



# CARMELETTER

## Principal's Letter

Dear El Carmelo parents and students,

We are having a great start to the school year! From the First Day Assemblies to the great times in classrooms and the fun on the playground, there is amazing learning happening all over El Carmelo.

The start of the school year is an excellent time for parents to review Traffic Safety.

Drop-off Zones at Yellow curbs:

- front of school on Bryant
- by library on Ramona
- also, white curb by room 22 on Ramona.

Red curb is NO PARKING - please leave it free for buses.

Keep the school on your right when you drive - makes it easy to drop off.

There is a crossing Guard at Bryant St & El Carmelo Ave. - please follow Chris' direction

- morning drop-off
- afternoon pick-up.

Try to walk or "roll" to school whenever you can!!!



Also, 5th graders are invited to join a group of Safety Patrol students that will help with traffic flow in the morning. Interested students should see Mr. Merritt for details.

Safety Patrol is just one service opportunity that we will highlight this month in our new character assemblies based on the Project Cornerstone themes. **This month's theme is Service or Helping Others** and will feature the book *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?*, a picture book that explains how we can build our own self-esteem while serving or building up others. During the month of September, students will have a chance to hear this book read and discussed. Ask your son or daughter about it toward the end of the month.

Have an excellent school year!

--Chuck Merritt

[cmerritt@pausd.org](mailto:cmerritt@pausd.org)



## Calendar

**Monday, September 3**

No School, Labor Day

**Tuesday, September 4**

Kinder Class Picnic, 5-7pm

**Wednesday, September 5**

PTA Exec. Board Meeting, 8:30am

**Thursday, September 6**

1st Grade Class Picnic, 5-7pm

**Friday, September 7**

End PiE Dollar-for-Dollar Match

**Saturday, September 8**

Stanford Football Game, 7-10:30pm

**Tuesday, September 11**

PTA General Meeting, 8:30am  
2nd Grade Class Picnic, 5-7pm

**Thursday, September 13**

3rd Grade Class Picnic, 5-7pm

**Tuesday, September 18**

4th Grade Class Picnic, 5-7pm

**Wednesday, September 19**

Coffee with the Principal, 8:30am  
5th Grade Class Picnic, 5-7pm

**Wednesday, September 26**

No School, Local Holiday

**Saturday, September 29**

Family Night: Taco Bar & Mariachi Trio, 5-7pm

**Wednesday, October 3**

Walk & Roll to School Day  
PTA Exec. Board Meeting, 8:30am



most current calendar at <http://www.elcarmelo.paloaltopta.org/carmeletter.html>



### Submissions for Next Carmeletter due **Thursday, 9/27.**

Email editable document to [carmeletter@paloaltopta.org](mailto:carmeletter@paloaltopta.org).

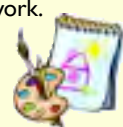
For more info, see <http://www.elcarmelo.paloaltopta.org/carmeletter.html>.

## Volunteers Needed

**Wanted:** 1 or more volunteers to help 1-2 hours per week (set your schedule).

**Tasks:** (1) Mount and label student art work for 4th and 5th grade Spectra Art projects. (2) Put up and take down bulletin board displays of finished art work. (3) Occasionally spray fixative to works from selected art projects.

**Email:** Fred Johnson ("Papa Fred") at [fajohnson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fajohnson@sbcglobal.net).



**To subscribe to El Carmelo PTA's weekly eNews OR to receive the monthly Carmeletter online only:**

email [abbydomine@yahoo.com](mailto:abbydomine@yahoo.com).



# PTA President's Letter

Dear El Carmelo parents and staff,

On behalf of the El Carmelo PTA, I would like to welcome everybody to the 2012-2013 school year, but especially the new Kinder Families, the new Families, and our new 3rd Grade Teacher, Mr. Kyle Jantzi.

My younger son is starting 3rd grade this year, and my older son graduated from 5th grade last year and is now starting a new phase of his education at JLS. He attended El Carmelo since Kindergarten. Our family has been a part of this school and community for all these years, and I really admire and respect the work done here. As a parent and PTA member, I am happy to support and contribute to our school's activities in any way I can, and I'm proud of being part of such a vibrant community.

