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February 2007 Newsletter

Greetings!

Welcome to Palo Alto Partners in Education's (PiE) online monthly newsletter. Our cover story this month is an interesting article about the SPECTRA Art program at our elementary schools.

We are very happy to report that thanks to your generous contributions PiE has successfully met its \$2 million goal for our direct appeal campaign. The PiE Board thanks all the volunteers and donors who have helped us reach our goals.

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SPECTRA Art Paints Smiles in Palo Alto Schools



Fourth graders in Palo Alto elementary schools sketch California landscapes, a theme embodied in the fourth grade California geography curriculum. Second graders bring in photos from home so they can create a collage that ties in with their grade level study of ancestors. And one fifth grader at Addison Elementary School recently color-penciled what she called, "Alphabis Betitis," a delicate blue, green, and pink plant whose flowers form the letters of the alphabet.

All of these diverse projects are part of PAUSD elementary school students' work in SPECTRA

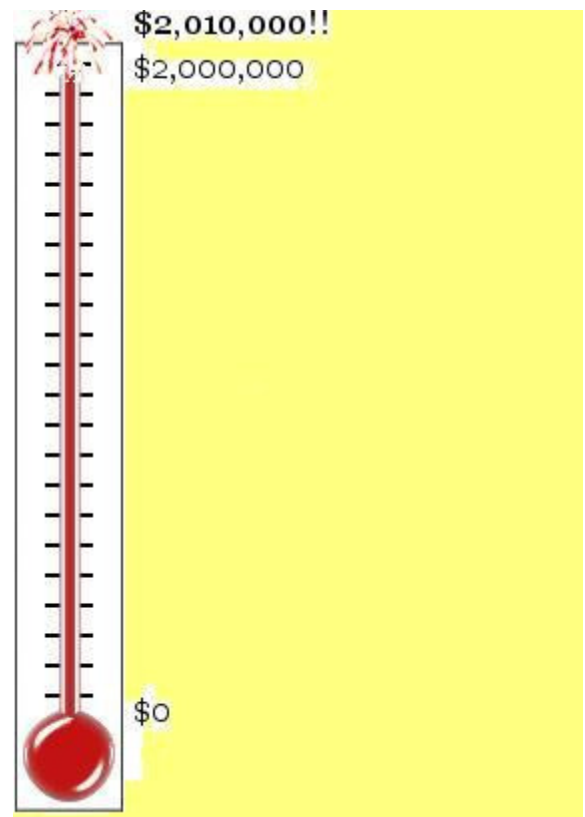
Art, the name of PAUSD's sequential, standards-based elementary art program. Students work with a wide range of media under the guidance of artist-teachers, who rotate among the classrooms. SPECTRA, which stands for Special Teacher Resources for Art, began in PAUSD in 1981 and since then has received state and national recognition as an exemplary program. In 1992 the National Art Education Association awarded its coveted Award of Excellence to PAUSD, the only district in California to receive it thus far.

Most of the district's 22 SPECTRA art teachers are real-life artists, according to Sharon Ferguson, the PAUSD art coordinator. "The intention is to bring a high level of content knowledge to the classroom and the teacher. So the SPECTRA art teacher is also an expert for the regular classroom teacher to observe," Ferguson said.



PAUSD provides funding for the SPECTRA art teachers to work in the classrooms of first and second-year teachers once a week and with third year teachers every other week. However, nearly all of the district's elementary schools receive additional funding from Palo Alto Partners in Education (PiE) that allows SPECTRA art

Direct Appeal Campaign Update



PiE's Direct Appeal Campaign ends today. We are happy to report that we have both met our goal of \$2 million and also successfully met the \$100,000 Participation Challenge.

Almost 32% of our families have participated in the campaign, up from 27% last year. Participation for the elementary schools is over 44% (vs 43% last year) and for the secondary schools is over 22% (vs 16% last year).

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS!!!

