



# CARMELETTER

## Principal's Letter

Dear parents and students of El Carmelo,



This school year has brought some great Traffic Safety collaboration with the city of Palo Alto. I'd like to highlight the changes in our neighborhood that are making kids safer and to remind us of

the regular ways to stay safe on the road.

Last school year, the City of Palo Alto held several community meetings about traffic flow and safety at El Carmelo. The map in the window of the main office is the fruit of those meetings. Many of our parents came to support our perspectives on how the city could help out. Here are some of the actions the city took just recently:

- Stop signs and cross walks at Ramona & Loma Verde
- Stop signs and crosswalks at Waverley & Loma Verde
- Improved "zebra-style" crosswalks at Bryant and Loma Verde and El Carmelo streets. Also at El Carmelo and Waverley.
- ADA sidewalk improvements in the above locations.



These improvements were the direct result of our school community working with the city last year. I'd like to thank El Carmelo parents *Isaac Katzenelson* and *Kori Shaw*, among others, for their leadership on this issue and also *Sylvia Star-Lack*, among other great city employees from the City of Palo Alto Traffic Department.

Here are some **tips on how to stay safe** (and keep others safe) at El Carmelo. Please remember that our busiest traffic time is at drop-off.

### Calendar



#### Sunday, February 9

Family Engineering Day, 2-4pm

#### Tuesday, February 11

PTA General Meeting, 7pm

#### Thursday, February 13

No School, Staff Development Day

#### Friday, February 14

No School, Lincoln's Birthday

#### Monday, February 17

No School, Washington's Birthday

#### Wednesday, February 19

Coffee with the Principal

#### Thursday, February 20

Bingo Night, 6-8pm

#### Saturday, March 15

**37th Annual Auction: The Olympics, 6-11pm**

#### Monday to Friday, March 17-21

Teacher Appreciation Week

#### Wednesday, March 19

Coffee with the Principal

#### Wednesday, March 26

Stories Under the Stars, 7-8pm

← SAVE THE DATE!

#### ☑ Drop-Off Zones at Yellow Curbs:

- (1) Front of school on Bryant
- (2) By library on Ramona
- (3) Also, white curb by room 22 on Ramona.

☑ Red curb is **NO PARKING** - please leave it free for busses.

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

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

*Thanks to everyone for keeping kids safe every day!*

--Chuck Merritt

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



# PTA President's Letter

Dear El Carmelo community,

What a great start to 2014! We have had our annual pancake breakfast, games and brick building at the very popular Lego night, an introduction to badminton at our first annual badminton fundraiser, books shared during the book exchange, discussions of the Common Core at the Coffee with the Principal, a wonderful Parent Education night with Madeline Levine co-sponsored by many schools throughout the district, and a celebration of the Lunar New Year! What a vibrant and diverse community!

The beginning of a new year is always a time of self-reflection, goal setting, and resolutions made. It is a time to set up new systems in our homes and lives that help us have healthy, strong children and families. Taking time for our children can have lasting rewards — whether it is reading with them, being active with them, having meals together, or just talking and hugging them.

Our kids need our time and attention so they can have the emotional, mental, and physical support as they grow and develop. Part of the

role of the PTA is to support parents and families as they raise their children. We hope some of the activities we hold during the year will be some of that support for you and your family, whether it is attending a Parent Education night, having fun at one of our community events, having new books in your home you can read with your children, or serving together through donating food or toys.

We hope your home is filled with love and joy as we head into the last few months of the year. We hope to see many of you at our year's biggest fundraiser, **our annual Auction held on March 15th**. This community building event helps to fund over half of our budget for the year and brings many people together. If you haven't already, consider donating an item or event that can be part of this year's auction.

With warm greetings,

--Julia Jacobsen  
[juliacjacobsen@gmail.com](mailto:juliacjacobsen@gmail.com)



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## EL CARMELO'S 37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AUCTION - THE OLYMPICS!

El Carmelo's most important fundraiser and biggest adult social event can't happen without YOUR support. Here's what YOU can do:

PLEASE DONATE.... A HOME-COOKED MEAL, PARTY, COOKING CLASS, SERVICE, SPECIAL TALENT, VACATION HOME... ANYTHING!

DONATIONS ARE DOWN THIS YEAR; WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Forms are available in the Office or at <http://tinyurl.com/ElCarmeloOlympics>. *Donations are due in Office by Wednesday, February 12 OR via email on Friday, February 14.*

PLEASE COME TO THE AUCTION ON  
**Saturday, 3/15, 6-11pm at Elks Lodge.**

--All questions and comments are welcome. THANK YOU!!!  
Auction chair Extraordinaire, Amy Love ([aloveinchile@yahoo.com](mailto:aloveinchile@yahoo.com))





**IMPORTANT - VOTE ON WHERE TO SPEND PTA FUNDS!!!**

**PTA GENERAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2014  
7 PM IN THE MP ROOM**



Please join us for our general PTA meeting next week. We have four General PTA meetings throughout the year. At this meeting, we will be electing our **Nominating Committee**. The nominees for 2014 are:

