

# CAMBRIAN CONNECTION



A Community Newsletter From Cambrian School District

Winter 2020

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Cambrian Families and Friends,

Cambrian School District is full of kind and caring individuals. As a school community we are focusing the entire month of February on acknowledging the wonderful acts of kindness that happen in our schools and community each and every day. Different activities are taking place to take the time to appreciate others. We are also encouraging individuals to continue to acknowledge others with intentional acts of kindness. Kindness matters and we all make a difference in this world.

I am so appreciative of our Cambrian Educational Foundation (CEF) this year. Recently, the CEF held district-wide free **Family Code Night** events at each school site. The schools welcomed large crowds of parent-child teams to complete fun Code.org puzzles and learn core concepts in coding. You can read a great article in Ed Source Magazine featuring CEF's Code Nights in Cambrian at <https://bit.ly/3766q77>.

Also, congratulations is in order to Steindorf K-8 STEAM Magnet School for being selected as one of four schools in Santa Clara County to win the 2020 Glenn Hoffmann Exemplary Program Award given by the Santa Clara County School Boards Association (SCCSBA). **Steindorf won the Hoffman Award for their outstanding K-8 project-based learning environment, which embodies the best in public education.**



As we continue to provide exemplary programs, our District is being challenged with very limited funds designated to education by Sacramento, yet our local costs continue to rise. It is not a coincidence that school districts throughout the region are having very similar and hard conversations about reductions, the sale or leasing of district property, parcel/bond taxes and the closure of schools. One step Cambrian is taking to increase revenue is to offer **CAMBRIAN Extended Care Program** at the start of the 2020-21 school year. The enriching extended care program will be operated at Steindorf STEAM Magnet School, Farnham Elementary, Fammatre Elementary, Sartorette Elementary, and Price Middle School. Bagby Elementary School will maintain the existing extended care on campus for next school year. Also, Cambrian School District is assessing potential land redevelopment of District-owned properties (Metzler at 1975 Cambrianna Drive and Red Dog Shred at 720 Curtner Avenue). All these efforts are being made to protect and continue to support our wonderful programs in Cambrian for our students.

**As we move closer to Spring we are preparing for the 2020-21 school year.** Enrollment has already begun in Cambrian School District for the 2020-21 school year. Cambrian uses an online registration system to make it easy to enroll. Please encourage friends and family to enroll their children in any of Cambrian's excellent schools for the next school year. Also, go online to see individualized videos of what is transpiring at each of our schools. We know Cambrian is a wonderful district so help us spread the word.



Thank you for continued commitment to our students, staff and District.

We are Cambrian!

*Dr. Carrie Andrews*

Dr. Carrie Andrews, Superintendent



## PRICE GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPS

This season, Ida Price Middle School's 6th grade girls' basketball team went undefeated and won the League Championship. Coached by Randy Drake, the girls "had an amazing season. Teamwork, effort, resilience, and being positive, supportive teammates helped them," Drake said. Bravo girls! Congratulations on your achievement!

## STEINDORF'S PROJECT BASED LEARNING

Steindorf 8th grade project based learning presentations took place recently, answering the question: **How can we provide support to survivors of a disaster using drone technology?** Student teams studied natural and man-made disasters, developed a solution for survivors, established empathy for their survivors' needs, brainstormed the worst possible solutions for these survivors and student teams then drafted sketches of their ideas, made a materials and procedures list for their cargo and packaging solutions, built prototypes, and conducted iterative testing first on a ladder, then using the drone at 100 feet. After testing and evaluation, teams finalized their optimal designs wrote final proposals. Excellent, thorough work, Steindorf students!



← Steindorf teacher Rick Schertle seen here with drone used for an 8th grade disaster project.

## YOU COUNT!

2020 is the once-per-decade time every person in the U.S. is counted in the Census in March. Help ensure everyone is counted!



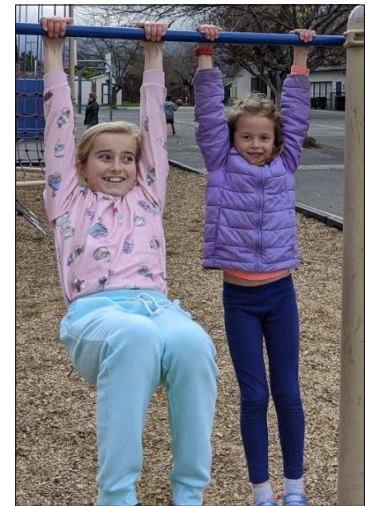
## BAGBY'S 'LITTLE MERMAID'

Bagby Elementary recently held outstanding performances of *The Little Mermaid*. The production was part of the Starting Arts program, encouraging arts education. Forty two students in grades 3 through 5 participated in the engaging musical. The actors were divided into two separate casts and each performed twice, for a total of four presentations. Studies show arts education improves overall academic performance. Cambrian partners with Starting Arts to provide both during and after school programs in visual and performing arts for children. Bravo, Bagby actors!



