

Life in LAMORINDA

We Can Help Our Schools – For Free

By Lee Borrowman

There are several ways we can help our schools weather the budget crisis without spending a penny more than usual. Participation in these programs is free, and our kids benefit through the additional funding coming to the schools and PTAs/Parent Clubs.

E-Script: Go to www.escrip.com and register your Safeway Club Card anytime to start earning cash rewards for a local school. Check out this news from the grateful Parents' Clubs of Miramonte High School and Orinda Intermediate School, two of the top 250 earning groups nationally in the recent Safeway 10% Back to Schools Program:

As top earners during this promotional program, Safeway has contributed an additional \$1000 to each school for a grand total of \$5775 to Miramonte's Parents' Club and \$3388 to OIS's Parents' Club for this six week promotion.

Nancy Bluford, Miramonte's eScrip Coordinator, says, "Miramonte's eScrip program is supported by 2000 households who effortlessly generate several thousand dollars per month by shopping with eScrip merchants. Safeway is, by far, our largest partner and helps us raise about \$65,000 annually for Miramonte."

Supporters register their Safeway Club Card number along with a credit or debit card when they join eScrip. As they shop with eScrip merchants like Safeway, a percentage of their purchases are sent to as many as three designated organizations.

"eScrip is so easy," says Marci Byrne, an eScrip Coordinator at OIS. "Once you sign up for

eScrip, you just shop as usual and a percentage of your purchases are automatically donated to the groups of your choice. It has been incredibly lucrative for OIS and we are so grateful that Safeway keeps participating."

This past summer, the Safeway 10% Back to Schools Program allowed all eScrip groups to earn 10% of items purchased by their supporters from participating manufacturers such as Kraft Foods, Pepsi, Kellogg's, General Mills, Sara Lee and Unilever. During this six week Back to Schools Program, the Safeway family of stores contributed over \$3 million to support the education of youth across the nation. eScrip, Inc. brings retailers, manufacturers and service providers forward in support of education of youth. To date, eScrip has generated more than \$180 million in merchant contributions to schools and organizations across the country.

Schoolpop: Similar to E-Script, but Safeway does not participate in Schoolpop. All you need to do is register and begin your on-line shopping at www.schoolpop.com. By clicking to your favorite on-line merchants, your school of choice will receive a contribution based on a percentage of your purchase. Participating merchants include E-Bay, Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, Nordstrom, Old Navy, Travelocity, Shutterfly and dozens of others. The contribution amount varies by vendor; Amazon gives 2%, Shutterfly 9% and 123Inkjets.com a whopping 16%. Go to <http://www.schoolpop.com/shop/p/home/> for more information.

BoxTops for Education:

Most elementary schools in Moraga and Lafayette have designated Box-Top Coordinators (usually a member of the PTA or Parents Club) who facilitate the redemption of BoxTops for Education. When

General Mills first launched the BoxTops program in 1996, BoxTops could mainly be found on kid-friendly cereals. These days you can find the small pink coupons on many of the products you use every day: brands such as General Mills, Pillsbury, Birds-eye, Betty Crocker, Kleenex, Ziploc, Yoplait, Kotex, Depend, Huggies, and Hefty bear the coupons, which are worth .10 each to a school. Los Perales Elementary School's Box-Tops Coordinator, Merylee Landau, says the LP PTA received about \$850 from the BoxTops program last year; so far this year they are about 2/3 of the way toward their goal of \$980. For a complete list of products, go to <http://www.boxtops4education.com/AboutBoxTops/Products.aspx>. Just clip those BoxTops and mail them to the school office, attn: 'BoxTops Coordinator.'



