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Lamorinda Schools

Lafayette Elementary • Los Perales • Miramonte • Orinda Academy • Orinda Intermediate • Saklan Valley School • Sleepy Hollow • Springhill • Stanley Middle • St. Perpetua School • Wagner Ranch

New Buildings for Camino Pablo

By Sophie Braccini

On December 8th giant metal frames were trucked in from Lodi and set in place by crane at Camino Pablo Elementary in Moraga. Meehleis Modular Building, a company that specializes in custom modular construction projects, is erecting four classrooms at Camino Pablo Elementary (CP) and a

new library at Los Perales Elementary (LP). The technique allows them to set in place the whole structures over one weekend, saving time and money.

The frames used at CP are 10' x 32'. One classroom requires four frames plus one that's shared by two classrooms, creating additional meeting



J.D. Arrighi & Mike Snow, Meehleis Modular Building Inc., set a roof piece on Saturday morning

space. The foundations were already in place on December 8th when the giant frames were placed on them and welded to a steel plate that's part of the foundation. The structures are built to sustain an 8.5 magnitude earthquake.

The next phase will be the setting of the stucco and the insulation. According to Neil Jennings, CP Principal, "The classrooms will be stronger than most buildings. They meet

State standards and are inspected onsite." The project is scheduled to be completed by late February, and third graders will move into their new quarters.

The LP library will go in sometime during the winter break. The frames used at LP will be even larger: 10' x 36' frames. The frames incorporate energy saving elements which allow more natural lighting, and double paned windows.

Los Perales Auction Committee

Lures Donors

By Lee Borrowman

Auctions are still the rage among local school fundraisers. Every year, parent volunteers spend months encouraging families and businesses to donate items to their auction of choice. By January, many of these dedicated volunteers find that their former friends, co-room parents and erstwhile tennis partners quickly turn and walk the other way when they see the valiant Donation Chair heading their way. This year, the Los Perales Elementary School PTA Auction Committee is trying a new approach to getting families to send in those fabulous auction items.

At the end of November, a drawing was held. All families who had sent in their auction donations early were automatically entered to win an iPod Nano. The lucky winner was the family of Angud and Arjun Chimni.

In mid December, there will be yet another drawing. And this time, the prize will be the coveted Nintendo Wii game sys-

tem (not that any LP student actually wants one of those...). LP Auction Committee representative Paula Pollock would like to encourage all LP families to get those donations in by 9:00 AM on December 14 so that they are eligible for the drawing; why buy that Wii when you could win it instead?



Angud and Arjun Chimni with Principal Bill Walters



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JM Gets a New Sand Volleyball Court

By Andrea A. Firth

When Nick Piatt tackles a project, he isn't afraid to get some dirt under his nails and even a little sand between his toes. Nick approached Bruce Burns and Brad Carn, principal and assistant principal at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School (JM), offering to complete a service project at the school. Building a sand volleyball court seemed like a good fit for a young man with energy, enthusiasm, and a great network of support. "I have known Nick and his family for several years," noted Bruce Burns. "When we talked about the project, I knew he could do a good job. We were also very fortunate to get financial support from the School District, the PTA, and the Student Body Fund."

Nick is a member of Boy Scout Troop #212, and he is working toward becoming an Eagle Scout later this year. To achieve this goal, Nick is required to complete a major service project where he maintains responsibility for the project planning, management, and implementation. Constructing the sand volleyball court at JM required all of this and a whole lot more. "The



Nick Piatt (center) at work on the sand volleyball court Photo courtesy of Irish Piatt

project took about 180 hours to complete and included the help of other scouts, my father, my brother, my mom, their friends, and some of my friends," explained Nick.

Before starting work, Nick researched the court dimensions and the best materials to use. "There are a variety of sands that you can use," noted Nick. "We felt that the white beach sand was the best option." He also had to figure out how to manage drainage for the court and found digging the drainage trench a difficult but fun aspect of the project. In addition Nick coor-

ordinated the recruitment of the many hands that helped to get the work done. "My fellow troop members were very supportive. And, I owe a big thanks to my Scout Master, Tom McIntosh, who is always a great help to me," added Nick.

Although Nick quietly admits to feeling relieved that the volleyball court is now done, he is pleased with the outcome. "Completing this project was very challenging and a lot of hard work. It made me realize what I could accomplish. I hope the kids at JM really enjoy using I the volleyball court."

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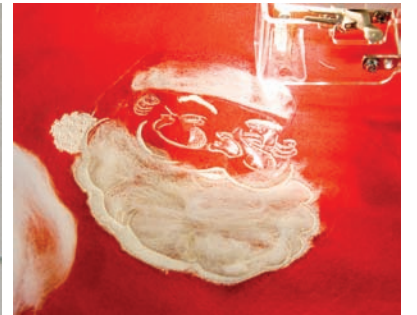
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