

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 7, 2018 CONTACT: William Diepenbrock

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Baldwin Park Unified Elementary Students to Face Off in Pinewood Derby STEM Competition

Event also addresses gender STEM gap

WHAT: Baldwin Park Unified's Walnut Elementary School will host its first-ever Pinewood Derby STEM Competition testing fifth-graders' ability to design wooden race cars using science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills.

Trials are being run during the week leading to the final, which will feature the top six racers and two wild card competitors.

The competition is part of a dual-language, project-based learning unit called Closing the Gender STEM Gap/*Cerrando la brecha de gènero en STEM*.

- WHEN: 1 to 2:40 p.m. Friday, March 9
- WHERE: Walnut Elementary School, 4701 Walnut St., Baldwin Park
- **DETAILS:** Students are studying gender inequality in professional racing, including the life of racer Danica Patrick. As part of the competition, they are applying an engineering design mindset practices (design, ideate, plan, prototype, test) to their development of racing cars. The derby effort was facilitated by Pack 820 in Covina and Cub Master Victor Garcia.

Parents and families of the top qualifiers as well as the school's entire fifth-grade class will attend the competition.

Coverage and/or inclusion of this event in your calendar of events is greatly appreciated.

In a culture of high expectations and academic rigor and an environment of support, understanding, and emotional safety, all Baldwin Park Unified School District students will graduate with a valued and highly respected diploma, prepared with the relevant skills, knowledge, and personal attributes necessary for success in a university or other institution of higher education and/or any post-secondary options of their choice.