



# Carmeletter

Issue 12

El Carmelo PTA Newsletter

March 30, 2007



**COME ABOARD.....  
WE'RE EXPECTING YOU!**

## On Sale Now: AUCTION TICKETS

Make sure you save April 14th to attend the 30th El Carmelo Auction. Line up those babysitters, pick out your "Love Boat" attire and get ready for *FUN, FUN, FUN!*

Ticket forms are available in the office. The price is \$60.00 per person, so get them now.

» Questions?? Contact Debra Wittenbrink at 324-2835 or [dwittenbrink@aol.com](mailto:dwittenbrink@aol.com).

[Auction Highlight and Things to Know—See page 3]

### CALENDAR—APRIL

- 2-6— NO SCHOOL—Spring Break
- 9— School Site Council (3:30 pm)
- 9-19— 2nd Harvest Food Drive
- 10— Board of Education Meeting (7:00 pm) - Immersion or Charter
- 12— Carmeletter Submission Deadline (3:00 pm)
- 14— El Carmelo Auction (6:00—11:30 pm)
- 17— Stories Under the Stars (7:00 pm)
- 17— Board of Education Meeting (7:00 pm)
- 19— Earth Day
- 24— Board of Education Meeting (7:00 pm)
- 25— Be Cool Day



## PTA President's Letter



Winter's gone and spring has sprung! Although it wasn't so wet this year, we still managed to feel a little cooped-up by the end of February. Thanks to all who invested their energy in giving us a way to escape cabin fever (such as it is in California). We would like to extend a special thanks to Stephanie Youngquist and her husband, Mike, for masterminding the fabulous Math and Science Night. It was another great El Carmelo way to get out of the house. When we were at home, we had great new books to read, thanks to another successful Book Exchange. Thanks, Elisa Schmit and your crew of helpers for collecting, sorting, and distributing literally thousands of books for the Book Exchange.



Other than flowers in bloom, we know spring is here because two annual rites of spring have come and gone: Crazy Hair Day and the Pancake Breakfast. Like the blooms of spring, which greet the day with their radiant colors, one day each year our children welcome the new school day topped with brilliant hues. It brings a smile to our faces each year. Thanks to Chris Barry for capturing scenes from Crazy Hair Day in a collage for all to see at the school. The following Saturday the spatulas and pancakes were flying at El Carmelo's annual Pancake Breakfast. We had a great turnout for this wonderful and long-standing community event, which once again was organized by Barbara Rains and Mona Napaa. Thank you, ladies.

### Carmeletter Publication Members

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*Eric Schuur*

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Next Issue	
<u>Submission</u>	<u>Publication</u>
April 12	April 20

Now, we've got a break from school to enjoy spring before we make the final push to summer. There's still lots ahead this school year, so rest up—we'll see you in April.

Eric Schuur  
President

Ana-Maria Dias  
Executive Vice-President

## Stories Under the Stars

Sripriya Kannan and Colleen Hall



On Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm join us for an evening of storytelling in the El Carmelo MP room. Wear your coziest pajamas, bring along your favorite bear and snuggle in for a great time.

This year we will be having our own El Carmelo "Stars" reading to the kids. Immediately following the program, refreshments will be served in the courtyard. Parents please remember this is not a drop-off event. Adults must accompany their children.



# The AUCTION

## Highlights

From Jill Spain (Auction Chair)

The El Carmelo "Love Boat" auction sets sail April 14th. Here are some things you need to know:

## Things to Know

- Auction check-out does not begin until 10:15 pm. Enjoy dancing to the music of DJ, Rick Williams, until check-out begins.
- Check/cash: all proceeds go directly to El Carmelo. Make checks payable to El Carmelo PTA.
- Visa & MasterCard accepted.
- New check-out procedure:
  - ⇒ Pick up your receipt at the table outside the dining room.
  - ⇒ Go to check-out line based on type of payment (check/cash or credit).
  - ⇒ If you have questions regarding your receipt, go directly to the customer service line.
- After payment is made, pick up the items you have won in the room next to the check-out. Receipt is required to pick up an item.
- Beverage tickets are required to purchase any beverage the night of auction. Tickets can be purchased with your auction ticket or will be on sale the night of the auction from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Payment for the beverage tickets is with cash or check only.
- Auction tickets can be purchased now. The ticket forms are in the school office. Complete the form, attach payment and put it in the auction box. Any seating requests should be included on the form.

Come aboard, we have a fun evening planned. Hope to see you there.

## Auction Checkout Volunteers Needed

Calling all night owls!

More volunteers are needed to successfully run our new check-out system at the El Carmelo Auction on April 14<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help and can keep your eyes open after 10 pm, you're in. You won't miss any of the bidding or dining, and no previous experience is necessary.

