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Assemblywoman Gets Special Tour at Old Firehouse School

Submitted by Alexandra Dutton



Photo provided

State Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan visited Old Firehouse School in Lafayette July 8. Her tour guide was a 2-year-old who showed her his favorite books and a slide. She then observed a 4-year-old teaching her peers how to draw a person, as

well as a classroom of 5-year-olds singing their best (and silliest) rendition of "A-Tootie-Ta." Although the 3-year-olds were too busy to give her a tour themselves, they did bestow several gifts upon her (i.e. a toy giraffe and cow). The children at Old

Firehouse School were very excited to have such a special visitor. Following the tour of the school, Buchanan met with directors from several other local childcare centers. They discussed the future of early childhood education in California.

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Community Service



Orinda Intermediate School winners with teachers, parents and principal, back row, from left: Eli Persin's grandmother, Judi, his father, Ben, teacher Cecilia Kilmartin, Moraga Lions president Dan Hagan, teacher Carolyn Druger, Jaiden Aengus' father, Guy, and OIS principal Michael Randall. Front row: students Eli Persin, Jaiden Aengus and Jaiden's mother, Wendi. Photos Sherilyn Hagan

We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions can be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Lions Pride Awards Presented to Middle School Students

Submitted by Dan Hagan



Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School winners with parents, teachers and Moraga Lions president, back row, from left: JM principal Joan Danilson, teacher Karol Robinson, teacher Mary Usalka, parents Keith and Donna Stickle, student Serena Stickle, student Breydon Rizzo, mother Peggy Rizzo, teacher Ben Wayne, and teacher Pawan Datta; front row: teachers Lisa Gruen, Alyssa Lee, and Kerry Warmboe.

Prior to the end of the school year, the Moraga Lions Club awarded eight Lamorinda middle school students with the Lions Pride Award, which celebrates each student's academic tenacity and spirit. The students were selected by the faculty at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, Orinda Intermediate School, Stanley Middle School and St. Perpetua School.

JM sixth grader Serena Stickle and eighth grader Breydon Rizzo were described as "hard-working students who are not afraid to ask questions." Serena is a team player and is always willing to help fellow classmates and Breydon is "friendly and an amazing artist." At OIS, eighth grader Jaiden Aengus was described by one of his teachers as "diligent, resilient, and determined," while seventh grader Eli Persin was said to have developed into "a classroom leader ... and his efforts have been both exceptional and admirable." Outgoing eighth grade Stanley student Alec Simas is described as a golfer, artist and clothing designer who earned all A's and B's after undergoing chemotherapy, while fellow eighth grader Noelle Cowen was recognized for her passion about writing, singing, drawing and playing piano. And St. Perpetua eighth grade students Jonathan Oncena and Jack Belfiore, both athletes, were recognized for going above and beyond with effort and dedication.



St. Perpetua School winners, from left: Moraga Lions president Dan Hagan, students Jonathan Oncena and Jack Belfiore.



Stanley Middle School winners with parents, teacher and Moraga Lions president, from left: mother Susanne Simas, student Alec Simas, student Noelle Cowen, father Jim Cowen, teacher Brian Cooper and Moraga Lions president Dan Hagan.

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