

Look Who's Cooking at Burton Valley

By Cathy Tyson with information provided by Lisa Evaristo



From left: Spencer Lewis, Cole Brightbill, Gwen Miles, Ben Krey, Emma Hathaway, Aidan Lewis, Dalilah Wiseman & Jenna Evaristo. Photo provided

The third year of the Burton Valley Elementary School Cook Off was bigger and better than ever. Expanding to give more students the opportunity to be involved, there were dozens of entries that were narrowed down to eight finalists. With proud parents and neighbors watching, each of the finalists received a certificate, and a goody bag with measuring spoons and cups, hand towels, spatulas and more, plus their cool Chef's coats and hats were gifts – all courtesy of the school's food vendor, Sodexo.

"The kids were amazing. The food was fantastic. Seriously good!" said Lisa Evaristo, hot lunch coordinator. "The good news is we will be putting the fifth-graders' recipes on the May menu and they will be the featured chefs. Our fourth- and third-graders will be featured next year and will also be the guest chefs. How cool is that?" Listed below are the eight finalists and their awards. Look for the recipes on the Burton Valley school website shortly.

- And the winners are:
- Dalilah Wiseman:** Grand prize winner / 5th grade / Chicken & Broccoli stir fry
 - Cole Brightbill:** Best presentation / 5th grade / Flaming balls of turkey with pesto pasta
 - Emma Hathaway:** Best Kitchen Etiquette / 5th grade / Emma's gourmet Mac & Cheese
 - Aidan Lewis:** Fun Kid Food / 5th grade / Aidan's BBQ chicken sandwich
 - Jenna Evaristo:** Healthy Food Choice / 4th grade / Rainbow wrap
 - Ben Krey:** Judges choice runner up / 4th grade / Kick'in Chicken Chili
 - Spencer Lewis:** Kid Friendly Presentation / 3rd grade / Turkey BLT Wrap
 - Gwendolyn Miles:** Best Kitchen Safety / 3rd grade / Fettuccine Alfredo

Funk and Exuberance Shared at Stanley



Stanley Middle School music students are joined by members of the US Air Force Band of the Golden West for a special March 28 performance. Back row, from left: Jonah Kallen, Zoe Portnoff, MSgt John Ruff, Ryan Kapoor, Arden Childers; front: Adrian Guzman, TSgt Michael Hornbuckle, Sophie McGlothlen. Photo Provided

The US Air Force Band of the Golden West shared musical tips and encouraged Stanley music students to "blare their hearts out" March 28 at Stanley Middle School.

"Their showmanship and funk spoke volumes to the students and adults who were able to attend," said Tina Tankka, Stanley Music Room parent volunteer. More importantly,

this very elite group of music masters (MSgt James Butler, NCOIC/Lead Alto Saxophone, MSgt Jonathan Ruff, Trumpet, TSgt Micheal Hornbuckle, Bass Trombone, TSgt Marshall Gentry, Drums, SSgt Alex Nikiforoff, Guitar, SrA Joseph Whitt, Operations/Double Bass) shared a message of connecting with people, making friends, and building global relationships, she said.

Audience members of students, teachers and parents were joined by Lafayette Mayor Carol Federighi and City Manager Steve Falk.

"The US Air Force band members were a poignant reminder that our military is integral in delivering our country's goodwill," Tankka said. "They gave us the luxury of forgetting the day's agenda and of remembering to be human. We hope to host this fantastically exuberant ensemble again in the near future." – J. Wake

Mirror Mirror

By Derek Zemrak



Mirror Mirror on the wall, what's the worst movie of the year thus far? How does Hollywood take a beloved classic story and proceed to destroy it? It breaks the one rule of filmmaking: shooting a bad script. There were a few clever twists to the magic mirror, the poison apple, and the kiss, but that did not help. The film could not decide if it was a slapstick comedy or a straight comedy. The acting was all over the place. Julia Roberts, the Evil Queen, who has not had a good performance since *Erin Brockovich*, which was not Oscar-worthy in my opinion, has hit rock bottom. Snow White, Lily Collins (*Abduction*) and daughter of Phil Collins, was neither believable nor likeable. The prince, Armie Hammer (*J. Edgar*), was the bouncing ball on the acting spectrum. Is there a director? Trarsem Singh (*The Immortals*) has the directing credit.

Nathan Lane (*The Birdcage*) and the seven dwarfs are the best part of the film. The opening scene was effective with good use of animation but then it all slides down the snow bank. The cinematography had beautiful shots but bad acting eventually obscured the scenery. I particularly liked the costume design in the film, especially the dwarfs and the Queen, from Oscar recipient Eiko Ishioka (*Dracula*), who passed away on Jan. 12. Hollywood has lost a true talent and we will miss Eiko's inspiration and creativity in the movies.

The beast in the movie, yes a beast, is too scary for the little ones. Youngsters will laugh at parts of the movie but it will be a long 106 minutes for anyone over 11. Also, the end credit Bollywood dance sequence made absolutely no sense.

The Evil Queen says: "Snow White must fall." Boy does she!

(Derek Zemrak is a filmmaker and the president of the California Independent Film Festival Association)



As Seen in Lamorinda



Fifteen Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School students were having a blast after school at the Moraga Center on March 30 encouraging drivers to "Honk, it's Cassie's birthday." Photo Cathy Dausman

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