

A publication to Educate & Communicate with the parents of Surrey School District.

Johnston Heights Secondary

'A safe space for all youth'

Athletes in Motion Games celebrates student strengths and challenges perceptions of people with disabilities

Johnston Heights Secondary was abuzz with excitement – and plenty of action – as more than 250 secondary students and about 150 volunteers hit the playing fields, gymnasiums, theatre, dance studio, weight room and tennis courts for the 15th-annual Athletes in Motion (AIM) Games.

Hosted by Johnston Heights Secondary, this year's event attracted participants of varying abilities from all 20 Surrey secondary schools for a day of collaborative sport and recreation.

The event, founded by Johnston Heights phys-ed teacher and Adapted Physical Activity program co-ordinator Deb Murin, invites youth to show off their abilities and hone their skills, overcome barriers, set goals and build strengths, while simultaneously challenging the perspectives, misunderstandings and myths about people with disabilities.

Inside Johnston Heights, students took part in martial arts, weight training, dance, various wheelchair sports, boccia and yoga. Outside, games of soccer, hockey, basketball and softball happened.

"It is intended to create a safe space for all youth to explore their talents, play and find commonalities," says Murin, the sole co-ordinator of the AIM Games, with the assistance of Shannon Milross, a youth care worker at Salish Secondary.

"I move it to a different host school every year in order for students all around our district to be host of the games, which celebrate abilities through play, as well as highlight the tremendously talented instructors from local sport organizations."

As happens each year, the day included an athlete procession, opening and closing ceremonies, guest speaker and presentation of medals.

Surrey School District



PHOTO: SURREY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Georgia Menzies from L.A. Matheson Secondary plays hockey during the 15th-annual AIM Games at Johnston Heights Secondary school.



PHOTO: SURREY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Yuto Miyazaki from Earl Marriott Secondary plays soccer during AIM Games action.

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Groups involved

The AIM games are instrumental in exposing students and their families to community organizations that provide programming for youth with disabilities. The organizations involved with this year's AIM Games included:

- SportAbility
- Special Olympics
- Semiahmoo House Society
- Unique Get Together Society
- Centre for Child Development
- BC Wheelchair Basketball Society
- BC Wheelchair Sports Association
- Sport Medicine Council of BC
- Surrey FC Pegasus
- Floorball+



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“I think we are very lucky that we got a chance to learn about our mother tongue.”

Literacy

Deadline looms for Punjabi writing contest

Dhahan Prize contest invites B.C. teens to connect to their culture through storytelling

Time is running out for students from Surrey and across B.C. to enter their Punjabi creative writing in the Dhahan Prize contest for a chance to win cash and have their work published.

The contest is open to all B.C. students who are taking Punjabi language classes in Grade 11 or 12. Their stories, between 800 and 1,000 words, must be submitted in both Punjabi and English.

As in past years, the eight winners not only receive \$500, but will have their work included in a printed anthology as well. The deadline to submit work is May 31.

“We have kids who are published authors. Happiness is when your students’ work is published,” said co-organizer and L.A. Matheson Secondary teacher Gurpreet Bains, noting she uses the anthologies, titled “Lofty Heights,” as teaching

resources in her classroom.

Grade 11 Matheson student Jasmeen Kaur Dhaliwal was excited to submit her writing and grateful her Punjabi class at school taught her more about Canadian-Punjabi history and literature.

“I think we are very lucky that we got a chance to learn about our mother tongue,” Dhaliwal said.

Dhahan Prize founder Barj Dhahan noted the contest is not restricted to students with Punjabi backgrounds – many partic-

ipants have been from non-Punjabi backgrounds who are taking Punjabi at school.

“It’s not only about inspiring those of you who come from Punjabi families to learn to write and express yourselves in your mother tongue,” said Dhahan, “but also in English and maybe by extension, other languages as well.”

Principal Peter Johnston lauded the contest for allowing South



Bains



At an event held at L.A. Matheson Secondary, student Jasmeen Kaur Dhaliwal said she was excited to submit her writing to the Dhahan contest and grateful her Punjabi class at school taught her more about Canadian-Punjabi culture and history.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Asian students to share their experience and understanding both within the South Asian and with the community at large.

