

Campo's CPAC launches new fundraising campaign, plans benefit concert



The Campolindo Performing Arts Center at Campolindo High School has launched a fundraising campaign to purchase and install state of the art technology and equipment, as well as upgrade the technological infrastructure of the CPAC. Since its opening in 2003, the CPAC has been a gathering place, a performance space, and a literal training

ground for thousands of performing arts students. "Amplify the Arts" chair Heather Davis explains the campaign is a partnership between Campolindo High School, Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD), Moraga Education Foundation (MEF), Campolindo Choir Fund (CCF), Campolindo Instrumental Music Boosters, parents, and the community. According to the "Amplify the Arts" website, "Significant advancements in technology over the last 20 years have made existing equipment woefully outdated and, in some cases, inoperable. The installation of projected updates to audio, communications and lighting systems will enhance the experience for performers and audience members alike. The CPAC, which impacts the arts education of hundreds of students each year, also provides a vibrant arts environment for the benefit of the greater community."

the project and installation was completed in September," Davis said. "Equipment and upgrades included sound mixing equipment, surround sound, speakers, microphone banks and more. The project also includes a lighting phase which is in process and will be purchased and installed as soon as funds are available." To date, the campaign has raised over \$125,000, Davis noted.

"Amplify the Arts" will host a benefit concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14 and at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 15 which will feature performances from Campo's performing arts alumni - Maddie Browning (2015), Nate Correll (2017) and Arriana Glenn (2019) - now seen professionally on stage, in the pit, and on screen. - J. Wake

For information, visit www.amplifytheartscpac.org/

Local students facilitate STEM summer program at Concord elementary school

Submitted by Cathy Chang



Photo provided

Mason Friedrich, a ninth-grader at Campo, tests students' barge made with aluminum foil sheet during STEM challenge.

Oliver DeyToth and Brian Harrison who have learned coding for years and competed in various robotics and computer science competitions came up with the idea of volunteering with their coding skills before they graduated from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School ("JM") in Spring 2023. The offer of their time and coding skills resulted in the creation of the new summer service project called "Meadow-Moraga Coding Community." Thirteen students from JM, Campolindo High School and Miramonte High School were recruited to participate in the Coding Community. They went through training on coding and

STEM tournament curriculum development before teaching at Meadow Homes Elementary School in Concord.

Meadow Homes has over 737 students and more than 97% of the students rely on the government meal program year-round, including school breaks, as most families live under the poverty line. The school does not have resources to offer computer classes historically. The Coding Community's youth instructors were mentored and supported by six parent volunteers from Moraga. Teaching plans were reviewed with mentors before the summer program started and daily review was required after each class. The trained youth instructors taught six coding sessions and facilitated daily STEM challenges every afternoon during the month of June at the Title 1 elementary school. Guy Sandler, a current ninth-grader at Campo, rehearsed his approved teaching plan by teaching his younger sister in elementary school at home prior to his teaching week.

Meadow-Moraga Coding Community's youth instructors taught over 120 students from TK thru fourth grades during the elementary school's 4-week summer program. Sydney Paige Foundation in Walnut Creek generously donated over 80 prizes for the Coding Community's STEM tournaments.

"Seeing kids interested in coding and trying their best really makes our work meaningful," said Eric Mu, a current ninth-grader at Campo who taught in Meadow Home's TK/K class. Ms. Emily, a Meadow Homes staff member who supervised the second- and third-grade class asked Mislav Benko, another ninth-grade youth instructor from Campo, if she could also sit with the class and learn after she observed the impressive progress the class has made within just two days of learning.

"Watching how much progress Meadow Homes students made every week and seeing how they became confident and believed in what they could do were amazing feelings," Brian Harrison said.

Talia Walsh and Sara Harrison, current seventh-grade students at JM who taught TK/K and first/second-grade classes found the project most impactful as they helped Meadow Homes students learn new skills that were not available to them in the past. Jayin Joshi, a current ninth-grader at Campo, who taught in the second/third-grade classroom with Oliver DeyToth, enjoyed teaching Meadow Homes students that they could apply in the future.

Matija Benko and Emma Wang, current 10th-grade students at Campo and Miramonte, bonded with the students quickly as the students looked up to them. Students high-fived with the youth instructors in hallways and constantly asked when they would return to teach again. The experience of teaching at Meadow Homes also inspired a new level of appreciation for teachers and staff. "It took a lot to prepare and teach. I have so much more appreciation and empathy for teachers after working in the classrooms," said Leo Rudiger-Real, a current seventh-grader at JM who volunteered in TK/K and first/second-grade classes. Stephanie Lee, a Campo ninth-grader who taught the fourth-grade class, appreciated her teaching assistant's support. Assistant Principal Estrada-Dennis set the example of learning and knowing every student by their first name and helping everyone with a smile and calm voice.

