

Beyond the Expected



Community Newsletter from Campbell Union School District

WINTER 2016



Monroe students build and program computers.

Monroe Students Test New Technology for District-wide Use

A new development in Campbell Union School District's STEAM* education initiative kicked off at Monroe Middle School. Students in Sherry Burch's class were the first in the district to use 16 new Piper Kits as they begin a series of hands-on lessons that include building and programming electronics. The reusable kits are designed for students from grade 4 and up. "We plan to make them available throughout the district," Burch said. "The lessons show students that technology is an empowering tool, not just some device invented by someone else to entertain us."

Burch and teacher Julie Goo facilitate STEAM-focused instruction throughout the elementary and middle school district. They posted a project on Donors Choose in hopes of expanding computer programming instruction in all schools. Multiple donors made an investment of more than \$6000 with a major portion provided by Campbell-based Groupware Technology Inc.

"These kits show students, literally, how to build a computer and then program it using a Minecraft interface," said Daryl Harrington, Sr. Systems Engineer, Cloud Solutions at Groupware Technology. "We were excited about funding the project as this program allows students to start their journey into engineering at an early age and become creators. Every student should have the opportunity to learn without boundaries."

The students work in pairs as they:

- Learn the inner workings of computer electronics
- Build a self-contained computer running on a Raspberry Pi Project Board
- Play Minecraft challenges that include hardware components
- Connect to Wi-Fi for extra levels & sharing capabilities
- Tinker w/ LED lights, motion sensors, buzzers, buttons and switches



Students work with Piper Inc. Vice President Kevin Elgan.

*STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics

Visit Us Online: <http://www.campbellusd.org>

Acclaimed Author Celebrates 12 Talented Rising Young Authors

Nationally acclaimed local author Dr. Francisco Jimenez joined the Campbell Union School District community in celebrating 12 talented student authors at the District's 14th Annual Rising Young Authors awards in October at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore on Stevens Creek Blvd., in San Jose.

The Rising Young Authors are a select group of students, in grades 3 through 7, whose short stories, essays, research papers and poems were among hundreds entered in the District's annual Writing Faire last May. After the Writing Faire, judges

reviewed eligible entries and selected one Author of the Year per school to receive the award.

Dr. Jimenez, a Santa Clara University professor, spoke about being an author and encouraged the students to continue with their writing. The student authors spoke to the audience about their award-winning books and autographed copies for their fans.

Support from our co-sponsors makes this event possible. Special thanks to Assistance League of Los Gatos- Saratoga, Barnes & Noble – Stevens Creek, and School Innovations & Achievement. To become a co-sponsor and be part of the brilliance, call Marla Sanchez, (408) 341-7254.

Author

School

Natasha Huerta	Blackford Elementary
Zachary King	Campbell Middle
Kaylie Montoya	Capri Elementary
Evelin Guzman	Castlemont Elementary
Vivian Mitchell	Forest Hill Elementary
Simone Schwartz.....	Lynhaven Elementary
Allie Wen.....	Marshall Lane Elementary
Angelica Nicolacoudis	Monroe Middle
Cara Juan.....	Rolling Hills Middle
Tuyet Tran	Rosemary Elementary
Joaquín Jáuregui	Sherman Oaks Elementary
Amanda Schwarz	Village Elementary



Teachers Earn Professional Awards



Anupama Gupta, District Teacher of the Year, was one of three teachers to represent Santa Clara County in the California Teacher of the Year program this year. The San Jose resident has been a teacher in Campbell Union School District for more than 10 years. She has been a leader in implementing science and technol-

ogy education at Blackford School and has been pivotal in fostering partnerships with outside agencies to promote enriching learning experiences for students. She was selected as a participant in the NASA 21st Century teaching academy and shared what she learned with colleagues and students.

"Anu believes in teamwork and collaboration," says Blackford Principal Corrine Frese. "She approaches learning with enthusiasm and has been a leader in promoting life-long learning among students, parents and colleagues."

"I'm passionate about teaching," says Gupta. "I believe I have a purpose for being in the classroom every day and making each day meaningful for my students."

