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**By March 7, YES on Z**

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The Miramonte High School cast of "Grease" rehearse the song "Summer Nights" featuring Danny Zuko (junior Diego Aguilar) and Sandy Dumbrowski (junior Lauren Wagner). Photo Jeff Heyman

# High school students prep for fun spring productions

By Ashley Dong

In just a couple of weeks, a musical flurry of tap-dancing newsboys, hand-jiving greasers, and bend-and-snapping sorority girls will take to the stages of Lamorinda's three high schools. For two fantastic weeks of performances, the musical theater casts of Campolindo, Miramonte, and Acalanes high schools proudly present "Newsies," "Grease," and "Legally Blonde" – respectively.

To kick off the performances, Campolindo's musical opens on March 10, whisking its audience back in time to the turn of the 19th century. Led by long-time director David Pinkham, Campolindo students are excited to put on "Newsies," a captivating musical based on the revolutionary newsboys' strike of 1899. In the streets of New York, orphaned newsboy

Jack Kelly – played by junior Gavin Juni in the World Cast and senior Charlie Hansen in the Sun Cast – will lead his clan of newsies in a strike to protest the raised prices of newspapers, or "paps" as the newsies call them.

Out of all three schools, Campolindo is the only school with two casts, each with over 100 performers. "Our casts are dedicated and enthusiastic. I'm proud of their commitment to the quality 'bar' we have set over the years and of the tremendous participation. Many in this show will have spent practically every night in the theater from January to the middle of March," Pinkham said. "Newsies" will run from March 10-12 and March 17-19 with four shows for each cast.

"I'm so proud of our casts for putting so much energy and excitement into the shows, and I'm really looking forward to performing in this amazing pro-

duction!" said sophomore Sofia Rose, who plays the newsie, Race.

The next show to open is Miramonte's production of "Grease" on March 17. Set at Rydell High, the new girl Sandy Dumbrowski – played by junior Lauren Wagner – and the leader of the greasers Danny Zuko – played by junior Diego Aguilar – struggle to sustain their summer romance as they navigate the ups and downs of high school in this iconic '50s musical. Directed by drama teacher Heather Cousins and choir teacher Meredith Hawkins, the show will run March 17-19 and March 25-26. The show is primarily student-produced: the stagecraft class built the set, designed the costumes, and will run lights and sound during the shows, while a student band plays the live soundtrack.

... continued on Page A6

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## Clash of the seasons visible on Lamorinda hillsides



Photo Jeff Heyman

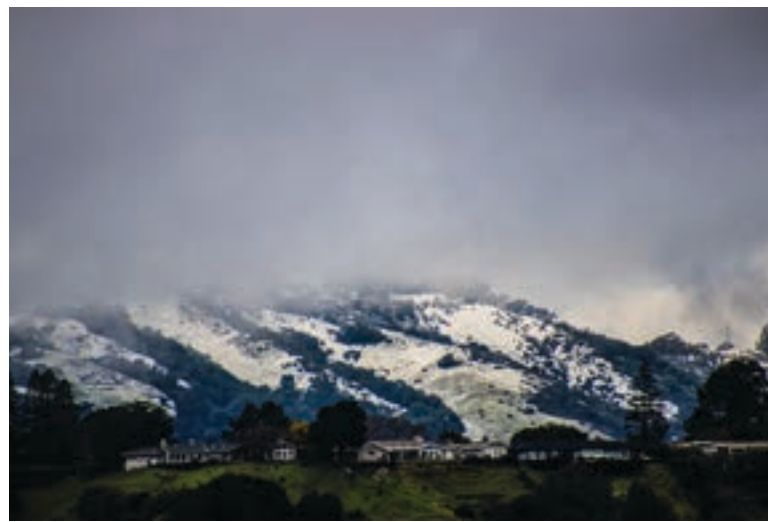


Photo Sora O'Doherty

What a difference a week makes. Lamorinda residents were hit with weather whiplash during the week of Feb. 20, with 70-degree weather, sunny skies and a blanket of daffodil blooms gracing hillsides on the corner of Happy Valley and Deer Hill roads in Lafayette as well as near the Moraga Commons and at Orindawoods, showing signs of an early spring on Feb. 21, before just three days later morphing to a wintry landscape, with strong winds and chilly temps that brought a light dusting of snow to Lamorinda hillsides on Feb. 24.

**Civic News A1-A10**

Residents take to the polls for Measure Z parcel tax March 7 - Page A6

**Public Safety**

Fire code and traffic calming measures discussed - Page A8

**Life in Lamorinda B1-B4**

Gold Coast Chamber Players plan final productions

- Page B1



**Sports C1-C4**

Campo boys basketball wins NCS Championship - Page C1



**Our Homes D1-D12**

With spring comes a host of gardening chores - Page D1

