



## November PTSA General Meeting Hosts Swine Flu Expert

This month's PTSA general meeting, on **Tuesday, November 17, 6-7 p.m.**, will include a brief presentation by **Janet Crow, M.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of California, San Diego. She will discuss swine flu symptoms and strategies for prevention, starting at 6:30 p.m.

In addition, PTSA members at the November meeting will elect the Nominating Committee, which has the important responsibility of slating PTSA officers for the 2010-2011 school year, in preparation for the election next spring. Other PTSA business will include approving educational assemblies for spring, as well as possible additional fundraising efforts (see page 5 for fundraising news). At the meeting, the PTSA will provide food, babysitting for school-age children, and simultaneous Spanish-language interpretation. See you there!

## PTSA to Host Internationally Known French- & Spanish-Language Performers

This year, PTSA-sponsored educational assemblies will include two internationally known singers. French singer, songwriter and guitarist **Eric Vincent** will include Language Academy as part of his North American tour, with performances for students on December 4, followed by a public concert on December 5 (see page 4). Then, in July 2010, our school will host Mexican author and recording artist **José-Luis Orozco**, whose work draws upon the rich heritage of the Spanish-speaking world. Both men have performed extensively around the world, and we are honored to host them at our school!

## November & December Calendar

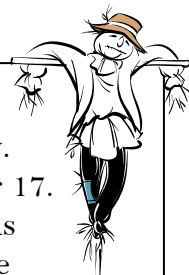


Wed., Nov. 11 – Veterans Day – NO SCHOOL  
 Tues., Nov. 17, 6 p.m. – PTSA General Body Meeting  
 Tues.-Fri., Nov. 17-20 – MINIMUM DAYS  
 Mon.-Fri., Nov. 23-27 – Thanksgiving Break – NO SCHOOL  
 Mon., Nov. 30 – Science Benchmarks (grades 3-5)  
     9 a.m. – Artworks Training (grades 2-3)  
     10 a.m. – Artworks Training (grades 4-5)  
 Fri., Dec. 4 – Eric Vincent Educational Assemblies  
 Sat., Dec. 5 – Eric Vincent Public Concert in Auditorium  
 Mon., Dec. 7, 9 a.m. – Coffee with the Principal  
 Fri., Dec. 18 – Last Day Before Winter Break  
 Dec. 18-Jan. 18, 2010 – Winter Break – NO SCHOOL



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## The President's Piece

The PTSA theme for this year, as approved at our September meeting, is community. And indeed, our school community came out in force at this year's Fall Carnival on October 17. Thanks to the leadership of Ways & Means Chair **Georgia Kenney**, this year's Carnival was one of the best ever! Special thanks to all the PTSA volunteers and business sponsors whose contributions made this year's Carnival a huge success (see page 5 for details).

Also this year, for the first time in ages, the PTSA invited non-Language Academy community members to our event, including neighbors living near our school, other language-magnet public schools (Longfellow & Spreckels), local affinity groups (Alliance Francaise, French-American Chamber of Commerce & Rolando-College Library), community leaders (City Council Rep. Marti Emerald), and members of the SDUSD Board of Education (Nakamura, de Beck, Barrera). The PTSA will continue its community-outreach efforts in the months to come, especially for the Eric Vincent concert on December 5 (see page 4 for more information).

Speaking of community, the PTSA hopes to coordinate another charitable event this school year. Last year, under the direction of philanthropy chair **Julie Garcia**, our students raised nearly \$3,000 dollars for the American Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. If you have an idea for an organization in our community that could use our help this year, please contact me at [beyling\\_sha@yahoo.com](mailto:beyling_sha@yahoo.com). Happy November, everyone!

