



MEDIA NOTICE

Torrance Unified School District

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 1, 2023

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Torrance Unified Young Inventor Captures Third Place Title at Global Invention Convention Competition

TORRANCE, CA- **Avish Banerjee**, now a sixth-grade student at **Madrona Middle School**, won **third place** overall in the K-5th grade category of the **Invention Convention Americas** global competition on August 25, 2023. From more than 170,000 participants who competed in regional, state, national, and international competitions as part of the Invention Convention Coalition, Avish was selected as a finalist to compete among the 146 bright inventors in this year's worldwide competition that showcased the talents of K-12th grade students from the United States and Mexico.

Avish first captured judges' attention last school year as a fifth-grade student at **Hickory Elementary School** with his invention, "**PRO SAFETY**," which he debuted during the spring **South Bay Regional Invention Convention** hosted by **Torrance Unified School District** with presenting sponsor **Torrance Refining Company** and additional local business sponsorships. Recalling Avish's first interview, Torrance Unified Science Resource Teacher Adam Daley recalls, "*I, to this day, clearly remember his enthusiasm and desire to make a difference in people's lives that he had never even met before.*"

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From there, Avish joined twenty Torrance Unified state finalists and traveled to the **Invention Convention U.S. Nationals** held in person at the **Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation** in Dearborn, Michigan this past June where he was named a global finalist and awarded a special **Accessibility Award**. Then in August, he and four other Torrance Unified students attended the global competition which was hosted virtually inside an interactive version of the Henry Ford Museum where student avatars explored the exhibits and interacted with each other. Avish and the other finalists filmed videos of their work and were judged by a panel of 30 international judges, where just 13 awards were presented to the global winners for the various grade levels. In addition to Avish's third-place win, a two-student team from **Manhattan Beach Unified** placed **second** for the 6th-8th grade category.

The student inventors were tasked with choosing a real-life problem to solve, and then creating and testing innovative inventions related to various STEAM themes including energy, the environment, healthcare, and safety. Avish's "PRO SAFETY" invention stood for Preventive Risk Observations and Safety Alert Technology for Industry and featured a series of sensors to help prevent injuries on construction sites related to environmental heat exposure, collision with approaching objects, overexertion, slips, falls, or trips. When asked about Avish's

invention, Daley said, *"It was clear that he had a vision for something that could help the lives of many people who work in harsh conditions. It's this empathetic lens that truly makes Invention Convention something that is very special and something that I am so grateful to be a small part of."*

The remaining winners created engaging inventions that combatted malnutrition, monitored the health of waterways, and streamlined package delivery safety. The annual competition is open to students worldwide and schools can participate for the 2023-2024 school year by visiting icw@thf.org.

This is the third year that Torrance Unified students have participated in the Invention Convention competition process. Science Resource Teachers first encouraged students to participate in the competition as a way to engage students virtually in hands-on STEAM activities during the pandemic. This past spring, local production company Bakers Man won a **Silver Telly** award for a heartfelt [mini-documentary](#) "**Limitless Potential - Journey to the Global Invention Convention**" outlining Torrance Unified's participation in the competition and its benefit to all students.

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The Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) strives to ensure that each and every student is educated and prepared to succeed in life. The TUSD team is dedicated to maximizing individual potential and developing lifelong learners who will be contributing members of our global society. TUSD was established in 1947 and unified in 1948 and is nestled in the heart of the South Bay, in the southwestern part of Los Angeles County. The District serves more than 21,500 students with 17 elementary, 8 middle, and 4 high schools, as well as 1 continuation and 1 alternative high school. The District also serves the adult community through 3 adult school campuses.