

THE HISTORY OF ENCINAL SCHOOL
PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

MENLO PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
1952-1953

With a theme of "Families are our Business", the Encinal P.T.A. began its first year of being a single school organization. Our officers for the year were; Mrs. Raymond F. Peters, President; Mrs. John Ball, Vice-President; Mrs. Odus Horney, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Gilbert Gamlen, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. George Lampman, Treasurer; Mrs. Max Forsythe, Parliamentarian; Mrs. Otto Leng, Auditor; Mrs. Kenneth Roberts, Historian; Mrs. Milton Silverman and Mrs. Ina Porter, Program Directors; Mrs. C. Winston Young, Room Representative coordinator; Mrs. Robert Hutter, Mrs. Emerson Darling, Mrs. Ina Porter, and Mrs. John Eagen, Nomination Committee.

Mrs. Sam Thurman entertained the teachers and the Room Mothers at a luncheon at her home before school started. Mrs. Young explained the duties of the Room Mothers and they all had the opportunity to get acquainted. This proved to be very successful in furthering understanding and cooperation between the Room Mothers and the teachers.

With our theme in mind, we started the year with "Parent Education Meetings", jointly sponsored by the teachers and the Room Mothers. The parents of each class were invited to an informal discussion by the teacher of the scope of their work with the children for the year and how the parents could cooperate in maintaining their child's interest in school.

"Help Your Child Be A Freckle" was the slogan of our most successful membership campaign which won us the honor of second highest proportionate membership in the district. Mrs. George Keller, Membership Chairmen, presented each room with a very clever poster of a boy who acquired a freckle with each membership. Each classroom competed for an aquarium awarded to the classroom bringing in the largest P.T.A. membership.

October 31st has become a very important date to Encinal school children--that is the night of the Encinal Halloween Carnival--the P.T.A.'s big fund raising event of the year. Mrs. Donald Staples acted as General Chairman. This Carnival has proven very successful financially, but just as important, it has provided a safe and fun family Halloween.

"What Does The P.T.A. Do?", the topic of our November meeting, was discussed by a panel of 8th grade committee chairman who challenged a panel composed of several members of the P.T.A. board to give a comprehensive picture of the many activities of P.T.A. and the cooperation possible between students and parents. Marc Corbus, student council president, handled questions from the Student Body about P.T.A. with Mrs. Ina Porter acting as mediator.

Early in December, Encinal school and the Encinal P.T.A. decided to repeat a tradition inspired the previous year by Mrs. Ina Porter--the tradition of adopting the underprivileged children attending an elementary school across the Bay. The Encinal children gave up their own exchange of gifts to send useful presents to those who need them. Mrs. Porter and Mrs. Charles Larson delivered the gifts to the school across the Bay.

To further school spirit, the P.T.A. held an "Encinal T shirt" sale, featuring T shirts, sweat shirts, and rain proof scarves all stamped with a bright orange banner and the name Encinal. The Nurse's room became a lunch hour staffed by Mrs. Herbert Drescher and her committee. The first sale was such a success with the children that it was necessary to hold another T shirt sale in the spring.

Our December meeting, A Christmas Sing, provided a family celebration. Each class at the school presented their own arrangements of Carols and Christmas songs, and Norman Corey directed the school orchestra in several numbers. The pupils of Miss Lucie Landon played a few instrumental numbers. This meeting had such a tremendous attendance that there was "Standing Room Only".

Milton Silverman, science writer, spoke on "What's New in Medicine" at the January meeting of the Encinal P.T.A. A biochemist, with degrees from Stanford and the University of California, he writes for the San Francisco Chronicle and the Saturday Evening Post and is the recent recipient of the Westinghouse Science Award.

A Menlo Park Elementary School District "Blood Bank" for the use of any resident of the Menlo Park School District became a reality in February. Mrs. Raymond Peters, whose idea it was originally, with the help of Mrs. Vandervoort and her committee, inspired the cooperation of the school district's five P.T.A.'s in this one big project. The San Mateo County Blood Bank set up their processing plant at Stanford Village and received the necessary one hundred pints of the precious fluid required to establish a "Blood Bank". Mrs. J. B. Ball acted as Encinal's chairman.

Founders Day, a joint observance was held at Menlo Central School. Encinal P.T.A. presented life membership pins to both Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Abenheim and to Mildred Stolberg. Miss Stolberg, a teacher for 10 years in Menlo Park, was honored for her thoughtful handling of children, the Abenheims because of their life work in doing good for community youngsters.

What an evening of fun our February meeting was with a "Family Barn Dance", an evening of good old-fashioned get acquainted mixers and square dances. Mr. Don Newport did the calling, and the 6th graders did several exhibition dances. This meeting, too, had a tremendous attendance.

"Where Do We Go From Here?" was the topic discussed at the March meeting of the Encinal P.T.A. Melville J. Homfeld, Superintendent of Menlo Park Elementary Schools, brought us up to date on present school developments. He also answered questions from the floor. This provided an opportunity for those new in the Encinal P.T.A. to meet and talk to our Superintendent. Leo Varty, chairman of the parent Lay committee, presented a report of the findings of that committee. Mrs. Emerson Darling, chairman of the nominating committee, presented a slate of officers for nominations.

When Mrs. Charles Larson visited our adopted school across the Bay with the Christmas gifts of the Encinal School children, the teachers told her of the desperate need for clothing, with emphasis on shoes and yardage to use in the sewing classes. The donations were collected at school, and three carloads of good clothes, shoes, and yardage were taken across the Bay.

Because the rain made parking impossible, the April Open House meeting had to be postponed until May 5th. There was a short business meeting to hold an election of officers. This was purposely brief so that everyone could enjoy the children's exhibits and programs.

What did we do with the money from our fund raising project? With the guidance of Mrs. Ina Porter, Encinal P.T.A. bought a large flag and standard for the auditorium, and picnic tables and benches for the children to eat lunch on. *We also had black & white members put on the social activities.*

The final meeting of the year, our May meeting, was the installation of officers. Mr. Fred Parsons, of the Menlo Park Recreation Department, outlined community recreation plans for the summer with his topic "Get Set For Summer".

In retrospect, the past year has been a most successful year. The Encinal P.T.A., with an extremely well balanced program of serious projects, has mixed it and spiced it with a large amount of family fun. "Families are Our Business."

Respectfully Submitted

Elizabeth Roberts

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Historian

Encinal Parent Teachers Association