

# Boys & Girls Club to offer programs for Sausalito, Marin City students

By Christian Goepel

Marin Independent Journal

Sausalito and Marin City elementary and middle school students will be the next to benefit from a slate of afterschool programs offered by the Boys & Girls Club starting in August.

“Our mission is to enable all young people to realize their potential as caring, productive and responsible citizens,” said David Solo, president and chief executive officer of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Marin and Southern Sonoma Counties based in Petaluma. “I think there is a real need in the two communities because we provide a wide variety of afterschool programs that can fill in the gaps.”

The new program — which includes an array of educational, physical and recreational activities — will begin Aug. 18 in cooperation with the Sausalito Marin City School District and community nonprofits

and will be available to K-8 students at the Bayside Elementary School/Willow Creek Academy campus in Sausalito.

Included are Kidz Lit, which helps with reading comprehension; the Power Hour tutoring session; Triple Play, a physical education program charged with reducing childhood obesity; a science lab; and other sessions aimed at promoting proficiency in written and oral communication, literacy, mathematics and leadership skills and broadening the students’ exposure to culture and art.

The sessions will start when school ends mid-afternoon and will run until 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. They will be facilitated by a full-time program director and four or five part-time instructors, said Shannon Griffin, area director for Boys & Girls Club.

The afterschool programs provided at the school for the

past three years were not as broad as those that will be offered by the Boys & Girls Club, said Mark Trotter, president of the Sausalito Marin City School District board.

“It’s much more difficult to operate afterschool programs than we originally thought,” Trotter said. “It’s been a learning curve for us ... we finally hit the right formula.”

The program will cost \$150,000 for the 2010-11 school year and will be paid for with Proposition 49 revenue, Solo said.

Proposition 49 was passed by California voters in November 2002 and provides state grants for afterschool programs, tutoring, student assistance and educational enrichment.

Griffin said that the club is required to serve a minimum of 75 kids a day, but can accommodate 100.

Solo said that the club would like to serve as many

kids in the district as possible, but would need to raise additional funds first.

Trotter said that more funding will be needed to expand the program to accommodate students at the new Martin Luther King Jr. Academy Middle School in Marin City.

Solo said that the Boys & Girls Club has been trying to increase its presence in Marin since 2008 and is partnering with schools to offer afterschool programs. The organization opened its first club in the county in January 2009 at Davidson Middle School in San Rafael, which now has 192 registered members and serves 81 youths a day.

“This wouldn’t have happened without the support and cooperation of the school district,” Solo said of the club’s second foray in Marin.

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