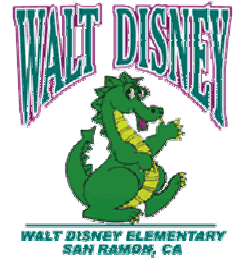


Dragon Post



Wednesday, April 22, 2009 Firing up the presses ICN Grant Issue

Female robot to hit Japan catwalk

Luke McCarthy
Walt Disney Elementary

There is a walking talking robot coming to Japan's catwalk! This "Cybernetic Human" is wowing everybody who hears about it. Except there is a slight problem, the robot hasn't cleared the safety standards yet so there is a chance it will not model with humans. The 158 centimeter tall robot is worth \$200,000. Developers say that if the robot cannot model, the robot will be used in amusement parks to perform simulations of human movement. The HRP-4C design used in the robot is giving Japan bragging rights because they are more advanced than everyone else. The outer body parts are bright silver and black making the robot look like a Stormtrooper from Star Wars. Automaker Honda has also made a robot but it is not disguised as a human. The robot Japan made runs on 30 motors so it can walk and run. Also the robot has 8 motors in its face so it can make facial expressions such as anger, being surprised, and happiness. Amazing everyone in a demonstration the robot walked around blinking, and said "Hello everyone" while its mouth moved. Except the robot does not wear any clothes (ewes!) but it has body

armor. The demands for these robots are growing and making customers upset. Scientists are trying to make as much robots as they can but they can't because they need an okay from the government to make them. The female robot can amazingly care for the sick and elderly citizens. "We want this market to grow as an industry," said Yoshihiro Kaga, one of the developers. People who hear about the robot send angry emails about how they make it. Overall this robot is the most advanced tool the world has ever seen. This is a gift from Japan because now all of us can make them



Bart Crash

MS, EV, AH, RP, CG, KT
Los Medanos Elementary

What just happened to the Bart?! The two BART trains just crashed in West Oakland on February 3, 2009 at 8:45 A.M.. Somehow, the BART trains are usually operated on a computer, but one of the trains was operated manually, while the other was operated by computer. Tough luck for the BART train, but BART's luck got worse! The manually operated train passed a wait point at Lake Merritt. Soon, the other train came and crashed inside the Trans-Bay tube. Then, the two front

trains went off the railroad tracks. Luckily no one died, but about 13 people had minor injuries. 300 people evacuated by foot on both of the trains. All 13 injured people were on medical risers. When the driver realized the problem, he stepped on the brake, but they still crashed! The two trains were trying to get on the same track. The track was shaped as a Y, and the crash is now under investigation. The luck had returned and the BART crash is cleared.



Dumb Robbers

By Luis Aguilar
E.M. Downer Elem.
School

Before you read this article I must warn you there are some dumb robbers in the world. These are some of the funniest and dumbest stories in the world. Here

are two stories: The first one was one day a man robbed a store and was eating popcorn. He dropped a trail of popcorn when he left. The police followed the popcorn and found the man who stole the stuff and he was sent to jail. The second one was about a man robbing a store and yelling to the cashier, "GIVE ME THE MONEY." The man left his wallet on the counter, so the police opened his wallet and went to his house and arrested him.

News

Budget Cuts

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Budget Cuts

Daniel Morizono

San Ramon Valley High School

Facing an unprecedented budget deficit of over \$41 billion, the State of California has been forced to cut back on its educational programs. In the San Ramon Valley Unified School District alone, cuts are expected to reach \$22 million this year.

Reduced funding over the past few years has already taken its toll on local schools. San Ramon Valley High School has cut into educational enrichment programs such as field trips and teacher training conferences. If financial constraints continue to tighten, SRVHS may see some of its elective courses also being cut out. Though while not part of the core curriculum such as English and math classes, the diverse spectrum of enrichment programs and courses are "part of what makes San Ramon unique," said Principal Ianora. With the budget deficit growing larger by the day, many educational supplements are under closer scrutiny.

The California Constitution states that special "parcel taxes" can be instituted to help soften the blow to shorthanded school districts. These are general taxes on all real property and taxpayers as the name suggests. The only taxpayers exempt are those aged 65 and older. An existing parcel tax in the SRVUSD will expire in June of 2009. This tax most importantly funded much of the counseling services at SRVHS.

However, on January 28, 2009 the District Board of Trustees voted unanimously to place a new parcel tax on the April mail-in ballot. A minimum 2/3 majority is needed for it to pass. Called the "Excellence in Education Act," its primary intent is to protect core academic programs and teachers in the schools. It is

set at \$144 annually and will be active for a term of seven years.

Even if the parcel tax is passed this April, the outlook for the school district will still be unpromising. The new tax would raise \$6.7 million at the most, which still leaves around \$15 million in additional cuts for the district. The existing parcel tax raised \$4 million or 2% of the school district budget last year.

On a national level, President Obama's \$818 billion stimulus package would give California as much as \$32 billion with \$10 billion towards education. Anywhere from \$2 to 6 million would be given to SRVUSD. However, as Mr. Ianora pointed out, this allotment of federal funding comes with its own set of spending restrictions. "It is not all free spending...It is like giving you a million dollars and saying you can only spend it on hair products," he quipped. While the stimulus package will provide some relief for the district budget, schools will not have much say on how this money is ultimately spent. However, with things looking as they are now, any financial help is much welcomed.



Chris Brown and Rihanna Fight

Gerry Silva

Grant Elementary

R&B Singers Chris about them on Chris's career. and Rihanna got breaking up and in a big situation so did Chris. about a harass- They still love ment attack. They each other and had 2 fights 1 in a they are having car and another a secret wedding in Rihanna's no one knows house. This hap- when its happen- pened on Febru- ing because it's a ary 8th. Chris had secret, I'm not to pay a huge fine sure if there par- and finally got out ents know. The of jail. Rihanna incident has had a made a song negative impact



Special News Alert: Alien Invasion!!!!
AK, JK, & KC
Iron Horse Middle School

There have been numerous Alien sightings in San Ramon. Aliens have been blowing up Toys r Us's because they are making fun of them with their new alien toys. The Men in Black are currently working on this case. They have bought out "the big guns". So far they have killed 999,999,999,900,999 aliens. If you see any aliens please call 911 or the Men in Black. To contact the MIB call 1-235-456-7890

The Wave vs. Ripstik – You Decide

Bailey Acosta & Thomas Solis
E.M. Downer Elementary School

Some of us have Ripstiks and some of us have the Wave. But which one of these is really better? That might depend on your perspective.

The Wave would be better for the people who like something different or something new. First, on the Wave you can switch the wheels and you can also change the design on top. Also, you can buy a custom case for it and you

can also buy them in different sizes.

The Ripstik may be better if you don't want to spend as much because it costs less. They are similar because they both are two-wheeled skateboards. The Ripstik comes only in one size. It also does not have any designs on it. You can't change the wheels either. The Ripstik comes in red, blue, green, and pink. The Ripstik has a deluxe type, but the Wave does not have one.