



Carmeletter

Issue 07

El Carmelo PTA Newsletter

Apr 08, 2011



***Friday, April 22nd
Celebrate Earth Day!***

El Carmelo Calendar

Most current PTA calendar can be found at www.elcarmelo.paloaltopta.org

April

- April 4: Coffee with the Principal, 8:25am
- April 6: PTA Exec Board Mtg, 8:45am
- April 8: *Carmeletter* published
- April 11–15: NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)
- April 19: PTA General Mtg (to elect new Exec Board) & Parent Ed Speaker, 7-8:30pm
- April 20: Earth Day events at El Carmelo
- April 25-29: Scholastic Book Fair fundraiser
- April 26: Breakfast & Books, 8:00–8:30am
- April 26: Character Assembly: Initiative
- April 28: Carmeletter Submissions due

May

- May 1: Math/Science Exploration, 2–4pm
- May 2 – 13: STAR testing (Grades 2–5)
- May 6: *Carmeletter* published
- May 7: May Fete Parade
- May 22: International Potluck, 3–5:30pm
- May 24: Carmeletter Submissions due
- May 24: Character Assembly: Perseverance
- May 30: NO SCHOOL (Memorial Day)

Principal's Letter



Dear El Carmelo families,

Spring has jumped into our laps this week like a golden retriever needing affection. What a change after months of cold and rainy weather! You will have noticed the trees blooming around the campus, many of them thanks to the work of the Leadership Team. Recess has taken a new tone with all of this sun - there are many activities going on now that weren't so easy in the cold and rain. Our Peaceful Playgrounds sports equipment is being well-used all around the campus.

Spring also brings longer days meaning more sunshine at either end of the day. In your house, this may mean kids asking to stay up later than they did during the dark months of the year. Yet children still need the same hours of sleep that they did a few weeks ago. How do you balance the joy of Spring and your kids' health? Remember that those hours of sleep are the best guarantee of emotional and physical health as well as of the ability to attend to learning at school.

Try those nighttime rituals (a regular bedtime, reading together before bed, music to sleep by – that one was our favorite). I know it's hard to keep up, but you will find the great payoff is a well-rested and likely a healthier and better-tempered child. Who doesn't want that? Happy Spring!

Chuck Merritt
Principal

PTA Co-Presidents' Letter



Susy (big hat lady) and
Karole (sunglass lady).

We can't help ourselves. We have to talk about the **El Carmelo PTA's Annual Auction** every time we're given any room in the Carmeletter. AMY LOVE, our very brave Auction Chair, and participating parents/staff (you!!!) made a lot of \$\$\$ for our kids!!! 100% of the proceeds will fund important activities for all of our kids such as bicycle safety, character education, assemblies, Math and Science Exploration, art, leveled readers, etc.

But we digress...

Remember when we were kids? We'd throw every can, bottle, and newspaper in the TRASH (omg!!!). We'd recycle only once a year so our class would win the School Newspaper Drive.

Believe it or not, a U.S. Senator started **Earth Day (April 22)** even before our darkest days, specifically 1970. Today, more than 175 countries celebrate April 22! Nothing like **human health impact, habitat destruction, species extinction, and global warming** to grab the world's attention.

During the week of April 19-23, PAUSD families will take the **Drive Less Challenge**. This important Earth Day event plus the advent of warm weather will motivate you and your child to bike more.

The Sunday after the Auction (as you know, our favorite topic!) one of us (we won't mention names, but she's the more clumsy, short one) fell head first off a bike and shattered her helmet. A witness cried, "**That's why we need to tell EVERYONE we know to WEAR HELMET!**"

According to **Safe Routes to School** (an international movement to make it safe, convenient, and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school), here are the most common ways that kids get hurt while riding bikes:

- Wrong-way riding (rule: ride on the right)
- Turning left from the right side of the road
- Riding out of the driveway into the road without stopping and yielding
- Failing to yield (example: running a stop sign)
- Swerving suddenly

For more detailed safety info, go to **Safe Routes to School** (<http://saferoutes.paloaltopta.org/index.shtml>). Before we depart, we have to mention our favorite bike safety rule listed on the site: to buckle your helmet every time. Do middle school and high school boys know that helmets only work when they're buckled? Perhaps it's hormonal...