In addition to the in-kind donations from Sydney Paige Foundation, Meadow-Moraga Coding Community also received a generous grant from Foundation Source. Instead of getting team T-shirts, the youth instructors voted to use 100% of the grant toward Meadow Homes students' learning. The Coding Community purchased 800 computer mice and 800 headsets for the school as they realized that the school had no resource to provide students computer mice and headsets. The Coding Community spent the remaining balance on Scholastic gift cards for Meadow Homes school library to purchase STEM and coding books.

Eagle Scout project for retired US flags

Submitted by Steven Bartis



Photo provided

Many Americans proudly fly a United States flag at their homes or businesses, but what do you do with it when it's tattered and torn? It's considered disrespectful to throw a flag in the trash like any other item.

Just as there is etiquette for displaying Old Glory, there is also etiquette for disposing flags in a dignified manner. In 1923 when the National Flag Conference met in Washington D.C., its members created the Flag Code which states that "the flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing." Furthermore, "the approved method of disposing of unserviceable flags has long been that they be destroyed by burning." This service is specifically performed by various organizations such as American Legions, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Boy Scouts of America.

2023 Campolindo High School graduate and Eagle Scout Griffin Bartis completed his Eagle service project in December, 2022 - a permanent retired U.S. flag repository, located at the Russell J. Bruzzone memorial hut (the red hut) located at 1279 Moraga Way.

In Lamorinda, you may deposit your unserviceable United States Flag (no other types of flags please) into Bartis's U.S. flag drop box and rest assured that it will be respectfully retired by the Boy Scouts of Moraga Troop 212 in a dignified service.

Community Service: 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 may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Campolindo student works to protect seniors



Photo provided

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The bill, currently going through the legislative process, will strengthen elder financial abuse protections by holding financial institutions and banks more liable for suspicious transactions elders make. As Sugiyama writes, "My grandma's life has been forever shattered because of a scammer and a bank that didn't protect her."

Sen. Dodd writes, "Banks must do a better job protecting the most vulnerable Californians. This bill clarifies that if these institutions assist in financial elder abuse, either knowingly or otherwise, they can be held responsible."

Sugiyama next created a website, protectingourseniors.org, which provides information to spread awareness of elder fraud, "because it's so prevalent," he says. The site offers resources for seniors on how to avoid being scammed and who to contact if they have been scammed.

To continue spreading the word and raising awareness, Sugiyama wrote and submitted an opinion piece to the San Francisco Chronicle, which ran on the newspaper's website earlier this month. He is also reaching out to the local community, speaking at senior residences and organizations with the goal of educating them about the scams that are out there. He recently made his first presentation to residents at Moraga Royale.

Fortunately, Lin is doing better, Sugiyama gratefully reports. "After realizing she had been scammed, she was depressed, angry, embarrassed. She even considered ending her life," he confesses. Sugiyama and his family are confident that his grandmother is now feeling better and he sincerely hopes that his positive efforts support his grandmother and also make a difference in the lives of other seniors.

In Memory

Kenneth M.S. Tom

March 24, 1933 - Aug. 28, 2023



Kenneth M.S. Tom departed this life on the evening of Aug. 28, 2023.

Ken was born on March 24, 1933, in Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii. He graduated from Baldwin High School and attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Shortly thereafter, he enlisted in the United States Air Force where he attained the rank of Staff Sergeant and, among other things, worked in the up-and-coming computer field. After leaving the Air Force, he continued his education and earned a bachelor's degree from the California State University at Long Beach, and a master's and doctorate degree from UCLA. He worked at UCLA and later, Cal State Long Beach where he ran the school's data processing center. After moving to Moraga, Ken founded TTK Associates, a communications and computer company in business for 30 years.

His leadership and tireless energy manifested itself in his volunteer work with the Moraga Chamber of Commerce. He also volunteered with the local Red Cross, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and was a member of Moraga Kiwanis. In 2008 Ken was recognized as Moraga's Citizen of the Year.

Ken's love of life was infectious. He savored good food and drink, especially from his beloved Hawaiian Islands. He will be missed by all whose lives were touched by his warmth, humor, and heartwarming smile. He will be especially missed by his family in whom he instilled a deep reverence for relationships and hard work.

Ken is survived by his wife Mary, three children - Lani, Karen, Brian - and their spouses, seven grandchildren (four spouses), and one great grandchild with another on the way.

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