

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Acalanes Union High School District
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
Wednesday, Feb 17, 2010 at 7:30pm
Wednesday, Mar 3, 2010 at 7:30pm

Lafayette School District
LAFSD Office
3477 School Street, Lafayette
Wednesday, Mar. 10, 2010 at 7 pm

Budget: A Special Board Meeting will be held on February 17th and the superintendent's final budget recommendation will be given at a Special Board Meeting on February 24th. Both meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. Please check the district website for further details: www.lafsd.k12.ca.us.

Moraga School District
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2009 at 7:30 pm
Kindergarten: The Moraga School District Kindergarten registration will be held on March 4th and 5th, 2010 -- Thurs., Mar. 4 and Fri., Mar. 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Los Perales and Rheem Schools, and from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Camino Pablo School. To register incoming kindergarten students, parents/guardians must go to the school their child will attend in the 2010-2011 school year.

Orinda Union School District
OUSD Office
8 Altarinda Road, Orinda
Monday, Mar. 1, 2009 at 4:00pm

Budget: The OUSD School Board has scheduled a special budget study session on February 17 at 6:00 p.m.

In Other News....

CP Spells Bee

Submitted by Wendy Feldman



(L-R) Lauren Rodriguez, Noah Todd, and Anya Li Photo provided Camino Pablo conducted its 5th Annual Spelling Bee Program on Friday, February 5, 2010. Nineteen students ranging from grades 3-5 were the contenders at a challenging, fun filled, exciting event that began promptly at 830 am and con-

cluded at 10:00. Over 15 rounds were completed, and by process of elimination, 4th grader Lauren Rodriguez was deemed Champion. Rodriguez has qualified to represent Camino Pablo Elementary School at the Contra Costa County Bee in late March. Also from 4th grade were 1st and 2nd runners-up Noah Todd and Anya Li, respectively. The winning word was ossuary.

The program is sponsored by the Camino Pablo PTA and organized by parent volunteers. Wendy Feldman, Spelling Bee Coordinator, was instrumental in bringing the Spelling Bee to the school 5 years ago and has overseen the program since its inception.



The Advanced Drama class at Campolindo High School performed four children's plays for the elementary school children of the Lamorinda community. The productions were self-written and directed, and acted by the students in the Advanced Drama class. Pictured from A Toy Tale are (bottom L to R) Marita Rittenhouse, Ian Hastings, and Gabby Olufson (top L to R) Frederick Layacan, Kaisa Rajahalmel, and Jacob Phillips. Photo T. Boero

Advertising

How Six Figure Income Families Get Thousands of Dollars in Free Money For College

Local man teaches free workshops to help parents save thousands in process

Moraga--East Bay parents that are planning on sending a child to college in the next few years, but aren't quite sure how to pay for it can now rest a little easier. Gerna Benz of Bay Area College Planners has been educating families in the community for over 15 years.

'It's really sad, but most parents that we talk to have done real well financially, but never found the time to save for college, and now they're facing a bill of \$18,000-\$45,000 a year, and they don't know who to turn to,' he says. 'Further, most of the time, all they hear is to not even bother applying for any aid because they make too much money. However, most of the time, that is simply not true even if they make a six-figure income.'

Gerna would know, because his group has worked with over 1400 families in the last 10 years ranging from single moms to corporate CEO's, and they say they can help anyone get through the process and save a bundle.... no matter how good of a student they have or how much money they make.

'I got started in this because I was a very good student, but no one told us anything about how to access money for college, or even how to pick a career...so I didn't go right away. But, I vowed that I would learn the process and devote my time to helping families not fall into the same trap that we did. 'Simply put, we show parents the truth that they aren't hearing anywhere else about how the college process really works and save thousands of dollars in the process.' Lamorinda parents will have an opportunity

to hear Gerna speak. He is teaching his class 'How to Give Your Kid a 4-Year College Education Without Going Broke!' on Saturday February 27th at the Moraga Library located at 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga, CA 94556 from 11:00am-12:15pm.

'We'll discuss everything from the greatest myths about the college process, to how to send your student to a fancy private school for less than the cost of a junior college...it'll be like learning how to get a brand new Lexus for the price of a used pick up truck,' he grins.

Topics will also include why private scholarships and 529 plans are a waste of time, how to double or even triple the amount of free money you receive from each school, and how to avoid the one mistake that will kill your chances of getting any money at all that almost every other parent will make this coming January, and much, much more.

'They will learn a ton, and I do my best to make the class fun,' he says. 'It's like I'm giving them a super bright flash light to navigate a pitch black cave, while all the other parents continue to stumble around blindly! 'Don't forget: the class is totally free, but seats are limited. Also, we are not sure when we will be teaching these classes in the East Bay again since my March and April calendars are already filling up, so come on out and see me.' You can reserve a seat online at www.baycollegeplanners.com or by calling our 24 hour reservation line at (877) 924-3726.