“That is powerful. That’s powerful for our community here at L.A. Matheson, it’s powerful for the South Asian community abroad.”

The youth Punjabi writing contest was established in 2017 as a way to help recognize the richness of Punjabi history and encourage

youth to connect to and share their culture through storytelling.

Teacher Annie Ohana said it’s key that students feel empowered, as they are through the writing contest.

“We are living in a world where I know of students in the United States that are fighting tooth and nail to see themselves in their curriculum, where doors are shut in their face, where departments of

education deny them access to their mother tongues, deny them access to their cultures.”

She said only good comes from empowering one another.

“It makes us stronger as a society; it makes us better as a society.”

For more information about the eligibility requirements and an application form, visit dhahanprize.com/events/youth.

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Health

Get informed about vaping

Use of vaping products by youth is on the rise.

While there are unknowns and misconceptions surrounding the health effects, the increased experimentation and use by young people is a concern among educators and public health officials.

Surrey Schools has compiled an array of resources for parents, teachers and the public, created by Fraser Health, the B.C. Lung Association and Vancouver Coastal Health.

The resources can be found online at surreyschools.ca.

The information includes an easy-to-read overview of vaping, information to start conversations and frequently asked questions.

Surrey Schools and Fraser Health also collaborated to deliver public information presentations through April and May at local schools.

A PDF from the sessions is also available at the above link for those who were unable to attend.

Surrey School District



SUBMITTED PHOTO

For information about vaping and how to talk to your children about it, visit surreyschools.ca

Business

YELL if you have entrepreneurial spirit

For the third year, Surrey Schools is again offering the YELL (Youth Entrepreneurship and Leadership Launchpad) program to students entering Grades 10-12 this September.

Based on top-quality university entrepreneurship programs as well as best practices from Silicon Valley, the course is not only for students who are interested in business and innovation, but those who are enthusiastic about learning how to put original ideas into action.

Students will learn to develop and evaluate a business, build a personal network of business contacts, hone creative and critical thinking, use teamwork and put presentation skills to the test.

About 84 per cent of students who have taken YELL say they made one or more connections with a mentor or leader they plan to continue to stay in touch with and 81 per cent say they are more confident in finding or creating a career that aligns with their passion.

Classes are Wednesday evenings at Queen Elizabeth Secondary from September 2019 to May 2020. Students who complete the course will get a credit for Entrepreneurship 12. (Preference will be given to Grade 11 and 12 students, but Grade 10 students will be considered if space allows).

Application deadline is June 10. Check surreyschools.ca for more information.

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Infrastructure

Construction launched for two Surrey schools

Construction has begun on two new Surrey schools – Grandview Heights Secondary and a Douglas-area elementary school – and will provide more than 2,100 new student spaces by 2021.

“We want every student to get the best educational experience possible, and that means learning in positive, engaging and inspiring classrooms,” said Rob Fleming, Minister of Education. “These new schools are a great example of everyone working together to improve education for Surrey students and to reduce portables in this community.”

The provincial government has announced an additional \$32.6 million for the Grandview Heights Secondary school, for a total budget of up to \$93.2 million. The school will have capacity for 1,500 students. The new Douglas-area elementary school, near Peace Arch border crossing, has a total budget

of up to \$33.1 million and will have capacity for 605 students.

To continue to meet the demand for future classrooms in Surrey and to reduce portables at nearby schools, the province is providing an additional \$3.6 million for the Surrey School District. These funds will allow the district to complete the purchase of a site needed for a future school in the Sunnyside Heights neighbourhood. The district will provide an additional \$2.4 million in land capital.

In total, government is providing \$31.2 million, along with \$3.8 million in district land capital, for the property located at the corner of 20th Avenue and 165A Street in Surrey. Sunnyside Heights is expected to add more than 5,000 homes in the next 10 years. With this property now secured, the province will “work with the Surrey School District on the best path forward” for a new, approximately



TRACY HOLMES PHOTO

Minister of Education Rob Fleming was in South Surrey on May 17 to help break ground on the new Grandview Heights Secondary, and symbolically break ground on a new elementary school for the Douglas area. Fleming also announced funding to complete the land assembly for a new elementary in the Sunnyside neighbourhood.

