



Reminders:

- Apr 6: Open House 6pm
- Apr 6: Nicasio Community Talent Show 7pm MPR
- Apr 7: Early (12pm NOON) Dismissal All Grades (K-8)
- Apr 10-14: SCHOOL CLOSED Spring Break

Recordatorios:

- Apr 6: Casa Abierta 6pm
- Apr 6: Presentación de talento de la Comunidad Nicasio 7pm MPR
- Apr 7: Salida Temprana (MEDIODIA) Todos los grados (K-8)
- Apr 10-14: ESCUELA CERRADA Receso de Primavera

April 6, 2017

Dear Nicasio Families,

On Wednesday, we had a school assembly. Congratulations to **Sophia S., Krystal A.** and **Ridge B.** who received recognition for demonstrating last month's pillar "Fairness". Also congratulations to our Students of the Month, **Anna D., Adam U.** and **Trystan S.** These exemplary students were selected by their peers. Finally, congrats to our Teacher of the Month, **Judith Kirkland.** Thank you for all that you do for our students and community, Ms. Judith! Our student council did a wonderful job running the show and introducing this month's pillar, "Empathy".



Tonight is our **Open House** from **6pm to 7 pm.** This is a great opportunity for your students to show off their classroom and all of their hard work. Immediately following will be our **Nicasio Community Talent Show**, starting at **7 pm.** I am excited to see all of our Nicasio talent on display. BIG thanks to Monica Snell for organizing what is sure to be a great show!

The annual Nicasio Parent Survey is coming soon! This is an important tool to provide your input for our school's Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). The survey is on-line and will take just minutes to complete. Paper copies will also be available in the main office. The survey link will be distributed through email... stay tuned! Thank you in advance for participating.

Finally, the bench near the main office has seen better days and is no longer safe for our kids to use. If anyone has a replacement they would like to donate to our school, it would be much appreciated.

I hope you have a fun, relaxing, rejuvenating Spring Break next week. I look forward to seeing the students again on **Monday, April 17th!**

