

# PANTHER PRESS

A publication of the Palm Crest Elementary School PTA

[PALMCREST.ORG](http://PALMCREST.ORG)



FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2010

## PCR MONTH AT-A-GLANCE

**Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:15 am**  
PTA Meeting  
PCR Multipurpose Room

**Thursday, March 4 at 5:30 pm**  
Roundtable Pizza Night - 2nd Grade

**Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Last Day to Claim Items from Lost and Found

**Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**  
Founders Day Awards  
LCHS Auditorium

**Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00 pm**  
Palm Crest Science Fair  
Multi-Purpose Room

**Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**  
LCFEF Gala  
Pasadena Convention Center

**Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Musical at PCR  
Lantern Auditorium

**Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Last Day to Order Yearbooks

**Principal**  
Anais Wenn

**PTA President**  
Jennifer Rubendall

**VP Communications**  
Melissa Mazin

**Editor**  
Jennifer Ferry



**Panther Press**  
**February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010**  
**Volume IX, Issue 7**

Note : The deadline for the next Panther Press is March 19<sup>th</sup>. Please send submissions to: [pantherpress@palmcrest.org](mailto:pantherpress@palmcrest.org). Thank you!

### A Message from Our Principal:

Dear parents,

This year's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Musical at PCR is "Willy Wonka Jr." by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newly, based on the book Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl. This musical includes all of the favorite characters and songs from the book and both movies: "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory" with Gene Wilder and "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" with Johnny Depp.



The play opens on Willy Wonka's secret announcement that he is retiring from running the world's greatest chocolate factory and is in search of a successor. He is going to open the gates of his factory, which has been off limits to the general public for years, to five lucky golden ticket winners.

Charlie Bucket, a young boy with a heart of gold, loves chocolate and dreams day and night of winning a golden ticket. Along the way in his search, we meet four very spoiled children: Augustus Gloop, Mike Teavee, Violet Beauregarde, and Veruca Salt, who have won golden tickets and will be going into the factory.

Finally, one snowy day Charlie, through an act of sincere generosity, finds the lucky 5<sup>th</sup> and final golden ticket and runs through town singing "I've Got a Golden Ticket." His Grandpa Joe, who has been bedridden for 20 years, accompanies him on his trip to the factory. From there we are led on a fantastic adventure through Willy Wonka's magically strange chocolate factory, full of chocolate waterfalls, rooms full of bubbles, and home of the Oompa Loompas!

Does Willy Wonka find his successor? Does Charlie Bucket's honesty and sincerity prevail? Does Violet Beauregarde turn into a blueberry? Come find out when PCR's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade class of 2010 performs this hilarious play on March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7p.m. at Lantern Auditorium! See you there...

Ms. Wenn

## *Yearbooks*

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! ORDER YOUR YEARBOOKS NOW!

If you did not order a 2009-2010 yearbook with your one-check order form at the beginning of the school year, don't despair. You can order your copy or copies by going on to [palmcrest.org](http://palmcrest.org). Look for the shopping cart logo of the Palm Crest store. Yearbooks are \$20 per copy. We will take orders until April 1. But please don't wait, because we cannot guarantee extra copies at the end of the end of the school year.

Any questions, please contact Rose Chan at [rose@louifamily.com](mailto:rose@louifamily.com).

## *PTA Paper Reduction Program*

Better late than never, the **PTA Paper Reduction Program** is now in place! Thanks for your patience as it got up and running.

This year, 70 families with multiple PCR students signed up to participate in the Paper Reduction Program, which allows parents to designate only one handout receiver per family, rather than getting a handout for each child. This allows us to reduce paper waste, lower PTA copying costs and streamline the flyer/handout distribution process.

Flyers listing handout/copy totals for the entire school, as well as totals by grade and teacher, are posted by both copy machines and on the bulletin board next to the teacher mailboxes for your reference. Please refer to them any time you need to make copies for or distribute materials to the whole school, an entire grade, or just one classroom.

Those of you who signed up to participate should see a reduction in paper coming home in the next few weeks. If you signed up and do not see a change, please contact Melissa Mazin, VP of Communications, at: [mfmazin@gmail.com](mailto:mfmazin@gmail.com). Thanks to everyone for participating in this program!

## *La Cañada Pizzeria and Grill*

Thank you to La Cañada Pizzeria and Grill for sponsoring our "Pizza with the Principal"! They have agreed to donate pizzas each month so we can recognize our students with exemplary character traits at lunch.

