

~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Fifth-graders learn history by living it during Colonial Days

By Pippa Fisher



Springhill Elementary School fifth-graders during the March 1 Colonial Day.

Photo Pippa Fisher

It was like stepping back in time in a corner of Happy Valley last week – students from Springhill Elementary School got the chance to spend a day living as colonial-era children. It was all part of their fifth grade experience, and everyone – students, teachers and parents – dressed the part with bonnets, aprons and britches as far as the eye could see.

Even the pouring rain couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of the 106 fifth-graders and their teachers as they got into the spirit of Colonial Days.

"It seems to rain every year," reflected coordinator-parent Yumi Chelemedos. Fortunately the event takes place in the shelter of a barn located next door to Happy Valley Elementary School, which holds their Colonial Day the following day. The location is perfect for the gathering.

The event is the result of two months planning and preparation by Chelemedos and coordinator-parent Sara Carter. It takes their

hard work plus the efforts of around 30 other parent-volunteers to bring it all together.

"Colonial Day is an annual event for the entire fifth grade, where the students can experience what life was like in Colonial times," says Chelemedos. "This ties in well with their history study of Colonial times in America."

The young colonials start the morning off in an assembly, which is opened by "George Washington," otherwise known as fifth-grade teacher Martin Wong. As part of the assembly the students got a chance to practice marching to the tune of a fife.

"It's great that the classes all get to mix together and do things they wouldn't normally experience," said Wong, adding that they are fortunate that Dr. Jon Sammann, a Lafayette orthodontist, allows the school the use of his two-story barn each year.

The children cycle through 25-minute rotations at different stations, staffed by parents, exper-

riencing activities from the era. Downstairs, at the noisiest station by far, children were busy hammering nails into tins to make lanterns, while next to them another group was busy making candles. Upstairs was a quilting station and next to it, joyful dancing accompanied by a fiddle. Nearby, bonneted heads were bent over in concentration at the cross-stitch station.

Parent Kate Mason, working on the lunch station, said that her son Cole had been looking forward to the day. "It is a fun thing to see history in action," she said.

Parent volunteers prepared a turkey lunch with assistance provided from Diablo Foods and Lunardi's.

Film festival features short films by, for and about women

By Sophie Braccini



Sometimes 10 minutes of film can pack a powerful punch. Created by the owners of Luna Bar in 2000 as a way to showcase short movies by, for and about women, the LunaFest short film festival is a gift to the community: Clif, the current owner of Luna Bar, selects nonprofits interested in screening the movies and all proceeds go to charity. This year, the Intuitive Writing Project was selected for screening LunaFest in Lamorinda. It will be presented one night only at 7:15 p.m. Thursday, March 22 at the Orinda Theatre.

This year's festival features nine short films, each about 10 minutes in length. Lisa Wood, who sits on the Intuitive Writing Project board and has seen all the movies

says she loves the variety they offer: entertainment, amusement, food for thought, emotion and creativity. Inspiring women from throughout the world were selected for this year's lineup. "They cover such a wide range of topics told by a diverse array of women," she says. One is a comedy about Sarah who manages a Korean-owned nail salon, another tells the story of a girl following her dream, one presents the tale of a girl who survived the Boko Haram kidnapping in Nigeria, and another talks about overcoming grief. Wood also liked the tribute to silent film director Lois Weber. She says that after watching the movies with was inspired, educated, touched and proud.

... continued on page B2



Help Wanted

The City of Orinda is looking for an Administrative Assistant I/II for the Parks & Recreation Department.

This full-time, benefited position serves as the initial contact/resource person at the front lobby counter, taking registrations, answering phones, and assisting clients who drop in and require assistance. Also performs a wide variety of responsible and complex administrative duties. Must have high school diploma, minimum three years of administrative assistant or related experience. Monthly Salary range \$3,825.64 - \$4,994.67 DOQ. Please log onto City website www.cityoforinda.org for additional position details, application process and benefit description. **Deadline to apply: 5:00 p.m. 3/16/18.**

ANTIGUA DOORS

WWW.ANTIGUADOORS.COM
321 HARTZ AVE., STE #5, DANVILLE
SALES@ANTIGUADOORS.COM

What's with the school uniform?

Emphasizing Academics

Honesty • Generosity • Community Service
Teamwork • Forgiveness
Faith Filled Families

One Class Per Grade • Full Time Teacher Aids
Enrichment Experiences • Before/After School Care
Garden of Learning

www.tourstperpetua.com
925-284-1640

ST. PERPETUA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

TK-8 in the hills of Lafayette

2018 Lobster Fest AND FUNDRAISER

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO LOCAL CHARITIES

SILENT AUCTION
MUSIC
DANCING
LOBSTER POT DRAWING
RAFFLE

SATURDAY, MARCH 24
6:00PM - 11:00PM

JOIN US
AT THE ST. MARY'S COLLEGE SODA CENTER FOR OUR

2018 LOBSTER FEST

TICKETS ARE \$55 PER PERSON AND CAN BE PURCHASED BY CALLING (925) 388-0492

See MoragaValleyKiwanis.org for more information about the event.