

VUSD UPDATE



January 2009
Alice Stewart

Vacaville Unified School District
751 School Street, Vacaville, California 95688

The Classified Professional Growth committee will meet on February 3, 2009. All "Request for Evaluation of Courses" forms must be submitted to Sharyl Palacio, in Human Resources, by January 30, 2009. **All request forms must be accompanied by a course description...if not, they will be considered incomplete and will be returned to you.**

Once your request form has been approved or disapproved by the committee, it will be returned to you. You must then submit your approval form and proof of completion To Sharyl Palacio, no later than February 28, 2009, to affect your April pay.

Common Mistakes:

- (1) Course description omitted or not attached. Proof of completion, grade cards, or transcripts are NOT considered a course description.
- (2) If you were on paid status at the time of the course, you CANNOT receive professional growth credits.
- (3) Proofs of Completion District In-service Classes do not need to be approved by the committee. Send the yellow proof of completion card to Sharyl Palacio in Personnel.

VACAVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

Vacaville Unified School District has made their selections for the Classified Employee of the Year Program. These six outstanding employees will have their names sent forward to the Solano County Office of Education. The County Selection Committee will examine all the candidates from the surrounding districts. The individuals who are chosen to represent the County will then be submitted to the statewide competition. In May 2009, the California State Department of Education will announce those selected as the Classified Employees of the Year for the State.

Congratulations to these six employees who make a positive difference for Vacaville students:

Child Nutrition: Debbie Heath - Courier

Maintenance and Operations: Liz Tillson - Head Custodian, Vaca Pena

Office and Technical: Betty Bradanini - School Secretary, Alamo

Para-Educator/Instructional Assistant - Paula Castro - Instructional Assistant, Cooper

Support Services and Security: Mike Foley - Campus Supervisor, Will C. Wood

Transportation: Debbie Painter - Bus Driver

ATTENTION VTA and S.E.I.U. MEMBERS!

The Vacaville Unified School District, in accord with the Vacaville Association of Classified Employees, SEIU Local 1021, and the Vacaville Teachers Association, has agreed to offer the following retirement/resignation notification incentive. This incentive is offered effective January 5, 2009 and expires February 6, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

For the 2008-2009 school year only, the District will pay a \$1,000.00 retirement/notification incentive payment to any permanent SEIU member or VTA member who, during the incentive-offer period, notifies the District of their intent to retire or resign from employment effective upon the completion of the member's contracted terms of employment. This incentive applies only to those unit members who completely separate their employment from the District. Members who are not full time will have their incentive payment prorated.

The retirement/resignation notification incentive payment will be included on the regular April 30, 2009 pay warrant to any permanent SEIU member who submits a non-revocable letter of intent to resign or retire to the District's Human Resources, and return it no later than February 2009.

Questions can be directed to Sharyl Palacio (SEIU), 453-6105 or Mary Hughes (VTA), 453-6108.





Address/Phone Number Changes!!

Please inform Human Resources immediately when your mailing address or phone number changes. Making these changes in H.R. affects your official district record.

Don't miss out on receiving important information like your W-2!

Click the following link to print a change of address form:

<http://www.vacavilleusd.org/apps/docs.asp?Q=384&R=Projects/10/Human%20Resources>

Highlight Your District in SCOE's Schools in Action!!

It's the start of a new year! SCOE offers a wonderful opportunity to highlight students, teachers, and programs that are making a difference in your school district. Schools in Action is published five-times-a-year at no cost to SCOE or local districts. The most recent issue was received just last week by over 40,500 parents, school employees and friends of Solano County schools. You can view it online at:

http://www.solanocoe.net/Project/291/Schools%20In%20Action/SchoolsinAction_8-08.pdf

Deadlines: March 2009 Issue

Deadline: January 16, 2009

In homes: March 15-20, 2009

June 2009 Issue

Deadline: April 3, 2009

In homes: June 1-5, 2009



OUR SCHOOLS

BUCKINGHAM:

Happy New Year! Students and staff are back and caught up in the rush of activities beginning with Spirit Week, Winter Ball, basketball games and Testing.

CALLISON:

Student Wellness raised \$370.00 in our annual Jingle Jog for charity for children's cancer research.

