



# Carmeletter

Issue 08

El Carmelo PTA Newsletter

May 06, 2011



*Happy Mother's Day!*

## El Carmelo Calendar

Most current PTA calendar can be found at [www.elcarmelo.paloaltopta.org](http://www.elcarmelo.paloaltopta.org)

### **May**

- May 7: May Fete Parade (El Carmelo meets 9:30am; parade starts 10am)
- May 2-13: STAR Testing (Grades 2-5)
- May 22: International Potluck, 3-5:30pm
- May 23: Coffee with the Principal, 8:25am (Volunteer Appreciation)
- May 24: Character Assembly: Perseverance
- May 24: *Carmeletter* Submissions due
- May 30: NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day Holiday

### **June**

- June 3: *Carmeletter* Published

## Principal's Letter



Dear families,

As we approach the end of the school year, there are always many kinds of feedback that you're asked for by the school. I wish to send a big "thank you" to everybody that took the online School Survey last month. Here are few more kinds of feedback you've seen or will see soon.

A couple of pieces of paper came to your house in the last Friday folder of April. One, the Teacher Feedback form asks for specific feedback about your child's academic year. This goes directly to the classroom teacher. Another was a letter from me explaining the process for class balancing for next year. It mentions an optional form in the main office that you can use to tell me about your child's learning style or anything else that you want the team to know going forward. It is NOT for requesting a specific teacher; please trust the school team as we balance classes

for next year.

You'll soon get information from your child's classroom teacher about our end-of-year culminating events. The Student Showcases are an opportunity to see your child's work, sometimes presented by them to you. Please take this time to focus on your child's growth as a student and celebrate this with them.

Also at the Student Showcases there will be ballots for the election of Site Council representatives. Since my article mentioning this in March, several people have stepped forward to run. If you are interested, please contact me at [cmerritt@pausd.org](mailto:cmerritt@pausd.org). There is some information about Site Council on the Site Council page of the school website: [elcarmelo@pausd.org](http://elcarmelo@pausd.org).

Chuck Merritt  
Principal

## PTA Co-Presidents' Letter



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

*How did we survive most of our adult lives without texting, smart phones, Wikipedia, and GPS? Who isn't on Facebook, and what video isn't on YouTube? Whether we like it or not (our moms don't), we live in the Digital Age.*

At our last PTA General Meeting recently, Chuck gave a talk on **Raising Kids in the Digital World**. This workshop was created by **Common Sense Media** (<http://www.commonsensemedia.org>), a highly regarded nonprofit that gives parents/guardians and teachers advice on media and technology. <<if you missed this Parent Ed event, you can download the slideshow at <http://www.commonsensemedia.org/workshop-raising-kids-digital-world-elementary-school.>>>

According to Common Sense Media, here are some basics we can start teaching kids in elementary school.

### "Rules of the Road for Kids"

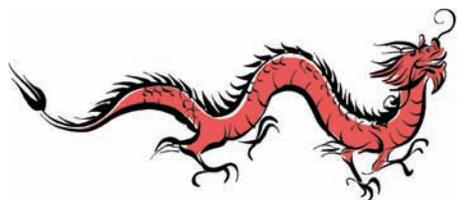
1. **Guard your privacy.** What people know about you is up to you.
  2. **Protect your reputation.** Self-reflect before you self-reveal. What's funny or edgy today could cost you tomorrow.
  3. **Nothing is private online.** Anything you say or do can be copied, pasted, and sent to gazillions of people without your permission.
  4. **Assume everyone is watching.** There's a huge, vast audience out there. If someone is your friend's friend, they can see everything.
  5. **Apply the Golden Rule.** If you don't want it done to you, don't do it to someone else.
  6. **Choose wisely.** Not all content is appropriate. You know what we mean.
  7. **Don't hide.** Using anonymity to cloak your actions doesn't turn you into a trustworthy, responsible human being.
  8. **Think about what you see.** Just because it's online doesn't make it true.
  9. **Be smart, be safe.** Not everyone is who they say they are. But you know that."
- (See these tips and more on their website: <http://www.commonsensemedia.org/rules-road-kids>.)

