

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

New Head for Saklan Valley School

By Jean Follmer



Saklan Valley School's incoming Head David Hague with outgoing Head Jonathan Martin
Photo Jean Follmer

After nine years as Saklan Valley School's Head, Jonathan Martin is turning over the reigns to Assistant Head, David Hague.

Martin has reason to be proud

of the many accomplishments Saklan achieved during his tenure. The school population "well over tripled" and five years ago Saklan was able to purchase the campus it

had rented for many years. Construction efforts at Saklan included the addition of two middle school classrooms and the substantial renovation of its impressive science laboratory. Martin also helped introduce the laptop program with the goal being a laptop for every student. A Strategic Plan was developed for the period 2007-2012 and Saklan has enjoyed "6 years of strong surplus." Martin said Saklan benefits from "strong community and parental involvement" and is known for its "lean administrative profile." Martin believes strongly in "global" education. Saklan offers both French and Mandarin to its students as well as "International Day." The middle school offers courses in both "historical and contemporary Chinese culture."

Martin "had the honor of being at the Klingenstein Center at Columbia University" last January. According to the Klingenstein Center, the Klingenstein Heads of

"I'm never too busy for your referrals!"



Holly Henkel
J.Rockcliff Realtors
89 Davis Rd, Ste 100
Orinda
925 253-7005(office); 360-2390(cell)
holly@hollyhenkel.com



Holly Henkel, your trusted advisor

Schools Program "gathers twenty Heads from around the world for intensive study and reflection among professional peers." The experience "was eye opening for me about new fields into which to venture." Martin looks forward to the coming year. He will be running his own website and blog, interviewing for 2009 positions and traveling with his family to both Europe and Central America.

Assistant Head David Hague said, "I want to build on what Jonathan has built." Hague came

to Saklan last year after five years at The Pegasus School in Huntington Beach. As an East Coast native, Hague boasts degrees from New England College, Castleton State College, Harvard University and Vanderbilt University. He said, "When we came to interview (at Saklan), we were really struck by the sense of community here." One of the things Hague is impressed with is the "Trips and Travel" program at Saklan. All travel expenses are contemplated in advance so are part of the tuition. This saves the

parents from having to pay extra money for outings like the 6th grade trip to Yosemite and the 8th grade leadership trip to Camp Caritas.

In his free time, Hague is an accomplished lacrosse referee. He is currently a referee for Major League Lacrosse as well as a trainer for other lacrosse referees. Hague has been extremely impressed with his first year at Saklan and looks forward to his new role as Head in the coming academic year.

OUSD—State of the District Looks Pretty Good

By Andrea A. Firth

About thirty interested parents, teachers, and administrators recently attended a special presentation by Superintendent Joe Jaconette on the state of the Orinda Union School District (OUSD). "We wanted to bring the interested parties together to reflect upon the successes and accomplishments of the District and to leave with a sense that things are going well," stated Pat Rudebusch, President of the OUSD School Board.

Not surprisingly, Dr. Jaconette started the presentation off with a review of the District budget for the next school year, which remains balanced without staff layoffs despite a \$700K revenue shortfall due to the proposed Sate school budget cuts. "The bulk of our expenditures, about 89%, go to staff salaries and benefits," explained Jaconette. "This creates a major challenge to reducing expenses without impacting people," he added.

Jaconette stated that the District will be challenged to maintain financial stability and preserve ex-

isting programs in the future without increased revenues. "There is a parcel tax in Orinda which is already fully committed to ongoing expenditures," he said. "Due to increasing costs and to consider growth, we have to consider increasing revenue through an additional parcel tax," he added. To that end, a Parcel Tax Feasibility Planning Committee has been formed by the OUSD School Board to initiate discussions on the parcel tax process, which requires a year or more.

Declining enrollment was another factor impacting revenue in the District. A demographic study of enrollment, commissioned by the OUSD School Board, projected a small degree of declining enrollment in the short term with stable enrollment across the District for the foreseeable future. When asked by a parent in the audience about the impact of the two new residential developments in Orinda on school enrollment numbers, Jerry Bucci, the Director of Business Services, explained that the study forecasts

extend to 2018. "[According to the study] the two developments would yield about 100 students over a long period of time. We still have plenty of space to accommodate these students," stated Bucci.