We encourage and ask all our parents to support them by doing business with them. They are located at 456 Foothill Blvd and their number is (818)790-1191.



## *Volunteers Needed for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Play*

Attention 5th and 6th grade parents!!!

We need volunteers for the 6th grade play on the following days:

- \* Dress Rehearsal 3/16
- \* Two Shows 3/17
- \*

Please Contact Denise Longo ([deniselongo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:deniselongo@sbcglobal.net)).

## *Lost and Found*

Please take a look in the lost and found for any items your child may be missing. All items that are not claimed by **March 5<sup>th</sup>** will be donated to a local charity.

## *Kid's Art Fundraiser*

It is time for our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Kid's Art Fundraiser. Look for your child's beautifully designed one-of-a kind art card to come home shortly in their Thursday folder. These fabulous pieces of art were carefully created in Mrs. Choi's art class and can be professionally duplicated into sets (cards and envelopes) of 20 for only \$17.00. Get a set or two for grandparents and a set (or more) for yourself. The cards make unique birthday cards, thank you cards, original note cards and most importantly money for our school! In the past three years, this fundraiser has made over \$8000 for PCR's PTA programs.

When you see your budding Van Gogh's masterpiece arrive home, fill out the order form, write a check to PCR PTA and return the original art card paper clipped to the order form. Try to return your order the following day in your child's Thursday folder to avoid losing the priceless heirloom. Alternatively, for those who don't misplace things, return your order in the following week's Thursday folder. Even if you choose not to purchase cards, please return the original art card in your child's Thursday folder so that Mrs. Choi can include this artwork in your child's portfolio.

Thank you for supporting this program. If you have any questions, please email Tara Woodford at [tarabrentwood@charter.net](mailto:tarabrentwood@charter.net).

**President**

Jennifer Rubendall

**EVP**

Pati Patao

**1st VP/Programs**

Jill Pieterse

**2nd VP/Ways & Means**

Shelby Grey

**3rd VP/Communications**

Melissa Mazin

**4th VP/Membership**

Denise Longo

**5th VP/Volunteers**

Eva Juse

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Linda Richmond

**Parliamentarian**

Rose Chan

***Let's Make It a Full House!*****Saturday, March 13, 2010**

Invitations have gone out for this year's "Monte Carlo-style" Spring Gala, so now we're counting on you to attend! Here's the deal: with our kids' educational futures at stake and expectations high for their continued success, get in the action by purchasing your tickets today. With the rockin' theme of "Let The Good Times Roll," this important fundraiser is hands-down the year's most-looked-forward-to event!



On **Saturday evening, March 13, 2010**, join your fellow La Cañadans at the **Pasadena Convention Center** for a fun evening and the opportunity to bid on such exciting items as a diamond necklace, a week's vacation in Deer Valley, UT (including air fare, car rental, hot air ballooning and more) race car driving in an actual race at Irwindale, an adorable Maltese puppy, and an exciting walk on role in the final season of *Hannah Montana*. All of this surely makes March 13th a not-to-miss date everyone's social calendar.

You can also support our children by:

- becoming a Gala Underwriter (call the Foundation office);
- donating items to the silent and live auctions; placing an ad on the Gala Digital Tribute;
- having your business sponsor a casino table; and
- buying Strike-It-Rich Raffle tickets to win up to \$10,000.

Odds are good you'll have a great time! For tickets or more information, contact the Foundation office at (818) 952-4268 or visit [www.lcfef.org](http://www.lcfef.org)

Thanks so much!

***Parent Mixer***

What a successful and fun evening! It was wonderful to see so many Palm Crest Parents and Staff gather for a casual, fun night to celebrate our wonderful school community. We had a delicious dinner and dessert, listened to music and met the parents of our children's friends.

We also had a successful teacher raffle! A BIG thank you to Melissa Mazin for conceptualizing and orchestrating the teacher raffle. The raffle allowed all school parents to participate and gave everyone a chance to win a great outing with a PCR teacher. The raffle was so popular, we ran out of raffle tickets!

A special thank you to the Palm Crest teachers and staff who donated such wonderful outings! I want to acknowledge the parents who helped with set up, the reception table and clean up: Barb Cabello, De De Cook, Cathy Erskine, Erik and Shelby Grey, Eva Juse, Haeja Kim, Denise Longo, Melissa Mazin, Erin Meeker & Lori and Mike Weiss.

Hope to see all of you PCR parents at next year's mixer!

