MOAH Exhibit - 100 Years at the Williams House: The Early Years

What was it like in Palo Alto 100 years ago? See life in the early 20th century through the eyes of Betty and Rhona Williams, the two youngest members of the family that originally built and occupied the home that now houses the Museum of American Heritage. Regular exhibit hours are 11 AM to 4 PM, Fri, Sat & Sun. During the centennial exhibit, guided tours covering architectural points of interest in the Williams House are offered every Saturday at 2 pm. Exhibit and tour admission is free. The exhibit runs from February 9 through June 3, 2007.

Thanks to our Museum Sponsors for this exhibit:
Frank Livermore Trust & Moore Family Foundation

Community Kiosk

A bi-weekly publication of the Palo Alto Council of PTAs. The mention of any business or service does not imply an endorsement by the Palo Alto council of PTAs or the Palo Alto Unified School District.

Submissions may be edited for clarity or space.

Next Deadline: Wednesday, January 31, 2007; 5:00pm

Please email submissions to kioskeitor@paloaltopta.org

Palo Alto Council of PTAs
25 Churchill Avenue
Palo Alto CA 94306

Phone: 650-326-0702
Web: <http://www.paloaltopta.org>

On the Calendar Feb-April

*Note: All PTA Unit President, Council, and School Board meetings are at 25 Churchill unless otherwise noted. School Board meetings also on cable channel 28.

Feb 6, 7:00 pm **School Board Meeting**
Feb 7, 9:00 am **PTAC Exec Board**
Feb 8, **6th District PTA Honorary Service Awards Luncheon**
Feb 13, 7:00 pm **School Board Meeting**
Feb 14, 9:00 am **PTA Unit Presidents**
Feb 16-23, **No School: Local Holiday**
Feb 27, 7:00 pm **School Board Meeting**
Feb 28, 9:00 am **PTAC General Meeting**
Mar 1, 7:00 pm, **"Let's Really Talk About College"**
Mar 7, 9:00 am **PTAC Exec Board**
Mar 13, 7:00 pm **School Board Meeting**
Mar 17, **Annual Mother's Symposium**
Mar 21, 9:00 am **PTA Unit Presidents**
Mar 27, 7:00 pm **School Board Meeting**
Mar 28, 9:00 am **PTAC General Meeting**
Mar 30-Apr 6, **No School: Local Holiday**
Apr 10, 7:00 pm **School Board Study Session**
Apr 11, 9:00 am **PTAC Exec Board**
Apr 17, 7:00 pm **School Board Meeting**
Apr 18, 9:00 am **PTA Unit Presidents**
Apr 19 – May 17 **STAR Testing Window**
Apr 24, 7:00 pm **School Board Study Session**

The Councilor

The Newsletter of the Palo Alto Council of PTAs

Would you like to be a PTA Officer?

Our PTA nominating committees are looking for candidates for the 2007-2008 PTA executive boards at each of our schools and for the PTA Council.

The purpose of the PTA nominating committees are to recognize and seek qualified nominees for the elected PTA leadership positions. Serving on a nominating committee is an honor and a privilege. These committees are the PTA's most influential internal bodies, and because they deal with sensitive issues, deliberations are kept confidential.

How the Nominating Committee is Formed

The *Bylaws for Local PTA/PTSA Units* states that the nominating committee is elected by the membership at an association meeting at least two months prior to the annual election meeting. The bylaws also specify how many members and alternates are elected and who is eligible to serve on the committee. No member shall serve on the nominating committee for two consecutive years.

Nominating committee members should be:

- Elected on merit and ability.
- Willing to devote adequate time to the responsibilities involved.
- Knowledgeable regarding the eligibility requirements and the qualifications necessary for the offices to be filled as well as the responsibility of each office.
- Aware of the qualifications and abilities of potential nominees.
- Able to give objective consideration to nominees.
- Able to use sound judgment and skill in evaluating nominees.
- Tactful, discreet with integrity.
- Able to keep all deliberations confidential.

Committee Responsibilities

The responsibility of the nominating committee is to select the best-qualified, available person for each office. Every effort should be made to provide the PTA with a slate of officers that is balanced in terms of new as well as experienced officers, represents the school attendance area, and reflects the diversity of the school population. The *Bylaws for Local PTA/PTSA Units* indicates which officers are elected at the annual election meeting of the PTA.

A membership list from the association should be provided to the committee. Interested parties should submit their interests to the committee. Nominee candidates may also be recommended by nominating committee members and PTA membership.

When considering a person for any office, assure the person understands all of the duties of the position. The unit bylaws, standing rules and procedure books should be consulted for further information. It is the responsibility of the nominating committee chairman to fully explain the duties of a position to a prospective nominee and to have their agreement to serve.

(Continued on page 2)

PAUSD District Update

Technology Funding

In December, the PAUSD School Board allocated \$1.35 million to a bridge plan to update school site technology over the next two years. These funds will be allocated to sites on a per student basis, with each site working with the district Education Technology staff on purchasing appropriate technology. Although Board members expressed concern about funding elementary students at the same amount as secondary students, the board was ultimately persuaded that the condition of computers at the elementary sites warranted this one-time expenditure.

