

# Car rally celebrates graduates



Photo Pippa Fisher

Horns were blaring, and people, social distance-appropriately spaced out, were cheering as the Acalanes High School graduates of 2020

drove through the center of Lafayette May 29 proving indeed that "Community Can't be Canceled." -P. Fisher

# Lafayette teacher a finalist for County Teacher of the Year



Photo provided

**Christina Nitsos is a first grade teacher at Lafayette Elementary School.**

**By Pippa Fisher**

A Lafayette teacher has made it into the final four under consideration for a top educator award.

In late May the Contra Costa County 2020-21 Teacher of the Year nominations were narrowed down from 22 nominees to four finalists, including Lafayette Elementary School's first-grade teacher Christina Nitsos.

Nitsos has worked all her 17 years in education in the Lafayette School District as a teacher in first grade and kindergarten and also as an English language learner teacher. Lafayette Elementary School Principal Ann Kim explains Nitsos was among the first teachers from Lafayette to attend the Teachers College Reading and Writing Program in June 2013, attended summer institutes in 2015 and 2016 and was an early implementer of the Phonics Units of Study.

"She has the ability to navigate challenging situations with calm, grace, and ease and when teachers have questions or need support, it's Christina whom they seek out for advice and feedback," says Kim.

Kim notes that Nitsos has served on the school site council, district dialogue committee and principal's advisory team. She is an integral part of the Lafayette District's Math Professional Learning

Community.

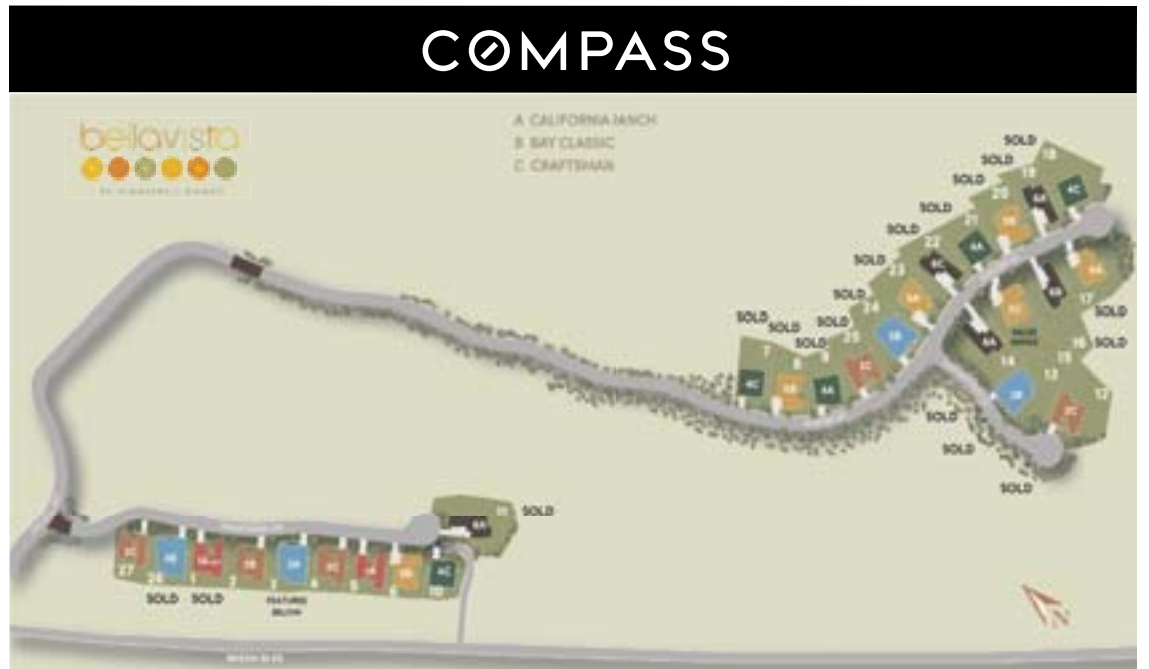
Nitsos' skills extend far beyond her own school. She is a research advisor at Saint Mary's College, supporting graduate students and works to support five urban schools with early literacy. She is a senior member of Teach Plus Fellow where she reviews and gives feedback on legislation, advocating for students with special needs, and for the need for strong pre-service programs for teachers.

Lafayette School District Governing Board Member Rob Sturm has observed over the years that a common theme for all Teacher of the Year finalists is that their civic and betterment activities extend even beyond teaching and broadly inspire everyone within their expansive orbits – teachers, youth, the local community – to be and do their best.

"Teaching is truly one of the most noble professions and the process of selecting our county's Teacher of the Year is particularly rigorous," says Sturm. "Our county has so many outstanding instructors and yet there can only be four finalists; each one is inspiring, passionate about teaching and learning, and has special abilities to bring out the best in their students. We are so fortunate to have Christina Nitsos as a member of the Lafayette School District family, working tirelessly on behalf of our children."

The Teacher of the Year program is coordinated by the Contra Costa County Office of Education, combining a three-step process, but was slightly changed this year due to COVID-19. School districts nominated teachers in late April/early May. Over June and July interviews and speech presentations will take place before a panel of judges consisting of educators, business, and public-sector representatives via Zoom.

At this time it is uncertain if the traditional gala event to honor the teachers will be possible but the county will be announcing the two county Teachers of the Year via a news release in September.



212 Fronteras Drive, Moraga

Work from home! Fabulous new house built in 2019. Single level, open floorplan with atrium, luxury finishes. Level backyard, close to commute routes.

www.212FronterasDr.com

3662 SqFt | 4Br | 4.5Ba

Offered at \$2,095,000



**ELENA HOOD**  
REAL ESTATE GROUP

Lafayette | Moraga | Orinda

925 254-3030

www.Orinda.com



Cal BRE 1221247

Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. Exact dimensions can be obtained by retaining the services of an architect or engineer. This is not intended to solicit property already listed.

*"Never, never be afraid to do what's right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society's punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way."*  
- MLK



**Sold With 4 Offers** | 3164 Cordova Way, Lafayette | Listed at \$1,325,000 and Sold for \$1,425,000  
**3BD + office | 2BA | 1,840± SF | 0.25± Acres**



**Pending - Represented The Buyer** | 411 Kingsford Drive, Moraga | Listed at \$1,695,000  
**4BD | 3BA | 2,646± SF | 0.39± Acres**



**Ranked in Top 1% of Realtors in Contra Costa County**

Amy S. Price-Boaman | Christine Gallegos  
925.997.6808 | 925.878.2883  
DRE#01433269 | DRE#01896511  
pricegallegos@compass.com  
pricegallegos.com

**COMPASS**

Compass is a licensed real estate broker (01991628) in the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. Exact dimensions can be obtained by retaining the services of an architect or engineer. This is not intended to solicit property already listed.

**CONTACT US TO LEARN HOW WE CAN HELP YOU WITH YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS**



**Lafayette Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Wednesday, June 22, 7 p.m.  
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:  
http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube

**Planning Commission Meeting**

Wednesday, June 15, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Don Tatzin Community Hall

**Design Review**

Wednesday, June 22, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Arts & Science Discovery Room

**School Board Meetings**  
Acalanes Union High School District

Wednesday, June 17, 7 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room  
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Laf.  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

**Lafayette School District**

Wednesday, June 17, 6 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
Stanley M.S. Library  
3477 School St., Lafayette  
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us