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Lamorinda Schools

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

Orinda Academy Spring Arts Festival

By Andrea A. Firth



Students from Orinda Academy dance during the Spring Arts Festival.

About 50 students from Orinda Academy sang, danced, acted, and played as part of Orinda Academy's first-ever Spring Arts Festival. Over the course of two evening performances, the Academy's high schoolers kept their cool during the first major heat-wave of the year, as they displayed their artistic and creative talents. The Festival provided audience goers with a variety of art to explore and enjoy including a short play, a hip hop dance production, solo and group musical performances, and an art exhibit.

Orinda Academy's international students, who come from countries including China, Thailand, South Korea, and Viet Nam, created and shared a multimedia presentation highlighting art from their native cultures and discussed their transition to living in the United States. Each year, The Academy's student population of 120 includes about six international students. These students are offered a supplemental English (as a second language) class, although they must take all their other classes in English and meet the same academic requirements.

Orinda Academy's interna-

Dramatic Dynamo! Karen Noel Directs 20th Performance at Lafayette School

By Trina Audley



Karen Noel at work directing

Photo Trina Audley

This June marks the 20th year that second grade teacher, Mrs. Karen Noel, has directed the school play at Lafayette Elementary. That may not seem very interesting...until you see one of her productions.

"It is astounding what she can do with 4th and 5th graders to create semi-professional, fun musical productions each year," reports one parent. "Her enthusiasm for music and the stage becomes a part of each child, from the lead performer to the stage hand."

As a result, many Lafayette Elementary School students go on to pursue musical theatre. Mrs. Noel's own children are no exception. Once Lafayette Elementary play participants themselves, Leslie and Adam Noel both enjoy careers in music today. Adam Noel directs music at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, and Leslie runs the Peter Pan Foundation, a non-profit company that promotes causes through musical productions.

Mrs. Noel is revered by

20 years of Lafayette Elementary School students and families for her dedication. This is perhaps best demonstrated each year when Mrs. Noel turns the spotlight on veteran performers. "She invites any audience member who has ever participated in a Lafayette School production to line up and speak about the role they played," says third time parent producer, Barbara Vogel. "As you listen to the 'kids' (sometimes they're in college), Karen Noel's influence is revealed. It can take a while to hear from everyone, but it's worth it!"

Although Mrs. Noel reports that "this year's script is a bit of a stretch," she's unafraid. "The Pirates of Penzance offers British humor. The cast may not get it all at first, but they're learning a lot and having a great time!"

The Pirates of Penzance will be performed on June 4th & 5th at 1pm and 7pm in Lafayette School's multi-purpose room (950 Moraga Road). Tickets are \$5.00/adult and \$2.00/child

Orinda Eagle Scouts Honored

Submitted by Aileen Schier



(left to right) Jarred Burrows, Michael Schier, David Kawasaki, and Nick Hooks

Four Miramonte High School seniors gathered Eagle Scout honors at a ceremony held Sunday, April 27, at St. Stephens Episcopal Church. The new Eagle Scouts are Jarred Burrows, Nicholas Hooks, David Kawasaki, and Michael Schier, all members of Orinda Boy Scout Troop 303. About 150 community members and guests watched as the young men received their highest rank in Scouting and then in turn spoke about their experiences as Boy Scouts.

Each boy achieved Eagle rank by completing a rigorous com-

munity service project of his own design, the capper on years of skill building, hiking, camping, and service as Boy Scouts. In all, the four projects involved over 740 hours of labor, contributed by the boys and by fellow troop members and other volunteers they supervised. In addition, each Scout was required to fund his project entirely through contributions by local organizations and businesses. The boys all reported that the warm generosity of their donors and supporters was among the most deeply affecting aspects of their Eagle experience.

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Wagner Ranch Elementary School Presents, SNOOPY!!!

Submitted by Debbie Mckeen



It's remarkable! Fantastic! Entertaining! Snoopy!!!—the musical sequel to *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*—deserves each of its three exclamation points. Students from Wagner Ranch Elementary School will delight the audience as they play the beloved characters from Charles M. Schulz's comic strip, Peanuts, in this musical comedy. Performances will be held on June 6th (at 4 pm and 7pm) and 7th (at 3pm and 7pm) in the school multi-purpose room (350 Camino Pablo in Orinda). Ticket information is available at <http://www.orindaschools.org/wagnerranch/site/default.asp>

Rotary Field Day: So Much Fun!

By Sophie Braccini



High point winner Bridget Coleman (first left in the second row) had a blast with her friends from Camino Pablo's 5th grade class

The Moraga Rotary's 17th Annual Field Day for children from the 3rd to 5th grades from all Moraga schools was held at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School on Wednesday, May 21st.

"The purpose of the Rotary Field Day is to provide an opportunity for all boys and girls in grades 3-5, regardless of ability, to participate in a variety of field activities," explains Rotarian Candice Moses. "Events include shuttle relay races, long jump, softball throw, 50 yard dash and sack races. These events involve luck, skill and fun while allowing all an equal opportunity to win." Of course each school wants to

win the most points, but the general spirit is about having a fun time with your friends while doing your best.

"We had 172 students competing in this year's Moraga Rotary Field Day," said Al Simonsen, the Field Day Chairman, "it's a fun event for the children, Rotarians, teachers and parents. We look forward to next year's 18th Field Day."

The organizers awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place medals for the top three in each event plus participant ribbons for everyone else. The girls' High Point winner this year was Bridget Coleman, a 5th grade student at Camino Pablo. Bridget has won this award for three consecutive years. The only other girl to achieve this performance was Tracy Hamm. "Tracy excelled at soccer at Campolindo and earned a soccer scholarship to Cal," says Simonsen, "I expect Bridget will also be a great high school and college athlete." According to her family, Bridget's favorite sports are soccer and swimming.

The boys' High Point winner was Michael Hooper, a 3rd grade student at Rheem, the High Point class award was won by Mrs. Ralph's 5th grade class at Rheem, and that school also won the awards for most participation and overall High Point school.

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