



For Immediate Release: Tuesday, May 17, 2016

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Media Advisory: The media is invited to attend the unveiling of the bridge on Tuesday, May 17. You may arrive between 1:00pm – 2:30pm to cover this event at Martin Luther King Jr. Junior High School, located at 2012 Carion Court in Pittsburg. Media MUST check-in at the Main Office. If you plan on attending, please contact Nicky Mora, District Communications and PR Specialist at (925) 473-2427 office or (831) 578-7180 cell.

Science Class Set to Surprise Student Body with Bridge Constructed of Popsicle Sticks

Pittsburg, CA — On Tuesday, May 17, a secret mission is taking place in a science classroom at Martin Luther King Jr. Junior High School. Scholars along with their Teacher, Mr. Edwards, have been busy building sections of a 48 foot long bridge. The goal is to make it extend from one school building to another. The class has agreed to keep their science project under wraps until 2:30pm on Tuesday, so they can surprise the entire student body with the bridge and a banner stating, "Science Rules at MLK."

The bridge project came about from a class assignment Mr. Edwards designed for his science elective STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) class. "This bridge project is a great example of how teaching with a STEAM approach can inspire students, said Mr. Tom Edwards, Teacher. "I'm proud of the way my scholars have embraced this opportunity to learn by doing. Some were reluctant at first, but by the end

they were all engaged. As they were challenged and often failed, they learned from their failures, so they could succeed. This is a lesson that touched their minds through their hands.” For several weeks, students have been working in teams to make one meter long bridge sections designed to hold the weight of three text books, when supported at each end. Construction materials include Popsicle sticks (AKA science sticks), hot glue, and wire. According to Edwards, the lesson is a practical demonstration of the strength of geometric shapes. Students learned this lesson by trial and error.

The final chapter of the science lesson will commence in the afternoon of Tuesday, May 17, where students will connect each section together to form the 48 foot long bridge. Ultimately, the objective is for scholars to use their skills and teamwork to bring the project to fruition, showing the entire school population why science is so cool!

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About Pittsburg Unified School District

Pittsburg Unified School District (PUSD) is a K-12 district serving the community of Pittsburg, California. Founded in 1933, the school system is committed to providing an excellent opportunity for all students to learn. Comprised of eight elementary schools, three junior high schools, one comprehensive high school, one alternative education high school, an adult school, independent study, alternative learning experiences, and early childhood education services, the school district serves more than 10,500 students. PUSD is located in the San Francisco Bay Area, fifty minutes outside of downtown San Francisco.