

SCHOOL CALENDAR

School Governing Board Meetings	Moraga School District Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga Tuesday, June 24 at 7:30 pm
Acalanes Union High School District Board Room AUHSD Office 1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette Wednesday, June 18 at 7:30 pm	Orinda Union School District OUSD Office 8 Altarinda Road, Orinda Monday, June 16 at 4:00 pm
Lafayette School District LAFSD Office 3477 School Street, Lafayette Tuesday, June 24 at 7:00 pm	

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Lamorinda Schools



Joaquin Moraga Intermediate Choir and School Band entertaining the crowd at Spring Fling 2008 Photo provided

High Schools Consider Cutting Back On Food Service

By Sophie Braccini



Students line up at Campolindo High School to buy lunch Photo Sophie Braccini

The Acalanes Union High School District's food service program expects to lose about \$270,000.00 this school year. As a frame of reference, this is about the cost of three teachers. "We cannot continue to sponsor this program at this level through our General Fund," says AUHSD Superintendent Jim Negri.

AUHSD Board member Richard Whitmore is chairing the meetings at which possible solutions are discussed. "We have had small deficits off and on in the past but none of this magnitude," says Whitmore. "We have to meet a mandate to provide food but the program could be pared back to a "sack lunch" option if it cannot become financially self supporting."

The group decided to poll the community and a survey to find ways to improve attendance and profitability of the program is now online. "We need better options for

our students and a food program that breaks even," he said. In order to collect feedback and suggestions on the issue, Whitmore is asking every parent, student and employee to fill out a short survey, available online at: <http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/food-services/>. There are questions for parents, students and staff, ranging from frequency of using the service, to level of satisfaction about what is offered now, to elements that would increase the probability of using the service, types of foods that could be added, and ideas to balance the food budget.

School food service programs across the nation are experiencing similar fiscal issues. Rising food costs, low student participation, labor costs and new strict California guidelines for nutrition have contributed to the current situation. The question should come back to the Board at the end of June.

Orinda Idol Finalists

Submitted by Petra Michel

The Orinda Arts Council auditioned over 170 students in five categories for the 2008 Orinda Idol Contest. New to the event this year is the group performance category and the inclusion of residents from Lafayette and Moraga in the both the high school and group categories. The winners were announced on June 2nd and are listed below. The finalists will perform at local events through out the summer such as the July 4th Parade and area farmers markets. The Orinda Idol winners will be chosen by judges' review and audience vote on September 7th at the Orinda Theater.

Kindergarten-Grade 2

- Anastasia Belinsky
- Amanda Bovoso
- Ryan Ford
- Kate Marvin
- Jackie Patton

Grades 3-5

- Sarah McCaffrey
- Sean McFeely
- Maritza Grillo
- Tosca Maltzman
- Joe Metheny
- Julia Meckes
- Jocelyn Purcell
- Sam Shain
- Stephanie Sloves
- Michael Sorenson

Middle School

- Matthew Barber
- Tatyana Belinsky
- Lindsay Ford
- Julia Haas
- Patrick Hart
- Isabelle Johannessen
- Katie Marino
- Amrita Newton
- Kacey Sorenson
- Sofie Woodlee

High School

- Sarah Ames
- T.J. Barber
- Jacqueline Garell
- Jules La Cour
- Neris Newton
- Steven Patton
- Mark Simon

Groups*

- Duet 1: Lauren Bond & Beth Huelsenbeck
- Duet 2: Elizabeth Fabian & Emily Fabian
- Duet 3: Nathan Baum & Aaron Baum
- Duet 4: Madison Wheeler & Tosca Maltzman
- Duet 5: Sam Shain & Amrita Newton
- Duet 6: Katie Rossi & Natalie Clendening
- Trio 1: Kacey Sorenson & Alexis Zwahlen & Maddy Browning
- Octet 1: Courtney Attard, Jane Fessenden, Sarah Mills, Madeline Myall, Amrita Newton, Lauren Petite, Maya Sherne, Andie Tuemmler
- Trio 2: Neris Newton & Jacqueline Garell & Max Coleman
- Duet 7: Suvi Gluskin & Maxwell Tzannes

*Listed in order by age of youngest group member

Toris Jaeger: A Natural Asset

Submitted by Jane Wiser



Toris Jaeger, Naturalist at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area Photo provided

Thirty years ago, Warren and Maile Arnold made a wise decision. As the Directors of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area (WRNA), they hired a naturalist—Toris Jaeger—for Orinda's first outdoor education program. Jaeger has been in the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) ever since sharing her love of nature with the students and adults in the community.

Before coming to Wagner Ranch, Jaeger recalls that she was a schoolteacher who spent "more time looking out the windows than the students did." With the support of the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) and other community members, she developed a natural science and living history curriculum and set forth teaching in her outdoor classroom. Now, after 30 years in the District, Jaeger occasionally finds herself teaching the children of her earlier students. "Being a part of Wagner Ranch Nature Area for 30 years has been a journey, a gift, and a trial by fire and ice," states Jaeger. "The Nature Area offers and holds a history of the natural world for all to learn from and enjoy," she adds.

Jaeger hopes that the future of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area as an environmentally protected area will be secure with the help of the Friends

of the WRNA working together with other community groups. "[I hope that] the WRNA will continue to provide a place for each child, parent, teacher and the community to experience nature at its finest." The EFO has fully funded the environmental education program from kindergarten through 8th grade in the OUSD for several years and will be providing over \$66,000 for environmental education in the 2008-2009 school year.

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