



Carmeletter

February 10, 2006

Issue 10

Principal's Letter

Dear El Carmelo Parents, Students, and Community,

Thank you for helping us make a smooth transition into the second half of the school year. Your continued efforts and direct support definitely benefit all our children. THANK YOU also to the many volunteers who actively participate in classrooms and in other school related activities, which make the school a vibrant place. Let's keep it going!

Updates and other general information:

- **Note the following test dates and related information:**
 - Testing dates: Please do not schedule appointments or trips on days when your child is to take a test. Do note the following test dates and also check with your child's teacher for other relevant dates: the week of March 6-9 all third and fifth graders will take the MARS Math Test; on March 7 and 8 all fourth graders will take the writing component of the STAR Test; May 8 – May 19 all students in 2nd–5th grades will take the STAR Test. Please note the information on participation rate below.
 - Make sure your child participates in the upcoming STAR Test. It is critical that at least 95% of our students in grades 2-5 take this test. There are State sanctions for schools and districts that do not meet this participation rate requirement. If you have a question, please contact me directly.
- **After-School Activities:** Please note the after school activities chart is located on the school office window. This chart provides you an overview of current programs on our campus after school, with the days/times when the activities are offered, as well as contact information. If you have questions, call our office at 856-0960.
- **School Survey:** You should have received a copy of the school survey via your child on Friday, February 3. Please take the time to complete and return the survey to your child's teacher. The purpose of this feedback from parents is twofold: (1) to enable teachers to review and consider your perspective on your child's experience thus far this year. Your viewpoint will help teachers understand what has been effective for your child and to indicate what aspects of the classroom program could be improved, and (2) to inform us on how the rest of the school supports the children and the community, as well as provide us with needed information regarding health and safety matters. Please reflect upon the questions and provide us with meaningful and balanced feedback. We take your responses seriously! This is also an opportunity to use clear and constructive communication skills.
- **Thank you for your donation to PiE:** educational funding has been up and down the last few years, due to economic and political reasons. However, you, the citizens of this city, have been the absolute constant in the lives of our schools. You have maintained a clear focus in support of education in Palo Alto. The community effort in this area does sometimes put a strain in your own personal lives. To whatever extent you have given to this cause, all has been extremely helpful. Thank you in advance for your ongoing and generous support for our children's education!
- **Join us for upcoming community building events.** There are many community-building events between now and the end of the year. Please join us get to know the neighbors and have some fun. Some of the upcoming activities include the Pancake Breakfast on March 4th, the El Carmelo Auction on March 11th, the May Fete Parade on May 6th, and the School Open House on May 24th. All of the activities provide an opportunity for us to come together socially as families to support our children and the school. I hope to see you there!

TO DOS

- PAUSD Online Survey (your opinion matters!)
- Feb 15 - Look Alike Day
- Get Your Auction Tickets

Continued on Page 2

DATES TO REMEMBER

February

- 10 School Surveys Due
- 13 Visiting Author- Michael Ross
- 15 Spirit Day: Look-A-Like
- 17 –24 Holiday - No School
- 27 Return to School



March

- 3 Carmeletter Deadline, 8:30 a.m.
- 4 Pancake Breakfast
- 11 El Carmelo PTA Auction
- 17 Carmeletter Deadline, 8:30 a.m.

Principal's Letter *(Continued from Page 1)*

Please stay in tune with your child and your child's teacher. The second half of the year is typically more intense for children, academically and socially. Most students have major projects to complete and friendships sometimes shift, causing emotional stress. Your vigilance and support will be instrumental in providing a safety net when they need it. Let us know if we can help.

Warmest regards,
Lupe García

President's Letter

Dear El Carmelo Families:

For those of you who attended the PTA meeting on Tuesday the 7th, we hope that you found the information helpful. The Summer Camp binder will be located in the office for you to browse through!

