

17 Palo Alto schools to receive honors for PTA service

Principals, teachers, trustees, staffers, elected officials and PTA officers from all 17 Palo Alto schools will sit down together Friday, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., for the local PTA Council's Honorary Service Awards luncheon. At the event, those who have given extraordinary service to district children will be honored with speeches, certificates and donations given in their honor to the California PTA's scholarship and grant program.

More than 250 people are expected to gather at the Crowne Plaza Cabana hotel for this year's event.

"The awards luncheon highlights the tremendous volunteer efforts of the school community. It is a joy to recognize those who have demonstrated exemplary volunteer service," said Dan Dykweil, president of the Palo Alto PTA Council.



PREEVA TRAMMEL

SCHOOL MATTERS

There will be a slide show with pictures from all the schools showing PTA activities, and a special surprise presentation for all to enjoy.

GRADS NIGHT OUT

The school year in Palo Alto ends for students with a half-day of classes on June 11. Seniors at Gunn and Paly high schools graduate on June 10; then they'll

be whisked away on buses to grad night parties at undisclosed locations.

"It's a traditional end of the year experience," said Suzanne Attenborough, PTA president at Paly.

Melinda Christopherson, who is on the Paly grad night committee, is honored to give the seniors a last chance to be together in a safe and controlled environment. She has fond memories of her own grad night party at Hyatt Rickey's hotel. "We have about 280 coming this year," Christopherson said.

INTERNATIONAL DRAMA

"Young Americans," an original musical composed, written and performed by students in Paly's drama department, completed its workshop run late last month. Now, the students have to work on getting the play polished enough to take it on the road to Scotland, where it will be performed at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh this August.

Kathleen Woods, the director and drama

instructor who has been to three Fringe Festivals and took Saratoga High School's drama club to the Fringe, discussed the unique challenges facing the students.

"The Fringe works in two-hour time slots," Woods said. "This means that you have to set up, perform and load out in two hours, which makes it very performance centered. We are going to be drilling on this during the summer."

The text of the musical was written by students Sam Bellows, Ashley Lamb, Marc LeClerc, Tom Marks, Daniella Mizrahi and Alex Nee, and music was composed by Sam Bellows, Zachary Frier-Harrison, Kimi Forlenza, Justin Kraemer-Karpen, Zee Levine Sporer, Katie Master, Alex Nee and Nathan Wilen. The students worked in teams supervised by playwright adviser Prince Gomolvilas.