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School Name and Address	www.escrip.com E-Script ID #	www.schoolpop.com Schoolpop ID #
Orinda:		
Del Rey Elementary School 25 El Camino Moraga Orinda CA 94563	134856492	124178
Glorietta Elementary 15 Martha Road Orinda CA 94563	137116775	106155
Orinda Intermediate School 80 Ivy Dr Orinda CA 94563	137104809	104012
Sleepy Hollow Elementary 20 Washington Lane Orinda CA 94563	136915935	106154
Wagner Ranch Elementary 350 Camino Pablo Orinda CA 94563	130494921	102211
Orinda Union Elementary School District 8 Altarinda Rd Orinda CA 94563		102213
Moraga:		
Camino Pablo Elementary 1111 Camino Pablo Moraga CA 94556	6481796	124172
Donald L Rheem Elementary School 90 Laird Dr Moraga CA 94556	6496146	124171
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo Moraga CA 94	6658727	106149
Los Perales Elementary School 22 Wakefield Dr Moraga CA 94556	6530602	129912
Moraga School District 1540 School St Moraga CA 94556		106147
Lafayette:		
Burton Valley Elementary 561 Merriewood Dr Lafayette CA 94549	137045346	104001
Happy Valley Elementary School 3855 Happy Valley Road Lafayette CA 94	136926259	106099
Lafayette Elementary School 950 Moraga Road Lafayette CA 94549	136926463	106101
Stanley Middle School 3455 School Street Lafayette CA 94549	6573583	102201
Lafayette Elementary School District 3477 School St Lafayette CA 94549		102199
High Schools:		
Miramonte High School 750 Moraga Way Orinda CA 94563	136588741	104013
Campolindo High School 300 Moraga Road Moraga CA 94556	137107305	106150
Acalanes High School 1200 Pleasant Hill Rd Lafayette CA 94549	140807571	102200
Education Foundations:		
Educational Foundation Of Orinda 21c Orinda Way, #123 Orinda CA 94	150733840	116646
Moraga Educational Foundation PO Box 34 Moraga CA 94556	500002910	116715
Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation P.O. Box 923 Lafayette CA 94549	137956566	120540
The above data was gathered from various websites including schools, E-Script and Schoolpop		

EFO Stands Firmly Behind Orinda Schools

By Gabriele Mozee, Educational Foundation of Orinda

The first EFO meeting of the New Year, held early January at OIS, was a sobering opportunity for school superintendents, principals and board members to express their concerns as to what may happen at the state and federal levels in terms of a budget for education. It's important and reassuring to point out that no matter what happens the only thing that seems to remain unchanged is EFO's commitment to Orinda's schools and excellence. Elections and recessions come and go and so do the politics of education, while EFO continues to fund the daily staff, materials and support needed for all Orinda students to receive one of the best well-rounded educations in the nation under the roof of "free public education."

Acalanes Sup. Jim Negri shared at this meeting that he wasn't sure what the effects of the proposed budget cuts will be for the High School district. Monies promised through Prop. 98 will likely be reduced and he will work closely with parents, employees and the Governing Board so that students and employees are

treated fairly. The harsh reality is that everyone will feel the effects in some way but we won't know the extent until June, leaving us all wondering what is in store for community and students.

At OIS this same day Associate Principles Jeanne Cusack and Ron Langer gave EFO members tours of some of the classes supported by EFO pledges: Drama 1 and 2, where students begin by learning use of space, facial expressions, games, improvisation, pantomime, scripted sketches, speaking and directing. Eventually with experience, they do the above with creativity, confidence and appreciation for dramatic artistry. They advance as they learn how to analyze scenery, sometimes choosing comedy and the opportunity to work with the local CAL Shakespeare Theatre. OIS Drama Teacher Terry Eubanks calls her classes, a "human laboratory."

Ninety (90%) of the library services at OIS are covered by EFO, which pays the salaries of the librarian and assistant. They teach power-point to teachers and students, research techniques,

technology training with document cameras and more. The library is always open and welcoming to students during brunch and lunch.

In all, one thousand (1,000) students at OIS enjoy one or more elective classes funded by EFO. These classes offer the critical advantage to Orinda students in today's challenging educational environment. Through the support of parents and the community, EFO remains one reliable source of financial stability for our schools. As we discovered on our tour, school is an exciting and optimistic place to be as a stu-



Orinda Intermediate School students Katie Marino and Kimberly Mendoza enjoy an EFO-funded art class

Photo provided

dent in Orinda. EFO is committed to maintaining that optimism.

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