630-seat elementary school.

“It’s wonderful to see construction getting underway for Grandview Heights Secondary as this school is so badly needed,” said Laurie Larsen, Surrey Board of Education chair. “To have con-

struction also beginning on a new elementary school in the Douglas area just three months after our groundbreaking for the Edgewood Drive-area elementary school is great news for South Surrey and a statement about the progress and

priority for school construction in our district.”

Since September 2017, the province has announced \$226.7 million for new schools, expansions, upgrades and land purchases in the City of Surrey.

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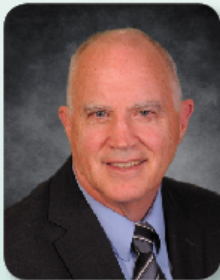
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CUPE728 recently recognized our 4,000+ members during School Support Staff Appreciation Day. We would like to take the time to recognize the work that all of our Support Staff do to keep our schools functioning, safe and inclusive for everyone. Thank you!!!

CUPE 728

Surrey Schools Support Workers
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Skills Canada

Golden Surrey Skills students Halifax-bound

Four Surrey students will compete in the 2019 Skills Canada National Competition in Nova Scotia next week, after taking first place at provincials.

Dozens of Surrey students were among 600 youth from across the province who took their talent to the BC Skills competition in Abbotsford in mid-April, competing in an array of skilled trade and technology fields, including everything from animation to welding.

Gold medal winners from Surrey Schools were:

- Junniel Abeto & Vince Pascual (Fraser Heights Secondary) – 2D animation
- Isaac Carswell (Sullivan Heights Secondary) – baking
- Reilly Ouwerling (Elgin Park Secondary) – car painting

The first-place winners now advance to the national skills competition in Halifax May 28-29.

Other Surrey students who won medals at the provincial level included:

- Michael Stariha (Fraser Heights Secondary) – silver in cabinet making
- Chloe Flores-Pettipas (Clayton Heights Secondary) – culinary arts
- Kendra Shiells (Guildford Park Second-



SURREY SCHOOL DISTRICT PHOTOS

LEFT: Sullivan Heights Secondary student Isaac Carswell in action at the BC Skills competition in Abbotsford, where he won gold in baking.

ABOVE: Elgin Park Secondary student Reilly Ouwerling, who won gold in car painting.

ary) – silver in electrical wiring

■ Vianne Chang (Earl Marriott Secondary) – silver in website development

■ Kelcy Wang (Earl Marriott Secondary) – bronze in website development

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Message from Surrey DPAC

Inclusion is everyone's goal



Dean McGee
DPAC President

What's the biggest difference between school classrooms today and classrooms in the past? Digital technology? Desks that aren't lined up in rows?

Probably the biggest change in recent decades is inclusion.

Students with special needs share the space with their neighbours and their siblings. Inclusion means teaching every student in their neighbourhood school alongside their peers.

Inclusion means meeting every student's needs. Inclusion means finding every student's strengths. Inclusion means a positive environment for all students.

Sometimes these goals are hard to reach; teams of support staff and teachers are working with our kids, assisting them on the way.

Some needs are easier to assess,

What is DPAC and what does it do?

The Surrey District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) is a registered non-profit society that is the legislated representation of parents at the school district level.

Most general meetings are held monthly on the 4th Wednesday (except March) from 7-9 p.m. (registration at 6:45 p.m.) at the District Education Centre, 14033 92 Ave. For more information, email info@surreydpac.ca

2018-19 DPAC board

Acting President/Chair – Dean McGee (president@surreydpac.ca)
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but many are not obvious immediately, which is why the school must do assessments to determine what the students need.

If you think your child has a learning disorder, or needs some kind of assistance, talk to your teacher about getting assessments done.

