



# Carmeleter

September 29, 2006

Issue 3

## President's Letter

Another summer has officially passed; the Palo Alto autumn is here with its golden Indian summer. School is in full swing now, as are sports and all of the other activities with which our students busy themselves.

This weather is ideal for getting out of the car on the way to school. In a couple of weeks it will be Bike/Walk-to-School Week, culminating with Bike/Walk-to-School Day on October 11<sup>th</sup>. That Evening we will have a special class, "Bringing Up Bicyclists", with Richard Swent. See the announcement in this issue and be sure to put it on your calendar.

Autumn is also the time when fundraising for the next year begins. The Innisbrook Fundraiser is in progress. You all should have received a packet with order forms and catalogs. The merchandise is very good quality and will be delivered to you by the holidays. Please take advantage of this opportunity to benefit the school while buying things you need. In this and future issues of the Carmeleter we will highlight how the funds are used that the PTA raises through programs, such as Innisbrook.

Lastly, we would like to extend a special thank you to Jeff Harrison and Wendy Thirtle, who have been tireless in producing our bible, the Student Directory, for several years now. You should have one. If you don't, it is free with your PTA membership of \$10 (or it can be purchased separately for \$10.00). And, to make the deal even sweeter, you receive a coupon for Legoland tickets with your PTA membership as well. Join today—it's another way to contribute to our outstanding El Carmelo community.

This season is incredibly, and frustratingly, busy. But there are those moments, at the end of the day, when we get to curl up with our young students, sigh a warm sigh, and reflect back on the day's happenings. To hear them tell us how much they've learned, to see how much they've grown, that is payment enough for all our effort.

Eric Schuur  
President

Ana-Maria Dias  
Executive Vice-President

 **REMINDER**

- NO SCHOOL:  
MON. & TUES. 10/2 & 10/3
- OCT. 8TH: SPAGHETTI  
DINNER & INNISBROOK  
ORDERS DUE

## Thank You for the Teacher Welcome Lunch!

Greta Tan, thank you for your organization and creative skills in producing a beautiful lunch for the teachers on Friday, September 15. The lunch was a wonderful start to this year.

Thank you also to Tania Goldsmzidt, Kathleen Ford, Jian Yin, Ann Holum, Yvette Mitchell, Barbara Yates, Pamela Parke, Yawen Li, Jill Spain and Jean Hsia for contributing tasty dishes and beverages to serve at the luncheon.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### October

2	Local Holiday-No School	10	Board of Education Meeting 7 p.m. 25 Churchill
3	Staff Development Day—No School	16-19	Book Fair
5	Carmeleter Deadline 3 p.m.	17	PTA Meeting, 7 p.m.
8	Spaghetti Dinner 5-7 p.m.	19	Carmeleter Deadline 3 p.m.
9	Innisbrook Orders Due	24	Board of Education Meeting 7 p.m. 25 Churchill
		24	Hearing Screening
		25	Pumpkin Project



# Oct. 5th, 3pm Next Carmeletter Deadline

EL CARMELO



DRAGONS

## Fall Class Picnics at Hoover Park!

Michele Kasper, mekasper@comcast.net

Mark your calendar for the annual El Carmelo Fall Class Picnics at Hoover Park! It is a great way to get to know other El Carmelo families. Bring your family, a blanket, your own main dish, and a salad, side dish or dessert to share. Festivities begin at 5:00 p.m., until about 7:00.



2nd Grade, Wed. Oct 4  
3rd Grade, Thurs. Oct 5  
4th Grade, Tue Oct 10  
5th Grade, Thurs. Oct 12.

## Helpers And Desserts Needed For The Spaghetti Dinner!

The organizing of our annual spectacular Spaghetti Dinner is getting underway.

If you can help with set-up, serving, clean up, or by bringing a dessert to the Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, October 8, please contact Ana-Maria Dias or Stephanie Youngquist.

Ana-Maria Dias

anamaria\_am99@yahoo.com  
326-5854

Stephanie Youngquist  
yoyo2000@pacbell.net  
327-4284



## Scholastic Book Fair

Oct 16 - 19

Michele Kasper, mekasper@comcast.net

Come explore the Reading Rainforest. Open before and after school and at lunch time. Join the fun Wednesday night 5:30 - 8:00 for Ice Cream Sundaes, and hunt for your favorite Scholastic books!

Its fun, it's educational, and it raises money for El Carmelo.



## Parent Helpers needed for the Hearing Screening

Vision screening took place at El Carmelo on September 28.