In summary, on top of the laundry, trying to feed our kids veggies, forcing them to share with friends, etc., we now, as parents/guardians, have the responsibility to teach our kids how to be **Good Digital Citizens**. Fortunately, Common Sense Media (<http://www.commonsensemedia.org>) can help with this newly anointed duty. Check it out.

Happy Spring!!!

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

## Join El Carmelo in the May Fete Parade



FAMILY AND SCHOOL COMMUNITY FUN!!! El Carmelo Families are invited to join our school group in the annual Palo Alto May Fete Parade, **Saturday, May 7th in downtown Palo Alto.**

This year's theme is "**Books Are Hidden Treasures – Dig In!**" so kids, moms, dads and friends can come dressed as their favorite book character, or wearing their El Carmelo sweatshirts/t-shirts or whatever you like. Come with scooters, roller skates, bikes, sneakers, etc. and join us parading down University Avenue.

Some school staff will be there, too, and we all hope you'll meet us.

Parade begins at 10am. **El Carmelo is Group #15 and will meet around the corner of High and University at 9:30 am.** We look forward to seeing you! **GO DRAGONS!!!!!!**

## Box Tops for Education: Spring Contest



The competition is on! Room 5 may have won the Winter Box Tops for Education contest, but the winner this spring could be any classroom.

El Carmelo earned almost \$400 from Box Tops brought in during the fall and winter. Let's raise even more for our school this spring! Each label is worth 10¢ when it is redeemed. All you need to do is clip the Box Tops for Education label from participating products, making sure to include the expiration date, and drop them off in the collection envelope in each classroom, or in the envelope in the main office.

Box Tops for Education is a year-round program, but some labels from older products expire soon. Let's see which classroom will be the Spring Boxtops Champion by bringing in the most labels before **Wednesday, May 25!**

## Earth Day at El Carmelo

El Carmelo's annual Earth Day was a great success this year.

Students and families got to visit, learn and interact with interesting companies and organizations, including Wrightspeed drive systems' electric race car, 3Degrees Renewable Energies, Zeta Communities green building designs, Rainwater H2O Water Conservation and Storing, Wildlife Rescue, and Canopy.

Children got to play Count Your Carbon Footprint and "Recycle, Compost, Trash" sorting games, experiment with a solar fountain, ride an electricity generating bike and create art and useful objects from reusable items.

On display were 'quilts' of wonderful illustrations and useful ideas created by students this past month showing "How They Live Green."

In the morning, children and families that walked, biked, rolled or carpoled to school received a cool, blue El Carmelo reusable bag.

A big thanks to my Green Team associates: *Annette Isaacson, MaryLou Meeks, Yoshi Roake, Brian Goncher, Kshama Jirage and Jenny Chen.* Thanks also to *Leslie Bell, Fernando* (Third Grade Photographer), *Chuck Merritt* and *David*, our custodian.

*Diane McCoy*

## PTA Board for 2011-12 School Year Elected

At our last PTA General Meeting of the year a week ago, the El Carmelo PTA (that's you!) elected the PTA Executive Board for the 2011-12 school year. Yay! Thank you to the Nominating Committee (Chair *Diane Heilman*, *Simone Klass*, *Kristine Mostofizadeh*, *Joanna Clark*, *Dana Roman*, *Hagit Katzenelson*) for finding such hardworking, generous, and smart volunteers!

