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Lamorinda Schools

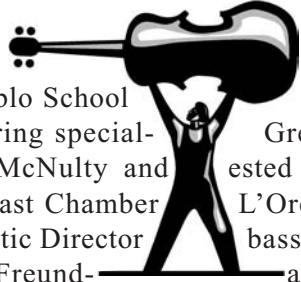
Joaquin Moraga • Lafayette Elementary • Los Perales • Miramonte • Orinda Intermediate • Sleepy Hollow • Springhill • Stanley Middle • Wagner Ranch

Summer String Thing

By Lee Borrowman

Young musicians in Lamorinda who want to continue their music education after school lets out in June have been fortunate to have high-quality music camps available to ensure that their instruments, and the skill to play them, do not languish in the back of the closet during the long, hot summer. The Lafayette Summer Music Workshop and Summer Music @ Stanley

Lafayette and Mt. Diablo School District's string specialist Loretta McNulty and the Gold Coast Chamber Players Artistic Director Pamela Freund—



high school, my bass teacher Barry Green got me interested in the French group L'Orchestre deContrebasses, a group of basses, about six bass players that play funk, jazz, rock and classical styles on their bowed string basses. Now that I teach at JM, I try to bring some of those styles into the string program. Sometimes I even use rock to get my



Summer String Thing director Adam Noel

Photo by Lee Borrowman

serve the Jazz and Band genres exceptionally well, but Joaquin Moraga Music Director Adam Noel says, "The bowed string players have needed a place to bond and grow together." To that end, Noel has designed a new summer camp just for students who play string instruments. He calls it the Summer String Thing.

Noel has recruited an impressive staff of music educators to join him in this endeavor. St. Mary's College faculty member Dawn Foster-Dodson,

are. We want to meet them at their level and challenge them to grow. We hope to be able to enhance their skills, infuse a love of string music, and even provide some individual help to overcome obstacles and hurdles in their playing." There will be an audition before camp begins so that participants can be placed in classes individualized to their specific needs.

Noel is planning ways to stimulate camp participants: "While studying my instrument in

students to play classical music better; Vivaldi was definitely a head-banger, in my opinion. I plan to start introducing the camp members to these styles as well, since there are plenty of great groups like Turtle Island String Quartet, the Kronos Quartet and BOND that push the traditional 'string' envelope."

For more information on the trinity of music camps, go to www.summerstringthing.com, www.LAFSMW.org, and www.summermusic.us.

Burton Valley Bebops with Aesop

By Linda Lenhoff

This week, Burton Valley Elementary School's auditorium will be invaded by frogs, ants, sheep, grasshoppers, and other assorted wooly creatures. But there will still be plenty of room for an audience as the Burton Valley Players present Bebop with Aesop, a series of fables set to music.

Burton Valley Players include fourth and fifth grade thespians who have met all season to practice their speeches, moves, and songs. "The play is special because it has an ensemble cast," says Carol Kerr, the school's vocal music teacher and director of the production. "Everyone has a part in

making it great. There are no large rolls, so everyone can be a star."

Among these stars, Aesop and his narrators introduce us to the wide variety of characters. The cast performs songs and tales that include "Don't Count Yer Chickens," "Honesty's the Best Policy," "Don't Put Off Until Tomorrow," and the show-stopping "Bebop with Aesop."

But the kids have learned more than a few dance steps and have made the play their own. "The kids help create the finished product," says Kerr. "I don't have a vision when we begin. They created most of the choreography them-

selves." Along with having a say in choosing their parts and designing the routines, the students create their own costumes. Ants wear a variety of antennae-like devices, not to mention frightening appendages. The lambs are fleecy and white, and the shepherd girl has built herself a commanding crook to frighten off the big bad wolf. Aesop himself appears in a toga from head to toe, as does an entire Greek chorus.

You can join Aesop and friends on Thursday, May 29 at 7:30 in the Burton Valley auditorium. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$2 for children.



The Burton Valley Elementary School Players present Bebop with Aesop, a series of fables set to music. In the tale pictured, Honesty Is the Best Policy, a shepherd girl fails to protect her sheep by crying wolf once too often. From left: Casey Everitt, Jenny Gonser, Savannah Johnson, Megan Conner and Jessica Evaristo

Camino Pablo says "Viva, Las Vegas!"

By Lee Borrowman

Camino Pablo Elementary School's third Annual Auction was held on Saturday, March 10th at the Serbian Orthodox Church in Moraga. The event, dubbed "Viva, Las Vegas!" was attended by over 200 parents, teachers and staff and included a buffet dinner, silent auction, casino gaming and dancing.

The auction grossed over \$93,000 to date but the final accounting is not yet complete. The dollars raised will be used to fund C.P.'s teaching assistant program, physical education teacher, technology and teaching supplies.

Elementary school auctions could not happen without much time and effort on the part of a

brigade of parent organizers, all of the parents who show up and open their wallets to support the quality education our children receive, and the greater Lamorinda businesses who generously support our schools.

This lovely piece was donated to the C.P. auction by long-time Moraga resident Kent Jacobson, a designer and manufacturer of fine jewelry, generous supporter of C.P., and grandfather of students Hanna and Max Schoenberger.



The Lamorinda School pages were created as a place for our schools to share with the community all of the wonderful things our kids do all day. We are currently seeking parent-reporters (or grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin, teacher, you get the idea)! If you are interested, please contact the Schools Editor, Lee Borrowman, at lee@lamorindaweekly.com.



This photo was graciously submitted by Lawrence Migdale for our March 21 issue. We regret that we published the photo without the following proper credit:) 2007 Lawrence Migdale/PIX

Bon Voyage, Campo Band!

By Lee Borrowman

The award-winning Campolino High School Symphonic Band will depart on March 29th for an eight-day trip to St. Petersburg, Russia. While there, they will perform for Russian audiences, including dignitaries from the

Russian Ministry of Culture. The will also take a tour of St. Petersburg, and visit the Hermitage Museum, Peterhof (the summer home of Peter the Great) and the Necropolis of Alexander Nevsky Lavra. The band played a special Bon Voyage

Concert on Tuesday, featuring many of the American and Russian pieces that they will perform while in Russia. For more information on the Symphonic Band, go to www.campomusic.com.



February's Jazz Band Dinner Dance raised \$4200 to support the trip

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