

Parents, Get Ready for Kindergarten!

2014-15 Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten registration for the three school districts will be happening in January and February. Children must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1 to enter kindergarten for the 2014-15 school year. Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is an optional program for those children who have their 5th birthday between (including) Sept. 2 and Dec. 2.

Lafayette School District

(Burton Valley, Happy Valley, Lafayette, and Springhill elementary schools)

Registration for both programs will take place at the district's four elementary schools Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 21 and 22 at the following times:

- Burton Valley Elementary from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.
- Happy Valley Elementary from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- Lafayette Elementary from 9 to noon
- Springhill Elementary from 9 to 11 a.m.

Registration packets can be obtained from the schools prior to registration, beginning Jan. 7, however the earliest day in which completed packets will be accepted by the schools is Jan. 22, during registration times. For more information about kindergarten registration, go to the district's website at: www.lafsd.k12.ca.us.

Moraga School District

(Camino Pablo, Donald Rheem and Los Perales elementary schools)

Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten registration for 2014-15 will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Feb. 6 and 7. For more information, visit www.moraga.k12.ca.us.

Orinda Union School District

(Del Rey, Glorietta, Sleepy Hollow, and Wagner Ranch elementary schools)

Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration for children entering an Orinda public school in August 2014 will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at each of four elementary schools Monday through Thursday, Feb. 3-6. Registration requires the presentation of various documents. These documents and specific instructions are outlined on the district's website. Please note that some of the items need to be the original, certified documents. Visit www.orindaschools.org for more information.

OIS Team Places Second in Winter Debate Tournament

Submitted by Allison Banisadr



Photo Allison Banisadr

An Orinda Intermediate School debate team placed second out of 48 teams in the OIS winter tournament Dec. 14. OIS hosted public and private school teams from Moraga, Walnut Creek, Piedmont, and other locations as far as Oregon. The second place winning team members were, from left: Tai Fox, Eric Banisadr, and Asim Khan. Eric Banisadr also won an outstanding speaker award for being one of the top ten debaters overall.

TEEN SCENE

The 21st Century Diary

By Youngjoo Ahn

The 21st century is the Age of Technology with rapid developments in communication. With programs like Skype, Google Hangouts, VSee, and Face-time, long distance face-to-face conversation is possible for anyone in the world connected via the Internet. One of the by-products of this "Age" is blogging.

Blogging is almost like a virtual diary that can be shared with everyone. Some blogs focus on one specific subject and have a niche following. There are many blogs dedicated to fashion, food, book reviews, traveling, dating, teens, and everything imaginable.

The most alluring aspect to blogging is sharing. How fantastic it is to know that a stranger in the Netherlands is reading your blog and struggling with your very same issues! A blog allows people from all over the globe to connect and learn about one another. Many people also use blogs as an outlet for opinions, rants, and random thoughts.

"Blogging is really fun. It consumes my life in a good way. I'm always thinking of new things to try from blogs I read and what I'm going to say in my blog. I'm constantly looking for different subjects to blog about," Miramonte senior Dashia Kwok said. "Blogging has helped me form opinions about topics that I probably wouldn't have considered otherwise."

Gaining followers and readers is not as easy as it seems. Overnight popularity is almost impossible and should not be expected. A blog, like any other hobby, takes time, patience, and care. The best way to gain readers is through excellent writing. It's important to actually

sit down and write something special, carefully editing for grammar and spelling. With so many blogs in the blogosphere, quality matters. Pictures and social media are additional power tools to enhance your blog.

The rewards of blogging are limitless. Blogging can be an online journal or a private 21st century diary. I enjoy looking back on old posts and remembering what I was feeling at that time. It's also gratifying to learn that others are intrigued with my thoughts.

For me, the most impressive reward with blogging is that I own a small slice of the Internet community. Blogging can boost your business and your career, but for me, and many of my Lamorinda friends, the best part is that my posts are personal keepsakes that we'll treasure forever.

Youngjoo Ahn is a senior at Miramonte High School. In her free time she hosts Express Yourself teen radio, volunteers teaching Korean, and blogs.



Teen Scene is YOUR voice. If you have something to say or have writing skills and want to be part of our Teen Scene team, email our Teen Coach, Cynthia Brian, Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com.

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