

August 2018

Dear El Carmelo Families,



The PTA welcomes you to the start of the 2018-2019 school year!

The PTA is run as a volunteer organization, with a mission to “positively impact the lives of all children and families.” At El Carmelo, the PTA works closely with Ms. Reynolds, teachers, and staff to fulfill this mission. We invite you to join us in this effort – by becoming a member (only \$6 per person), and participating in decisions and activities that affect our school and all of our children. **Because every child benefits, we strongly encourage every family’s participation.** To be successful in our mission, the PTA needs your donation of funds and time – see below for more information.

Funding the PTA

To fund our efforts, the El Carmelo PTA relies primarily on an annual direct appeal campaign -- the Dragon Challenge -- and on additional specific contributions towards school supplies and field trips.

Your support helps fund academic and social-emotional programs at El Carmel that includes 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 standard set of supplies for their students to use throughout the year. The PTA also provides funding for all of the field trips that have been carefully chosen by teachers to enrich their curriculum.

We are aiming for **100% funding participation from our El Carmelo community.** We appreciate donations in any amount, as appropriate for your family. The suggested contribution per student is a Dragon Challenge contribution of \$260, a \$50 contribution for classroom supplies, and a \$60 contribution for the field trip fund. Please use the donation form and envelope included in this packet and return it to the office OR go to our NEW PTA website store at www.elcarmelowp.paloaltopta.org -- click on the Donate to PTA button. We ask you to please make your donations before **Friday, Sept 14** as this will help us set our budget for the year and know which programs to fund.

Volunteer for the PTA

Volunteers run the PTA **and we need your help.** Please fill out the volunteer form online (or included in this packet). We need help with both ongoing and one-time programs and events. We have tasks that can be done from home or at school, during the day or after work: **there is something for everyone to participate!** The service provided by family volunteers is vital to the 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

Thank you, and we hope to see you at the August and September events, detailed on the back!

-El Carmelo Executive PTA Board, elcarmelopta@gmail.com

Jen Wiener, PTA President
Lingzhi Sun, Treasurer
Devony Taylor, Secretary
Rashmi Hunt, VP Programs & Volunteer Services

Chris Flynn, Parliamentarian
Kristy Saket, Auditor
Danae Reynolds, Principal