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Nicole Beardsley, is a finalist for the 2016 California League of Middle Schools Educator of the Year award. Beardsley teaches 6th grade at Monroe Middle School. A Milpitas resident, she has been a teacher for 6 years and is known as an innovator who regularly applies new technologies to engage students, support student learning, and create a collaborative culture. She is also one of Monroe's Technology Integration Coaches and a member of the district Instructional Leadership Team, leading her peers in technology integration, PLC work, and curriculum design.

Richard Timpson, teacher at Campbell Middle School, earned the 2016 Texas Instruments Innovations in STEM teaching Award from the Santa Clara County Office of Education. Timpson, a Santa Clara resident, teaches mathematics, science and is a co-advisor to the school's Math-Science-Engineering-Achievement (MESA) team. The student team competes—and wins—in regional science and engineering competitions held at San Jose State. He has been a teacher in the District for 2 years.

School to Transform to PreK-8th

Answers to frequent questions about Campbell Middle's transformation to a preschool-through-grade-8 school (Current as of November 2016.)

Why is the District reorganizing?

One of Campbell Union School District's five strategic goals is to make each school a place where students, parents and staff thrive—that is, each school is as desirable as the next. That goal (formerly called the “schools of choice” goal) prompted a proposal to do some reorganizing in the District.

Superintendent Eric Andrew presented several ideas in the original proposal in March 2016. Since then, the Board authorized going forward with two:

1. Adding 5th grade to Rosemary Elementary School in August 2016, which has been completed.
2. Transforming Campbell Middle School to a Preschool through 8th grade school. Work continues on this objective and is referred to as “transformation” of Campbell Middle School.

What decisions or changes have been made to the proposal? When will they happen?

As of November 2016

Several decisions were formalized at the September 2016 Strategic Planning Session, including:

- Rewording the 3-year goal about “schools of choice” as follows: “Ensure that every Campbell Union School District school is a place where students, parents and staff thrive.”
- The district reorganization will focus only on transforming Campbell Middle School into a K-8 school.
- A Transformation Team comprised of school, district, and neighborhood stakeholders will convene to study and make recommendations about the issues involved in the transformation.
- The Board will hold a study session in December focused on the pros and cons of various options.

Updates following each Board meeting are posted online and in school newsletters.

Why Create a PreK-through-Eighth-Grade School?

Educators and researchers report that K-8 programs offer several advantages over middle schools, including:

- Strong academic continuity and sense of community for students.
- Optimal emotional and social outcomes because faculty know the students and their families really well.
- Older students tend to have a greater sense of accountability to be good role models and mentors to younger students; and younger students gain a better understanding of the purpose and progression of education.

- There is a growing demand for K-8 nationally and locally.
- In some cases, middle school students in K-8 programs have had higher achievement than their middle school counterparts.

Will the attendance boundaries change?



One day, Campbell Middle School grads will have been at the school from kindergarten through eighth grade.

Residents of the current attendance area will have first priority for enrolling in the newly established school. No decision has been made beyond that. Any additional changes relating to boundaries and placement will be determined through a process consistent with board policy and Education Code.

How will traffic around the school be affected?

That is unknown at this time. Through the 2016-2017 school year, we will be determining configuration, program and enrollment options for Campbell Middle School. When those are identified, our district planners will work with the City of Campbell's Traffic and Engineering staff to review impacts on ingress and egress as part of the environmental impact study.

How much will this change cost?

At this time, there is not a final plan for the school's instructional program, so exact costs are not finalized yet. Improvements would be needed to accommodate early primary students—new playgrounds, equipment and fencing, and bathrooms and furniture designed for the younger children—which we estimate will cost about \$2 million to \$3 million. Other campus improvements were already identified in our Facilities Master Plan, which will be factored into a multi-year campus improvement plan.

How can people have input in decisions?

The public is invited to Board meetings, where this topic is a regular agenda item for discussion and input. The District also is establishing a Transformation Team that includes members of the broader community, school and district employees, and residents from the neighborhood. Numerous meetings have and will take place to afford staff and the public opportunities to participate in the process, and comments and questions can be sent to the District Superintendent by mail, email or phone.

