



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

Health Insurance Changes During NON-Open Enrollment

Marriage - 60 days from date of marriage

Birth of Baby - 60 days from date of birth

Change of part-time to 50% or more - 60 days from date of change

If any of the above changes occur during a non-open enrollment period, teachers and administrators should call Mary Hughes, ext. 6108; classified employees should call Sharyl Palacio, ext. 6105, as soon as possible, to schedule an appointment to enroll in the District benefit plans.

If you do not enroll within 60 days of the change, you will not be able to enroll until the next open enrollment period.

403 (b) Changes & Review of Procedures

In Accordance with the Education code, employees may elect to have their monthly salary reduced and the sum transmitted to an investment company providing IRS Section 403(b) options. Voluntary participation is available to ALL employees.

403(b) plans were previously “non-administered,” and participants were able to process transactions such as withdrawals and loans directly with the investment company. **IRS REGULATIONS HAVE CHANGED, AND EMPLOYER OVERSIGHT IS REQUIRED.**

The District’s 403(b) program is now administered by a third-party administrator, the TDS Group. Questions regarding vendors, withdrawals, loans, transfers, funds distribution, and employee rights and benefits should be directed to their toll-free number, 800-542-5829. Postage-paid envelopes are available in Human Resources.

Employees are responsible for selecting an investment fund. A list of approved companies is available in Human Resources, and on the VUSD website:

[Http://www.vacavilleusd.org/apps/docs.asp?Q=385&R=Projects/10](http://www.vacavilleusd.org/apps/docs.asp?Q=385&R=Projects/10)
<https://www.403bcompare.com/Employee/MyEmployer/EmployerDetail.aspx?eid=103405>

The employee must contact the company they select to establish an account. After an account is established, the employee must complete a 403(b) Salary Reduction Authorization form. Forms are available in Human Resources and on the websites above.

Completed forms must be returned to Human Resources by the 5th of the month to be effective that month.

Alison Eeds Selected as 2009 Solano County Teacher of the Year

The Solano County Office of Education is delighted to announce that Alison Eeds, a social science teacher at Vacaville High School was selected as the 2009 Solano County Teacher of the Year on October 16, 2008.

Alison has been a teacher in our district for four years. She has a wonderful personality, a quick wit and a zest for learning. We are very proud of Alison being selected as the Solano County Teacher of the Year and we look forward to her participating in the California State Teacher of the Year Program.

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

MARKHAM:

Congratulations to Dianne and Jim Meyers who became grandparents on Monday, October 20. Their daughter Kelly had a baby girl weighing 8 lbs. 3 oz. and measuring 21 inches.

SPICE held a cultural program for their students celebrating Day of the Dead, November 1 and 2. SPICE students participated in activities throughout the last week of October.

Congratulations to Jaileen Lopez and George Lizarraga, Markham Elementary students for coming in second place on the kicking, passing and punting during the Vacaville High football game.

Markham Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) held its annual triathlon fundraiser Monday, October 27th. The students participated in reading, math or jogging school wide.

VACA PREP:

Vaca Prep was off to a smooth start this school year. We're pleased to welcome Bill Cavanaugh to our staff and look forward to a successful year.

FAIRMONT:

Lila Regan is pleased to announce that her husband Michael recently celebrated his 30th anniversary to the Priesthood.

GIRLS SCOUTS:

Girl Scout Troup 105 will be holding a recycling and coat drive on Sunday, November 16th in the parking lot at Longs. They will donate the coats and take all of the proceeds from the recycling and put it into their tree that will be auctioned off at festival of the trees, which benefits Opportunity House. For more information call 707-334-2055.

GATE PROGRAM

GATE 08/09 has gotten off to a wonderful start! The KICK-OFF Elementary Event entitled, **Picture This!** engaged over 250 students from both VUSD and TUSD (Travis Unified remains in collaboration with our GATE Program this year once again.) on Wednesday, October 1, 2008 at Vacaville High. The instructors from STAR Education delivered STOP Motion Animation and Painting with Light in learning centers that lasted for approximately 1 ½ hours. With the support of the STAR Education instructors and GATE Student Mentors, the students designed short productions and captured them digitally. The team from STAR has downloaded the images and built a link to the web for students to view their “pix”. The link to their products can be viewed on the GATE Program Web page on the district site or at: www.starsacramento.org/picturethis

This evening culminated in the challenge for students to enter a photography contest that will occur next spring.