Your Run-of-the-Mill Co-Presidents,
Karole Goldie (karolegoldie@gmail.com) & Susy Kim (susykim@gmail.com)

Auction Items Still Available

Did you miss the auction? Decide you want to go to another party, or send your child on another adventure? There are still a number of great items available, including many spots in events for kids, parents, and families, as well as a few miscellaneous items you won't want to miss. The available items are posted on the El Carmelo PTA website (www.elcarmelo.paloaltopta.org). Contact Amy Love (aloveinchile@yahoo.com) if you are interested in making a purchase.

Visiting Author Program

By Jennifer Mutz

On March 4th and 7th 2011, El Carmelo students grades K-5 were privileged to participate in a Visiting Author Program with published author *Naomi Kinsman*, paid for by the PTA. Naomi has written a fantasy chapter book *Luconeth* and published books of children's writings called *Inklings Books*. She is also the Founder and Creative Director for a program called *Society of Young Inklings*, where she teaches classes in creative writing.

Each year, our wonderful librarian *Leslie Bell*, with funding from the PTA, invites well known authors to speak to El Carmelo students. The Visiting Author program serves as a supplement to our school's literacy programs. Students in all grades have always appreciated authors coming to speak to them as a group in the MP Room. The authors have given presentations about their books and answered student's enthusiastic questions about what it's like to be an author. This year, *Leslie Bell*, Principal *Chuck Merritt* and the teachers decided to try a new type of Visiting Author program.

Author *Naomi Kinsman* conducted dynamic workshops with each grade separately (instead of speaking to them as one large group). The workshops were fabulous! This new interactive format was fun for the kids. Naomi met with each grade K-5 in our library, under the guidance of Librarian *Leslie Bell*. Through various lively activities, Naomi gave the kids a window into the process of writing a book. To jumpstart the process, she worked directly with our students on brainstorming, making choices about a topic, creating stories, and highlighting how stories come to light from our own lives.

El Carmelo students have been invited to continue their creative writing process and submit what they have written to our El Carmelo Dragon Speak Literary Book, published by our librarian *Leslie Bell*. If your student would like more information about submitting their creative writing piece, please contact *Leslie Bell* at lbell@pausd.org.

Enjoy writing!

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Dear El Carmelo Families,

In the interest of student safety, our school has a new, clearly-marked student drop-off zone on Ramona Street. Here are some guidelines we hope you will find helpful:

The safest way for you to use the Ramona drop-off zone is to approach it by way of Loma Verde.

Please pull your car up to the front of the zone as much as possible; this will allow other parents to pull up safely behind you.

Please enter and exit the zone slowly, always watching for "through traffic." (Many of our neighbors also use Ramona at this busy commute time.)

Please be on the alert for pedestrians "jay-walking" across the street. We know this practice is not safe, but there are some adults, students and even young toddlers who don't use cross-walks; every driver should be on the look-out for anyone crossing the middle of the street, all around El Carmelo, especially during drop-off and pick-up times.

Please always have your child exit your car on the curb side of the car, the side closest to the curb. Please always have your child exit on this side of your car, even if it means climbing over a car seat. (Having a child exit onto the street is not safe, as your child could get hit by a passing car.)

Most importantly, take your time to be safe. Our first bell rings at 8:20am, and that is the time that all students start heading to their classrooms. When the second bell rings, at 8:25am, all students are expected to be in their classrooms, ready to learn. Please know we understand that all our parents are trying their best to get children to school, and that sometimes, with the best of intentions, people are rushed. Rushing contributes to a potentially unsafe environment for our students. Please take the time you need to get here safely. If you do happen to get here a little late, just direct your child to the office to get a tardy slip; we would rather your student get here late safely than have an unfortunate accident.

If you have any additional safety suggestions or concerns, please feel free to contact me in person or via email. (cmerritt@pausd.org)

Thank you.
Chuck Merritt

Green Team News

Hi Families,

El Carmelo is gearing up for Earth Day in April. The Green Team will be sharing some tips these next few weeks which we hope you'll consider.

If your house is close enough to school, encourage your children to walk, scoot or bike!! Try to do this at least twice a week. If driving is necessary it is best to carpool with other families. Try to park your car a few blocks away from school and encourage kids to walk a little ways.

This will help kids to be independent and also reduce CO2 emission!!

