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Burns to Lead Moraga School District

By Andrea A. Firth



Bruce Burns at his desk

Photo Andrea A. Firth

Bruce Burns, currently the principal of Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, will step up to the post of Superintendent of the Moraga School District (MSD), taking over for Superintendent Rick Schafer, who is retiring. The transfer will take effect in July, 2010.

"I am very excited and am looking forward to the opportunity to serve the students in our district, and, with the district's strong foundation of student success, build upon their many achievements," said Burns.

A 24-year education veteran,

Burns came to the Moraga School District in July of 1996 to reopen the closed Los Perales Elementary School campus and served as principal there for 11 years. For the past two and half years he has served as the principal of Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School.

"In the 14 years that Bruce has been a principal within the Moraga School District, he has earned the respect and admiration of our teachers, staff, parents, students, and the community-at-large," stated MSD Board President Lisa Evans. "He understands our core values. The Board is delighted that he has accepted the position of Superintendent, and my colleagues and I look forward to working with Bruce to maintain our outstanding curriculum and to build upon the tradition of excellence that defines the District."

Science in the Kitchen – More Magic with Milk

By Jonathan Winter

What do milk and glue have in common? One of the oldest kinds of glue is actually made from milk, using a recipe similar to this one. This is actually a glue you can eat!

1) Gather these supplies:

- Skim milk (2 cups)
- Saucepan and stirring spoon
- Strainer
- Baking soda
- Vinegar
- Water
- Measuring cup, measuring spoons
- Large bowl and stovetop

2) Start your Experiment:

Pour two cups of skim milk into a bowl. Add 6 tablespoons of vinegar. Heat slowly while stirring. When the solution starts to curdle (solids start to form) remove from heat and keep stirring until the curdling stops. Strain the mixture, saving the curds (the solid part). Put the curds in the bowl and add ½ cup water and 1 tablespoon of baking soda. Stir well.

3) What happened?

When you added the vinegar to the milk and heated it, the vinegar clumped the tiny solids in the milk together. These solids are the protein in the milk called casein. You may have eaten casein before-it is

cottage cheese in its most basic form. But little clumps of solids don't make a very good glue. That's why you added the baking soda. The baking soda breaks down the casein just enough for it to flow a little more easily (with the help of the water).

Try gluing some paper together to test the strength of your glue. Keep your glue in the refrigerator. It will last up to two weeks. When it starts to smell like sour milk, it's time to throw it out. As long as it smells o.k., you can eat it. It is even good for you! How does it taste?

4) Experiment Extension

Not only can milk be used to make glue, you can follow this recipe to make "plastic." To make milk plastic, just follow the recipe

above, but skip the baking soda and water step. Instead, mold the blobs of casein into shapes of your choice. Allow your creation to dry and harden completely. Can you make a spoon? Can you use it to eat some ice cream?

Real plastic is made from oil. Plastic doesn't ever rot and is causing a big pollution problem in the world. The "plastic" you made is natural, and will break down over time into natural ingredients again. It is biodegradable. You can check how long it takes your "plastic" to break down by burying your creation in a carefully marked spot and digging it up again in a few weeks. Is anything left? How great it would be if all of the world's plastic would break down naturally!

Young Students Bring Holiday Cheer



Singing at Aegis of Moraga

Photo Tod Fierner

The kindergarten classes from Los Perales Elementary School visited two assisted living facilities, Moraga Royale and Aegis of Moraga, before their winter break. According to teacher Terryl Miller, "The students decided to forego their holiday party, and instead be the party...and the presents!" The children sang for the residents, and made favors for each one.

Acalanes Freshman Creates Digital Flyer for Senator Carol Liu

By Jean Follmer



Marisa Hummel Photos provided

learned about the opportunity to create the hearing flyer from her daughter who works for Senator Liu.

"The subject matter I included (in the flyer) was based on what I saw. I discovered she (Liu) was trying to persuade people not to make the cuts and I tried to put that emotional value into the flyer," said Hummel.

Hummel was very excited to learn that Senator Liu had accepted her flyer. "I thought it was really great. I feel like I'm already making a name for myself and I'm only a freshman. I feel like this has been a really great opportunity for me," said Hummel.

This is only her first year working on Digital Design and Hummel has discovered she thoroughly enjoys drawing on a computer. "The program I used was Adobe Illustrator. It's surprisingly easy to draw with a mouse. I find it much easier than drawing by hand because you can erase your mis-



takes easily," said Hummel. Hummel enjoys working on Digital Design so much that she is already considering some future career plans. "I've actually kind of decided that I want this to be my main career," she continued.

Susan Lane is very proud of Hummel. Lane said many of her Digital Design students have been very active and successful in the community. "We have also designed the map/flyer for the Lafayette Historical Society for the opening of the new Lafayette Library," said Lane.

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Scouting for Food

Submitted by Debra Yarnall



Photo provided

Third grade Cub Scouts from Lafayette participated in the the "Scouting for Food" collection drive for the Contra Costa County and Solano City Food Banks for Thanksgiving. (L-R) Donovan Fuller, Michael Tierentiff, Nicholas Collins-Yarnall, Keaziah Mamer, Erik Voss

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