

# CAMINOTES



Camino Grove Elementary School PTA Newsletter  
November/December 2009

Let's set the pace  
**GO ROADRUNNERS!**

**Dear Camino Grove Families and Friends,**

As I write this message for the November/ December Caminotes, I reflect on what the two months means to my family and me. November brings Thanksgiving; it is hard for me to fault ANY holiday that centers around FOOD. Although I grew up in a very small family, just my mother and I, I now have the opportunity to enjoy what a large extended family offers and all the opportunities that it provides. Although, my only job is to be patient, cheerful, and eat only what my body can physically handle, I try to take time to reflect and be thankful for what is right in my life and not focus on what could be or what I wish would be.

In December, we celebrate Christmas in my household. Growing up, I experienced very meager Christmases. Living in a single parent home, there were fewer presents but more love. I have caught myself trying to over compensate with my children over the past few years. I am starting to understand that the holidays are a time to focus on those we love and letting others know we care.

Traditionally, my family decorates the house and exchanges presents on Christmas morning. For the past few years, I have found myself struggling with the joy of watching my children being excited over the mounds of presents they have to open, but noticing they may be forgetting to appreciate what they have, and know that there are more important things in life than toys. This year, my wife and I have committed to make our holiday focus more on people/family than things. We will still exchange a few gifts, but very few. We have decided to use the resources that we would have used for gifts and take a family vacation. I hope at the end of the vacation, none of us wishes they could return this gift.

All this being said, I wish you and the people you love a wonderful holiday and many opportunities to reflect on what is right in your lives.

*Dr. Brook Reynolds, Principal*

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## Calendar of Events

- Nov 11 – Veteran's Day Holiday (No School)
- Nov 13 – Grades 3-5: Character Awards
- Nov 18 – School Site Council Meeting (2:45pm)
- Nov 26-27 – Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)
- Nov 30 – Staff Development Day (No School)
  
- Dec 4 – Tea with Dr. Reynolds (8:30 a.m.)
- Dec 11 – Report Cards go home
- Dec 17 – Winter Program  
(ALL Kindergarten students attend morning session – 8:25-11:55 a.m.)  
**TWO PERFORMANCES:**  
9:00 – 10:00 a.m. (for families whose last names begin with the letter M-Z)  
10:15-11:15 a.m. (for families whose last names begin with the letter A-L)
- Dec 18 – Classroom Parties
- Dec 21-Jan 3 – WINTER BREAK

**Forever on  
Thanksgiving Day  
The heart will find the  
pathway home.  
~Wilbur D. Nesbit**



Message from our PTA President, Soledad King

**Dear Camino Grove Parents and Families:**

Even though this school year started just over two months ago, it seems like we have been working together as parents, PTA and school staff for a lot longer. Maybe it's because in just the first couple of months in the school year, we have already participated in many different activities, such as the PTA Membership Campaign, Chuck E. Cheese Family Fun Night, Red Ribbon Week, Fall Book Fair, Spooktacular Family Fun Night, Picture Day, Reflections Program and our Signature Fundraiser. I would like to express my appreciation to all the wonderful parent volunteers who have made all of these programs run so smoothly, to our wonderful school staff and teachers for their help and support and to all of you, our parents and families who attend and support these activities and make it possible for PTA to help provide these and so many other programs for our children. I constantly struggle to find new words to express my appreciation for everything every parent, teacher and school staff member does for our school, so for now, please accept my sincere thanks to all of you for your help and support – it truly makes a world of difference!

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday – I hope it's filled with blessings of good health, friends and family around you!

Sincerely,

Soledad King  
Camino Grove PTA President  
Soledad\_king@hotmail.com  
626/294-0516

**PTA**

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January 11	9:00 a.m.
February 8	9:00 a.m.
March 8	9:00 a.m.
April 12	7:00 p.m.
May 10	9:00 a.m.

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!**  
*Entertainment will be provided*

## Badhair??

**Thank you to our wonderful PTA** for sponsoring a terrific storytelling assembly on October 21st. Though children take to storytelling like Jack takes to the beanstalk, Michael "Badhair" Williams, reminds us that storytelling is an adult tradition passed down from one generation to the next through long sessions around the kitchen table and front porch rocker. Born in the heart of Appalachia in the mountains of N. Carolina, Michael is a consummate artist who has been delighting audiences for three decades. From Los Angeles to rural Appalachia, in schools and festivals across the country and museums such as the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., Badhair enchants audiences with tales that once entertained his grandparents. In continuing the tradition of the story teller, he shares with his audiences the richness of Appalachian culture and a passion and deep appreciation for his roots, often compelling others to explore their own cultural heritage.

