

Principal's Page ~ Linda Parth, Principal

June 2008



Once again we're approaching the end to another school year. Each year it amazes me how quickly the year passes, yet upon reflection I realize how much we have accomplished. Carpenter is always moving upward to provide the highest quality education for our students. Those efforts are achieved through phenomenal team effort. All of our new and continuing educational enhancements have occurred due to **the steady, outstanding partnerships with our Parents for Carpenter, PTA, School Site Council, Studio City Community Sponsors, volunteer family and community members, and our dedicated Carpenter staff.** Here's a recap of some of the activities and achievements that enhanced our educational program during the 2007-2008 school year:

- * Well -organized, joyful Kindergarten and All-School Picnics
- * A fun-filled, safe and highly successful PTA-sponsored Halloween Carnival
- * Grade-level parent get-together coffees
- * Opening of our exciting hands-on Science Lab
- * Our energizing Walk-A-Thon
- * Another wonderful and talent-filled Winter Holiday Program
- * Terrific PTA sponsored assemblies (Bubblemania, Planetarium, Lulu Washington Dance troupe)
- * Monday student psychomotor/teacher collaboration program
- * On-going quality instruction in the classrooms
- * Monthly Carpenter Cougar Character Trait Assemblies
- * School Beautification Days
- * A beautiful new Reading Garden
- * Read Across America week
- * Weekly professional development for the instructional staff
- * Our thrilling Track Meet
- * A highly successful, amazing, exciting PFC Dinner Dance and Auction
- * A wonderful variety of outstanding classroom plays, musicals, and presentations
- * The successful Recycling Program and the formation of our "Go Green" Committee

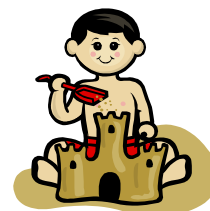
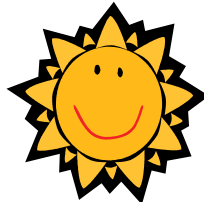
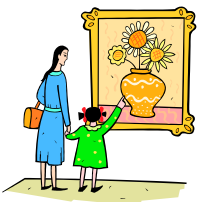


I know there are many more items to list, but I have to stop as I will run out of space. The list is exhausting, but oh, so rewarding! Thank you to all who had any hand in one or more of these wonderful programs!

I also want to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to our out-going PFC and PTA board members, SSC/LEARN Council officers, and all of our outstanding committee chairs, members and volunteers. You have all worked tirelessly and magnificently to benefit the Carpenter students. "Thank you" will never be enough to express the school's appreciation for all that you do to make Carpenter a unique and special educational experience for over 800 students each year. **Please know that the Carpenter staff's gratitude and respect is tremendous for all of your support and hard work!**



On behalf of the Carpenter Staff, I would like to wish all of you an enjoyable, safe summer vacation. Southern California offers so many wonderful experiences for families to share together. I hope many of you will have opportunities to visit our many local museums, Griffith Park Observatory, beaches and parks, Long Beach Aquarium, theatrical playhouses, and various musical performances. Summer also provides those special moments for family members to share a book, play a game, prepare a meal together, or simply talk to each other. **ENJOY! See you Wednesday, September 3, for the opening of the 2008-2009 school year.**



Dear Carpenter Community,

On behalf of the parent group at Gonzales Park, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of art supplies. The parents are so appreciative of what you have done to help support their efforts to provide art classes for the children in that community. With these supplies, they were able to start these classes for the children who are in desperate need of activities during the time that they are not attending school. Your efforts also helped this group of parents make an idea come true. This is a wonderful example of how communities can come together and help each other. Thank you again for your generous and kind efforts and support.

Gail Craven, former Carpenter parent and teacher

Carpenter Forms Green Team

A Green Team has been formed to undertake the transformation of our campus to a “green” school. The first Green Team meeting was held in May and the following committees were established:

Change the Culture— Raise awareness of what we as a school community can do by changing how we think and act.

Short Term Facilities Review—Low impact changes on campus that address environmental impact, such as switching to recycled paper or adjusting thermostats.

Long Term Projects—Those requiring allocation of resources, grants and LAUSD interface.

The group plans to meet informally this summer to lay some groundwork and to plan for school-wide mobilization in the fall. Please contact Janet Loeb at janetloeb@gmail.com if you are interested in heading up a committee or helping out on the Green Team.

Join in. Have fun. Be part of the solution!

SAVE THE DATE

6/13 **Dance Performances, 8:15 a.m. in the Auditorium**

6/13 **Carpenter Celebrates, 5:30 p.m. on the Green**

6/17 **Kinder Culminations**

6/18 **Minimum Day, 12:39 p.m. Dismissal**

6/18 **5th Grade Culmination**

6/19 **Minimum Day, 12:39 p.m. Dismissal**

A Hello ...

As I look forward to being the 2008-2009 president of the Carpenter Avenue PTA, I must first look back over the past year and thank Heidi Brewington, our PTA board, and all of our volunteers for the amazing effort and hard work that went into making this one of our most successful years ever. Given the many difficult challenges that all of us have faced this past year, the fact that we were able to not only meet but exceed our expectations speaks to who we are as an organization and as a school. When I look to the upcoming year, I do so safe in the knowledge that we will continue to come together as an organization that will continue to serve the needs of all of our teachers, administrators, parents and, most importantly, our incredible students. On a personal note, congratulations to Cindy Abrams on being selected as the next president of Parents For Carpenter. As all of know from working with Cindy in the PTA, she is a truly amazing individual who will continue to be a fantastic leader in her new role.

Mark Johnston
PTA President-elect

And A Goodbye ...

To the teachers, staff, administration and families at Carpenter: Congratulations to Barb Brabec for editing the 31st District PTSA award-winning newsletter for 2007-2008! Congratulations go to **everyone** for a successful year! I know that this has certainly been an interesting year for everyone. From the writers strike -- which I know affected many of our Carpenter families -- to the budget proposal by our state governor, which has challenged us all. It is with a mixture of sadness and excitement that

the Brewingtons will be leaving Carpenter, but I will still continue to work on the “Flunk The Budget, Not Our Children” campaign. (Don’t forget to keep sending those letters EVERY Friday – even during the summer months.) Bill and I plan to continue work at both the PTA Council and District levels, however, I will be stepping down as president of the Carpenter Avenue PTA. Effective July 1, Mark Johnston will be the new PTA president. **I hope that you will give him the same wonderful support that you have given me this year!** Remember: attitude and communication are EVERYTHING, and life IS AN ADVENTURE, no matter what path you take!

Have a great summer,

Heidi Brewington
PTA President