

Media Contact:  
Anne O'Dea  
Director of Marketing  
Immaculate Conception Academy  
Phone: (415) 824-2052  
Cell: (317) 371-1550  
Email: [anneodea@icacademy.org](mailto:anneodea@icacademy.org)

For Immediate Release: March 30 ,2009

### **Immaculate Conception Academy Physics Students Design Bumper Cars from Scratch**

Immaculate Conception Academy, San Francisco, CA: Seniors in Ms. Reitman's Physics and Conceptual Physics classes are preparing for an intramural basketball game. But this is no ordinary game and the players aren't students. They are 12 miniature bumper cars designed by students.

"This is an annual competition that the students look forward to" said Laurel Reitman. Ms. Reitman, Chair of the Physics Dept at Immaculate Conception Academy designed the competition to give students an opportunity to build something from scratch. "The girls begin with a few specifications, switches, wires and gear kit. From this they need to produce basketball playing cars that can lift a ball with an electromagnet, drive in both forward and reverse and have the ability to turn."

Ms Reitman goes on to say, "It is a cool project, as it teaches the girls about more than just physics. They also learn some great practical skills such as soldering, drilling and wiring. The girls also have to learn how to work together to solve the challenge of building the car. This process gives them confidence and helps them realize that girls can excel in physics too."

Sponsored since 1883 by the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, Immaculate Conception Academy (ICA) is an all girls Catholic High School in the Mission District. ICA is the first school in San Francisco to join the Cristo Rey Network.

The Competition begins at 1:55 on Thursday, April 2. For more information please call Anne O'Dea.