J CLUB

The J Club is up and running! In this issue we are featuring reports from the 3rd grade students on their recent field trip to Año Nuevo to see the elephant seals. It was a fabulous experience for the students, as their stories will reveal. Look for more on the students' life and experiences at El Carmelo in future issues of the Carmeletter.

FUNDRAISING?

MORE MONEY MORE MONEY MORE MONEY!!! With tax season just around the corner, many of you may be feeling that more is leaving your bank account than being deposited! Many people have been asking me about our fundraising efforts. We (our PTA) conduct fewer fundraising efforts than many other schools, really! The auction, eScrip, wrapping paper, Original Works and the book fair! **THAT'S ALL!!** Everything else falls under social events and programs. Our main goal at Bingo, the Spaghetti Dinner, etc. is for our community to get to know each other better – and to just have fun!

ESCRIP

Who is the energetic person that is hanging around campus in the mornings every other Thursday near the balloons? That's Ana-Maria Dias. She is working hard to sign you up for eScrip if you haven't already. If you already have, have you renewed yet? If you haven't renewed, then our school doesn't get any money. Pretty great, huh? "Free money." Please stop by when you see the balloons, it's painless and worth it to sign up!

Partners in Education (PiE)

Even though PiE does not fall under the PTA umbrella, I want to mention that it is important to understand what the PiE effort is accomplishing for our school and our children. Remember, PiE pays for: spectra art, reading specialist, classroom aides, hands-on science through the Junior Museum and others!! Please read the list again. This isn't the complete list, but can you imagine what our school would be list without those things?

The PiE folks really mean it when they say that they welcome ANY donation amount. Their goal (although there is a goal of \$2million), really is to try to get strong widespread community involvement. We hope that you realize that it does take additional money to make our public schools so great.

Thank you for taking the time to read this! ☺ Hope you have a great break!

Erina DuBois Eric Schuur
President Co-President

Don't Forget Quilt Tickets

This year's auction quilt was highlighted in a Palo Alto Weekly feature article. It is a fabulous work of art! Blocks were done in a Northwoods theme, including bears and owls and log cabins; hand-quilted with tree and oak leaf motifs. Tickets have been passed out in Friday folders, or contact Tanya Wing.

1260 Books Exchanged!

Jean Hsia (j4tang@sbcglobal.net), Elisa Schmit (elidaschmit@hotmail.com)

About 1260 books changed hands at El Carmelo during the Book Exchange this year. Thank you to all who brought books. You made it happen! Those who brought extra books, along with the PTA purchase of books from Friends of the Library made it possible for every student at El Carmelo to take home at least one book. One 5th grader brought in 111 books for the exchange!

Mrs. McCoy organized the Student Council Executive Board - Sarah, Nicole, Colin, Sameya, Lauren, Camden, Taylor - to help each morning collecting the loads of books. Several moms - Sherwin Wong, Greta Tan, Sripriya Kannan, Rebecca Davis - joined in for the sorting each day. Our wonderful teachers reminded the students to bring in books, kept records, and then took the time to do the exchange in their classrooms. De and Barbara arranged for the set-up. All your effort and enthusiasm made this event a success.



Special Parent Education Event on March 9th

El Carmelo Parent Ed invites you to attend a presentation on

Adversity Quotient: "Turn Mountains into Molehills"

Thursday, March 9th

7:00-9:00pm

JLS Cafetorium

El Carmelo PTA's Parent Ed invites you to attend a presentation on developing emotional intelligence with your children by Dr. Anabel Jensen

Little children, Little problems; Big children, Big problems. Take the knowledge you will learn in this workshop to help your children fill up their emotional backpacks. Happiness and success in today's world require resiliency and perseverance, traits that can be taught.

Dr. Anabel Jensen will share with you the keys in this multi-sensory workshop that is informative, practical, and fun. Fill up your Emotional Backpack and discover your own AQ (Adversity Quotient) as you take an imaginary climb using proven tools and techniques, including The ABC's of Positive Self-talk.

