



CARMELETTER

Principal's Letter

February 6, 2015

Dear parents and students of El Carmelo,



We are excited about the addition of our new crossing guard, Eileen Denhan, an employee of AGS who is contracted by the city of Palo Alto to provide crossing guard services across the city. You may have seen her lately at the corner of Bryant and El Carmelo. Please give her a friendly

welcome if you haven't done so already.

While Eileen does her job to keep us safe in that intersection, let's all do our job by remembering these safety practices:

- ⇒ U-Turns in the middle of the street are illegal
- ⇒ Use the crosswalks to cross the street
- ⇒ Park on the street in the same direction as traffic flows

Site Council has come up with a new safety procedure: "crossing flags" for the corners of Loma Verde with Ramona and with Bryant. Site Council members are working to purchase the equipment in the month of January.

The way that "crossing flags" work is:

The pedestrian may pick up a flag from the bucket at their corner of the intersection. They carry the brightly colored flag as they cross the intersection to help drivers notice them as they cross. They then deposit the flag in the bucket on the other side of the street.

This practice is in use at other PAUSD elementary schools and it has been successful in making pedestrian crossing safer. Please be on the lookout for these flags when they appear in February.

CALENDAR



February

- 6 Fri: Carmeletter Published
- 8 Sun: Family Engineering Day, 2-4 pm
- 9 Mon: El Carmelo Site Council Meeting
- 10 Tues: PTA General Meeting, 8:30-9:30 am (Elect Nominating Committee)
- 12 Thurs: NO SCHOOL, Staff Day,
- 13, 16: NO SCHOOL, Lincoln and Washington Birthdays
- 18 Wed: Coffee with the Principal, 8:25 am
- 19 Thurs: BINGO night, 6-8 pm
- 21 Sat: Pancake Breakfast, 8:30-10 am

March

- 2 Mon - 6 Tues: Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
- 3 Tues: KidPower Parent Workshop, 7-9 pm
- 4 Wed: PTA Executive Board Meeting, 8:30 am
- 9 Mon: El Carmelo Site Council Meeting
- 13 Fri: Local Holiday
- 18 Wed: Coffee with the Principal, 8:25 am
- 21 Sat: Auction Gala!!!
- 25 Wed: Stories Under the Stars, 7 pm

Find the 2014-2015 El Carmelo School Events & PTA calendar here: elcarmelo.pausd.org.

Find the district calendar on this page: <http://events.pausd.org/>

One more traffic safety note – if you have a fourth grader that is interested in serving on the Traffic Safety service, please have them come by the main office and pick up the form to join.

On behalf of the staff of El Carmelo, I'd like to extend my heartfelt and humble thanks for the generous support of the programs of the school by our wonderful community!

Sincerely,

--Chuck Merritt
cmerritt@pausd.org



PTA President's Letter



Hello El Carmelo Parents and Staff!

There is always so much going on this time of year but somehow it usually takes me by surprise. The spring semester is in full swing and before we know it, it'll be summer again!

We have had some wonderful events this month that I hope you were able to participate in. As usual, Lego Night was a big hit with the kids. I'd like to take this opportunity to give a special thanks to Ann Holum, who after many years of successfully running Lego Night has finally passed the reins to Jen Wiener this year.

For the second year, we had a Badminton family social at Synergy Badminton Club. We had over 80 people in attendance, and everyone had a great time seeing Olympians demo badminton, playing themselves, and also getting in some time with the Nerf games. Thanks so much to Ben and Lan Lee for sponsoring this great fundraiser and bringing our community together for a wonderful afternoon!

Don't despair if you missed those great events – we have a lot more coming up in the next few months!! Make sure you read eNews and check our website for all the details so you don't miss out.

Upcoming fun, family events:

- ◆ Sunday, 2/8, 2-4pm: Family Engineering Day
- ◆ Thursday, 2/19, 6-8pm: Bingo Night
- ◆ Saturday, 2/21, 8:30am-10am: Pancake Breakfast

The Site Council and the PTA have been working together to bring you a few **Parent Ed events**.

- ◆ **Common Sense Media** - Join us to explore the Common Sense Media Web site and discuss topics such as family media agreements and screen time. **Date TBD**
- ◆ **KidPower Parent Workshop**
Tuesday, March 3, 7-9 pm
Learn ways to help young people learn and use age-appropriate people safety skills on an everyday basis to have safer, more positive experiences with people, including strangers, siblings, peers, and others.

And of course don't miss our **Lights, Camera, Auction fundraiser** on March 21st! There are so many ways to participate in this fun community building event.



First and foremost, we want you all to attend. I have kids at both the middle and high schools. Believe me when I say that the opportunities to meet the parents in your child's grade diminish greatly after elementary school. Get to know everyone now. It is a great network to build upon in future years.

