

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

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

**School Governing Board Meetings**  
**Acalanes Union**  
 High School District  
 Board Room AUHSD Office  
 1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette  
 Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at 7:30

**Lafayette School District**  
 LAFSD Office  
 3477 School Street, Lafayette  
 Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at 7:00  
**Moraga School District**  
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate  
 School Auditorium  
 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
 TBA

**Orinda Union School District**  
 OUSD Office  
 8 Altarinda Road, Orinda  
 Monday, June 22 at 4:00

**Please send story ideas to  
[storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)**

## Stockton to Lead Reorganized AUHSD Team Miramonte and Acalanes High Schools Get New Principals

By Andrea A. Firth



John Stockton Photo provided

A self-described rare, aging veteran of secondary education, John Stockton, Acalanes Union High District's (AUHSD) newly appointed superintendent, brings 37 years of diverse experience to his new position. "We are extremely fortunate to have an individual with the broad experience that John brings to the role of superintendent of our district," stated AUHSD Governing Board member Tom Mulvaney.

In July, Stockton will take over from current AUHSD Superintendent Jim Negri, who has led the district to a number-one ranking for academic performance in the state for the past two years. Negri will move on to serve as the superintendent of the Castro Valley Unified School District. "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to both live and work in the same town," stated Negri. "I can walk to the Castro Valley District office, if my knees

will let me," he joked. Negri hired Stockton almost five years ago to serve as the Associate Superintendent of Educational Services. Stockton moved to AUHSD from the Fairfield Unified High School District where he had overseen the construction and opening of a new high school. Stockton started his career in education as a social sciences teacher and moved on to hold a variety of teaching and administrative positions including activities director, head counselor, principal, and curriculum director. In 37 years of secondary education, there seems to be little that Stockton as not already seen or done.

Stockton takes over as the district is faced with the potential for further reductions in state funding following a school year that has been consumed with working to balance the budget and maintain personnel and programs in the face of signifi-

cant funding reductions. "Our most pressing issue is to continue to progress forward with our academic programs despite what is going on with the state and funding," stated Stockton. "We need to focus on student achievement. We are here for the students." He also identified the renewal of the parcel tax, which contributes \$7 million to the district coffers and expires in June of 2011, as another important focus for the district. "We have to address the eventual renewal of the parcel tax," stated Stockton. "The community's support of the parcel tax and the funding that it brings the district is one of the things that distinguishes AUHSD from surrounding districts."

Immediately following Stockton's appointment, the District also announced the reorganization of a several positions within the administrative team and the appointment of two new principals. John Nickerson, currently the principal of Acalanes High School, will backfill Stockton's position and serve as Assistant Superintendent of Education Services. "We are fortunate to have John Nickerson in the district to take on this role. He has been one of our curriculum leaders as a principal," stated Stockton. "We have also recruited two high-energy, personable, and intelligent administrators to fill the principal openings at Acalanes and Miramonte High Schools," added Stockton. Aida Glimme, currently an assistant principal at Monte Vista High School in Danville will move to Acalanes, and Adam Clark, currently the principal of J. Douglas Adams Middle School in Brentwood, will replace the departing Raul Zamora at Miramonte.

## Be Creative at your Library

### Reading keeps summer from turning kids' minds into Jello

Submitted by Jennifer Rowes

Summer reading programs are a great way to provide children regular opportunities to read books, play writing games, and listen to stories. While children might be more focused on the fun and prizes involved, educators know that these sorts of programs help little kids get ready to read and big kids raise scores.

A study conducted by Jimmy Kim at Harvard's Center for Evaluation found that reading four or five books over the sum-

mer months had an impact on fall reading achievement comparable to attending summer school. Public libraries all over the country are busily gearing up for the 2009 summer reading program "Be Creative at your Library". The program is sponsored by the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), which is a grass-roots consortium of states working together to provide high-quality summer reading program materials for children at the lowest cost

possible for their public libraries. The CSLP began in 1987 in the state of Minnesota and has since grown to include libraries from virtually every state in the country. To find out the details about dates, times, and registration for this summer's program, call or visit your local library. And to learn more about effective and engaging children's educational materials visit these websites: [www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com), [www.billygorilly.com](http://www.billygorilly.com), and [www.pbskids.org](http://www.pbskids.org).

