



The Motorcycle Drill Team: Don't try this at home! Photo Tod Fierner



Students get a chance to check out the bikes Photo Tod Fierner

“Kings of the Road” at CP

By Sophie Bracinni

When the cohort of 20 motorbikes roared past Camino Pablo School, the 411 kids who were sitting on the side walks on both sides of the road cheered in delight. The Motorcycle Drill Team from Oakland was starting its

demonstration. The sun was bright on Wednesday morning, and the 22 Harley Road Kings glistened in its light. The bikers, 21 male and one female, all dressed in black, were ready to impress the young crowd.

And the kids were not disappointed. For fifteen minutes, it was a non-stop ballet of twirls, figures and accelerations; a perfect demonstration of skill and control. Just like horses at the parade or airplanes tracing figures in the sky, the 22 bikers grazed by each other, vaulting gracefully. The most impressive moment was when, driving at about 30 mph, the whole troop rode by with two center bikers standing on their seats and saluting. The police officers ended their presentation by handing out stickers to the students. Carol Scott, 4th grade teacher at Camino Pablo, explains: “This is a wonderful way to bring the community together, to show positive role models to the kids. Hopefully, they’ll continue to look up to policemen into their teen years.”

The Motorcycle Drill Team, making its second appearance at CP, is part of the Oakland Police Department and is led by Captain Dave Kozicki, whose kids attend the school. Officers in the team do traffic enforcement and the drill team keeps their skills sharp. Drill teams have been in existence since the late 1940’s and there are only a few of them in the U.S. The Oakland group does about 10 performances a year, and they’ve been as far away as Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

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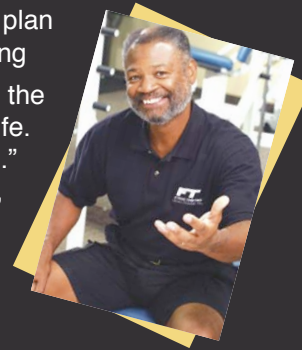
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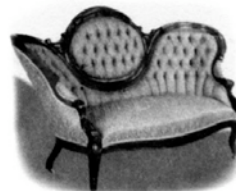
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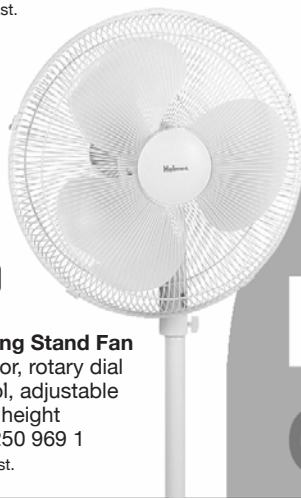
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