Camino Grove students were transported to the heart of Appalachia by the songs and stories that Badhair performed. They heard about the daily lives of the people of that region, and about the intermingling of African, English, Irish, Native American, Scottish and Welsh cultures that comprise their heritage.

**Thank you again to our PTA for providing this engaging program for our students**

## To all of our Volunteers



~ Courtesy L.A. Times, Oct 2009

## Thank You!

**Traffic Volunteers:** who continue to give a little time each morning to keep our children safe and off to class on time: Yui-Bin Chen, Lynn Larsh, William Lim, Mimi Graul, Soledad King, and Lisa Fong.

**Workroom Volunteers:** who provide administrative support to our teachers, staff and PTA: Lisa Brock, Susan Lew, Debbie Kao, Teresa Wang, Emmanuelle Oddenino, Maria Lau, Erin Slessor, Lisa Fong, Soledad King, Sally Pederson and Kristen Smedley.

**Classroom Volunteers:** who provide valuable help to our teachers.

**Picture Day Volunteers:** who helped with picture day making sure our children were nicely coiffed— Lisa Brock, Teresa Wang, Mimi Graul, Maria Lau, Emmanuelle Oddenino, Susan Lew

**Catalogue Fundraiser:** To Susan Lew for coordinating this year's catalog fundraiser – we appreciate all the work she has put into making this a success.

**Book Fair Volunteers:** Thank you to Lisa Brock for putting on once again a wonderful Book Fair! PTA once again donated books to every classroom and the library – thank you to all students and parents who also donated books.

**Special Events:** Thank you to Krisi Heltsley who organized our Chuck E. Cheese and Spooktacular Family Fun Night. Thank you to Mrs. Giammalva and Dr. Reynolds for coming to read to our students and to all our students and family who came and made this a fun evening for everyone!



### **VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH**

Every month PTA honors one of our many wonderful volunteers. He/she receives a pin and a special parking space to use during the month.

#### **Volunteer of the Month for October**

This month we'd like to say thank you to

**Erin Slessor**

Erin is serving as our historian this year and once again she is one of our wonderful Moms who helps out in the workroom. One of the things I appreciate most about Erin is her willingness to do whatever needs to be done and she always does it with a smile. Erin, thank you for all you do and I hope you enjoy your special parking spot!  
Thank you Erin!!

**Please help me express our appreciation to Erin for all her work next time you see her.**



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This month we'd like to say thank you to

**Ann Olsen**

Ann has been working non-stop it seems on our school newsletter, our bulletin board and a few other projects since this summer. Ever since Ann found out that she would be serving as our Vice President of Publicity this year, she has been thinking up of new ways to help PTA communicate with our parents. I have really enjoyed working with Ann and I hope you all have taken the time to look through this newsletter and bulletin board and see the wonderful job she has done.

**Please help me express our appreciation to Ann for all her work next time you see her.**

*What an honor!  
No one person can take credit for this. It is a collaboration from many wonderful people.  
Thank You! - Ann Olsen*



# Fundraising

## Many Ways to Help Camino Grove

Included in this issue are informational flyers from companies who will give our school a benefit if you purchase their products. Please take a look at them and send the required label or box top to the school office if you happen to purchase their product. The program information included in this issue are: **Campbell's Labels for Education Program and Boxtops for Education.**

Also, please remember that if you have a **Target Visa or Guest card**, you can designate our school to receive a benefit every time you use it; just go to the guest services desk the next time you are shopping at Target.

Additionally, our **Student Council recycles toner cartridges, cell phones & other small electronic items such as MP3 players and electronic games.** So, if you would like to support Camino Grove Student Council, please bring your used toner cartridges, cell phones, and small electronics you no longer are using to our school office.

**Thank you so much for your support.**

## Buy Scrip

### November and December SCRIP Promotion:

For every \$100 you spend you are entered into a drawing to win RESERVED seating at the Winter Program on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Stop by the office for more details.**

*Buying SCRIP helps Camino Grove!*

## Help Camino Grove get Free Supplies from Office Depot

Do you shop at Office Depot? Well every time you do, they will give our school 5% back in credit for FREE SUPPLIES.  
It's so easy!!

