



Carmeletter

Issue 09

El Carmelo PTA Newsletter

June 03, 2011

Happy Summer!

El Carmelo Calendar

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

June

June 3: *Carmeletter* Published

June 6: 5th Grade State Fair

June 9: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL; Kinder & 5th Grade Graduation Ceremonies

June 16: Office closes, reopens August

August

August 23: First Day of School

Big Thank You!!!!

A big dragon-sized thank you to *Karole Goldie* and *Susy Kim*, our fearless and Way Better than "Run-of-the-Mill" PTA Co-Presidents. Their hard work, much of it behind-the-scenes, has kept the PTA running smoothly and made many great things happen at El Carmelo this year. We are grateful for their willingness to step in to help wherever they are needed and for their dedication to the El Carmelo community. We wish you all the best and hope you'll put that floppy hat and sunglasses to good use this summer.

Principal's Letter



Dear families,

I'd like to start this last article of the year by congratulating our own *Katie Kinnaman* on her selection as PAUSD Math Teacher on Special Assignment. This 3-year commitment to district math training and coordination is a great and well-deserved honor. As we "loan" Katie to the district, we also will receive her work as Math support staff shared with our sister schools.

One of the goals of any principal is to provide all of the resources for student learning and well-being that he can get his hands on. We have been fortunate in the last couple of years to have added wonderful new staff to our school. I am very happy to announce some changes for next year that will continue to move our school forward.

The second grade next year will receive *Lori Beasley* (moving to Room 9). Lori will also be a Math lead teacher for El Carmelo and our teacher representative to the Math Task Force. First grade Room 7 will receive *Kathleen Steinberger*. Kathleen comes to us from Loyola School in Los Altos, where she currently teaches a 1-3 grade Special Day Class (SDC). Her primary level teaching includes experience as a student teacher at Nixon Elementary. Kathleen is from Palo Alto and is a graduate of Ohlone, JLS and Gunn HS, as well as UC Davis and Santa Clara University.

I am also going to add time next school year to the support staff at El Carmelo. Our wonderful Reading Specialist, *Charese Fernandes*, has agreed to add another day to her assignment here, bringing up readers to their full potential. We will also receive an extra ½ day each of support from our psychologist, *Jan Sloan*, and from our ELD teacher, *Annette Isaacson*.

We also recently hired *Jerry Phok* as our new daytime custodian. Jerry has already made connections with kids and staff, showing his kindness and hard work in tangible ways every day.

We are in very good shape going forward with an excellent staff and expanded support hours. Enjoy your summer knowing that we will all be here to work with you in August!

Chuck Merritt
Principal

PTA Co-Presidents' Letter



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

The last Carmeletter of the school year?!? Wow.

El Carmelo is known all over the world (okay, maybe not the world, but the City of Palo Alto) for its **warm, diverse community**. Your participation in fun PTA events this year, such as the most recent International Potluck, and generous volunteering, even for only an hour, have been key. Thanks, everyone, for a fabulous school year.

You are in the best hands with incoming PTA President Maria Derrick. She knows all the inner workings of El Carmelo and if you don't already know her, you will. She volunteers an extraordinary amount of time at our school in so many capacities. In addition, unlike us, she is super organized, professional, and polished. We're super lucky to have Maria at El Carmelo!

For the families who are graduating from or leaving El Carmelo, we wish your child and you the best. May the Dragon force be with you.

Now, it's time to start stocking up on SPF 45 (and aromatherapy and/or Advil for those of us who will spend many more hours with our kid at home) for the summer...

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

Children's Theater at El Carmelo in the Fall - Save the Dates!

There will be an after-school Children's Theater program at El Carmelo in September-October 2011. It is open to students entering 3rd, 4th and 5th grades in the Fall. All auditions, rehearsals and performances will take place at El Carmelo.

Auditions: September 13 or 14 after school.

Rehearsals: September 20 through October 26; Tuesdays through Fridays, until 5:30 pm (Wednesdays until 4 pm) with additional rehearsals the week before performances (including rehearsals on Saturday, October 22 and Monday, October 24).

Performances: Thursday, Friday and Saturday October 27-29.

Look for more information at the beginning of the school year.

Contact: *Ana-Maria Dias*, 650-326-5854, anamaria_am99@yahoo.com
www.elcarmelo.paloaltopta.org

Green Team News

Are you green?

El Carmelo would like to thank this year's Green Team members for their wonderful help this year and the great job they did: *Mary Lou Meeks, Brian Goncher, Yoshie Roake, Jenny Chang* and *Kshama Jirage*. Both **Walk, Bike, Roll days** were big successes, and the **Earth Day Fair** was outstanding. Well done!