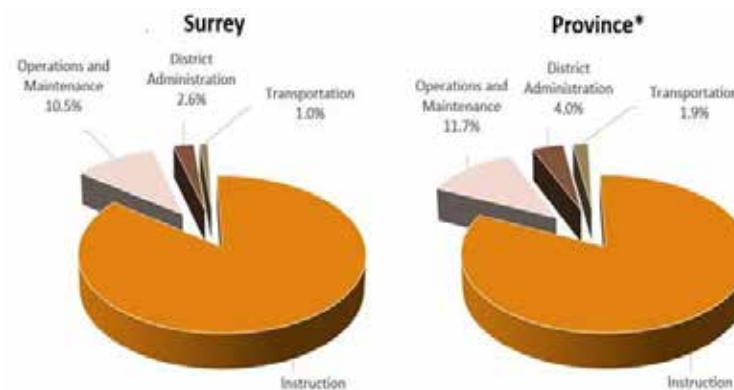
At a recent conference, a young man with autism was asked to describe what autism meant and his best answer was "my brain works

different."

Different can be good. The goal we all need to work toward is to make all these "different" people included in their school and community.

We are recognizing that there is strength in diversity. Here's to finding every child's strengths.

Dean McGee is president and chair of Surrey DPAC. You can email him at president@surreydpac.ca



BUDGET: Meeting the growth

The Surrey School District continues to grow, with about 1,060 more school-aged, full-time equivalent students anticipated for the next school year.

To meet that growth, the Surrey Board of Education has approved hiring 78 more teachers (including 12 teachers funded by the Classroom Enhancement Fund), 107 educational assistants, 19 support staff, seven professional staff and five school administrators for 2019-2020.

Despite ongoing growth and no funding to offset inflation, and other funding challenges over the years, the board continues to

manage expenditures efficiently, relative to the provincial average.

The budget projects a total of 74,749 FTE equivalent students in 2019-20, including school-aged, adult and distributed (on-line) learning students.

The preliminary 2019-2020 operating budget is \$713.7 million out of a total budget including special purpose and other funds of \$836 million. The final school district operating grant will be based on the Sept. 30, 2019 enrolment count and any adjustments to the annual budget will be made after that date.

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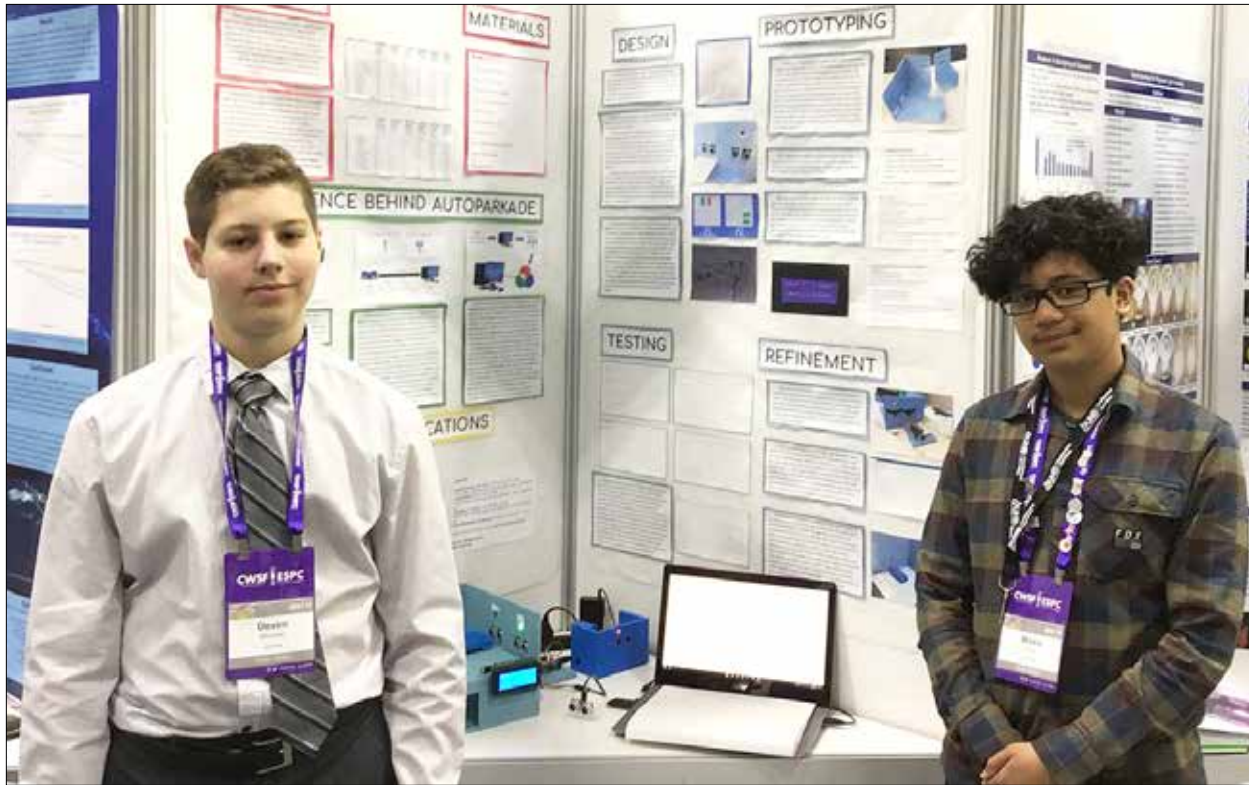