Throughout the Palo Alto Unified School District, parents partner with the school staff to provide the best possible education for our children. This is a very prominent aspect of our local culture. Here are **three important ways to get involved:**



**First, become a member of the El Carmelo PTA and volunteer.** We estimate that last

year more than 1,200 hours of volunteer work were dedicated to El Carmelo! It is because of volunteers like you that the El Carmelo PTA is able to provide so much for our school. Volunteering is also a great way to meet people and make new friends. It is the way we bring our families together, build community, and have fun! Please get involved in whatever way you feel comfortable, so we can continue this beautiful work that benefits all our children and our entire community. It really makes a difference!



**Second, make a donation to PiE for any amount that feels right for your family.**

Part of the reason El Carmelo is able to offer the high quality education it does is because we get a lot of financial support from our community through PiE. Excluding salaries, the dollar amount we receive from PiE is higher than the amount we receive from public funds. Without PiE, El Carmelo could not afford aides in every classroom, Spectra Art, Jr. Museum, and more. The suggested donation amount per child this year may seem high, but remember, it is equivalent to less than one month of tuition in a private school. Since the percentage of El Carmelo parents that participates also makes a



difference, your participation is very important, at any level. Now through September 7th, your donation to PiE will be doubled by a matching grant.



**Finally, familiarize yourself with the measures on the ballot this November, and vote in the elections.** This year, the California ballot will contain import measures that, if passed, will affect the funding for the California schools. Your vote holds more power than ever to determine the quality of education throughout the State of California.

I am excited and honored to be the El Carmelo PTA President this year! As such, I am your voice. I'm here to represent you, to listen to you, and to implement your ideas to the best of my ability, with your help. Please contact me with your ideas and we'll brainstorm together ways to make them happen.

Have a great year!

---Tais Schmitt  
[thschmitt@pacbell.net](mailto:thschmitt@pacbell.net)

# People of El Carmelo

## Meet New 3rd Grade Teacher Kyle Jantzi

This year, El Carmelo is happy to welcome Kyle Jantzi (pronounced "YANT-zee") as a third grade teacher. Although he's officially new to Room 21, he's a familiar face in the El Carmelo community. He did his student teaching here – working with both Ms. Denise and Ms. Mason.

Kyle was raised in Indiana and is a passionate sports fan of the Indiana Pacers and Chicago Cubs (although he's warming up to the Giants). His first career was in event marketing and planning, but it was only a matter of time before he made the switch to



education, as **teaching is in his blood**. Kyle's father is an elementary school principal, and his mother is an elementary school teacher, so the love of teaching and learning was part of his upbringing.



The desire to continue to learn new things and share that excitement of learning is his favorite aspect of teaching. **"I want to instill a lifelong enthusiasm for learning in my students,"** Kyle says.

When he's not in the classroom, he enjoys spending time with his wife, hiking, and



relaxing with friends. You might also find him in the kitchen, as he's recently taken up cooking and baking, and is enjoying sweet success in his new talent – perhaps we'll see a special treat for sale at the auction?



*Welcome to El Carmelo, Kyle!*

--Article written by Jen Wiener (an El Carmelo parent)

## NEW ACTIVITIES BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE EL CARMELO PTA THIS YEAR!!!



Check out the PTA Calendar you received in your Back-to-School packet, and you'll see how much we are planning for this year!

These are activities that have been offered at El Carmelo for some time and are enjoyed by our community. **We know we can count on you to volunteer, and that is why our program is extensive.**

Thank you for those who already volunteered last spring through the Nominating Committee and for those who already returned the green Volunteer Form. If you haven't returned your form yet, there is still time – just drop it in the envelope in front of the office.

In addition to traditional El Carmelo activities, we are bringing this year three new ones:

### 1. Spaghetti Dinner - After



several years break, Sarah and Trevor Cornwell brought back the event and hosted around 300 people on August 19th! If you missed it this year, don't worry – it will be back next year! (See "Spaghetti Dinner" article on page 4.)