This next year, 2011-2012, looks to be a big year for more projects. We'll work with the district to expand biking to school, continue to strengthen our recycling and composting program, begin work on energy efficiency and establish a home-school live green program with student participation.

If these activities sound exciting and/or interesting to you, and you'd like to join

El Carmelo's 2011-2012 Green Team, please contact *Diane McCoy* or *Annette Isaacson* at district email: dmccoy@pausd.org, aisaacson@pausd.org.

We'd love to have parents from all different grade levels represented.

Thanks and we look forward to next year. Go Green!

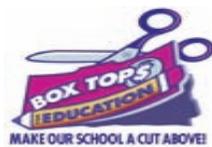
Diane McCoy
Annette Isaacson

Green Team Congratulations

Congratulations to Earth Day Winners!

El Carmelo's Green Team would like to congratulate *Moeka* (Rm. 18), *Daniel* (Rm. 22) and *Daniel* (Rm. 16) for winning the prizes for the "Living Green Suggestions" at the Earth Day Fair this year. Respectively, their suggestions were to install solar panels and power at home to conserve energy, use solar powered flashlights or hand-rechargeable ones and plant plants, especially trees to put oxygen into the air and bike more often to nearby places. Each winner received a gift card to LiveGreene, a store in downtown Palo Alto that sells fun stuff that happens to be green. We'd like to thank everyone who participated and were thrilled that many families recycle and compost! Well done, El Carmelo!

Spring BoxTops for Education Winner



Room 5 did it again! They brought in the most BoxTops for Education this spring and are not only the Spring BoxTops Champions, but the 2010-2011 BoxTops Champions as well, having also won the Winter competition. This spring, Room 5 brought in 179 BoxTops; they were followed by Room 22 who brought in 68, and Room 19 with 59. Overall, over 600 BoxTops were brought in, generating over \$60 for El Carmelo.

Keep saving them over the summer and bring them in this Fall! Thanks to everyone who participated. One dime at a time, El Carmelo students brought in enough BoxTops to make \$441 during the 2010-2011 school year. Way to go!

Safeway, Piazza's, and Amazon Support El Carmelo



Did you know that during 2010, Safeway and Piazza's contributed just over \$5000 and \$2500 respectively to the El Carmelo PTA through eScrip? Did you know that these contributions, in addition to other smaller donations from other local and online merchants, have made more than \$8300 available to our PTA to fund programs that directly benefit our children and teachers? And did you know that just since September, Amazon has donated over \$1000 to El Carmelo PTA through its SchoolRewards program? Without the generous support of these businesses, the PTA could not support many of the services, events, and programs that are available to the El Carmelo community.



Did you know that roughly 50% of El Carmelo families are signed up for eScrip? If you haven't signed up yet, you're missing out on an easy, free way to make a contribution to El Carmelo. Registration only takes a couple of minutes, and once you do it, every time you shop at participating businesses using your registered Safeway card or credit/debit card, between 1% and 4% of your purchase comes back to El Carmelo. Go to www.escrip.com, select About the Program and Sign Up. Designate El Carmelo PTA as the recipient and register your cards. That's it! Simple!

If you like to shop online, there are two great programs that give a percentage of sales back to El Carmelo. Both have links on the El Carmelo PTA website (www.elcarmelo.paloaltopta.org). If you are an Amazon fan, enter the Amazon website through the portal on the PTA website and then shop just like you always have using your existing Amazon account, and up to 15% of your total purchases will be given to El Carmelo. If you like other online retailers, click on the eScrip Online Mall portal on the PTA website and choose your favorite retailer from hundreds of options. Again, once you arrive at your retailer's website, just shop like you always have, knowing that a percentage of what you spend will be given to El Carmelo.

Thank you to all of the El Carmelo families and friends who participate in eScrip and the Amazon SchoolRewards program. Please continue to support them during the summer. Finally, a HUGE THANK YOU to Safeway, Piazza's, and Amazon for their generous contributions to El Carmelo!

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

... **International Potluck:** *Jenny Schmidt*, Chair, for courageously spearheading a fascinating and delicious 'tour' to 14 different countries; *Chuck Merritt*, *Randy Goodman*, *Rupesh Kapoor* for Set Up; *Carrie Manley* and Girl Scout Troop 60893 for the World Premiere of "Japan's Cries Answered," a video made by the troop; *Michael Runge*, DJ, for the international tunes; *Susy Kim* for the passports; *Nancy Bain*, for food organization; and Country Reps *Kori Shaw*, *Lucie Thomas*, *Minsun Cha*, *Maria Flores*, *Hanh Nguyen*, *Junji Tabuchi*, *Hagit Katzenelson*, *Svetlana Gamolya*, *Elena Kostrygina*, *Yang (Sheryl) Su*, *Petra Lillandt Durosinmi*, *Maya Venkatraman*, *Mythily Kumar*, *Cecile Limborg*, and *Tais Schmitt* who made the world tour possible.