Please contact Laurie Smith at 323-4550 or [laurie.smith@arm.com](mailto:laurie.smith@arm.com) to help with this vital auction function or to get more information.

The Auction Committee, the PTA and the El Carmelo community will appreciate it.

## Adopt-A-Book

- ⇒ Looking for an interesting way to acknowledge a student or teacher?
- ⇒ Need a fun birthday gift that keeps on giving?

Adopt -A- Book is your answer. Simply fill in the sheet at the library desk and select a book from the Adopt- A- Book shelf or any library book not previously donated. Donate \$15 (or any amount you can) in the form of a check made out to the PTA. Leave the form in the book selected and the check with the librarian.

Once the inscription plate is completed and affixed to the book, your special student or teacher can be the first to check-out the adopted book, which will become a part of the El Carmelo library collection. This is a great way to have fun while helping your school library replace old material with fun, new books.

» Questions? Email [elisaschmit@hotmail.com](mailto:elisaschmit@hotmail.com) or leave a note with the librarians.



## A New Addition to Our El Carmelo Family

*We called Melanie to see how she was doing. She sounded great and definitely has her hands full. This is what she had to say about her new experience:*

Rush Kelley LaSelle was born on 2/27/07 at 7:17 am and weighed in at 5 lbs 15 oz and was 19 inches long. He was born 4 weeks premature.

Rush is a family name on the LaSelle side, and Kelley is my mother's maiden name.

We were fortunate to have an El Carmelo parent, Barbara Raines as our nurse for part of the time. Her support and guidance was greatly appreciated, as I had to be induced because my water was ruptured. I was very upset and she was very encouraging to us and helped us immensely.



We also have a new-found respect for all parents. We always knew it was a big job, but never realized how big. We really look forward to showing him off to everyone.

- Melanie

## PTA Wardrobe

Spring cleaning?

Simplifying and de-cluttering?

The PTA Wardrobe is accepting used clothing in good condition. The PTA Wardrobe provides clothing free of charge to families in the Palo Alto Unified School District. A basket will be placed outside of the school office near the parents' book exchange to collect your donations during the month of April. Thank you so much for your donations!

» Please contact Amanda Templeton at [amandatempleton@yahoo.com](mailto:amandatempleton@yahoo.com) with any questions.



## Spotlight-Robert Siu

By Andrea Christensen, [dreakiya@hotmail.com](mailto:dreakiya@hotmail.com)



Robert Siu gets to do what he loves to do everyday — teach. This is his second year at El Carmelo teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and his 13<sup>th</sup> year in the Palo Alto school district. It took Robert about 8 years of being an accountant to find his true passion. “I was having lunch, looking for life’s answers,” said Robert, “and my colleague suggested teaching.” The next week Robert went to San Francisco State University and learned what he needed to do to get his teaching credentials. “I volunteered at my old Oakland elementary school and fell in love with teaching,” said Robert.

In the classroom, Robert is all about having a positive learning experience for his students. He looks at each child and his or her emotional state, and then works to ensure that the student is positive about learning. “If the student is in a rut with the subject,” he said, “I try to build up his or her confidence.”

Outside of the classroom, Robert keeps himself busy running, cooking and eating, dabbling in his garden or looking at the world through a camera lens. When he is out running, it is not just for his physical health. “I like running not only for the exercise, but for the cleansing of the mind,” said Robert. After he has taken care of his body and mind through exercise, it is time to nourish it with food. Robert references recipes and then makes them his own. “I look at a recipe for general guidelines, but I love to improvise,” he said. “I am savory cook.”

With everything he enjoys doing, what really keeps Robert on the treadmill are his two daughters. Being the father of a four and five year old keeps him busy and happy.

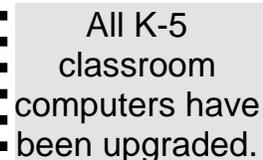
Sitting down to read a good book these days means reading kids books. “I like the genre of realistic fiction. There is great stuff that connects literature with real life for kids,” Robert said. “It is a great starting point for getting kids into the creative writing process. With a few twists and turns, kids can take a real life experience and turn it into a story.”

A fine dining experience includes good food and fine music, and Robert has that covered with his two dinner guests: Julia Child and John Coltrane. Julia Child appeals to his savory chef side. “I would like to know what she knows about how food goes together and the ingredients,” he said. He would also like to know about John Coltrane’s creative process. “I love his music,” Robert said. “I would like to sit down and see how he composed his work.”