-- *Bey-Ling Sha*

## PTSA Membership Tally Breaks Records!

Under the leadership of VP3/ Membership Chair **Sonya Dolor**, this year's PTSA membership numbers have gone through the roof. As of October 20, we had 180 paid members, which is nearly double the total number of members from the entire last school year! And it's not too late to join! Membership in the PTSA is only \$10 for adults and \$6 for children and for Language Academy teachers. Until Dec. 31, all new PTSA members also receive a free guest membership to the French-American Chamber of Commerce! National PTA membership also includes many benefits. For details, see [http://www.pta.org/member\\_benefit\\_providers.asp](http://www.pta.org/member_benefit_providers.asp). To join our PTSA, contact Sonya at [sdolor@yahoo.com](mailto:sdolor@yahoo.com). Thank you for supporting the Language Academy PTSA.

## Kudo Corner



Congratulations to newly elected student representatives to the PTSA executive board! Eighth-grader **Sarah** will serve as the student representative, and eighth-grader **Dieynaba** will be the alternate.

Also, special thank you to middle school teacher **Sr. Luis Altamirano**, for agreeing to serve as the teacher representative to the PTSA executive board. Having the input of teachers and students on executive board decisions is critical, so thanks to these representatives!

## 2009-2010 PTSA Executive Board



- President/Communications: Bey-Ling Sha  
([beyling\\_sha@yahoo.com](mailto:beyling_sha@yahoo.com))
  - Treasurer: Tia Hilmer ([chilmer@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:chilmer@mail.sdsu.edu))
  - Secretary Pro Tempore: Georgia Kenney  
([georgiaken@yahoo.com](mailto:georgiaken@yahoo.com))
  - Book Fair/1st VP: Vicky Shain\* ([svshain@cox.net](mailto:svshain@cox.net))
  - Programs/2nd VP: Elaine Legaspi\* ([3legaspis@cox.net](mailto:3legaspis@cox.net))
  - Membership/3rd VP: Sonya Dolor ([sdolor@yahoo.com](mailto:sdolor@yahoo.com))
  - Historian/Parliamentarian: Jessica Salonen  
([filmfolks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:filmfolks@sbcglobal.net))
  - Hospitality: Frances Henderson ([frances-henderson@cox.net](mailto:frances-henderson@cox.net))
  - Ways & Means: Georgia Kenney ([georgiaken@yahoo.com](mailto:georgiaken@yahoo.com))
  - Teacher Representative: Luis Altamirano\*  
([laltamirano@sandi.net](mailto:laltamirano@sandi.net))
  - Student Representative & Alternate: Sarah M. & Dieynaba E.
- \*Bilingual Spanish/English



## From the Principal's Desk: Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are coming later this month. These meetings are an opportunity for parents to see how their child is progressing toward California state standards. Standards-Based Report Cards are used in grades K through 5, and families that attend conferences will be shown examples of how their child is progressing.

On the report card, parents will learn whether or not their child is proficient (meaning that the child has met grade-level standards), basic (meaning that the child is approaching the standards), below basic (meaning that the child has not met the standards), or advanced (meaning that the child has exceeded the standards). The report card will also provide information on student work habits.

For the first two grade-reporting periods, students are evaluated on their progress toward end-of-year standards. In other words, you will be updated on your child's progress in learning what is expected at that grade level by the end of the year. A mark of "proficient" in the first and second reporting periods means your child is making steady and adequate progress toward achieving end-of-year expectations. The last report card of the school year evaluates students on their achievement with regards to the standards.

So, your conference attendance is important so that you can understand whether your child's progress is appropriate, which can help you to help your child do as well as possible this school year.

-- Veronika Lopez-Mendez



## Student-Run Newsletter Debuts

Under the instruction of counselor **Felicia Smith**, our school has begun a student newsletter, written by students for students! Written by 5th-graders Alexis and Yeelena, as well as 4th-grader Yasmine, the newsletter will be handed out the second Wednesday of every month.

## Spin Jammers for Physical Education

Physical education (PE) teachers are doing a Spin Jammer fundraiser.