Hearing screening will take place at El Carmelo on Tuesday, October 24 from 8:30 to 11:30 am. Both tests are given to kinders, second and fifth graders.

Parent helpers are needed for the hearing tests. If you can help for any or all of the time please contact Ana-Maria Dias, anamaria\_am99@yahoo.com, 326-5854.

## School Boundary Committee (AAAG) Update

The first fall meeting of the Attendance Area Advisory Group (AAAG) took place on September 11. Palo Alto Unified School District formed this committee, with representatives from all schools in the district, to provide input and suggestions for defining attendance areas and to consider whether or not there is a better way to distribute students in order to make adequate use of district facilities.

The Board of Education previously approved certain variables to guide the boundary process, which include: safety/traffic considerations; school size; neighborhood schools, play and field space; diversity; special education; transition period; minimizing overflow transfers; and financial resources.

At the meeting we suggested that the committee add the concept of "peer-streaming" as another variable that should inform the process. We suggested this because the El Carmelo community, in our May 2006 survey, strongly favored peer-streaming, i.e., keeping cohorts of students together for middle and high school to the extent possible. After discussion, the committee agreed to add peer-streaming to the list of variables. We feel this was an important first step in ensuring that this issue is considered in the decision-making process.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the demographer's presentation of enrollment data, as well as questions. The demographer presented low, medium and high forecasts of enrollment. The data suggest that if enrollments at the middle school level increase more than the medium forecast, PAUSD will need to increase middle school capacity within in the next 5 years. At the elementary school level also, there would be a shortage of seats if enrollments were to reach the high forecast. At the high school level, capacity by fall 2011 would be sufficient under the medium enrollment forecast, but insufficient under the high forecast.

The AAAG timeline is an ambitious one. The district has slated the following topics for discussion: Elementary Attendance Areas and Choice Programs for the 9/25, 10/9 and 10/16 meetings; Secondary Attendance Areas for the 10/30 meeting; Identifying Pros and Cons of Recommendations at the 11/6 meeting; Finalizing Recommendations and Preparation for Board Study Session at the 11/13 meeting; and a Board of Education Study Session on December 5. The meetings are all scheduled for 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the PAUSD's offices at 25 Churchill Avenue and are open to the public.

PAUSD will post the minutes of the meetings on its website, [www.pausd.org](http://www.pausd.org). They are found under News and Announcements, and under that Important Issues. We also have a box in the El Carmelo office with information regarding the boundary issues, including the results of our May 2006 survey. We will continue to keep you posted and welcome your comments and suggestions. Liz's email is [lizcowie@alumni.duke.edu](mailto:lizcowie@alumni.duke.edu), and Linda's is [linda@winterlodge.com](mailto:linda@winterlodge.com).

Your AAAG Representatives,  
Liz Cowie and Linda Jensen

## PA School District seeks input on calendar

Ana-Maria Dias

The Palo Alto school district will hold two open forums this month to give community members a chance to comment on its proposed 2007-'08 and 2008-'09 calendar, which lengthens summer vacation by eliminating "ski week."

Assistant Superintendent Scott Bowers, who oversees the district calendar committee, held a meeting Wednesday, Sept. 27 at the District's Office and a second meeting Thursday, Sept. 28 at Terman Middle School.

Committee members have agreed on a calendar for those two school years that strikes ski week, ends first-semester finals before winter break, condenses scattered one-day holidays into fewer three- and four-day breaks and lengthens summer vacation by one week.

The Palo Alto district reconfigures the school calendar every two years as part of its negotiations with the teachers' union. A committee of representatives from the district and teachers' and classified employees' unions has met a handful of times before going to the public.

The committee will meet on Oct. 4 to review the public input before submitting the calendar draft to the school board in November for its decision.



## Mandarin Immersion Proposal - Brief update

Faith W. Brigel

The results of the PAUSD grant application for this program to the government should be available within the next few weeks. The Feasibility Study continues. And those results will be made public in February 2007. The Board meets twice a month (see the dates in the Dates to Remember in each Carmeletter issue) and is interested in your opinions of adding another Choice program of Mandarin Immersion from K-12 to our District that has already several Choice Programs. During the regular Board meetings the public is allowed to voice concerns for three minutes each. These meetings are held at the District Office at 25 Churchill. The public portion of the meeting starts at about 9:00 p.m. If you have any questions about this proposal or how it will affect you and your family please call me at 330-0606, or email me at Faithwb2@sbcglobal.net.