The presentation's tone lightened as Jaconette moved to a review of the District's academic progress. By several indicators, OUSD students were shown to be performing well above proficiency levels. "Our students are achieving," stated Jaconette with a smile. He went on to describe the many programs to support and reinforce students' reading and writing skills—a District-wide focus that had been established for the 2007-2008 school year. These programs included student writing workshops and professional development programs along with the addition of literary coaches and the enhancement of classroom libraries.

As far as technology, Jaconette reported that the District is up and running with a ubiquitous wireless network at all sites, an enhanced

phone network with improved emergency contact capabilities, and almost no network down time. In addition, a District-wide technology plan is under construction to develop strategies for technological growth and improvement.

Jaconette concluded the meeting noting his satisfaction with the District's progress over the past school year. "I hope you recognize that this year has been impacted significantly by the budget crisis, and despite that, we have had a lot of activity, forward movement, and planning," he stated. "We have met our main goals to keep programs intact and make some movement forward."

GET A HEAD START ON THE 2008 - 2009 SCHOOL YEAR!

Summer classes available for:

- ALGEBRA I
- GEOMETRY
- ALGEBRA 2 / TRIGONOMETRY

- Preview the first semester of your upcoming math class
- Flexible schedule that won't interfere with your summer plans
- Eight day sessions (3 hour classes)
- Small class sizes (4 students per class)

Experienced math teacher/tutor attended Sleepy Hollow, O.I.S., Miramonte and holds a California teaching credential. References are available upon request.

Please call (925) 708 - 4213 for details.

TROOP 200's FIRST EAGLE SCOUT

Submitted by J. J. Johnson

Lafayette Scout and Venturer Gordon Spahr will receive the rank of Eagle Scout at a National Court of Honor on Saturday, June 14, 2008.

Gordon will graduate from Acalanes High School in June, and has been appointed to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs as the principal nominee of Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher. He's an honor student and varsity member of New Crew, and received numerous athletic and scholastic recognitions, played four different sports, and also played four years in the orchestra.

Among his many accomplishments, Spahr is founder and President of Venturing Crew 200, and serves Troop 200 as an Instructor. He holds the Vigil Honor in the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's Honor Society, and was a leadership instructor in several BSA courses, most recently at the National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (www.nayle.org) at Philmont Scout Ranch, NM.

For his community service leadership project, Gordon helped the City of Lafayette comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements. He obtained permissions and led others in placing nearly 500 warning placards at storm drains on nineteen separate private properties around the city. He also conducted public education efforts by addressing the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Lafayette City Council, and Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, and manned an informational booth during a recent Earth Day Festival at Stanley Middle School.

The Mission Outreach Board of Our Savior's Lutheran Church charters Troop 200, Venturing Crew



Gordon Spahr Troop 200

200, and Cub Scout Pack 200. It is somehow fitting that Gordon, a confirmed OSLC member and a graduate of Pack 200, become the first Eagle Scout in the 2-1/2 year history of Troop 200. OSLC is very proud of him and his accomplishments and wishes him the best in all his future endeavors.

SUMMER THEATER PROGRAMS for ages 8-18
Experience the summer of a lifetime!

5-week Conservatory
6/16-7/18
Lafayette

2-week Camp
7/14-7/25
Orinda

Click www.calshakes.org/camps
call 510.548.3422 x105
email learn@calshakes.org

CAL SHAKES
CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER

Get outstanding low prices on quality products.

14.99
16" Oscillating Stand Fan
3 speed settings. Height and tilt adjustable. W 844 102 1
While supplies last.

9.99
Twin-Pack 15-Lb. Sure Fire Charcoal Briquets
Ready faster, burns even longer. Better barbecue flavor than gas. 30 lbs. total. T 620 003 B24
While supplies last.

2.99
Brushed Stainless Steel Solar Light
Bright, white LED. Lights up automatically at dusk; runs up to 8 hours. Rechargeable battery included. E 441 264 F24
While supplies last. Supplies are limited. This item available only to stock on hand.

JUNE Bargains of the month

Find the right tools and supplies for your projects, plus expert, local advice.

Orinda Hardware & Rental
Just down from the Orinda Theater
56 Moraga Way Orinda CA 94563
925-254-5429
Screen Repairs - 48 hr service

True Value.
START RIGHT. START HERE.
Sale ends 06/30/08
© 2008 by True Value® Company, Chicago, IL 60621

MUSIC LESSONS
www.musicandart.org

Lamorinda Academy of Music and Art

Private and group lessons
Piano, string instruments, voice
Competitions, Tests, Fun

All Ages & All Levels
925-299-1240