### 2. Family Night with Mariachi Trio and a Taco Bar, 9/29/12

### 3. Celebration of Lunar New Year, 2/10/13



**The last two events are still open to volunteers and ideas of how to organize them. We would like you to tell us what to do!** Please contact Tais or Diane if you would like to participate in the organization of these events. It will be lots of fun!

--Tais Schmitt, [thschmitt@pacbell.net](mailto:thschmitt@pacbell.net) (President) and Diane Heilman, [dianeheilman@gmail.com](mailto:dianeheilman@gmail.com) (VP of Volunteer Services)



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION (PiE)



Buried in that mountain of back-to-school papers on your desk is a letter asking you to donate to Palo Alto Partners in Education, known district wide as PiE.

**What exactly is PiE?** PiE is a non-profit educational foundation dedicated exclusively to raising funds for all PAUSD schools. It is the only fundraising organization permitted by the Palo Alto Board of Education to pay for salaries during the school day, allowing for El Carmelo to pay for much-needed:

**classroom aides**



**arts instructors**



**science specialists.**



**Our neighboring school districts have higher “asks” than in Palo Alto.**

- Los Altos: \$1,200 per child
- Menlo Park: \$1,500 per child
- Mountain View: \$1,000 per child
- Las Lomitas: \$2,000 per child
- Palo Alto: \$800 per child

Last year, more than 4,000 parents and community members donated to PiE, and as a result, PiE gave a record \$4.4 million to our schools. **El Carmelo received more than \$150,000 to fund these crucial resources for our classrooms.**

To raise the critical funds we need to support our schools, we are asking every family to give \$800 for every child enrolled in school. This suggested donation is neither a minimum or a maximum; we’re asking you to consider an amount that is significant to your family. **Every El Carmelo family can and should give what is right for them.**

Please take advantage of the very generous Back to School Dollar-for-Dollar Match put up by leading donors. All donations will be doubled if received by September 07, 2012, up to \$300,000.

To donate, please visit [www.papie.org/donate](http://www.papie.org/donate).

--Faiza Zarroug, [fazarroug@gmail.com](mailto:fazarroug@gmail.com),  
kanwal Raza, [kanwalsraza@gmail.com](mailto:kanwalsraza@gmail.com),  
and Medha Nanal, [medha\\_00@yahoo.com](mailto:medha_00@yahoo.com)  
(PiE co-chairs)

SPAGHETTI DINNER

On Sunday, August 19th, we started off the new school year with the PTA’s Back-to-School Spaghetti Dinner. Students and their families enjoyed salad, spaghetti with tomato sauce, spaghetti with meat sauce, and bread and butter. To make it easier to manage, we ordered the pasta from Buca di Beppo in downtown Palo Alto with salad ingredients and water from Costco.

The event had not been held for a few years so Principal Chuck Merritt and PTA President Tais



Schmitt advised us to err on the side of caution and over order. It’s a good thing we did. We’re guesstimating that **more than 300 people** were there. Needless to say, the M.P. Room couldn’t handle the crowds, and families found picnic tables around school and sat in the grass.

The next day, my husband Trevor and I received an email from Janice Tilbury. She attended

the event with her daughter, son-in-law, and two grandsons, one of whom has just started El Carmelo. The family has moved from England, and Mrs. Tilbury is helping them get settled. She wrote it was a “lovely surprise for all of us to be invited to such an event and gave me the opportunity to see, at first hand, the school and experience the friendly atmosphere of the place. I think they will be very happy to be part of such a kind and generous community.”

*(continued on next page)*



**SPAGHETTI DINNER - (continued from page 4)**

The event would not have been possible without the volunteers who washed, chopped, mixed and served. Thank you.

Trevor and I are looking forward to hosting next year's spaghetti dinner the first weekend

of school. We hope to pipe in some Italian music. Our daughter Maggie is in first grade this year (shout-out to Ms. Fehrenbach and Room 7!) so we hope to be a part of the event for several years to come.

*If you know of a charity that accepts leftovers, please email me.*

--Sarah cornwell  
[sarahccornwell@gmail.com](mailto:sarahccornwell@gmail.com)  
(Spaghetti Dinner chair)

**LIBRARY NEWS**

Welcome back to the El Carmelo Library! The library has been buzzing at recess and lunch, especially on hot or chilly days. The class schedule for library time is listed below.


