

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

## Compassion ♦ Integrity ♦ Professionalism

Olga Edwards



35 years in Lamorinda as a Mother, Teacher & Community Volunteer.

925-997-0107

olga.edwards@prurealty.com  
www.prurealty.com/olgaedwards



### Eight New Eagle Scouts in Troop 246

Submitted by Nancy Ingersoll



front row: Matthew Lenhart, Daniel Ingersoll; middle row: Gregory Angelides, Stephen Gessling, and Kevin Condie; back row: Michael DeChenne, Aric Morton, and Coleman Williams

Boy Scout Troop 246 of Moraga is pleased to announce the advancement of eight young men to Eagle Scout. Only about 5 percent of all boy scouts in America earn the rank of Eagle Scout and this troop is celebrating its third consecutive year with eight Scouts being honored at the troop's annual Eagle Court of Honor.

The following is a summary of their Eagle Scout Projects:

#### Gregory Angelides

A Campolindo senior, Greg led a team of volunteers that spent 130 hours cleaning up the area behind the community center of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Ascension in Oakland. The team refurbished 54 chairs, saving the church \$3000 in replacement costs, recycled 90 metal chair frames, and moved and reused 15 large barrels of decorative rocks weighing 800 pounds each.

#### Kevin Condie

Kevin, also a Campolindo senior, built benches for a garden area at Cambridge Elementary School in Concord. The bulk of the material for his project was donated by Sierra Point Lumber in Brisbane, Calif.

#### Michael DeChenne

Michael's Eagle project took place at St. Monica's Catholic Church in Moraga, where he led a team of nine scouts and adult helpers in building a new fence and gate, and cleared weeds and prepared soil for planting. The new fence is 24 feet in length, and was constructed completely from scratch with donated materials and equipment over a three day period. The project included over 170 man hours to complete.

#### Stephen Gessling

For his eagle project, Stephen (a Campo senior) renovated the access trail between the Campolindo neighborhood and the Lafayette reservoir. He removed overgrown brush and weeds, installed recycled plastic timbers to create landings, and put down a layer of crushed gravel. Donations were made by Mr. Snyder of Ace Hardware in Moraga, Lowe's, Diamond K of Lafayette, Campolindo Homeowner's Association and Mrs. Deb DeTrane, who suggested the project.

#### Daniel Ingersoll

A freshman at Campolindo, Daniel refurbished two large benches at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. The wood was splintering,

the paint was peeling, and some of the posts were rotting away. This required replacing most of the wood, sanding, staining, and waterproofing the whole thing. Nearly 100 hours were spent on this project.

#### Matthew Lenhart

Campo senior Matthew Lenhart built planter boxes for the kindergarten class as Cambridge Elementary School in Concord. The boxes will be used for the school's life science programs as well as to beautify the school grounds.

#### Aric Morton

Aric's Eagle project benefited St. Monica Catholic Church and its parishioners by refurbishing two atriums and other planting areas. Morton invested 198 hours to remove dying plants and old tree roots, install new irrigation and replant the areas with 50 plants.

#### Coleman Williams

Campo senior Cole cleaned up and restored a creekside area at Rheem Elementary School. He also built and installed benches and a sign identifying the creek. The area will be used by teachers at Rheem to teach students about the watershed. The Moraga Kiwanis provided funding for the project materials.

### Gold Award Recipients Receive Town of Moraga Proclamation

Submitted by Jennifer Gerst



(left to right): Ken Chew, Jillian Hughes, Howard Harpham, Emily Gerst, Sarah DeMatteo, Dave Trotter, Amy Stagg, Mike Metcalf and Karen Mendonka

At their meeting on May 27, Moraga Mayor Dave Trotter along with the other Moraga Town Council members issued a proclamation dedicating that day to honor four young women who have achieved their Girl Scout Gold Award. Girl Scout Troop 30189 members Sarah DeMatteo, Emily Gerst, Jillian Hughes, and Amy Stagg earned

Girl Scout's highest award by completing service projects to benefit the community. The Gold Award represents the culmination of many hours of leadership, organization, networking and fulfillment of rigorous requirements from the Girl Scout organization. All of the recipients are recent graduates of Campolindo High School.