Just give them our school's  
5% Back to School ID number:  
**70005674**

**Thank you for your support of  
Camino Grove!!**



### SCRIP Contest Winner

**Congratulations to Dinesh Gupta,**  
parent of one of our 4th graders and a regular SCRIP  
customer, who won our October SCRIP promotion.  
**Dinesh will receive \$40 in SCRIP of his choice.**

Thank you to our community's support of the SCRIP program which benefits our school and helps enhance our programs. In this time of budget uncertainties, the support we receive from your purchase of SCRIP is vital to help maintain the excellence of our school programs.

Remember, SCRIP is available for purchase every day in the school office. We have a wide variety of market and specialty SCRIP for you to choose from. It makes a great gift, and we even have complimentary gift card envelopes available for your convenience! For information about registering your market and credit cards, please visit [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) or [www.albertsoncp.com](http://www.albertsoncp.com) for Albertsons, or [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com) for Ralphs.

## Fresh & Easy

From September 15<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>, Fresh & Easy will be donating \$1 to our school for every receipt returned to the office of \$20 or more.



# School News



## Parking Lot Safety

1. Obey the speed limit in the school parking lot.
2. Be watchful of parking signs posted; staff, visitors, 15-minute restricted parking, and parking for PTA volunteers.
3. During busy times, please do not cross the car line. Find a safe route around the car line and allow the crossing guard to get you on campus safely.
4. When dropping off in the morning, pull all the way forward in the car line so as many cars as possible can be attended to.

***Also, please remember to be respectful of our crossing guards and parent volunteers. They work hard to protect the safety of our students!***

## OFFICE REMINDERS

**All visitors and volunteers to the campus must check in at the office first.** You must sign in and be issued a visitor badge to wear while on campus. Please sign out when you are ready to leave. This is for the safety of your children and visitors in case of an emergency. Please note, prior to working on campus or assisting in any and all school activities including, but not limited to field trips, classroom visitations and parties, carnival, fifth grade party, book fairs, and grade level theme days, all volunteers must have completed the volunteer registration form and have a current TB test on file in our health office. Children, who are not Camino Grove students, may not accompany parent volunteers or visit campus during school hours.

### **Things to do if you are going out of town**

Although we hope that you will not be out of town during school time, here are a couple of guidelines to follow:

- 1) If you are going to be gone and are leaving your children in someone else's care, please notify the school office and complete a "Student Emergency Release Form".
- 2) If you are taking your children with you and they will miss five or more school days, please stop by the office in advance and set up an Independent Study with Mrs. Solis. Once it is completed and returned when the student comes back to school, they will receive credit for being here. Please be aware, students may not remain on the school's attendance roles if they are gone for more than 20 consecutive school days.

### **Drop Off Reminder**

Please remember that for the safety of our students, they may not arrive at school before 8:00 a.m. unless they are here for day care or tutoring. There is no adult supervision before this time. We appreciate your assistance in keeping our campus safe.

**If your child is sick,** please do not bring him/her to school to pick up work, or to let us know of the absence. When this is done, every person the student comes in contact with is potentially infected. Please call in the absence and send someone else into the office to pick up the work if you have requested it. We want to keep everyone as healthy as possible. Thank you.

**If your student borrows clothing** from the Health Office (this includes socks and underwear), please wash and return it as soon as possible.

# Counselors Column



Healthy self-esteem is a child's armor against the challenges of the world. Kids who feel good about themselves seem to have an easier time handling conflicts and resisting negative pressures. They tend to smile more readily and enjoy life. These kids are realistic and generally optimistic. How can a parent help to foster healthy self-esteem in a child? These tips can make a big difference:

**Watch what you say.** Kids are very sensitive to parents' words. Remember to praise your child not only for a job well done, but also for effort. But be truthful. For example, if your child doesn't make the soccer team, avoid saying something like, "Well, next time you'll work harder and make it." Instead, try "Well, you didn't make the team, but I'm really proud of the effort you put into it." Reward effort and completion instead of outcome.

**Be a positive role model.** Nurture your own self-esteem, and your child will have a great role model.

**Identify and redirect your child's inaccurate beliefs.** It's important for parents to identify kids' inaccurate beliefs about themselves, whether they're about perfection, attractiveness, ability, or anything else. For example, a child who does very well in school but struggles with math may say, "I can't do math. I'm a bad student." Encourage kids to see a situation in its true light. A helpful response might be: "You are a good student. You do great in school. Math is just a subject that you need to spend more time on. We'll work on it together."