### PTA Executive Board for 2011-12 School Year

President	<i>Maria Derrick</i>
Treasurer	<i>Lucinda Brommersma</i>
Secretary	<i>Kristine Mostofizadeh</i>
Auditor	<i>Pei Cao</i>
Corresponding Secretary	<i>Jayne Pearce</i>
VP Volunteer Services	<i>Diane Heilman</i>
VP Communications	<i>Jen Wiener</i>
VP Fundraising	<i>Nancy Bain</i>
VP Membership	<i>Christine Hodson</i>
Parliamentarian	<i>Karole Goldie</i>

There's an opportunity for you to get involved in the 2011-12 school year in any capacity that fits your schedule or lifestyle, so please sign up to volunteer this fall! You and all of our children will be richly rewarded.

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

... **Earth Day Celebrations at El Carmelo:** Teachers *Diane McCoy* and *Annette Isaacson*; parents *MaryLou Meeks*, *Yoshie Roake*, *Brian Goncher*, *Kshama Jirage* and *Jenny Chen*. Thanks also to Librarian *Leslie Bell*, 3rd grade photographer *Fernando*, Principal *Chuck Merritt* and Custodian *David*.

... **Spring Book Fair:** A GIANT thanks to *Jen Wiener* (Chair) for spearheading this super popular literacy (as well as important fundraising) event. It was great to see so many kids excited about books and recommending books to each other. Thank you for visiting and supporting our book fair. A big thank you to the following volunteers who helped to set up and staff the fair: *Maria Derrick*, *Kate Karagueuzian*, *Julia Jacobsen*, *Christine Hodson*, *Sripriya Kannan*, *Sharon Tobias*, *Haijun Wen*, *Simone Klass*, *Jennifer Mutz*, *Erich Heilman*, *Janey Wan*, *Stephanie Youngquist*, *Erina Dubois*, *Ana-Maria Dias*, *Michele Kasper*, and *Tammy Chen*. And thank you to *Kate Karagueuzian*, *Christine Hodson*, *Wen Li*, *Sripriya Kannan*, *Samantha Lemonnier*, *Simone Klass* and *Erina Dubois* for bringing delicious morning food for our **Breakfast & Books** event.

... **El Carmelo Art Fair:** *Ana-Maria Dias* organized this fun art event for the whole Palo Alto community. And, she managed to raise \$530 for the PTA!!!

... **Math/Science Exploration Day:** Many thanks to *Ken Tracton* for organizing a fun afternoon of experimentation and observation, and to the volunteers who helped: *Jim Barbera*, *Jason Lewis*, *Sandra Lewis*, *Ron* and *Katie Cicero*, *George Noroian*, *Patricia Campbell*, *Maya Venkatramen*, *Maria Derrick*, and *Akiko Kobayashi*.

... **Nominating Committee:** *Diane Heilman* (Chair), *Simone Klass*, *Kristine Mostofizadeh*, *Joanna Clark*, *Dana Roman*, and *Hagit Katzenelson* for finding an amazing PTA Board and Chairs for 2011-12 school year.

... **PTA Audit:** *Erica Brand* (Volunteer Auditor for PTA) spent many hours looking at each check issued by the PTA, balancing the books, and making sure every dime was accounted for. No monkey business in the El Carmelo PTA.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:elcarmeloPTA_enews@paloaltopta.org).

## **Carmeletter Submission Deadline, Purpose and Guidelines**

Submission Deadline for next issue: **Tuesday May 24th, 2011**

Important Submission Guidelines:

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 their 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.

-**.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 14

APRIL 29, 2011

A PTAC PUBLICATION

## Huge Used Book Sale, With Children's Book Room

Friends of the Palo Alto Library's enormous monthly used book sale. Sat., May 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun., May 15, 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. Save money, support the libraries, and keep books out of the landfill! Donation of books are also welcomed. The Children's Book Room offers 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. Also check out the children's books in the Bargain Room, where on Sunday books are sold for \$5 per bag.

## Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo Summer Science Camps

Fun, hands-on science camps for preschoolers through entering 7th graders. Incoming 6th and 7th graders create contraptions and concoctions in Camp Kinetic or help the zoo keepers during Zoo Camp. 1st through 5th graders should check out Camp Kinetic Too hosted at Juana Briones or Natural Wonders: Out and About, a new camp in Arastradero Preserve. Info and to register online: [www.cityofpaloalto.org/enjoy](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/enjoy) .

## Classic Math School Summer Math Camp 2011 Open House

Tues. May 10, 7pm, Room 730, JLS Middle School. Parents and students meet with teachers, learn more about Classic Math School overall teaching principles and ideas as well as year-round programs. Questions will be answered and students will be offered a free placement test, mandatory for students in grades 4 and above, but recommended for all students. Light refreshment will be served. Also complete your enrollment process to secure your child's space in the Summer Math Camp. Info: [www.classicmath.org](http://www.classicmath.org) .

## 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](http://www.moah.org/education), 321-1004, [admin@moah.org](mailto:admin@moah.org).

## 89th Annual May Fete Children's Parade

Sat. May 7, Downtown Palo Alto. The City of Palo Alto invites you to the 89th Annual May Fête Children's Parade. This year's theme, "Books are Hidden Treasures – Dig in!" celebrates reading and how it can open a new world, transport you to faraway lands, bygone eras, or lives only dreamt of. The morning will start off with a Reading and Literacy Fair at Lytton Plaza 9-11am. At 10am the parade will kick off with spirited entertainment from local marching bands, decorated hand-pulled floats, and thousands of children marching, skating, cycling, tumbling, and strolling through downtown Palo Alto. Following the parade, celebrate our schools with food, music, and games at the 9th Annual PiE Fair, sponsored by Partners in Education at Addison School until 1pm. Info: [www.cityofpaloalto.org/recreation/news/details.asp?NewsID=950&TargetID=7](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/recreation/news/details.asp?NewsID=950&TargetID=7) .

## Bay Area Shakespeare Camp

Mon.-Fri., June 13-24, 9am-3pm, First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto, 625 Hamilton. This exciting and enriching program is designed for anybody ages 7-13 interested in acting and performance – prior experience is welcome but not required. Shakespeare Camp provides a complete theatrical experience that includes training and development in Shakespeare's rich language, voice and movement technique, acting and improvisation, stage combat, costuming and set design, and performance. All campers star in a performance of an abridged Shakespeare play presented to an audience of family and friends on the final day of the session. Need-based scholarship assistance available. Info: 415-558-0888, [sfshakes@sfshakes.org](mailto:sfshakes@sfshakes.org) or [www.sfshakes.org](http://www.sfshakes.org) .

## Palo Alto Recreation Middle School Summer Camps

Camp Jive: Afternoons of fun for students attending summer school, M-F 6/20-7/1, 12:30-5:30pm, Jordan Middle School, \$625R/\$725NR. Art Explosion Camp: New two-week camp, explore and create art masterpieces, Tues-F 7/5-7/18, 8:30am-5:30pm, Jordan, \$535. Camp Fusion: End summer with an exciting one or two weeks, M-F 7/18-8/12, 9am-4pm, Teen Center- Cubberley Community Center, \$329/599. Teen X-treme: Two-week adventure at Foothills Park, learn skills for the great outdoors, M-F 7/18-7/29 or M-F 8/1-8/12, 8:30am-3:30pm, \$529. Info and to register online: [www.cityofpaloalto.org/enjoy](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/enjoy) .

## Community Events for the PAUSD Area – April 29, 2011

### Music and Arts

#### Youth Art Annual Exhibition & Reception

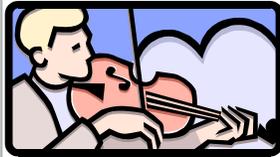
May 9-31. Reception: Wed., May 11, 4:30-7:30pm. Palo Alto Unified School District, 25 Churchill Ave., Palo Alto. The artistic talents and imaginative spirits of K-12 students of the Palo Alto Unified School District are featured in this extremely popular annual event. The Palo Alto Art Center will be hosting hands-on art making at this exciting reception. Free admission.

