



日本語 • ESPAÑOL

EL MARINO
LANGUAGE SCHOOL

THE PTA MESSENGER

MAY/JUNE 2010



Thank You to Our Great Volunteers!

Joan Salvaterra, El Marino PTA President

It seems this year has just flown by. Soon state testing starts and then we'll be getting ready for summer! But we have a few more PTA events to come before we're done. We have a new format for teacher appreciation week this year, it's now Teacher Appreciation Month! Every Wednesday during the month of May (except the 19th), breakfast will be provided for the teachers in the teacher's lounge. On May 19th, lunch will be provided instead. Look for more details from our hospitality chair, Tomoe Beckstead. And thanks, Tomoe, for an excellent job on our hospitality program this year!

With our final PTA assembly coming up on May 19th, I'd like to thank our 3rdVP, Cecily Gardner-Freedson for planning and administrating our assemblies this year. With her artistic professionalism she continues to bring quality programs to El Marino. Sakol Mongkolkasetarin, yearbook chair, is hard at work getting a sensational yearbook ready. Thanks to Sakol and to all the parents that contributed photos and helped with ordering and distribution. And thank you to Mandy Nelson for her outstanding job as chair of bake sales, and to all the volunteers that have donated goods and manned the bake sale tables at the events all year! We have just two more to go, for the spring concerts in June.

As I write this, we are in the middle of our book fair week and literary night. Kim Page, Ivona Holland, Rosanne Giza and Hiroko Oda do an outstanding job bringing this event to our school. Thank you to them and all the volunteers for their time in reading to the classes and running the fair on a daily basis. Thank you also to all the families that ordered from our Original Artworks Program this year and to co-chairs Robyn Johnson and Jennifer Graham for all their hard work. We exceeded our \$3,000 goal by \$1,500!

A huge thank you goes out to Dodie Rifkin for her hard work on the jog-a-thon, to all the volunteers that helped, and to those that pledged. This is our second biggest fundraiser of the year, after giftwrap. The final count isn't in but so far we have over \$10,000 toward our goal of \$18,500. So keep those pledges coming!

As Robyn Johnson steps down as head room parent this year, I'd like to thank her for her 5 years of keeping us all so well informed as to the goings on here at El Marino. And big thank yous to Jennifer Kastendiek for bringing us popsicles every week, Doris Namala for maintaining our school sign messages, Laura Romero for our beloved Spiritwear, Susannah Funnell for Art Odyssey, Ciceley Birgener for Community Outreach.

And what can I say about Andrea Harnack!!! You bring volunteerism to a "Whole Nother Level" what with 5 am trips to the downtown farmers market for fresh produce for the science week field trips! Thank you for coordinating terrific Big Lab Science Center field trips for grades 3-5, arranging an awesome Wildlife Learning Center science assembly, and even coordinating some classroom visits from a NASA scientist! Closing the week out, Andrea and co-chair Rose Peterson organized our fantastic Science Fair. The star gazing evening had to be rescheduled, so stay tuned for an update from Andrea and Rose.

Since my two-year term as PTA president is coming to a close, I'd like to say how much I've enjoyed working with all of you. El Marino is such a great school and it has been a privilege working with the parents, teachers and administrative staff. Please join me in welcoming Alisha Martin as the new PTA president for the next school year!

And last, but not least, on behalf of the PTA, I'd like to bid a fond farewell to retiring teachers Mary and Michael Nabours and SIP adjunct Maria Zamora. Your contribution and dedication to the immersion program at El Marino will never be forgotten. We will miss you but wish you HAPPY RETIREMENT! ■

Make a Child's Day in May

Cicely Bingener, Outreach Chair

Words are powerful and simple words of kindness can change lives forever. Join us throughout the month of May in our 2nd Annual "Cheer on a Child" notes of encouragement campaign. El Marino students, staff, and parents are invited to pen a short postcard with a few words of encouragement for students ages 8 to 17 who are residents of local juvenile camps. It is an easy way for us to reach out to troubled children and let them know that they are not forgotten. Our goal is to pen 100 postcards. Please stop by the display at the school's main entrance to fill out a postcard and make a positive difference! ■

Student Talent Show

Nicky Marble van Dam, Talent Show Coordinator



The Student Talent show is coming soon! The show will be on June 4, and auditions will be held on May 4th, 5th, and 6th. The

sign-up poster is up near the office and it's filling in fast. Just pick a day and time that you want to come, and we'll see you then.