... **Incoming Kinder Visits:** *Maria Derrick*, Chair, along with *Lucinda Brommersma*, *Karole Goldie*, *Christine Hodson*, *Susy Kim*, *Carrie Leontis*, *Kristine Mostofizadeh*, *Dana Roman*, and *Alli Wong*, for supporting our Kinder teachers by warmly welcoming El Carmelo's incoming Kinders and their families during two afternoons of Kinder Visits.

... **1st and 2nd grade Science Olympiads:** *Stephanie Youngquist* and *Linda Lee* for heading up the effort to help all of the kids 1st and 2nd grades to have fun doing science, explore, work as a team, and to be thoughtful in their experiments. Volunteers at the 1st grade Science Olympiad, *Maria Derrick*, *Tais Schmidt*, *Kate Karagueuzian*, *Sripriya Kannan*, *Joanna Clark*, *Shannon Silva*, *Sharon Tobias*, *Amy Love*, *Lucy Tompkin* and *Qian Anson* helped the students with Color Splash, As the Worm Turns, and Amazing Air. Volunteers at the 2nd grade Science Olympiad, *Maria Derrick*, *Julia Jacobsen*, *Kori Shaw*, *Sherwin Wong*, *Bethany Wong*, *Jennifer Mutz*, *Hagit Katzenelson*, *Nina Hansen*, *Dan Boneh*, *Jayne Pearce*, *Jennifer Chu*, and *Susy Kim*, helped the students with Bridge Building, Marble Roller Coasters, and a Gummi Bear Long Jump. The students made predictions, tested, adjusted based on their test results, re-tested, took measurements, recorded data, and had a lot of fun. We couldn't have done it without these fabulous volunteers.

... **eScrip:** *Maria Derrick* and *Julia Jacobsen*, Co-Coordinators, for helping to bring in \$8300 of "free money," which will benefit all students and teachers at El Carmelo.

... **PTA Executive Board 2010-11** for their hard work and expertise in helping PTA Co-Prez's *Susy Kim* and *Karole Goldie*: *Maria Derrick*, Executive VP; *Christine Hodson*, Treasurer, who for two years kept the books in perfect order; *Laura Tannenwald*, Secretary; *Erica Brand*, Auditor, who for two years made sure every penny was accounted for; *Sherwin Wong*, Corresponding Secretary; *Faiza Zarroug*, Historian; *Julia Jacobsen*, VP of Volunteer Services; *Jen Wiener*, VP of Communications; *Jeannette Cheng*, VP of Fundraising; *Mai Le*, VP Membership; *Jennifer Mutz*, Parliamentarian.

... **eNews** Editor *Jen Wiener* for publishing important El Carmelo information on a weekly basis.

... **Carmeletter** Editor *Erich Heilman* for his professional, patient leadership every month; and *Wen Li*, Carmeletter Layout, for three years of her beautiful work.

... **Webmaster** *Erik Jacobsen* for keeping our El Carmelo PTA website up to date all year!!!

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.

COMMUNITY KIOSK

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Packard Summer Scamper 5k/10k

Sun. June 26, Stanford. The inaugural Packard Summer Scamper 5k/10k benefiting Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford is designed for participants of all ages and abilities. In addition to the USATF certified course on the picturesque campus of Stanford University, there will be a Kids' Fun Run, so the entire family can participate. Info/Reg: www.SummerScamper.org.

Huge Used Book Sale, With Children's Book Room

Friends of the Palo Alto Library's enormous monthly used book sale. Sat., June 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun. June 12, 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! Donations of books are also welcomed. The Children's Book Room at the sale 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.

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-mem. \$500. Info: www.moah.org/education, 321-1004, admin@moah.org.

Palo Alto Relay For Life!

Aug. 13-14, 2011 10 am - 10 am, Palo Alto High School. Join us at this fun event hosted by the American Cancer Society to honor those affected by cancer and support research for cancer cures and treatment. People form groups (known as teams) and walk around a track to symbolize the ongoing fight against cancer. There will be activities for kids, food and entertainment. Form a team with family and friends- everyone is welcome! Team sign ups are free through end of May. Questions: a.alexandra.carlisle@gmail.com, 387 2363.

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 or www.sfshakes.org.

