

# Saklan Names Hans-Peter Metzger as New Head of School

Submitted by Christine Kuckuk



Photo provided

Metzger was selected from a national search of top-tier independent school administrators and comes to The Saklan School from The German American International School in Menlo Park, where he has served as Head of School for the past seven years. Prior to that, he served for nineteen years as the Director of the International School of Trieste and the Udine International School, both in northern Italy. Metzger also brings international

school experience in Spain and a background as the treasurer for the Mediterranean Association of International Schools Executive Board of Directors. Before serving as a Head of School, he taught math, social studies, language arts and physical education in grade levels 4 – 12.

During his interview day with the full Saklan community, Metzger made a strong impression on the 18-student interview panel with his ability to answer their questions not only with honesty and humor but also in fluent Italian and German. He was also invited to jam with several of the students who were equally impressed by his ability to play guitar.

The Saklan School is excited to welcome Hans-Peter Metzger to its community. For a tour or application information, visit The Saklan School at [www.saklan.org](http://www.saklan.org), stop by the office at 1678 School Street, Moraga, or call (925) 376-7900.

# JM Students Enjoy Hunger Games



Photo Andy Scheck

the Hunger Games – a televised battle that only one will survive. The story that unfolds is one of sacrifice, survival, and rebellion.

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School English teacher Jill McTaggart saw an opportunity in the popular novel, which was originally published in 2008, and this year added it to her curriculum. It's the first time the book's been used in a Moraga classroom, and her students have enjoyed helping to develop and test the related assignments.

On a recent Friday, a particularly tasty project was due. To demonstrate that they paid attention to the novel's details, students created food that relates to the book. Some made foods eaten by the characters, such as bread, stew, and a delightful cake decorated with a flaming "Mockingjay" (the symbol of the rebellion), while others crafted detailed, edible versions of such things as the book cover and the battle arena. *L.Borrowman*

If you haven't heard about Suzanne Collins' young adult novel, *The Hunger Games*, you soon will – it's now a major motion picture that will open in theaters March 23. Loyal fans of the

book can hardly wait.

The novel is set in a post-apocalyptic world; one in which two dozen children, between the ages of 12 and 18, are selected to participate in an annual event –

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# Troop 200 Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Mark Lewis



From left: Joel Benner and Brendan Lewis

Photo provided

Troop 200 proudly announces that **Brendan Lewis** has achieved Scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout.

Highlights of Brendan's scouting career included: Crew Chief for a 50 mile Philmont trek, Order of the

Arrow Brotherhood and Senior Patrol Leader for Troop 200. Brendan also completed Leadership Training (Brownsea). Brendan has been part of Texas Youth Rugby, the Acalanes High School Track team and Acalanes Chamber Choir.

For his Eagle project, Brendan worked with the City of Lafayette Parks Department to help eliminate invasive plants from local waterways.

Troop 200 proudly announces that **Joel Benner** has achieved Scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout.

Highlights of Joel's scouting career include: sailing expedition at Florida Seabase, 50 mile horseback trek at Philmont, Senior patrol leader for the National BS Camporee, completed Leadership Training (Brownsea) and member of Order of the Arrow. Joel has been involved in soccer throughout his youth and is currently a pole vaulter for the Acalanes High School Track team and cross country runner.

Eagle project- Raise money and build survival kits to send back to help the survivors of the tsunami in Japan.

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# Troop 303 Eagles

Submitted by Andie Sheets

On January 7, 2012, Boy Scouts of America Troop 303 of Orinda honored its three newest Eagle Scouts with an Eagle Court of Honor held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Orinda.



Raj Bains

For his Eagle project, Raj Bains built six Points of Interest signs to identify various landmarks throughout the Wagner Ranch Nature area in Orinda. Raj also built a Directory Kiosk at the entrance of the nature trail for visitors to obtain directions to navigate through the nature area. From the engineering drawings to permits, construction, and final implementation, the project took over 300 hours and 35 volunteers to complete.

Raj is a Freshman at University of Southern California.

Mikk Eerik Otsmaa's Eagle Project was to design, build and install a large garden arbor for the Orinda Senior Village. The redwood arbor is 12'x8'x8' and is stained with a clear finish. Located at the gated entrance of the Orinda Senior Village garden, the arbor provides beauty and shade.

The project required architectural plans along with approval and



Mikk Eerik

permits from Contra Costa County, the City of Orinda Planning Dept. and the Central Contra Costa Sanitation District. Over 350 planning and execution hours were spent on this project. Mikk is a Senior at Miramonte High School in Orinda.



Brandt Martin Sheets

Brandt Martin Sheets' Eagle project involved remodeling the playground at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Preschool in Orinda. The project included replacing wood playground chips with recycled rubber chips, assembling a picnic table, and refurbishing four large doors for the church. The project took a total of 196 hours and 30 volunteers. Brandt is a senior at Miramonte High School in Orinda.

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