We also welcome your donations. Donations can be as simple as preparing your favorite meal for another family or soliciting a donation from your favorite business. Hosting a party is also very popular to donate. Everyone loves buying these types of items. Speak to any PTA board member or homeroom parent for more details on how to donate. Thanks and see you there!!

Lastly, please join us for the next **PTA General Meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 10th** at 8:30am in the library. We will have a *presentation on the upcoming Parcel Tax Election* by Sara Woodham, co-chair of the campaign committee:

- ⇒ What is it?
- ⇒ Why is it important to our schools?
- ⇒ When will Palo Alto be voting on it?

We will also vote on several other important items, including electing our Nominating Committee, and approving some budget items such as support for teacher training.

See you on the playground after school!

Kathryn Lamis
El Carmelo PTA President



Volunteers

With our sincere thanks....

Thanks to all of the parents who have volunteered to help with various PTA activities during the course of the year, as well as to all of the parents who support our teachers and children by working in classrooms.

NOVEMBER

Pie Donation Days

Thanks go to our awesome PiE co-chairs Suzy Kim, Mizuho Goto, Medha Nanal, Sarah Cornwell, and Yan Sun!

PiE Donation Days Parent Volunteers included Grit Denker, Alli Wong, Jayne Pearce, Maria Derrick, Christine Hodson, Julia Jacobsen, Rosanna Jackson, Lucinda Bommersma, Cecily McReynolds, Sharon Tobias, Gloria Chung, Ronna Edwards, Hanh Nguyen, Kathryn Lamis, Rashmi Hunt, Jen Wiener, Abby Domine, Greta Tan, Timothy Chao, Ann Holum, Hannah Lee, Victoriya Rufanova, Rachel Cooley, Kate Karagueuzian Gibbons, Miranda Wann, Barbara Hirsch, Mallory Graffeo, Janey Own and Soowon Kim.

See's Candy Fundraiser

Tzielan Lee, Melanie Gurunathan, Sharon Tobias, Lana Solovieva

DECEMBER

Inclusive Schools Week

Thanks to Alison Chao and Maria Derrick for organizing so many activities that week. Maria organized student activities on Monday and Thursday. Thanks to Mary Yung, our PAUSD Inclusion TOSA, and to parents Kathryn Lamis, Sharon Tobias, Robyn Reiss, Julia Jacobsen and Ann Holum. Alison and Victoriya Rufanova organized students to create beautiful posters showing circles of inclusion. Special thanks to Jennifer Fernandez for making announcements about various activities throughout the week, and to Chuck Merritt for helping the week's activities run successfully and smoothly.

Holiday Gift Giving Charity Event

Thanks to Erich Heilmann and Melanie Gurunathan for organizing El Carmelo's efforts in donating dozens of new gifts to needy children during the holidays.

DECEMBER [CONTINUED]

Teach & Staff Holiday Appreciation Luncheon

Thanks to Cynthia Tham, who organized El Carmelo parents to bring in an amazing luncheon to our teachers and staff in December. Parents from these classes helped: Room 6 (McCoy); 20 (Laughlin); 21 (Jantzi); 22 (Bae Wu and Wilson); 17 (Siu); and 18 (Colchen)

JANUARY

The Book Exchange Volunteers

Thanks to Ana de la Varga, Carolina Dias, Ann Holum, Kate Karagueuzian, Sara Kaye, Kanako Murakami, Victoriya Rufanova, and Sharon Tobias, and 5th grade volunteers Akshar, Emily, Isa, Nicky Palo, and Rogan.

Lego Night

The Lego Night was a fun family evening; a great opportunity for kids to build and play. Thank you so much for the volunteers who helped make this night happen:

Thanks to Jen Wiener for Chairing the event. A special thanks to **Ann Holum**, for heading Lego Night for 7 years, with hard work in making this fun night happen. Thank you to Tara MacCannell and Janet Owen for managing the inside games; Ann Holum and Kori Shaw for counting the "Guess How Many" lego submissions; and Hong Shen, Chris Taylor and Minjo Kim for running the outside games.

Movie Night

Movie night was a hit, with the Lego Movie providing entertainment for the kids and for the adults. The children were able to have some delicious pizza while enjoying the show. And to complete the experience, small bags of popcorn were passed out!

Thanks to Abby Domine, Mallory Graffeo, Janet Owen, Kathryn Lamis, Chantal Lacau, Alli Wong, Tim Ross, Lucinda Brommersma and Liz Gardner for organizing this event.

Badminton Social

A big thanks to Ben and Lan Lee (they hosted the event at their club, Synergy Badminton). Thanks to Lucinda Brommersma, the Chair of the event. And thanks to Kathryn Lamis, Janet Owen, Maria Derrick, Ann Holum, and Kori Shaw



Mini Auction! Online Only

We are excited to kick off El Carmelo's 38th annual Auction with our first ever **Online Mini-Auction**, where we feature time-sensitive items selected by the Auction Committee. There are tickets for a few events that happen either before the main Auction, or quite shortly thereafter, as well as a number of camps (we know parents need to be making summer plans already!), and a couple of items donated by local merchants specifically for our Mini-Auction.

