

THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

GeoQpons For Iphones, Ipads, Android, Blackberry Price: Free

Shopping apps that enable you to compare prices are helpful, and apps that save you money instantly, with coupons listed right on your smart phone, are even better. There is no need to send the coupon to your email to print out a hard copy. Just walk into the listed store and show the coupon image from your smart phone to the cashier. You'll save money as they scan and verify the code.

One of the best apps for these instant coupons is called GeoQpons. An easy to use shopping app, GeoQpons lists coupons and deals alphabetically by brand or store. With the touch of a button you can break it down into categories, including fashion, sports, dining, auto, furnishings, and more. For example, on the day I checked my GeoQpons, Macy's ad-

vertised \$10 off any purchase of \$25.00. Abercrombie and Fitch offered a discount of 25% off an entire purchase with no restrictions. When shopping in Lamorinda, use the local option feature listing current coupons for local merchants. Hair by Andrea in Lafayette publicized \$10 off a child's haircut and Diablo Smog Test in Lafayette offered \$30 off smog tests.

By using GeoQpons, you'll stretch your budget with those additional back-to-school necessities as well as your upcoming holiday shopping list. If you love to shop and save dollars, yet hate to clip coupons, this is a "must have" app.

Eric Pawlakos is a senior at Miramonte High School.

Don't Let Your Child Miss This Year's Opportunity to Create

Submitted by Valyrie Friedman

Each year, the National PTA® Reflections ProgramSM challenges students to create art inspired by a specific theme. The program has six areas—dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography and visual arts—and four grade divisions—primary, intermediate, middle/junior and senior. Designed to enhance quality arts education, the Reflections ProgramSM provides opportunities for students to express themselves and receive positive recognition for their artistic efforts. When children express themselves through words, pictures, music, dance, film and other art media, they grow intellectually; they learn to analyze their thoughts and feelings.

This fall, the PTA/PTSA's of eight Lamorinda and five Walnut Creek schools, supported by the Las Trampas Creek Council (LTCC) are participating in Reflections. The Lamorinda schools are Burton Valley, Lafayette, Camino Pablo, and Donald L. Rheem Elementary, Joaquin Moraga Intermediate and Stanley Middle School. The theme this year is "Diversity means..."

Workshops and special events are being held at many participating schools, as a venue for students to bring their works in progress and/or be inspired to begin a creation based on the theme. Thursday, September 29th, Burton Valley Elementary will host an after school workshop from

2:30pm-4pm. Keep an eye out for announcements around your school regarding Reflections workshops and events.

Works are judged upon theme interpretation, artist's statement, artistic originality and creativity, and the student's mastery of their medium. Works selected are submitted to LTCC, who host a showcase of the entries from participating schools in December. 24 entrants advance to the district/regional level, are Showcased in January, and continue to State with possible advancement to the National level.

Last year, the theme was "Together We Can..." Two local students' entries advanced to the State Level: Marcello Severo and Zevin Acuna of Burton Valley. An Awards of Merit was given to Marcello in musical composition. Zevin Acuna's film, "Together we can save the homeless. Together we can save the world.", received an Award of Excellence at the State and National Level. Zevin's video can be viewed at <http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/reflections.cfm> under 2011 Film/Video production winners.

Students interested in participating should contact individual schools for entry forms and deadlines.

To learn more about the Reflections Program, visit http://www.ptareflections.org/cs/about_reflections.

TEEN SCENE

A Window to the World

By Jacqueline Tao



Photo by Tao Family

Looking back, I have been incredibly fortunate to be a teen that has grown up and gone to school in the Lamorinda community. Yet at times the fact that it is so safe, so peaceful, and so sheltered really does justify its being compared to a "bubble." Being able to travel provides new perspectives on the world and exposes the traveler to the myriad of different things that lies outside our home. Through my travels I have had the privilege to experience the different cultures, histories, people, sceneries, and foods of the world. I think that travel is a great portal for enjoyment but also for openness and understanding of more people and things than we would otherwise be familiar with.

A recent trip to Tibet opened my eyes to the opulence we enjoy in Lamorinda and how we take so many conveniences for granted.

After a long drive in a rickety Jeep, my family and I arrived at the top of a mountain, admiring a beautiful yet desolate Tibetan landscape—distant snowy mountains, minimal vegetation, and long crisscrossed chains of Tibetan prayer flags. Unexpectedly, a group of Tibetan children came to us, fascinated by everything about us. Their animated joyfulness contrasted drastically from the wind-swept, barren landscape. In an effort to transcend the language and cultural barrier, I opened a bag of pea-sized crackers to share with the kids. They swarmed excitedly, a hungry mob tantalized by this rare foreign treat.

