



Carmeletter

Issue 3

El Carmelo PTA Newsletter

November 2, 2007



Pumpkin Carving Project



Photos taken by 5th Grader, G. Maulick

NOVEMBER

- 5 - Kinder Extended Day Begins
- 5 - Site Council Meeting (3:15, Library)
- 12 - NO SCHOOL—Holiday
- 13 - Board of Education (25 Churchill)
- 15 - Rainbow Picture
- 21-23 - NO SCHOOL—Thanksgiving
- 27 - Board of Education (25 Churchill)
- 29 - Carmeletter Submissions Due (2 pm)
- 29 - Wine and Cheese with PiE (7 pm)...see page 7



More photos on page 6



PTA Presidents' Letter



It's that time of year for parent-teacher conferences. Our teachers work hard not only instructing our children throughout the year but also preparing valuable information for parents' consideration at these meetings. Before these conferences, the teachers meet with our principal, Lupe Garcia, to discuss each and every child to assess their progress and needs. This is our chance, as parents, to sit down uninterrupted with our children's teachers and learn more about what happens in the classroom.

But what happens in the playground? The children can participate in a series of organized activities that take place during noon recess. Every day, **Freddy Ferragut**, one of our parents and a professional soccer player, organizes sports for third through fifth graders. He has started with soccer games and will move on to other sports later in the year. On Tuesdays, **Stephanie Enos**, an art teacher, sits in the courtyard helping kids discover art through a variety of projects. Tuesdays are also the day that two of our moms, **Liz Cowie** and **Asmita Runge** get our kids to enthusiastically run in the Ten-Mile Club. Two Wednesdays a month, moms **Rhiannon Wallace** and **Asmita Runge** supervise art projects for first through fifth graders in the MP room. In addition our librarian **Leslie Bell** and her assistant **Rose Desposito** have organized board games in the library for the kids who wander in.

Election Day is coming up and thanks to **Carrie Manley** we can make better informed choices for the Palo Alto school board. Carrie did a fantastic job organizing a series of candidate forums at various campuses, including El Carmelo. Thanks, Carrie!

We see so many parents at El Carmelo give of their time to help the students. Thank you! Thank you also to the teachers and staff who continue to work so hard to support our children.

We hope you enjoy the upcoming Thanksgiving break!

Ana-Maria Dias
PTA President

Michele Kasper
PTA Executive Vice President

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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

“Double Your Gift to PiE”

Make your donation to
Palo Alto Partners in Education
NOW and all contributions will be matched up to
a total of **\$150,000**.
This opportunity expires **November 17, 2007**.

**PiE dollars are returned directly to your schools to support
your children’s excellent education**

Questions ? Call El Carmelo Parent Volunteer, Megan Fogarty, 473-0428

You can donate online at
www.papie.org
or
Drop off form/check in your school office.

Palo Alto Partners in Education
2007-08 School Campaign Remit Form

***** Take advantage of "Double Your Gift to PiE" and send in your donation by
November 17, 2007 *****

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Number of Student(s) and School(s) they attend: _____

Contribution Amount: **\$500** _____
 \$50 _____
 \$100 _____
 \$250 _____
 Other _____(please specify amount)

(Suggested donation is \$500/student)

Some examples of how your dollars can add more staff at our schools:

- **\$20** covers the cost of an hour of aide time (elementary aides or secondary music /drama aides)
- **\$100** covers 3 hours of reading/math specialist
- **\$250** can help schools cover a counselor for a day
- **\$500** covers a week of an elective class or a month of class aide at your school
- **\$1,000** covers two weeks of an elective class or 30 hrs of reading/math specialist
- **\$3,500** will buy a classroom aide for your child's class for the entire year.

Contribution allocation by fund (in %): ___Elementary, ___Secondary, ___Unrestricted
(note: % should total to 100)

- 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

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date (mo/yr): _____ Signature: _____

Card verification number (on the back of your card find the last 3 digits)  : _____

Online via Paypal (Please visit www.papie.org for our **UPDATED** online processing)
(Note: You don't need a Paypal account to donate via Paypal)

Please mail all donations to: Palo Alto Partners in Education, Department 33329,
Post Office Box 39000, San Francisco, CA 94139-3329

Questions: Please call 650.329.3990 or e-mail donations@papie.org

Gifts to PIE are 100% tax deductible. Tax ID 77-0186364

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Traffic SAFETY

By Dean Samos

PTA Coordinator, 3rd Grade Bike/Traffic Safety Program

El Carmelo's 3rd Grade Bicycle Rodeo was a big success! Friday, October 5 was a chilly but beautiful day to help our children 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, **Norm Park** of the Palo Alto Fire Department, **Melda Christmas** of the Palo Alto Police Department, and **Stephen Hibbs** and **Brian Percival** of the Stanford Cycling Club.

