

Published April 29th, 2020

## Schools and communities try to cheer up locked-down seniors

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo Sora O'Doherty

For most Americans, senior year of high school is fun and memorable. For the class of 2020, there is no doubt it will be a memorable year, but likely not a fun one. In Lamorinda, the high schools and communities are teaming up to deliver some fun to the homes of seniors who cannot go to sporting events, dances, senior outings, or even to school.

In Moraga, red is beginning to appear around town as Campolindo High School is running a campaign called "Red 'C' Rising" to support its students and increase hope and spirit in the community. Starting on April 20, the community was urged to decorate homes, mailboxes and driveways with red "C"s. In addition, graduating seniors found signs planted on their lawns congratulating them.

While Moraga is dressing up in red, Lafayette is painting the town blue. Acalanes High School and the Lafayette community are also distributing congratulatory lawn signs, with additional community activities rolling out each week. In addition to decorating their homes and dressing in blue, Acalanes students have been encouraged to participate in a variety of volunteer activities to help the community as well as to keep their spirits up. For example, students can sew face masks, donate blood or make no-sew fleece blankets for foster youth.

Miramonte seniors are getting regular "gifts" sent to their homes, according to Miramonte High School Principal Julie Parks. Congratulations yard signs were the first of a series. Seniors also had T-shirts delivered to their homes, and further gifts were planned. In addition, Parks said, there will be green ribbons going up around Orinda in the upcoming weeks and many other spirit activities.

Parks added, "While we support our athletes 100%, we are very interested in supporting all students." Miramonte is making a variety of things accessible to students, like spirit week from leadership with different themes and lunch time activities (in Zoom rooms) to keep kids connected. Parks cited activities such as Mats Fit workouts and Zoom workouts to help kids stay active, and Lunch Room drop-ins hosted by teachers to bring together clubs and create opportunities to get students engaged.



Photo Pippa Fisher



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