

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

## St. Perpetua Students Begin "Water for Life" Campaign

Submitted by Lisa Hoskins



St. Perpetua second graders hold banner promoting "Water for Life" campaign

Photo provided

St. Perpetua School's second grade class is leading the rest of their school (grades K-8) in an effort to raise money for people in South America, Asia, and Africa who do not have proper access to clean water.

According to World Health Organization (WHO), more than one billion people in the world do not have safe water to drink. This situation can lead to severe illness and life-threatening disease in many adults and children. In fact, because

so many adults become ill from the effects of unclean water, children are often left to take care of their homes, cook, and provide food for their families.

In some areas, women and children have to walk five miles to collect water. The net effect is that these children do not get nourished properly in so many ways—physically, spiritually and academically. If they are spending hours working to get water, they are typically not getting educated sufficiently.

Money raised will go to Catholic Relief Services to help build wells in villages so clean water can be made available closer to the homes of those stricken with this water crisis.

Students are not only asking for contributions, but for conservation as well, including: pouring only as much water as you will drink; turning the water off when you are brushing your teeth; repairing leaky faucets and running toilets; and limiting showers to less than five minutes.

## Four New Moraga Troop 234 Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Jennifer Gerst



Pictured (left to right): Blake Marggraff, Shikhar Das, Andrew Gerst, Kyle Van de Bittner

Photo provided

Boy Scout Troop 234 of Moraga honored four new Eagle Scouts at the Court of Honor on May 3 at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church.

Shikhar Das, Andrew Gerst, Blake Marggraff, and Kyle Van de Bittner achieved Scouting's highest award after completing service projects, assisted by fellow Scouts and friends, for the benefit of the community. Together the projects these Eagle Scouts led required a total of 550 service hours.

Shikhar Das built a stone path and cement pillars for the marquee notice board at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. The project in-

involved digging out a dirt path to JM's marquee deep enough to insert stones to create the path, and then pouring cement between the stones. The dirt plateau surrounding the marquee was dug out and flattened, and then cement poured around the pillars.

Andrew Gerst designed and built two redwood planter boxes at Los Perales Elementary School in Moraga. Protective fencing and drip irrigation were included in the project. To complete the project, the site had to be leveled, and drip irrigation was laid out so that maintenance staff can easily connect it to the

school's watering system. The planter boxes will be used by Second Grade classes as part of the Life Sciences curriculum at LP.

Blake Marggraff led an effort to distribute free water saving devices to Moraga residents, resulting in a potential savings of 20,000 gallons of water this year. With fellow Scouts, he distributed water saving information to over 300 residences, and collected completed "request forms" for water saving devices from dozens of these residents. Working with Sustainable Moraga and EBMUD, Blake sent devices such as shower heads and kitchen and bathroom faucets to fulfill these requests.

Kyle Van de Bittner removed dying plants at the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church and planted new ones, with the help of fellow Scouts and friends. Previously, the courtyard was visible from the bike path, so Kyle's efforts provide more privacy for the ceremonies held at the church. Kyle led his volunteers in removing dead plants around the church and planting new ones to enliven the grounds. He recommended to the church that they reduce sprinkler usage to conserve water.

## Local Students Awarded for Academic Excellence

By Jennifer Wake



Eight of 16 Lamorinda CTY award recipients gather for photo: (bottom row left to right) Maxine Gill, Spencer Lekki, Calvin Gee, Nadia Aquil; (top row left to right) Thomas Liao, Jeremy Liao, David Kuckuk, Vishaal Agartha

Photo Jennifer Wake

Donald L. Rheem Elementary School students Calvin Gee and Maxine Gill were two of 16 Lamorinda elementary and middle school students recently honored at a statewide awards ceremony for gifted children held by The Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY) at California State University, Hayward on May 16.

Invitations to this awards ceremony, sponsored by CTY, were based on an exceptional performance on a rigorous, above-grade-level test given to second through eighth grade Talent participants. Seventh and eighth graders took the SAT or ACT – the same tests used for college admissions. Second

through sixth graders took the SCAT, an above-level test scaled for younger students.

Other recipients included six Joaquin Moraga Intermediate students (Julie Huang, Keegan Mendonca, Myung-Geun Chi, Johnny Ho, Nadia Aquil, and Kouroush Arasteh), one Stanley School student (Vishaal Agartha), two students from Saklan Valley School (David Kuckuk and Spencer Lekki), two students from Seven Hills School (Kaitlin Devries and Emma Moodey), one Sleepy Hollow Elementary student (Thomas Boneysteele), one Los Perales Elementary student (Jeremy Yan), and one Camino Pablo student (Thomas

Liao). Paul Ostrach, who attends Bentley School, but who lives in Orinda was also recognized.