How can I get more information?

- Phone: 408-341-7254 • Email: Ask_Us@campbellusd.org
- Website: campbellusd.org/news/reorg2016faq.

District Updates Community on Strategic Plan Progress

Focus on STEAM and the STEAM showcase, more access to technology, community partnerships and energy-saving solar projects were on the long list of successes created by the group of employees, parents, community members, students, and Board members who met to update the District's Strategic Plan.

At the September 2016 Strategic Planning Special Session, Governing Board members and 30 participants representing the district's stakeholders met to discuss progress and next steps toward achieving the District's strategic goals.

"This plan is a living document; it doesn't just sit on a shelf," said Superintendent Andrew. "We provide monthly updates to the Board and involve the community in monitoring progress and strategic decisions."



The Strategic Planning Committee cited the District's STEAM Showcase as an educational success. The event drew thousands of participants and featured hundreds of student projects created by combining science, technology, engineering, art and math.

More details are on the Strategic Plan web page.

Energy Savings Benefit Students, Community

Students and the community are benefitting from the District's energy conservation practices, which have saved millions of gallons, therms, kilowatts, and dollars!



Energy savings is offsetting the costs of ensuring every student in grades 3-8 has a computer device to use in classroom learning.

"The investment in conservation has saved General Fund dollars that support classroom programs, provide safe fields for students and community groups, and assure that our schools continue to be assets to residents and taxpayers," said District Superintendent Eric Andrew.

Greater student access to technology and more classrooms with air conditioning have increased the demand for energy. The District has saved on costs through upgrades to the irrigation and electrical systems over the past six years. Water usage is down by half, and soon the District will produce enough electricity to cover 70 percent of its energy needs. Thanks to voter-

approved bonds, the District also has been able to construct energy efficient classrooms, libraries, cafeterias, multi-use buildings, and additional solar-collecting panels.

In December, the newest solar installations will begin to generate electricity, further reducing demand and increasing savings. State and federal grants have stretched those bond dollars, so the District was able to replace old, drafty windows; switch to natural and/or LED lighting fixtures; insulate roofs; install artificial turf in selected areas; and centralize the control systems for thermostats, irrigation, and lighting.



Solar panels throughout the district are saving energy and funds.

Campbell Union School District

Campbell Union School District educates more than 7,600 students, from preschool to eighth grade. Our award-winning schools serve the communities of Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, San Jose, Santa Clara, and Saratoga. In addition to traditional educational programs, our district offers a parent participation school, a dual language immersion school and home schooling.

Governing Board: Pablo A. Beltran • Danielle M.S. Cohen
Thomas M. Gemetti • Richard H. Nguyen • Michael L. Snyder
Superintendent: Eric Andrew, Ed.D.

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Be Part of the Decision and the Solution

Campbell Union School District offers many ways for community members to share in decisions and make a difference for students.

Community Meetings

- December 15: Study Session: Campbell Middle Transformation to PreK–8th.
- January 18 at 9 a.m. & Jan. 24 at 6:30 p.m.: Community meeting: Local Control & Accountability Plans: Both meetings take place in the PLC Room, Monroe Middle, 1055 S. Monroe St., San Jose

Programs Seeking Partners

- STEAM Education
- School Gardens
- Music and Art Education

Save the Date (<https://www.campbellusd.org/calendar>)

- Governing Board: Jan. 2017
- School Enrollment Tours: January–February 2017
- District Spelling Bee: January 25 at 4 p.m. - Location TBA
- STEAM Education Showcase: March 29, 2017. Location TBA

Questions? Please contact the Public Information office, (408) 341-7254.

New Infant and Toddler Programs

Safe, nurturing places where babies and toddlers can play, grow and develop healthy bonds.

Focus on Early Learning and Relationships

Infants and toddlers receive individualized, responsive care through play-based curriculum. Children have the opportunity to explore and learn in a safe, healthy, and emotionally secure inclusive environment with competent and compassionate caregivers.