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Surrey Academy of Innovative Learning's Mikko Lorico (right) and Deven Marrero pose in front of their award-winning project. The pair of Grade 8 students won silver for their project on parking wait times at the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Fredericton, which took place from May 15-17.

New Brunswick

Science projects noticed at nationals

Two Surrey students win silver for their project on long parking wait times

Four science projects and their five student creators from the Surrey School District travelled across the country to compete against other youth at the Canada-Wide Science Fair in New Brunswick, which took place from May 15 to 17.

One project created by Surrey students won silver in the junior category at the national competition.

That was Mikko Lorico and Deven Marrero's project, "AutoParkade:

Could this solve long parking wait times?" The two Grade 8 students are from the Surrey Academy of Innovative Learning (SAIL).

Mankeerat Singh Sidhu, who is cross-enrolled in SAIL and Khalsa School, took home a bronze medal at the national competition for a project called "A Hand For Hope."

About 500 young scientists attended, competing for nearly \$1 million in awards, prizes and scholarships at the Canada-Wide Science Fair.

The Surrey students advanced to nationals after winning gold at the 13th-annual South Fraser Regional Science Fair that took place at Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Surrey

campus in April.

Two other Surrey students also competed at the national fair after winning gold at regionals: Mohamed Fawzan Hussain, (Grade 11, Fraser Heights Secondary, for "BCI-Neurokey - Development and Testing of a Non-Invasive Brain Computer Interface System") and Anson Exner (Grade 10, SAIL, for "The Intra-Urban Grow Box").

Hussain was also among the winners last year, when he was in Grade 10, and attended to the national fair in Ottawa for his project that investigated using EEGs to analyze student attention during math assessment.

Surrey School District

Awards

Surrey Schools named one of Canada's Greenest Employers for third time

The Surrey School District has received national and provincial recognition for its environmental efforts and exceptional workplaces, respectively.

For the third time, the district has been selected one of Canada's Greenest Employers – an acknowledgment of ongoing environmental leadership and commitment to sustainable practices.

The Canada-wide competition (through Mediaworld Canada Inc.) evaluates employers on things such as unique environmental programs offered and the extent to which environmental footprints have been reduced.

According to canadastop100.com/environmental, the "special designation recognizes the employers that lead the nation in creating a culture of environmental awareness in their organizations."

Programs in Surrey like the EKOLogy outdoor education program at East Kensington Elementary were acknowledged, as were the many initiatives that encourage students and staff to get involved, such as the Surrey Youth Sustainability Network, Green Teachers Network and the annual Energy Conservation Cup.

"This recognition is one we are particularly proud of," said Surrey Board of Education chair Laurie Larsen.

"Environmental efforts



take place daily on numerous fronts and at all levels in our vast school district, from our senior district staff to our youngest of students and future leaders."