**The El Carmelo Library's  
Class Schedule**

**Tuesday:**  
Room 4 (Ms. "Marilyn" - Kinder)  
Room 6 (Ms. McCoy - 1st)  
Room 20 (Mr. Walton - 3rd)

**Wednesday:**  
Room 1 (Ms. "Denise" - Kinder)  
Room 5 (Ms. Davidson - 1st)  
Room 19 (Ms. Haughney - 3rd)

**Thursday:**  
Room 3 (Ms. "Serena" - Kinder)  
Room 7 (Ms. Fehrenbach - 1st)  
Room 9 (Ms. Beasley - 2nd)  
Room 21 (Mr. Jantzi - 3rd)

**Friday:**  
Room 8 (Ms. Dosskey - 2nd)  
Room 10 (Ms. Fonteyn - 2nd)  
all 4th grade classes  
all 5th grade classes



Any overdue books may be cleared up by contacting the library by email, note or phone to let us know that you are aware of the overdue or paying the fine of the book. Students who have continual overdues will be limited and will have to keep their books at school.



**K/1st** may check out one book at time for 1 week. **2nd-5th** may check out 2-3 books at a time for 2 weeks.

Also, students may check out **library videos** as long as a parent accompanies them.

The **Paperback Chapter Book Swap Box** will again be available in the library for 3rd- 5th grade students to exchange used paperback chapter books. The books must be in good condition, school appropriate and have parental consent to trade.

We have recently started a **collection of parent resources**. Come by and take a look!

If your child still has a **Summer Reading Record**, please turn it in to the teacher or library by the end of August. Congratulations to those students who have turned them in!

Parents wishing to make donations to our library may participate in the **Sponsor-a-Book program**. Many thanks to those of you who have already donated. This helps us to keep our library collection cool and current!

We look forward to a great school year!

--Mrs. Bell, [bell@pausd.org](mailto:bell@pausd.org) (Librarian & Teacher)  
and Mrs. "D" (Library Aide)

Here are tips for parents:

- Please encourage your children to share their library books with you.
- Help them to take care of library books and keep them in a safe place.
- Also, remind children to bring books back on their scheduled library day (see class schedule above) to either return or renew. Some students get very disappointed if they are unable to check out a new book, because of an overdue.



## BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION - FALL CONTEST



Have you ever noticed the Box Tops for Education labels on products you use regularly like various cereals, juices, cake and baking mixes, frozen

foods, snacks, Ziploc bags, and MANY more? Do you have a collection of them stuck in an envelope in the back of a drawer?

Each label is worth 10¢ when it is redeemed from Boxtops for Education. Working together, **El Carmelo families have earned hundreds of dollars** for our school! It's easy!

All you need to do is clip the Box Tops for Education label from participating products, making sure each label contains the expiration date and drop them off in the collection envelopes in each classroom, or in the envelope in the main office. Fire up those scissors!

The classroom that brings in the most Box Tops by **Friday, November 30** will be the Fall Box Tops Champion!

--Maria Derrick

[wesderrick@mindspring.com](mailto:wesderrick@mindspring.com)

(Box Tops chair)



## THE EL CARMELO GREEN TEAM WANTS YOU!

El Carmelo's **Green Team**, moderated by First Grade Teacher, *Diane McCoy*, and our English Language Specialist, *Annette Isaacson*, is looking for a few good parents to help make this a GREEN YEAR for El Carmelo.

Check out our planned activities, and let us know which one you'd like to help with:



2. In September, we're also going to do a **garbage/compost/recycling audit** to see how well our school is sorting its garbage. By sorting our garbage correctly, the school saves money, and we help the earth by keeping useful trash out of the landfill. Parent helpers will help Diane and Annette on the day of the audit. Latex gloves are provided free of charge! Once the audit is completed, a parent volunteer will make a chart that shows how we need to improve.

will be at each of the waste container stations during the first fifteen minutes of lunch to help students sort waste correctly. Parents will help with the training of the "Sorting Experts" and give them some moral support during the first weeks on the job.



