Highlights for April 2-8, 2013

Underwater & Solar Science

Close to a hundred students enrolled in Physics classes at Burton High are putting the finishing touches on their model solar homes. The students will be graded on how well their homes can absorb and retain heat inside their model home. Their teacher believes a rigorous science education means students not only know conceptually and mathematically how the world works, but can also apply those concepts to hands-on projects. As part of that goal, she will be taking them to Noisebridge – a space in the Mission district for technical-creative projects, programming, hardware, crafts, science, food, robotics, art, and technology – where volunteers will teach them how to solder and wire the model homes.

When: Tuesday, April 2 / 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Where: Noisebridge / 2169 Mission St.

Biology and mechanics meet in Amber Lancaster’s Biology class at June Jordan School for Equity as students pack up their submersible remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), which they have been building and perfecting for weeks in class, at home, and at a pond near the school. Tuesday is the big day - the machines will be sent into tide pools up in Pt. Reyes to see marine life. Students have spent this school year learning about marine invertebrates, and, with the ROVs, they have learned to build and create machines to help them explore the underwater environment just like scientists do. Teacher Amber Lancaster guides them with additional expertise she gained on a research team last year aboard an icebreaker ship in the Weddell Sea. While there, she kept in touch with her students with pictures and videos of icebergs, penguins and sea creatures.

When: Tuesday, April 2 / call for details
Where: Duxbury Reef / Pt. Reyes, Calif.

San Francisco students will receive $200,000 worth of services and scholarships from the Masons of California. The Masons support the Investment in Success Scholarship, which provides financial support for high school seniors who have demonstrated extraordinary potential and strength of character by overcoming significant obstacles to achieve their academic goals. They also support Raising A Reader, an award-winning literacy program for public elementary schools. SF Board of Education Commissioner President Rachel Norton and board members Jill Wynns and Hydra Mendoza will join principals from many SFUSD schools as the Masons kick-off Public Schools Month.

When: Thursday, April 4 / 9:00 -10:00 a.m.
Where: Lincoln HS / 2162 24th Avenue

-----------------------------------------------