**Q:** What is a spin jammer?

**A:** A fun disc thing that kids love, available only through PE catalogs.

**Q:** When will these be sold?

**A:** On Thursdays during lunch.

**Q:** How much will they cost?

**A:** Each spin jammer is \$7.

**Q:** What will the PE teachers do with the money earned from these sales?

**A:** PE teachers will buy iPods and docks, so that PE lessons can all incorporate PE music to motivate our students to get moving and stay healthy!

## Librarian's Nook



The year has started off great. I think the kids are loving that they get to come in EVERY week this year. Grades 3-5 have started their lessons on the Dewey Decimal System; ask your students what they've learned! The permanent library class visitation schedule is now posted on the school's website: [www.sandi.net/langacad](http://www.sandi.net/langacad). Please become familiar with it and help your children remember to return their books on time so they can check out new ones!

Also, I need volunteers to check books in and out, re-shelve, and help kids find grade-level-appropriate books. Especially needed are French or Spanish speakers willing to read to the younger grades in their target languages. To volunteer, you need to have your paperwork on file and have passed a TB test. Come on and work in the library; it is a ton of fun! For more information, contact me at [KCasadayThompson@sandi.net](mailto:KCasadayThompson@sandi.net).

-- Kelly Casaday Thompson

## Foundation (FOLA) News

The Friends of Language Academy (FOLA) has been busy coordinating with the City of San Diego Parks Division for the design and approval of the Joint Use Field Project. The plans for the construction of a new artificial turf sports field and running track will be presented to the local community at the next Recreation Council meeting, on **November 18, at 7 p.m.**, in the main meeting room of Colina Del Sol Park, located at 5319 Orange Ave, between 52nd and 54th streets. Since this Council serves the local neighborhoods near Language Academy, it is important that residents of the College Area attend and show support for our school's field project. Also, anyone from the Language Academy community is likewise invited to attend.

On December 5, FOLA will host a silent auction in conjunction with the PTSA-sponsored concert of internationally known French musician Eric Vincent. We are excited to be working with the PTSA to make this a successful event. In another joint effort, we are pleased to announce the newly organized FOLA/PTSA Grants Committee, which is already pursuing a number of grants. For more information about these and other FOLA activities, please contact Carlos Avila at [carlos.avila.biz@live.com](mailto:carlos.avila.biz@live.com).



## Language Academy Pre-School Update

Our French immersion pre-school is now up and running! We have one fabulous French language expert, Mme Isabelle, and her assistant, Daniel Savart. Both are fluent in French and are absolutely wonderful with the children.

The Language Academy Pre-School is licensed through Community Care Licensing to serve 24 children between three and four years old. We are currently at full capacity; however, a waiting list has been started, and we foresee having new friends by the beginning of next year!

Our pre-school children are exposed to literature, art, music, language and math concepts, to name a few of the activities they do each day. If you have questions regarding our pre-school, please stop by or contact me at 619-287-1182.   
-- Cynthia Pulido, Site Director

## Eric Vincent Concert, December 4 & 5

Sponsored by the PTSA, French singer, songwriter and guitarist Éric Vincent will perform at Language Academy as part of his North American tour! Our students will see him on Friday, Dec. 4, in three assemblies separated by grade levels. Then, a public concert will be held on **Saturday, Dec. 5, at 2 p.m.** Ticket prices for the public concert are \$10/adult and \$2/child aged 4-18.

Vincent has a special passion for taking his music to every corner of the globe. He has performed in more than 140 countries and has played in every U.S. state, except for Hawaii and Alaska. His music is universal, breaking language barriers with his charm and multilingual talents. His songs are a blend of folk, jazz, rock and ethnic drums; they deal with universal themes and are flavored by his world travels, offering audiences direct contact with contemporary French poetry and music.



CDs of Vincent's music will be on sale at the concert. For more information on Vincent, his songs, and song lyrics, visit [www.eric-vincent.com](http://www.eric-vincent.com). Also, FOLA will host a silent auction in conjunction with this event, with proceeds going to support the FOLA music program at Language Academy!