1. In September, we're kicking off **Walk and Roll Wednesdays** to encourage kids to walk or bike to school instead of relying on their parents to drive them. This will not only save the parents time and money and help the kids keep fit, but it will also help our planet by cutting down on carbon emissions. Parent helpers will stamp cards of all Walk and Roll participants on Wednesday mornings. Once a child collects 10 stamps, s/he can enter a raffle for a cool prize.



4. And then, of course, there is our **Big Earth Day Event!** Parents help run the booths, find the vendors.... It's a lot of fun.

We're always looking for new ideas, so if you have one, or want to help us with one of these planned activities, please **join us**. It's going to be a great year. Just email Diane or Annette to let us know you're interested.

--Diane McCoy, [Dmccoy@pausd.org](mailto:Dmccoy@pausd.org) and Annette Isaacson

[Aisaacson@pausd.org](mailto:Aisaacson@pausd.org)

(Green Team's Teacher chairs)



3. We're starting a new service club, too. **"Sorting Experts"**



**THE EL CARMELO PTA'S ANNUAL AUCTION - SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2013**

**What Is the Auction?**

The El Carmelo PTA's Annual Auction is a fun evening of food, shopping, and entertainment. You'll have opportunities to buy inexpensive Auction Items (parties, services, trips, etc.) and socialize with other parents and staff. The Annual Auction fosters the spirit of community that characterizes El Carmelo.

**Why Is the Auction So Important?**

This one event raises nearly all of the money the El Carmelo PTA spends each year to provide vital programs to El Carmelo students. This is especially important during these challenging economics times.

**How Can You Be a Part of this Fun Event?**

This important event can't happen without everyone's support.

- Come to the Auction on March 9th.**
- Volunteer** to be on the Auction Committee (Contact Alli or Leslyn.)

**Donate** (host a children's or adults' party, provide a service or product with your special talents, share a vacation home, donate cash, etc.)

--Alli Wong, [allison\\_wong17@yahoo.com](mailto:allison_wong17@yahoo.com), 415-336-8427 and Leslyn Leong, [leslynl@gmail.com](mailto:leslynl@gmail.com), 650-388-8980 (Auction co-chairs)



**THE ANNUAL MARGARITA PARTY**

**ATTENTION, NEW PARENTS!!!** You're invited to El Carmelo's Annual Margarita Party on **Friday, September 7, 8:30pm** at the home of the Mostofizadehs. (This party was an auction item sold at the Annual Auction on March 2012.) There will be a **taco bar and tequila tasting**. To purchase a ticket (\$40 each), contact Maya Venkatraman at [maya.venkatraman@gmail.com](mailto:maya.venkatraman@gmail.com). *100% of the proceeds goes to the El Carmelo PTA.*



**STANFORD FOOTBALL GAME**

Join other PAUSD families and cheer on the top-ranked Stanford football team and head coach David Shaw (an El Carmelo parent!!!).



**Stanford Cardinal vs. Duke Blue Devils**

**When:** Saturday, September 8, 2012  
**Time:** Kickoff at 7:30pm. Tailgate (location TBA) begins 5pm.  
**Where:** Stanford Stadium (corner/endzone seats)  
**Special Price:** \$20 each (regular price \$30)  
*\$5 of every ticket purchased will be donated to the El Carmelo PTA.*



Tickets are limited. Order forms (stuffed in Friday folders OR available in Office) due **Friday, August 31**. Questions? Contact Kori at [korivan@gmail.com](mailto:korivan@gmail.com).



# In Appreciation

*A Great Big THANK YOU to the El Carmelo Community*

A huge thank you to *Maria Derrick*, outgoing PTA President, for her excellent work during the 2011-2012 school year. Maria is returning on the Board this year as Parliamentarian. In addition, she is continuing to provide guidance, direction, advice, support, and tons of help to all of us. Maria's work last year has touched the lives of everybody in this community. Because of her, we have the foundation for a smooth and fun year ahead of us!

