

Acalanes High School • Bentley School • Burton Valley • Camino Pablo • Campolindo • Contra Costa Jewish Day School • Del Rey • Donald L. Rheem • Glorietta • Happy Valley • Joaquin Moraga

# Lamorinda Schools

Lafayette Elementary • Los Perales • Miramonte • Orinda Academy • Orinda Intermediate • Saklan Valley School • Sleepy Hollow • Springhill • Stanley Middle • St. Perpetua School • Wagner Ranch

## Who is Your Favorite Author?

By Jean Follmer



Lafayette Elementary 1st grader William Berten Photo Jean Follmer

definitely Kate McMullan. McMullan is the author of the Dragon Slayers' Academy series along with other past favorites, including I STINK! and I'M MIGHTY! Much of her illustration is done by her husband, Jim McMullan.

William decided to send an e-mail to Mrs. McMullan to let her know how much he enjoys her books. He told her "I really like your books because they have very good adventures and stuff." He also described one of his favorite scenes to her saying it was "really scary...when Seetha almost tossed Wiglaf into a moat full of eels..." McMullan replied "Thanks for telling me the part of the story you think was scary. I like to write scary scenes - but of course no matter how scary the scene, Wiglaf always seems to find a way out of trouble." She also let

In addition to nightly reading, Lafayette Elementary first grade teacher Joan McClure offers extra assignments to those students seeking further enrichment. A recent assignment

asked the students to answer the question "Who is Your Favorite Author?" The response was easy for first grader William Berten because his current favorite author is

William know she has a new book coming out in the spring. McMullan told William. "It's about a T-rex, and it's called I'M BAD! It was fun to work on a book about a dinosaur, and we're thinking of doing another one about a Stegosaurus." William was thrilled with the response from McMullan. He said "I was really surprised she wrote back. I thought she would be really

busy writing books."

William's mother, Jenny Berten, was "touched by her (McMullan's) words of kindness and encouragement and to learn more about her future books." She went on to stress how meaningful the response was for William. Mrs. Berten stated, "Her note certainly added an element of humanity to books we read. It turned on a light bulb for William - that

authors are people too, with their very own stories as well." Mrs. McClure was pleased with the back and forth William initiated with the author. She believes technology can be so helpful with literature and research. Her class is going to study another author, Jan Brett, early this year by reading her books and visiting her website.

Send your story ideas to: [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)

or call 925-377-0977

## Wii Winners!

Los Perales 2nd-grader Amy Chen was the happy winner of a Wii, a prize won in a drawing for families who got their auction donations in before the holidays. "Night in the Big Apple" Auction Committee representative Paula Pollack said, "They are generous donors; it couldn't have gone to a nicer family!" A pleased Pollack continued, "We went from 35% participation to 53% in a few days with our latest PR stunt; it was New Year's Eve at Los Perales, where various masked New York celebrities took donations right from parents' cars, threw biodegradable confetti and blew noise makers. Lady Liberty (a popular LP dad in drag; talk about giving your all for a good cause) was there, too!" The final deadline for LP auction donations is January 15, and the auction committee is hoping for 100% parent participation.

Camino Pablo also had a Wii to give away. In a most charitable turn of events, the Allen family, who originally won the Wii, donated it back to the auction because they already had one. A spontaneous silent auction was held, and the Fenske family is now the proud owner of the CP Wii.



Amy Chen with LP Principal Bill Walters



## Orinda Academy

Parents, Students and Teachers Working Together

Celebrating 25 Years 1982-2007

- College Preparatory
- Grades 7-12
- Average Class Size - 10 Students
- Supportive Learning Community
- Sports, Technology, Music and Art Programs
- WASC Accredited

Visit our community of students, parents, and teachers and discover how we encourage students to achieve high academic growth while developing a true set of personal and ethical values.

**Application Deadline**  
**Thursday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>**

Applications received after the deadline will be given consideration upon file completion.

**ORINDA ACADEMY • 19 ALTARINDA ROAD • ORINDA, CA 94563**

For information please call our Admissions Office:  
925-254-7553, [admission@orindaacademy.org](mailto:admission@orindaacademy.org)  
[www.orindaacademy.org](http://www.orindaacademy.org)

**WANT TO BE CLUTTER FREE FOR THE NEW YEAR? 5A IS HERE TO HELP YOU GET ORGANIZED IN '08!**



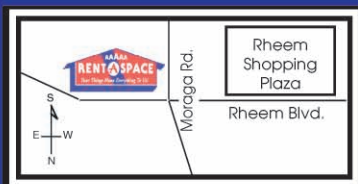
**HELD OVER BY POPULAR DEMAND**  
**\$18 MOVES YOU IN\***

**ON ANY SIZE UNIT. THIS SPECIAL PRICE IS SO POPULAR WE'RE HOLDING IT OVER FOR A LIMITED TIME. CALL & RENT YOUR UNIT TODAY!**