Pati Patao

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Developmental Asset theme for February: INTEGRITY  
Developmental Asset theme for March: FAIRNESS

*"Building assets isn't just about great families or schools or neighborhoods. It requires consistent messages across a community." (Search Institute, 2006).*

At Palm Crest, it is this intentional repetition and reinforcement of developmental assets that we strive for in our school programs, student groups, parent groups and community partnerships. This month I saw many examples of integrity in our community, people really "walking the walk" as they say. Just in the last three weeks, I was impressed by a particular instance of students helping another student they believed was being treated unfairly, local Assistance League leaders and their "assisteen" high school volunteers wanting to come tutor for our after school program, and STAR Deputy Romero from the Sheriff's Department coming to work with all our upper grade students on making positive personal choices, to name a few examples.

As we focused on the theme of "integrity" throughout February, there were many opportunities for teachable moments. According to the Developmental Assets definition, the positive value "integrity" is demonstrated when a young person acts on convictions and stands up for her or his beliefs. According to a survey of a diverse group of 12 to 17 year-olds, here is what youth say when asked what others can do to help them build integrity and other positive values:

*"Help me act from my ideals."*

*"Listen when I talk about the things that mean something to me."*

*(In Our Own Words, Search Institute, 2002)*

So we asked students and staff to think about what it means to have integrity and develop assertiveness. Upper grade students were asked, for example, *What are things for which you are most likely to take a stand? Why?* Some of our primary grade students completed an *"I have integrity"* reflection activity with their teachers. We also asked each classroom to nominate a student who demonstrates integrity and recognized them at our Spirit Rally and pizza lunch with the principal.

Au: Ashley Ramirez	Healey: Veronica Holmes	Mizrahi: Jack Mazin
Bilowitz: Meredith Roberts	Horne: Jack Nagel	Patterson: Samuel Salit
Caire: Brian Wolhaupter	Horne: Mikaela Magtoto	Provenzano: Matthew Kim
Carlson: Dylan Cha	Hu: Nicolas Lee	Russell / Senour: Madeline Picha, Carly Petersen, Sean Mealey
Chang: Aleen Tatovosian	Lantz: Ryan King	Salmi: Joon Wi
Felsing: Ryan Ko	Lee: Sydney Hwang	Sheff: Morgan Tsujihara
Hamrick-Moravec: Joshua Paik	Leininger: Alexander David	Valentine: Aaron Phan

Thanks and congratulations to them!  
Sincerely,  
Rachel Zoi  
PCR Counselor



HELPING OUR PLANET, ONE PAW AT A TIME!

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## *Founders Day Honorees & Event*

Please join PCR as we honor 6 incredible women at this year's district wide Founders Day Awards "In the Spotlight" event on **Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at LCHS Auditorium**. This year "In the Spotlight" will be Nina Browning, Jane Chang-Hur, Denise Longo, Melissa Mazin, Tara Stewart, and Sally Kim-Tokeshi. Everyone is welcome and it is a great way to show your support for these women as they are recognized for their dedication, accomplishments, and commitment to Palm Crest Elementary. Read their stories and you will get a sense on how fortunate we are at Palm Crest:

### *Nina Browning, Honorary Service Award 2010*



Nina Browning moved from Texas to the La Canada community 8 years ago. She and her husband Bill have 2 children, Chandler a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Flintridge Prep and Davis a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Palm Crest Elementary. From the beginning, Nina jumped right in to help. She was asked to be the treasurer on Site Council her first year at PCR and from there has continued to volunteer her time and resources. Currently she is a room rep for her son's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class and in the past she has held chair positions for the silent auction as well as class baskets coordinator for PCR's biggest fundraiser-Springamajig, silent auction chair for the fall parent mixer, earthquake survival kit coordinator, book fair coordinator for two years, classroom room rep for various teachers, art docent and library volunteer. She also opened up her beautiful home to host PCR's PTA holiday breakfast this year and generously made significant capital improvements to our staff lounge. In her free time she loves to play tennis and is an active member of the La Canada Juniors Women's Club. Nina certainly does "sooo much in the class, donating funds, etc for the school!"

### *Jane Chang-Hur-Honorary Service Award 2010*



Jane Chang-Hur started her education at Smith College and got her Masters of Education with a concentration in Administration, Planning and Social Policy from Harvard University, where her love for teaching blossomed. Jane started her career in public education as a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher in Pasadena before coming to LCUSD and Palm Crest Elementary in 2002. For the past 7 years, she continues to be an amazing and inspirational 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math and science teacher. She is also an active participant in PCR's student council, science and math committees, is an upper grade team leader, coordinates the adventure and science week field trips, and acts as an interpreter for Korean parents when needed. She is married to Richard and has a wonderful 3 year old son, Jayden, who is the joy of her life.

