



NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Novato Schools Build STEM Race Cars

(Novato, CA)... Pleasant Valley and Loma Verde Elementary Schools are two of ten schools participating in the 2015 Friedman's STEM Car Challenge on June 27 at Sonoma Raceway during NASCAR weekend.

The program challenges students to develop and construct a gravity-powered car, test the effects of different factors and race them down a sloped track. The cars developed by the student engineers will race in a series of qualifying rounds at their respective schools prior to NASCAR race weekend. The finalists from the qualifying rounds will battle for victory in the final round at Sonoma Raceway on Saturday, June 27, in the Wine Country Winner's Circle. The winners of the 2015 Friedman's STEM Car Challenge will receive a trophy and tickets to Sunday's Toyota/Save Mart 350 race.

Working in multi-aged groups, Pleasant Valley had 44 teams of fourth and fifth graders using "clean trash" to create the fastest possible gravity-powered car and Loma Verde had 22 teams of third graders. Both Pleasant Valley and Loma Verde have three cars competing in STEM Car Challenge, the two fastest cars from both schools and one car from each school that was voted most creative. All cars and the cars voted "most creative" will race against the other competing schools at Sonoma Raceway in June.

For the second consecutive year, Sonoma Raceway partnered with Kid Scoop News and Friedman's Home Improvement on a gravity-powered car challenge, which culminates on Saturday of the Toyota/Save Mart 350 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series event.

Science and technology go hand in hand with high performance, and Sonoma Raceway continues to do its parts to help develop the next generation of engineers and scientists through its youth education initiative for the 2015 race season. The

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raceway's goal is to provide real-world experiences and programs to educate students about the importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) as they relate to motor-sports events and business.

Schools taking the green flag on this year's challenge include Bahia Vista Elementary (San Rafael), Cali Calmecac Language Academy (Windsor), La Tercera Elementary (Petaluma), Loma Verde Elementary (Novato), Marguerite Hahn Elementary (Rohnert Park), Meadow Elementary School (Petaluma), Napa Junction Elementary School (American Canyon), Pleasant Valley Elementary (Novato), Waldo Rohnert Elementary School (Rohnert Park) and Washington Elementary School (Cloverdale).

Kid Scoop News is a monthly tabloid newspaper used by more than 1,000 teachers throughout the Bay Area. Each month the newspaper explores timely topics, promotes health and fitness, teaches financial literacy, and showcases student writing and artwork. The paper is packed with games, puzzles and brain teasers that grab young readers' attention.

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