Middle School GATE opened on Wednesday, October 29 at Vaca Pena Middle School. MS ‘GATERS’ explored the world of Robotics once again under the guidance of STAR Education. The students engaged in learning centers that included navigating obstacle course, exploring BOT Culture and a journey into the ‘Uncanny Valley.’ The evening culminated with a light dinner from Mary’s Pizza Shack and raffle prizes.

Gifted and Talented Opportunities to round out the year include Language exploration with IES Language Foundation at Elementary and Middle School, Health and Wellness with the support of Fitwize 4Kids Studio, ‘Dramapalooza’ with the J & S Center for the Performing Arts to name a few.

As far as competitions VUSD GATE will field two teams at the Northern California Lego League Qualifying Tournament which will be held on Saturday, December 13 at Will C. Wood High! Please plan to join us for the live portion of the “ROBO Games” that afternoon. Other opportunities remain within the design of our Mini-Tree for the Festival of Trees, Odyssey of the Mind creative problem-solving competition and last but not least, the Novel Knowledge Reading Enrichment Program.

For more information please check out our page on the school website: www.Vacavilleusd.org click on the link on the left down about 10... and explore.

Services and Advertisements:

Midas Neighborhood Special:

The Midas store in Vacaville is offering a service card for \$20.00. Card includes free oil change, free tire rotation, free battery charge test plus many other specials. Call Marc at 925-673-6131 if interested.

Field Trips:

Gold Prospecting Adventures of Jamestown, California is offering California History classes. They have an 1849 mining camp in Jamestown and will also come to your classroom.

Beauticontrol:

Try Beauticontrol! SPA quality products for at-home prices.
www.beutipage.com/brendahensley

Amtrak Snow Train:

Reyes Syndrome/Barb Ortiz is sponsoring an Amtrak Snow Train Reno Weekend for January 18-19. Price is \$150.00 per person/double occupancy or \$170.00 for singles. There are many bonuses included along with one night's stay at the Nugget. For more information please contact Barb Ortiz at 448-8084.

Thanksgiving in Hawaii:

Timeshare in Maui available for the week we are out on Thanksgiving Break. Sleeps four, full kitchen, washer/dryer, and many other amenities included in the unit. \$1000.00 for the week. Contact Sandy Ohara 707-888-5169.

Vacation Rental:

South Lake Tahoe, 3 miles to casinos, 3 bedroom, 1.5 baths, sleeps 8 from \$75.00 a night. Contact Aileen Bottoms at 372-4713 if interested.

For Rent:

Cute cottage looking duplex, newly renovated in Dixon. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, AC and other amenities. Fully fenced yard, garage. A must see. \$1,250.00 a month rent, \$1,000.00 deposit. Call 916-216-8691 anytime. Available anytime.

Ironwood Condominiums:

Looking for a place to stay? Try Ironwood Condominiums located at 212 Brookdale drive in Vacaville. www.ironwoodvacaville.com

Puppies! Puppies!

For sale, two female golden retriever puppies, \$550.00 each. Born August 16, 2008. They were ready for their new home October 11th. If interested please contact karenbeeby@yahoo.com or call Hemlock Elementary School.

For Sale:

1996 Honda LX 4 door Accord. 182,500 miles. Mainly commute miles; new tires and major tune up in June; color sage. Very clean and reliable. \$3000.00 or best offer. Contact Katherine Epstein at (707) 344-2308 if interested.

For Sale:

Bedroom set (pine): 2 night stands, dresser w/8 drawers, mirror and King/Queen headboard \$200.00/OBO. (707) 365-9100 ask for Cheri.

For Sale:

A variety of end tables (some need paint and/or sanding), small desk, Thomasville headboard and footboard/oak and matching long dresser with mirror/very nice - \$200.00 OBO, teak table - like new with 4 chairs - \$150.00 OBO. Call Teri at 628-7710 or 446-1135.

CHS Art Department:

Needs donations for mosaics. Colorful glass rocks (aquarium type, dishes not pottery dishes) of unusual patterns and bright colors, old mirror, colorful tile, stained glass, etc. Also needed scrap wood of any type. Pickup can be arranged. Call Teri at 628-7710.