

Acalanes High School • Bentley School • Burton Valley • Camino Pablo • Campolindo • Contra Costa Jewish Day School • Del Rey • Donald L. Rheem • Glorietta • Happy Valley • Joaquin Moraga

# Lamorinda Schools

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

## Tree Lot Brings Big Gifts to Orinda Students

Submitted by Jane Wisler, Educational Foundation of Orinda

Orinda students found the gift of education under their trees this holiday, thanks to the many Orinda residents who purchased trees at the Orinda Christmas Tree Lot on Altarinda Road. Mike Kang and his wife Barbara Cabellon, presented Education Foundation of Orinda (EFO) President, Janet Riley, with a check for \$3,600 that will go directly to the school programs and instruction sponsored by EFO. The tree lot enjoyed a 20% sales increase over last year which is reflected in this generous donation to EFO. Thank you Mike, Barbara and Orinda residents!



Barbara Cabellon, Mike Kang and Janet Riley Photo provided

## Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!

If, years from now, you will remember 2008 as the year your child entered kindergarten, start gathering your paperwork and prepare to attend Kindergarten Registration Day. If you're child was born on or before Dec. 2, 2003, your time has come!

Kindergarten registration will take place at your neighborhood school on the dates and times listed below. You will need to bring several documents with you, including your child's birth certificate or passport, proof of residence, emergency contact information (your child's doctor and dentist) and a complete immunization record. Your district may also require your child's Social Security Number and a Report of Health Examination for School Entry Form. Please check the school district websites for details on specific requirements. If you are not sure at which school you should register your child, call the district office for more information.

### Lafayette School District

Registration dates are Tuesday, January 29th and Wednesday, January 30th:

**Lafayette Elementary**, 950 Moraga Rd, 9:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-2:30pm (School office: 283-6231)

**Burton Valley**, 561 Merriewood Dr, 9:00am-11:00am and 1:00pm-2:30pm (School office: 284-7046)

**Happy Valley**, 3855 Happy Valley Rd, 9:00am-11:00am and 1:00pm-2:30pm (School office: 284-7049)

**Springhill**, 3301 Springhill Rd, 9:00am-11:30am (School office: 283-8281)

District Website: <http://www.lafsd.k12.ca.us/>

District Phone: 284-7011

### Moraga School District

Registration dates are Thursday, March 6th and Friday, March 7th:

**Camino Pablo**, 1111 Camino Pablo, 9:00am-11:45am and 1:15pm-3:00pm (School office: 376-4435)

**Los Perales**, 22 Wakefield Dr, 9:00am-2:00pm (School office: 631-0105)

### Donald Rheem, 90 Laird Dr,

9:00am-2:00pm (School office: 376-4441)

District Website: <http://www.moraga.k12.ca.us/>

District Phone: 376-5943

### Orinda Union School District

Registration dates are Monday, February 4th thru Thursday, February 7th:

**Del Rey**, 25 El Camino Moraga, 9:00am-1:00pm (School office: 258-3099)

**Sleepy Hollow**, 20 Washington Ln, 9:00am-1:00pm (School office: 254-8711)

**Glorietta**, 15 Martha Rd, 9:00am-1:00pm (School office: 254-8770)

**Wagner Ranch**, 350 Camino Pablo, 9:00am-1:00pm (School office: 258-0016)

District Website: <http://orindaschools.org/ousd/site/default.asp>

District Phone: 258-6214

## Vandals Hit Moraga Elementary Schools

By Lee Borrowman

A broken skylight at Rheem; a field at Camino Pablo with extensive damage caused by someone(s) driving onto the field and spinning "doughnuts;" the Los Perales Auction Committee's ten foot tall replica of the Empire State Building, destroyed not by the plush King Kong who was seen climbing the "building" before winter break to the delight of all, but by vandals who struck over the holidays.