Past computer funding has been sporadic and depended on discretionary funding; the equipment at schools varies in age and quality. Over 70% of the district's 2,895 computers are four or more years old. The district Technology Plan calls for a five year placement cycle for computer and a 3:1 computing ratio by 2011. The Partners in Education (PiE) benchmarking study found that PAUSD has the fewest and oldest number of

(Continued on page 2)

The Councilor
The Newsletter of the Palo Alto Council of PTAs
is published monthly.

Melissa Baten Caswell
PTA Council President

Mona Siegel
Councilor Editor

Dr. Mary Frances Callan
PAUSD Superintendent

The mention of any business or service in this
newsletter does not imply an endorsement by
either the Palo Alto Council of PTAs or the
Palo Alto Unified School District.

8th Annual Symposium for Mothers In the Shelter of Each Other: Mothers & Community

With

Mary Pipher, Ph.D.

Saturday, March 17, 2007 - 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Kresge Auditorium, Stanford University

Dr. Pipher, noted psychologist and best-selling author, will highlight the role of mothers as she speaks to the themes from her book, *The Shelter of Each Other: Rebuilding Our Families*. She is also the author of *Reviving Ophelia*.

As she examines how media, technology and our fast-paced culture weaken community and challenge the health of families, Dr. Pipher's down-to-earth stories and insights encourage and inspire confidence for mothers, individual families and communities.

Admission is \$20; advance registration advised. To register, send a check payable to "Symposium for Mothers" to Palo Alto Medical Foundation — Education Division, 795 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94301. Info: www.pamf.org/mothers or 650-853-2960.

Co-sponsored by the Palo Alto Council of PTAs

Be a PTA Officer (Continued from page 1)

Selection of nominees for office should be an orderly procedure. Open and frank discussion must be held among members of the committee. Discussions are strictly confidential and no information should leave the committee meeting, even after the officers have been elected. Each nominee must be evaluated independently and by the same criteria as all other nominees.

Nominee Requirements

- Nominee must be a PTA member;
- Must support the Purposes and basic policies of the PTA and recognize that PTA is an effective organization working for all children and youth;
- Should have effectively carried out previous PTA and/or other organizational responsibilities;
- Should have knowledge of the organization and its role in the school and community;
- Should be willing to give PTA priority and commitment including attendance at meetings;
- Must be fair and objective and concerned for the well-being and best interests of the PTA; and
- Must understand the importance of effective teamwork.

PAUSD Update (Continued from page 1)

computers per student. The district has never implemented a strategic funding plan for technology replacement. December's appropriation is a two-year infusion of one-time funds to begin improving the computing experience for all students. The proposal suggested funding future replacement through a facility bond.

Mandarin Immersion Program Proposal

Also in December, the board received a feasibility study on the Mandarin Immersion Proposal, which identified a location for the proposed program as being the greatest challenge. Community members presented cogent arguments in favor of and in opposition to the program. The comments evinced the intelligent and respectful approach that characterizes our community. Recommendations on the proposal will be made and discussed on January 9, and discussed and voted upon on January 30.

Enrollment Growth Planning

The Attendance Area Advisory Group presented scenarios to address increasing enrollment, focusing mostly on elementary schools. The Group noted challenges in assessing the costs, timing, and tradeoffs of opening a school versus placing portables on existing school sites. Enrollment projections cannot be 100% accurate. Walking and biking to school, neighborhoods, keeping groups of kids together from elementary to middle to high school were important variables that the group analyzed. Scenarios for enrollment growth and possible boundary changes will be presented to and discussed by the school board on January 16, and February 6.

Social Studies Text Book Evaluations

You can review and comment on History-Social Studies texts that are being considered for our schools. The State provides funds for purchasing State approved materials. Books and comment forms are available at 25 Churchill (tables in the hallway), Hays, or Nixon.

Superintendent Search

In searching for a new superintendent, we will ask teachers, parents, and staff for their thoughts on the most important issues facing our district, and the types of leadership qualities that are most important in the new superintendent. The search will be national, but may nonetheless surface candidates in our own backyard. The school board will be selecting a search firm to assist in recruiting a new superintendent and organizing public input. Dates for the search firm selection meetings include: January 17, 7 pm, the board will discuss the proposals submitted and select consultants for interviews; February 1, 5:00 pm, search firm finalists will present their proposals and respond to questions; and the board will discuss which firm to select; February 3, 10:00 am, if a decision has not been made, the board will select the search firm. Once the search firm has been selected, there will be further public discussion of the process to gather and synthesize public input, present the characteristics sought in a superintendent, interview candidates, and develop timelines. The meetings on selecting the search firm and developing the process for selecting the superintendent are open to the public and to public input. Watch for invitations to offer input in February and March. Meeting dates and times may change or be added so check the district website for meeting notices. <http://www.pausd.org/community/board/agenda.shtml>