COOPER:

Congratulations to Teena Miller, 2nd grade teacher who welcomed her 3rd granddaughter, Scarlett on January 6, 2009. Scarlett weighed 8 pounds 10 ounces and measured 21 inches long.

Cooper's School Student Senate will be hosting a coat drive the week of January 12th through 16th. If you have any gently used coats you'd like to donate, please drop them off by the 16th.

HEMLOCK:

Congratulations to newlyweds Anthony Woo, a resource teacher at Hemlock who married Allegra on January 3, 2009. They honeymooned in Orlando, Florida (Disneyworld).

Second grade teacher Lenore Hubal is the proud grandmother of Adeline Lenette Jordan who was born December 10th weighing 8 lbs. and was 19 inches. Congratulations to parents Sarah & Jeff Jordan!



JEPSON:

Mark your calendars! Jepson's Music Department will once again present their outstanding USO Show on the evenings of March 13th and 14th, 2009. Over one hundred of Jepson's music students will play patriotic music, sing, dance, tell jokes and serve a delicious meal, all in the style of a 1940's-era USO Show. For the second year, it will be in the Copart Hangar at the Nut Tree Airport – the perfect venue to give you that feel of being part of a real USO Show. It's a great value and all proceeds benefit the Willis Jepson Music Department. Tickets can be purchased through Boosters President Janet Dosker (jdosker@vacavilleusd.org) or Gail Fay in Jepson's attendance office (gailf@vacavilleusd.org) or call 453-6280 ext. 106. We'll see you there!

Congratulations to the following music students for auditioning and being accepted into this year's North Bay Honor Band: Julie Hynson, clarinet; Adrian Howley, bass clarinet; Chelsea Wilson, horn; Connor Schwartz, trombone; Erik Polik, string bass; and Jack Alexander, timpani. North Bay Honor Band is a very prestigious group of middle schoolers and these students have worked hard on their instruments to be good enough to be chosen to participate this year. They will rehearse from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 16 and Saturday, January 17 and give the performance on Sunday, January 18 on the Dixon High School stage. We are proud of what you have accomplished!

MARKHAM:

On December 9, Travis Air Force Base came to Markham with their teddy bears for their annual Operation Teddy Bear event. Each kindergartener received a teddy bear from the men and women of Travis Air Force Base. Kindergartener's also received a demonstration on how to fold the American flag.

Markham's annual Winterfest Event took place on December 10th. It was a joyful occasion, good food, a great DJ and wonderful performances by the students including Mexican traditional dances from Markham's very own after school program (Class ACT) and a mini-show by our Chorus students led by Jack Petersen.

The Markham Chorus performed their Winter Extravaganza for Markham students on Friday, December 12. Students and staff agreed it was an outstanding performance.

The Warden and his staff from California Medical Facility and The California Peace Officers Association in their efforts to give back to the community, very generously chose Markham School students to "adopt" and make Christmas truly "merry." All 837 students were given gifts on the last day before leaving for Christmas break. All gifts were donated by employees of CMF.

Congratulations to Sofia Felix for completing her administrative credential from Sac State and she is now working on her masters.

ORCHARD:

Congratulations to Language Teacher Danielle Scheper and her husband on the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Tenaya Grace.

Orchard held their annual spelling bee on December 16th. The top three students who will participate in the city championships are Kaitlyn Richards, Tyler Bokum, and Kaitee Abernethy.

On January 23, Orchard will be having their annual "Sports" dress up day. Students and staff will dress in their favorite sport colors or attire.

1st Trimester AR classroom awards for Accelerated Reader are Mr. Bloom with 3,885,073 words and Mrs. Rivera with 633,164 words. Individual students awards for words read thru the Accelerated Reader Program are: Ashley Till, 669,855 words, Emily Silveira with 618,840 words, and Jack Hobbs with 196,183 words.



PADAN:

Padan will complete its third five-week session of WIN (What I Need) Time on January 23rd. In the development of a school-wide R+I system, all Padan students are provided with 45 minute sessions four times a week of targeted intervention or enrichment learning. General Education teachers, Special Education teachers, and Support Staff teachers collaborate extensively to determine student needs and work as teams to provide the learning opportunities in order to make a difference for our students. Observers are welcome! Love is in the air.... Mrs. Lynn Harrison will celebrate the marriage of her daughter Anastasia on February 14th.

