

Palo Alto Partners in Education Meets “Double Your Gift” Challenge and Kicks off New Community Campaign

Nov. 28, 2007 – Palo Alto, California – Palo Alto Partners in Education (PiE) today announced the successful conclusion of its “Double Your Gift” Challenge Grant, a one-month participation challenge supported by a group of generous Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) families. The \$150,000 challenge grant helped attract over 850 donors who donated over \$450,000. To-date, the PiE School Campaign for 2007-08 has raised over \$1.3 million.

"It was very welcoming to see our parent community respond so quickly and generously," said Muneerah Merchant, PiE's Executive Director, "This is one of the best Challenge grants we ever had. It really brought our community together," she said.

"The support PiE provides to Juana Briones is evident every day," said Michael O'Neill, principal of Juana Briones Elementary School, which this month saw an especially high jump in the number of families giving to PiE. "Our students benefit from having increased classroom aide time as well as a science instructional assistant. Our program is richer and more engaging as a result. This was a great opportunity to support an important cause and directly benefit the children of Palo Alto."

John Lents, principal of Addison Elementary School, which also saw a striking increase in the number of PiE donor families, concurs.

"Another reason to be grateful is that through PiE funding we are able to expand educational experiences such as the Junior Museum program and Spectra art time," Lents said. "I think at times our community has become so wrapped up in our individual schools, but PiE reminds us that we're part of a larger whole, something around which we can rally."

This month PiE has also announced a Community Campaign (a direct appeal campaign for residents with no children in Palo Alto public schools), in which an anonymous foundation has pledged a matching grant of \$25,000, allowing PiE to match individual contributions up to \$1,000 on a one for one basis. Donations received by Feb. 14 2008 will allow the school district to count on funds for the 2008-09 school year. This campaign allows the community at large to show its support for commitment to excellence in Palo Alto schools. Last year PiE raised over \$65,000 from this campaign and this year hopes to cross the \$80,000 mark.

Palo Alto Partners in Education is a nonprofit 501(c)3 foundation whose mission is to partner with parents, the Palo Alto school district, and the community to raise funds for every student in the district. In 2007-08, PiE donated \$2.1 million to Palo Alto public schools, allocated on a per student basis, and provided district teachers with an additional \$95,000 in grant money for curriculum development. Over 85% of PiE funds to PAUSD are used to support essential staffing such as electives instructors, class aides, lab assistants, and math/reading specialists. For more information, please visit www.papie.org or contact PiE Executive Director Muneerah Merchant at mmerchant@papie.org or (650) 329-3990. .

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