Surrounded on all sides, I scattered the snacks. Even though these snacks fell in the dirt, the children devoured them, excited to taste something new. Big smiles filled their faces and their eyes danced with delight. De-

prived of worldly possessions, living in a harsh natural environment, they had easily managed to find reasons for contentment and satisfaction in their simple, minimalistic lifestyle.

With their curiosity and gratefulness for our visit, the Tibetan children offered me a glimpse of how effortless it was for them to live with so little yet be so gleeful. As a Campo student, such a feat is not always easy. How often throughout my high school career stress consumed me. My friends and I regularly lamented the course work or our lack of something as we searched for anything better than what we had, although we had no idea what that "better" was.

It took a trip halfway across the globe, to a world very different from Moraga where I have lived for eighteen years, for me to realize an important counter perspective. Happiness does not depend on fancy clothes, cars, homes, or what school we attend. The gifts of gratitude and simplicity allow us to harness the sources of pleasure that we often overlook and take for granted. By appreciating everyday joys of life, letting go of worries and tensions, and welcoming foreigners as friends, we can't help but experience fulfillment.

As I leave to go to college, I want to encourage the youth of Lamorinda to enroll in programs that encourage international exchanges. There is no better classroom than traveling. Open the window to the world and take a trip to understanding.

Jacqueline Tao graduated from Campolindo High School in June and will attend Stanford University. Through her travels she has been able to get a taste of many different cultures and places.

Reach 60,000+ in Lamorinda
Advertise in Lamorinda Weekly Call 925-377-0977 today

Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified

Music lessons

Piano/guitar
w/Robbie Dunbar
All levels welcome!
I travel to your home.
M. A. Music Composition
925-323-9706
robbiednrb@gmail.com

Piano Lessons in Lafayette with professional instructor MTAC member. Competition, CM exam Preparation. Rita Yegiazaryan 283-7601

Music lessons

Flute & Piano with Nika Rejto
Downtown Lafayette studio
Beginning - advanced, all styles
of music. I can travel to you!
925 310-4415, fourflutes@gmail.com

Piano Tuning

Experienced Piano Tuning
By local music teacher
925-323-9706

Insurance

Totalintegrityinsurance.com
20+yr Lamorinda resident.
My independent insurance
brokerage is here to serve you.
Over 100 top carriers = great
pricing and coverage for Biz
Gen Liab, W Comp, Homes, Auto,
Life. (925) 247-4356 0E90108

For sale

Vermont Tubbs Twin/Bunk Beds
Maple, excellent condition.
If new \$2,400. Asking \$1,200.
(925) 254-0877

College Advising

Affordable College Advising
College Search & Essay Help
jari94556@comcast.net
925-247-1978

House cleaning

www.totalclean.biz
Serving Lamorinda since 1985.
Insured and bonded 376-1004.

Monica's Cleaning

Residential & Commercial Janitorial Services
Lic. Free Estimates (925) 348-3761

Handyman

HANDYMAN
All types of repairs done. Woodworking,
Electrical, Audio, Leak repair, Drywall, Paint-
ing and more. Clean neat & on time!
No job to small, Senior Discount.
☎ (925) 708-6053
www.mikeslamorindahandyman.com

Fix, Paint, Repair anything.
Professional & Reliable
Call Terry 925-788-1663

Tree Service

East Bay Tree Service.
377-8733. Fine pruning, large
tree removal, stump grinding
License #805794

Tree & brush removal.

Poison Oak removal. 376-1995,
Licensed, insured & bonded

Construction

SWARTS CONSTRUCTION
Foundations, drainage, remodel
small repairs. 35 yrs. Lamorinda
www.swartsco.com
Lic# 613717 INSURED BONDED
Free Estimates: 925.250.6610

Plumbing

WE HOP TO IT!
(925) 377-6600
LeapFrogPlumbing.com

Painting

**LET ME BRIGHTEN
YOUR HOME!**

Specializing in
high quality interior painting
Lic.#953962/Bonded/Insured

AN INSIDE JOB
Mark Alexander
Owner

I'm local, and I'm a very nice guy!

(925) 370-6558 • (925) 787-6684 cell
grizzmark@sbcglobal.net

Windows & Gutters

Reliable Window Cleaning
Friendliness & remarkable results.
Windows, Gutters, Pressure
Washing. (925) 254-7622
ReliableWindowService.com

"Clean View" Window Washing
Great references! John Galovich
Cell: (925) 787-3116 or 825-7115

\$8 per 1/2" classified
ad height Email to
classified@
lamorindaweekly.com

Play Piano
Breakthrough Method
Simply Music has beginning
students playing great-sounding
contemporary, blues, & classical
pieces from the very first lessons!
Children, teens, adults and seniors
Lamorinda Piano 925-300-7561
www.simplymusic-lamorinda.com