Padan welcomes Mr. Phil McAlpin, their new speech therapist. Happy 2009 from everyone at Padan!

VACA PENA :

Vaca Pena is excited about the purchase of 18 new computers for their library. We are truly becoming a media center! Vaca Pena is also happy to report that our Library Tech, Gale Keune is recovering well from her recent back surgery. Our thanks to Claudia Samolis who has filled in during Gale's absence.

VACAVILLE HIGH:

The Chinese Cultural Club at Vacaville High would like to invite all to attend their Chinese New Year celebration on Friday, January 13th at 6:00 p.m. at the Ulatis Cultural Center. The cost is \$25.00 per person. Tickets can be purchased in room 41 at Vaca High or contact Paul Cheng at (707) 514-6707 or email: paulc@vacavilleusd.org. This event is a fundraiser for the club for a possible trip in June to China.



WILL C. WOOD:

Will C. Wood would like to extend an invitation to the public to join them on January 24 and January 31 from 9-12 for an open house. This is for anyone interested in enrolling their student at Will C. Wood. A guided tour will be provided of the new facilities.

On Thursday, December 11, 2008, the GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) sponsored a blood drive at Will C. Wood. There were so many students waiting in line to donate blood that this event did not finish until 3:43 p.m., when blood was drawn from the last student. It takes at least two potential donors to get one pint of blood. There are a variety of reasons why a potential donor can be turned away, however; final tally for the day's blood drive: 120 units registered, 73 of which were usable. The number of people who turned out for this event was outstanding. Another drive is planned again in the spring. For more information contact Greg Ciapponi at GregC@vacavilleusd.org

GATE!!

VUSD GATE hosted the **Northern California FIRST LEGO League Regional Qualifying Tournament** at Will C. Wood High School on Saturday, 13 December 2008.

Our community had 4 teams competing amongst the 12 total teams from across Northern California. Vacaville Unified was represented by the Wall-Ebots and team Short Circuit. Travis Unified fielded: the Lil' Einsteins and The Dancing Tacos. The competition consisted of three closed judging components: Teamwork, Robot Design and Project Presentation. The project was driven by this year's Climate Connections Challenge. The fourth component of the tournament consisted of live 'Robot Games.' The students had three attempts- each lasting 2.5 minutes- to complete a series of climate related challenges with their autonomous robot that they designed. The tournament culminated with the selection of the first place team in each of the four components. Team Wall-Ebot was overwhelmed with winning the Teamwork Award! Even more exciting, was the announcement that team Short Circuit advanced to the State competition at Newark Memorial High School on Sunday, 25 January 2009! Thanks to all the staff, administration and volunteers that made this our 'FIRST' annual tournament a great day!

What's new for '09?

Saturday, 24 January '09 – Elementary Enrichment Event, '*Dramapalooza*' will take place at J & S Center for the Performing Arts in Vacaville. The 'GATERS' will enjoy a morning or afternoon of acting, voice and dance at the Studio.

Sunday, 25 January '09: FIRST LEGO League State Competition at Newark Memorial High School – support team Short Circuit

Saturday, 7 February 2009 – Middle School GATE '*Move it .. Move it..*' exploration of fitness at Fitwize4kids studio in Vacaville. The Middle School GATE Students will connect with strategies to build life-long strategies for healthy living.

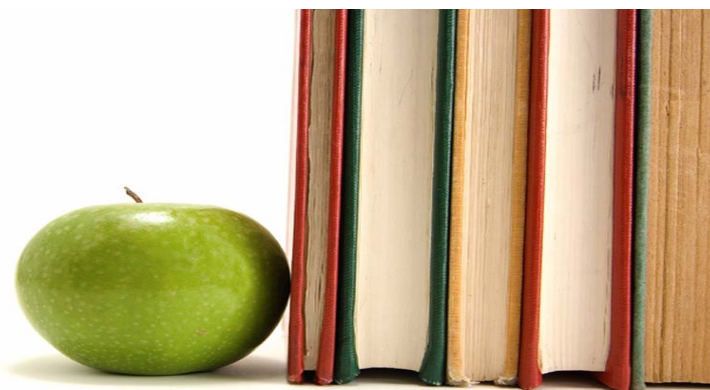
Saturday, 28 February 2009 – Odyssey of the Mind Regional Tournament at Natomas High School

