www.lamorindaweekly.com Lafayette School District 2018-19 Teacher of the Year receives special visit

Submitted by Jonathan Lance



Lamorinda Teachers of the Year, from left: Katherine Walton, AHS; Karlene Steelman, JM; Carol Levin, Glorietta; and Scott Westphal, Burton Valley.

School District teacher, was named fourth-graders at Burton Valley.

Photo Jonathan Lance, CCCOE ecently, Contra Costa County by the district as their Teacher of Superintendent of Schools the Year earlier in March. During Karen Sakata visited Scott West- his impressive career, Westphal has phal's classroom at Burton Valley taught all subjects and instructional Elementary School in Lafayette. technology to grades K-5. Current-Westphal, a 34-year Lafayette ly, he's teaching general subjects to

Teacher Alissa Levenberg reports, "My job is to support kids with special needs, and I work closely every year with teachers from 25 different classrooms. When I know my kids are going to be placed in their full potential." Scott's classroom, I celebrate! I have witnessed, year after year, that TOYs, class of 2018-19, includ- Levin, Orinda Union School Diseven my most challenging students emerge from his class as more confident, resilient, and positive then when they began. Scott connects with every kid in his room. He sees them for their strengths, not for their weaknesses. It is this trait that gives him the ability to meet them exactly where they are as learners, allowing them the space and respect they need to order to move forward."

Levenberg continues: "Being in Scott's classroom is always an enjoyable experience. His humorous, laid-back temperament creates an atmosphere where students can

LAFSD's Instructional Support learn without stress. He doesn't Teacher of the Year Gala, held at measure his students by standards

and honored Sept. 27 at the annual (see story on page A6).

the Concord Hilton. Additional and test scores. Instead, he takes the Lamorinda TOYs include Kathertime to get to know them as people. ine Walton, Acalanes Union High He then fosters that relationship of School District, Acalanes High trust in order to help them reach School, Karlene Steelman, Moraga School District, Joaquin Moraga The 22 Contra Costa County Intermediate School and Carol ing Westphal, will be introduced trict, Glorietta Elementary School



Are you interested in learning more about the **Lafayette School District?** Would you like the unique opportunity to see classroom instruction in action?

Lafayette community members are invited to join Superintendent Rachel Zinn and Principal Ann Kim for a school visit on Monday, May 21st from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at Lafayette Elementary School, 950 Moraga Rd., Lafayette. We do ask that you RSVP for this event by Wednesday, May 16th if you are planning to attend. Please email Sharon Carman at: scarman@lafsd.org or call (925) 927-3502.

Traffic dangers for students near schools

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biggest traffic congestion issues has been crossing students at the and active transportation safety concerns, however, is Springhill Elementary. The congestion issue here is complex, Hinkamp explained, as the school sits on Pleasant Hill Road – the busiest roadway in Lafayette - and is impacted by congestion also on Reliez Valley Road. The faster speed limit of the road – 35 miles per hour – makes pedestrian safety a concern.

Hinkamp said that the school has implemented the use of crossing guards and done some capital into the next school year. improvements to enhance walkways on Quandt Road, along with adjusting signal timing on Pleasant and made comments. Hill Road, which he said has improved it modestly.

Perhaps the school with the guard Charlene Fernandes, who neighborhood, creating bike lanes Pleasant Hill Road/Quandt Road intersection for 15 years, notes that the traffic is much worse now than it has ever been. "People run red lights all the time. I've definitely had some close calls," she says.

> Addressing the Reliez Valley Road congestion, Hinkamp said that the city continues to work with the county to test turn restriction signs and that they hope to have the parameters in place for a trial to begin in July which would continue ing.

and the council asked questions LAFSD is very important. "I

Gerson made the point that with the tonight represented very positive Springhill School crossing wide streets in the Burton Valley movement in this regard."

would seem like an easy and inexpensive solution. Vice Mayor Cam Burks echoed his concern with safety of the cyclists and asked about Safe Routes to School solu-

Several spoke of the need for further exploration on funding and implementation of Safe Routes to School solutions and Council Member Mike Anderson suggested coordination between the school district and city in obtaining fund-

For Burks, he says that the Both school board members council working actively with wanted to see greater collaboration School Board Member David between our two bodies. I think



Are you interested in becoming a **School Board Member?**

The Lafayette School District has four Governing Board seats up for election in November 2018. Three seats are a four(4) year term and one seat is a two (2) year term.

To learn more about the role of a Governing Board Member, please attend an information workshop on Monday, June 4, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the Lafayette School District Board Room, 3477 School Street. Contact Sharon Carman at (925) 927-3502 or scarman@lafsd.org for additional information.

THE ADDRESS IS LAMORINDA

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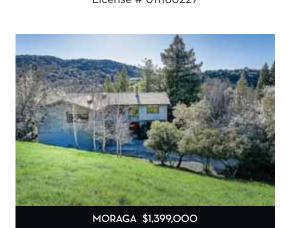
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