

5 Super-Popular Private Elementary School Activities For 2014

Description



Robotics is a very popular school and extracurricular activity. Photo: First Lego League

What will L.A.'s private elementary school students be doing in 2014? Here are 5 super-popular activities we think will continue to engage students this year:

- **Lego Robotics/Robotics** – Immensely popular, Lego Robotics and more advanced Robotics, allow students to create and program robots, participate in team competitions and hone their engineering and programming skills. With robot names like Westie, kids compete statewide and even nationally to see which team's robot has what it takes.
- **Lacrosse** – This traditionally East Coast sport is making major inroads on the West Coast, both at schools and in club teams.



Community Service: Project Knapsack, a non-profit, founded by Beyond The Brochure co-author, Porcha Dodson, works with numerous L.A. private schools to offer volunteer opportunities for students. Photo: The Namayarse Girls School in Kenya with Project Knapsack delivered school supplies.

- **Community Service-** Giving back to the community, both near and far, continues to be a very important part of private school curriculum and extracurricular and school club activities. Schools are expanding their opportunities for students to make a difference in big and small ways from helping the homeless to providing school supplies to children in Africa.
- **School Gardens**“ Adding beauty and learning opportunities, [school gardens](#) are cropping up in a growing number of L.A. private elementary schools.
- **Computer Programs** like **Scratch Animation**, **GarageBand for Mac**, **MicroWorlds Jr.** and **MicroWorlds EX**. In the classroom, kids can program an animated turtle to move or create a triangle with mathematical dimensions using **MicroWorlds Jr.** **Scratch Animation** (created by MIT) teaches basic programming skills as kids create animated cartoons. **Garage Band for Mac** lets kids simulate a music studio by combining tracks to make their own musical creations.

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Date Created

January 5, 2014

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