Also, the Academic Talent Search [summer enrichment coursework administrated by Sac State] will include 4th & 5th graders this year. In the past, the courses were available to students in grades 6-9. A student must complete the Qualifying Exam to participate. For more information, contact the GATE Office – jbucsko@vacavilleusd.org

Solano County Reading Association's
34th Annual Writing Contest

Do you have outstanding student writers in need of an audience? Enter your best student writing in the **Solano County Reading Association's 34th annual Writing Contest!** Categories are poetry, story, and expository writing. Entries are due Wednesday, March 4. For details on submitting entries, check the January SCRA newsletter which will be at your school this week or log on to www.solanoreaders.org for complete information. Winning entries from all over Solano County are published in an Anthology. Each winning student is honored at an awards program in April and receives a copy of the Anthology---and officially becomes a "published author"!

If you are a writer, the Educator's Writing Contest may be your outlet for sharing your best writing. Educators from all over Solano County can enter their best writing online at www.solanoreaders.org. Entries are due March 4. Winners receive recognition at the April awards program and fabulous prizes! Details for entries are on the SCRA website.



Services and Advertisements:

Beauticontrol:

Try Beauticontrol! SPA quality products for at-home prices.

www.beutipage.com/brendahensley

For Rent:

Vacation Rental, South Lake Tahoe, 3 bedrooms/1.5 baths. All amenities included. From \$135.00 per night. Contact: Aileen Bottoms (707) 372-4713. or Joyce Zervas (707) 628-3578.

For Rent:

3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1700 sq. ft. house, large living and family rooms, formal dining room, and kitchen nook, beautiful in-ground pool, laundry room. Located in a quiet North Vacaville neighborhood; Chinook Court. Pool and yard service included. \$1800.00 monthly. Contact Kappel and Kappel realty 446-0847 or Gina Harless at 688-7467.

For Rent:

One bedroom Granny flat. Around the corner from Orchard School. All utilities paid, \$1,000.00. per month. If interested call 452-1234.

For Sale:

High definition 1080i, DLP Mitsubishi, 52 inch color TV w/stand in perfect condition, \$750. This HD TV is only 4 years old; has clear glass protective screen. A DVD player is included at no charge. If interested, call (707) 301-1131 or (707) 447-7371.

For Sale:

Wall bed - like Murphy bed but better: hydraulic system makes lowering/closing easy, very comfortable queen guest bed, housed in cupboard (looks like modern wardrobe). Worth thousands asking \$500. Must be moved by January 18th. Call 447-3579 if interested.

Free:

Vending machine. Sells eight selections of canned drinks. Needs minor repairs. If interested call Carolyn Patton or Vivian Powell at Callison Elementary School 453-6250.

Tickets:

Kings basketball tickets for the 2008-2009 season, 2 seats for every game, section 115, row K, seat 3 and 4, \$250.00 per game. Call Seth Cooley (530) 304-0161.

Vacation Time:

Classic Kenya Safari, July 15-24, 2009. Cost \$3587 per person plus airfare. All meals, lodging, guide, driver, park entrance fees inclusive. Daily animal safaris

and cultural experiences including visits to villages and local schools. For more information contact Patty Thayer at (707) 301-7326 or patty@thayertours.com

Vacation Time:

Time Share for rent in Cancun at the Avalon Resort. Unit has 2 bedrooms and 2/3 bathrooms. The unit also has a living room and small kitchen. Resort is in a great location. The week can be used at any time or as many weeks as needed. \$1000.00 per week. If interested call Adriane Boykin at (707) 689-1668.

Interested in Traveling?

The Vacaville High School Travel Club is taking their inaugural trip to Japan in 2010. They will be visiting Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima and Osada with side visits to Kamakur and Enoshima. The trip is booked thru EF Tours and insurance is available through the tour company. (Trip number 643422) If interested please contact Desiree Nothstine at Desireen@vacavilleusd.org