All three of Moraga's elementary schools suffered property damage that was discovered on January 2 by Superintendent Richard Schafer as he drove from school to school to make sure all was well while students and staff were away. "My first reaction (upon arriving at LP) was disappointment," said Schafer. "I have tremendous trouble understanding the pleasure people get from destroying things."

As district employees busied themselves repairing the skylight and nursing the scarred field, Schafer noted, "Vandalism takes resources away from instruction and hurts students and the community."

As of this writing no arrests have been made, but some parents and staff believe the recent vandalism was probably the work of teenagers. Los Perales parent Sandy Preto Flett said she hopes parents will "please consider talking, again, with their children about using common sense and being a respectful member of our community."

Schafer is supportive of juvenile diversion programs for teenage vandals. "I have had experience with juvenile diversion programs in my former district. When young people committed



The Empire State Building before...

Photos Lee Borrowman

a first offense, they had to meet with the owner who then explained the costs and problems associated with the repair. The goal was to make impersonal crimes personal," Schafer explained. "(Moraga Police Chief Mark Ruppenthal) has an officer working in this area when the opportunity/availability occurs," he continued.

Flett's 77-year-old father constructed the somewhat smaller-than-life replica of the Empire State Building for the Los Perales Auction Committee, whose theme this year is "A Night in the Big Apple." She is saddened by the loss, adding, "It



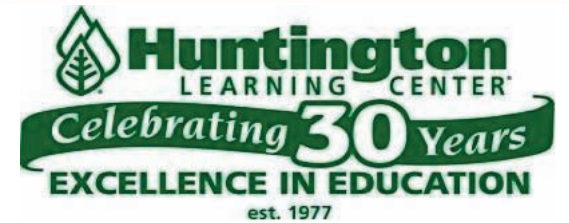
...and after

took him three full days to build it; it was for the kids...it was a labor of love."

## Facing Another Bad Report Card?

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## A Wake-Up Call at Joaquin Moraga

By Lee Borrowman

The lessons of a post-Columbine world hit unfortunately close to home in Moraga last week. Joaquin Moraga Middle School Principal Bruce Burns contacted the Moraga Police Department on Friday after confiscating a "hit list" reportedly written by a student that included the names of students and staff members. In an email to parents, Burns wrote: "I received a telephone call from a concerned parent who told me that his child had heard (about the list) from others. The student gave me the list and told me that he had no intention of harming anyone." Police officers escorted the student home, and he has been suspended.

Burns continued, "At JM safety is a daily priority. When matters of concern come to our attention we take it very seriously and investigate thoroughly." Burns conducted a search of the boy's backpack and school lockers, and the police searched his home. "I want to emphasize that nothing

harmful was discovered in all of these searches," Burns said.

The Moraga Police subsequently issued a statement confirming that the searches found nothing, and that there is no reason to believe the student presented a risk to either himself or others.

The parents of students whose names were on the list were contacted by the school. We do not have the list, but word of mouth led us to one of these parents, a mother who said, "I respect and appreciate the job that school officials did, on the minute chance that this was indeed something serious. My own child never felt threatened. We, as a family, are holding (the boy's) family in our good thoughts and hope that everything works out well for everyone. I'm so glad that we live in a community in which people and schools care."

The mother of another JM student said, "My daughter feels that this list was created out of sadness, and that (the boy) would never cause

harm to anyone. My son, a sophomore in high school, says many boys keep similar lists of people they feel have wronged them; it's not uncommon at all."

Not all of the facts have come to light, particularly around the boy's motivation for making the ill-advised list, but although he clearly condemns the boy's behavior, Burns' email concluded with a hint that this child may himself have had trouble with bullies:

"It is important that we learn from this experience. Threats will be investigated and will not be tolerated. We also need to reflect on what each of us can do to make JM a positive environment that is free from intimidation and bullying, indifference and isolation, and intolerance. Every student and parent has the right to expect that students will learn in a safe and non-violent school environment."

## ~ HE'S ALL ABOUT LAMORINDA ~



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