Dr. Anabel Jensen is President of Six Seconds EQ Network, a non-profit educational organization that offers training and materials for developing emotional intelligence skills. She is an Associate Professor of Graduate Education at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont and previously the Executive Director of The Nueva School in Hillsborough for 15 years.

Please contact Wendy Kandasamy at wendy@kandasamy.com or 650.799.7134 for more details.

EL CARMELO



DRAGONS

Spirit Day, Feb. 15th - Look Alike Day

Earn money for El Carmelo AND win cool playground equipment for your child's class!

Classrooms with at least 80% participation in ESCRIP win cool prizes!

- Students participate by having a family member, friend or neighbor sign up for ESCRIP.
- Look for volunteers Thursday mornings at drop-off to help you sign up on ESCRIP or visit

www.escrip.com.

- If you already have registered last year, have you renewed yet?

When you become an ESCRIP member, a percentage of what you spend at participating merchants goes to El Carmelo. It costs you nothing!

For questions or more information contact:

Ana-Maria Dias
650-326-5854
Anamaria_am99@yahoo.com

**El Carmelo received \$8,000 in 2004/2005 from ESCRIP
with ONLY 42% of families participating.**

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

Thank you to Sripriya Kannan for organizing a star-filled night of wonderful readers and great stories for another great evening of Stories Under the Stars.

Your children have recently come home with some new books from school! Thanks to Jean Hsia for organizing another successful and fun book exchange. The children really were excited about getting new books to take home this week.



In Students' Words—Third Grade Año Nuevo Field Trip

There were lots of impressive stories from this group of Third Grade Students. I'm sorry we could only print a few. Enjoy! –Eric

Año Nuevo
By Raymond Li
Third Grade, Mr. Walton's Class

On January 3, 2006 we went to Año Nuevo. The trip to Año Nuevo was very long. I rode with Erick, Max, and Dmitriy. When we got there we ate snack. I saw Redwing Blackbirds and Brewers Blackbirds. First we went to the Visiting Center. We read about animals that lived at Año Nuevo. Then we began our hike. We hiked to the Staging Area next. We met our docent, David. He knows a lot about Ohlones. I learned a lot. The hiking path was very muddy with lots of big puddles.

We walked a long way before we reached the elephant seals. The bulls sleep a lot. They grunt and snort to challenge other bulls for a chance to mate. Elephant seals have very big noses. They throw sand on themselves to keep cool. Some bulls own large groups of female elephant seals called harems. They keep other bulls from mating with his females. But usually if there are more than 50 females in a harem, the bull can't protect them all and will have to give up some. When elephant seal pups are born they can triple their weight in a month. Their mother's milk is rich with fat. There were two pups next to one mother. That means one pup was either abandoned or lost.

We hiked back and then ate lunch. Then we got into Max's car to go home.

I took lots of pictures of the elephant seals grunting and snorting. I liked Año Nuevo a lot. The elephant seals were cool and you got to see them from real close.

Continued on the next page

In Students' Words—Third Grade Año Nuevo Field Trip (*Continued*)

Elephant Seals

By Luis Hernandez

Third Grade, Ms. Chandler's Class

Did you know there is an abandoned house on an island off the coast of Año Nuevo? Elephant seals, regular seals and birds live in this house. It was originally built for a lighthouse keeper. On January 3, 2006 all the El Carmelo third graders went to see the elephant seals at Año Nuevo State Beach Park.

There are many interesting facts about elephant seals. When two elephant seals fight and one loses the loser goes to Loser's Beach. They are fighting to become the Alpha Bull. They also fight to win a female to mate with. Elephant seal pups are not born knowing how to swim. The mom pushes the pup into the water, and the pup floats. Then it starts to paddle. The Third Graders got to see some of the pups floating.

I would like other people to be able to go to Año Nuevo so they can see the elephant seals, too.