## Orinda Boy Scouts to the Rescue

By Andrea Firth



Bill Hummer (far right) with Tyler Young (center), Trevor Langum, and Jaikar Beasley (front). Erin Grey not pictured Photo Andrea A. Firth

On a recent backpacking trip the members of Orinda Boy Scout Troop 237 were able to put their outdoor survival skills into practice as they helped to rescue a stranded hiker. Awoken by the man's calls for help at 11:30 p.m., four members of the troop, Jaikar

Beasley, Tyler Young, Trevor Langum, Erin Grey, and Assistant Scout Master Bill Hummer set out in the dark and found the lost backpacker with a badly injured ankle and his dog with a serious rattle snake bite. The scouts administered first aid and kept the man and dog

warm while activating an emergency GPS transponder to get paramedic assistance. The man was transported to the hospital, and the boys finished out the weekend with an uneventful hike in Little Yosemite. The moral of the story: Be prepared.

## Miramonte's Class of 2009 Celebrates with a Safe and Sane Grad Nite

Submitted by Susie Romak

Over 200 parent volunteers are working to create the Miramonte Class of 2009's quintessential hometown graduation party, which begins immediately following the graduation ceremony on June 12. For 20 years local parents have banded together to provide an alcohol and drug free Grad Nite Party, and this year is no exception. The

Class of 2009 will be feted with the theme "To Infinity and Beyond," which will include designated distinct areas of entertainment for the students, including Andy's bedroom from "Toy Story," Buzz Lightyear's spaceship, outdoor games from "A Bug's Life," and casino games and dancing in Alladin's City of Agrabah. The evening

ends with the much anticipated and traditional Senior Class Video produced by and featuring senior class students. Special thanks to co-chairs Jennifer Crocker and Tina Ross, who spearheaded this event. For further information, please contact Susie Romak at [sromak10@aol.com](mailto:sromak10@aol.com) or by phone: 925-376-5690 or 925-250-1332.

## Pre-Schoolers Worry Over Bank Woes

Submitted by Dorothy Stewart



A group of 4 year olds from Old Firehouse School on June 4 visited West America Bank in Lafayette to ask if the bank was a safe place for their money. They became concerned about how money gets distributed when, at Christmas time,

they discovered that some people had no money to buy toys and food. "How fair is that? they wondered, "and began to ask questions about where money comes from and where it is kept."

Photo A. Scheck

## Orinda Rotary Field Day High Point Winners Announced

Submitted by Dick Burkhalter



Ron Noon presents the winner plaque to (left to right) Ryan Anderson, Voilet Bathgate and Arden Creson Photo Provided

The high point winners of 59th annual Frank E. Isola Rotary Field Day accepted the winner's plaque from Rotarian Ron Noon at the Orinda Rotary luncheon on Wednesday, May 13. The high point winner (boy's category) was Glorietta fifth grader Ryan Anderson. Del Rey fourth grader Arden Creson and Wagner Ranch third grader Voilet Bathgate tied in the high point girl's category.

## OA Students Win Academic and Artistic Awards

Submitted by Miriam Schaffer

Orinda Academy (OA) senior Elizabeth Agramont-Justiniano - who will attend Colgate University in Hamilton, New York in the fall - is a 2009 recipient of the "A Better Chance Academic Achievement Award." A Better Chance is a national nonprofit that works to change the life trajectory for academically talented youth of

color via access to rigorous and prestigious educational opportunities in grades 6-12. OA Junior Dylan Marcus received an honorable mention award in recognition of his musical talent in the "Talented and Learn Differently Contest" from the Parent Education Network. Dylan has produced his own digital music using Logic

and Reason software and designed the Web site, [www.biodmusic.com](http://www.biodmusic.com), where his music can be found. Dylan designed the site after taking a multimedia class offered at Orinda Academy. The site was featured at the recent Education Revolution 2009 conference held at AT&T Park in San Francisco.

## Payday at Acalanes High School



(L-R): John Sherry (Lafayette Rotary), Helen Wang, Anna Eames, Person Lyverse and David McDiarmid Photo provided

Four Acalanes High School students who participated in Lafayette Rotary's annual 4-Way Test Speech Contest received a total of \$500 in checks last week. The Speech Contest - which is part of the

Rotary Vocational Service - was held on March 5 during a regular lunch meeting of the Club. John Sherry, Club President, honored the students for the well prepared speeches and chosen subjects. 1st place:

Helen Wang (Journalism), 2nd place: David McDiarmid (Acceptance Behavior), 3rd place: Person Lyverse (The Elderly Connection), 4th place: Anna Eames (Community Service).