Our final official results from the campaign

teachers to continue working with teachers and students beyond that third year.

"If PiE dollars weren't there, the effect would be to decrease the amount of visual art for our students by an extraordinary amount," Ferguson said.

According to Alice Engelmores, a SPECTRA art teacher at Nixon Elementary School who has a background in graphic design, art instruction not only helps children communicate their view of the world, "but it can be a great analytical tool."

"A child may look at a tree and initially see almost a cartoon of a tree -- a green blob on top of a brown stalk. Through art we can teach them that the tree is actually very complex and there are a multitude of colors of green. Through art we teach aesthetic valuing, how do they know what they like and how do they express what they don't like."

Cayla, the Addison fifth grader, said she appreciates the opportunity afforded by SPECTRA art to deviate from schoolwork as usual and that she especially enjoyed the assignment of coming up with her own "plan for a plant." Her Alphabits Betitis is proudly displayed on her family's office wall

Many student artists, as well as their Spectra art teachers, will also have opportunity to showcase their work in a more public venue. This Saturday, March 3, at 3:30 p.m. SPECTRA teachers' artwork will be on display at Spangenberg Auditorium at Gunn High School, in conjunction with the PAUSD faculty concert. And on May 13, Mothers' Day, the PAUSD Youth Art Show will open in the Art Center in Palo Alto. Student artwork will also be showcased in several other local venues throughout the year.

Anyone who is interested in finding out more about the SPECTRA art program or in becoming a SPECTRA art teacher, should contact Ferguson at 329-3939 or sferguson@pausd.org. To find out more about PiE, the only non-profit foundation dedicated exclusively to supporting all PAUSD schools, visit www.papie.org.

Picture: 1. Bridge by 2005-06 Hoover Elementary Fifth Grader

Picture 2: Face by 2005-06 Duveneck Elementary Kindergarten Student

PiE Local Business Supporters

Starting in January 2007, PiE has launched two new Corporate Giving Programs. The first program is a Corporate Friends Program through which we seek to partner with small businesses which can donate at any level up to \$5000. The second is a Corporate Partners Program which will help PiE build relationships with local corporations that can donate \$5000 or more. Both of these programs provide businesses and corporations with great marketing and promotional benefits including presence on PiE Website, publicity at PiE events and relevant promotional investments.

For more information on corporate donations, please contact Muneerah Merchant at mmerchant@papie.org or click here:

PiE Announcements

1. Art for PiE

If you are an artist and would like to help our schools this is for you. PiE is looking for fine artists (painting, sculpture, photography...) interested in giving back to the Palo Alto School Community. PiE is hoping to organize a juried fine art exhibition this fall to benefit our children and our schools. Please contact Fabienne Bismuth for more information at galler@sculpturebyfab.com before March 9, 2007.

2. Volunteers for May Fete

PiE is actively seeking volunteers who can help with organizing (logistics, entertainment, rentals, booths, food catering etc) and supporting day-of activities for the May Fete on May 5th, 2007.

If interested, please contact Muneerah Merchant at mmerchant@papie.org

(once the last remaining donations are added in) will be released by late March.

Participation Rates (as of 2/28/07):

The final percentages for each school for the campaign will be released later in late March

School Name	Percentage
Addison	44.3%
Barron Park	20.3%
Duveneck	44.3%
El Carmelo	55.8%*
Escondido	45.2%*
Fairmeadow	35.6%*
Gunn	15.8%*
Hoover	39.3%
JLS	24.8%*
Jordan	30.5%*
Briones	41.3%*
Nixon	35.4%*
Ohlone	53.2%*
Paly	21.2%*
Palo Verde	50.4%*
Terman	28.2%*
Walter Hays	57.3%*

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- Palo Verde (50.4%*)
- Terman (28.2%*)
- Walter Hays (57.3%*)

* indicates that the school has already exceeded its 2005-06 final participation rate

[For more information on donating to PiE and to print donation forms, please click here](#)

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