

# CAMBRIAN CONNECTION

## CAMBRIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Fall 2022

### Dear Cambrian Community,

As I look back over the past few months since the 2022-23 school year began, I am amazed at all the achievements on our campuses. At each of our six school sites, we've seen highly motivated and engaged students, robust learning opportunities, and skillful instruction from our talented educators. Parent volunteer participation is up, and community involvement and recognition is plentiful.

#### MEASURE R PROJECTS

This past summer we were fortunate to utilize funding from the **Measure R** bond measure you helped pass back in 2020. The Phase 1 Modernization Project started off a multi-year project, with five out of our six schools getting new HVAC systems. There are many projects over the next four years including new ceilings, lights, windows, gas lines, and more.

#### GRANT FOR STEM LEARNING

We're thrilled to accept a generous grant from AMD (the company that acquired Xilinx earlier this year) to help our Project Lead the Way STEM program at Price Middle School. Taught by **Mr. John Olsen**, the program is one of many exemplary classes that provide top-notch instruction in STEM-related subjects to our students. Thank you to AMD for investing in our students, and preparing them for bright futures in STEM fields.

#### DISTRICT 9 STAR

Also, three cheers for the Cambrian Educational Foundation's (CEF) leader, **Melissa Ojczyk**, honored recently as a **District 9 Star** by **San Jose City Councilmember Pam Foley**. We were proud to nominate Melissa for this honor, as she has been a committed and gracious volunteer within the school district and through the CEF, helping raise much-needed resources for students. Bravo Melissa!

#### MUCH THANKS TO MR. SCOFIELD

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Mr. Randy Scofield. This loyal member of the Cambrian Board of Trustees for 28 years will retire from the board November 17th. I am so grateful for his leadership, insights, and commitment all these years. He has been a true hero in our district. As we move forward, we will always remember Mr. Scofield's many contributions to propel us toward higher achievements and more impactful learning.

Thank you to the entire Cambrian community for your support of our amazing district!

Sincerely,



**Kristi Schwiebert**

**Cambrian School District Superintendent**



*Mr. Randy Scofield  
retires from our Board of  
Trustees Nov. 17th.*

# MY NAME, MY IDENTITY – IN CAMBRIAN SCHOOLS

**The My Name, My Identity Campaign** was created by the Santa Clara County Office of Education in partnership with the National Association for Bilingual Education. The initiative encourages schools to designate a "Getting to Know Our Names Week" to launch a community effort in developing a culture of respect, and building relationships and a positive climate in the school community. By pronouncing students' names correctly, you can foster a sense of belonging and build positive relationships in the classroom, crucial for healthy social, psychological, and educational outcomes. Following are short updates from each Cambrian school about My Name, My Identity activities.

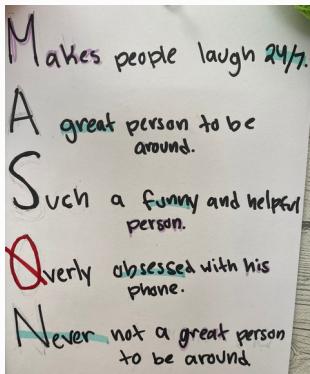
# STEINDORF EMPHASIZES INCLUSIVITY

As part of the *My Name, My Identity* initiative, during the first two days at Steindorf STEAM School this school year, all students wore name tags and shared how they pronounce their names and shared any nicknames they have. Classes talked about how it felt when people were not able to pronounce their names correctly.

"It is so important that students are empowered to correct others if they are not pronouncing their names correctly," said **Steindorf Principal Lisa MacFarland**. "A person's name is a part of who they are and it is important that we take the time to listen and ask questions to get to know others' stories – that is truly valuing diversity." Way to go, Steindorf team, for celebrating each student!



### *Steindorf 3rd graders reflect on names & who they are as individuals.*



*Using their name, Price students introduce themselves*

# PRICE HONORS STUDENT IDENTITIES

Price Middle School seized the opportunity to celebrate students' unique characteristics and names as part of the *My Name, My Identity* initiative. All students participated in creative class activities to explore who they are, where they come from, and why that is important to embrace.

Price is embracing the *My Name, My Identity* initiative to build a more inclusive and respectful culture at school," said **Price Principal Margaret Lavin**. "Our teachers have enthusiastically implemented lessons that honor students' names and identities which strengthen our connections to each other and our community."