## Information Technology Development Plans at El Carmelo

Eric Schuur

Information technology touches our lives daily. We use computers to communicate (email), to research information (internet) and even shop (again, the internet). Our children are growing up with this technology. Today's El Carmelo students will not know what it is like to go about their daily routines without technology. Therefore, it is important that we plan for how best to teach them how to use these technologies.



All K-5  
classroom  
computers have  
been upgraded.

In the recent past there has been very little funding for computers and software; therefore, computers were obtained from wherever possible, whenever possible. As a result, our classrooms were equipped with an assortment of computers of varying age and health.

The development of a plan to equip El Carmelo with adequate computer resources for the students began about three years ago. Our Principal and the PTA collaborated on a decision to invest PTA funds on a regular basis to upgrade the school's computer inventory. The plan was designed to ensure that newer computers are in use in our classrooms. Ideally we will be able to replace these computers every 5 to 6 years. In addition, the other necessary technologies (such as printers) will be upgraded as well.

Two years ago the PTA invested \$15,000 toward this goal. This money was used to purchase new computers for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms. Last year the PTA invested \$20,000 in new computers for the upper grades. The PTA's investment in information technology continues this year.

Earlier this year, a Technology Committee consisting of teachers, the principal, and a PTA member/parent met to refine the technology development plans to upgrade all classrooms with current computer technology. We have been fortunate this year to receive a one-time infusion of \$20,000 from the State, as well as approximately \$26,000 from the District's Technology Bridge Funding Plan. These funds, combined with the PTA's \$10,000 technology investment this year, have allowed us to upgrade all K-5 classroom computers. In addition, we have been able to purchase new network printers, upgrade selected software, and will install wireless network access throughout the school.

Successfully meeting our goal of upgrading El Carmelo's computers is a big plus for the school's learning environment. But, the work is not finished. Future plans include extending wireless access to the entire school site, purchasing LCD projectors for student presentations, and licensing of additional software to support classroom group learning. Possible additions to the technology environment at El Carmelo include network enhancements, such as servers.

It is important to remember that there will be an on-going need to replace computers and software as they age. This will require on-going community support to ensure that funds continue to be dedicated to technology development. However, your support is not just monetary. We will need your continuing feedback about the student's needs and ideas about how best to use new information technologies as they become available.

## Congratulations Room 17 and Room 19

Ana-Maria Dias

Congratulations to Rooms 17 and 19 for attaining 80% participation in eScrip. To commemorate this achievement both classes received an assortment of playground balls and jump ropes. Every class that reaches 80% participation in eScrip receives prizes like these. The participation percentages for all classrooms are:

Room 1 - 50% - needs 5 more students to reach 80%  
 Room 3 - 40% - needs 8 more students  
 Room 4 - 67% - needs 2 more students  
 Room 5 - 63% - needs 3 more students  
 Room 6 - 56% - needs 4 more students  
 Room 7 - 40% - needs 8 more students  
 Room 8 - 75% - needs 1 more student  
 Room 9 - 70% - needs 2 more students  
 Room 10 - 70% - needs 2 more students  
 Room 14 - 64% - needs 4 more students  
 Room 15 - 73% - needs 2 more students  
 Room 16 - 59% - needs 5 more students  
 Room 17 - 80% - Yeah!  
 Room 18 - 78% - needs 1 more student  
 Room 19 - 80% - Yeah!  
 Room 20 - 65% - needs 3 more students  
 Room 21 - 85% - Yeah!  
 Room 22 - 45% - needs 8 more students



Last year eScrip participation at El Carmelo increased from 40% to 60% of families, which means that El Carmelo received \$12k this year from eScrip vs. \$8K last year. I like eScrip because it costs parents absolutely nothing, yet once you sign up extra money just keeps coming in to El Carmelo (the only card you need to renew annually is Safeway).

The bottom line is that we need to raise money to pay for computers, field trips, math lab supplies and a variety of other things at El Carmelo, and this is a painless way to do it. Please sign up by going to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com), email or call me and I will help you sign up.

Ana-Maria Dias  
 326-5854  
 Anamaria\_am99@yahoo.com

It Doesn't Cost  
 You Anything!

## Stuffed Animal Drive—Thank you!



Thank you to all the children at El Carmelo who donated their well-loved stuffed animals, we contributed over 300! Citywide, over 4200 toy animals were collected, each one of which will make a difference to a child who does not yet have a special cuddly toy to hug every night.

The animals were washed and repaired if needed. They will be distributed by Beacons of Light to children in shelters, orphanages and other homes all over the world.