Lamorinda Schools

Lafayette Elementary's International Night

A Celebration of Cultures

By Rosylyn Aragoes Stenzel

With the theme sporting Winter Olympics, Lafayette Elementary School Families gathered Wednesday night, January 27th to celebrate cultural and ethnic diversity in the community.

In the school's multipurpose room there was plenty to eat, see, and do. Especially popular was the potluck brought in by the school's families - featuring foods from all over the world. Entertainment was also diverse; including Reggae music by Asheba from Trinidad, a Chinese Yo-Yo performance by Stanley Middle School Student Stephanie Brannon and a Tae Kwon Do demonstration from Yu's Martial Arts. Also, not to be missed were the Olympic-themed crafts, games, and student artwork.

Local businesses that made donations to International Night were Handlebar Toys, Mangia Pizzeria, Powell's Sweet Shoppe, Ming's Chinese Restaurant, Popchips/Carrie Dove Catering and Whole Foods.

Paulie Proffett and Janet Chen co-chaired the event. Says Proffett, "The goal of International Night is to raise cultural awareness and celebrate the family heritage of Lafayette Elementary's students." The 8th annual event, sponsored by the Lafayette PTA, attracts more than 300 students and families each year.



Stephanie Brannon wows the crowd with a Chinese Yo-Yo performance. Photo Matt Fabela

Committed to Scouting

Submitted by Linda Bailey Wurgley



Photo provided

Each year the Lafayette Service Unit of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. recognizes girls who have completed 10 years as a Girl Scout. Young women in this community have lots of choices about how to spend their time, and the girls that were honored on January 26, 2010, have chosen and stuck with Girl Scouting among their many ac-

tivities for the past ten years. For these girls that means 10 years of making friends, providing service to others, camping, earning badges, going on outings, selling cookies, learning leadership skills, and having a lot of fun!

This year 21 girls in Lafayette reached this milestone. They are pictured above: Dana

Katz, Marisa Tashima, Adena Bauer, Zoe Bauer, Emily Bjerke, Julia Elliott, Madison Gerring, Lauren Mitchell, Lauren Riebs, Sarah Runyon, Melanie Vandenberghe, Caroline Wilcox, Kimberley Bowers, Carrie Braun, Kathryn Stabler, Lena Olufson, Mallory Loomis, Molly Quinn, Rachel Edwards, Elizabeth Gambel, Renita Thapa.

Lafayette Girl Scout Troop Honors Gold Award Recipients

Submitted by Gwenly Carrel



(L-R) Michelle Pelletreau, Gabriella Olufson, Megan Eustis, Jennifer Hardy, Katie Neff, Hayley Winther, Olivia Hirsch, Jenna Pettegrew, Marika Carrel, Jen Seroy, Diana Brownstein

Members of Girl Scout Troop 30752 were honored in a special ceremony in January at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church and nine were recognized for achieving Girl Scouts' highest honor, the Gold Award. In recognition of the Gold Award recipients' commitment to service, Lafayette Mayor Brandt Andersson presented each girl with a city proclamation that announces her birthday in 2010 as a day in her honor as a Gold Award Girl Scout.

The Girl Scouts who achieved their Gold Awards and their projects are: **Marika Carrel** - "Road to Recovery," organized and conducted an activity

day at Children's Hospital and created an educational video about cancer myths. She is a senior at Acalanes High School.

Megan Eustis - Conducted a swim clinic and water safety workshop for homeless and high-risk families. She is a senior at Campolindo High School.

Olivia Hirsch - "Warm Winter Nights," planned and hosted activities for homeless children living at a temporary shelter. She is a senior at Campolindo High School.

Katie Neff - Made a memory wall for Lafayette Elementary School's 28 drama productions. She is a senior at Acalanes High School.

Gabriella Olufson - Constructed safe stoves and hosted a safety workshop for children living in villages adjacent to the Guatemala City dump. She is a

senior at Campolindo High School. **Michelle Pelletreau** - "Making a House a Home," collected and delivered home furnishings for a home for a family of six through Shelter Inc. She is a senior at Campolindo High School.

Jenna Pettegrew - Constructed safe stoves and hosted a safety workshop for children living in villages adjacent to the Guatemala City dump. She is a senior at Campolindo High School.

Jen Seroy - Raised and trained a puppy for 15 months for Guide Dogs for the Blind. She is a senior at Acalanes High School.

Hayley Winther - "Road to Recovery," organized and conducted an activity day at Children's Hospital and made a quilt from patients' drawings which was given to the hospital. She is a senior at Acalanes High School.

To achieve her Gold Award, each Scout had to meet the criteria of putting talents and strengths into action and demonstrating commitment to themselves, their community and the future. Finally, the project had to involve assessment, planning documentation and evaluation, benefit others and involve at least 50 hours, usually requiring between 4 and 12 months to complete.

Troop members recognized for length of membership included Diana Brownstein (11 years) and Jennifer Hardy (13 years).