



# Carmeletter

October 27, 2006

Issue 5

## President's Letter

Well, most of us have settled into the routine of this school year. The students have adjusted to their new teachers and classmates. So too, the teachers have come to know their new crop of students, as they do so well each year. How fortunate we are to have a faculty at El Carmelo who do a great job year-in and year-out with such a variety of students. The teachers, Principal, and staff expend a tremendous amount of effort to meet the individual students' needs; not only in the classroom, but also in parent-teacher conferences (now in progress) and in one-on-one meetings with Mr. Garcia to review each student's needs (also now in progress). We salute you, teachers, staff, and Mr. Garcia, for your efforts to help each child reach his or her potential.

**REMINDER**

- OCT 31—HALLOWEEN PARADE 8:40 a.m.
- NOV. 1 - PIE CHALLENGE DEADLINE
- NOV. 1 - ICE SKATING PARTY 5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

In the last two weeks the students had their election season. Posters were made, campaign speeches were written, practiced, and delivered, and the election was held. Students ran for President, Vice-President, Historian, and Recorder. After the ballots were counted, El Carmelo had its new set of student officers. Congratulations to the winners and all who made the effort to run for office. It's a great civics lesson for the students and a good reminder for parents. See the story about the election in this issue.

It is also time for grown-up election season. In less than two weeks we will have the opportunity to exercise our franchise as citizens on Election Day, November 7. There are several proposals on the ballot that may have important impacts on schools and children. The California State PTA has taken positions on a few of these. The California State PTA favors Proposition 1D (Bonds for School and College Buildings) and Proposition 86 (the Cigarette Tax), and opposes Proposition 88 (the Property Tax for Education). For more information on the PTA positions, visit the California State PTA website at [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org). There are also many other informative and easy-to-use web sites with information on the current ballot measures, some of which are listed on the PTA web site.

We explain this election thing to our children and stress how important it is if we value what we have in this country. We're pretty sure they believe what we tell them. However, the lesson is brought home even more strongly when we walk the talk. Please be informed, and please vote.

Eric Schuur  
President

Ana-Maria Dias  
Executive Vice-President

## Adopt a Book

Adopt a Book would like to thank the following families for their generous donations to Adopt a Book: Ogawa, Ludwig, Timokhin, Ford, Runge, Tsoi, Stanton, Lee, Kim, Dias, Tracy, Manin, Chi and Barbera.



If you have donated to the Adopt-A-Book program and have not selected your books, please come to the library in the morning or afternoon and select your books. Your child can also come during recess and select a book to be inscribed with a special dedication bookplate. He or she can then be the first to check the donated book out of the library collection.

*Continued on Page 2*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

November

- 1 PiE challenge Grant Deadline
- 1 Ice Skating Party 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- 2 Photo Makeup day
- 2 Carmeletter Deadline 3:00 p.m.
- 6 Begin Kinder Extended Day
- 10 Veteran's Day - No School



- 14 Board of Education 25 Churchill 7:00pm
- 16 Rainbow Picture Day
- 22-24 Thanksgiving Holiday, No School
- 28 Board of Education 25 Churchill 7:00pm
- 30 Carmeletter Deadline 3:00 p.m.
- 31 Halloween Parade—8:40 a.m.

## Adopt a Book *(Continued from Page 1)*

If you are interested in Adopting a Book to acknowledge a special student achievement, a wonderful teacher or a great classroom simply:

1. Select a new book from the Adopt-a-Book shelf in the library, or select your favorite book from the general library collection. Any book without a dedication bookplate can be "adopted."
2. Complete the Adopt-a-Book form.
3. Attach a check in the amount you wish to donate to the form. Make your check out to "El Carmelo PTA," and write Adopt a Book on the memo line. The suggested donation is \$15 per book, but any donation is welcome.
4. Place the completed form in the book and return the book and form to the librarian or to the "To Be Shelved" box. Once the paperwork is processed, you will receive a copy of the form for your records. Your special student can be the first to check out the book from the library.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us build a wonderful El Carmelo library collection.

If you have any questions, please contact Elisa Schmit at [elisaschmit@hotmail.com](mailto:elisaschmit@hotmail.com).

