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93 Moraga Way, Orinda

## Butterflies are Free

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From left: Christine Kelly with daughter Jamie Kelly; Stephanie and Hania Kusinski; Maryeda Theer; Hania's grandmother, Karen Chin; and teacher Bess Inzeo. Photos Doug Kohen

Their developed Rheem's butterfly curriculum in 1974. She says she "stole" the idea from a Leo Politi book called *The Butterflies Come*. It was the perfect teachable moment, combining writing, art, math and science. Beadleson says it was "one of the best units in kindergarten. The kids remember it." Teachers and students hunted the hills then in search of milkweed plants holding eggs. After butterflies disappeared from the hillsides, teachers turned to mail order. That first year Theer had boys dressed as a caterpillar; now all kindergarteners sprout wings.

Teacher Bess Inzeo says the students begin their butterfly studies in early October. The caterpillars arrive, shed their skins and become chrysalides. Some two weeks later the butterflies emerge. The class feeds them for a few days, and then releases them at the parade, "...if mother nature cooperates," notes Inzeo.

This year's parade was especially important to Anne Obsitnik, whose mother teaches kindergarten in Winnetka, Illinois using a similar curriculum. Anne's daughter Caroline was a participant, and Caroline's older sister Chase received special permission to attend the parade. Chase

missed her own class Butterfly Parade two years ago because she was sick. Obsitnik enjoyed watching the "sea of little wings" and taking photos she would send to the girls' grandmother.

Students and parents ended the event with class parties, featuring butterfly cookies and punch. For all in attendance, it doesn't get much better. With this program, adds Kindergarten teacher Cathy Kathan, "We're keeping the magic in kindergarten!"



Maureen Kang takes a peek into the butterfly basket

Lamorinda Moms' 14<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Preschool Fair**  
November 3, 2011 • 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
Oakwood Athletic Club, Lafayette



Open to the Public  
Free Event

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[http://www.lamorindamoms.org/activities/preschool\\_fair](http://www.lamorindamoms.org/activities/preschool_fair)

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## Get Swept Up in the Midsummer Magic

OIS presents *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Submitted by Diane Sharp



The Wednesday cast rehearses for A Midsummer Night's Dream

Photo provided

Orinda Intermediate School's Bulldog Theater Company, wanting to share the incredible work of Shakespeare and bring it to life for school children throughout our community, will present *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to audiences in early November.

This is not only a great chance to see Shakespeare in action but also an educational opportunity for students – as an incentive for the younger crowd to attend, \$1.00 tickets to the two preview nights will be offered to anyone 17 or under.

It's not every day that a Lamorinda middle school tackles the world of Shakespeare on stage – the Bulldogs may well be the first to do so – but OIS is ready to entertain and amaze you.

Theseus and Hippolyta are soon to be crowned the king and queen of Homecoming at Athens High in this 1950's era re-imagining of Shakespeare's classic tale. When underclassmen Hermia and Lysander refuse to date the match chosen for them by the social pecking order, they take matters into their own hands and run away, leaving behind an unrelenting competitor (Demetrius) and a heart-sick confidant (Helena). Soon mischief and magic befall them in the suburban woods, and passion potions flip their affections in the blink of an eye.

Meanwhile, in preparation for the Homecoming festivities, the Athens High misfit squad of mechanicals set

about creating a dramatic production of their own to perform during the Homecoming festivities. The battling of fairy king and queen, Oberon and Titania, supported by their respective entourages of greasers and pink lady fairies, cause all sorts of mayhem with the mortals, going as far as transforming one of the players into a half-man half-donkey. Oberon's right hand henchmen, Puck and Robin Goodfellow, eventually set everything aright and the "Enchantment under the Stars" Homecoming celebration goes off without a hitch, ensuring that all fairies and humans find their own happily ever after.

**Performances:**

November 2-6 (six performances, three for each cast)

- Nov 2 at 4:30 (preview \$1 - 17 & under)
- Nov 3 at 4:30 (preview \$1 - 17 & under)
- Nov 4 at 5 & 8pm
- Nov 5 at 3 & 7pm

**Tickets:**

Available online at [www.ShowTix4u.com](http://www.ShowTix4u.com) or at the door one hour before each show.

Wednesday and Thursday Preview shows are general seating: \$6 Adults / \$1 Students

Friday and Saturday shows are reserved seating: \$10 Premier Seating

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