## Students in Boo Parade

For the first time ever, Language Academy students participated in the annual Boo Parade sponsored by the College area community. **Keith's** Michael Jackson dancing was a crowd favorite, as **Rory** and **Roni** cart-wheeled down the street. First-grader **Joey** practiced his fencing skills with **Scott** nearly the whole 1.5 mile route! Also participating were 4th graders **Sadie** and **Elizabeth**, as well as Escuela Longfellow friend **Mel** with soccer friend **Kate**. A big thank you to the **Anglim, Henderson, Gastelum, Davis, and Eggers-Acosta** families! Look for our Boo Parade participant trophy in the office and parade with us next year!

## Fall Fundraiser Orders Due November 10

The fall PTSA fundraiser, which supports educational assemblies, teachers' classroom enhancement funds, spring dances, and many other activities, kicked off last week! All families should have received a catalog and order form in their student's backpack last week. If you did not receive these materials, or if you have any questions, please contact our vendor representative, Robyn Fortney at Great American Opportunities: [robyn.fortney@gafundraising.com](mailto:robyn.fortney@gafundraising.com). **Order forms are due on Tuesday, November 10!**



## Fall Carnival Success!

The 15th Annual Fall Carnival was the most successful in the history of the event. Thanks to our large and amazing volunteer force and all the families who attended, we raised about \$9,000 for PTSA programs and activities! Our Carnival began with the welcoming music of **Mi Mexico Mariachi** band, and the fun didn't stop there. **Cynthia Pulido** and the **Ballet Folklorico** donated their time to demonstrate the traditional Mexican dances that our students enjoyed during last year's PTSA-sponsored assemblies. Next, **Capoeria Brazil** demonstrated the classes that will be offered in the spring through FOLA's Thursday after school programs. The carnival wrapped up to the rock guitar music played by **Kenny Beaumont**.

Outstanding kinder parent **Alejandra Fuentes's** idea to sell "elote" was a welcome change from our usual menu, although the traditional "potage bonne femme" was still a hit! Our food court was improved by **Eric Conger's** relocation idea and with menu styling from **Gretchen Pina, Diana Meza-Ehlert, Gena Teel, and Monique Clifford**. Parent **Catherine Yates, M.D.**, brought Navy Medical Center reinforcements to help with the fabulous face painting booth.

As the Carnival organizer, I love when parents who take charge of the details to run a booth and coordinate volunteers. Special thanks to **Christelle R** (Bowling), **Maria R** (Mayan Temple), **Sra Adams** (Rat Toss), **Nancy O** (Eiffel Tower), 5th grader **Yeelena** (Water Drop), FOLA president **Carlos A** (Soccer), **Mme Roy & Frances H** (Paper Bag Hats), **Kay Y** (Art Corner), **Valerie T** (Cake Decorating Contest & Cake Walk), the **Delgadillo Family** (Fishing), **Mme Lugo** (Haunted House), **Casey H** (Emergency Vehicles), **Tammy E** (T-shirt Design Contest), Secretary **Peggy Chism** and **Bob W** (Photo Boards), and **Carla H & Coach Foley** (Cold Drinks). Thanks also to **Kay Y, Tami S** and **Mrs Livingston** (Coffee & Desserts), **Jana S** (Prize Booth) and **Bey-Ling S, Tia H, Sallie B, and Sonya D** (Ticket Sales/PTSA Information).

The Confetti Award goes to **Cynthia Esquibel!** She and several other moms filled 1,400 eggs with confetti, all in six hours!!! **BSS Ralph** and **Herman** kept the facilities operational, and special thanks to Ralph for his swift confetti clean-up. **Girl Scout Troop 6248** and **Language Academy Graduates** earned community service hours volunteering. And National University students **Tran, Vincent** and **Jack**, who arrived before 1 p.m. and stayed to help clean-up, were critical in keeping two booths open for business. Thanks to **Flavius A** for recruiting these volunteers! Also, thank you to the **Gonzales-Perez family** for donating cool costumes for the prize booth.

