



Students work individually with pre-schoolers to build literacy.  
Photo courtesy of CILSA

## College Jobs Bring Smiles to Children's Faces

By Jennifer Wake

Not many working college students are greeted at their part-time jobs with cheers of adoration, but it is a regular occurrence for Saint Mary's sophomore Sophie Damarel, a team leader in the Jumpstart program. Twice a week 40 Saint Mary's students spend at least two hours a day at Oakland schools, where they invest 300 hours each during the year as a mentor and teacher to a pre-school child.

"[The kids] look up from their lunches and scream, 'It's Jumpstart!'" Damarel said. "We become their friends; it gives them another friend in the classroom. So much more can be done for the kids when it's individualized."

Two years ago, the Saint Mary's Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action (CILSA) began partnering with Jumpstart, a national organization that brings at-risk preschool children and caring adults together to build literacy as well as social and emotional readiness. Working with the children inspired Damarel to change her major from science to education; she now hopes to become a middle school science teacher. For team leader Alicia Torres, the program has taught her about leadership.

"I learned to take myself out of problems, and work things out," Torres said. She sees Jumpstart as a way to offer consistency in some public schools. "When there are a lot of substitutes, Jumpstart becomes the consistent element."

Last month, nearly 40 of the Jumpstart 3-year-olds came to campus with their SMC partners for an after-

noon of fun at the annual Carnival 4 Kids, where 200 children from area schools and organizations that partner with CILSA joined approximately 200 Saint Mary's student "buddies" to enjoy 28 different game and craft booths. More than 600 SMC students volunteered for the day's event.

Carnival co-chair Katie Ferguson says the day offered its own enlightenment. "One child didn't realize that everything was free, because his mom told him nothing in life is free. He was pretty stressed," said Ferguson. Much like the Jumpstart student workers, Ferguson explained that her very presence told these children that they are valuable. "When they come here they realize that we're taking care of them. It's the things that people do for you that are important."

Last night, CILSA honored pre-school teachers, staff and the Jumpstart student workers at a Celebration of Service, which included a showcase of the portfolios that SMC students made of each pre-schooler. "We take anecdotal notes and are very objective about what's going on with child to child interactions, adult/child interactions – we have a whole list of what we're observing," said Damarel. The students turn in their notes and samples of work to the site manager and the entire portfolio is given to families at the end of the year.

"We're able to engage students and build relationships with their families," said Torres, who has enjoyed being part of these children's lives. "It's going to be hard when this is over."



### Skin Enhancements

Professional Skin Care By Myrna Taiariol

- Facials
- Peels/ultradermabrasion
- Waxing
- Tinting
- Ear Piercing
- Skin Tag Removal

**Myrna Taiariol**  
Licensed Esthetician

1040 Brown Avenue  
Lafayette, CA 94549

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday  
By Appointment

**925.212.3150**

[www.skinenhancements.com](http://www.skinenhancements.com)



## Sharp Bicycle

Over 250 Bikes on Display

Just in: New

### Orbea & Look Road Bikes

- Road Racing • Road Touring
- Comfort Road • City Bikes
- Bike Path • Cruisers
- Womens Specific Designs
- Mtn. Cross-Country
- All Mountain
- Kids Mountain
- Kids Road
- Little Kids

Major and Minor Brand's from:

- Santa Cruz - Orbea - Look
- Independant Fabrications
- Moots - Calfee - Parlee
- Lemond - Gary Fisher
- Trek Womens Specific
- Ellsworth - Co-Motion

Full Service Bike Shop:

- Repairs, Tune-ups
- Cycling Apparel
- Shoes, Accessories



969 Moraga Rd. Lafayette in La Fiesta Square  
**284-9616** • M-F 10-6, Sat 9-6, Sun 12-5  
[www.sharpbicycle.com](http://www.sharpbicycle.com)

# THE SUREST WAY TO STOP WORRYING ABOUT YOUR 1031 EXCHANGE IS TO START LOOKING FOR ONE

- Diversification
- Tax Deferral
- Tax Depreciation
- Single Tenant Triple Net



**David Waal, Principal**  
**(925) 407-4747**  
 2950 Buskirk Avenue, Suite 300  
 Walnut Creek, California 94597

We help 1031 Exchange Investors and Private Clients acquire Net Leased and Tenant-in-common properties.



Lamorinda Resident for 31 Years

Securities offered through OMNI Brokerage, Inc. • Member/NASD SIPC



## PILATES, YOGA, RECONDITIONING

### CLASSES

Pilates  
 F.I.T.  
 Yoga

### WORKSHOPS

Pilates Innovation  
 Intro to Yoga  
 Teen Yoga

### SERVICES

One-on-One Training  
 Postural Assessment  
 Pro Shop

Our approach to reconditioning is based on helping clients achieve their goals by integrating Resistance Training, Pilates, and Yoga. Our studio offers a personal and professional environment, perfect for those seeking the knowledge to help themselves understand and implement their full potential.

[www.absolutecenter.net](http://www.absolutecenter.net)



*"The Source of Intelligent Fitness"*

3658 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Ste 101 Lafayette, CA 94549 [925] 299.9642

