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TEEN SCENE

Teen Volunteerism Warms Up the Winter

By Andrew Wang



String chamber group Jacob Ngai, Cary Huang, Andrew Wang, Alicia Kim, Soha Sadeghinejad, Michael Huang, Brian Davis, Will Gu play in front of the Orinda Library. Photo provided

"It was a pleasure to make kids smile through our playing," says Ngai, "and to know that we would make even more kids smile through the books we helped supply for Christmas."

The goal was to be able to get a new book to the thousands of children negatively affected by the recent natural disaster. We were impressed by the generosity of community members' contributions.

Other teens used their winter break to help the local community in other ways, some aiding the injured and ill at Kaiser Permanente and John Muir Medical Center, others inspiring a love of books at local libraries. Avan Chu, a junior at Miramonte High School, volunteered at the Orinda Library. During the holiday break he routed books across the county in time for Christmas and the new school season. "The best part of my job is knowing that I am helping deliver knowledge to little kids," he reflects. "That's the best gift of all." Whether promoting a lifelong love of reading or just making someone smile for a day, teens made the best of their break time to contribute to the community and beyond.

Andrew Wang, the Director of Concerts for Be the Star You Are! charity, is a student at Campolindo High School. Besides writing and reporting, he enjoys playing the piano and violin, and tossing a good hammer throw on his Frisbee. Check Lamorinda Weekly's "Not to Be Missed" section for upcoming free concerts offered by local teens.



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, CynthiaBrian.com.

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

THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

App: Twitter by Twitter, Inc.
For: All Smartphones
Price: Free

There are so many different smartphone apps available today; it is becoming more and more difficult to single one out as a 'must have' app. However, if you are a fan of social media, and most teenagers are, Twitter is an app that you absolutely need to install. Many smartphone users are already familiar with Twitter. According to the company, they have over 230 million monthly active users sending out 500 million Tweets every day. Over 75 percent of these users access their Twitter account on their smartphone. Clearly this is a very popular app! And, with 77 percent of the accounts outside the United States, Twitter is also a truly global social media company. Twitter has become the most popular way for users to stay connected with their friends and family by exchanging short messages of up to 140 characters. These short messages are called Tweets, and they are not limited to words. You can add photos, videos, and links. It is also a great way to fol-

low what other people are saying and reach out to them, whether they are sports personalities, business professionals, or celebrities. You can easily search for people by their name or use



your email to invite friends to join you on Twitter. For social media fans, Twitter is a 'must have' app.

Alex Pawlakos enjoys biking, weightlifting, and tutoring in his spare time. He is a reporter on Express Yourself!(tm) Teen Radio. Alex is an economics major at UC Berkeley.

Parents, Get Ready for Kindergarten!

2014-15 Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten registration for the three school districts will be happening in January and February. Children must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1 to enter kindergarten for the 2014-15 school year. Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is an optional program for those children who have their 5th birthday between (including) Sept. 2 and Dec. 2.

Lafayette School District

(Burton Valley, Happy Valley, Lafayette, and Springhill elementary schools)

Registration for both programs will take place at the district's four elementary schools Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 21 and 22 at the following times:

Burton Valley Elementary from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.
 Happy Valley Elementary from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.
 Lafayette Elementary from 9 to noon
 Springhill Elementary from 9 to 11 a.m.

Registration packets can be obtained from the schools prior to registration, beginning Jan. 7, however the earliest day in which completed packets will be accepted by the schools is Jan. 22, during registration times. For more information about kindergarten registration, go to the district's website at: www.lafsd.k12.ca.us.

Moraga School District

(Camino Pablo, Donald Rheem and Los Perales elementary schools)
 Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten registration

for 2014-15 will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Feb. 6 and 7. For more information, visit www.moraga.k12.ca.us.

Orinda Union School District

(Del Rey, Glorietta, Sleepy Hollow, and Wagner Ranch elementary schools)

Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration for children entering an Orinda public school in August 2014 will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at each of four elementary schools Monday through Thursday, Feb. 3-6. Registration requires the presentation of various documents. These documents and specific instructions are outlined on the district's website. Please note that some of the items need to be the original, certified documents. Visit www.orindaschools.org for more information.

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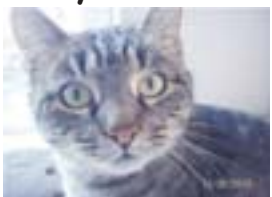
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