The following El Carmelo parents were instrumental to the success of this event: **Debbie Aiu, Yi-Mei Chang, Tania Goldszmidt, Ana-Maria Dias, Sharon Johnson, Brian Lee, Jody Leib, Alex Macuil, Yvette Mitchell, Javanni Munguai, Julio Munguai, Susan Rider, Kieran Sherlock, Simone Spade, Ping Wang, and Calvin Woon.**

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.
- Help children learn to check that their bike helmet fits snug, level and low on their forehead every time they ride.

But even more important is what happens outside the classroom. Each of us has an important role in teaching our children to be safe on the street. Some suggestions for when you're walking, biking or driving around the community with your children:

- **Encourage your child to observe the behavior of other users of the road, especially at intersections.** Discuss real-world examples of adults and children you see following the rules of the road and behaving predictably in traffic.
- **Help your child recognize examples of safe vs. unsafe choices.** Crossing at corners, making eye contact with drivers before crossing their paths and riding with (not against) traffic will greatly reduce your child's risk of being hit by a car.
- **Be a good role model for your children on the road.** Whether it's wearing a well-fitted helmet or yielding to those with the right of way at intersections, they will do as you do, not as you say.

Be a
good
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on the
road.

For more information on traffic safety questions, check out the PTA Council's Traffic Safety website: www.traffic.paloaltopta.org



More Photos from the Pumpkin Project



Carmeletter Submissions: carmeletter@paloaltopta.org
eNews Submissions:..... elcarmeloPTA_eneews@paloaltopta.org
Subscribe to eNews: marjordomo@laki.pausd.org (with
"subscribe el Carmelo" in the subject line)



Upcoming Events

Adopt-A-BOOK

OPEN HOUSE: Monday, November 5th and Wednesday, November 7th

If you have already contributed to Adopt- a-Book or if you would like to Adopt a Book and help grow our school library collection please come to the Adopt- a- Book open house in the library on Monday November 5th and Wednesday November 7th.



Elisa Schmit will be available from 8:00 -10:30 a.m. and 12:00-1:00 p.m. on both days to assist parents and students who have already donated to the Adopt- a -Book program through the one check form but have not selected their books. She will also help anyone wishing to learn more about this program which generates funds to help purchase new library books.

So send your children, come yourselves-Adopt a Book!

Happy Reading!

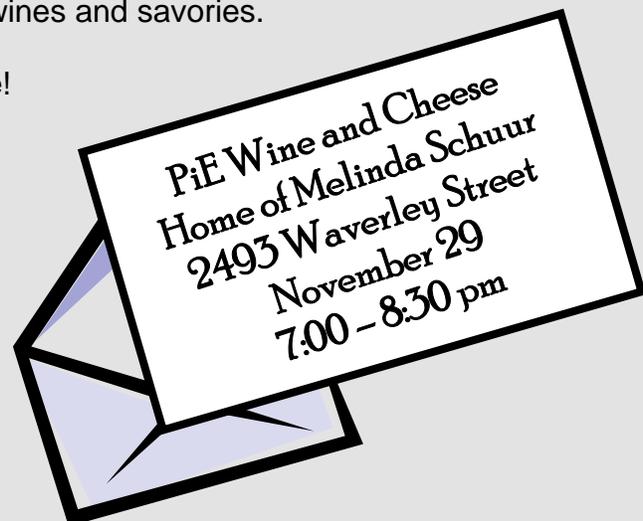
PiE Wine and Cheese

We would like to invite you to a Partners in Education (PiE) **Wine and Cheese** get together on Thursday, November 29 at 7:00 pm. Come spend an evening with El Carmelo parents, learning about PiE, and tasting some great wines and savories.

This evening will be both fun and informative!

Hope to see you there!!

Melinda Schuur
Megan Fogarty
Erina DuBois
Michele Kasper



Ready, Set, RUN: Follow-up

By Carrie Manley, El Carmelo All-Candidates Forum Coordinator

All six school board candidates came to El Carmelo to take part in a forum last month, moderated by El Carmelo Parent and our former PTA President, Eric Schuur.

In surveys completed after the forum, 80% of those who responded said it was "very true" that this forum helped them prepare for voting in the upcoming school board election. The remaining 20% responded with "somewhat true." In addition, when asked what the best things about the forum were, responses included the following:

- "You get past boiler-plate of campaign materials,"
- "Makes it much easier to compare candidates,"
- "Great to hear all the candidates answering questions posed by parents,"
- "Eric Schuur-well done!"
- "There is no substitute for unrehearsed responses to relevant questions"
- "Thank you for all your efforts to make this happen."
- "By having the forum at "my" school," I am more likely to go!"
- "I had no idea who to vote for before"

Thank you to our outstanding event volunteers: Faith Brigel, Jennifer Chu, Liz Cowie, Ana-Maria Dias, Suzanne Ogawa, Elizabeth Doi and Eric Schuur. Also, thanks go to Principal Lupe Garcia, Secretary Jennifer Fernandez and custodian De Dean for all their help in making this event run smoothly. And additional thanks to Eric Schuur, for also serving as the moderator at the recent first-ever community-wide conversation with our new PAUSD superintendent, Dr. Kevin Skelly. For more on what got said at that event, go to: http://svmomblog.typepad.com/silicon_valley_moms_blog/2007/10/live-blogging-1.html

El Carmelo Walks & Rolls!