Viking Funbotics Summer Camp

June 20-24, Palo Alto High School. Paly Robotics Club is holding its first ever summer robotics camp for students entering 6th through 9th grade. Participants will work with professional-grade robots and software, and have a chance to build their own digital logic circuits. Participants may select the morning Programming in Robotics Class, the afternoon Animation and Computer Aided Design Class, or both. There will be fun building activities during each session. All proceeds support the Paly Robotics Club. Info and Registration: sites.google.com/a/paly.net/viking-funbotics. Questions: Organizer Nishant Pol, nishantpol@yahoo.com.

First Tee Classes and Camp

The First Tee of San Jose golf programs Registration for summer classes and camps begins on May 10. The new student class (PLAYer level) meets on Tuesdays 3:30-5:00pm from June 14 to Aug 9 at Palo Alto Golf Course. A 3-day summer camp is offered for new students Aug 2-4 and for returning students Aug 9-11 at the Palo Alto Golf Course. Details: www.thefirstteesanjose.org/club/scripts/section/section.asp?NS=GPI.

Teen Science Program

Mon. June 13, 4-5pm, Room H-1, Cubberley Center, 4050 Middlefield, Palo Alto.

The Palo Alto Library Teen Summer Reading Program presents "Is There Evidence for the Big Bang?" Join a physicist from Stanford's SLAC National Laboratory to learn about super-cool research in cosmic rays, black holes, supernovas and clusters of galaxies. Open to youth entering grades 6-12. Free. Registration required, use the Library Calendar of Events: www.cityofpaloalto.org/library.



Community Events for the PAUSD Area – May 27, 2011

Music and Arts

PACO 45th Season Final Concert

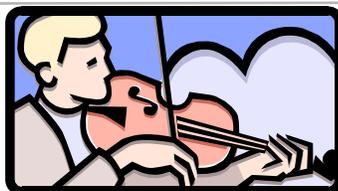
Sat. June 4, 8pm, Eagle Theater, Los Altos High School, 201 Almond, Los Altos. Conducted by Music Director Benjamin Simon. Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra presents works by Gerald Finzi, Edvard Grieg, and Mendelssohn. Plus the world premiere of PACO's sixth Youth-for-Youth commission, "Window Watchers in a City of Strangers", a brand new work for string orchestra by Elizabeth Ogonek. \$5-\$15. Info: 856-3848, www.pacomusic.org.

PACO's Sinfonia Concert and PACO Concerto Competition Winners

Sun., June 5, 3pm, Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Stanford. Winners of the 2010 Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra Concerto Competition, ranging in age from ten to fourteen years old, are showcased in this signature event, conducted by PACO Music Director Benjamin Simon. Also on the program is a selection of string orchestra pieces from around the world: Russia, China, Czechoslovakia, England, and the United States. Free. Info: 856-3848, www.pacomusic.org.

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.



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.

Palo Alto Children's Fine Art Program Summer Weekly Art Classes

Registration begins May 27 for PA residents, June 3 for non-residents. Children's Fine Arts provides exceptional art experiences to the children and youth of Palo Alto and beyond, teaching the skills kids need to bring creativity into their adult lives. Classes include Fashion Design, Drawing for Kids Who Love to Draw, and Expressive Painting. Info/Registration: 463-4923 or enjoyonline.cityofpaloalto.org.

Sports Opportunities for Kids

For current sports opportunities, visit:

info.paloalto.pta.org/sports.shtml

Community Kiosk

More Announcements

New After School program

The Oshman Family JCC is excited to announce Club J, a new afterschool program starting Fall, 2011. Get more details at www.paloaltojcc.org/clubj.

Host a Summer Camp Counselor

Host an international camp counselor this summer! The Oshman Family JCC is looking for families to host young men and women from Israel, Australia or Holland for 3-4 weeks. For more information call (650) 223-8615.

Free Synchronized Swimming Exhibition

Santa Clara International Swim Center Mon., May 30 Noon – 2pm
See the Santa Clara Aquamaids performing their 2011 Competitive Routines with a special performance by Michelle Theriault and Olivia Morgan, members of the 2010 US National Team. After the exhibition, swimmers ages 7-11 will have an opportunity to get in the water and try some basic synchro techniques. If you like it, sign up for a Summer Camp.

Aquamaids Summer Camps

for 7 to 11 year-olds Los Gatos, Los Gatos HS Pool \$300*: June 21 - July 1 and July 5 - July 15. Palo Alto, Terman MS Pool \$325*: July 18 - July 29. Santa Clara, Warburton Swim Center \$325*: August 1 - August 12 Monday thru Friday 8:45 am – noon
*plus \$15 USA Synchro registration
Register at www.aquamaids.org or call 408.930.4303

Stanford Soccer Club

Stanford Soccer Club teams are seeking players for Fall 2011. For details: www.stanfordsoccerclub.org/tryouts.html

Have a great summer!