The district was also named one of B.C.'s Top Employers for 2019 by Mediaworld Canada Inc., which recognizes employers "that lead their industries in offering exceptional places to work."

Winners in the competition are selected based on criteria including the work atmosphere, training and skills development and health, financial and family benefits.

Again, Larsen was thrilled about Surrey Schools' inclusion among the province's top employers.

"We respect and value our employees," she said, "and always strive to provide supportive, welcoming and inspiring workplaces where everyone – educators, clerks, tradespeople, professionals or custodians – can take pride in what they do to support children and student learning."

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Concours d'art oratoire

Students medal at French-speaking contest

Eight Surrey elementary and secondary students reached the podium at the 2019 Concours d'art oratoire. The 36th-annual French public speaking competition attracted 10,000 students from across B.C. Of those, 209 made it to the provincial finals, which were held May 4 at SFU Surrey. Seventeen of the finalists were from Surrey Schools.

Winning gold medals were two Surrey secondary students: Ben Tyler, a Grade 9 immersion student at École Earl Marriott Secondary, for his speech "Les Avantages des OGMs alimentaires"; and Kaitlyn Lu, a Grade 11/12 core French student at Fleetwood Park Secondary, who won for "L'importance du vote." Tyler also won the RésoSanté prize for health subject.

Six other Surrey students also took home medals, including:

- Silver - Liam Quan - École Martha Currie Elementary, Grade 6 early immersion, "La Dependance"
- Silver - Kiana Verrier - École



Fleetwood Park Secondary's Kaitlyn Lu and Earl Marriott Secondary's Ben Tyler both took first place at the 2019 Concours d'art oratoire.

Earl Marriott Secondary, Grade 9 Francophone, "Les écoles résidentielles"

■ Silver - Roop Dhillon - École Frost Road Elementary, Grade 6/7 intensive French, "La science derrière le système"

■ Bronze - Kashish Bal - École Frost Road Elementary, Grade 6/7 intensive French, "Ma vie"

■ Bronze - Sarah Hwang - École K.B. Woodward Elementary, Grade 7 late immersion, "Le the aux perles"

■ Bronze - Simone Saini - École Kwantlen Park, Grade 10 immersion, "Pourquoi devrait-il être nécessaire de vaccine les enfants?"

Other provincial finalists from Surrey were:

■ Amélie Hall - École Peace Arch Elementary, Grade 6 Francophone, "Être enfant unique"

■ Elisha Zeng - École K. B. Woodward Elementary, Grade 6 Late Immersion, "Le Japon"

■ Louis Wight - École Peace Arch Elementary, Grade 7 Francophone, "Le meilleur astrophysicien"

■ Felix Bubbar - École Laronde Elementary, Grade 7 Immersion, "9-1-1"

■ Kelly-Anne Gardner - École Salish Secondary, Grade 8 Immersion, "L'exploration de l'océan"

■ Simarpreet Singh - Frank Hurt Secondary, Grade 10 Core French, "Le rêve d'un roi"

■ Maggie Huang - Elgin Park Secondary, Grade 11 Core French, "Mes parents"

■ Shana Nursoo - École Salish Secondary, Grade 11 Francophone, "Le monde modern"

■ Ryan Zrymiak - École Salish Secondary, Grade 11 Immersion, "La collusion américaine"

Surrey School District

Tech

Grants to help robotics students

Surrey's students are being encouraged to build better robots.

Two Surrey schools are among schools to benefit from a \$250,000 grant from the provincial government to First Robotics BC. Students from L.A. Matheson Secondary and North Surrey Secondary were among five B.C. schools to participate in the 2019 First Championship in Houston, Texas last month. Each team received \$5,000 toward its competition fees.

"Through our robotics program, youth earn important life skills," said Ian Koscielski, regional director of First Robotics BC. "A sense of purpose, a sense of belonging and a sense of achievement. Developing innovative and highly technical skills and attitudes is essential to our participants' future success, as well as B.C.'s science and technology advancement and economic growth potential."

Premier John Horgan said the grant is intended to help students hone their skills in the what the government calls the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Tom Zytaruk

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