Ana-Maria Dias



## 10 Mile Club—Congratulations!

Congratulations to Tony, for recently achieving 10 Mile Club, and also to Clara, who made it last year but we apparently missed it (sorry, Clara!). The weather is beautiful and we look forward to seeing you runners and walkers at Ten Mile Club on Tuesdays at lunch recess in front of Mr. Danie's room. Don't forget your sneakers. If you run 5 laps you get a bottle of water (supplies permitting), and even if you run fewer laps, be sure to use the drinking fountain to stay hydrated.

Many thanks!  
Liz Cowie



## Family Math and Science Exploration

We hope that you enjoyed the math games and science experiments as much as we did.

The favorites were:

- The electrical circuits – especially turning on the light bulb
- The Marble Walkers - momentum transfer in action
- The Hovercrafts that use air pressure to reduce friction and make the craft glide

Grown-ups and kids alike also enjoyed looking through microscopes at sugar, lung samples, the pits on a CD, the dots in a magazine picture and more. Kids were strategizing over games of Nine-Men's Morris and puzzling over Sudoku.

Thank you to all the hard-working, enthusiastic volunteers - Erina and Tom DuBois, Ana-Maria Dias, Mike Cheong, Andy Poggio, Anna Chan, Wen Li, Tzu Lun Lin, Jing Liu, and Jun Li, Jean Hsia, John Tang, Jennifer Mutz, Eric Schuur, and Geeta Iyer. The kids by far preferred the manned stations, so know your efforts really made a difference.

Please send us any suggestions for improvements or activity suggestions – especially from your kid's points of view – to: [yoyo2000@pacbell.net](mailto:yoyo2000@pacbell.net).

Thank you,  
Stephanie and Mike Youngquist

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## Baja Fresh Dining Out

Thanks to all who supported El Carmelo in our Baja Fresh Dining Out program. We made over \$80 for our school. If you are interested in having more programs like this and have a restaurant suggestion, let me know.

» You can contact me, Stephanie Youngquist, at: [yoyo2000@pacbell.net](mailto:yoyo2000@pacbell.net).



## THANK YOUs

### **Auction Kick-Off Dinner**

Ana-Maria Dias

A huge thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the Auction Kick-Off Dinner a great success. The food was fantastic and it was a wonderful evening spent with friends.

Special thanks to Martha Velez for coordinating the Mexican food preparation and to Yvette Mitchell, Debra Graham, Nicole Marshall, Kesha Brown and Sharon Johnson for the delicious soul food. Thank you also to Jill Spain for her tireless efforts for our school auction, including coming up with the idea for this dinner.

We were thrilled to be entertained with Mexican folkloric dancing performed by the group Mexico Vivo, which includes Carmelo and Luz Maria Molina's daughters Diana and Priscilla.

Added thanks to the following parents whose help was invaluable: Cynthia McGraw, Alfredo Gonzalez Sr., Alfredo Gonzalez Jr., Aurora Morales, Maria Gonzalez, Maria Ibarra, Adelina Antunez, Esther Aguilera, Rosa Montes, Margarita Alcantar, Silvia Morales, Yadira Zuniga, Pilar Macuil, Tania Macuil, Luz Maria Molina, Hortencia Halsted, Ana Hernandez, and Lorena Martinez Ruelas.

Thank you to the following for the scrumptious desserts: Eric Schuur, Rebecca Davis, Erika Krugler, Carrie Manley, Jennifer Allen, Tania Goldszmidt, Tanya Wing, Abbie Wolfson, Mona Napaa, Stephanie Youngquist, Yvette Bovee, Sandra Lewis, Kathleen Blanchard, Pam Parke, Rhiannon Wallace and Eiko Baldwin.

Of course I have to thank Lupe Garcia for his tireless efforts. He showed up before noon and hauled out all the tables, benches and everything else. He stayed all day and hauled them all back again at the end of the evening, always with a smile.



CONGRATULATIONS  
to the Auction  
Winners!

## ART STUDIOS

Spring Break  
**APRIL 2- 6, 2007**

Barron Park Elementary School  
800 Barron Avenue

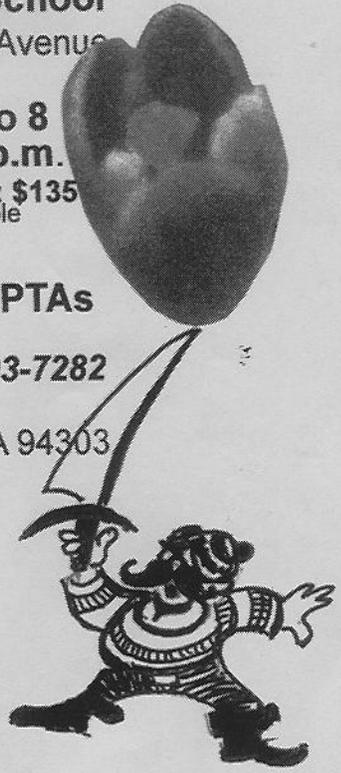
Grades 1 to 8  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Fee: \$260 A.M. Only: \$135  
Scholarship assistance available