We are also looking for volunteers to help at the Dress Rehearsals and on Show Night to help organize the children, work the sound system and operate the curtain, among other things. If you'd like to get involved, please email Nicky Marble van Dam at marblevandam@sbcglobal.net. We are looking forward to being entertained by your talented children! ■

Drop Zone Volunteering

Nicky Marble van Dam, Drop Zone Coordinator

As the end of the year draws near, I'd like to thank all of our great Drop Zone Volunteers, who come out every week, rain or shine, to help get our children safely into the school. It's been a great year, and your dedication is really appreciated!!

If there are any of you out there ready to join our crew, we are starting to look for replacements for parents who are moving on to Middle School. We have openings every day. To sign up for next year, please email Nicky at marblevandam@sbcglobal.net!! ■

2010 Yearbook Orders

Sakol Mongkolkasetarin, Yearbook Chair



Once again, El Marino yearbooks will be filled with photos of students, teachers, and events from the past year. So don't miss out on these great memories.

Yearbook order forms are coming soon! Please order your yearbooks from your room parents, who are collecting for the yearbook presale. The price is \$9.00 and the yearbooks will be delivered in early June. ■

Summer Connection Workbooks Fundraiser

Joan Salvaterra, Maggie Walsh Co-Chairs

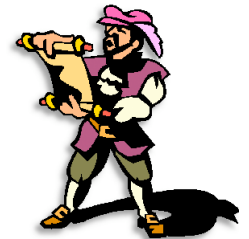
Summer Connection Workbook order forms will be going home soon. These workbooks contain Math and Language Arts that connect the current grade level work with work for the next grade level. Workbooks are offered for K through 7th grades and cost \$16. Orders will be due back to the class or office by Friday, May 28th.

Your order will be delivered to your child's class before the end of the school year. Sample workbooks will be on display in the office during the early part of May. This is a great and easy fundraiser so get your summer connection workbook and help the PTA continue to bring quality enrichment programs to our school! Pass the word along to middle schoolers, too, as we offer levels 5-6 and 6-7 grades. ■

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Volunteers needed!

Maggie Walsh, PTA Nominating Committee Chair

For the coming school year, the El Marino PTA is currently seeking volunteers to fill the following committee positions:



- **Book Fair:** This is a committee in search of a chair. Many dedicated volunteers turn up each time to make this event a huge fundraiser for the PTA. All you have to do is step forward to coordinate all these wonderful helpers.
- **Movie Night:** One of the most fun nights of the year. This committee needs a chair to coordinate the key activities and organize all the many volunteers who help with bringing Hollywood to the El Marino campus.
- **Red Ribbon Week:** Create an awareness and prevention campaign in a focus area chosen by you, your committee and Mrs. Pumilia. Form a committee early and collaborate with the room parents to be ready for the week in October.
- **Spirit Wear:** Make this job fit YOUR schedule. Coordinate the ordering and sales of spirit wear. No experience is necessary, just loads of school spirit and a willingness to sell, sell, sell. Do it all yourself or draft a team of vendors to hawk your wares for you! Spread school spirit all year long in a fun and vital committee position.

Remember, co-Chairs are definitely an option. Team up with a friend, step up to the plate and take your turn to serve as a committee chair. Time commitments vary but you do not have to do the work alone. If you are considering one of these open positions, please contact Maggie Walsh (maggiemmw@earthlink.net or 310-529-4226) as soon as possible. ■