Mark your calendars:

EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS AT EL CARMELO - WEDNESDAY, 4/20, 12:00-2:30PM

***To support Earth Day, children should wear green and/or blue to school.**

Interesting exhibits, many fun activities and hands-on games!! Families and friends welcome.

www.elcarmelo.paloaltopta.org

SAFETY and Junior Safety Patrol

By *Carrie Manley*

Lots of great learning goes on here at El Carmelo every day—and not just in the classroom! Every morning, some dedicated 5th grade volunteers donate their time to serve on our Junior Safety Patrol. Under the guidance of Principal *Chuck Merritt*, these trained students help to keep our school entrances safe and friendly for everyone. In our last Carmeletter, we featured comments from some of some of these terrific JSP volunteers. Here are some more comments from other members of this great team on what it means to be part of the El Carmelo Junior Safety Patrol:

Erika: "I feel like I'm a leader. I actually feel like I'm helping our school. I don't like to feel like I'm not helping. It feels really good to help. I think everyone is doing a pretty good job keeping things safe. Some people still do jaywalk. Even if we tell them not to do it, the next day they still jaywalk, or jay-bike, if you can call it that! It would be better if people parked near the crosswalks, and used them. It's safer."

Alexa: "I've seen someone get hit by a car from jay-walking, not here at school, but somewhere else, so I know it is a real danger. Drivers aren't always watching. I think it's important to volunteer."

Jade: "It feels really good to help. You watch for little kids who sometimes wander, little siblings who aren't even in preschool. If you see a child wandering, you can tell their parent. I want to make sure every child is safe."

Big thanks to all our tremendous JSP volunteers!

SAFETY: CHRIS WILEY, #1!

By *Avi and Nicholas (5th Grade)*



Crossing guards are all around town, but if you are looking for the very best one, head right here to El Carmelo Elementary School. *Chris Wiley* is our school crossing guard at the corner of Bryant and El Carmelo. Rain or shine, he is at this corner every morning and every afternoon making sure we are safe. Chris told us he enjoys his job because he gets to meet people and say hi. He also told us the most challenging thing is standing in the middle of the street while the pedestrians are crossing and the cars coming at him at the same time.

Many parents say Chris does a great job. "I have been part of the El Carmelo community for nearly ten years, since my son was in Denise's kindergarten room. In that time, we've had some wonderful crossing guards, but I have to say, Chris is really outstanding," said *Carrie Manley*. "He never loses his focus and he always takes the time to give each child quick, clear instructions every step of the way. I think our school is a lot safer because of Chris, and I hope he knows how much we appreciate his excellent service every day."

Chris says at first he took this job mainly for the money, but he soon found he really enjoyed it. Along with working at El Carmelo, Chris is also a scholar at Foothill College. Before Foothill College he went to Palo Alto High School, JLS Middle School, and Palo Verde Elementary School. He says his hardest days at El Carmelo are on Wednesdays and Mondays because on Wednesdays, everyone leaves at the same time: 1:30 pm, so it is really crowded and busy. He says Mondays are hard because he is sometimes tired from weekends full of college homework!

El Carmelo PTA 2011-2012 Positions Still Available

There are still many wonderful positions open for the 2011-2012 school year. The PTA is a hundred-year-old organization that is as new and vital as the start of a new school year. Many parents at El Carmelo, your friends, your neighbors, the parents of your children's friends, serve as PTA volunteers, coordinating an event or serving on the executive board.

The PTA is at its best when all parents contribute in their small way. Please check out the classroom boards to review PTA positions that are available and to sign up.

Please contact *Diane Heilman* at dheilman@gmail.com or 650-387-2516 for more information.

THANK YOU!

El Carmelo PTA Nominating Committee

For more detailed descriptions visit the El Carmelo PTA Web site at: <http://www.elcarmelo.paloaltopta.org/board.html>

Spring Book Fair

The Scholastic Spring Book Fair is Monday, April 25 – Thursday, April 27 in the MP room. We'll be working with Scholastic Books and hope to encourage literacy for everyone. It's a great way to find new books and prepare for Summer Reading! And join us for **Breakfast & Books: Tuesday morning, April 26 from 8:00 – 8:30am**. We hope to see you there!

El Carmelo Origami Project for Japan

By Carrie Manley

Dozens of El Carmelo students recently learned a new skill—the ancient art of origami—to raise money to help victims of the massive earthquake in Japan. Like any origami project, there were many folds required to make something of great beauty and meaning.