Año Nuevo

By Chantal Olivier-Winston

Third Grade, Gina Chung's Classroom

Our class went on a field trip to Año Nuevo. On the hike out to the point, I saw lots of mud and big puddles of water and lots of plants. The day was cool and exciting, too. It was the best field trip ever!

My docent's name was Robbie. On the beach I saw lots of elephant seals and some male seals fighting. Also, a female seal running away from a male seal. And I saw elephant seals flapping sand on their backs.

The male elephant seal is loud. They really like to follow the female elephant seals because he wants to be her guard. The female doesn't want a guard because I think she always wants to be alone. The difference between a pup and a weaner is that the weaner doesn't want to stay with its mother. And weaners are older than a pup.

Some interesting facts that I learned are that when the elephant seals are hot they flap sand on their backs. The best part off the field trip was seeing elephant seals and hiking.



Illustration by Chantal Olivier-Winston

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or a printed copy may be left in the Carmeletter editor folder in the Carmeletter drawer in the main office (below the mailboxes). Submissions will usually be reformatted, so plain text is preferred. Although we try to include everything submitted, please be aware that we need to keep the length of the newsletter reasonable, so we may shorten articles.

Next Issue

<u>Submission Date</u>	<u>Pub Date</u>
March 3	March 10



Carmeletter

Febrero 10, 2006

Numero 10

Carta del Director de la Escuela

Apreciados Padres, Estudiantes y Comunidad,

Agradezco a todos ustedes por ayudarnos a lograr una transición fácil para el segundo semestre del año escolar. Todos sus esfuerzos continuos y su soporte director ciertamente benefician a todos nuestros niños. GRACIAS también a todos los voluntarios, quienes participan activamente en los salones de clase y en otras actividades, lo cual hace de nuestra escuela algo vibrante. ¡Continuemos haciéndolo!

Pongámonos al día y otra información general:

Observe las siguientes fechas e información: Fechas de Exámenes: Favor no hacer ninguna cita o viajes en los días que su hijo/hija tiene un examen. Observe las siguientes fechas y asegúrese con el maestro de sus hijos acerca de otra fechas: Marzo 6 al 9 los grados de tercero y quinto tomarán el examen matemáticas – MARS; el 7 y 8 de Marzo todos los estudiantes de cuarto grado tomarán el examen de Escritura componente del examen STAR; Mayo 8 a Mayo 19 todos lo estudiantes de los grados segundo a quinto tomarán el examen STAR. Por favor notar la información de abajo relacionada con la debida participación. Asegúrese de que su hijo/hija tome el examen STAR. Es absolutamente necesario que por lo menos el 95% de los estudiantes de los grados segundo a quinto tomen este examen. Existen sanciones para las escuelas que no cumplan con este requerimiento. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta sobre el particular, favor hablar directamente conmigo.

- **Actividades después de la escuela:** Por favor tener en cuenta el cuadro situado en la ventana de la oficina de la escuela de las actividades después de escuela. Este cuadro provee la lista general de los programas que se llevan a cabo actualmente en la escuela, detallando los días, la hora y cuando se ofrecen estas, así como a quien puede usted dirigirse. Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre el particular, favor llamar a la oficina al 856-0960.
- **Encuesta Escolar:** Usted debió recibir una copia de la encuesta enviada con su hijo/hija el viernes 3 de Febrero. Favor llenar la encuesta y devolverla al maestro/a de su hijos. El propósito de esta encuesta es: (1) hacerle saber al maestro/a de sus hijos su punto de vista acerca de la experiencia en la escuela durante esta parte del año. Esta le ayudará a los maestros a entender más claramente que ha sido beneficioso y efectivo para sus hijos e indicarle en qué aspectos se debe mejorar el programa y (2) informarnos a nosotros cómo el resto de la escuela apoya a los niños y a la comunidad y asimismo informarnos acerca de la salud y seguridad. Por favor refléjelo de acuerdo a cada pregunta, con una respuesta balanceada y con significado. ¡Nosotros tomamos muy seriamente su opinión! Esta es una oportunidad de usar una clara y constructiva comunicación.
- **Gracias por sus donaciones a PiE:** Los fondos escolares han sido cambiados en los últimos años debido a razones económicas y políticas. Sin embargo, ustedes los ciudadanos de esta ciudad, han sido la constante absoluta en la vida de nuestras escuelas. Ustedes han mantenido un enfoque claro y apoyo en la educación de Palo Alto. Este esfuerzo comunitario crea a veces tensión en su vida personal. Cualquier donación que usted haya aportado para esta causa, es una extremadamente beneficiosa. Muchas gracias por su constante y generoso apoyo a la educación de nuestros hijos.