By Stephanie Youngquist

We had a great turn out for our October 2nd celebration of International Walk to School Day. We had 148 stars on our "Wall of Fame". Everyone who participated received a bike reflector and there was a raffle for prizes including: bike odometers, reflectors, bike safety flags, and pedometers donated by Palo Alto Medical Foundation and Google. Thank you to Michele Kasper, Jennifer Mutz, and Liz Cowie for helping collect stars and raffle tickets and handing out reflectors.

Thank you to Wen Li and Tania Goldszmidt for staffing the activity tables at the Spaghetti Dinner. We hope you enjoyed making spectroscopes, flip sticks, and artwork for Original Works.



Spotlight on Sandra Perry

By Ana-Maria Dias



Sandra Perry has spent most of her life teaching children. Becoming a teacher was not in her plan when she entered college. She was so captivated by chemistry in high school that she wanted to be a pharmacist; however, college chemistry proved to be less than enthralling. She was discussing this with her mom and was told, "You're really a people person and you are so great with your brothers and sisters, maybe you should think about something where you use your people talents". She took the advice and hasn't looked back.

Her first job was teaching underprivileged children which she enjoyed immensely. She loved making a difference in the kids' lives and almost went broke from paying for field trips and supplies out of her own pocket.

She has taught all over the Peninsula in a variety of subjects. Early on she taught math and science to 7th and 8th graders in Redwood City as well as teaching 5th and 6th grade there. Wherever and whatever she teaches, Sandra pours her heart into it. At Walter Hayes and Addison she taught special education classes and found herself bringing in breakfast foods and shoes for kids who had neither. This later work was very rewarding because she readily saw the impact she made in her students' lives, but she hated the mountains of paperwork that came with it.

Sandra was born in Michigan, the oldest of six children. Her family moved to California when she was a little girl. She has made her home in California ever since and raised her two sons here.

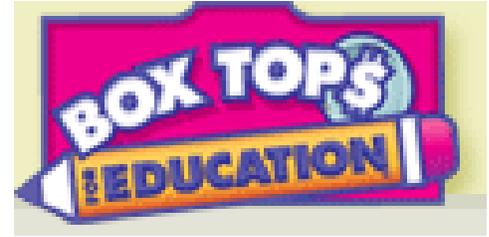
She is passionate about ancient civilizations and history. This love has led Sandra to travel all over Mexico, Europe and the southern states. One of her favorite traveling companions is her best friend whom she's known since first grade. She would like to visit Egypt, but every time she has made plans to go there they have been thwarted by political unrest. Sandra is now planning to visit China. With her love of history it isn't surprising that at one time she and her husband owned an antique store in San Carlos called "Anti Q's".

Amongst her hobbies is ceramic sculpture in which she has taught classes. She also loves to dance, anything from ballroom to folk. Her musical tastes run from classical to baroque to Peter, Paul and Mary. In college Sandra was a fan of Bob Dylan and attended several of his concerts.

Joining her for dinner would be Cary Grant for his charming wit and good looks, Katherine Hepburn for her interesting personality, and Eleanor of Aquitaine. Eleanor of Aquitaine managed to succeed during a terrible time in the High Middle Ages. Sandra admires strong women who have struggled and survived through their intelligence and perseverance.

Box TOPS

By Yuhong Kong
PTA Coordinator, Box Tops



Dear El Carmelo parents: Does your family use Ziploc bags? Do your children eat cereals and Gogurts? Do you use Pillsbury products? If you do, you can help contribute to this wonderful program called Box Tops. Box Tops is supported by General Mills. When you buy some of their products, you will find a small printed label on the box or on the bag, depending on how the product is packaged. That label is called Box Tops. Each Box Tops label is worth 10 cents when our school redeems from General Mills.

I would like to ask you to clip and collect the Box Tops labels from your cereal boxes or snack bags, and turn them in to our school. Please check your grocery boxes, and make sure you cut off the Box Tops labels before you recycle the boxes.

I hope by working together with you, we can help El Carmelo to raise more funds this year. If you have any questions or just simply want to learn more about Box Tops, please e-mail me at: YUHONGK@HOTMAIL.COM or call me at: 650-289-0718.

Thank you for your support in advance.



**Tuesday
November 6**