

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

Opening Tonight at AHS: The Boyfriend

By Lou Fancher



From left: Quinn Maarse, Brennan Quinn, Lindsey Long and Scotty McCormick in costume

Photo Lou Fancher

Acalanes High School is bouncing all the way back to the 1920's with *The Boy Friend*, this year's musical, opening March 2nd in Lafayette.

Bruce Lengacher, Director of Choral Activities, has been at the school for twelve years. Each fall, he selects three musicals, then presents them to the choir.

"The entire ensemble listens to them and hears the synopsis, and then they vote," he explained.

This year, it was actually *Little Women* that won, but the orchestra didn't have the instrumentation for the libretto, so their second choice became number one.

"I think they chose it because it was upbeat. I described it as *Tempest meets the Great Gatsby*—with lots of dancing," Lengacher recalled.

Brennan Quinn, 16, plays the rich, many-sweatered Bobby Van Heusen.

"I sing bass and it goes pretty high, so that's a challenge," he said. "The show requires a lot of energy because we have to sing and dance at the same time. It's fancy footwork, but it's doable."

Lengacher said Diane Kamrin, the show's choreographer, works well

with all levels of dancers.

"She breaks it down so the kids have success, but some of them were pretty funny, before they got it," he laughed.

Quinn has learned more than just dance steps from participating in the musical.

"If we didn't have the musical, I think the class would run dry around the second semester," he speculated. "This gives us a chance to come out of our shell and get to know each other."

He's heavily involved with Leadership, the student government at Acalanes, but said choir gives him a special self-confidence.

"No one is going to judge you if you sing a wrong note, because it happens to all of us. Even when I'm outside of the class, I don't second guess myself as much as I used to."

Quinn's favorite part is a duet, *Won't You Charleston*, because it epitomizes what he is trying to say to a love interest in the production.

"I want her to stop playing games and just dance with me and be with me," he explained, voicing a preference he shares with his character.

Which leads to a relevant subject: In the 1920's, women were gaining

the right to vote. *The Boy Friend*, frothy entertainment with a cast of women toying, teasing and chasing men while attending *Madame Dubonnet's School for Young Ladies*, is hardly a Suffragette's dream.

"It's ironic," Lengacher said, "we have a very strong female presence in this class, but they haven't brought that up. They're looking at it as a show, as a snapshot of that time period, rather than as a social comment on the time."

He too, has a favorite moment in the production.

"It's when I see that kid who may have been in the shadows step out, for the first time," he said, his expression filled with twelve years of fond memories.

The production runs just under two hours and is almost entirely produced by the students. Parents chair just four of the committees, with students covering performing, marketing, production, set construction, costume design and playing in the orchestra.

With cash-strapped schools, the project sounds expensive.

"Actually, the musical pays for itself," Lengacher said proudly. "Last year, we made money. The budget for this year is under \$10,000 and securing the rights is the biggest part of that: \$3,400. Our Boosters and Lafayette Partners in Education raise funds too."

For the students, parents, and especially for Lengacher, the pay off goes beyond monetary profit.

"It's not even the singing skills they learn," Lengacher confessed, "it's the collaboration, problem-solving and gaining appreciation for things around them that makes it worthwhile."

Acalanes High School's The Boyfriend

Book, Music, Lyrics, by Sandy Wilson
March 2-5 at 7:30 p.m.

Acalanes High School Performing Arts Center

All Seats General Admission
\$15/adult, \$13 for students and seniors (age 60 and up)

Go to www.acalaneschoral.org for tickets

DAR Presents Awards

Submitted by Louise Diracles



From left: Acalanes DAR Regent Alyce Traverso, Hannah Ruben, Kayla Davidge, Emily Baltzo, Nicole Lee, Marie Hecker, and DAR Good Citizen Award Chairperson Barbara Snyder.

Photo provided

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Regent Alyce Traverso welcomed DAR members and Good Citizen Scholarship winners and their families at a recent ceremony. She outlined the origin, purposes and activities of DAR and explained that each honoree was especially selected by their high school counselors and received a flag flown over the capital, a certificate, a DAR pin, a list of DAR principles and a Savings Bond. Chairperson Barbara Snyder introduced each winner noting some of her other accomplishments, then each read her own essay about patriotism.

Kayla Davidge (Miramonte) is a Mock Trial Team co captain, co-president of REACH, and co-captain of

Tennis. Marie Hecker (Contra Costa Christian) is a Scholar Athlete in volleyball and swimming, senior class president and a food bank volunteer. Nicole Lee (Acalanes) is a newspaper editor, founder of Key Club, and all league tennis player. Hannah Ruben (Campolindo) is a Girls State Delegate, Marine Mammal Center volunteer, and on Student Council. Emily Baltzo (Bentley) is volleyball captain, vocalist in the Contra Costa Children's Chorus, and Habitat for Humanity volunteer. Emily Baltzo was chosen as the DAR County Essay winner. Isabella Rassouli (Las Lomas) is President of the Glee Club, Lacrosse player and a John Muir hospital volunteer. She was unable to attend the ceremony due to illness.