*Storage at 5A can help you get organized and get more room at home, in your office or your garage! Storage can even save those precious holiday decorations and keepsakes year after year. We'll even give you a free \$5 Starbucks card just for taking a tour of our facility!*

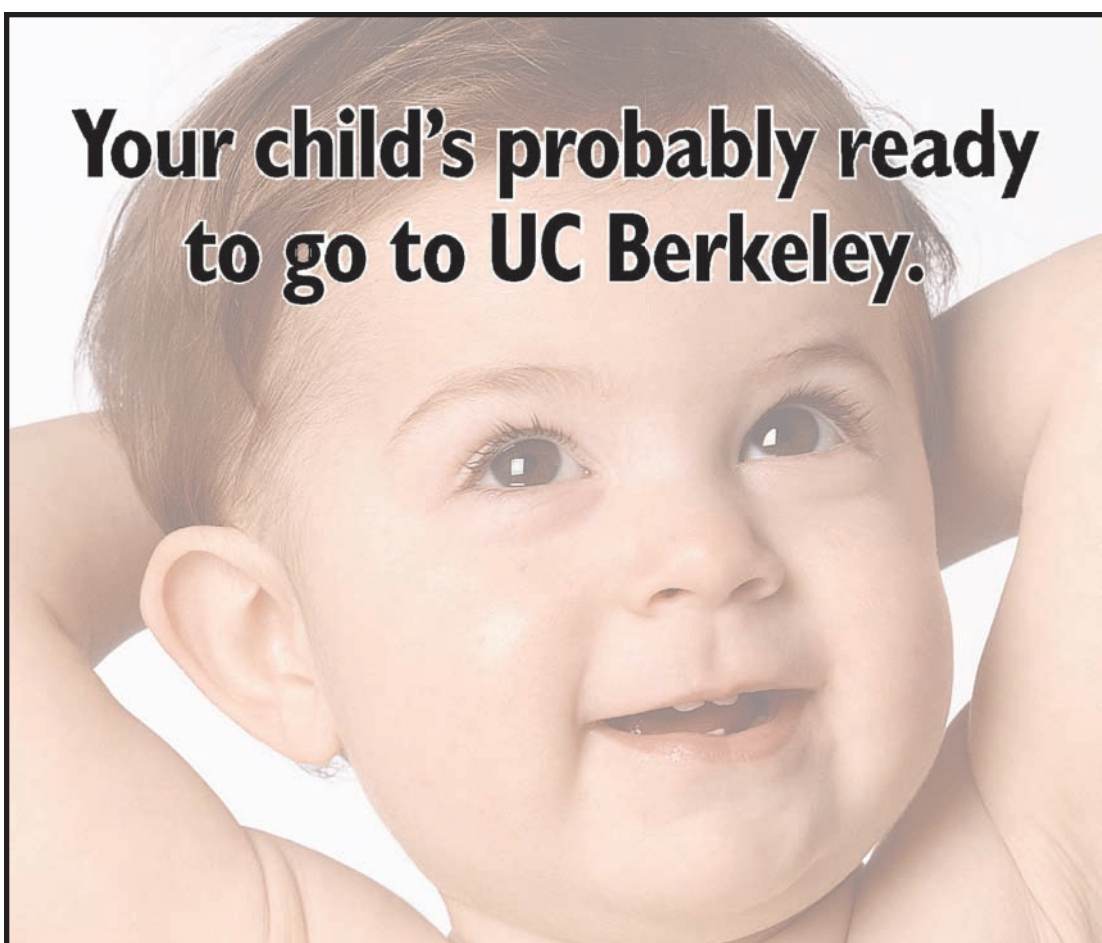
*Serving Moraga for over 12 years and still going strong!*

**MORAGA (925) 631-7000**  
455 Moraga Road Suite F  
[www.5Aspace.com](http://www.5Aspace.com)



\*\$18 limited to units available now, special can be cancelled at owner's discretion. Not good with other offers, exp. 1/15/08.

## Your child's probably ready to go to UC Berkeley.



Your children are precious, aren't they? And one of their most precious gifts is their eyes. That's why we encourage you to have your children's eyes examined first at nine months of age, again at three years, and regularly after that.

Who are we? We're the University of California Eye Center in Berkeley, a key part of UC's top-rated School of Optometry. And we can offer you a great deal of expertise with youngsters' eyes.

In fact, here at UC we've developed ways to test kids' eyes while they play, and to diagnose and treat any vision problems even before they can read an eye chart.



We take most vision insurance plans, and accept all major credit cards. So bring in the whole family for their eye exams. (You'll absolutely love our Eye Wear Center, with its incredible selection of designer frames!) We'll look for you!

**UC BERKELEY OPTOMETRY** Open to the Public 7 Days a week [www.caleyecare.com](http://www.caleyecare.com)  
Free parking next to Cal Memorial Stadium with appointments. 510.642.2020