### Score Choice and What You Should Know About It

By Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D.

Since everyone is enjoying a break from homework, car pools, and after school activities, now is the perfect time to learn more about college admissions in a less hectic environment. One of the more difficult choices students have to face when they apply to college is whether to use the CollegeBoard's new Score Choice option. Score Choice offers students the opportunity to decide what test scores to send to schools. Score choice is a much debated subject as well as an issue of some complexity; my goal in this article is to try to put things in perspective for students and their families.

In June 2008 CollegeBoard introduced Score Choice. Prior to this announcement, when a student took any SAT exam, the results became part of the student's official testing record. When a student requested test scores be sent to colleges, CollegeBoard complied by sending all scores from each test date. Since the advent of Score Choice, the college admissions world has debated the policy from every imaginable angle. Critics of the policy maintain that it favors wealthier students who can afford costly test preparation and multiple testing sessions to try and boost their scores. They argue that affluent students have an unfair advantage over students who are unable to afford coaching and repeated test administration fees. On the other side supporters insist that Score Choice was designed to reduce student stress by giving the option to choose what SAT scores to send to colleges. They point to free or low cost test prep options that would serve to level the playing field for all students regardless of family income. Still other commentators wonder what all the fuss is. After all, CollegeBoard gives students the option of what SAT scores to send to colleges, and colleges set their

own admissions criteria as they always have done. So what's the problem?

Here's the problem. It is true that colleges determine their own admissions requirements. And that fact has not changed because CollegeBoard introduced Score Choice. However, since Score Choice was implemented, institutions across the nation have been driven to clarify their policies with respect to it. For example, Yale, Stanford, Cornell, Pomona, University of Southern California and University of Pennsylvania have stated that they will continue to require applicants to send all scores from each testing date. Harvard and University of Chicago say students can decide to send their highest scores from any single sitting. Meanwhile, Colby College and Williams say Score Choice is irrelevant because they already cherry-pick the highest individual math, critical reading and writing scores from each student's test sessions—this being the most lenient policy of all. These colleges express the legitimate concern that students may inadvertently suppress scores that could be beneficial to their application; Score Choice does not permit students to select individual section scores.

Is this all confusing? Indeed it is, and unnecessarily so. The already complex admissions process is certain to become more stressful than ever if students get caught up in this latest admissions frenzy. What students need to understand is fairly simple. Students typically finalize the list of schools they plan to apply to in the fall of their senior year. By then most students have taken the SAT and/or the ACT at least once. As students check the application requirements of the colleges they plan to apply to, they learn what these schools want to see in terms of scores. Since you are ethically bound to comply with all

of a school's admissions requirements, the illusion of score choice fades, as colleges assert their rights to see whatever scores they wish to use to evaluate applicants. If you use Score Choice, it will be your responsibility to pay strict attention to each college's policy in order to know what to send and when. Problems could result due to misinterpretation of policy, gaps in applications and even missed deadlines as you wait for the latest round of test score results.

My advice to students is to steer clear of Score Choice and send your schools all your scores. Prepare well for standardized testing by using practice tests to gain confidence and improve your scores. There are many books available with practice tests (Check out CollegeBoard's The Official Guide to the SAT). Take advantage of free on-line programs (visit www.number2.com). As soon as you have acceptable results, put standardized testing behind you, relax, and move on to the next step in the college admissions process. Remember, the majority of the nation's schools accept the majority of applicants. Colleges and universities want to accept you, so prepare as best you can and don't lose sleep over standardized testing.

Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D. is an independent college admissions advisor located in Lafayette, California. Her goal is to help students and their families understand the college admissions process, research college and career options, create a college list and prepare a strong, organized and cohesive application. Dr. LaScala is a member of NACAC, WACAC, and HECA and earned a certification in College Admissions and Career Planning from University of California at Berkeley. Contact her at (925) 891-4491 or elizabeth@doingcollege.com.

# www.lamorindaweekly.com

## print = online

All of our stories are available on our web site and are archived back to our first issue (March, 2007).

You can read the current issue at the Read Online tab, or click Archive to read earlier issues.

For your convenience, all stories are available as a single-page for downloading or sending to friends and family.

web site:  
www.lamorindaweekly.com

