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OIS' Bull Dog Bargain Mart Rakes It In

By Andrea A. Firth



OIS students at the Bargain Mart

Photo Ron Langer

The Bull Dog Bargain Mart held at Orinda Intermediate School last week could be characterized as a rummage sale for tweens or a middle school flea market, whatever you call it, the Mart was an unequivocal success. The sale, held over an extended lunch period, raised \$2,333 in one hour—a rate of return that many retailers would envy. “The Bargain Mart has been amazing from the get go,” notes OIS Associate Principal Ron Langer.

The first Bargain Mart was held four years ago in response to OIS students’ desire to do something to aid the victims of the 2004 Asian Tsunami. Langer was then teaching the Leadership Class that came up with the

idea of hosting an interschool sale of items donated by students. Kids were encouraged to clean out their bedrooms and garages and to donate their slightly used belongings for the sale. Music CDs, DVDs, toys, games, books, accessories, and sporting goods all came flowing in then quickly flowed out on sale day as the students took advantage of buying each others’ castoffs.

Each year the students research and choose a charity to receive the proceeds of the Bargain Mart. In 2006, the kids found another natural disaster to support with Hurricane Katrina, and the children of Darfur were the beneficiaries last year. “Character education is a big

part of our strategic focus and school climate,” states Langer. “The Bargain Mart aligns with our commitment to be compassionate and supportive.” The Mart monies this year will go to the Friendship Foundation established in honor of Keith Kelley who would have been a member of the current sixth grade class. It’s a “green” event as well. The items that do not get purchased find a home through a local organization for needy kids.

“This event provides the students with a real sense of accomplishment,” adds Langer, “It’s a bunch of kids, across all three grades, all having a good time, and supporting a good cause.”

2008 Eagle Scouts of Troop 204

Submitted by Steve Luckenbach



Back row (L-R): Evan Peters, Nate Cox, James Lenczowski, Weston Thornburg, James Luckenbach
Center row (L-R): Colby Pines, Karl Rasmussen, Justin Megowan, Patrick Noonan, Parker Grant
Front row (L-R): Tyson Moore, David Crawford, Jason Batcheller, Michael Danese, Luke Eisenberg

On March 8, 2008, at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, fifteen young men of Troop 204 in Lafayette, California, will be presented the Eagle Scout award, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America. Troop 204, which just celebrated its 75th Anniversary, has awarded this honor to 306 Scouts. This class of 2008 Eagle Scouts is the largest in the history of the Troop and the Mt Diablo Silverado Council.

To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, a Scout must achieve the following: Be active in your

Troop for at least six months; earn a total of twenty-one merit badges; while Life Scout, serve for six months in a leadership position, while a Life Scout, plan, develop and give leadership to others in an approved service project helpful to any religious, any school, or your community; show scout Spirit; and take part in a Scoutmaster conference.

These Eagle Scouts started their journey together in 2002. The path to this award included leadership to earning 21 merit badges to community service to

50 mile hikes.

The following young men will become Eagle Scouts: Justin Batcheller (Campo) , Nate Cox (Campo) , David Crawford (Campo), Michael Danese (Acalanes), Luke Eisenberg (Campo) , Parker Grant (Acalanes), James Lenczowski (Bentley) , James Luckenbach (Campo), Jason Megowan (Campo), Tyson Moore (Acalanes), Patrick Noonan (De La Salle) , Evan Peters (Campo), Colby Pines (Campo), Karl Rasmussen (Campo), and Weston Thornburg (Campo).

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Poetry Out Loud

By Cathy Tyson

Over a dozen Miramonte students participated in the Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest on February 19th in the school theater.

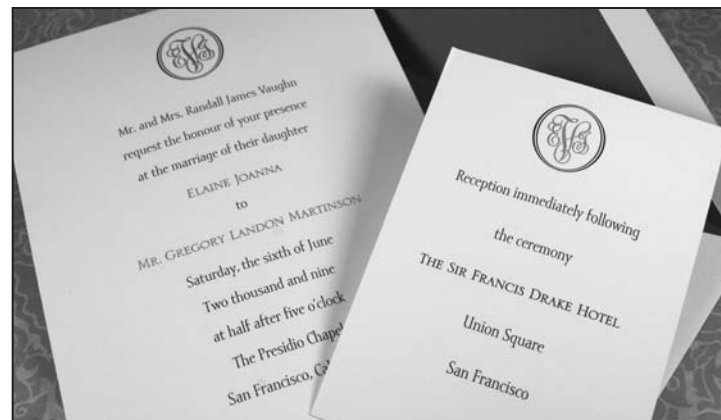
Teacher Donia Gousios, who is working with fellow teacher Edd Simmons on the contest couldn’t be more excited about it. She said, “Poetry Out Loud doesn’t only speak to the drama student and the public speaking student, but it also speaks to the writer, perhaps the quiet student that really appreciates poetry, but is not yet ready to share their own poetry. Students that I have talked to are really hoping that this will open up a venue for them where they can write and recite their own poetry, a sort of “slam poetry” event. I think that something we need to remember as educators, and as parents, is that there are many different, creative outlets out there for our children and students. We just have to give them the opportunity and encourage their participation and see where they will go with it!”

Those wishing to cheer on the Miramonte winner should attend the County Finals in Pleasant Hill on Saturday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the School House Cultural Center at 2050 Oak Park Blvd.

The competition, presented in partnership with the California Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Poetry Foundation is meant to encourage high school students to learn about great poetry.

The lucky California champion will go to the National Finals in Washington D.C. where \$50,000 in scholarships and school prizes will be awarded.

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