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

Lamorinda Schools

Lafayette Eagle Scouts Honored



Boy Scout Troop 243 in Lafayette announces that five outstanding young men received their Eagle Awards at the Troop's National Eagle Court of Honor on Saturday May 31st at the Lafayette

Christian Church. Left to Right: Harrison Geron (Campolindo), Joshua Moldoff (Campolindo), Tyler Wandesforde (Campolindo), Stefan Mottram (Campolindo), Ryan Troxel (Acalanes).

Moraga Eagle Scouts Honored

Submitted by Fran Miller



New Eagle Scouts, back left to right: Sam Gamsky, Philip Walker, Will Eddy, Nick Piatt, Thomas Walker front left to right: Matt Osterman, Jacob DiMartino, Andrew Gabrielson, Dustin Smith, Ben Togneri

Ten outstanding young men from Boy Scout Troop 212 received their Eagle Awards at the Troop's National Eagle Court of Honor on Sunday, April 27, 2008, at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. The Eagle Award is Scouting's highest rank. Nationally, about two percent of all boys who enter the Scouting program earn the prestigious Eagle Scout Award.

The Troop has an active program of campouts, summer camps, and high adventure activities, such

as backpacking in the western United States, Canada and Alaska, bike treks in Oregon, Canada, and Germany, canoe treks and white water kayaking. Troop 212 currently has 80 active youth involved in its programs, and is proudly sponsored by Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church (MVPC).

Nearly 20,000 youth are involved in scouting programs in Contra Costa County. Nationally, over five million youth are involved.

Lafayette School District Goes Solar

By Andrea A. Firth

Lafayette School District will be creating some of its own energy, electrical energy that is, by the end of the year. The District will be installing solar panels on the rooftops of four of its five schools: Burton Valley, Springhill, and Lafayette Elementary Schools and Stanley Middle School. Lafayette's cost-saving solar venture was initiated through a grass-roots effort by parents and followed by over a year of investigative work evaluating solar energy providers.

The agreement established with the solar energy system contractor, Solar Monkey, will allow the provider access to the school rooftops and in return the School District will be able to purchase electricity at a cost that is less than their current PG&E electricity costs. The anticipated energy savings are estimated to be 10% to 30% of the District's current energy costs, which equates to approximately \$2.3 million over the life of the 25-year contract.

"The real savings come when

you own the equipment outright," notes Lafayette School Board President Stephenie Teichman. The District will have the option to purchase the solar panels at fair market value six years into the contract and at two-year intervals thereafter. According to Teichman, whether the District will be in the position to purchase the equipment or whether it will make economic sense will have been determined at that point in time.

The solar panels will be able to produce energy to cover about two thirds of the District's current electricity needs. "We are limited in the number of panels that we can have due to the shade at Happy Valley and some weight load restrictions at Stanley," notes Teichman. The project has also been kept to a scope that can be completed by the end of December 2008 when the federal tax credits that benefit the contractor are slated to expire. Both Moraga and Orinda Union School Districts are exploring the use of solar energy in their schools as well.

Elementary School Student Gets an Award for his Anime

By Sophie Braccini

The Parent Teacher Association 2007-2008 Reflections program inspired children in the Las Trampas Creek Council to create to illustrate the theme "I can make a difference by..." 421 students from Lafayette, Moraga and Walnut Creek participated in the contest. Of those, only ten reached the State level, where three got an Award of Merit: Two Las Lomas high school students and 5th grade student Michael Huang, for his animation video.

"I didn't expect to win anything," says the Camino Pablo Elementary student, "during the previous years my entries didn't go very far." His family has put his movie on Youtube, it can be seen at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZRmHFwP3C0>

Michael created his characters long ago, in the first grade. He started drawing them and making cartoons. There is eight year old Jack Frew, his brother Jeffrey who is five, his friend Tim Smith and the twins May and Ron who are eight as well. "I guess Jack represents my more optimistic side," explains Huang, "Jeff is my silly side and Tim represent my wiser self." Huang drew many adventures for his characters, but when his mother, Teresa Chow, took a class in "Adobe Flash," the idea formed to animate the gang.

Chow taught her sons the basics of Flash, and Huang got a book to start learning more. "Flash is a good program for animations," says the young stu-



Michael Huang at his computer

Photo Teresa Chow

dent, "you can draw each body part and Flash helps putting them together." Huang goes on explaining that Flash helps for simple movements, motions and transitions but for other elements each frame has to be done individually. "Puffs of smoke, flames take a really long time to make."

The 2½-minute movie Huang created for the Reflections program took him 3 ½ months to develop, working almost every day for 1½ hours. "I started working on the film in July," says Wang, "the idea came to me as the right thing to do." Huang says that he started with the animating right away, he didn't write the story, just jot-

ted down some ideas. The family helped by creating the voices of the characters. "I want to thank my family," says Huang, "everybody helped with the voices. My dad had a line he loved: 'Do you need help cleaning up?' Of course it doesn't sound like him because I distorted his voice to make it sound like a child's." His twin brother Cary helped with the music.

Michael is now getting ready to go to middle school and has started working on his next year's Reflections entry. The theme is "Wow!" No doubt it will inspire him and many other students to design interesting projects

MORAGA 'SWINGS' INTO ACTION

Inaugural Fore Our Schools Golf Tournament Raises \$20k

Submitted by Patrick Artiaga



Committee Member Dave Miller in appropriate golf attire. Photo Diane Thomas

On Monday, May 12, 144 golfers participated in an inaugural Moraga Elementary Schools Golf Tournament held at the Moraga Country Club to benefit the PTA organizations of Camino Pablo, Los Perales, and Rheem elementary schools. Through golf registration, raffle tickets and silent auction items, the tournament raised over \$20,000 which was divided evenly among the three schools. The tournament represented the largest golf tournament held at Moraga Country Club.

This tournament represented several months of planning from representatives of Moraga's elementary schools. The committee volunteers stressed that the success of our schools is a key ingredient in the success of our community, and with the state budget crisis, they wanted to gather as a community to support our schools.

Through the success of this tournament and the very positive feedback from the players and volunteers, we look forward to planning next year's tournament. If interested, we welcome additional sponsors; please contact Patrick Artiaga at foreourschools@mindspring.com.

Sponsors and volunteers included Moraga Safeway, Peet's of Orinda, Nike, participating PTAs and the Moraga Junior Women's Club.

Fore Our Schools Committee Members:

Patrick Artiaga (Camino Pablo), Mike Isola (Rheem), Dave Miller (Los Perales), Rich Schafel (Rheem), Jim Schmidt (Los Perales), Ted Yuen (Camino Pablo)



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