#### Silicon Valley Boychoir Open House

Beginner level Mon. May 9, 5-5:30pm, Intermediate level Wed. May 11, 5:30-6 pm, First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer, Palo Alto. The Silicon Valley Boychoir will host an Open House for interested boys (ages 6-12) and their families. Come for a quick visit and see what goes on behind the scenes. Families will be given an opportunity to sign-up for an audition for the 2011-12 season. Info: [www.svboychoir.org](http://www.svboychoir.org)

#### Palo Alto Children's Theatre:

PACT Saturday Playhouse: Princess and the Pea. Sat. May 21, 10am and 12pm, PACT, 1305 Middlefield, Palo Alto. Performed in the Black Box Theatre, inside the Magic Castle by the Teens Arts Council Company, the Palo Alto Children's Theatre Saturday Playhouse Series of shows is designed for young audiences. All of the shows are interactive, so the audience helps the actors tell the story with sound and movement. Suitable for 3 to 6 year olds and parents; playing time approx. 45 minutes. Tickets \$10 Adults, \$5 Children. Info: [cityofpaloalto.org/childrenstheatre](http://cityofpaloalto.org/childrenstheatre), 463-4930.



#### 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. 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](http://www.moah.org/education).

#### CSMA Art & Music Camps:

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](http://www.arts4all.org).

#### Sports Opportunities for Kids

For current sports opportunities, visit: [info.paloalto.pta.org/sports.shtml](http://info.paloalto.pta.org/sports.shtml)

#### Circle of Support Breakfast for Family & Children Services

May 5, 8:30-10:30am, Crowne Plaza Cabaña Hotel 4290 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Featured Speaker Ayelet Waldman, "Monkey Bars and Mood Swings The Journey of a Bipolar Mother". Honoree Dr. Victor G. Carrion. Info: [www.fcservices.org/news/events\\_circle-of-support-11.html](http://www.fcservices.org/news/events_circle-of-support-11.html)

#### Ragazzi Boys Chorus Auditions & Fall Registration

Mon. May 16 and Wed. May 18, late afternoon/evening, by appointment, Redwood City. The Ragazzi Boys Chorus offers a complete music education for boys between the ages of 7 and 10 through a proven, award-winning choral program. Boys begin with one evening per week of choral singing and progress through a full course of choral/vocal/performance and theory instruction. Ragazzi performs its own concert series, sings the National Anthem at a spring Giants game, tours domestically and internationally, and collaborates with other prestigious Bay Area arts organizations. No previous singing experience is required. Fall semester registration and audition times: 342-8785 or [ragazzi@ragazzi.org](mailto:ragazzi@ragazzi.org). Info: [www.ragazzi.org/audition.htm](http://www.ragazzi.org/audition.htm) and [www.ragazzi.org/WhyRagazzi.pdf](http://www.ragazzi.org/WhyRagazzi.pdf).

#### Be The Change Youth Benefit Concert

Sat. May 21, 3-4:30pm, Cultural Art Hall, Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. A benefit concert with youth dancers, bands, vocalists, classical musicians, volunteers from 12+ schools including Terman, Gunn, Paly, JLS, Jordan, Menlo, Girls Middle School, Castilleja, Saratoga High, Keys, and Blach. All proceeds go towards building a school in Sierra Leone through Free the Children. Minimum suggested donation \$10.

#### 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. Only short announcements of not-for-profit events of interest to PAUSD elementary school families are considered for publication. Submissions may be edited for clarity or space. PTA Council President: Terry Godfrey. Kiosk Editor: Karen Karpen  
Deadline for the next issue: May 4, 2011, 5pm. E-mail submissions to: [kioskeditor@paloaltopta.org](mailto:kioskeditor@paloaltopta.org)