

NUSD NEWS

"Cultivation to the mind is as necessary as food to the body." **Marcus Tullius Cicero**

Volume VI, Issue 4
November 2008

Novato Unified School District

1015 Seventh Street

Novato, CA 94945

(415) 897-4201

<http://www.nusd.org/>

Si usted desea este documento en español,
por favor llame a la oficina de su escuela.

Schedule of Events

November 10

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – NO SCHOOL

November 11

VETERANS' DAY – NO SCHOOL

November 13

School Fuel Matt & Jeff's Fundraiser

November 18

NUSD Board Workshop 5:00-7:00 PM

NUSD Board Recognition Mtg – 7:00 PM

November 17-21

Elementary Parent Conferences – Minimum

Days - 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

November 24 - 28

THANKSGIVING BREAK

December 2

NUSD Board Meeting – 7:00 PM

December 9

Budget Advisory – 4:00 PM

December 16

NUSD Board Meeting – 7:00 PM

December 22 – January 2

WINTER BREAK

January 6

NUSD Board Meeting – 7:00 PM

January 19

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY – NO SCHOOL

January 20

NUSD Board Meeting – 7:00 PM

January 24

School Fuel Paint the Town Red – 6:00 PM

January 26

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – NO SCHOOL

Superintendent's Message

Dr. Jan La Torre-Derby, Superintendent

Dear Parents, Colleagues and NUSD Community,

Thanks to each of you for your ongoing support in participating in school and districtwide events. With the uncertain stability of the economy, we must depend on local control to enhance programs for our students. We can no longer feel secure with Proposition 98 guarantee, because it is based on the growth or, in our case, decline, of the state general fund. The decline was announced as 50 cents on the dollar according to the Department of Education. Since the state budget is estimated to be down by 5-10 billion, then the minimum guarantee for Proposition 98 declines by 3-6 billion. This is devastating news.

One of our 2008-09 district goals, established by Trustees, is to pursue a local parcel tax extension. Our current rate is \$155.00 per parcel. The parcel tax first passed in 1992 and was renewed in 1997, and 2005, and expires in 2011. It produces approximately 2.4 million in revenue to support class size reduction K-3 and 9th grade, library and counseling programs, and technology. These are essential programs for our students.

On November 18, 2008, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Trustees will have a workshop to determine next steps in pursuing a parcel tax extension. It appears several other agencies are in process of determining if they will pursue local measures as well. They include:

- City of Novato
- County Library System
- Parks District
- Fire District

You are all invited to hear about potential steps in pursuing a parcel tax extension. Come to the Board Workshop from 5-7 p.m. on November 18, 2008, prior to our annual Board Recognition celebration to honor students and adults alike. This is an opportunity to secure local control of funding for our children.

Respectfully,
Dr. Jan La Torre-Derby
Superintendent

SCHOOL FUEL THANKS!!!

School Fuel has donated \$169,541 to districtwide programs for 2008-09. Thanks to each of you, our business partners, and Novato Community for supporting their many events.

June	Walk-a-thon Novato Chamber Art and Wine
July	Fourth of July Parade Fun Run
August	H & J Tires Shakespeare
September	Welcome back to schools
October	Bocce Tournament Haunted House
November	Matt & Jeff's
January	Paint the Town Red
March	Art Smart
April	Schools on the Move
May	Pan Napa

Through these tremendous volunteer efforts for all NUSD students, School Fuel is able to fund the following:

\$112,075	K-5 Music Teacher 6-12 Performing Arts Classes
\$ 15,000	Elementary Science Teacher Training
\$ 39,000	6-12 Science Materials and Equipment
\$ 1,311	Marin Oaks enrichment
\$ 1,254	NOVA Enrichment

We are grateful to the leadership including:

Board of Directors

Elizabeth Sleath, President
Kathryn Hansen, CFO
Berta Campos-Anicetti
Leslie Benjamin
Susan Mathews, Secretary
Sarah Sangster

Non-Voting Directors

Jan Derby
Cindi Clinton
Jennifer Treppa

Visit our Website at:
<http://www.nusd.org>

INSTRUCTION DIVISION

Kathy Marshall, Executive Director

Staff Development Day – Monday, November 10

On Monday, November 10, all K-12 teachers will participate in a full day of training and collaboration as Professional Learning Communities. Professional Learning Communities (PLC) embrace the fundamental purpose of school to be for student learning, and the focused PLC work of the NUSD instructional leadership and teaching staff has been to develop exceptional systems and practices to respond to these four critical questions:

1. What do we want students to Learn
2. How will we know when they have learned it?
3. What will we do if they don't learn it?
4. What will we do when students already know it?

The November 10th elementary teacher training will be led by Jeff King, former principal of Los Penasquitos Elementary School in the Poway Unified School District, and founder of TurnAround Schools and No Excuses University.

Secondary teachers will be working with their school sites teams to learn/refine their skills in analyzing student performance data; develop strategic standards-based common formative assessments to inform instruction; and create systems/climates that will respond to the four PLC questions.

PLC training will continue for all NUSD teaching staff at the next two staff development days: Monday, January 26 and Friday, February 13th.

There will be no school for students on November 10th, January 26th or February 13th. Please mark your calendars.



Novato Foundation for Public Education

<http://www.novatoschoolfuel.org/>

HUMAN RESOURCES

Louise Koenig, Director

During this year, Novato Unified School District will be honoring the longevity of all employees. In November, we will begin recognizing certificated employees with 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service to the District. These employees will be receiving recognition at the November 18th Board Meeting. The 5 and 10 year certificated employees and classified staff will be listed and recognized in the next few months. Please join us in congratulating the following employees for their dedicated service to our students.

40 Years

Marion Hickman

35 Years

Barbara Fitzgerald

Louise Koenig

Terry McBroom

Margaret Thornton

30 Years

Stephanie Bulich

Ronnie Campagna

Linda Danielson

Joanne Golden

Linda LaVere

Nancy Levinson

Kathleen McDougall

Marilyn Moreno

Stan Pelmear

Rosemarie Walwyn

Tom Zechlin

25 Years

Lolita Francis

Alexandra Nelson

HUMAN RESOURCES (continued)

20 Years

Suzanne Calmels

Carolyn Dodge

Monique Etchevers

Paula Freeman

Lois Gockel

Greta Goulden

Lynn Hanzel

Jill Heyer

Susan Jones

Fern Kepke

Linndsy Liddle

Enrica Merritt

Heidi Mortensen

Richard Pearlman

Gail Pertrucelli

Mary Pritchard

Jacquelyn Ratto

Virginia Saysette

Chris Spores

Kathleen Werner-Haulot

Lucy Wheeler

15 Years

Beth Bates-Stokes

Susan Bennett

Mary Beth

Lynne Boerio

George Bousquette

Vicki Brown

Barbara Burmaster

Laura Campbell

Carol Carson

Elizabeth Dunlavy

Carol England

Roxanne Foster

Dolores Garaventa

Karen Gordon

Cheryl Griffin

Carol Hammonds

Kathryn Koford

Heidi Kreuzberger

Susan Kruppa

Barbara Leiker

Judith Losik

Stephen Madson

Marilyn Murphy

Stephanie Ortega-Kennison

Mary Pozzi

Dale Ravazzini

Francine Rozoff

Najla Saba

Karen Skinner

Pamela Stutzman

Deborah Thompson

Barbara Tjernell

Marilyn Wada

David Weaver

Mark Whitburn

Sharon Zwerin