Co-sponsored by Palo Alto Council of PTAs

For more information, please call (650)493-7282  
Please mail registration and payment to  
PAPPA, 3370 Kenneth Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94303

## PIRATES!

We'll create arts of the sea...  
Create art from pirate tales and myths



Please enroll my son/daughter, \_\_\_\_\_, Grade \_\_\_\_, in the Spring Art Studios.  
Circle your choice: ALL DAY    A.M. Only  
Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone numbers \_\_\_\_\_

Child must be picked up by an authorized adult at the conclusion of the studios unless you have given PAPPA prior authorization in writing for your child to sign him/herself out of camp.

In consideration of participation in this program, I hereby indemnify, hold harmless and release PAUSD, PTA, PAPPA, its agents, employees and volunteers from any and all liability for injury suffered by myself and/or my child arising from or connected with this program.. I assume all risk for any injuries. I sign of my own free will.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Don't forget...  
SUMMER ARTS CAMP  
June 18-22  
at Barron Park School

# COMMUNITY KIOSK

Community Events for the Palo Alto Area –March 29, 2007– Issue 13

## **FINE ARTS CLASSES for TOTS, KIDS, & TEENS**

There's still room in many great Children's Fine Arts classes at the Junior Museum and Zoo, the Palo Alto Art Center, & Mitchell Park Teen Center. Spring quarter starts 4/9; registration is underway for residents and non-residents. Ongoing & online Summer camps registration begins 3/22 for PA residents. To enroll, visit <http://www.paenjoy.org> or call 650/329-2366. Info: <http://tinyurl.com/7f872>. DO ART!

## **Abramovitz Scholarship Exhibition**

March 20-April 11

PA Art Center, Meeting Room

Jordan Field/Gunn HS  
Sally Perez/ Eastside Preparatory HS  
Shirley Garcia/ Eastside Preparatory HS  
Roxana Moussavian/Paly HS

CFA is looking for talented 10th and 11th graders to **apply for the Abramovitz Scholarship**, which we administer for the Art Center Foundation. It's for kids with talent in visual arts who live in or attend school in Palo Alto or EPA. It provides an artist/mentor, pays for classes, workshops, art supplies, trips to galleries and museums & help with the college application process and a final exhibition at the Art Center. This is *really* a great opportunity for a motivated student interested in the art field.

We will have applications available at the show, and you can also find them online at: <http://tinyurl.com/2xg4ao>

## **Library Presents Free Poetry Slam For Teens**

The Palo Alto City Library invites youth in grades 6-12 to perform, judge, listen, eat and boogie at **Saturday Night Slam**, a free poetry slam and open mike event. Presented in collaboration with Gunn High School, featuring the Gunn HS Slam Team.

At Mitchell Park Library Sat, April 21. 7pm: Open Mike Poetry Reading; 8pm: Poetry Slam. Signup online for the slam or poetry reading at [www.cityofpaloalto.org/library](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/library) or at the door if space permits. For info: [www.cityofpaloalto.org/library\\_or\\_329-2436](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/library_or_329-2436) (press #2 for Ref). Prizes and free food!

## **RECYCLE YOUR ELECTRONICS** – Help the environment and the Gunn Environmental Club!

The Gunn Environmental Club is joining forces with GreenCitizen, Inc. to hold an electronics recycling event! On Saturday April 21st, from 10-6pm, GEC members will be at GreenCitizen, 4500 El Camino Real, Los Altos, helping to take in and process old computers and electronics.

10% of all revenues from this day will be donated to the GEC to support their continued work to educate others and protect the earth's natural resources. Mention Gunn if you visit GreenCitizen between April 23 - June 22 and 10% of the revenues generated will also be donated to the Gunn Environmental Club.

See [www.greencitizen.com](http://www.greencitizen.com) for a list of items accepted & prices or call 493.8700. For event info call Miranda Chatfield 793.5228 or email [mandibanana@gmail.com](mailto:mandibanana@gmail.com), for info on the GEC [gunnenvironmentalclub@gmail.com](mailto:gunnenvironmentalclub@gmail.com).