- Janet Owen
- Cynthia Tham
- Davina Byrd
- Lucinda Brommersma
- Andrea Christiansen

We will also be voting on proposed spending from our **Strategic Initiative Fund**. We have **FOUR PROPOSALS FOR SPENDING:**

**☑ Non-Fiction Literature collections -**

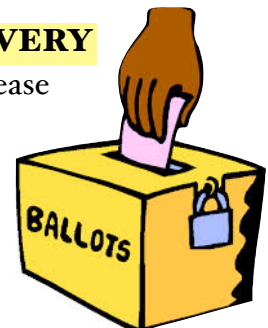
The K-2 classrooms are identifying non-fiction literature to purchase at primary reading levels to supplement classroom, web-room and library collections currently in place. These will support both the CCSS and NGSS implementations as well as filling a current need for high quality, modern non-fiction texts. The first recommendation would be to give \$1,000 for each grade level to start for a starting cost of \$3,000.

**☑ Upper Grade 1:1 Notebooks** - This proposal is to purchase a classroom set of Chromebooks for students to use at school. This would allow the students to leverage district online resources to compose and edit (including valuable group editing) online using the district’s internal GoogleDoc suite of tools. This would allow teachers to plan lessons that require that reading, writing and research tools are available to students over a period of days. The cost for one class set is approximately \$9,000 including tax.

**☑ Multimedia Stations** - This proposal is to purchase multimedia stations for the K-2 classrooms. This includes a special iPad stand, iPad, microphones and headsets. These can be set up as filming stations simple enough for a kindergartener to use. The iPad stand can double as a document camera. The cost for each set would be approximately \$1,000 per set, for a total of \$9,000 for the 9 classrooms.

**☑ Picnic Tables** - This proposal is to replace the 10 metal picnic tables with the “redwood” tables. The advantage of the redwood tables is not transferring heat or cold to students sitting at the picnic tables despite hot or cold outdoor temperatures. The approximate cost is \$1000 per table for a total of \$10,000.

**We would love for EVERY voice to be heard!** So please come to our PTA General Meeting and weigh in on the proposals for the Nominating Committee and the Strategic Initiative Fund.



*Hope to see many of you there!*

--PTA President, Julia Jacobsen  
([juliacjacobsen@gmail.com](mailto:juliacjacobsen@gmail.com))



# People of El Carmelo

Meet Katie Rutledge

*"Katie is a smart, gifted teacher with a wicked sense of humor. Kids love her!" --an El Carmelo parent*



## CHILDHOOD

Katie Rutledge was born in Pomona, California and grew up in Claremont until she was eight. Then, she moved to Greenwich, Connecticut and was surprised to see snow for the first time.

*"It was really different to move to the East Coast. The funniest memory I have was when we first flew to New York City to travel to my new home. There had been a mix-up at the car rental place, so instead of a regular car, we got a limo! I had never been to New York City, so for a while I thought that everyone rode in those from the airport!"*

As a child, Ms. Rutledge loved to **read** all the time. She also really liked to **play with her younger sister**. *"She is only a year younger than me so we would share toys, except when we'd fight over Barbies."* :)

Ms. Rutledge's mother was a graphic designer who was able to work from home after she and her sister were born. Her father was a financial advisor and traveled a lot to work with companies around the world. Sometimes he would go on

financial shows (such as MSNBC) to talk. *"It was really cool to see him on TV!"*

## EDUCATION

*"I went to school all over the place!"* For high school, Ms. Rutledge went to **Deerfield Academy**, a boarding school (*"really common on the East Coast"*); for college, **Bryn Mawr College** in Pennsylvania; and for graduate school, **Columbia University's Teachers College** in New York City.

## CAREER PATH

Ms. Rutledge used to teach her teddybears when she was six and always wanted to be a teacher.

## EL CARMELO

This is Ms. Rutledge's third year at El Carmelo. In the 2011-12 school year, she was an Aide for Ms. Denise. In the 2012-13 school year, she was an Aide for Ms. Fehrenbach. This school year, she was a long-term sub for Ms. Fehrenbach and is now a long-term sub for Ms. Beasley.

What does Ms. Rutledge love the most about El Carmelo? She loves working with the teachers at El Carmelo. *"I've gotten to know such amazing people and it's been great to spend time with them and learn with and from them."*

What does Ms. Rutledge like least? She wishes El Carmelo

had an after-school sports program. *"I think El Carmelo could totally have an ultimate frisbee club!"*

## FAMILY

Ms. Rutledge lives in Palo Alto with her "roommate," a 9-month old rescue cat named Perry.

Her parents live in Southern California, and she has siblings in Los Angeles, Baltimore, Portland, and Seattle.

## HOBBIES

Ms. Rutledge loves to **read, cook,** and play **ultimate frisbee**. She also loves to go see **movies** or **hang out with friends**.



## FUN FACTS

*"I wear glasses and have since I was in sixth grade--though now I only wear them at night and wear contact lenses during the day."*

*"I once traveled to Finland and 'drove' a sled pulled by a reindeer."*

*"One Christmas when I was growing up, my family chopped down our Christmas tree from our own backyard. The hard part was pulling it back up the long hill to the house!"*

*"I've only ever owned blue cars."*



Want to interview someone in the El Carmelo community?

