

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Delivered bi-weekly to all Lamorinda households  
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Volume 01; Issue 15

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Wednesday, September 5, 2007



Wagner Ranch welcomes kindergartners to their first day of school

If you belong to a family with school-aged children, there's no other day of the year that rivals the first day of school in overall excitement and anticipation, except perhaps the last day of school. The 2007-2008 school year began throughout Lamorinda last week.

On Wednesday, August 29, Wagner Ranch Elementary School in Orinda welcomed back 389 students for the start of the new school year. Bright sunshine greeted the children as they streamed in, for the most part wide-eyed in anticipation of the school year about to begin. Most had shiny new backpacks, haircuts and a parent in tow, except for those who announced to their parents, "I don't need you to walk me in. You have to drop me off at the curb, and my friends must not see you." The students received notice of their assigned teacher only the day before school started at Jumpstart.

School supplies, the lunch program, spirit wear, Girl & Boy Scouts sign ups, and more are all part of the Jumpstart program, organized by Parent Club volunteers, where Wagner Ranch families have one stop shopping for all their school needs. At Jumpstart, when students turn in their emergency form, they get a welcome packet that has their teacher and classroom information.

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## First Day Excitement!

By Cathy Tyson

### Lamorinda Schools Stay on Top

By Lee Borrowman

On August 31, the California Department of Education released its 2007 Accountability Progress Report, which is comprised of the state Academic Performance Index (API), the federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), and the federal Program Improvement (PI).

The API is a numeric scale ranging from 200-1000 that reflects a school's or local agency's performance level based on the results of statewide testing. California's ultimate goal is to have all schools scoring 800 or better on the API. Nearly all of Lamorinda's public schools have been and remain over the 900 mark. This is good news for homeowners in the district, as consistently good scores reflect the added value of a top-notch school system to home buyers and sellers.

The Acalanes Union High School District's API of 882 was the highest in the state. In a statement released by the District Office, Superintendent Jim Negri said, "I am very pleased by the assessment results released today. The results are a strong indicator that the exemplary efforts and commitment of our teachers, support staff, ad-

ministrators and community align with our continuous improvement efforts related to student learning and achievement."

All schools in the district measured academic growth under this index. Miramonte joins Campolindo in the select group of high schools scoring above 900.

Although API scores were somewhat lower than last year at many of Lamorinda's elementary and intermediate schools, all remain among the best in the state with bragging rights to scores of 900 or more. Gains were made by Lafayette Elementary, Camino Pablo Elementary, Wagner Ranch Elementary and Joaquin Moraga Intermediate. In overall district scores, Orinda was down eight points from last year with an API of 950, Moraga was up five points to 943, and Lafayette dropped seven points to 913.

The results of the 2007 Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program and the 2007 California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) were used in calculating the 2007 Growth API. For more information or to view the complete API reports go to <http://www.cde.ca.gov/>.

### Moraga Road Bumps Land Council in Special Meeting

By Steve Angelides



School's Open, Watch Your Speed (especially on Camino Pablo)

read story on page 3

#### "Academic Performance Index Scores for Lamorinda Elementary and Intermediate Schools, 2006 Base and 2007 Growth"

	2006	2007
<b>Orinda Union School District</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>950</b>
Del Rey	971	953
Glorietta	960	950
Sleepy Hollow	980	979
Wagner Ranch	950	955
Orinda Intermediate	not available	941
<b>Lafayette School District</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>913</b>
Burton Valley	937	932
Happy Valley	948	948
Lafayette	903	906
Springhill	913	900
Stanley Middle	914	904
<b>Moraga School District</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>943</b>
Camino Pablo	938	956
Los Perales	967	958
Rheem	964	959
JM Intermediate	920	929

#### "Academic Performance Index Scores for Acalanes Union High School District, 2006 Base and 2007 Growth"

	2006	2007
<b>AUHSD</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>882</b>
Acalanes	889	893
Campolindo	903	908
Las Lomas	839	840
Miramonte	893	905

#### "High-Performing High School District Comparison, 2006 Base and 2007 Growth"

	2006	2007
Acalanes Union	869	882
Los Gatos/Saratoga	884	872
Tamalpais	816	849
Fremont Union	845	840
San Dieguito	835	830

\* data provided by AUHSD

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### Events Raise Awareness, Funds for "Silent Disease"

By Jennifer Wake

At age 43, when Lafayette business owner Wendy Tamis began to have shooting abdominal pains that left her doubled over, she knew something was wrong. But when several months passed without relief and her fingertips became numb, the tips turning black, she really got scared. A professional harpist, she could no longer play and had no answers as to why.

More than six months after her initial symptoms began and five doctors later, she was finally diagnosed with ovarian cancer in the emergency room.

Once considered a "silent disease," researchers are now finding a cluster of symptoms to watch for that could be the early stages of the cancer, most common of which are bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly and feeling a frequent or urgent need to urinate. Loss of blood flow to the

fingers, as Tamis experienced, is a much rarer symptom.

Now able to play the harp again, and more than five years after her diagnosis, Tamis and her husband Scott Hampton are planning their fourth annual "Time to Celebrate Life" event - which encompasses an evening of great food, live music, and prizes held at the couple's business, Clocks, Etc., in La Fiesta Square on Oct. 4 from 5 to 8 p.m., to benefit the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC).

"We thought, 'Maybe we can do something to make people more aware of ovarian cancer,'" said Hampton. "We sat down with our friend Julie Olson, who also had ovarian cancer, and her husband, and brainstormed. A harpist volunteered to play at our first event, a band at the second. We give a grandfather clock away as a grand prize each year. It's something we can do."

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Owners Wendy Tamis and Scott Hampton stand amongst their many chiming wares at Clocks, Etc. in Lafayette's La Fiesta Square Photo by Jennifer Wake

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