## School Boundary Committee Update

New elementary school boundary scenarios were discussed at the October 16 Attendance Area Advisory Group (AAAG) meeting. Currently, there are six proposed changes to the existing boundaries. Two proposals retain the current 12 elementary schools and four add Garland as a 13th school. You can see these proposed boundary maps on the El Carmelo PTA website, at <http://www.elcarmelo.paloaltopta.org/Issues.html>.

The consensus within AAAG is that growth of the student population is continuing upward and that our schools need new boundaries to make the residents/schools match more reasonable. The basic options are: opening a new school and changing the boundaries, simply increasing portables and changing the boundaries, or increasing class size. There is little support for increasing class size, so the group is continuing to work through the specifics of boundary changes.

The El Carmelo boundaries could be impacted by the proposed scenarios. For example, adding Garland as a neighborhood elementary school could require some students to cross Oregon Expressway. Some members of the group, including your representatives, objected to that based on safety, and that it did not follow the principle of a "neighborhood" school. It was suggested that Garland would work better as a choice program site, which would mean moving either the Ohlone program or the Hoover program to Garland.

None of the scenarios was received with acclaim; although, the scenario where the Ohlone program is moved to the Garland site and the Ohlone site would become a neighborhood school received cautious support. With this scenario, El Carmelo families east of Middlefield would go either to Ohlone or Palo Verde as their neighborhood school. The El Carmelo families south of Barron Creek would go to Fair Meadow.

However, it is important to remember that the district will "grandparent" current students and concurrent siblings if the residential boundaries are changed. Therefore, it is likely that most current El Carmelo families would not be required to move to a new neighborhood school.

Please note that the dates and times of future AAAG meetings have been modified. The new schedule is: October 30, 6:00-8:00 p.m.; November 13, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; November 27, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There is a December 5, 2006, Board of Education Study Session, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. All meetings are in the Board Room at 25 Churchill Avenue. AAAG meetings are open to the public.

Middle school and high school boundaries are on the agenda for the next meeting, October 30, from 6:00-8:00p.m. at 25 Churchill Avenue.

AAAG is an advisory group and its job is to make a recommendation regarding boundaries to Superintendent Callan in November, and she in turn will make a recommendation to the Board of Education.

If you have any comments please contact Liz Cowie at [lizcowie@alumni.duke.edu](mailto:lizcowie@alumni.duke.edu) or Linda Jensen at [linda@winterlodge.com](mailto:linda@winterlodge.com). Minutes of the AAAG meetings may be found on the school district web site at [www.pausd.org](http://www.pausd.org).

Liz Cowie and Linda Jensen,  
El Carmelo's Representatives to the Attendance Area Advisory Group

## Parents and Traffic Safety

El Carmelo's 3rd Grade Bicycle Rodeo was a big success. It was a beautiful day to help our children learn to practice safe biking techniques. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make the on-bike lesson a real learning experience for the children. Assisting were Kathy Durham, the Alternative Commute Coordinator with the City of Palo Alto's Planning and Transportation Division, Marla Holtzmann of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Jesus Zuniga of the Palo Alto Fire Department, and Evan Pickett and Thomas Lee of the Stanford Cycling Club.

The following El Carmelo parents were instrumental to the success of this event:

Chris Barry	Molly Goodman	Matt McDermott	Tatyana Wing
Rajesh Bhan	Julia Jacobsen	Mano Prabhu	Abbie Wolfson
Liz Cowie	Michele Kasper	Maggi Smeal	Sanger Wong
Rebecca Davis	Simone Klass	Cindy Samos	Sherwin Wong
Eric Jensen	Holly Liberatore	Malcolm Wing	

The purpose of this program is to:

- Teach safe biking and walking skills, like looking left, right, left before entering a street;
- Practice following basic rules of the road, like using signals and following yielding rules at driveways and intersections; and
- Learn to check that his/her bike helmet fits snug, level and low on the forehead every time he/she rides.

For more information on traffic safety questions, check out the PTA Council's Traffic Safety website [www.traffic.paloaltopta.org](http://www.traffic.paloaltopta.org).

