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Transitional Kindergarten on Hold

By Andrea A. Firth

Public school districts across Lamorinda have placed their plans for transitional kindergarten on hold following the release of Governor Jerry Brown's preliminary budget, which proposes to cut funding for the program.

The 2010 Kindergarten Readiness Act pushes the entry age for kindergarten, currently age five by December 2nd, back requiring children to turn five by September 1st. The new age requirements will be phased in over three years. For the 2012-2013 school year, stu-

dents must turn five by November 1st to be eligible for kindergarten. A change lauded by educators.

The Act also includes a provision for grade schools to provide kindergarteners whose birthdays fall in September, October, and November with the option to attend "transitional kindergarten." This new grade level would give these youngest students an extra kindergarten year. And, the grade school districts in Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda had plans to offer transitional kindergarten starting

in the fall.

Dr. Fred Brill, Superintendent of the Lafayette School District, says he is not 100% sure what the final status of transitional kindergarten is for the next school year. Communication about the program from different education resources has been vague and conflicting, says Brill. "It's extraordinarily frustrating, because I want to keep parents informed, especially the parents with incoming student who have November birthdays," he says. The Lafayette School District

planned to collect the names of students who age-qualify and are interested in attending transitional kindergarten during their registration in late January, but for now the program is on hold.

According to the Orinda Union School District website, registration and planning for transitional kindergarten will not take place until state funding for the program is reinstated.

The Moraga School District, likewise, will not offer the un-mandated program. However, Courtney

Guinn, the Director of Educational Services and Instructional Technology for the Moraga School District, says the district will "pre-register" children for transitional kindergarten at the district's upcoming February registration should the program's status change. Moraga School District will also hold a kindergarten informational meeting on February 2nd starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Joaquin Moraga Middle School Auditorium to further inform parents about these changes.

2012-2013 Kindergarten Registration

Lamorinda's public elementary schools will soon be registering next fall's Kindergarteners. To be eligible for Kindergarten, a child must have been born on or before November 1, 2007. You should register your Kindergartener at the school he or she will attend in the 2012-2013 school year.

Lafayette

Registration was held at the Lafayette School District's four elementary schools in January. For information on late registration, go to the district's website at: www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Moraga

Families new to the Moraga School District are invited to attend a Kindergarten Information meeting on February 2, 2012 at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 7:00-7:45 p.m.

Registration will take place at the Moraga School District's three elementary schools in February.

Thursday, February 9, and

Friday, February 10, 2012, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Los Perales Elementary, 22 Wakefield Drive (631-0105)

Donald Rheem Elementary, 90 Laird Drive (376-4441)

Camino Pablo Elementary, 1111 Camino Pablo (376-4435)

For more information about kindergarten registration, please go to the district's website at www.moraga.k12.ca.us.

Orinda

Registration will take place at the Orinda Union School District's four elementary schools in February.

February 6, 7, 8, 9 (Monday thru Thursday), 2012,

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Del Rey Elementary, 25 El Camino Moraga (258-3099)

Glorietta Elementary, 15 Martha Road (254-8770)

Sleepy Hollow Elementary, 20 Washington Lane (254-8711)

Wagner Ranch Elementary, 350 Camino Pablo (258-0016)

For more information go to the district's website at www.orindaschools.org.

THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

Map My Run

Developer: Map My Fitness
For: iPhones and Androids

One of the great things about living in California is the weather. With our mild climate we have the opportunity to spend ample time outside. With "exercising more" at the top of many people's New Year's resolution list, I've discovered a fantastic app that will not only help you enjoy the outdoors, but assist you in getting fit.

Map My Run by Map My Fitness is an easy-to-use app with a wide array of options. After downloading the app and picking a user name, you can immediately begin recording your daily workout via GPS, enabling you to track running pace, speed, calories burned and your exact route. A neat feature is the route map displaying the elevation, which can really vary in the Lamorinda area.

One of the fun options is the ability to add friends to your app. It is like having the support and input from a virtual running group. This mega fitness app also offers a nutrition tap with a calorie budget. If your goal is to lose weight you simply record your daily intake and Map My Fitness lets

you know what calories you have remaining for your daily intake.

Map My Run also suggests pre-determined runs mapped by other users. For instance in the Lamorinda area there are twenty-two pre-mapped runs in Orinda and Lafayette that range in distance from 3.4 miles to 10.6 miles. The routes are uploaded by local residents including routes in Sleepy Hollow, Orinda Downs, and the Lafayette Reservoir. The Lafayette/Moraga area has an enormous variety to choose from offering 208 uploaded maps with distances of three miles to a whopping 68 miles. If you are looking for a challenging run, an ascent feature is your guide.

Map My Run is a fun and easy app that motivates the user to get outside and get active. Just in case running is not your thing, Map My Fitness also offers, MapMyRide, MapMyWalk, MapMyHike, and MapMyTri.

Eric Pawlakos is a senior at Miramonte High School and on-air reporter for the teen radio program, Express Yourself!™

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