

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

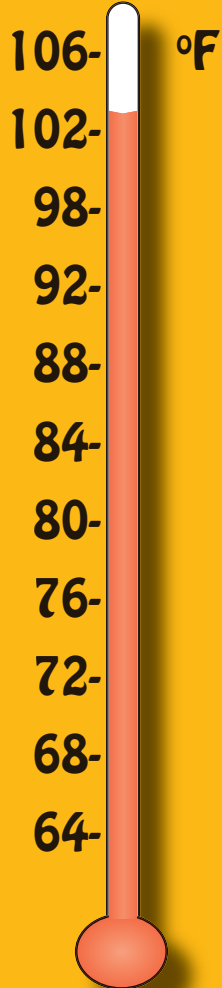
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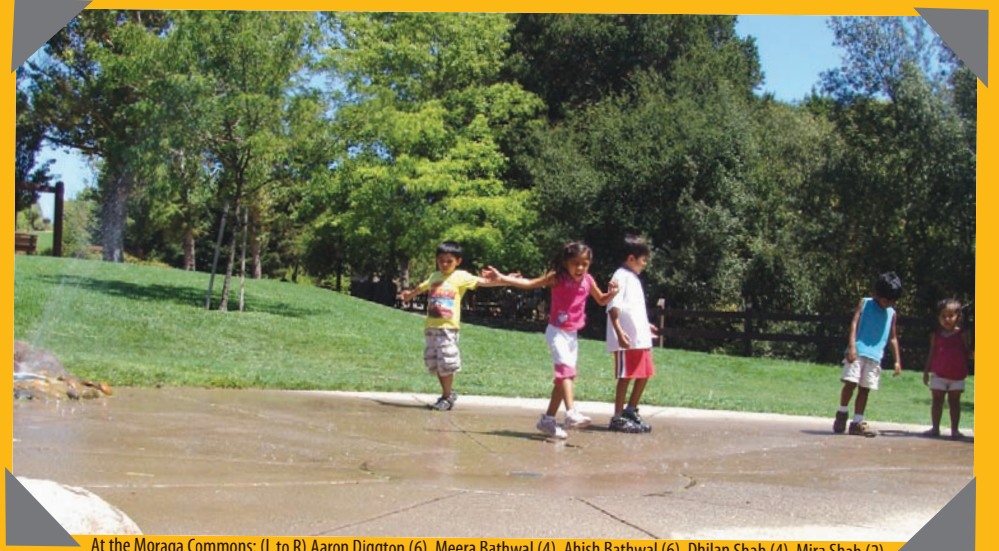
Volume 01; Issue 13

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Wednesday, August 8, 2007



At the Orinda Library Fountain: Ava Tajbakhsh (9), Ben Westphal (10), Amanda Young (4)



At the Moraga Commons: (L to R) Aaron Diggton (6), Meera Bathwal (4), Ahish Bathwal (6), Dhilan Shah (4), Mira Shah (2)

A Hot Day - Summer 2007



At his Moraga home: Tommy Richards has some watery fun

Keeping Cool in Lamorinda

...see story on page 7

Burns Takes the Helm at JM

By Lee Borrowman

The Moraga School District announced late last month that Los Perales Elementary School Principal Bruce Burns will succeed Catherine Mikes as principal of Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. Mikes resigned the post earlier this summer for medical reasons. Superintendent Rick Shafer has also recommended to the Governing Board that it approve at its next meeting the appointment of Bill Walters, who has served as Assistant Principal and Principal of JM in the past, as the interim principal of Los Perales.

In announcing Burns' move to JM, Superintendent Rick Shafer stated, "The combination of his experience working within the Moraga School District, his outstanding management and administrative skills and his knowledge of our unique and wonderful community make Bruce ideally suited for this important leadership role." On the pending interim appointment of Walters to LP, Shafer says, "We are extremely lucky to have him."