## **El Camino Youth Symphony Announces:**

### **MEMBERSHIP AUDITIONS for 2007-2008 SEASON. AUDITION APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE NOW**

ECYS invites musicians ages 6 - 20 with at least 1 year of experience on a musical instrument to join their music education program for the 2007-2008 Season. Entering its 45th Season, the El Camino Youth Symphony has an after school music education program that allows musicians to honor their commitment to their school program while augmenting their orchestra and ensemble experience. The ECYS Senior Symphony, the most advanced orchestra, goes on tour every 2 years, in addition to regularly performing with soloists of international renown. ECYS also hosts a Summer Workshop every year for students interested in an intensive study of orchestral and chamber music repertoire. We are currently taking audition applications for all levels, from beginning through advanced. To be considered for program membership, please submit an audition application online at [www.ecys.org](http://www.ecys.org) or contact (650) 327-2611.

## Community Events for the Palo Alto Area – March 29, 2007

### PALO ALTO LIBRARY PROGRAMS

 **Toddler Storytime** (18 mo- 3yrs)  
Mondays: 10 or 11am at Main Library  
Fridays: 10am at Mitchell Park Library  
 **Preschool Storytime** (3-5yrs):  
Tuesdays: 10am at Main Library  
Wednesdays: 11am, College Terrace  
Library, 2300 Wellesley  
Fridays: 11am. Mitchell Park Library

**All programs are free & open to all!**

### Palo Alto Family YMCA Healthy Kids Day and Camp Extravaganza!

April 14th, 11:00am-2:00pm

Bring your family for fun, interactive activities. You will learn how to keep your family healthy in spirit, mind, and body.

Plan your summer by learning about and signing up for exciting YMCA camps. Choose from traditional day camps, teen caravans, family camps and more. We have the right camp for you. Sign up for camp on April 14th and receive a free t-shirt!

**Stanford Soccer** will be kicking off our Spring Clinics. Our **Spring Youth Academy** (ages 6-10) and Soccernastics Program (ages 3-6 w/parent) begin in April. For information and registration go to our website [www.stanfordsoccer.com](http://www.stanfordsoccer.com) or contact us at 650-725-9161.

**ANDY HARADER SUMMER TENNIS CAMP** @ Paly. June 18 - Aug 17, Mon-Fri, 9-noon, ages 7-16 \* all levels  
e-mail: [andre10@mindspring.com](mailto:andre10@mindspring.com) \* 364-6233. For more info: [www.andystenniscamp.com](http://www.andystenniscamp.com)

### THEATER ARTS FAMILY DAY

Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

at The Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road 329-2176

Join us for an afternoon of art activities in conjunction with the Center's exhibit *Actor! Actor! & Masami Teraoka and Ukiyo-e*.

Make Animal Masks! Rod Puppets! Costumes! Finger Puppets! Stage Sets! Play Characters! and more...

Artists and members of the community will lead family art activities for parents & children 5 and up. All children must be accompanied by a parent. Project LOOK! is supported by the City of Palo Alto and the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation in a public/private partnership. Family Day is FREE through the support of the Art Center Foundation.

### Join Greenmeadow Community Association Pool

303 Parkside Drive, Palo Alto

You don't have to be a resident of Greenmeadow to join GMCA! To find out more, go to [www.greenmeadow.org](http://www.greenmeadow.org) or contact us at [info@greenmeadow.org](mailto:info@greenmeadow.org) or 494-3157.

### SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Kids Cooking Camp**- June 25-29, 8:30-2:30pm. Grades K-5. For info: Melissa Fassler 322-5946 ext. 106 or [kidscookingcamp@yahoo.com](mailto:kidscookingcamp@yahoo.com)
- **MOAH- Math & Science Summer Camp**- Session 1: June 25-29, Session 2: July 9-13. From 9:00-4:00pm. 10yrs & up. For information & registration: visit [www.moah.org](http://www.moah.org) click "education" or call Gwenyth or Laurie 321-1004. Registration must be completed by March 31.
- **Hidden Villa Summer Camp**- Day Camps: Ages 6-9 ▪ Residential Camps: Ages 9-16 ▪ Leadership Camp: Ages 16-18. 650-949-8641 ▪ [www.hiddenvilla.org](http://www.hiddenvilla.org)
- **The Diabetes Society has Summer Programs** available for Families, Youth and Teens living with diabetes. For information, go to <http://www.diabetesscv.org>
- **Friends, Fitness and Fun**- A fitness program for ages 7-12 by The Santa Clara Aquamaids. Spring & summer sessions. For info 408-988-9936 or [info@aquamaids.us](mailto:info@aquamaids.us) or visit [www.aquamaids.org](http://www.aquamaids.org).
- **Chinmaya India Camp**- June 25 – June 29, 9:30-3:30 or 9:30-12. Grades 4-12. Contact Aarti Johri ([aarti\\_johri@hotmail.com](mailto:aarti_johri@hotmail.com) / 650-941-8685).

