

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

Lafayette Elementary Boys Buzz Hair as Statement of Solidarity

By Jean Follmer



Jack Eisner, Maxx Green, Tom Hofmeister, Ryan Donat & Grant Pedder

Photo Jean Follmer

Lafayette Elementary 5th grader Ryan Donat met Hudson Davis while playing baseball together. The boys, their parents and their sisters became great friends and all see each other regularly. Hudson is a 6th grader at Stanley Middle School and is currently undergoing treatment for a cancerous brain tumor. Ryan's mom, Jennifer Donat, spoke on behalf of the Davis family and said the illness came "completely out of left field for the family. It masked itself with some diabetic symptoms."

Before Hudson began his first treatment, Jennifer received a phone call from Hudson's dad, Greg Davis. Mr. Davis told her "they were going to have a Buzz

Party" for Hudson and Ryan was invited to participate. When Jennifer told Ryan about the invitation, he immediately said "I'm in." Several friends joined Hudson that day at the barber shop and many more boys have buzzed their hair since then. Jennifer said "When Hudson came out of that barber, he was 12 kids deep."

When Ryan returned to school at Lafayette Elementary, his friends asked him about his haircut since most of the boys are wearing their hair longer these days. When Ryan explained why he buzzed his hair, four of his friends decided to buzz theirs as a gesture of solidarity. Grant Pedder, Jack Eisner, Maxx Green and Tom Hofmeister, all friends of

Ryan's, buzzed their hair to support Ryan's friend, Hudson. Their teacher, Karen Chandler, says "I think the kids should be very proud of themselves for showing solidarity for someone that most of them don't even know."

Hudson is completing his second of six rounds of chemotherapy treatments and has a great prognosis. Ryan said "Hudson's going to be fine. He's a really good baseball player." Ryan's mom said "We got to see him last week and he looks great."

When you pass by Lafayette Elementary and Stanley Middle Schools, look for the boys with the buzz cuts. They're friends of Hudson Davis and they're really good boys.

Acalanes

Adult Education Center—The Place to Keep Learning

By Andrea A. Firth



Instructor Everett Makinen helps students in computer class at the Acalanes Adult Education Center Photo Andrea A. Firth

So you graduated from high school (possibly quite a long time ago) and you also finished an undergraduate degree (also a long time ago), possibly you even obtained a Masters and Doctorate degrees. Not done yet? Maybe you are looking for something completely different or little more fun this time around like learning how to dance the hula, sing in a women's Barbershop Chorus, trace your family roots, or create a website. These courses and many more are available for adult learners through the Acalanes Adult Education Center, which is currently accepting registrations for the Spring Quarter that starts on April 7th.

"The commitment to lifelong learning is something we strongly support," states Laura Canciamilla, the Director of Acalanes Adult Education. "The brain acts like a muscle," she explains. "You have to keep it exercised or it deteriorates." And like the many adults in Lamorinda who run, walk, and bike the trails to keep their bod-

ies in shape, many are committed to keeping their brains fit as well. "Each year we have over 8,000 adult students take classes through our Center," notes Canciamilla.

Headquartered at the Del Valle Campus on Tice Valley Boulevard in Walnut Creek with several cooperative campuses in Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda, the Acalanes Adult Education Center serves Lamorinda and the surrounding area. The courses cover a range of subject matter including citizenship preparation, fine arts, fitness, parenting, and estate planning.

"We have a really strong world language program," states Canciamilla. "Research [with seniors] shows that keeping the mind active and engaged helps offset the memory loss that often comes with age," she adds. "Learning a language is one of the best things for [older] adults to do." Offering several classes in English as a second language, the Center's language program also includes

classes in French, Italian, Spanish, German, Mandarin, Japanese, and Arabic.

"In addition, Tuesdays throughout the Spring we offer a lecture series in cooperation with the Diablo International Resource Center (DIRC)," states Canciamilla. "The DIRC was established following the passage of Proposition 13 to provide resources to supplement the social studies curriculums," she explains. The program has evolved to include this lecture series that will cover topics such as immigration, the global economy, and energy policy.

"Another exciting, new course on the Spring schedule is Film Appreciation," notes Canciamilla. Offered Monday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, participants will view and analyze both early and modern films as each week focuses on a specific aspect of the film process, e.g. lighting or sound. The films will be watched on a large, theater-like screen, and of course, popcorn will be served.

"Nothing makes me happier than to see you smile!"

Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

Scott D. Lothamer, DDS
Moraga
925-376-4602
1030 Country Club Drive
Member: ADA • CDA • CCDS • AACD

Providing Personalized Care through Quality Dentistry

- Comfortable, Convenient Family and Cosmetic Dentistry
- Certified in Full Mouth Reconstruction

\$40 off

mention this ad to receive \$40 off any dental treatment

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
Free parking next to Cal Memorial Stadium with appointments. 510.642.2020

CCYO Plays Disneyland

By Cameron Sun



Cameron Sun (center) searches for the right page

Photo by Sun Family

As a middle school student, I don't usually have many reasons to help me convince my parents to go to Disneyland with me. But that is exactly where I traveled with the Contra Costa Youth Orchestra (CCYO) to perform a suite of movie songs.

I play cello with CCYO, an orchestra consisting of about 30 middle school and high school age kids. Almost every year, we are offered a chance to perform for the Disneyland Magic Music Days program. In addition to Disneyland, CCYO has performed at places like Golden State Warriors games, the Blackhawk museum, Six Flags Marine World, and on a Royal Caribbean cruise.

I left for Disneyland with my family on the Friday before Presidents' Day. The 8-hour drive was probably the least enjoyable part of our trip, but it at least heightened my anticipation. The next day, we left our hotel with all our possessions to go to another hotel, closer to the park. We took our things to the room, bought four bus tickets, and rode to Disney's California

Adventure park.

California Adventure was one of my favorite parts of the trip, because it did something that all vacation spots should be able to do: it allowed me to escape. Each smaller section of the park had its own unique but pleasant atmosphere, making the park feel like multiple, smaller, more personal parks. It made me forget all about the stresses of school and whatnot.

My favorite moment of the trip took place the next day. At 8:30, I dressed in a suit and took my cello to meet the rest of the orchestra. Together, we walked through the service entrance at the back of Disneyland, past industrial-looking buildings, and through a gate which let us out right next to the Plaza Gardens stage.

At 10:30, we began playing. I've been in many concerts, but the one at Disneyland was almost magical. Just the feeling of being part of what makes Disneyland special was enough for me, but the fact that we drew a crowd of passers-by elated me. But alas, after we had our

fill of rides we left for our hotel and the next day, for home. But, even as we left Disneyland, I felt as if I was taking something back with me, as if some of the magic of the trip had stayed with me.

The Contra Costa Youth Orchestra is under the direction of Greg Mazmanian, who also teaches at Orinda Intermediate School. "CCYO performs at Disneyland every other year or so," Mazmanian says, "and the experience never gets old...in fact it's like visiting dear friends or relatives and entertaining them with the latest tunes you've learned!" CCYO will play a benefit concert for "Comfort for Kids" at the Leshner Center on May 28th. CCYO is a full symphony youth orchestra. Membership is by audition and is open to students in grades 7-12. For more information, contact info@ContraCostaYouthOrchestra.com.