It's easy.

Email:

[carmeletter@paloaltopta.org](mailto:carmeletter@paloaltopta.org)



## FAMILY CONTRACT FOR ONLINE SAFETY (FROM [SAFEKIDS.COM](http://SAFEKIDS.COM))

Let's talk to our kids about online safety. Here is a excerpt from [safekids.com](http://safekids.com) to spark ideas for discussion.

### Family Contract for Online Safety Kids' Pledge



- 1 I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number, parents' work address/ telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents' permission.
- 2 I will tell my parents right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.
- 3 I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents. If my parents agree to the meeting, I will be sure that it is in a public place and bring my mother or father along.
- 4 I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents.
- 5 I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do I will tell my parents right away so that they can contact the service provider.
- 6 I will talk with my parents so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online, and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break these rules without their permission.
- 7 I will not give out my Internet password to anyone (even my best friends) other than my parents.
- 8 I will check with my parents before downloading or installing software or doing anything that could possibly hurt our computer or jeopardize my family's privacy.
- 9 I will be a good online citizen and not do anything that hurts other people or is against the law.
- 10 I will help my parents understand how to have fun and learn things online and teach them things about the Internet, computers and other technology.

I agree to the above

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child sign here

I will help my child follow this agreement and will allow reasonable use of the Internet as long as these rules and other family rules are followed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent(s) sign here

Items one through six are adapted from the brochure [Child Safety on the Information Highway](#) by Lawrence J. Magid. Copyright 1994 and 1998 by the [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#). Printed copies are available free by calling 800 843-5678. (© 1997, 2005 Larry Magid)

For a printable version, go to <http://www.safekids.com/safekidscontract.pdf>.



Thank you<sup>to</sup> all  
our generous donors  
at El Carmelo!

## In Appreciation

*A BIG thanks to all these volunteers who helped our community have so many wonderful events.*

### **Palo Alto Partners in Education (PiE) volunteers:**

Thanks to all those who helped with a successful end of our PiE donation campaign for the end of this donation year. Thanks to *Medha Nanal, Sarah Cornwell, Susy Kim, Mizubo Goto, Faiza Zarroug, Alli Wong, and Jason Rabbitt Tomita* for their time and efforts to help our educational foundation.

### **Pancake Breakfast:**

Thanks to these parents for helping serve a delicious pancake breakfast – *Lisa Loewy, Gloria Chung, Marilyn Chen, Greta Tan, Bruce Woodley, Jen Zhou. Sarena Kim and Krissy Green* organized the delicious food and volunteers!

**Book Exchange:** Thanks to the generosity of everyone who brought books for the Book Exchange, every El Carmelo student was able to take at least one "new" book home. Thank you to *Maria Derrick* for running this popular event, and to *Abby Domine, Kate Karagueuzian Gibbons, Ann Holum, Adriana*

*Reyna, Sharon Tobias, and Stephanie Youngquist* for help with sorting books, *Jerry Phok* for setting up and taking down the tables on the MP Room stage, and kids from the 5th grade Leadership Club who helped collect and distribute books each morning.

### **Badminton Fundraiser:**

Thanks to *Kate Healy and Faiza Farroug* for helping to run our first annual badminton night for El Carmelo. *Lan & Ben Lee* hosted us at Synergy Badminton Club for a night of badminton. What fun and the whole evening benefitted the El Carmelo PTA!

### **Lunar New Year**

**Celebration:** The 2nd Annual Lunar New Year Celebration was a great success. It was a fun celebration filled with games and activities. Special thanks to Panda Express for catering and *Elaine Cao* for her beautiful violin music. Also, the performance by Master Ben's Shaolin Kung Fu was spectacular. We can't wait to do

it again next year! Thanks to *Lisa Sato and Annie Chen* for chairing this event and also to *Doreen Rebbock, Erjia Zhu, Cynthia Tham, Peggy Hu, Vicky Lu, Lifang Zhao, Ai Ling, Nan Cho, Li Rong, Carmen Leung, Ruby He, Jieyun Wan, and Amy Fong* for volunteering.

**Lego Night:** Many thanks to the parents and teachers who helped with Lego Night, including *Kavitha Jennifer Ramchandran, Annie Chen, Abby Domine, Janet Owen, Andrea Jelks, Irmelin Bergh, Vibeke Banik. Sandi Lewis, Alex Kass, Shawn Owen, Evi Klein, Julia Jacobsen, Kathryn Lamis, Danail Kozhubarov, Linda Whittaker, Maria Derrick, Amy Love, Serena Chandley, Denise Dauler, Jerry Phok, Rickey Moore, Chuck Merritt, and our fearless coordinator, Ann Holum.* Lego Night wouldn't happen without YOU!!!

Submissions for next Carmeletter due  
**Thursday, 3/20/14**  
Email submissions to [carmeletter@paloaltopta.org](mailto:carmeletter@paloaltopta.org)