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Acalanes High School Celebrates 2007 Homecoming at Harvest Festival

By Jean Follmer



Mackenzie Demos and Danielle Lincoln enjoy the band

Photo Jean Follmer

Acalanes High School opened its doors to all ages at the 2007 Acalanes Homecoming Harvest Festival. Before entering the small gym, attendees were greeted by a thumping

music because there were two more bands to come, ending with a rap group. While it was easy to linger and enjoy the obvious talent on stage, Boone assured that the music was just the beginning of the entertainment. After purchasing tickets, patrons strolled into the small gym where the well-attended Harvest Festival was being celebrated in full force.

Once inside, some of the offerings included expert face painting, a fortune teller, balloon popping with real darts, fresh cotton candy and plenty of baked goods. Sophomore students Mackenzie Demos and Danielle Lincoln were two of several students who volun-

teered to help construct, paint and set up the booths. Lincoln said, "There is even pumpkin bowling in here!" And so there was. Kids of all ages bowled small pumpkins into gourds for prizes. Although not on par with the Professional Bowling Association Tour, pumpkin bowling provided great visual entertainment. The hours of volunteer work resulted in success and Acalanes donated the proceeds from ticket sales to Monument Crisis Center and Building with Books.

Acalanes Student Body Social Secretary Richard Dent,

IV, said the event has been held outdoors in past years. Due to a late homecoming this year, they decided to hold it in the small gym in case the weather didn't hold. While the weather was

beautiful, the new venue worked out and as Dent said, it was "really cool." It's safe to say that the hundreds of attendees agreed with him.



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They Sure Start Early Around Here....

Lamorinda Kids Giving Back

By Lee Borrowman



Julia and Haley's Just Go Pink party

Photo provided

Happy Birthday, Julia and Haley!

Julia Gomes and Haley Justus are 5th graders at Del Rey Elementary in Orinda. Last month, they celebrated their 10th birthdays together, in a pink way.

"They wanted to do something special," explains Julia's mom, Gina. "Have their friends donate to a good cause." Haley's grandmother and aunt are breast cancer survivors, as is Julia's grandmother; Julia lost an aunt to breast cancer a couple of years ago. So the girls decided that rather than receiving material gifts, they would instead ask their friends to donate to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, to help find a cure for their generation.

They created a website through Susan G. Komen Passionately Pink for the Cure, and set a goal of raising \$200 in lieu of gifts.

For their Just Go Pink Party, their families decorated an RV with pink ribbons and signs and took the girls, dressed all in pink of course, to Pinky's Pizza and then to Pinky's Nail Salon to get their nails done. When the pink cupcakes had been consumed and the party was over, the girls added up the donations and were thrilled to find that over \$1200 had been raised for their cause.

To learn more about the Susan G. Komen Foundation go to: <http://ww5.komen.org/home/>

Pre-Schoolers Walk for Fadi

Last week Seedlings Preschool, in participation with the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, held its annual walkathon to raise money for the Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children in Gaza City, Palestine. For the past 5 years, the funds raised by Seedlings have specifically gone towards the annual tuition of a young Palestinian boy, Fadi Ismaili Al-Thaltheeni, one of five deaf children in a family of nine children. Until he entered Atfaluna, Fadi had never attended school and was therefore unable to "talk" to his siblings. Today,

Fadi continues to thrive in school and at home.

In the preceding weeks, coordinator Jenny Shepherd visited the classrooms to talk with the "older" children (3 and 4 year olds) about Fadi. The children were able to see him in pictures, see his school and learn how and why they would raise money for him. Shepherd says that most of the kids understood, at least generally, why it was important to do this. "It teaches the children compassion for another child; it teaches them to help someone who really needs our help, and it teaches them about what it would be like to be deaf." The kids walked, ran or strolled laps around a course and collected pledges, with help from their families, for every lap completed.

Shepherd concludes, "The Atfaluna Society operates a school specifically designed to educate poverty stricken deaf children in Gaza City. This wonderful opportunity to promote peace in the world and to transcend borders has been incredibly fulfilling over the past 5 years for both LOPC and for our Seedlings families."

To learn more about the Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children go to <http://www.atfaluna.net/>



Brendan Mazeffa, Isabella Draper and Rylie Sapp (L-R)

Photo Jenny Shepherd

Lafayette Parcel Tax Passes

By Cathy Tyson

The voters have spoken. Measure J, a seven-year \$313 per parcel tax on Lafayette homeowners, resoundingly passed, garnering nearly 73% approval. The tax includes an exemption for homeowners 65 years and older, so they might opt-out, in addition, to keep up with inflation, the tax will in-

crease 3% per year.

Lafayette Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Frank Tom couldn't be happier. "On behalf of the school district, I would like to thank the Lafayette voters for their exemplary support of Measure J. As stated in the campaign, the revenue generated from the parcel tax will

continue to maintain small class sizes, support critical educational programs, retain and attract qualified teachers and staff, update our technology infrastructure, eliminate our budget deficit and provide a stable base for district funding."



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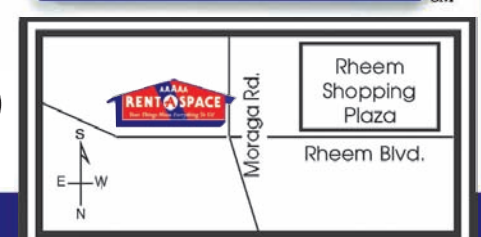
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