Burton Valley student pushes school to go green this Earth Day



www.lamorindaweekly.com

Fifth-grader Julian Jackl shows off the new silverware that will be used in the Burton Valley Elementary School lunchroom.

By Pippa Fisher

Burton Valley Elementary School is ditching the use of plastic utensils in the lunchroom starting April 22, appropriately enough on Earth Day. As impactful as that is, it is all the more remarkable for being introduced by an environmentally conscious fifthgrader who, following his passion, has made it his mission to effect change in the community, replacing plastic utensils with reusable metal

Julian Jackl is no ordinary fifth-grader. As part of the school's "green team" – made up of fourth-grade students who are tasked with sorting through the aftermath of lunches, putting food scraps in the compostable bin and sorting the recyclables from trash - Jackl became concerned last year that the plastic utensils were being placed in trash. "Surely that's a mistake?" he asked and was discouraged to learn that since the utensils had food on

them, they did indeed end up in landfill.

From there he went down what he describes as "a rabbit hole," researching where the trash goes, contacting Republic Services for confirmation, researching what types of plastic was being used, even finding a case study – a school in Minnesota that made the switch to reusable utensils. Jackl looked at using compostable materials as an alternative, which turned out to be an expensive option.

In the fall of 2018 Jackl ran for student government on his sustainability platform. He watched the documentary "A Plastic Ocean" while preparing his speech and learned that even some recyclable plastic ends up in the ocean.

He did not get elected. "At first I felt defeated," reflects Jackl, but says that his parents reminded him that he didn't need to be elected to create change.

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Lafayette Earth Day Festival focuses on sustainable youth

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As before, Lafayette Community Garden will be there with their chickens and vegetable starts. Urban farmers will be showing the fruits of their community harvest and the folks from Imperfect Produce will be available to talk about food waste and to encourage purchasing of "cosmetically challenged" produce.

Residents can stroll along the booths to the sounds of live music and performances by local youth groups. The Center for Community Arts will host a

community art project.

And, of course, attendees can plan on lunch. This year Berkeley pizzeria owners of Lucia's will be bringing their portable pizza oven to create wood-fired regular, vegan and gluten-free pizzas. Other sustainable food options include Humphry Slocombe artisanal ice cream.

Parking at Stanley Middle School is being encouraged and for those choosing the greener option of biking to the festival, there will be a free bicycle valet hosted by a local Cub Scout

Further information on Sustainable Lafayette is available at www.sustainablelafayette.org. **Bunny to oversee Annual**



Picking candy off the ground

Photo Andy Scheck

By Pippa Fisher

It really must be spring – The Lafayette Rotary Club is gearing up for its Annual Candv Scramble on the Lafayette Plaza Park on the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road.

Sugar-seeking children have been marking their calendars for 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 20 when the park lawn will be covered in candy for kids ages 2 years old

through second grade to collect in their baskets. The Easter Bunny will be watching the proceedings and will be available for photos, along with members of the police and fire departments.

The youngest candyseekers are given extra time to get their share.

And then things get really serious. Following the candy scramble, parents leap into action in the Jonny's Donut Dive for adults only.

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