

A12 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2009

SCHOOLS

LCUSD ROUND-UP

School board talks marketing, scores

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many hours of their own time, according to Zimmerman, preparing the LCE students for competition. Lead student mentor was Hima Hassenruck-Gudipati. Team 2429 members include Silas Hughes, Holden Kilbride, Ben Kellogg, Matt Whitham, John Gregg, Collin Chersi, and Chris Carpenter.

Zimmerman and LCE principal Elissa DeAngelo presented the students' awards.

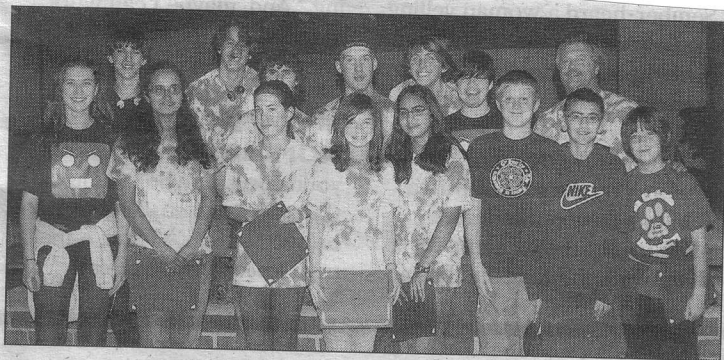
Parcel tax survey

In his report to the board, Superintendent Jim Stratton informed the board that the parcel tax survey, developed to gauge community support for the proposed parcel tax, was underway as of Jan. 12 and would run through Jan. 23. Results of the survey are to be presented to the school board this month.

Audit report OK'd

The board voted to accept the 2007-08 audit report, presented by chief business officer Steve Hodgson. Board vice president Jeanne Broberg com-

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COURTESY LA CAÑADA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM

La Cañada Elementary's Team 3399 are, front row, from left: Antonia Warner, Hima Hassenruck-Gudipati, Claudia Weinstein, Hannah Zimmerman, Suma Gudipati, Grant Salter, Michael Seuylemezian and Jacob Abbott. Back row: Russel Smith, Silas Hughes, Holden Kilbride, Ben Kellogg, John Gregg, Chris Carpenter and Steve Zimmerman.

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plimented Hodgson on the unqualified audit — the cleanest possible — saying "It could be a grueling experience; it was a very comfortable experience."

LCHS AP results

Linda Arthur, director of Assessment, Research and Consolidated Programs, presented for discussion the 2008 AP Test Results. LCHS students scored high across the curriculum, exceeding state and national mean, with the strongest performance in chemistry at 44.9% above the national mean, followed by government politics U.S. at 41.0%, U.S. history at 33.6% and English literature and comp at 32.6%.

Marketing efforts

During a workshop held prior

to the regularly scheduled board meeting, Jacobson Communications, Inc, hired by the district to prepare a branding report, proposed enhancements to the LCUSD website, including a "good news" section; recommended the development of a "district statement" to appear on the website and printed materials generated by the district; and encouraged a "personal touch" in community relations.

Representatives of the Malibu based public relations firm praised the district's current reputation with the community while recommending an emphasis on responsiveness, greater community involvement and visibility.

The firm emphasized the importance of a "strong and united, consistent district," interaction among schools and school/community interaction.

La Cañada Elementary's FLL Robotics Club Team 3399, The Golden Circuit Breakers, were honored at the Jan. 13 meeting of the school board for their performance in the San Diego Qualifying Tournament on Nov. 22 where they took 4th place and snagged the Consistent Robot Award; and for their subsequent participation in the L.A. Championship Round held Dec. 7 at Legoland.

Team members include Olivia Lam, Hannah Zimmerman, Michael Seuylemezian, Suma Gudipati, Margaux Everingham, Cole Reeb, Jacob Abbott, Grant Salter and Claudia Weinstein.

La Cañada High's Engineering Club, Team 2429, who won the Rookie All-Star Award at the L.A. FIRST Robotics Tournament last year and then competed in the World Championship in Atlanta, Ga., coached the younger LCE techies under the leadership of sponsor Steve Zimmerman, LCHS chemistry teacher.

The high school team spent