# FAMMATRE STUDENTS CONSTRUCT IDENTITY LANTERNS

As participants of the *My Name, My Identity* project, Fammatre Elementary School third graders were tasked with designing their own piece of a lantern, with their name on it, as well as pictures, words and colors that represented them. Then, students worked in small groups to create one lantern together.

"This was the most challenging part of the project for many," said **Fammatre Principal Samantha Haley**, "since they had to agree on ideas as well as do different tasks to complete the project."

After the group piece was done, students put together the lanterns and used battery tea lights to light them up. Great job, Fammatre students!



*Fammatre's 3rd graders created compelling identity lanterns.*



Farnham Elementary School 5th graders showed My Name, My Identity projects they created.

## FARNHAM STUDENTS DESIGN NAME STAMPS

In line with the *My Name, My Identity* initiative, some students at Farnham Elementary School read a book called *Alma and How She Got Her Name*, and then talked about their own name. Each child designed and created a "stamp" of their name or a symbol that represented them. The stamps were made with Wiki sticks and then students stamped them into play dough.

"It was a wonderful exercise in creativity," said **Farnham Principal Amy O'Hehir**. "By considering their names, students discovered where they came from, and who they might someday be."

This was one of several activities surrounding the initiative, designed to foster and promote global awareness of the importance of honoring students' diverse cultures and languages.



Sartorette Elementary School students learned each person's name and how to correctly pronounce it.

## SARTORETTE WELCOMES ALL STUDENTS

In August/September, each Sartorette Elementary School class utilized different engaging *My Name, My Identity* lessons.

"The whole school wore name tags on the first three day of school and worked on pronouncing all names correctly," said **Sartorette Principal Debbie Stein**.

Among the many activities throughout the school, 5th graders discussed their identities -- what makes them who they are, and how they are all welcoming of one another. They also drew themselves, created a comic strip, and discussed being the best version of themselves and what "persona" they want to display to the public.

Great job, Sartorette staff and students, for building an inclusive and respectful culture on campus!



Bagby students created detailed self-portraits, complete with adjectives describing themselves, as part of the *My Name, My Identity* initiative.

## BAGBY STUDENTS CREATE SELF-PORTRAITS

Bagby Elementary School third grade teacher **Carolyn Moore** adapted a lesson for Room 1 based upon the *My Name, My Identity* project, incorporating several books and a fun art/writing lesson.

"It was awesome and not only did I learn a ton about each of my students," Moore said, "they learned about what makes them individually unique and how we are now together as one unique classroom."

Bagby fifth grade teacher **Patricia Rodriguez**'s students drew self-portraits, wrote the meaning of their name, included adjectives about themselves and wrote what they like about Bagby. Portraits were proudly displayed in the classroom. Great job, Bagby!



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## **CAROL PRESUNKA**

### **CSD School Board President**

#### **What a busy time in Cambrian!**

Thanks to Cambrian community's support of Measure R, 130 classrooms received new HVAC systems, which also involved replacing gas lines, building new closets and venting for the systems. A new alarm system was also installed so no more loud bells disturbing students in class. Now there is a pleasant voice advising students and staff to leave the building! Thank you to our flexible staff who couldn't access classrooms until right before school started. They still managed to create a welcoming environment on the first day for new and returning students! And this is just year 1 of a 4-year plan for facility improvements in Cambrian.

San Jose City Council approved the rezoning of some school property where 21 homes, along with 14 accessory dwelling units, also known as granny units or backyard homes, will be built on a 3-acre site at 1975 Cambrianna Drive. This land exchange deal with Robson Homes will bring ongoing revenue to our general fund. This is especially important when our state budget is suffering during economic downturns, resulting in less money for education.

Finally, November 17th we will bid a sad farewell to **Randy Scofield**, a long time member of the Cambrian School Board. Randy has served for 28 of the last 30 years on the Board. His insight and input will be missed!

Thank you for supporting your local Cambrian schools!

Sincerely,

**Carol Presunka, President, Cambrian School Board**

Mrs. Janet Gillis, Vice President; Mr. Donald Rocha, Clerk, Mr. Randy Scofield, Member; Mr. Jarod Middleton, Member