

# CAMBRIAN CONNECTION

Newsletter of the Cambrian School District

SPRING 2022

## HIGH ACHIEVEMENTS

### MARK THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR



#### Dear Cambrian Community,

This has been an incredible 2021-22 school year in our district, and I am so very proud of our students, staff, and families. We have been thrilled to be back in the classroom all year long, and our students have achieved so much in their studies.

#### NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

I can't begin to list all the achievements of this past school year— there is not enough room. But suffice to say that our students and schools have experienced great success in academics, extracurricular programs, and more.

Some of our campuses have been updated by wonderful volunteers with new trees (**Bagby**), students planting in gardening beds (**Fammatre**) and murals and general beautification (**Sartorette**), and will only improve more with this summer's construction. Farnham held an amazing Science Fair recently with 168 students participating. This school year, **Steindorf STEAM** students were featured on NBC Bay Area television and in the San Jose Mercury News for their outstanding project-based learning unit on monarch butterflies, and several students were recognized for high honors in a national math competition (see page 3).

We were honored and thrilled that **Price Middle School** has been selected for the 2022 Glenn Hoffmann Exemplary Program Award, presented by the Santa Clara County School Boards Association. Also, Price eighth-grader, **Camille Quinard**, performed a piano recital at world-renowned Carnegie Hall in New York, as the winner of the Elite International Music Competition. Way to go!

In this newsletter, you'll read stories from each school, sharing an exciting element of their programs. Please take a moment to read them – our schools have much to be proud of!

We are so thankful that the **Cambrian Educational Foundation** held the 2nd Annual Read-a-thon with our students this year. The CEF shared that 561 kids signed up online to read, and through the event, the CEF raised almost \$21,000 for mental health resources for the district. Readers collectively read for a whopping 273,275 minutes! Awesome, Cambrian!

#### SO GRATEFUL

Thank you so much for your unwavering support of our school district. We are small but mighty, and our community has been extraordinary in its partnership to make our students shine. There are so many more great things to come!



Sincerely,

Kristi Schwiebert  
Superintendent  
Cambrian School District

### Summer Construction

During the upcoming Summer Break, five out of six of our schools will be having much-anticipated construction work done to update and improve our campuses. This is a result of the Measure R bond measure passing back in November of 2020, thanks to all of you. Our President of the Board of Trustees, Mrs. Carol Presunka, shares details regarding the improvements in her article on page four of this newsletter.



# SARTORETTE'S SUPER STARRY NIGHT

## *Sartorette Elementary School Event Showcases Compelling Programs*

Sartorette students and families enjoyed a Super-Starry Night & Grand Reopening event on April 28th. The event, held in the evening so families could participate, combined an Art Show with activities that highlighted the school's new library, new MakerSpace, new murals, new garden program, and robust enrichment opportunities.

"Sartorette's Super-Starry Night & Grand Re-Opening was the first time our families were back together on campus since the pandemic; so much has changed -- families have grown, the campus space was altered, and enrichment programs were added," said Sartorette Principal Debbie Stein.

The event showed the community how Sartorette has grown, showcasing outstanding elements of the school especially compelling to students.

"There's nothing like having our school family back together the way it should be," Stein said.

*PHOTOS: (top): Families enjoyed the MakerSpace together during Sartorette's April 28 event.*

*(bottom): Students show art created for the Super-Starry Night Event.*



*Price wins Hoffmann Award for exemplary programming*

## PRICE MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM AWARDED COUNTY-WIDE HONOR

### *Outstanding Mental Health Programming Recognized*

Price Middle School has been selected for the 2022 Glenn Hoffmann Exemplary Program Award, presented by the Santa Clara County School Boards Association. Price's robust mental health program will be recognized at the May 11th awards ceremony, which honors the best school programs within Santa Clara County schools.

"I am very proud of the exemplary work being done at Price," said Cambrian School District Superintendent Kristi Schwiebert. "There is a great demand for mental health services within middle school populations, not just in San Jose, but nationwide." Way to go, Price!