Continuado

Calendario de Eventos

Febrero

- 10 Plazo para devolver las encuestas a la escuela
- 13 Visita del autor Michael Ross
- 15 Spirit Day – Look-a-Like
- 17-25 Festivo – No hay clases
- 27 Regreso a la Escuela



Marzo

- 3 Plazo para Carmeletter
- 4 Desayuno con Pancakes
- 11 Subasta de El Carmelo

- **Únase a nosotros en los eventos comunitarios venideros.** Hay muchas eventos comunitarios de ahora hasta el fin del año. Por favor únase y conozca nuevos vecinos y a la vez diviértase. Algunos de estos eventos incluyen El Desayuno con Pancakes el 4 de Marzo, La Subasta Anual de El Carmelo el 11 de Marzo, el Desfile "May Fete Parade el 6 de Mayo y El Día de los salones abiertos (Open House) el 24 de Mayo. Todas estas actividades nos proveen la oportunidad de unirnos socialmente como familias y apoyo a todos nuestros hijos y a la escuela. ¡Espero verlos en cada uno!

Por favor estar en contacto con el maestro/a de sus hijos. Generalmente el segundo semestre escolar es típicamente más intenso para los estudiantes, tanto académica como socialmente. La mayoría de los estudiantes tienen grandes trabajos para terminar y a veces algunas amistades cambian, causando así stress emocional. Su atención y apoyo es un instrumento indispensable, para seguridad de sus hijos cuando lo necesiten. Háganos saber si en algo podemos ayudarles.

Muy atentamente,

Lupe García

Carta de la Presidencia de la PTA

Apreciadas familias de El Carmelo,

Para aquellos que asistieron a la reunión de la PTA el pasado 7 de Febrero, esperamos que la información dada haya sido de ayuda. El fólder con la información de campamentos este verano, está localizado en la oficina de la escuela para que usted lo observe.

J CLUB

¡El J Club esta funcionando! En este número de Carmeletter estamos publicando algunos reportes de estudiantes del grado tercero acerca de su viaje a Año Nuevo donde observaron las focas marinas. Fue una experiencia fabulosa para cada estudiante. Este pendiente de leer mas experiencias en futuros números de Carmeletter.

¿RECAUDACION DE FONDOS?

¡¡¡MAS DINERO, MAS DINERO, MAS DINERO!!! Con el pago de impuestos ya a la vista, muchos de ustedes deben sentir que en sus cuentas bancarias es más lo que sale que lo que entra. Mucha gente me ha preguntado acerca de nuestros esfuerzos para recolectar fondos. Nosotros como PTA, realmente llevamos a cabo muy poca recaudación de fondos, en comparación a otras escuelas. La subasta, eScrip, papel de regalo, Original Works y la Feria del Libro. ¡ES TODO!! Lo demás son únicamente eventos sociales y programas. Nuestros principal meta es atraer a la comunidad, reunirla y divertirnos igualmente en eventos tales como Bingo, Cena con Espaguetti, etc.

ESCRIP

¡Quién es la persona que está en el campo escolar cada mañana cada jueves cerca de los globos? Nada menos que Ana-Maria Dias. Ella es una incansable colaboradora de eScrip, obteniendo nuevas inscripciones. Si usted ya se ha inscrito, ¿ha hecho su renovación este año? Si usted no lo ha hecho, entonces nuestra escuela no recibe dinero "Free Money". Maravilloso, ¿no? Favor acercarse a los globos y afiliarse.

