

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Incoming Orinda Intermediate School students are greeted with high-fives at last week's WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) Day. Photo Andy Scheck

Lamorinda School Districts Embrace Curriculum Change

By Sophie Braccini

This is the first week of the 2013-14 school year for Lamorinda students, who are filing into classrooms staffed by teachers trained in the new Common Core State Standards that emphasize critical thinking and problem solving; standards now adopted by all California schools.

Guinn, director for educational services for the Moraga School District, explains that the common core standards are geared toward engaging children in a higher level of reasoning in order to create new ideas and new concepts, and to help students become successful in whatever profession they choose.

She says this different way of teaching changes the interaction between teachers and students, but also means a whole

new set of lesson plans. The three Lamorinda school districts have adopted a collaborative approach to get their teachers up to speed, and to get the parents on board.

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers. ... continued on page A14

Quote of the Week:

"We are not talking about slums. We are not talking about gangs. I think we should provide housing for our teachers." Read Orinda Housing Element Discussions to Continue, page A6.

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Construction Zone: Road Hazards Ahead

By Cathy Dausman



Photo Cathy Dausman

It is a time-worn joke: There are only two seasons – winter and road construction. It's certainly not winter in Lamorinda, but driving through construction zones isn't a joke either, as drivers navigate area streets in the face of multiple ongoing construction projects.

One Orinda resident suspects that an accident in her city that totaled two cars earlier this month may have occurred in part because of nearby road construction. And Moraga is busy patching, repairing, resurfacing or restriping over 100 streets, the equivalent of 14 miles, with work scheduled to continue into the year 2015.

The day this article was written, 10 or more streets were affected. That same day at least three sets of cones slowed traffic along Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette. Additionally

two flaggers directed traffic at the intersection of Olympic Boulevard and Reliez Station Road. Heavy machinery crisscrossed the area as workers progressed on a months-long utility construction project staged nearby.

Of the three Lamorinda communities, Orinda was least impacted by construction cone zones. "We're not doing a big paving project right now," explained Orinda Public Works Inspector Tod Fiermer.

Fiermer could recall only one area where traffic might slow for construction – Altarinda Road near the site of the old city offices. That area would be affected periodically for a while, he said. Fiermer added that Camino Pablo would also be impacted for just one day during the last week of August. ... continued on page A14

Life in Lamorinda B1-B10

A Decade of Dog-sitting

Cathy Dausman talks to Moraga's Nathalie Lambrecht - page B5.



Sports C1-C3

Volleyball Teams Gear Up

Michael Sakoda looks at the high school season - page C1.



Our Homes D1-D8

Valley of it All

Pay a visit to Lafayette's Burton Valley neighborhood - page D1.

