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*Conditions apply

Record Participation in Lafayette's Science Fairs

Submitted by Janet Estee, LPIE Science Chair



Lafayette Elementary third-grader Alexander Sales expresses excitement about his Lemon Battery Experiment: "It actually lit! Wow!"

Photo courtesy Maryanne McCormick

Over 1,400 K-5 students participated in the Lafayette Partners in Education (LPIE) sponsored science fairs in the Lafayette School District this year. Student science fair projects included classic experiments, as well as non-traditional ones. Stock performance analysis was shown by Lila Chatterton, and Dolbear's Law was investigated by fellow Burton Valley Elementary fifth-grade student Owen Holbreich, who correlated temperature with cricket chirp rates.

"In student science fair exhibits, there is powerful evidence of exceptional skill in collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking," said Lafayette School District Superintendent Fred Brill.

Helping to build the excitement

at the fairs, Lafayette community member Mark Brast explored the evening constellations, physical chemist and Lafayette Elementary School parent David Osborn, shattered flowers frozen with liquid nitrogen, and Springhill parent Nanette Heffernan's Green Team monitored energy consumption. LPIE instructors investigated the character of friction, and Lawrence Hall of Science challenged the squeamish with a hands-on display of live cockroaches. They were joined by Lindsay Wildlife Museum, Camp Edventuremore, Camp Galileo, Sangamo Biosciences, Astrowizard, and Mt. Diablo Bee Association.

The LPIE science fairs complement classroom science instruction.

Debbie Goetsch, Physician's Assistant and LPIE Science Instructor said, "The science fairs are great because they give kids a chance to explore and research an area of science they're interested in."

Yogurt Shack continued its generous tradition of providing a free yogurt coupon to every student participant.

Finishing the science fair season, the Rube Goldberg Machine Contest is scheduled from 6 to 9 p.m. March 28 at Stanley Middle School. Participating students must build a machine that can pop two balloons in 10 to 15 steps of energy transfer. There won't be a shortage of pulleys, batteries, dominos, catapults – or excitement – in the Stanley gym!

Panel to Discuss Struggles, Successes of Professional Dance

By Sophie Braccini

The Academy Award winning movie *Black Swan* spurred a new curiosity about the demands of being a professional dancer, says Diablo Ballet dancer Erika Johnson. A graduate of the Saint Mary's College

LEAP (Liberal Education for Arts Professionals) program, Johnson will be part of a panel of professional dancers who will discuss their personal stories of struggle and success as part of "Inside the Dancer's Life:

Black Swan & Beyond" from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 5 at the Moraga Library.

"We'll talk about the discipline required for professional artists, the years of training, the travels, the in-



Ballet dancer Erika Johnson (right) with a fellow dancer Photo provided

juries," said Johnson, "then we will show examples of live performances on DVD." The discussion will be moderated by Diablo Ballet Artistic Director Lauren Jonas.

The presentation will be followed by a question and answer period. "Previous audiences have been very curious about this unusual job," said Johnson. "They wanted to know how we felt about the movie, if we go the gym, if we eat Twinkies. We love all the funny questions."

Johnson had an interesting professional path. Raised in Marin County, Johnson was hired by a large ballet company in Texas at age 18. She later returned to the Bay Area to join a smaller San Francisco dance

company, and registered in the Saint Mary's College LEAP program that allows professional ballet dancers to pursue higher education while continuing their careers. "You are hired between the age of 18 and 19, then you dance for 10 to 15 years, then what?" asked the young woman. "LEAP is a way to get a higher liberal arts education, studying the classics and working around dance schedules."

Johnson stopped dancing for three years to become a nurse, but recently returned to dance for Diablo Ballet.

An earlier panel discussion is scheduled at 10:30 a.m. April 5 at the Lafayette Senior Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd.

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Updated 1204 s.f. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home has an updated kitchen, bright living room wired, sunny dining room, master bedroom



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Gorgeous Single Level State of the Art Traditional on Koenig Designed .63 Acre Level Lot

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office, large laundry room & a two car garage.

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Sophisticated Sleepy Hollow Single Level Home on Tranquil 1.18 Acre Lot.

17 Lombardy Lane, Orinda



This beautifully appointed single level three bedroom (plus an office), three bath home is graced by majestic oaks, ancient Bay trees and overlooks a creek from a large, level lawn with meandering paths and a private deck. Features include a chef's kitchen with a Wolf stove, large living room w/fireplace, master suite w/ master bath w/spa tub, family room, new IPE decks and a two car garage.



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THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

ICE "In Case of Emergency"

Developer: Sera-Apps

Cost: FREE

For: Android

Are you totally prepared for any emergency? Most of us think we are ready to go into action when needed, but the reality is, we probably have overlooked the basics. If you get in an accident, the difference between life and death could be in the details. Is your vital information readily available? If not, ICE may be your savior. ICE stands for "In Case of Emergency." The ICE app, developed by Sera-Apps, is a free app that I highly recommend as a download for all Android phones.

Here's how the ICE app works. It records and stores in your phone all the important information that would be needed when you are in trouble and can't respond. The first screen has four areas to input data. You can browse through the contacts in your address book assigning the relationship to you such as mother, father, spouse, child, friend, doctor, etc. Next, select the information icon to list your name, date of birth, blood

type, and home address. Third, in the area labeled "Notes," you record known allergies, medications, insurance phone and group numbers, medical conditions, organ donations, and any other pertinent personal notations. Last is the "Settings" icon where you set a password or change the language. While changing the language might not seem important if you are an English speaker, it is a very valuable tool when traveling abroad.

There are numerous ICE apps on the market, and many have more bells and whistles for a fee. ICE app by Sera-Apps is a solid, basic, app that is easy to use and free to download. iPhone users don't despair. Check out the free ICE app for the iPhone jointly developed by Donate Life America and Legalzoom that offers the option to email any contact on your emergency list.

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