### 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, April 11, 2007; 5:00pm

Please email submissions to [kioskeditor@paloaltopta.org](mailto:kioskeditor@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 Mar-May**

All PTA Unit President, Council, and School Board meetings are at 25 Churchill unless otherwise noted. School Board meetings are usually broadcast on cable channel 28 and streamed live at <http://www.communitymediacenter.net/watch/schedules/index.html>

Mar 30-Apr 6, **No School: Local Holiday**

Apr 10, 7:00 pm, **School Board Student Dinner/Study Session** 25 Churchill

Apr 11, 9:00 am, **PTAC Exec Board**

Apr 11, :00 pm **OneCareNow Community Meeting**, Palo Alto Unitarian Church.

Apr 14, 9:00am, **Shaping the Future: A Community Engagement Conference**. Avenidas

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: Facilities Plan** 25 Churchill

Apr 25, 9:00 am, **PTAC General Mtg (Election)**

May 3-6, **State PTA Convention**, Sacramento

May 8, 7:00 pm, **School Board Meeting**

May 9, 9:00 am, **PTAC Exec Board**

May 11, 7:30 pm, **SOS Keynote: Drs Madeline Levine & Wendy Mogel. Open to the Public**, Kresge Auditorium Stanford

May 16, 9:00 am, **PTA Unit Presidents**

May 22, 7:00 pm, **School Board Meeting**

May 23, 8:30-Noon, **PTA Unit Leadership Training Day**, 25 Churchill

Jun 1, 11:30am, **PTA Council Honorary Service Awards Luncheon**

June 5, 7:00 pm, **School Board Meeting**

June 14, **School Ends, Summer Vacation Begins**

June 19, 7:00 pm, **School Board Study Session, Work Plan**, 25 Churchill

June 26, 7:00 pm, **School Board Meeting**

# *The Councilor*

## The Newsletter of the Palo Alto Council of PTAs

### **Talk to Your Child About Alcohol**

In the hands of teenagers, alcohol is a true WMD (Weapon of Mass Destruction). This is based in fact, not politics. Alcohol is

- The leading cause of death among teenagers
- The leading cause of motor vehicle accidents among teenagers
- The leading cause of date rape in teenagers
- The leading cause of teenage suicide
- Increases the risk of severe depression 4 times

Daily, teenagers try alcohol for the first time 11,318 times vs. 386 for heroin.

Alcohol exposure in teenagers 15 and under lead to 4 times the incidence of alcoholism compared to those who wait until they are 21.

In a study of teenagers the AMA found that modest alcohol consumption lead to definable permanent brain damage. This sensitivity continued until age 21.

The adolescent brain is more susceptible to memory loss with alcohol which is permanent. It blocks the ability to learn new memory. This is due to its effects on the juvenile hippocampus which is not seen in adults.

Alcohol has a less sedative effect in juveniles which leads to more consumption and thereafter a higher risk of alcohol poisoning.

Teenagers are more likely to binge drink. Binge drinking with multiple withdrawals lead to higher risks of seizures, cognitive difficulties, learning difficulties, memory, and spatial orientation difficulties.

All of these are scientific facts, based on multiple studies from multiple institutions. They have lead to laws which were written to protect us.

David Gregg, MD, Trauma Surgeon, Stanford University Medical Center

### **California State 2007 PTA Convention Sacramento Convention Center - Wednesday, May 2- Sunday May 6, 2007**

Your PTA will benefit by sending members to Convention. Convention provides numerous opportunities to instruct, inform, and inspire your PTA leaders and so the California State PTA strongly encourages its units, councils and districts to budget for and send delegates to each annual convention.

Planning for Convention and providing an opportunity for delegates to attend is a membership priority. Convention is an authorized expense and should be a line item in every PTA budget.

Each unit in good standing is entitled to be represented at the California State PTA convention by the president or president elect (or an elected alternate) and one additional elected delegate. PTA units with 250-500 memberships are entitled to two additional elected delegates. Units with 501-750 members are entitled to three additional elected delegates. Units with 751 or more memberships may send three additional elected delegates

#### **Top Ten Reasons to Send a Unit Delegate to PTA Convention**

1. The California PTA is the biggest child advocacy organization in California and their legislative agenda for the coming year is determined by the annual statewide convention. **BUT you have to be there to vote!**
2. TRAINING! It is a great training place for new presidents and other board members. Many of the sessions are focused on specific topics relevant for your incoming board members.
3. Find out what Membership REALLY provides. The Convention provides many opportunities to learn more about the PTA's programs and services. If your only interest is the workshops – and they are almost universally high quality and worth your time – consider going there just for the day.
4. You don't need to know who will be on next year's Exec. Board to register someone today. You can register a "Delegate A" and "Delegate B" for the convention and insert the correct names when you know them.

