

School is out - yeah!

Burns Takes the Helm at JM

... continued from page 1

I have been blessed to work with so many fabulous educators, students and parents and I am grateful to them for their support to establish LP and maintain a quality educational program for all students."

His immediate goals for JM, Burns explains, "Are to plan for the opening (of the school year), implement the programs and activities that the JM staff began last year, and most importantly, take the time to listen to students, staff and parents to fully appreciate the school culture."

Burns is also preparing LP for the interim administrator, and is confident that the school will not suffer from the loss of its long-time principal. "Los Perales has a solid foundation, excellent operations in place and quite possibly the most talented and veteran staff ever. The PTA is incredibly well organized, productive and their impact at LP grows every year. Overall, LP is running very smoothly resulting in a high level of comfort for me in leaving to try something new."



Bruce "Grease" Burns gets into the Halloween spirit

Photo by Judy Rowland
The District timeline calls for a permanent principal to be in place at LP by January, 2008.

Lafayette Summer Music Jazz Workshop Continues to Amaze

By Lee Borrowman



The Alex Murzyn Combo takes a turn on stage

Last Friday evening families and friends of students participating in Bob Athayde's Summer Music Jazz Workshop were treated to a closing concert featuring twenty three student combo bands led by Workshop instructors and culminating in instructor performances that brought the house down. The area surrounding the Multi-Purpose Room at Stanley Middle School was reminiscent of a major concert or jazz festival; catering trucks lined the parking lot and volunteer staffers scurried here and there in the flawless execution of a well-scripted production.

Finishing its ninth year, the Summer Music Jazz Workshop draws students and teachers not only from Lamorinda but from all over Northern California. The

venue, overflowing with performers and audience members, vibrated with youthful energy. Twelve year old trumpet player Molly Pines (pictured, center) spoke highly of the Music Theory and Masters trumpet classes, but says her favorite part of the Workshop was, "the free period jam sessions. Groups of students and instructors would just get together and play." When her turn to perform ended, Molly practically floated off the stage to receive hugs and congratulations from her family, including mom Randi Pines, a Generations in Jazz board member; the faces of mother and daughter were wreathed in smiles.

The instructors appeared to be having nearly as much fun as the students.

While listening from the sidelines, piano teachers Jon Palacio and Frank Sumares both said they are proud to be part of the program. Sumares enthused, "I've been teaching at the workshop since it began, and it's a real pleasure to watch the growth and improvement of the students. There's so much great positive energy here." A father of three girls, Sumares also appreciates the gender diversity in the program: "Who says girls can only play flute and violin? Here we've got lady saxophone teachers and girl drummers!" Palacio, teaching at the Workshop for his third year, says the small class sizes offer great opportunities for instructors to really focus on individual students, and the instructors enjoy being around each other. "We're all here for the same reason, and we're all on the same wavelength. I've taught at other music camps, and this is probably the best jazz camp there is."

The Summer Music Jazz Workshop would not be possible without the support of the community, including LASF, Generations in Jazz, the Julia Burke Foundation and too many more to list. For more information, go to www.lafsmw.org.

Paul Caccamo's Postcard

August 1: There have been many milestones on this long journey; 100 miles way back in April, 500 miles in the Mojave Desert, and 1000 miles in the deep canyons of northern Yosemite were all big ones. Perhaps the biggest so far came last week however: 1332.5 miles, the halfway point of the Pacific Crest Trail. A rather unassuming spot, but we celebrated later that night at a ridgeline campsite in Lassen National Park. A fellow by the name of Allegheny from northern Virginia happened to have a stash of cigars with him of which we availed ourselves to mark the occasion. It took Figaro and I only three months to make it this far, and it does not take a mathematician to realize we will have to pick up our pace if we are to make the Canadian

border by October 1. Accordingly, we have been hiking longer miles and taking fewer days off. 25 miles a day is now our goal, and it is surprisingly easy when one considers that three short months ago a 15-mile day was the norm. But time is not necessarily on our side. The days are getting noticeably shorter and the sun no longer automatically wakes us before 5:30 am. Yes, we have many miles to go (1,163 to be exact) but today is a rest day in the sprawling metropolis of Mt. Shasta City. As usual the day off has been eaten up by things like laundry, shopping for food, eating (a lot), and finding internet access. We are hoping to catch the Simpsons movie tonight, but we also have a bunch of microbrews to drink. What is a

poor thru-hiker to do? It is certainly too early to get all introspective about what this journey has meant to me, but I can say with complete certainty that the best thing about it has not been the incredible scenery, it has not been the constant diet of fresh air and water and sunshine, it has not been the physical shape that such a journey forces one's body into, nor has it been the ability to eat any and all junk food with no consequences whatsoever. No, it has clearly been the people I have met along the way. There is a camaraderie that comes with being crazy enough to think hiking 2650 miles is a good idea.

I have to leave this library computer, but here's a quick dose of reality: I don't enjoy hiking all the time. Very often I'm just looking forward to the next break when I can hang out with the people I'm with, drinking spring water straight out of a mountain-side. If I didn't think this was worth the effort I'd be home tomorrow, so as long as you keep hearing from me, it means the good outweighs the bad by a long-shot.

1506 miles in the bank, wish me luck, gotta go now!
Paul C



Paul Caccamo

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