Now in its third decade of service, CTY identifies America's top students in grades two through eight, and provides programs, services, and resources to help them make the most of their advanced academic abilities.

In 2007-08 alone, over 63,000 students from 19 states and the District of Columbia participated in the Talent searches offered through CTY. Only 30 percent of second through sixth graders, and only 25 percent of seventh and eighth graders tested earned an invitation to an awards ceremony.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions can be sent to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), with the subject header In Service to the Community.

## Meg's Legs Run!

By Bonnie MacNab



Photo provided

On Saturday, May 16, 2009, Team In Training, featuring Team Meg's Legs held a fundraiser at Oakwood Athletic Club to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Our teammates, Megan Bekker, Carla Carreon, Stephanie deCrooy, Bonnie MacNab, Zander Sprague and Nancy Yuen are run-

ning marathons in San Diego and Seattle to raise funds for cancer research and patient treatment.

The band "256" out of San Ramon donated their talent and rocked the venue.

A silent and live auction were held with such items as a 49ers jersey and photo signed by Bill Ro-

manowski, a Tiger Woods signed package, Rolling Stones photo signed by Mick Jagger and Keith Richards, to name a few. BMW Concord donated a Fantasy Weekend rental of a new 328i convertible.

Thanks to Nutrition53 for their support and presence. A huge thank you goes out to the incredible volunteers from Blockbuster Cares, without whom the event would not have been such a success.

Thank you to our wonderful sponsors, Oakwood, A.G. Ferrari, Pizza Antica, El Balazo, Misto Lino, Michael's Ristorante in Moraga, Rheem Theater and Bank of the West. Lamorinda's finest gave back to their community in an amazing way and we are tremendously grateful.

Together we can make a difference.

## Orinda Seniors Having Fun

By John Fazel



Rich Shearer crowns Thomas Dearl at last years event  
Photo Thomas Black

Prudential California and Orinda Community Church are again sponsoring this annual event. Founder and M.C. John Fazel said, "I believe that our seniors should be remembered and honored for their contributions to Orinda and the world."

The idea was brought to Orinda from John's hometown, Perry, Iowa where they started their club in 1930. The tradition includes the crowning the King and Queen, celebrating the Longest Married couple and identifying the "Baby."

They are also entertained by great speakers. In 2004 the late Sam Billison, President of the Navajo Code Talkers described his experiences as a Marine and Code Talker in the Pacific Theatre. The late 'Woody Spears of the Tuskegee Airmen in 2005 talked of his fight to become a pilot and experience as a fighter pilot in Europe. A number of Orinda WWII vets talked about how Billison and/or Spears proba-

bly saved their lives during the war. When WWII vets were asked to come onto the stage in 2004 most in attendance were recognized. The next time you see an Orinda Senior think about what they gave to you and our country.

This year we will be looking at the lighter side of life as the "Ghost of Mark Twain" pays a visit. The Ghost is none other than McAvoy Laine, a former Orinda resident and member of Miramonte's 3rd graduating class of 1961. He probably knows more about Mark Twain than Mark Twain remembered about himself. Come armed with your questions, McAvoy has the answers.

If you are an Orinda resident 75 or older and wish to join the fun call John Fazel at 925-324-2017 or e-mail [Runmntns@prodigy.net](mailto:Runmntns@prodigy.net). Seating is limited and reservations are required.

## AAUW'S 2009 DISTINGUISHED WOMAN

Submitted by Gloria Weston

At its recent annual May Luncheon, Joyanne Elkinton-Walker was honored as the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch of the American Association of University Women's 2009 Distinguished Woman. As one of the charter members of the branch, Joyanne has been active in it for many years. She was the original member to start the

Scholarship Committee and served as the branch president in 1966-67.

Joyanne is a longtime resident of Orinda and is very active in the Orinda Community Church. For the past four years, she and her husband, Carl Walker, have participated in Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Peace and Justice. Recently she has been directing sales

of Palestinian olive wood carvings and olive oil which have provided over \$8,000 to various Palestinian artisans and women's and children's aid groups. No one could be more deserving of this honor than Joyanne, as it was acknowledged by all in attendance at the luncheon which was held on May 19th at the Orinda Country Club.

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