Special thanks to:

--the PTA Board Members that served last year and are retiring from the Board. Your work is really appreciated, and with your help, the PTA ended the 2011-2012 year in good shape! Thank you for your hard work!

--the PTA Board Members that volunteered to serve this year, returning and new members. Several Board Members from last year decided to continue on the Board, either on the same position, or trying something new this year. Thank you for your continuing support!

**Kinder Playdates.** *Jen Wiener, Cynthia Tham, Heather Williamson, Kate Karagueuzian Gibbons, Erich Heilman, and Sarah Newman* for hosting six fun playdates for incoming Kinders and their parents over the summer.

**Ice Cream Social.** *Christine Hodson and Abby Domine*, for organizing our annual Ice Cream Social for new students and their families, supported by master dippers/scoopers/topping spooner-outers and greeters *Jeanette Cheng, Rachel Gatoff, Adriana Reyna, Lorna Thornton, Lucie Thomas, and Davina Byrd.*

**Back-to-School Packets.** *Lucy Tompkin and Kanwal Raza* for

folding BTS materials and stuffing envelopes, and 6th Grader Mike and 3rd Grader Thomas for putting stamps on the BTS packets that were mailed.

**Class List Posting.** *Maria Derrick and Stephanie Youngquist* for welcoming El Carmelo students and families and passing out BTS packets, and *Davina Byrd, Kori Shaw and Alli Wong* for the yummy snacks.

**eScrip.** *Maria Derrick* for kicking off our eScrip fundraising program for the year by educating parents about the program at the Class List Posting Celebration.

**1st Day Coffee.** *Christine Hodson and Andrea Christensen* for organizing such a warm welcome to parents, supported by *Liz Cowie, Sarah Newman, Erika Krugler, Kate Karagueuzian Gibbons, Kristin Green, Aruna Bhamidipati, Hanh Nguyen, Sripriya Kannan, Susy Kim, Andrea Jelks, Erina DuBois, and Maria Derrick.*

**Kinder Coffee.** *Hagit Katzenelson* for hosting this welcoming event that allowed our Kinder parents a chance to get to know one another.

**Spaghetti Dinner.** *Sarah and Trevor Cornwell* for organizing this amazing event that brought together around 300 people! They were supported by *Susy Kim, Medha Nanal, Grit Denker, and Jen Shen*, and by whiteboard-drawing 1st graders *Aneisha, Yara, Angela, and Maggie.* Also, *Sharon and Chuck Merritt* for warmly welcoming people and grating cheese table-to-table.

**Spirit Shop.** *Amy Love* for running the El Carmelo Spirit Shop and making sure we all get our Dragon-wear in a timely manner.



## Thank You to:

**ALL parents who have turned in One Check Forms.**

Without your donations, the PTA could not carry out all of the work it does to support our teachers and enrich our community.

**ALL parents who have turned in Volunteer Forms.**

As an all-volunteer organization, the PTA relies on you to do everything, so we appreciate the many hours you have dedicated already. Together, we will dedicate this year to make sure that our teachers have the support they need so they can focus on teaching our kids AND to offer fun events/activities for El Carmelo.

**One Check Forms.** *Christine Hodson* for heroically processing all those PTA One Check Forms, for the second year!!!

**Back-to-School Supplies.** *Patricia Campbell and Samantha Lemonnier* who bought school supplies during the summer to ensure that all classrooms were fully stocked with the supplies needed on the first day of school.

**PTA Audit.** *Pei Cao*, Auditor, for auditing the PTA books to make sure they remain in order.

**Volunteers Form.** *Diane Heilman* for sorting out the volunteers and directing them to the appropriate Chairs.

**PTA Website.** *Erik Jacobsen*, Webmaster, for updating the PTA website.

**eNews.** *Abby Domine*, VP of Communications, for editing and distributing El Carmelo's weekly eNews to keep our community informed of all things El Carmelo.

**Carmeletter.** *Susy Kim* for editing and laying out the *Carmeletter.*

**AND A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU** from *Tais Schmitt to Jennifer Fernandez and Ginny Nagao* for supporting the PTA, providing guidance, and selflessly letting us be at the office to excitedly (but noisily) talk about PTA stuff.