2011 Eagle Scouts of Troop 204

Submitted by Laura van Duren



From left, back row: Max Lamb, Westin Mirner, Andrew Ahr, Austin deBack, Gabriel Samaniego, Pierce Naton;

Front row: Bradley Green, Marcus van Duren, Christopher O'Keefe, Jacob Jernigan, Trent McCormick, Andrew Megowan.

Photo Jeff Toten

On March 19, 2011, at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 204 will honor 12 young men who achieved the Eagle Scout award, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America. Troop 204 has awarded this special honor to 330 scouts since 1935

To attain the rank of Eagle Scout, a scout must earn his way up the scouting ranks - from Tenderfoot to Life Scout. As a Life Scout, he must be active in the troop for at least six

months, earn at least 21 merit badges, serve as a Patrol Leader, show scout spirit. As a final step they must plan, develop and give leadership to others in an approved Eagle service project that is helpful to any religious institution, school, or community.

In addition to requirements listed above, each scout has attended the annual 50 mile backpacking trips, hiked over 500 miles, actively participated in annual Camporees, constructed and slept in snow caves and camped in the wilderness for over 100 nights.

The new Eagles and their projects are:

Andrew Ahr (Campolindo) - Painted a large classroom and conference room in the children's ministry at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church to create an inviting atmosphere.

Austin deBack (Acalanes) - Fund raising, design, and leadership of groups during the construction of five (5) tables for the teachers of Lafayette Elementary School.

Bradley Green (Acalanes) - Created and coordinated the "Power of Youth" book drive, amongst Lafayette students to raise awareness of the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

Jacob Jernigan (Acalanes) - Refurbished a large wooden playground structure, painted exterior doors, and refurbished and painted exterior railings for Shelter, Inc.

Max Lamb (Campolindo) - Planted a garden of native California plants to attract native bees and installed an informational sign as an educational tool at the Garden Classroom at Burton Valley Elementary School in Lafayette.

Trent Joseph McCormick (Campolindo) - Constructed a six foot tall by 90 foot long deer proof fence around a vegetable garden and built an adjoining path to the vegetable garden at Las Trampas.

Andrew Megowan (Acalanes) - Collected a variety of materials for use in the assembly of a number of tactile boards for visually impaired children in the Rehabilitation Center at Children's Hospital in Oakland.

Westin Mirner (Acalanes) - Conducted a month long sweat pant drive in the Lafayette community for the Tom Waddell Health Clinic in San Francisco that benefitted approximately 300 ill, homeless individuals.

Pierce Naton (Campolindo) - Installed an irrigation system in the new Campolindo Biology garden.

Christopher O'Keefe (Acalanes) - Created a learning center for homeless children at Shelter's Inc.

Gabriel Romero Samaniego (Campolindo) - Collected tattered US flags for proper retirement at schools, public and private businesses throughout Lamorinda; organized and put on a flag retirement ceremony.

Marcus Justin Paul van Duren (Campolindo) - Landscaped three traffic triangles for Edna Brewer Middle School in Oakland.

Moraga Lions Student Speakers Contest

Submitted by Fred and Marice George



Photo provided

On February 15 the Moraga Lions Student Speakers' Contest was held at the Moraga Public Library. The contest subject was

"Enforcing Our Borders: State versus Federal Rights." Pictured above are Fred George, Moraga Lions Club Chair; Cynthia Brzezinski, contestant

from Miramonte High School; Selena Ross, winning contestant from Miramonte High School; Blake Margrass, contestant from Acalanes High School; and Roy Hridoy, contestant from Campolindo High School.

Ross advanced to the second round (Zone) of the Lions Club Student Speakers Contest, which she won on February 26. She now goes to the next level (Region) which will be held at 12:15 on March 27 at the Contra Costa Water District offices in Concord. Ross is sponsored by our local Moraga Lions Club. If she continues to win, she could be awarded \$21,000 in scholarships. The members of the Moraga Lions Club are rooting for her.

11th Annual St. Perpetua Science Fair

Submitted by Monica Chappell



From left, back row: Cannon Armistead (7th), Devyn Brown (8th), Hayley Miller (8th), Tessa Lindberg (6th); center row: Grace Southwick (8th), Emma Nushi (6th), Kyle Wiggins (6th), Callan Hoskins (6th); front row: Madeline McPhail (8th), Megan Peirona (7th), Bella Penza (7th)

Photo Kerry Armistead

St. Perpetua School's 11th annual science fair was held on February 3rd and was hosted by the Jr. High students (grades 6-8). This hands-on exposition featured exhibits and experiments designed

with the future scientist in mind. "Our goal is for the Junior High students to be able to showcase their efforts. This event provides opportunities for students to become personally and directly involved in

scientific investigation" said Karen Goodshaw, St. Perpetua School Principal. Three winners from each grade were awarded first, second and third place ribbons and were honored at a school luncheon hosted by the Jr. High Science Teacher, Natalie Deininger. The top projects from 7th and 8th grade went on to compete in the Oakland Diocesan Science Fair which was held on February 12th. Hayley Miller and Bella Penza were both awarded Grand Champions within Behavioral and Biological Science. Cannon Armistead and Grace Southwick were honored as finalists for Engineering and Biological Science respectively. These four students will compete at the San Francisco Bay Area Science Fair on March 30th representing St. Perpetua School in Lafayette. For more information about St. Perpetua School's Science Fair results visit www.stperpetua.org.