## Innisbrook Products Fundraiser

**Buy high quality gift wrap, chocolates, and other gift items  
September 15<sup>th</sup> – October 9<sup>th</sup>**

**50% of the proceeds go to El Carmelo PTA**

**Items to be delivered mid-November.**

**Your friends and relatives can order through you or on-line at [www.Innisbrook.com](http://www.Innisbrook.com)**

El Carmelo earns money on on-line purchases throughout the year. Make sure to enter El Carmelo or our school number (**101161**) and the student's name for him or her to get credit. Your child will receive prizes depending on the number of items sold through October 9th.

If you have any questions please contact  
Stephanie Youngquist  
650-327-4284  
[yoyo2000@pacbell.net](mailto:yoyo2000@pacbell.net)

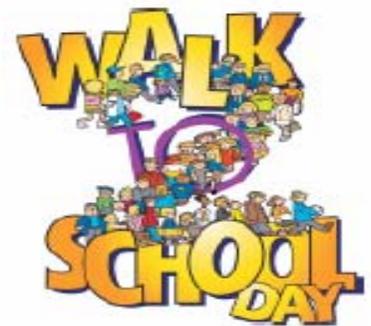


**Walk and Bike to School Week: October 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Stephanie Youngquist

Use an alternate method to get to school - walk/bike/carpool/take the bus to school/  
walk part way.

Why?

It's good for your body. It's good for our environment. It's fun. It reduces traffic  
around the school and increases everyone's safety.



## Your PTA dollars at Work

Ana- Maria Dias

One of the many things that your El Carmelo PTA provides is funding to teachers to purchase additional classroom supplies that the district cannot afford. We are proud to say that at the Teacher Welcome Lunch on September 15, we presented \$6040.00 to the El Carmelo faculty for use in their classrooms. Thank you!!





P A L O A L T O  
P A R T N E R S  
I N E D U C A T I O N

## *Take the Challenge!*

**Make your gift to *Palo Alto Partners in Education* NOW and every dollar "above and beyond" the suggested donation of \$500 per child will be matched, dollar for dollar.**

**If we meet the \$125,000 goal by November 1<sup>st</sup> we receive a bonus \$100,000**

**PiE dollars raised this year are distributed on a per student basis to your schools' principals to support your child's excellent education in school year 2007-2008**

Questions? Megan Swezey Fogarty, 473-0428,  
meganfogarty@sbcglobal.net  
Remittance envelopes available in the school office or donate at

[www.papie.org](http://www.papie.org)

### Carmeletter Publication Members

PTA President  
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PTA Executive Vice President  
*Ana-Maria Dias*

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Published Biweekly

Submissions may be sent to:  
carmeletter@yahogroups.com

or a printed copy may be left in the Carmeletter editor folder in the Carmeletter drawer 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 Date</u>	<u>Pub Date</u>
Oct 5	Oct 13

Check out our new websites!!!

The \*new\* El Carmelo School and PTA websites have officially been launched!  
Please visit the websites for helpful and up to date information on what is going on at our school.

[www.el-carmelo.pausd.org](http://www.el-carmelo.pausd.org)



Palo Alto Unified School District

## El Carmelo Elementary

3024 Bryant Street • Palo Alto, CA 94306  
(650) 856-0960 • FAX: (650) 856-4817

[Yahoo! Street map to El Carmelo](#)

- Home
- School Office
- Daily Schedule
- District School Calendar (PDF)
- Principal's Message
- Staff & Classrooms
- El Carmelo PTA website
- El Carmelo History



- Links of Interest**
- >> [Student Registration](#)
  - >> [Kids' Club Day Care](#)
  - >> [K-5 Curriculum](#)
  - >> [Partners in Education](#)
  - >> [Feeder Schools](#)

### Welcome to El Carmelo

Welcome to our website!

[www.elcarmelo.paloaltopta.org](http://www.elcarmelo.paloaltopta.org)



## El Carmelo PTA

2006-2007

>> [El Carmelo Elementary website](#)

- PTA Home
- PTA Mission/Membership
- PTA Meetings
- School Calendar
- Executive Board & Committee Chairs
- Fundraising
- Programs/Events
- Carmeletter/eNews
- PIE and El Carmelo
- Council of PTAs

### Welcome to the El Carmelo PTA web site!

#### Upcoming Events

- September 21 Photo Day
- October 8 Spaghetti Dinner 5:00 - 7:00 pm MP Room

#### Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in helping out with the Spaghetti Dinner on October 8th, please contact [Ana](#)

#### Don't Forget To...

[Join the PTA!](#) Your membership is important!