Here's how it works:

Browse the catalog here in print, or online. You can get to the online catalog from the PTA website, or bit.ly/elc2015auction,

The Online Mini-Auction kicked off at our Pre-Auction Movie Night, on **Friday, January 30**. It will remain open until 9:00 p.m. Friday, February 13.

Interested in bidding? Just Sign Up by **registering online** at the link shown above (it is quick and easy), and you can start bidding right away! Your bid is considered a commitment to pay, so please be aware that the exact amount you bid will immediately become your bid; **bids** will not increment automatically toward your highest bid, eBay-style. You will be notified if you someone outbids you so that you have a chance to increase your bid, should you choose to do so.

At the close of the auction, winners will be notified.

We are able to accept payment online by credit card, or by cash or check by arrangement. We will make arrangements to get your item to you after you have paid.

Questions? Email Abby: abbydomine@gmail.com, or Mallory: mmmccaskill@yahoo.com

Online Auction





Lights, Camera, Auction!

Lights, Camera, Auction!

The red carpet will be rolled out for the parents of El Carmelo **on March 21st at the University Club from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm.**



Please mark your calendars for this festive evening where we will be auctioning off many star studded events and prizes along with dinner and dancing.

Dress as your favorite movie character, in Hollywood glamour attire, or come as yourself, and enjoy a party thrown in your honor as we raise money for our students at El Carmelo.

FAMILY DONATIONS NEEDED

- ◆ Host a party!
 - ◆ Teach a class!
 - ◆ Make a meal or bake a treat!
-

To donate to this year's auction please fill out the family donation form sent home in the Friday folders. Or at: <http://bit.ly/ecauctiondonation>

Want to donate, but not sure what to do?

Have a great idea but don't want to do it alone?

We'll help you find a partner! Just let us know what you're thinking of and we'll work together on it!

We are looking for volunteers to help in many ways so please email Abby Domine, abbydomine@gmail.com, or Mallory Graffeo, mmmccaskill@yahoo.com, if you are interested. We are looking forward to a Hollywood fabulous event!!



Library News

There is a lot going on in the library these days! We just recently got a lot of new and wonderful books. The students are excited to check them out! Many thanks go to the PTA and the Sponsor-A-Book Program for providing funds for these great books.

The 4th and 5th grades will soon be starting to learn about Cyber Safety. The K-3rd grades are listening to the California Young Reader Medal (CYRM) nominated books. After hearing each of the five books, they will get to vote on their favorites!

In early March there will be a Read Across America Day and at the end of March it will be Visiting Author Day! The month of April is Poetry Month and we will explore poetry books and hopefully write some poems of our own.

We have had quite a few overdue books lately and students are disappointed when they are not able to check out books.

Please remind your child to always keep books in a backpack or a safe place. If you are unable to find a book, call or email the library to let us know that you are looking for the book. In that case, we will let your child check out.



Most of the Project Cornerstone books are available on a special cart in the library. Along with these books are additional titles to support Character Education. There is also a great collection of parent resource books, with many topics available. Please come by to take a look and check some out! Looking forward to the Spring and some busy times ahead!

Leslie Bell, Teacher Librarian





Upcoming Events and Helpful Resources

Lights, Camera, Auction! - SAVE THE DATE!!

March 21, at The University Club from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm



Have an item to submit to the El Carmelo eNews?

Send an email to elcarmeloPTA_eneeds@paloaltopta.org

New Websites and Facebook Page

El Carmelo is improving and increasing its online presence. Here are a few new updates:

New El Carmelo Website:

<http://elcarmelo.pausd.org/>

New El Carmelo PTA Website:

<http://elcarmelo.paloaltopta.org/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ElCarmeloPTA>

Please LIKE our page on Facebook -- you'll keep up to date on the latest PTA activities and events.

Community Links

The Palo Alto Council of PTAs invites you to visit the info pages on the PTA Council website to find information on community sports, parent education and community service opportunities:

Community Sports:

<http://info.paloaltopta.org/sports/>

Parent Education:

<http://info.paloaltopta.org/parents/>

Community Service:

<http://info.paloaltopta.org/service/>

Palo Alto Partners in Education (PiE)

PiE FAQs available at papie.org.

We welcome all questions and comments... *and volunteers!* :)

El Carmelo PiE Team: Yan Sun, Sarah Cornwell, Mizuho Goto, Medha Nanal, and Susy Kim

PiE Donations

We welcome your donation or pledge in ANY AMOUNT that is comfortable for your family.

Donations are 100% tax deductible. Donate or pledge now at papie.org OR email elcarmelo@papie.org

