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Four Lamorinda Schools Named CA Distinguished Schools

Submitted by Jonathan Lance

Campolindo and Miramonte High School, as well as Stanley Middle School and Orinda Intermediate School, were among 13 schools named by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson as California Distinguished Schools in Contra Costa County for their "strong commitment and innovative approaches to improving student-academic achievement."

The program recognizes elementary and secondary schools in alternating years. Distinguished Schools must meet a variety of eligibility criteria, including designated federal and state

accountability measures, and they must provide an in-depth description of two Signature Practices that their staff members believe have contributed to the success of their students. For applications that are accepted, each school receives a site visit by a team of local educators to validate the full implementation of the Signature Practices described in the application.

Local school visits were conducted in March by a team of 20 educators from the Contra Costa County Office of Education, augmented by two retired administrators and three district principals. The local

Distinguished Schools program is coordinated by Peggy Marshburn, chief communications officer, Contra Costa County Office of Education.

Distinguished Schools are honored at regional award ceremonies, where the state superintendent of California Public Instruction presents each school with a 2013 Distinguished School plaque and flag. The events and awards are funded by donations from many California corporations and statewide-educational organizations.

For more information about the Distinguished School program, visit www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/cs/.

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TEEN SCENE

Green Teens

By Konnie Guo

We are probably all aware of the environmental issues that threaten the entire world. However, to what extent do they actually affect us? The EPA states that there are a variety of environmental problems, encompassing waste, carbon emissions, climate change, and pollution. Most, if not all of these, have direct consequences on every single person on this earth.

In particular, teens have shown great concern about the environment, and have been striving to take greener and cleaner measures. In order to reduce their individual carbon footprint, some ride their bikes to school in lieu of driving cars. Others opt out of bringing a brown paper bag for their lunch, using reusable sandwich wrappers instead. Alison Bogy, a sophomore, explains her part in being eco-friendly: "I always make sure to place recyclable items in the correct bin. It might not seem like much, but it really makes a difference!"

Miramonte High School's Environmental Club consists of a group of students dedicated to saving our environment. They meet once a week during lunchtime to discuss potential activities they can do to spread awareness, reduce waste, and promote recycling. Samuel Shain, president of the Environmental Club, says, "As teens, we are future leaders, and it is our responsibility to keep the world as clean as we can. At Miramonte High School, the Environmental Club teaches that through the simplest of actions, one can make a profound impact on our environment."

Ending today, Earth Week took place April 17-24.

During this time, Miramonte's Environmental Club hosted an activity for each day of the week, ranging from announcing facts and trivia to creating a video encouraging green habits. Earth Week was a great time to promote awareness and action to the rest of the student body.

We need to save our earth, and doing that requires participation from all of us. Everybody is responsible to some extent, and we need to do everything in our ability to reduce our individual impact. There are many ways to take action, but the simplest can be found in these three words: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Konnie Guo, a sophomore at Miramonte High School, is a member of Club BTTYA, an avid reader, and during her spare time, enjoys playing the piano, doing volunteer work, and practicing the three R's.



Teen Scene is YOUR voice. If you have something to say or have writing skills and want to be part of our Teen Scene team, email our Teen Coach, Cynthia Brian, Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com.

The opinions expressed in Teen Scene are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

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