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New facilities brighten OUSD campuses

By Sora O'Doherty



One of several environmentally-friendly Gen7 modular buildings placed on Orinda Union School District campuses this summer. Photo Sora O'Doherty

Several items were discussed at the Aug. 14 Orinda Union School District board of trustees meeting, including requests for restoration of advanced courses, board member assignments to specific schools and facility upgrades to Orinda campuses.

It might have been "no more pencils, no more books" for the students, but summertime meant that Stuart House, Orinda Union School District director of facilities and his staff were extremely busy. New, environmentally friendly Gen7 modular build-

ings were placed at Glorietta and Del Rey elementary schools. Glorietta Elementary first-grade teacher Erin Miller is thrilled with her room in the new building. She is especially enthusiastic about the lighting, which includes natural light solar tubes that can be completely closed and electric lights that can run at 100 percent, 50 percent, or just 10 percent. The large solar panels on the buildings provide the energy for the lighting, heating and air conditioning. ... continued on page A10

Seeking calm at midday

By Sora O'Doherty



Participants of the noontime meditation practice Aug. 15 at Atma Yoga share a moment of calm. Photo Sora O'Doherty

Amid the hustle and bustle of the busy *vie quotidienne*, or everyday life, it is possible to find a beneficial space of calm and peace in Orinda at noon on Tuesdays. That is the day that Gabriela Mozee offers a free meditation group at Atma Yoga. Owners Carlo and Thea Fiatarone opened the studio last May and were enthusiastic when the Orinda Chamber of Commerce suggested the project, initially for local business owners, but now open to the general public. Al-

though the session is free – Mozee and the Fiatarones are offering their services without charge – donations are accepted and in August were being given to Mindful Littles, a Lamorinda nonprofit group that provides family community services around meditation and mindfulness. Carlo Fiatarone says that they are also open to directing the donations to other community service groups in the future.

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