Peanut butter sandwich assembly line.

JM students volunteer lunch hours to feed homeless

By Vera Kochan

Students at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School have voluntarily given up their lunch period every Friday of the school year to make sandwiches for the homeless.

JM's math teacher Brett Lorie created the 10,000 Lunches program just over a year ago and estimates that this school year, 102 students have volunteered over 300 hours of service. To date nearly 4,000 lunches have been made.

The program as it exists now is the fourth or fifth iteration of various programs that we've had at JM for the past 15 or so years," Lorie explained. "We've always had an incredibly supportive, community-service minded group of kids, families and school staff. Beginning with delivering holiday

gifts to a school my wife taught at in Concord, then taking kids to serve meals at Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco, to making breakfast at Loaves and Fishes in Martinez, to now making bagged lunches for the homeless in Oakland."

Lorie's wife and son helped him get the ball rolling a year ago. Since then Karlene Steelman and other JM teachers helped him to establish the lunchtime program. ... continued on Page A9



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North Orinda wildfire evacuation exercise planned for Jan. 26



Evacuation areas and traffic flow guide for north Orinda exercise.

By Nick Marnell

With information gleaned from the Moraga emergency evacuation exercise in December, and prepared to expand the drill into a larger area and onto a major freeway, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, in partnership with the Orinda and Moraga police departments, the California Highway Patrol and the Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team, will conduct a second Lamorinda wildfire evacuation exercise in north Orinda on Saturday, Jan. 26.

At 7 a.m. that day a Community Warning System alert will be sounded to participating residents of the Sleepy Hollow, Dalewood-Orinda Downs and Upper Miner Road neighborhoods. Evacuees will travel from their homes to the intersection of Miner Road and Lombardy Lane. From there, law enforcement and CERT volunteers will direct traffic along Miner, which will be closed to eastbound

traffic and all lanes converted to westbound only, to Camino Pablo. Evacuees will drive southbound on Camino Pablo to the Highway 24 on ramps. All roads will reopen and revert to normal driving patterns by 8 a.m.

The Moraga Country Club area was chosen as the site for the December evacuation because of its relatively small size, the cooperation from the MCC homeowners association and because the country club has only one way in and one way out. The drill included 360 residents, 120 cars and 74 CERT members – the largest turnout of the group ever, according to Fire Chief Dave Winnacker. The exercise continued along Moraga Way to the Glorietta Boulevard intersection.

The north Orinda drill will encompass three major zones, with 1,400 homes having been notified of the evacuation exercise.

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Image MOFD

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