Fold #1: When tragedy strikes Japan, El Carmelo parent *Miki Nakahashi* finds herself glued to the TV. “For five days, I didn’t move. I felt terrible, so sad, so helpless.” Miki moved from Japan to the US several years ago, and she has many relatives and friends there, including two uncles in Fukushima, where the quake and tsunami heavily damages a nuclear power plant. It is days before she learns her uncles are alive.

Fold #2: Miki talks with Japanese friends and decides she must do something. Not certain what to do, she comes to the El Carmelo Elementary School office, where school secretary *Jennifer Fernandez* tells her that our Leadership Club wants to help, and she advises Miki to check with principal *Chuck Merritt*.

Fold #3: Principal Merritt quickly connects Miki with El Carmelo teachers *Chris Nosek* and *Kendell Wilson*, who run the Leadership Club, which is open to all 4th and 5th graders interested in helping our school and global community.

Fold #4: After brainstorming possible ideas for a school-wide fundraiser, the teachers and Miki create a simple, elegant plan: students will teach other students how to make origami for a donation of any amount.

Fold #5: Miki recruits more El Carmelo parents to help, including *Wen Li, Yoshie Roake, Akiko Tracton, Yoko Tabuchi, Tomoko Hara, Suzanne Ogawa, and Junko Fujiya*.

Fold #6: Leadership Club students enthusiastically endorse the proposed idea and then pay close attention as volunteer parents teach them the origami process.

Fold #7: Trained students set up their fundraiser table in front of Mr. Merritt’s office, fully stocked with donated red origami paper.

Fold #8: For one week, before school, at recess, at lunch time and after school, the trained student leaders teach other students how to fold the cranes and tulips.

Fold #9: As each red origami is completed, students carefully add each red crane or tulip to a large white poster, forming a red circle of origami, symbolizing the flag of Japan.

Fold #10: Day after day, for one whole week, the donation jar fills up. Students make countless tulips and cranes, raising hundreds of dollars for the Japanese Red Cross. By Friday, all the donations add up to \$1,200! But the fundamental value of this school-wide effort is not measured just in dollars. Miki tells a visiting reporter from the Palo Alto Daily News, “I think the project is not about the money. It’s more about for the kids to learn how to help others.” Mr. Merritt agrees, telling the news reporter, “It’s taking an opportunity to serve and folding back into leadership and development.”

Our school of some four hundred students is like a United Nations. With nearly forty nationalities represented here at El Carmelo, our families come from around the world. When a disaster happens anywhere in our world, it is likely that one or more of our families may well be affected in a real way.

I am grateful that Miki decided to take action, grateful that other moms joined her... and grateful that our school community of educators, parents and students responded so wholeheartedly. From our diversity, we learn important lessons of unity; talking to Miki made the impact of the quake more real to me, and made me know it was time to give. Miki is quick to say she doesn’t want any credit. She says her English isn’t very good, and she is just grateful that everyone understood what she hoped to do. I think everyone understood and joyfully participated because while her English is certainly good, Miki is beautifully fluent in the universal language of love in action.

I do not know the final fold of this particular origami. In fact, I hope the folding never stops.



Auction Thank You’s... it was a HUGE success!

Thank you, ***Amy Love***, our fearless Auction Chair, supported by:

Family Donations

Celina Tracy and Class Liaisons

Merchant Donations

Amy Love, Susy Kim, Alli Wong

Logo and Invitations/Catalog Design

Andrea Christensen, Maria Derrick

Ticket Sales

Amy Love, Karole Goldie, Susy Kim, Kristine Mostofizadeh, Alli Wong, Maria Derrick

Auction Day Set Up

Annette Isaacson, Diane Heilman, Kate Karagueuzian Gibbons, Sripriya Kannan, Erina DuBois, Celina Tracy, Alli Wong

Slide Show During Live Auction

Erina DuBois

www.elcarmelo.paloaltopta.org

Auction MC*Michelle Kaspar***Auction Night Volunteers***Mona Napaa, Robert Howard (Wine Toss), April Heron (General), Kate Karagueuzian Gibbons, Jennifer Chu, Shirley Siu, Maya & Mahesh Venkatraman, Jeannette Cheng, Maria Derrick, Marjorie Sayer, Sherwin Wong, Mike Youngquist, Jennifer Chu***Information Technology***Maya & Mahesh Venkatraman, Jeannette Cheng, Maria Derrick, Marjorie Sayer, Sherwin Wong, Mike Youngquist, Jennifer Chu***Catalog Review Committee***Maria Derrick, Amy Love, Carrie Leontis, Kristine Mostofizadeh, Stephanie Youngquist***Articles***Gardner Grout, Jennifer Wiener***Check-Out***Kate Karagueuzian Gibbons, Jennifer Chu, Shirley Siu***Clean Up***Kate Karagueuzian Gibbons, Jennifer Chu, Shirley Siu, Maya & Mahesh Venkatraman, Jeannette Cheng, Maria Derrick, Marjorie Sayer, Sherwin Wong, Mike Youngquist, Jennifer Chu***University Club Sponsors***Gardner Grout, Heidi Jackman***2010 & 2009 Auction Chair for Her Support***Ana-Maria Dias*

