

Miramonte's Elective Fair

Submitted by Catherine Soso



Photo provided

Teachers and student representatives served up some fun to Orinda Intermediate School eighth graders on Thursday afternoon, February 9. Staged in the cafeteria, the Fair was created to inform next year's incoming freshman about their elective choices. Of course, it was also an opportunity for staff to promote their favorite subjects and for current MHS students to explain their love of a specific elective. Which classes give the dreaded "homework" yet why might it be worth it? Do I already need to know about the subject or have a specific skill to enjoy the course? What college admissions requirement does it fulfill? Will I get to hang out with cool students if I take this class?

While these questions and many

more were answered there seemed to be collateral benefits to the event. Some students attended with their parents (even though it was tough to be seen with them!) Others walked from OIS in clusters to campus, excited to get a preview of life as a Miramonte student. The quad was occupied by the cheerleaders for their regular practice, usually held in the cafeteria but ousted by the Fair. School spirit was a solid welcome for the impending freshmen.

Passports were issued listing all of the represented Electives. If students visited every table and had their passport "stamped" they were eligible to enter a drawing for choice Miramonte "swag" (logo hats and t-shirts.) There were seven diligent winners. Classrooms were open to

tour for the following 30 minutes. The Drama Department performed in the theater and public speakers (Oral Interpretation) were on hand to demonstrate their skills. The Choral Department was busy sorting through their Choir Gram orders (songs for sale delivered on Valentine's Day to unsuspecting fellow MHS students.) World Languages (French, Mandarin, Latin and Spanish) had a big impact with music, sombreros, shields and more. Art, Digital Photo, Foods and Engineering Drawing were engaged throughout the Fair. Copies of the Journalism student newspaper "Mirador" were flying off the table.

The trial year for the Fair became a reality with an extended effort by the Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) Department Chair, Kristen Plant. Her energy is contagious and her vision to create a new tradition at Miramonte is commendable.

The Educational Foundation of Orinda funds most of these programs while state funding continues to diminish. A quote from Albert Einstein sort of sums it up: "Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will get you everywhere." Elective courses can be fun, challenging and lead students in new directions. As part of a well rounded student body, they are an essential educational component at Miramonte.

For more information:

Videos of Elective Courses offered at Miramonte
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/Page/839

Funding by the Educational Foundation of Orinda
www.orindaefo.org

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12th Annual Science Fair at St. Perpetua

Submitted by Monica Chappell



Photo Kerry Armistead

The excitement of science was brought to life at the 12th Annual St. Perpetua School Science Fair, which was held on February 2nd and was hosted by the Junior High students (grades 6-8). This hands-on exposition featured exhibits and experiments designed with the future scientist in mind. "New this year, Camp Galileo presented their earthquake table. Here, the students could build a structure to see if it could withstand an earth-

quake" explained Principal Karen Goodshaw. Three winners from each grade were awarded first, second and third place ribbons and were honored at a school luncheon hosted by science teacher Natalie Deininger. The top projects from 7th and 8th grade went on to compete in the Oakland Diocesan Science Fair held on February 25. For more information about St. Perpetua School's Science Fair results visit www.stperpetua.org.

Lafayette Eighth-Grader to Compete in State-wide Arts Competition

Submitted by Gen Topping



Photo Blanca Anderson

Stanley Middle School student Lucy Clearwater was recently

selected to represent the middle-school age group of the PTA District of Contra Costa County at the state-wide Reflections competition. Lucy's winning song, "Come Back Home" will go up against the work of other musicians in her age group from all counties state-wide, with the winner moving on to the National competition.

Reflections is a nation-wide competition sponsored by the National PTA encouraging students to create original works of art in six categories, both for fun and recognition. Lucy not only wrote the music and lyrics, but she performs all vocals and instrumentals as well.

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