Bagby 5th graders Madison Giorgetti and Nicole Carone performed in *The Little Mermaid*.

## SARTORETTE'S BUDDY PROGRAM



Sartorette 5th grader Sophia Kouvaris and her buddy, 1st grader Avery Maze.

Students at Sartorette LOVE having buddy classes, promoting the forming of bonds between the older and younger students. Sartorette's 5th and 1st graders meet twice a month for activities like reading together, art projects, students performances, or simply playing with one another. Buddies are a wonderful way for older students to take leadership and nurturing roles.



*Fammatre students created cereal commercials based on skateboarder Tony Hawk.*

## FAMMATRE SKATES TO SUCCESS

Ms. Schilling's class at Fammatre Elementary School did a 10 week unit around physical fitness, reading and pop culture. Skateboarder Tony Hawk was the perfect hero to study. He has been involved in various philanthropic activities, including the Tony Hawk Foundation that builds skateparks in underprivileged areas. As a result, 'My Skateboard Book Club' commercials took place recently. The students did a great job synthesizing and summarizing what they learned, then created and presented engaging cereals and commercials based upon books about Tony Hawk. Skateboards were awarded to top scores! Great job, Fammatre students!



*Farnham Elementary School's Nima O'Donnell offers cookie for cans, collecting food for needy families.*

## FARNHAM STUDENT COLLECTS FOOD

Cambrian School District Nima O'Donnell led an extraordinary campaign to collect food for the Second Harvest Food Bank. A third-grader at Farnham Elementary School, Nima calls it "Cookies for Cans", and baked cookies and traded them for cans of food in front of his Cambrian Park home. This was his fourth year helping the Food Bank--he fills numerous barrels with his collected cans of food each year. Nima has been active since kindergarten with the annual event, earning the Blue Diamond Award from Second Harvest Food Bank each year for his efforts. Outstanding work, Nima!

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*By Randy Scofield, Board President*

The school year has moved into the new year and decade and the Cambrian Board of Trustees have been actively working to continue and achieve our Strategic goals. The first board meeting of the new year was held January 16<sup>th</sup> with the primary focus continuing to be on balancing the budget while maintaining outstanding programs and staff. Over the past couple of decades, Cambrian community members voted for bond measures to improve school facilities. They have also voted for parcel taxes to attract and retain teachers, add arts and elementary physical education and add technology to our classrooms to educate the whole child. We have developed more renting of our properties and facilities to maximize our revenue opportunities. Board members and staff continue to lobby state legislators to increase funding, but costs continue to skyrocket, primarily due to salaries and benefits increases and providing services for our challenged and at-risk students. The state only reimburses these costs at a small percentage. They also do not provide cost of living allowances adjusted for living in the Bay Area. In order to drive the changes needed to our District, the Cambrian School Board and staff are looking at new ways to balance our budget and eliminate future deficits. Some of the areas we are *(continued on the back page)*





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*Want to be informed by email of upcoming Cambrian events and activities?  
Please contact **Dawn Foreman** at (408) 377-2103 or [foremand@cambriansd.com](mailto:foremand@cambriansd.com)*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (CONT'D)

*(continued from page 3)* moving forward with are: District provided Pre-School services, before and after school care designed to our educational environment and adding to the support of our families, and potential future land development on our properties. We are also looking at creative ways to provide and promote education to drive Student Success and to continue to attract new students to Cambrian.

The Cambrian School Board will continue to evaluate the budget and programs to effect change. We encourage the community to attend our meetings. Thank you to the Cambrian Community for your continued support of our schools and helping maintain the high-quality education Cambrian is known for.

Sincerely,

Randy Scofield, Board President

On behalf of the Cambrian Board of Trustees

Doron Aronson

Janet Borrison

Jarod Middleton

Carol Presunka



*Cambrian School District Board of Trustees &  
Superintendent Dr. Carrie Andrews (center)*

## Contact Us

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