Also, THANK YOU to all parents and staff who bought Auction Tickets and/or bid on Auction Items whether you won or not :)!!!

A HUGE 'Thank you' to the volunteers for the events listed below:

... **Coffees with the Principal:** *Lucy Tompkin and Megan Fogarty*, Co-Chairs, supported by *Junko Brierly, Rashmi Hunt and Svetlana Gamolya*, for organizing these informative monthly meetings with Chuck and providing yummy snacks & coffee.

... **Information Technology:** *Jennifer Chu*.

... **Math Game Night:** *Stephanie Youngquist*, Chair, for proactively creating this NEW EVENT in a few weeks!!! Stephanie had help during the night from *Maria Derrick, Scott Thomas, Ana-Maria Dias, Jeannette Cheng, David Spencer, Susy Kim, Blandine Chaperot-Merino, Marjorie Sayer, Sarah Youngquist, and Fabian Klass*.

... **Teacher Appreciation Week:** *Kristine Mostofizadeh*, Chair, for organizing this fabulous for our hard-working teachers! Thank you *Melissa Schmidt*, the Room Parent Coordinator, and the Room Parents in each of the classrooms (the classroom doors were amazing!). And thanks to *Sandra Lewis, Sarah Newman, Yvette Bovee, Simone Klass, Megan Fogarty, Jennilyn Woolf, Kate Yu, Eunjung Hong, Erika Krugler, Kathleen Ford, Kori Shaw, Rashmi Hunt and Wen Li* for generously contributing breakfast, coffee, snacks, teas and dessert to the teachers all week long. The week was a success because of you!

... **Stories Under the Stars:** *Alli Wong and Celina Tracy*, Co-Chairs, for organizing this popular event. Readers *Mr. Walton, Mr. Merritt, Ms. Fonteyn, Dave Howell & Clarence the Camel*, Teacher *Craig ("The Music Guy")* for entertaining the kids. *Asmita Runge, Erika Krugler, Amy Love, Randy Goodman, and Leslyn Leong* for helping the night run smoothly. Custodian *Rickey Moore* for helping with set up and take down.

Save Money and Paper – Read the Carmeletter Online

The *Carmeletter* is published every few weeks throughout the school year, both on-line and in hard copy. Want to save paper and still remain up-to-date with El Carmelo news? Get it on-line only. If you're interested, send a quick e-mail to *Maria Derrick* at wesderrick@mindspring.com.

eNews

Want to know what's happening at El Carmelo? Make sure you receive the weekly eNews. If you want to subscribe or have an item to submit, send an email to elcarmeloPTA_enews@paloaltopta.org.

Carmeletter Submission Deadline, Purpose and Guidelines

Submission Deadline for next issue: **2pm Thursday April 28, 2011**

The purpose of the *Carmeletter* is to communicate a wide range of school-related information to the El Carmelo community. Most of what is published in the *Carmeletter* is ultimately posted on the PTA Web Site. All members of the El Carmelo community can take advantage of the *Carmeletter* to publish information relating to school activities. No advertisements or commercial promotions are permitted. The only fundraisers permitted to advertise are those run by El Carmelo PTA or PiE. We have decided not to include photos of students because of the permission waivers needed for minors. Only children's first names may be included.

Submission Guidelines:

-**.doc format:** all text submissions should be in a .doc format (note: if you are using Word 2007, please save your document as a "Word 97-2003 ".doc" document before sending. Please no ".docx" files).