Staff is trained at the highest levels in early childhood education, professional about licensing requirements, and compassionate about being a parent's partner in nurturing their child.



Call (408) 341-7283 for details on how to enroll, or email Kristi DeRego (kderego@campbellusd.org).

Locations

Infant program:

- Rosemary/Family Learning Center, 401 W. Hamilton Ave., Campbell (near the Little League field)

Toddler programs:

- Marshall Lane, 14114 Marilyn Lane, Saratoga, CA.
- Rosemary/Family Learning Center, 401 W. Hamilton Ave., Campbell
 - Sherman Oaks, 1800 Fruitvale Ave., San Jose, CA

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Students Build and Program Election Devices

Rosemary School third graders did some deep learning in civics, math and computer science as they created a special Election Day event focused on an issue they chose: California Proposition 67, Plastic Bag Ban Veto Referendum (2016).



Rosemary 3rd graders built their own voting devices for a mock election about plastic bags.

As part of a cross-curricular project around the election process, students in Amelia Von Gerer's class learned about the U.S. government, created persuasive videos/commercials that argued both sides of the proposition to share with peers, and created digital voting booths using Raspberry Pi for physical computing and Scratch for coding the computers.

Dozens of students and guests came to weigh in on the issue and to hear Von Gerer's students explain the process they followed to create and program the devices. Throughout the process, Von Gerer had the students debrief about what worked and what didn't, making adjustments to improve the functioning and user experience.

The mock election results were not scientific, but the learning process certainly was!

Thank you, Campbell Union School District voters

The Measure CC school bond will allow us to continue providing high-quality education and equal access to a 21st-century education.

A Message from Superintendent Eric Andrew

On November 8, voters in our District overwhelmingly approved the Measure CC school bond and allow us to continue providing high-quality education and equal access to a 21st-century education.

The funds will help us do things like repair leaky roofs, upgrade fire alarms and security systems, upgrade science equipment and laboratories, provide access for students and teachers with disabilities, construct new classrooms and facilities and modernize old classrooms.

Campbell Union School District is truly fortunate to have a community that is so actively supportive of our students, teachers, and schools. Thank you, again.

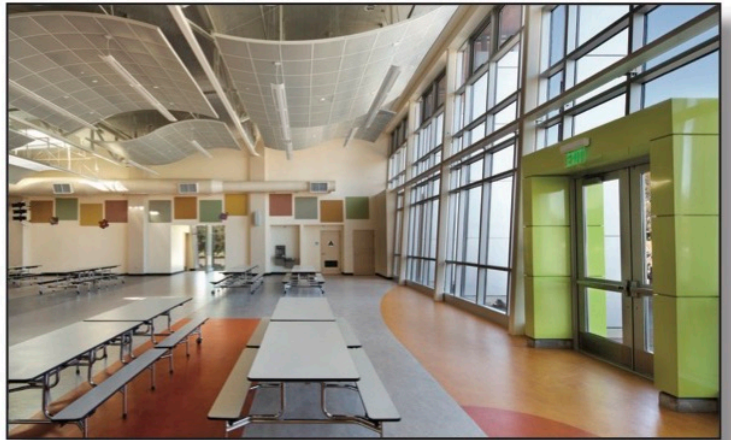
NOTE: Campbell Union School District's Citizens Oversight Committee reviews school district spending and ensures that school bond and parcel tax revenues are spent only for the purpose set before and approved by the voters. (Education Code Section 15282(a)) Committee members represent various parts of the community: businesses, senior citizens, taxpayer organizations, and parents of students enrolled in the District. They serve for a term of two years without compensation and for no more than two consecutive terms. The Citizens Oversight Committee meets approximately four times a year, at the school district office located at 155 N. 3rd St., Campbell, and publishes an annual report which can be found online at

www.campbellusd.org/citizenoversight

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Students enjoy the new library at Sherman Oaks. Repairing and modernizing classrooms and schools is one of the benefits that bond funds bring to students and neighbors.



Blackford's new multi-use building is one example of energy-saving designs that are central to school renovations.