**Be spontaneous and affectionate.** Your love will go a long way to boost your child's self-esteem. Give hugs and tell kids you're proud of them. Pop a note in your child's lunchbox that reads, "I think you're terrific!" Give praise frequently and honestly, without overdoing it. Kids can tell whether something comes from the heart.

**Give positive, accurate feedback.** Comments like "You always get so angry!" will make kids feel like they have no control over their outbursts. A better statement is, "You were really mad at your brother. But I appreciate that you didn't yell at him or hit him." This acknowledges a child's feelings, rewards the choice made, and encourages the child to make the right choice again next time.

**Help kids become involved in constructive experiences.** Activities that encourage cooperation rather than competition are especially helpful in fostering self-esteem. For example, having your older child help the younger one learn to read can do wonders for both kids.

*\*Adapted from Kidshealth.org*

## A Season



### White Mountain Apache TOY and JACKET Drive December 8-12

We accept much more than just toys and jackets... all kinds of clothing, household items, etc. We've even brought them a barber's chair and a piano in past years!

Please bring your items to the school office. The items will be picked up the following week.

**Thank you for your generous donations!**

### Arcadia Welfare and Thrift

Arcadia Welfare and Thrift helps many in need in our community is in need of donations of gently used clothing and household items to sell in their shop located at:  
323 North First Avenue, Arcadia  
Tel.: (626) 447-2881

Coming to our school in February is their  
**CAN YOU HELP!**  
food collection drive



## For Giving

# Classroom Chronicles

## Trick or Treat

On October 30th, our kindergarten students found their playground transformed into a pumpkin patch. Thanks to Value Mart Grocery Store in Temple City for the large donation of 100 pumpkins; one for each of our kindergarten students. They had a fun filled day, full of Halloween and fall activities. They even went trick or treating to some of the classrooms in our school. Thanks to all the parents who helped run this special day. We couldn't have done it without you.



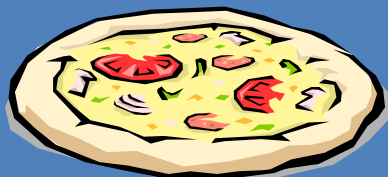
Trick or Treating at Mrs. Wong's Class



**Classroom  
PTA MEMBERSHIP  
WINNERS!**

**Mrs. Fortier  
Ms. Chia  
Mr. Lopez**

**Congratulations!  
Enjoy your...**



## Camino Grove's Pack 111 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts Troop 13921 participate in

### *Walk For Hope*

On Sunday, October 25th, Camino Grove's Pack 111 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts Troop 13921 met at City of Hope in Duarte to volunteer at their WALK FOR HOPE. It was an awesome experience for both the children and the adults who helped cheer on the runners and pass out the medals at the end of the race.



**Any questions or comments regarding the contents of this newsletter, please contact Soledad King or Ann Olsen.  
To view this newsletter online, please go to [www.ausd.k12.ca.us/camino/](http://www.ausd.k12.ca.us/camino/)**

## Kids Korner

# Introducing Your New Student Council



President,  
Shawn  
Wang



Vice  
President,  
Kaylin  
Pascasio



Secretary,  
Travis  
Chen



Treasurer,  
Beverly  
Shen



Historian,  
Tristan  
Jogminas



Historian,  
Kristy  
Lau

### A Message from your Student Council:

The whole Student Council is happy to help Camino Grove Elementary School.

We will all make this awesome school the greatest year of your life!

- Shawn Wang, Student Council President

### OCTOBER NEWS

In October, the children participated in the  
**CANDY JAR GUESSING GAME**

Each grade was given their own jar. Fun was had by all as each child analyzed, calculated, and guessed at the scrumptious delights just inches away from their watering mouths.

Their eyes narrowed and bulged as each candy was counted in anticipation of who would win... and so...

#### THE WINNERS ARE:

Kindergarten – Brian Lam  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade – Paolo Munoz  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Andrew Tran  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Chanel Shen  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Sabah Shalabi  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Simone Chu

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



### Twister

by Gabby Oddenino  
5th grade

Dark, powerful winds collide,  
Making everything slip and slide.  
Ghostly, huge - like a wave,  
Tearing up everything in its rage.

A twister is a dangerous thing,  
When it starts to take wing.  
Funnel clouds full of greed,  
Spinning with incredible speed.

A witch's finger striking at the Earth,  
As if nothing had any worth.  
Sucking its way across the land,  
Reaching out with its deathly hand.