

CAMBRIAN CONNECTION

A Community Newsletter From Cambrian School District



Fall 2019

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Together, We Are Cambrian!

On behalf of Cambrian School District, I am excited to share about our schools in this community newsletter. Each of our six school sites are thriving campuses, with many exciting learning opportunities, engaging activities and passionate staff to inspire and instruct our students. Over the next month, we will share video segments on our website (www.cambriansd.org) about each school, celebrating all the amazing qualities in our district that foster student learning.



*Dr. Carrie Andrews
Superintendent*



*Christina Freimarck, Cambrian
Certificated Teacher of the Year*

Amazing Cambrian Team

I am grateful to our committed Cambrian staff for serving our families and community well. Congratulations to Sartorette first grade teacher **Christina Freimarck** (Certificated Teacher of the Year) and District Office personnel employee **Beverly Merrel** (Classified

Employee of the Year). We celebrate their dedication to our students, district and community! I also want to recognize staff who were recently recognized for 30

years with our district—**Sandra Horn** from Steindorf and **Leanne Johnson** from Sartorette. This outstanding achievement demonstrates commitment to our students and Cambrian School District. We commend them!



*Beverly Merrel, (left) Cambrian
Classified Personnel of the Year.*

Serving The Whole Child

Cambrian School District continues to focus on meeting the needs of the whole child—with social emotional support and social emotional learning opportunities embedded in the school day. The focus on social emotional skills and learning allows our students to set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. Through constant open communication with students, our staff continues to support each child's individual growth.

I am grateful to work in such a special, tight-knit community. Thank you for your commitment to our students, staff, families and community at large. Together, we are Cambrian!

All My Best,

Dr. Carrie Andrews, Superintendent



PRICE'S ANNUAL SEPTEMBER 11TH PEACE CEREMONY

Cambrian School District's Ida Price Middle School held its annual Peace Ceremony on September 11, 2019. For the student-led event, the school welcomed SJFD Station 9 and all students and staff took time to remember those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. "I appreciate that Patriot's Day is a tradition at Price and continues to honor our first responders and all who were impacted on 9/11," said CSD Superintendent Dr. Carrie Andrews. The powerful event takes place annually, with students making posters, speaking, performing the national anthem and raising the American flag. Thanks to CSD Board member Jarod Middleton, a firefighter with Station 9, for his help in bringing Station 9 to Price.

BAGBY BUTTERFLY INVASION

Bagby Elementary's Annual Kindergarten Butterfly Parade took place in late September. In recognition of the start of monarch butterfly season, our outstanding Kindergarten students created and displayed butterfly wings and antennae and put on a grand parade! Each of the three classes had their students participate, while learning all about monarch butterflies. This cherished annual tradition was made even better by the many students, parents and loved ones who witnessed the event. Great job, butterflies!



← Bagby kindergarten students participated in the school's annual Butterfly Parade.



→ Steindorf's Janelle Lam hosts instructional videos for Google.

SARTORETTE SUPERSTAR



Last summer, **Sartorette's Kendall Robinson, grade 5**, led events at Discovery Children's Museum of Las Vegas, NV and Creative Discovery Museum in Chattanooga, TN. She guest spoke at the museums and performed hands-on experiments. At Kennedy Space Center, she interviewed Anna Fisher, the first mother to go into space. Kendall's goal is to inspire children, especially young girls, to find a passion for math and science. Check out her YouTube channel, *Kendall the Scientist*. Great job, Kendall!

STEINDORF GOES INTERNATIONAL

Steindorf Magnet School first grade teacher **Janelle Lam** represented Cambrian as the host of a series of video tutorials for **CS First, a Google learning tool**. During a fellowship with Google, she produced the videos, which are now being distributed worldwide to train other aspiring educators to integrate the use of technology into their curriculum and teaching. (<https://bit.ly/2OTFZfv>) She works at Google as well as being a teacher in the Cambrian District. We are so proud of her!



Fammatre Principal Jackie Smith greets Walk n' Roller Daphne Jensen.



Farnham Elementary School's rock project builds community and promotes acceptance.

FAMMATRE WALKS 'N ROLLS

Fammatre Elementary School is proud to work with the City of San Jose on the Walk N'Roll Program, which supports students and parents walking to school by parking at least 4 blocks away from Fammatre. It instills healthy and active lifestyle behaviors by promoting daily physical activity in a fun social environment. Fammatre kicked off the program on International Walk to School Day, October 2nd, and Principal Jackie Smith reported a wonderful turnout of participants in the healthy event. Way to go!

FARNHAM PROMOTES ACCEPTANCE

Farnham Elementary School focused this fall on accepting everyone's differences through reading "There's Only One You" and then each person on campus painted a rock to put in Farnham's quad. The group project fostered community, acceptance and teamwork. Principal Amy O'Hehir said, "This provided an opportunity for the whole community to come together to create an individual project and put it together to create something beautiful together."

A MESSAGE FROM THE CSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By Carol Presunka, Board President

The school year is well under way and the Cambrian Board of Trustees have been hard at work. The first board meeting of the new school year was held August 15th with the primary focus being on balancing the budget while maintaining outstanding programs and staff.

Many in the community have asked how schools can be struggling when the economy is booming. Housing pricing is skyrocketing, and therefore property taxes are rising, but it does not add more to Cambrian's coffers. The state funds us on a per pupil basis and the amount is above the amount of property taxes received. So even if property taxes go up, it just means the state gives the district less money in return.

Over the past couple of decades Cambrian community members voted for bond measures to improve school facilities (2014), parcel taxes to attract and retain teachers (2001 and 2018), and add Arts, Elementary Physical Education and technology to our classrooms. We have also received income from the rental of our properties and facilities. Board members and staff continue to lobby state legislators for an increase in 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 a small percentage of these costs, nor do they 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 *(continued on next page)*



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

(continued from page 3) staff are looking at new ways to balance our budget and eliminate future deficits. Some of the areas we are moving forward with are District-provided before and after school care and potential future land development on our properties. We are also looking at creative ways to provide and promote education to continue to attract new students to Cambrian.

The Cambrian School Board will hold a Board budget study session **Tuesday, Nov. 19th** to evaluate the budget and programs to effect change. We encourage the community to attend. Thank you to the Cambrian community for your continued support of our schools and helping maintain the high-quality education Cambrian is known for. Happy Fall!

Sincerely,

Carol Presunka, *Board President*

On behalf of the Cambrian Board of Trustees

Randy Scofield

Doron Aronson

Jarod Middleton

Janet Borrison



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

Contact Us

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