Thanks also to our business sponsors! For the third year in a row, **Specialty Produce** donated all the vegetables and fruits. **Siesel's/Iowa Meats** donated burgers and hot dogs. **Pina Design** donated materials and waived the printing fees for the menu board. **Danae Koolen** of **Peak Performance Holistic Therapies** donated glow bracelets and other prizes. **City Farmers** offered gardening tips and an up-close look at a rooster! **Fatties' Pizza** allowed a generous discount on our pizza purchases, and **Starbucks** donated coffee. Wow! -- *Georgia Kenney*



## Student Spotlight! In Her Own Words . . .

### What It Takes to be a Champion

People may have told you that horseback riding is when you climb on a horse's back and start galloping and take off into the sunset with a handsome prince or princess.

But they are wrong! That's how I felt six years ago on my trip to Colorado. I thought climbing on a horse's back would be easy, but it wasn't. First, you had to brush him or her (your horse). Then you put on a saddle pad (that's what protects your horse's back), and then you have to put a 10- to 14-pound saddle on your horse's back. Yup. Not that easy. Getting ready isn't easy either. You need to know your patterns well. You also have a choice of what type of riding you will do – English (when you're all neat and tidy) or Western (when you act like a cowboy and walk around in muddy boots). Then comes the training. I would train for up to four to six hours a day, just to get prepared for rodeos.

Usually at rodeos you can come an hour early, so you warm up before starting! When you're doing a rodeo, it's divided into certain stages. They start with babies or young kids who have their mom or dad take them out and do the patterns with them. Then there is the 7-10 age group, and also ages 13 and up. The way you win is who has the fastest time, one each of the three or four events. There are two timers at the front of the gate, and they start timing when you pass them.

My first rodeo was hard. I always wanted to win big! But it never happened. At that time, I was fine about it; I did not care. So you can tell that my title "What it takes to be a champion" isn't about winning; it's about if you have what it takes and not take advantage of it. So when you play a sport – any sport – don't think about winning. Well, winning is good, but think about what you're doing and have FUN!

-- Yeelena Faustino (Grade 5)

### Cake Decorating Winners

Kindergarten – Jaida \* 1st Grade – Liberty  
2nd Grade – Nena \* 3rd Grade – Scott  
4th Grade – Emma \* 5th Grade – Julia  
6th Grade – Patience  
7th Grade – No winner  
8th Grade – Elizabeth



### T-Shirt Design Contest Winner

At the Fall Carnival, more than 200 people voted for their favorite 2009-2010 t-shirt design. Congratulations to our winner, **Duane**, who is a 2nd-grader in Mme. Baumer's class. Look for his winning artwork posted in the school office. T-shirt order forms will be coming out soon!

### ArtWorks Update

Art Works is off to a great start this year! During the month of November, the lessons will focus on shape and form, with the 2nd- and 3rd-graders doing contour drawings of still life, and the 4th- and 5th-graders advancing to proportions and the human body.

If you've been thinking of joining our awesome team of parents, it's not too late! There are still openings for volunteers to work with 2nd and 5th grade classes, and you do not have to have a child in that grade to help out. Without more volunteers, these students will not receive art classes. Please help! Contact Janine at [neener1@ix.netcom.com](mailto:neener1@ix.netcom.com).

### Educational Assemblies

Sponsored by the PTSA, the Platt Brothers from America's Got Talent performed two educational assemblies for grades K-5 on Wednesday, Nov. 4. The Platt Brothers – three talented and exceptional siblings – offered an outrageous blend of acrobatics, dance, comedy and music, encouraging students to use their own imaginations. The brothers' performance style has won critical acclaim for its extraordinarily unique presentation as an eclectic explosion of family friendly entertainment. Check them out at [www.theplattbrothers.com](http://www.theplattbrothers.com), or ask your child what he enjoyed at school today!