

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, Aug. 26, 2009 at 7:30pm

Lafayette School District

LAFSD Office
3477 School Street, Lafayette
Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2009 at 7 pm

Orinda Union School District

OUSD Office
8 Altarinda Road, Orinda
Monday, Aug. 24 at 6:00pm

Moraga School District

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate
School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga

Tentative Date -
Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2009 at 7:30 pm

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Moraga Resident Makes Deans List

Submitted by Stephanie Brooks

Moraga native Jayne Illovsy, a University of Denver Daniels College of Business undergraduate student, made the Dean's List for Spring Quarter of the 2008 and 2009 school year.

The Dean's List honors those undergraduate students who have achieved a quarterly grade point average of 3.75 or above while taking at least 15 credit hours.

Pizza Read-A-Thon at the Moraga Library

By Sophie Braccini



Mother and son having a great time at the 2008 Moraga Pizza Read-A-Thon building on the success of last year's first Pizza Read-A-Thon, the Moraga library invites children of all ages and their families on August 8 at 6:00 p.m. for an evening of reading and fun.

The first Moraga Pizza Read-A-Thon attracted more than 70 people. Children and their families met in the meeting room of the Moraga library and after indulging in the pizzas offered by the

librarian, laid down with their "blanky" or in their sleeping bag for a special moment of shared reading with their parents.

"I read about this idea in one of our publications and I thought it would be a lot of fun," said Sandy Steiner, the Moraga children's librarian. "We have many reading programs during the week. This evening event is just to provide the kids with a quiet time with their

Photo courtesy of the Moraga Library parents, concentrated on reading." Due to limited space, Steiner wants families to register, and knowing how many guests she will have will allow her to order the right number of pizzas.

"Sign up just started on August 4," said Steiner, "we will have plenty of books to choose from and people can bring their favorites. We will also have a simple craft and play a bingo game."

Working the Levels in Carpentry Camp

By Jennifer Wake



Carpentry Camp students Seiji Minowada and Martin Olson on July 29 work on projects at the Orinda Community Center

Photo Jennifer Wake

With the smell of sawdust, the clatter of hammers and rasp of saw blades filling the air, six students in Orinda Parks and Recreation's Carpentry Camp worked diligently on various projects last week.

The summer camp has been a popular mainstay for Lamorinda kids for the past 23 years, with instructor Julie Cole teaching an average of about 15 students a week the last couple of years. "With 11 weeks in the summer, that's 165 kids," said Cole, a lifelong teacher who earned her secondary school lifetime credential from UC Berkeley and taught junior high school math before teaching carpentry.

Orinda resident Martin Olson hammered nails into wood, after drilling holes into the foot-long board and designing a lever

and pull for his wooden pinball machine – a level 4 project – the topmost level being 21.

"I think (the camp) is cool because you make things and you can learn to use lots of tools like a crosscut saw and a brace drill," Olson said.

For Cole, carpentry is a great, fun way to improve strength, coordination, drawing, and math skills.

"And where would we be without people who can build and fix things?" she asked.

Students make their projects by hand from board foot of lumber, doing all the steps: measure, draw a line with a square, clamp, saw, rasp, file, drill, nail and saw. "It's great to have the kids for four days in a row; they can learn so much that brand new kids can become experts on the basic tools quickly," she said. "I

also get to see the older kids that I have known for years who are now on the higher levels, but too busy during the school year."

Seven-year-old student Seiji Minowada has been coming to Cole's carpentry camp since he was 3. He's made items including a stool and a helicopter, and is currently working on a foosball table. "That's level 12," Cole said.

As calls for help rang out during the camp last week, Cole nimbly rushed from one student to the next, often sitting on the ground, offering suggestions, unscrewing screws, pounding nails and working through problems with students.

"I keep busy," she said. "It's easier when everyone's working on low-level projects; high level projects take more time. It's great, though, seeing the kids every year get better and better."

The Collective Sound at St. Mary's Rocks

By Jean Follmer



Vocalist and guitarist, Barrett Buscher of Denver, Colorado, rehearses with The Collective Sound at St. Mary's College

Photo provided

lack many essential creative components of music, including writing it. "There is art and photography in schools, but not a lot of creativity in music," he said. "I play a lot and I write a lot and I did get a music degree. I believe in writing and that is what I really enjoy about music."

In week two, the kids learn to record music and shoot a video at Ex'pression College for the Digital Arts in Emeryville.

"Technology is another missing link to the education system," said Smith, who explained how they introduce the kids to writing software and show them how to use it.

The idea is to show kids that they can produce their own music and make a living doing it. In the past, musicians had to rely on a big recording studio and sell one million records to be successful. Smith says that has changed: If a band records and produces their albums themselves, they only need to sell about 60,000 records to be able to make a living.

"I think, conceptually, when you look at the progression of music and creativity, we're in an interesting time since we have access to millions of pieces of music now," he said. Smith added that online sites like Pandora offer new bands more accessibility to listeners because the music is categorized and so easily downloaded.

The final week of camp is tour week. This year, TCS will head to San Francisco, Redding, Chico and the famous Radio Star Studios in Weed.

In just the first two days of camp, the kids had been split into bands based on talent, instrument and interest, with each band having an experienced musician as a counselor. Some campers had already written songs.

"We really do get some pretty talented kids," said Smith. Young musicians from all over the world and throughout the United States attend the academy – some from as far as France, Korea and Denmark. Smith said about half of the attendees are in bands at home.

For more information about TCS, visit www.thecollectivesound.com.



Guitarist William Lucy of Korea rehearses with The Collective Sound at St. Mary's College

Photo provided

The Collective Sound (TCS) – the world's first touring music camp – made its temporary summer home at Saint Mary's College this year. Young musicians ages 12 to 18 refine and expand their musical creativity, learn to record and produce music using the latest technology, and go on tour during the three weeks of the non-profit summer Rock & Roll music academy, which started last week at SMC.

During week one, the kids are grouped into bands based on talent, instrument and interest. They write and rehearse an original song to be performed at the end of the week. In the afternoons, they go to classes to learn about music technology and to listen to guest speakers from the music industry.

While TCS Director Zac Smith believes the band and orchestra programs in schools are great experiences, he also feels they

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