Although Shafer had originally planned to recruit a new principal for JM from outside the district, after careful consideration he recommended to the Board that an internal candidate be sought and encouraged Moraga's three elementary school principals to consider the position. He explained, "We needed

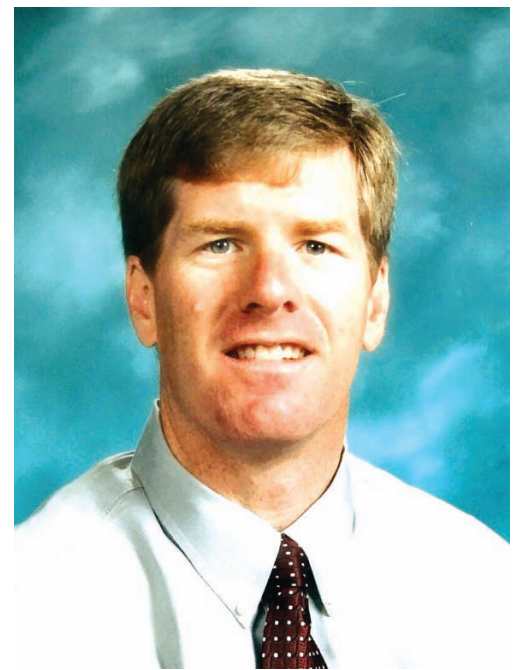
someone who was already familiar with the way the district works and who could successfully implement the positive changes initiated by Catherine Mikes. Bruce is a proven leader with prior middle school experience. Why would I turn down an internal candidate with tremendous skills and go looking for someone else? The Board and I were delighted that Bruce was willing to accept this challenge."

JM PTA President Erin Bydalek, who had children at Los Perales since it first reopened in 1996 and now at JM, is pleased that Burns will be leading the team. "I worked closely with Bruce on LP's site council, and more recently, I served with him on two district Coordinating Council committees. I found him to be engaged, thoughtful, and

very committed to what is best for students. His experience as a principal and knowledge of the district will make him a great addition to JM," said Bydalek.

Burns is excited about the change: "I had not considered the JM job specifically; however, I was ready for new challenges and had been looking for some new opportunities." The decision to make the move to JM was not easy, he continued, "I've been at LP since August 15, 1996 and every day have worked with staff and parents to provide the best for LP kids. I truly enjoyed my work. As each day approaches toward my transition I find myself excited about working at JM, yet full of sadness as I leave wonderful students, staff and parents."

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Bruce Burns

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OMPA Championships Provides Largest Field of Competitors

By Zack Farmer

With the largest field in the Championships' history, the Orinda Moraga Pools Association (OMPA) held its 51st annual swim event last weekend at Campolindo High School's Soda Aquatic Center.

The OMPA Championships drew 1,789 swimmers, ranging from age 6 to 18, to this year's event and had over 2,000 people in at-

tendance for the finals. Meet Director Charlie Luecker said he believes the OMPA is "one of the largest recreational swimming leagues in the country." Along with the extremely large field of swimmers came the most competitive meet in recent history with medals being won by as little as hundredths of a second. ... continued on page 13



Celebrating A Life Well-Lived

By Cathy Tyson

On Saturday August 4, family and friends gathered at the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints to pay their respects to James Gordon Holmes, MD. Dr. Holmes was remembered for his drive, boundless energy, can-do attitude and pursuit of learning according to his son Jeffrey Taggart Holmes. He was a physician, businessman, professor, husband, father and grandfather, brother, traveler and quiet philanthropist. He is survived by his widow, Ernestine Holmes, remaining five children; James Gordon Holmes, Jr.

of Danville, Dr. Jeff Holmes of Monte Sereno, John Holmes, Attorney of Encinitas, Dr. Alexander Holmes of Salinas and Elizabeth Holmes Talley of Danville, and 12 grandchildren. His two brothers, Samuel and Richard (Dick) both live in Lafayette.

He grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah, attending West High School, where he was student body president. He graduated from the University of Utah, and Stanford University Medical School.

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