-**Pictures:** submit pictures in separate ".jpg" file(s)

-**Graphics:** submit graphics in separate ".pdf" file(s)

-**Submissions should be 500 words or fewer**

COMMUNITY KIOSK

ISSUE 13

APRIL 1, 2011

A PTAC PUBLICATION

You Made It! Jamboree Now Accepting Entries

Entry forms accepted until April 18, Fair Sat. May 14. PTA Council's K-12 student maker fair is now accepting entries. The You Made It! Jamboree is a celebration of creativity and innovation, giving PAUSD students an opportunity to show and share their original creations with the community in a non-competitive environment, and to inspire others to pursue their own creative ideas and passions. Info: www.youmadeitjamboree.com.

Dine Out for Packard 2011

Thurs. April 7. The 3rd annual Dine Out for Packard day will include more than 50 restaurants in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and Los Altos, who have signed on to donate a percentage of sales to benefit Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. Info and a list of participating establishments: supportLPCH.org/dineout.

Museum of American Heritage Science & Technology Summer Camp

June 20-24, 9am-4pm, MOAH, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. A fun filled week with hands on learning about science and technology with sessions covering basic electricity, simple machines, digital logic, 3-D Modeling for computer games, and much more. Ages 10 and up. Members \$450, Non-members \$500. Info: www.moah.org/education, 321-1004, admin@moah.org.

Call for Honorary Service Award Nominations: Honoring Outstanding Service to Children

Each year, at its Honorary Service Award Luncheon, the Palo Alto Council of PTAs (PTAC) presents awards to individuals and organizations that have given outstanding service to children. Among considerations are longevity and significance of service, breadth/depth of service, and contributions that benefit more than an individual school. PTAC invites you to submit nominations by Fri. April 8. Nomination Form: info.paloaltopta.org/docs/110408HSA_nominationform.pdf. Questions: Anna Thayer, annathayer@mindspring.com.

On the Road Family Day

Sun., April 3, 2-4pm, Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. Celebrate the Palo Alto Art Center's upcoming renovation and learn more about On The Road art programs. Enjoy an afternoon of hands-on art experiences--design a vehicle, chart your own treasure map, take an artwalk, and more. Food will be available for purchase from Oaxacan Foods. Admission and activities are free and appropriate for ages 5 and up. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Info: 329-2366.

Huge Used Book Sale, With Children's Book Room

Friends of the Palo Alto Library's enormous monthly used book sale. Sat., April 9, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun, April 10, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.. Over 50,000 books; some are costly and collectible, but many are \$2 and less. Held at the Cubberley Center on 4000 Middlefield Road. The Children's Book Room at the sale is celebrating its first anniversary in its new, spacious location. Thousands of lightly used children's books, music, videos, toys and games. Most items for 50¢ or \$1, including picture books, school age fiction and nonfiction, non-English language books, CDs and DVDs. www.friendspaloalto.org/booksale.htm

Canopy Tree Walk

Sat., April 9, 10am-noon. Canopy's free Tree Walks provide informative guided tours of the trees in our neighborhoods on the second Saturday of each month. Canopy's next tree walk starts at the Junior Museum & Zoo in Palo Alto. Details: www.canopy.org or 964-6110.

Speech and Debate Summer Camp

Aug. 8-12, Paly. Palo Alto High School Debate Team will once again be offering its annual Speech and Debate summer camp. This fun, engaging program is open to all incoming 6th through 10th graders. Topics include speaking confidently in front of an audience, persuasive argumentation, and logical thinking, dividing students into small, grade-specific labs. Participants may choose to attend the morning speech class, the afternoon debate class, or both. All proceeds support the Paly debate team. Flyer/reg. form: palylink.paloaltopta.org/enews/palyspeechcamp.pdf. Questions: Co-Director Julia Lee, palyspeechanddebate@gmail.com or Co-Director Esha Datta, 868-3491.

Paly Summer Cheer Camp

Aug. 17-19, 1-4pm, Paly Small Gym. For grades K-8. Cheerleading, Dancing, Stunting, Tumbling. Campers will perform during halftime at a Paly varsity football game Aug. 26. \$90 includes T-shirt. Register online: Palycheer.net. Questions: annscottcarter@gmail.com.

Junior Museum and Zoo Science

Registration is now open for JMZ science enrichment classes beginning the week of April 19. 4th-5th graders connect with the latest green engineering in "Build with Bacteria" presented in conjunction with Stanford University on Thursday afternoons. K-3rd graders explore "Into the Wild". Register now at www.cityofpaloalto.org/enjoy or visit the Junior Museum and Zoo.

