

# Lions Peace Poster contest draws 118 students from Lamorinda

Submitted by Bob Murtagh



Photo provided

OIS Winners, from left: Lion Bob Murtagh, Liam Arndt, Axel Eismann, Sophia Baker, Art Teacher Sean Ferguson.

Every year the Moraga Lions Club participates in an annual Peace Poster Contest alongside other Lions Clubs from over 200 countries. The 2023 theme is "Dare to Dream."

Students, age 10-13 years from Stanley Middle School in Lafayette and Orinda Intermediate School, competed for local prizes, with the

winner from each school advancing to the District level which includes 10- to 13-year-old students from Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The competition continues until one international winner is chosen and that student will be presented a award of \$5,000 at the United Nations, in New York City.



Stanley Middle School, from left: Lion Bob Murtagh, Sophia Moore, Nina Salazar, Ryker Hassan, Principal Brian Mangold

# East Bay Warriors team of Lamorinda girls' fundraise for November's Diabetes Awareness Month

Submitted by Nathaniel Welcomer



Photo provided

Five Lamorinda girls between the ages of 8 and 11 who live with Type 1 Diabetes have raised

over \$38,000 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's (JDRF) annual OneWalk to find a

cure for T1D.

Lily Griffin, age 10 (Lafayette), Haddie Kellenberger, age 11 (Orinda), Laila Lam, age 10 (Lafayette), Petra Nadjawi, age 8 (Orinda), and Eva Sway, age 11 (Orinda) formed a team, the East Bay Warriors, to fundraise together for Northern California's annual OneWalk that took place on Nov. 5 at Great America in Santa Clara. They ranked fifth overall in Northern California for the amount they raised, coming behind two colossal companies, Salesforce and

PWC, that also had teams at Norcal's annual OneWalk. Last year, the East Bay Warriors also participated in the OneWalk and ranked first in fundraising. The team included three other girls from Oakland, Palo Alto, and Modesto.

JDRF has funded research that has made huge strides in the management of Type 1 Diabetes. The girls and their families are determined to find a cure, and JDRF's annual OneWalk is a meaningful way to realize their dream.

# Saklan students sing to seniors

Submitted by Emily Williamson



Photo provided

The Saklan School's kindergarten through third grade students shared part of their Hal-

loween with the residents of Moraga Royale. Dressed in their Halloween costumes, the

students sang spirited songs they learned in music class, including "Monster Mash" and "The Purple People Eater," to residents, guests, and staff who had gathered in the Moraga Royale dining room. The students had a wonderful time sharing some of their favorite songs with the residents, and loved seeing the smiles on the seniors' faces.

Saklan's third-grade teacher, Lisa Rokas,

shared that she was "very excited to resume this yearly tradition" that hasn't happened since the pandemic. She also mentioned that "singing to the seniors is the perfect activity for the students on such an exciting day, and a great service learning opportunity. Singing to the seniors is a great way to showcase their learning while giving back to the community."

# Cub Scout Bobcats Lafayette scouted for food

Submitted by Casey Van Veen

Cub Scout pack 645 with 118 scouts dropped off door tags asking residents to leave out non-perishable food donations for the Contra Costa Food Bank. Over the Memorial Day holiday, the troupe picked up thousands of pounds of vitally needed food for members of the commu-

nity who are in desperate need of nutritious food.

The group met with Lafayette Mayor Carl Anduri to discuss local government and how the rule of law is critical in modern societies. The Bobcats had the opportunity to ask questions and shared valuable ideas with the mayor.



Photo provided

**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 [story-desk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:story-desk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

## Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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# Acalanes Flag Football team finishes 2nd in North Coast Section

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She was a brilliant leader and someone who could multitask and be aware of what's going on everywhere on the field."

Steele shared the credit with her teammates: "We had a really good dynamic and we all got really close in such a short amount of time. I knew I was going to have fun because I was doing it with my friends, but I did not realize how much fun I would have just playing the game. Captaining a team of a sport that no one had played before, I had to learn how to involve everyone even though we were at all different stages of learning to play, and we all had very different personalities. I've played other sports that became so competitive that it was no longer fun but in playing flag football, I always genuinely enjoyed myself and I really loved the game."

There were several highlights during the season. "My favorite part of the season had to be our victory over Northgate in the Diablo Athletic League semifinals after having lost to them on our senior night and then defeating College Park in the championship game," Steele said. "It was a really rewarding moment because

we really didn't think we were going to get there."

For Silva, it was how the team came together and making it to the championship game. "The girls all had different personalities but when the games started, we were one," Silva said. "The quality and the character of the girls that was the reason for our success. After the loss to Clayton Valley in overtime, some of the girls were crying but I didn't cry until I got home."

Ivankovich had a wide range of emotions after the final game. "I've never coached a team like this," Ivankovich said. "When people don't hold anything back and they make a total commitment into something with an unknown outcome, the risk is you may not get what you want. We got almost everything that we wanted to get out of it but after making it that far and coming up short, it's painful. I've been coaching for 30 years now so I know that you don't often get to have this kind of opportunity. I've never coached a team like this. The number of things we taught them was unprecedented for us and it's only matched by the heartache of not being able to coach our 11 seniors again. It was a lot to digest and accept."

# Peter Pan Foundation production of 'Beauty and the Beast' opens Dec. 2

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The organization especially focuses its efforts on the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland. The proceeds of its annual benefit musical, "Wish Upon a Star," are donated to the children's hospital, and over the years, PPF has raised over \$200,000 for its cause. Additionally, throughout the year, PPF organizes visits to the Oakland hospital. Dressed up as beloved Disney characters, performers have the opportunity to interact directly with the patients. Through one of these visits, PPF met one of its own performers.

In 2018, Benny Williams, now 16, was a patient at the Day Hospital at UCSF Benioff. During one of PPF's visits to the hospital, he met Leslie, dressed as Elsa from "Frozen."

"This interaction raised my spirits while I was in the hospital. I later joined PPF because I wanted to help the other kids in the hospital who were in my situation. PPF has given me a safe place to be myself," Williams said. This December, Williams will play Cogsworth in "Beauty and the Beast."

Like Williams, many performers have found a home within the organization. Miramonte senior Janie Hollerbach is now in her 10th year with PPF. "Being a performer in PPF has taught me the importance of valuing the arts and maintaining connections with close friends. I have met so many people through the Peter Pan Foundation, and I love how this organization strongly emphasizes the importance of representation and inclusion," Hollerbach, who is playing Babette in the winter show, said.

The Peter Pan Foundation brings its magical touch to everything it does. "The heart and passion that our performers bring to their performances is really special, and I believe audiences will walk away knowing that they just experienced something incredible," Torkildson said.

The writer of this article is a member of the "Beauty and the Beast" cast. Read more about PPF's story at <https://peterpanfoundation.org>. Buy tickets at [www.showtix4u.com/events/18708](http://www.showtix4u.com/events/18708).

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