### *Denise Longo-Continuing Service Award 2010*



Denise is a constant presence at Palm Crest Elementary, where she supports both classroom and PTA sponsored activities. She has a tremendous positive outlook and is always willing to roll up her sleeves to get the job done. She is married to her husband Blake and they have three children, Keegan, 19, their oldest, Griffin, a sophomore at St. Francis High School, and their daughter Carina, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at PCR. She is currently serving as VP of Membership, 6<sup>th</sup> grade Activity Coordinator, and Chair of the Back to School Staff and Teacher's Holiday luncheons. Denise has also opened up her home to host the annual holiday PTA breakfast, coordinates the Springamajig talent show, and helps with several classroom activities at PCR. While her son Griffin attended LCHS 7/8<sup>th</sup>, Denise was the PTA President and was recognized for her achievements as a Founders Day Honorary Award recipient. This year Denise will once again be honored for her continuing dedication, hard work, and outstanding service with a Founders Day Continuing Service Award. In her free time she enjoys watching her children's sporting events, helping with service projects, and spending time with family and friends at the beach. As a former educator, "she brings a unique perspective to the need for supplemental support and her willingness to take on jobs is truly inspiring!"

### *Melissa Mazin-Honorary Service Award 2010*



Melissa Mazin has been at Palm Crest for only 3 ½ years and already has left a lasting legacy. She has a wonderful husband, Craig, and two children: Jack, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, and Jessica, an incoming Kindergartener. After only one year at PCR, Melissa served as Ways & Means Co-Chair and helped revamp and reinvigorate the Fall Parent Mixer and Springamajig fundraising events. Her efforts during her two-year tenure helped to triple the PTA's normal revenue, bringing in over \$150,000. This year, as VP of Communications, Melissa took on the tasks of overseeing the redesign of PCR PTA's website, putting the One Check Order Form online and streamlining the publication process for the school directory. Now, parents can receive up-to-date, clear communications from the PTA without the paper waste, cost and volunteer hours required in the past. In her spare time, Melissa plays tennis, writes for her blog, [lcfoodie.com](http://lcfoodie.com), and tries to keep up with the latest music and movies. She also volunteers in the PCR library and serves as EVP of the La Canada Junior Women's Club. With Melissa, we know only more good things are in store. The good news is that she will be at Palm Crest for another seven years, and we can't wait to see what's to come.

### *Tara Stewart-Honorary Service Award 2010*



Tara Stewart joined Palm Crest Elementary 4 years ago as a paraprofessional. She grew up in South Pasadena and attended Alverno High School in Sierra Madre. She is currently attending Cal State L.A. to obtain a teaching credential. She hopes to teach in La Canada after the completion of her course work. She states that her experiences with the staff and the families have validated her career choice. Tara's main duty is to supervise during lunch, recess and early bird/late bird pick up. She also helps with clerical work and prepares instructional materials. Tara often goes above and beyond the call of duty to help staff and students at Palm Crest. Her friendly and personable approach has earned the respect of students and her hip and "fashionable" sense does not go unnoticed. Tara and her fiancé, Robert, are planning a summer wedding this July and would like to make the Foothill area their permanent home.

### *Sally Kim Tokeshi- Honorary Service Award 2010*



Sally is a pro at juggling and running her successful mail/shipping business while holding key Executive PTA positions at Palm Crest. She originally got involved with trying to get the Spanish language program off the ground and found she had a knack for getting things done.

She currently is this year's Silent Auction Chair for Springamajig. She was VP of Programs and VP of Volunteers and has helped with Back to School BBQ's, Springamajig, Multi-Cultural Days, Assistant Room-Rep, Book Fairs, and Casino Night. She also uses her friendly personality to recruit for PTA positions. At LCHS 7/8th, she is co-chair of the Orchestra Committee for the LCHS Music Parents Association and helps with annual Dinner Show & Fundraiser. Her legacy to PCR is the amazing Master Volunteer Excel worksheet she created to easily track hundreds of school volunteers. "No easy task and this form will be used for years to come."

Her all-time favorite job was to read to the students in her children's classes which she did faithfully until her kids got too old. Her love of reading inspired her to start a small book club and she enjoys playing co-ed softball. Sally and her husband Jimmy moved to La Canada over 8 years ago and have two beautiful children Ryan, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at LCH 7/8, and Casey a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Palm Crest Elementary.