

August 2017

Dear El Carmelo Families,

Welcome to the start of the 2017-2018 school year!



This packet includes information from the El Carmelo PTA about our programs, funding and activities. We encourage you to join the PTA and participate in decisions that affect our school. **Because every child benefits, we encourage every family's participation.** Your support helps fund academic and social-emotional programs at El Carmelo, including technology, enrichment activities, capital improvements, community events, teacher education, and more.

Additionally, the PTA saves us all time and money by purchasing classroom supplies in bulk and ensures that teachers have a uniform set of supplies for their students to use throughout the year. The PTA also provides funding for all of the field trips teachers have carefully chosen to enrich their curriculum. We encourage you to make a contribution per student to offset the cost of student supplies and field trips.

Dragon Challenge: Direct Appeal Annual Contribution

Our 2nd Annual **Dragon Challenge** is a direct appeal campaign. The goal is to fully fund our PTA budget through this annual contribution per student – which means no wrapping paper sales, magazine sales, auction donations, or bake sales. We suggest a \$250 per student contribution and **appreciate donations in any amount, as appropriate for your family.** We are aiming for 100% participation from our El Carmelo community.

What do I turn in to the School Office by Friday, Sept 15?

- **One Check Form:** this makes it easy for you to write a single check to join the PTA, shop at the school Spirit Shop, pay for classroom supplies, offset field trip costs and make a donation to the Dragon Challenge. Please fill out this form and return to the office **before Friday, Sept 15.**
- **Volunteer Form:** The volunteer form provides opportunities for you to serve and engage with the school community. There are both ongoing and one-time opportunities, as well as jobs that can be done from home or at school, during the day or after work: there is something for everyone! The contributions of family volunteers are vital to the high quality of education El Carmelo provides, as well as to our diverse and inclusive culture. Volunteers help students academically and emotionally, support the staff, and as any PTA volunteer can tell you, make friends and become engaged with the families of their children's peers.

How can I stay connected?

El Carmelo has an online-only directory, and you'll receive details about accessing information after school starts. Other ways to connect:

- **PTA website:** www.elcarmelowp.paloaltopta.org; **School website:** <http://elcarmelo.pausd.org>.
- **eNews:** send email to elcarmeloenews@gmail.com OR text **ELCARMELO** to **22828**
- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/ElCarmeloPTA; **Twitter at @ElCarmeloSchool**
- **Ambassadors:** a group of parents available to new families throughout the year to answer questions about El Carmelo and PAUSD. Both our bilingual **language ambassadors**, as well as our **grade level ambassadors**, will be in attendance at our "International Welcome Dinner" on **Saturday August 19.** We encourage you to attend the dinner and get to know these terrific volunteers!
- **Join us at these events:**
 - First Day of School Coffee, on **Tuesday, August 15, after drop off at 8:25 A.M.** outside the MP Room
 - Kindergarten Parent Coffee, on **Wednesday, August 16, after drop off at 8:25 A.M.** outside Kinder Rooms
 - The International Welcome Dinner, on **Saturday, August 19, from 5:30 to 7:30 P.M.** outside the MP Room
 - First PTA General Meeting of the year, on **Tuesday, September 5, at 8:30 A.M.** in the MP Room
 - Annual All School Picnic **Tuesday, September 12, at 5 P.M.** on the El Carmelo field

Best wishes for a wonderful school year,

Jen Wiener
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