Community Events for the PAUSD Area – April 1, 2011

Music and Arts

El Carmelo Art Fair

Sat., April 30, 10am-2pm. Talented and Creative Parents, Staff & Students: ever thought about selling your creations? Cost: \$10 to participate (\$5 for students in K-12 grades) and 10% of profits from sale. All proceeds benefit El Carmelo Elementary School. Fair will be at El Carmelo Elementary School at 3024 Bryant St, Palo Alto. If you are interested in participating please contact Ana-Maria Dias, anamaria_am99@yahoo.com.

Palo Alto Children's Theatre: Mainstage Season Performances

Palo Alto Children's Theatre, 1305 Middlefield, Palo Alto. *Charlotte's Web*, March 31 - Apr. 9, *Lord of the Flies*, May 19 - 28. Auditions are for children 8 years of age through high school, unless otherwise noted. Info: www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/csd/activities_and_recreation/attractions/childrens_theatre

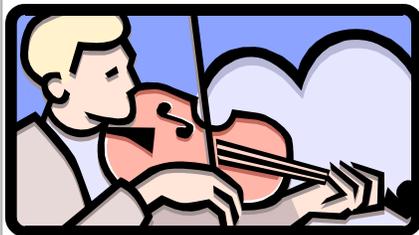
TheatreWorks Vacation Camps: ACT UP!

Grades K-6. April 11-15, Duveneck, Nixon and Barron Park Schools. Have fun playing with theatre, music, movement, and making new friends! Juggling, puppetry, singing, dancing, acting. This fast paced one-week camp runs weekdays 9am-3pm. Regular Tuition \$275, Package Rate \$225. Registration now open: www.theatreworks.org/learn/drama-school/camps

Sports Opportunities for Kids

For current sports opportunities, visit:

info.paloalto.pta.org/sports.shtml



Museum of American Heritage:

Arts Summer Camp

June 27 - July 11, 9am-4pm, MOAH, 351 Homer Ave. Palo Alto. 321-1004
Ages 9 and up. Fees: Members \$450, Non-members \$500. Fees include all supplies for take-home projects. Registration must be completed by June 17. Camp fee is due with your registration. This year's exciting activities include: Button and Ribbon Crafts, Paper Making & Paper Crafts, Hand Sewing and Embroidery, Photography, Quilt and Garment Making on Antique Sewing Machines. Registration for MOAH Summer Camp: www.moah.org/education.

CSMA Art & Music Camps:

April 11-15 and Summer 2011!
The Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) offers morning and afternoon camps for K-5 graders! Art Camps program provides a creative environment where campers can explore a wide variety of artistic mediums and activities! Student Show on the final day of every session! Camps meet daily, with half- and full-day enrollment options. Extended child supervision (for a small fee) is available before and after camp and during lunch. Camps meet at CSMA's Finn Center campus, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Tuition aid offered. For all info (650-917-6800) and on-line registration, go to www.arts4all.org.

Parent Education

Social & Friendship Skills

Does your child have difficulty understanding others and dealing with transitions and change? Does he often not know what to say and how to respond to his peers? Whether a result of an autism spectrum disorder or of a learning difference, social difficulties can be helped. Jenn Bulka, founder of the Talking Playhouse, will address what you can do to improve your child's social skills from elementary school through adulthood. The first hour will be a discussion of the early phases: how to choose the right path for your child and develop a plan that will address key social functions and "best practices" for ensuring success. The second hour will be devoted to late phase social skills, from middle school through adulthood, and how to ensure that the brain continues to develop successful social skills strategies. She will be emphasizing how to optimize the "parent-as-facilitator" philosophy. Wed., Apr. 27, Covington Elem School Multi, 9 to 11 a.m. (Hospitality begins 8:45.) Location: 205 Covington Rd, Los Altos. Sponsor: SELPA / CAC. Free and open to anyone who feels he/she might benefit.

CAC "Let's Talk!"

For parents who are new to Special Ed programs: come meet other parents and ask questions! For parents with children with learning differences, physical challenges, developmental disorders, sensory loss, or troublesome behaviors. This informal get-together is designed to share information about PAUSD, Special Education, the IEP and 504 processes, evaluation & options, and mainstreaming.

Mon. Apr. 25, Board Room, 25 Churchill, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Questions: Stacey Ashlund, stacey@zachary.com, or Barbara Shufro, barbarashufro@hotmail.com. Sponsor: Community Advisory Committee for Special Education. Future meetings: Mon May 16.

Enjoy Your Spring Break!

Community Kiosk

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