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Location, Location...Plein Air

By Cathy Dausman



The Orinda landscape painting group at an old pear orchard in Moraga last spring.

Photo courtesy John Finger

Finger likes to call it like it is. Be- the field from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. cause of that the Orinda landscape for the past quarter century to do this. painting class he's led for the past Most "come early and stay late," he couple of years will likely undergo a says, and enjoy being outdoors enname change from Location Painting countering bugs, sun, wind and wanto the better known (at least in art cirdering art critics. The fruits of their cles) name of Plein (fresh) Air. The labor will be on display in the Orinda class once headed by Pam Glover Library Gallery through the month of still has a loyal following. Finger, January. A reception is planned who currently teaches the class, says from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. January 8. the group of mostly oil-based Shows at the Orinda Library Gallery painters strives to recreate the beauty are sponsored by the Orinda Arts of California's hills, trees, nostalgic Council.

hen it comes to class de- buildings, streams and bays. They scriptions, art teacher John have been meeting Wednesdays in

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Lafayette and Orinda Union School Districts Welcome New **Directors for Special Education**

... continued from page B2

"School psychologists do a lot of analysis and detective work to deterthat plan into action with the necessary pieces – such as the methodololater in school.

Orinda, it's a home coming of sorts "Some have a lot of experience with glesby participates in many meetings

for the East Bay native, who was born in Walnut Creek and grew up in mine the particular learning strengths Pleasanton. Inglesby studied psycholand needs of a student, and then put ogy as an undergraduate at UC Santa Cruz, earned a master's in school psychology at San Francisco Statue Unigies, curriculum, and support versity, and is currently working on a personnel," he says. As a psycholo- doctorate at UC Berkeley's School of gist, he has worked with children Education. His dissertation focuses on glesby's job is overseeing personnel across the age and developmental school principals and their experience for the Orinda Union School District. spectrum, which gave him a strong with special education services, beunderstanding of specific develop- cause Inglesby believes that princimental milestones, while also teach- pals are the key to success with for both certificated (e.g., teachers, ing him to look ahead and think about special education services in schools. specialists) and classified (e.g., aides, how to prepare students to succeed "I have learned that principals arrive" maintenance, office support staff) perwith a wide range of experience with Although Inglesby is new to special education services," he says.

services such as IEPs (Individualized Education Plans), while others need more support." One of his primary roles as Special Services Director is to consult with principals and serve as a resource for them, as well as for school staff and families.

Another important part of In-

As special services director, In-

that bring together teachers, students, parents and specialists, and it's this team aspect of special education that he particularly enjoys. Inglesby notes that complicated cases can have 20 people contributing to a child's education. "It's a powerful experience when a group of people work together over an extended period of time and pool their resources to help a child As personnel director he oversees the succeed," he says. "I enjoy building hiring, regulations, policies, practices teams and facilitating that process." Orinda parent Anna Tague, who Orinda Union School District, has noticed and appreciated his engagement

"I appreciate the energy and enthusiasm Brian brings to his role," she says. "At our first meeting he was genuinely interested in learning as much as he could about my daughter so he could help her receive the support she needs."

When asked what professional accomplishment he points to with pride, Inglesby says that in the districts where he's worked, he has been part of collaborative team that helped to significantly increase STAR scores founded a support group for parents for students with disabilities. He also of children in special education in the highlights his work creating a more coherent and comprehensive plan for aligning special education services and willingness to be a team player. with regular education standards.

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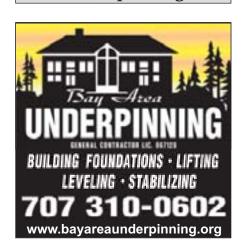


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