

# El Carmelo to put up clean-tech exhibit

Don't forget Walk and Roll to School Day is tomorrow, Earth Day!

El Carmelo School is trying to set a record for number of bikes in the bike rack and hosting an Earth Day lunchtime exhibit for students of innovative alternative technologies. Exhibitors include Mariah Power (wind energy technology), Sopogy (solar heating and electrical power), Vista Solar (solar electric power), GeoSource Thermal (earth-

based heating and cooling alternatives), 3 Degrees (Palo Alto Green energy alternative program, the largest of its kind in the nation), Sustainable Spaces (home energy audits and improvements), and A+ Japanese Auto Repair, (plug-in hybrid Prius cars).

"Many companies are working hard to make our planet safer for every child," said Brian Goncher, an El Carmelo dad who works at Deloitte. "We're grateful to Principal Chuck Merritt and our teachers for this great partnership."

Parent organizer Megan Fogarty said it's all part of the El Carmelo curriculum.

"We have a character education program and our principal and teachers had chosen to focus on initiative for the Earth Day week, and the kids have been talking to the librarian about things they could do to be green" she said.

Participating companies will showcase a wide range of clean-tech products and services designed to conserve energy. Students will present their own ideas for reducing global warming before being shown around the exhibit.

"The idea is for kids to think about what they do and then see what people are doing on a larger scale," Fogarty said.

If you can, carry your lunch in a reusable container on Earth Day — the Addison Elementary School's idea of a plastic bag-free campus is spreading fast!

## CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE

The Santa Clara County Children's Health Initiative is holding a sign-up event from 2 to 6 p.m.



PREEVA TRAMIEL

Friday at Jordan Middle School, 750 N. California Ave., where parents from any school may sign up their children for free or low-cost health insurance.

Interested parents must bring proof of residence, income and birth certificate, as well as their child's Social Security number if their child was born in the United States. Immigration status does not matter. The phone number of the Santa Clara

Family Health plan is 408-874-1828 and more information on the various plans is available on the Web at [www.chikids.org](http://www.chikids.org).

## PTA CONVENTION TIME

Don't forget, the PTA Convention is coming to San Jose next weekend! On April 30, the meeting at the McEnery Convention Center will be open to the general public for the first time in California PTA's 110-year history. In the past, only PTA members have been allowed to attend.

There will be companies showcasing and demonstrating everything from inflatable planetariums to international assemblies to baked goods.

"It will be a chance for people to see the benefits of PTA membership, both in their access to these vendors and by visiting our own exhibit," said Barbara Spreng, president of the PTA's 6th district.

More information about the convention is available on the Web at <http://capta6.org> or [www.info.paloaltopta.org](http://www.info.paloaltopta.org).

*School Matters is happy to hear your feedback. Please e-mail any comments to [schoolmatters@paloaltopta.org](mailto:schoolmatters@paloaltopta.org) to reach Preeva Tramiel, who is writing the column this year. Look on the PTA Council Web site, [www.paloaltopta.org](http://www.paloaltopta.org), and pull down the leftmost menu, and click on "School Matters" to see submission guidelines for press releases.*