

BVE 4th and 5th graders AIM high to raise money for Afghan refugees



Photo provided

Submitted by Cathy Martinsen

After a hiatus due to COVID, Burton Valley Elementary's AIM class brought back its annual community service project, the Book Bonanza, and had its most successful year ever! The long-standing tradition put on by Ms. Martinsen's fourth- and fifth-graders is a huge undertaking. The students collect, price, and, of course, sell books ... at incredibly low prices (some books are as cheap as 25 cents). All proceeds go to a charitable cause, and this year the students chose to donate the monies to help the Afghan refugees.

Jewish Family & Community Services of the East Bay is leading the Afghan Refugee Resettlement program in the Bay Area, and they are in great need of supplies and money to help these people make a new home here. The whole class banded together to complete each step in the process, and after three weeks of collecting and pricing, the sale was on. Classes from

Burton Valley came to support the AIM class by buying books, homemade rainbow loom bracelets, bookmarks, and origami, and dropping in donations to the donation jar. After the four-day frenzy, the students counted their money and were thrilled to find they had made \$2554.34 ... the most ever raised!

The students were proud to present a check to Ami Dodson of JFCS the week before winter break. There were still many books left and several boxes were donated to the Contra Costa WIC program, while the bulk (917 books) went to the East Bay Children's Book Project. So many benefited from the Book Bonanza this year, and it was a rewarding experience for the class.

"It felt great knowing that we helped other people," agreed the enthusiastic students. Ms. Martinsen's class appreciates the support of the Burton Valley community for all the book donations as well as the subsequent purchases. It truly is a school-wide effort.

Campo girls basketball team surpasses goal, collects 1,600 shoes for Soles4Souls



Photo provided

Submitted by Diana Jackin

More than a thousand pairs of shoes will be distributed overseas to help those in need thanks to a shoe drive by the Campolindo High School girls' basketball team and sponsored by realtor Jon Wood of Compass, a national real estate technology company. Surpassing their goal of 500 pairs of shoes, the girls collected over 1,600 pairs for Soles4Souls, a nonprofit that turns unwanted shoes into opportunity by keeping them from going to waste and putting them to good use.

Soles4Souls distributes shoes to underprivileged people worldwide and also fights poverty by distributing them to local micro-entrepreneurs, who can resell them to earn a living for their families.

"It was incredible to witness the town of Moraga, the community I grew up in, show up in a powerful way to support these young women

and Soles4Souls," said Wood. "I am sincerely proud to be a part of this effort!"

The 1,600 pairs of shoes collected by the girls' basketball team filled 60 boxes and three trucks. The donations also removed 2,000 pounds of textiles from landfills and eliminated 48,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions.

"The girls showed leadership, teamwork, and compassion for those in need," said Bill Flitter, coach of the Campolindo High School girls' basketball team. "We appreciate all of their hard work and look forward to the next community give-back event."

"It was amazing to witness the passion and courage of the team during the difficult times we live in," added Wood. "Under the leadership of the coach and his amazing wife, they gave in a deep and meaningful way which makes this holiday season even more special. I was so proud to be able to support their incredible efforts and results."

Community Service: We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Submit stories and story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Campolindo Leos and Moraga Lions donate to MEF



Photo provided

From left: Leo secretary Natalie Barkey, Leo president Luca Rago, Campolindo principal John Walker and Lion Dana Glasgow

Submitted by Bob Murtagh

During 2021 the Campolindo Leo Club and Moraga Lions Club were successful in conducting several fundraisers in spite of the COVID virus. On Dec. 16, 2021 both clubs met with Campolindo High School Principal John Walker and presented him with a check payable to

the Moraga Education Foundation for \$500. This is the 17th year that both Service Clubs have supported the Moraga schools. The next fundraising activity for Leos and Lions will be the annual Crab Feed to be held on Jan. 22. (Drive thru only due to COVID.) For more information about the Leos, Lions or the crab feed contact Lion Bob Murtagh - bobmurtagh@gmail.com.

Campolindo Interact Club service project benefits foster children at Alternative Family Services in Oakland



Photo provided

Submitted by Rich Render

During the winter break, the Campolindo High School Interact Club facilitated a community service project for those in need, where they filled three dozen holiday decorated mason jars with small toys and candy. The jars were then donated to the foster children at Alternative Family Services in Oakland, California, as a child's gift for the holiday.

The Campolindo students that partook in the event, helping to decorate and fill the jars, were Wiley Winkler, Sara Tabibian, Anna Rossi, Mari Testa, and Jessica Finnerty. Interact is an international community service organization for high school students, and is part of Rotary International. There are almost 15,000 Interact Clubs around the world, and the Campolindo Interact Club is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Moraga.

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