## 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.

California State PTA Convention (Continued from page 1)

5. Get fundraising ideas. The Convention draws many exhibitors who provide interesting ideas for "turnkey" fundraisers.
6. Find special deals for your teachers, staff and students. Many exhibit vendors offer PTA Convention attendees products and services at special prices.
7. Stock up on PTA "STUFF". Pick up pamphlets specific to executive board positions (Treasurer, President, Secretary, Auditor...), as well as unique PTA pins, buttons, pens, stationery, tee shirts, etc.
8. Hear big name speakers up close. The convention always draws big name speakers. Often the Governor (or a member of his senior staff) will be a speaker.
9. Good network opportunity for incoming officers. Get to know the other incoming Palo Alto PTA Presidents and Council members (in a relaxed environment), before the year starts.
10. In addition to being a meaningful opportunity to influence state PTA policies and expand your "tool kit" of expertise.....it's *fun!*

Questions? Contact PTA Council Executive VP and Convention Chair, Dan Dykwel at dykwel@comcast.net

## **Congratulations Palo Alto Student Artists!**

The following are the 2006-2007 6th District (Santa Clara County) PTA Reflections Arts Contest Winners!

### Literature

#### Primary Literature (K-2)

\*1<sup>st</sup> Mikhail Saliba Lebanon-My Favorite Place Walter Hays  
2<sup>nd</sup> Peter King My Favorite Place Duveneck

#### Intermediate Literature (3-5)

5<sup>th</sup> Divya Saini My Favorite Place Hoover

#### Senior Literature (9-12)

4<sup>th</sup> Frederick Chen My Favorite Place Gunn HS

### Photography

#### Senior Photography (9-12)

3<sup>rd</sup> Lauren Koo My Favorite Place Gunn HS  
4<sup>th</sup> Julia Benton Sails Palo Alto HS

### Visual Arts

#### Primary Visual Arts (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)

2<sup>nd</sup> Hollis Caswell All Together With My Family Duveneck  
3<sup>rd</sup> Anwasha Mukheji My Grandma's Cozy Lap Duveneck

#### Intermediate Visual Arts (3-5)

3<sup>rd</sup> Wilson Wang My Favorite Place Duveneck  
4<sup>th</sup> Annie Chen One Day In Big Sur Duveneck

#### Senior Visual Arts (9-12)

2<sup>nd</sup> Maya Fielder The Apple Tree Palo Alto HS  
4<sup>th</sup> Tim Qin My Room Palo Alto HS

#### Dance Choreography

#### Senior Dance Choreography (9-12)

\*1<sup>st</sup> Leah Rosengaus Sea & Light Gunn HS

#### Music Composition

#### Senior Music Composition (9-12)

5<sup>th</sup> Abraham Wilson Recapturing Isenguard Palo Alto HS

\* 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winners have been entered in the California State PTA Competition. Winners of the State Reflections Competition will be showcased at PTA convention and go to the National PTA Reflections Competition!

## **American Dream Act Introduced in the House**

On Thursday, March 1, Rep. Howard Berman of California introduced the American Dream Act ([H.R. 1275](#)) to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. The bill's cosponsors are Reps. Lincoln Diaz-Balart of Florida, Lucille Roybal-Allard of California, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida.

The American Dream Act is the latest version of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, which was first introduced in 2001 and has enjoyed wide bipartisan support. The bill affects students brought to the United States more than five years prior to the bill's enactment who have not yet reached the age of 16 and who demonstrate good moral character. Under the American Dream Act, once such a student graduates from high school, he or she would be permitted to apply for conditional status, which would authorize up to six years of legal residence.

During the six-year period, the student would be required to graduate from a two-year college, complete at least two years toward a four-year degree, or serve in the U.S. military for at least two years. Permanent residence would be granted at the end of the six-year period if the student has met these requirements and has continued to maintain good moral character. The American Dream Act would also eliminate a federal provision that discourages states from providing in-state tuition to undocumented immigrant residents; this change would restore to the states full authority to determine state college and university fees.

PTA believes that all children should have access to education and that every student should be afforded every opportunity to graduate from high school and pursue postsecondary education, including vocational education. Students who go on to postsecondary education provide benefits to society as a whole by increasing their long-term earnings potential, decreasing incarceration rates, and lessening the burden on social safety net programs. PTA, along with the other members of the United We DREAM Coalition, supports the passage of the American Dream Act and believes that the bill opens the door to a better, brighter future for the children of immigrant families who want to go on to school, better their lives, and become contributing members of society. PTA further believes that an educated, successful populace benefits the United States as a whole.