Partners in Education (PiE)

Aunque PiE está bajo la sombrilla de la PTA, es necesario entender que PiE hace un esfuerzo hacia la escuela y nuestros hijos. Recuerde, PiE paga los programas: Spectra Art, especialista de lectura, ayudantes de maestros, experimentos en ciencias a través del Junior Museum, y otros. Favor leer esta lista una vez más. Esta no es una lista completa, pero imagine como nuestra escuela estaría sin estos programas.

Las personas de PiE agradecen cualquier donación. Su meta (aunque la meta total es de \$2 millones) realmente es hacer que toda la comunidad participe. Esperamos que ustedes entiendan que se necesita dinero adicional para hacer de nuestras escuelas algo especial.

Gracias por tomar su tiempo leyendo esta carta! Les deseo un maravilloso descanso.

Atentamente,

Erina Dubios
Presidente

Eric Schuur
Co-Presidente

GRACIAS, GRACIAS, GRACIAS !!!

Gracias muy especialmente a Sripriya Kankan por la organización de Historias bajo las Estrellas y atraer maravillosos lectores y hacer esta una noche inolvidable.

Algunos de sus niños han traído nuevos libros a sus hogares. Gracias a Jean Hsia por organizar otro exitoso Intercambio de Libros en la escuela. Todos los niños estuvieron muy contentos de obtener nuevos libros y llevarlos a casa.

¡¡¡1260 Libros Intercambiados!!!

Por Jean Hsia j4tang@sbcglobal.net
 Elisa Schmit elidaschmit@hotmail.com

Acerca de 1260 libros fueron intercambiados en El Carmelo. Gracias a todos quienes participaron. Todos quienes trajeron extras así como la compra de libros por parte de la PTA hicieron posible que cada estudiante de El Carmelo llevara un libro a su casa. Un estudiante de quinto año, trajo 111 libros para intercambiar!

Sra. McCoy organizó y con el Consejo Estudiantil – (Sarah, Nicole, Colin, Sameeha, Lauren. Camden, Taylor) – ayudó cada mañana a recolectar libros. Muchas madres de familia –Sherwin Wong, Greta Tan, Sripriya Kankan, Rebecca Davis se unieron para clasificar libros cada día. Nuestros maravillosos maestros, recordaron a sus estudiantes traer libros e intercambiarlos en sus salones. De y Barbara organizaron la clasificación. Todos estos esfuerzos conjuntamente hicieron de este evento algo especial.

El programa de Talleres para Padres de Familia de El Carmelo, los invitan a atender la charla acerca de:
 “Turn Mountains into Molehills”
 (Convierta los retos grandes, en retos pequeños)

**El Jueves 9 de Marzo
 De 7:00 a 9:00 P.M.
 en la Cafetería de JLS**

Hijos pequeños, problemas pequeños; Hijos grandes, problemas grandes. Este taller le ayudará a adquirir el conocimiento de cómo ayudar a sus hijos a manejar apropiadamente sus conflictos emocionales. Lograr éxito, así como ser feliz, requiere perseverancia y fortaleza, cualidades que pueden ser aprendidas.

La doctora Anabel Jensen, le enseñará las claves en este extraordinario taller, el cual además de ser informativo, es práctico y divertido. Cualquier vacío emocional llénelo y descubra su habilidad de manejar la adversidad, mediante técnicas y herramientas que incluyen *El ABC de una Charla Positiva Consigo mismo*.

Para mayor información, favor llamar a Wendy Kandasamy al 650. 7997134 o dirigirse a wendy@kandasamy.com.

Miembros de
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 Carmeletter

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carmeletter@yahoogroups.com

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Próximo Número:

<u>Plazo de Sumisión</u>	<u>Fecha de Publicación</u>
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Marzo 3

Marzo 10