Dean Samos  
PTA Coordinator

## Way2Go, El Carmelo

Stephanie Youngquist, PTA Traffic Safety Representative

The throngs of walking and biking families and trail of paper feet on our "Little Feet Take the Street" collage were evidence that you all got into the spirit of the day. The Walk to School Day classroom survey showed that 85% of students commuted to school on foot, on bikes, on scooters, by carpool, busses, and driving part way and walking a couple of blocks for this year's Way2Go event. Normally, 60% of families use some form of alternative transportation.

Thanks to our El Carmelo teachers and administrative staff, **Jennifer Fernandez** and **Ginny Nagao**, and all of the volunteers who helped make this event happen:

Ana-Maria Dias	Jeff Bondor
Jennifer Mutz	Rebecca Davis
Mike Youngquist	



A special thanks goes to the City of Palo Alto Transportation Division, the Traffic Safe Communities Network, the Public Health Department of Santa Clara County, and Fairmeadow PTA for their sponsorship of this educational program.

Some quotes from our paper-feet collage:

- It's fun. The reason is, it is fun riding your bike and walking. Also, it is healthy for you. I do it a lot because I walk to school and from school to my home. – Charlotte
- I like riding bikes. It is fun and cool. On the way I see friends and other relatives. I have to do it and I like to do it. – Sabrina
- I like to walk because ... it's fun, it's good exercise and it prevents air and ground pollution. It also saves gas money and it makes our streets safer. – Arushi
- Walk! I meet friends walking to school! It's fun!! One less car on the road! Keep air unpolluted! Saving gas money! Good exercise for me and my mom!! – Sohini
- I like to bike to school because I get an example of how to drive a car, and I get to smell fresh air. Also, another reason is because I get to talk more without any noises from the car engine. – Isabelle

## Student Council Executive Board

The El Carmelo Student Council Executive Board for 2006-07 has been elected after a terrific week of creative campaign posters and impressive speeches. Good work to all the candidates.

President	Laurel Fisher
Vice Pres.	Ahran Cho
Recorder	Robin Anwyl
Historians:	Clara Harrington, Alexandra Livingston, William Yang, and Frankie Hattler
Teacher Advisors:	Diane McCoy and Debbie Hilleary

The Executive Board will lead the Council and school in participating in various community and school service activities, as well as coordinating school spirit days, maintaining a clean school responsibilities, organizing the May Fete Parade and assisting with our school's Building Blocks of Friendship program. Two upcoming community service programs currently in progress are organizing the "Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF" drive and delivering donated pumpkins from El Carmelo's annual Pumpkin Carving Event to local charities. We want to give a big thanks to the wonderful El Carmelo parents who helped with voter registration and election day voting:

Megan Fogarty	Maggie Smeal
Hilda Espinoza	Rebecca Davis
Sripriya Kannan	Jenny Kuan
Jane Garvey	Jeanette Harrison

We couldn't do it without your support.



## PTA Website

**Check out our PTA website** for up-to-date information on:

- Upcoming Events
- Opportunities to Volunteer
- Year Calendar
- Renewing your eScrip
- PTA sponsored programs and activities
- The Carmeletter

....and much more!

**Just go to:**

**[www.elcarmelo.paloaltopta.org](http://www.elcarmelo.paloaltopta.org), and don't forget to "bookmark" it.**

## Innisbrook Fundraiser

Stephanie Youngquist, [yoyo2000@pacbell.net](mailto:yoyo2000@pacbell.net)

Thank you to all for your participation in our Innisbrook fundraiser. We had 125 orders placed and we raised just about \$6000. Your items will arrive in the classrooms by mid-November. You can order all year long at [www.innisbrook.com](http://www.innisbrook.com). Include our school number (101161) and El Carmelo earns money for on-line purchases throughout the year.

A big thank you to **Jennifer Fernandez** for all of her help with safeguarding the orders in the office and to **Wen Li** for help with checking the orders.

## Win Playground Equipment with eScrip

When you participate in eScrip, your child's classroom can win playground equipment. Each classroom with at least 80% participation in eScrip will win an assortment of balls and jump ropes. To find out your current classroom participation level, look for the poster in Mr. Garcia's window.

It's easy and free to participate in eScrip. Simply register your credit, debit, Safeway and Macy's cards with eScrip and between 2% and 4% of what you spend at participating merchants will automatically be donated to El Carmelo.