## A TRIUMPH FOR LEARNING: FARNHAM SCIENCE FAIR

### *168 Students Participate in Outstanding Event*

Bravo to Farnham Elementary School for holding an incredible Science Fair recently. The event brought together 168 students participating with 16 judges, including School Board members, community members, Cambrian staff, and parents. The students did not compete against each other; they earned points and were given ribbons based on individual performance.

"A big thanks to the fifth-grade team led by Jenna Greco," said Farnham Principal Amy O'Hehir, "for taking on such a wonderful event for our students!"



*Farnham 5th grader Alicia Brooks presents her science fair project to judges*





Principal Lisa MacFarland (left) holds Steindorf's Certificate of Merit with Leonid Chernyakhovskiy (middle) & Amber Lin (right) who earned high honors at AMC 8 Math Competition.

## STEINDORF STUDENTS RANK NATIONALLY

### *Two Students Rank Nationally in Math Competition*

Two Steindorf STEAM School eighth graders earned scores that ranked nationally in the AMC 8 Math Competition, a multiple choice exam in middle school math designed to promote the development of problem-solving skills.

Nationally, **Leonid Chernyakhovskiy** scored in the top 1% and **Amber Lin** scored in the top 5%. Over 65,000 students nationally took part in the AMC 8 this year. Also, Steindorf earned a Certificate of Merit as their combined top three scores scored above 50. Congratulations on these amazing achievements!



Fantastic Bagby volunteers add many trees to the campus landscape.

## TREES GET A NEW HOME AT BAGBY

### *Dedicated Volunteers Add Beauty and Life to Bagby*

In partnership with Our City Forest, Bagby Elementary School families planted 43 new trees on campus in hopes of maintaining the beautiful, verdant campus for generations of Barracudas to come. The volunteer tree-planting event took place on a Saturday this past winter and included invaluable help from the Bagby Home and School Club.

"I'm so proud of the Bagby community for stepping up and truly making a difference in the campus," said Bagby Principal Michael Kretsch. "We had our amazing students working hard and it's looking fantastic!"

Thank you to all who volunteered to add beauty and life to the Bagby campus.

## FAMMATRE SAFETY PATROL THRIVES

### *Students Make Safety a Priority on Campus*

Fammatre's 4th and 5th graders had an opportunity to volunteer to be a part of the school's Safety Squad. Four afternoons a week, four students assist with the dismissal of 1st-3rd graders at Fammatre. They really stand out in bright yellow vests, carrying signs, and using megaphones to reunite students with their parents.

"Not only do these responsible students maintain safety during our afternoon dismissal, but they also contribute to the caring atmosphere at Fammatre," said Fammatre Principal Samantha Haley. Excellent job, Fammatre students!



Fammatre's dedicated Safety Patrol keeps the school community safe each day.



**CAMBRIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**4115 Jacksol Drive**  
**San Jose, CA 95124-3399**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 2931  
San Jose, CA



**FROM CAROL PRESUNKA**

**Dear Cambrian Community,**

**CSD School Board President**

First, thank you for being such great supporters of Cambrian. From family involvement in our schools, to supporting bond measures, Cambrian has always been there. In turn, the Trustees of the Cambrian School Board want to ensure we keep that trust. In order to do so, we are working hard to maintain a stellar education program, including the arts, music, and PE, along with strong academics, while working to build and maintain a balanced budget. As you may be aware, that is no easy feat with state and federal dollars not coming close to covering the cost of educating our students.

Thanks to your support of Measure R, five out of our six schools will be getting new HVAC systems. That's 150 classrooms that will be done over the summer. Aging portables will be replaced by permanent classrooms at four of our sites next summer. There are many projects that will be done over the next four years including new ceilings, lights, windows, water and gas lines, and more.

To ensure a more stable future level of funding, the Board approved the development of the property at Metzler School, which you may know as ATLC. The school will remain, but the surrounding land will include new housing and a memory care facility. The agreement will provide ongoing revenue for many years to come.

Also, Cambrian now offers before and after school care and is expanding TK. There are so many exciting things going on in Cambrian; it's too much for this newsletter. If you are interested in learning more, please visit [www.cambriansd.org](http://www.cambriansd.org).

Sincerely,

**Carol Presunka**

*President, Cambrian School Board*

*On behalf of the Board of Trustees Members*

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