To find a list of participating merchants and register, go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) or call/email Ana-Maria Dias.

Ana-Maria Dias, [Anamaria\\_am99@yahoo.com](mailto:Anamaria_am99@yahoo.com)  
326-5854

## Spaghetti Dinner

Stephanie Youngquist and Ana-Maria Dias

Thank you to all who came to the Spaghetti Dinner.

The weather was perfect, the desserts scrumptious, the music enchanting, the kids ran around gleefully shooting sponge rockets and the parents didn't have to cook. Overall, I'd say it was a great evening.



We served over 300 people. We couldn't have done this without the help of many parents and students. Thank you to all our hard working helpers that did the prep and set-up, served the food and cleaned up at the end of the event:

Geeta Iyer	Akiko Kobayashi	Mike Cheong
Yvette Mitchell	Sandra McIntosh	Nancy Bain
Mona Napaa	Amanda Templeton	Steve Flanders
Kim Nguyen	Eric Schuur	Mariele Macuil
Anna Chan	Ann Holum	Jody Lieb
Jennifer Allen	Ken Tracton	Alex Kass
Divya	Melissa Schmidt	Sherwin Wong
Jane Littau	Carrie Manley	Calvin Woon
Mimi Salmon	Abbie Sanger	Hilda Espinoza
Shannon Steinberg	Philippe	

Thank you to all the parents that brought yummy desserts:

Sandra Lewis	Elaine Gi	Shannon Steinberg
Jody Lieb	Yvette Mitchell	Barbara Sonner
Debra Wittenbrink	Eiko Baldwin	Erika Krugler
Erina DuBois	Holly Libertore	Jennifer Allen
Jennifer Espinoza	Jill Spain	Kathleen Blanchard
Rebecca Davis		

We hope you enjoyed making and playing with puff rockets, roto-copters, spinning blimps, and paper airplanes. Thank you to our Math/ Science activity instructors:

Tania Goldszmidt	Rebecca Davis
Megan Fogarty	Erina DuBois

A special thank you to **Nami** and **Kaz Shiozawa** for donating their time and considerable talent to entertaining us with their amazing violin playing.

Several local merchants donated money or food to our dinner. Thank you to The Fish Market, Buca di Beppo, Olive Garden, Piazza, Safeway and Trader Joe's for their continued support of our community events.

## Income from eScrip

El Carmelo received over \$10,000 from eScrip last year thanks to all the parents, teachers, friends and relatives who are eScrip members.

A special thank you to **Nicole Macuil** for helping staff the eScrip computer at the Spaghetti Dinner. Nicole is an enterprising high school student whose sister attends El Carmelo. With her tireless energy and impressive computer skills, Nicole signed up parents on eScrip all last year at various El Carmelo functions. Thank you, Nicole.

## Carmeletter Publication Members

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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>
Nov 2	Nov 10

## Easy as PiE

El Carmelo, have you had a chance to donate to Partners in Education (PiE) yet? Fill out this form and deliver it to the PiE box in your school office. *Every dollar makes a difference.*

### Palo Alto Partners in Education 2006-07 Direct Appeal Campaign Remit Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Student(s) and School(s) they attend: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contribution Amount:    \$50                    \_\_\_\_\_  
                                  \$100                    \_\_\_\_\_  
                                  \$250                    \_\_\_\_\_  
                                  **\$500**                    \_\_\_\_\_ *(Suggested donation is \$500/student)*  
                                  Other                    \_\_\_\_\_ *(please specify amount)*

Contribution allocation (in %): \_\_\_\_\_ Elementary Fund, \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Fund,  
\_\_\_\_\_ Unrestricted Fund

Matching gift: Company \_\_\_\_\_ Form Enclosed

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish my gift to be anonymous.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check if you do not want to receive the PiE monthly online newsletter.

#### **Payment Information**

\_\_\_\_\_ Check (Payable to *Palo Alto Partners in Education*)

Credit Card Card Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Visa, \_\_\_\_\_ MC

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Exp. Date (mo/yr): \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please visit [www.papie.org](http://www.papie.org) for more information. For questions, call Megan Fogarty (473-0428) or e-mail [donations@papie.org](mailto:donations@papie.org)  
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