Sincerely,
Barbara Snekkevik

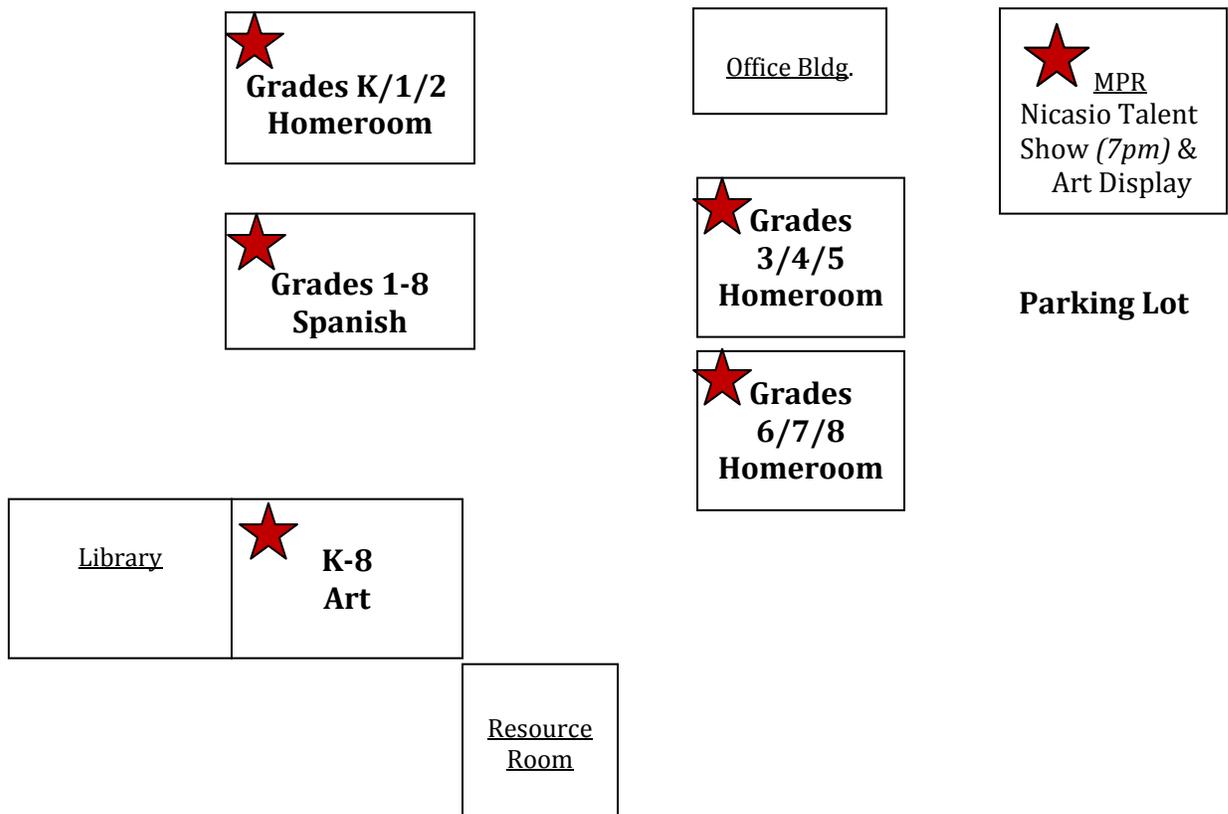
Nicasio School Open House

JOIN US

Thursday, April 6, 2017

6pm – 7pm, *Open Campus*

Join us in a celebration of our students' accomplishments under the guidance of an outstanding team of educators. Classrooms are open to all visitors; feel free to move about the campus to view the various works on display. Nicasio School students are expected to be "tour guides" leading parents through the display areas. **All children must remain under the supervision of their parents at all times.**



 Visit these classrooms to view student work and curriculum on display.



Talent Show Bake Sale Thursday, April 6th

After our Open House (6-7pm), all the school is invited to watch the Nicasio Talent Show (7pm in the MPR). And because it will be an active night, we thought a bake sale would be fun!

Please help support the bake sale by bringing a tasty treat to share with the school, something sweet or something savory.

All the proceeds go back to our lovely school!!!

Please contact me so we have an idea of what folks are bringing. All items can be dropped off during Open House in the MPR kitchen.

See you Thursday night!

~Annadel

P.S. Please remember to only bring nut-free items.

Thank you!



Nicasio

April 6th 2017

7pm

thursday

Nicasio School
Multi-purpose Room

5555 Nicasio Valley Rd
and
a Bake Sale, too!

Talent
Show

All Ages Welcome!



5555 Nicasio Valley Road, Nicasio, CA 94946

☎ 415.662.2184 / 📠 415.662.2250 / www.nicasioschool.org

Dear Parent or Guardian,

April 5, 2017

California's academic standards—the things we want students to know and be able to do—are designed so students graduate ready for college and a career. One way we measure their progress is through the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) assessments. Students across California in grades 3–8 and high school take these assessments each spring. These tests were created specifically to gauge each student's performance in English language arts/literacy (ELA), mathematics, and science. These tests measure the skills called for by the academic standards, including the ability to write clearly, think critically, and solve problems.

This year, your child will take the following tests:

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for ELA and mathematics
- The California Science Test- Pilot Test for students in grades 5 and 8

The Smarter Balanced ELA and mathematics tests reflect California's rigorous academic standards and allow students to demonstrate analytical writing and critical thinking skills as well as their knowledge of facts. In 2017, parents will be able to compare results across **three years** (2014–15, 2015–16, and 2016–17) to determine their child's progress in meeting the standards. (Exceptions: Only two years of data will be reported for students in grade 4, and only one year of data will be reported for students in grade three.)

To learn more about these tests, please visit CDE's Test Score Guide Web site at <http://www.testscoreguide.org/ca>, which provides informative guides and test score descriptions as well as sample test items at different levels of difficulty.

Other great resources are the Practice and Training Tests, which can be found on the CDE's Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp>. Here, parents can experience the kinds of questions that students will encounter on the tests.

Please see the reverse side of this letter to learn more about the assessments required by the state of California.

If you have any questions regarding your child's participation in statewide assessments, please contact Mikki McIntyre at (415) 662-2184.

Sincerely,

Barbara Snekkevik
Principal

Frequently Asked Questions about California's Required Assessments

How does the California Department of Education assess student learning?

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) is an assessment of grade-level learning that measures progress toward college and career readiness for students in grades 3-8 and grade 11. The CAASPP assesses student skills in English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics and is completed on a computer or Chromebook using a secure on-line browser.

The CAASPP is different from previous ways of assessing student learning. It is comprised of two parts: (1) a computer adaptive test and (2) a performance task.

What is a computer adaptive test? As a student answers questions, the computer adaptive test will select the difficulty of items throughout the assessment based on the student's responses. By adapting to the student as he or she responds, the test is individually tailored and provides more accurate scores for all students.

What is a performance task? A performance task is an extended activity that measures a student's ability to integrate his or her knowledge and skills across multiple standards to analyze a complex, real-world scenario. Students will complete performance tasks in both English Language/Arts and Mathematics using a computer or Chromebook.

How will science be assessed? California's new state standards for science call for students to think and work like scientists and engineers—asking questions and learning through hands-on investigation and discovery. Working with science teachers, California is developing a new assessment that emphasizes scientific thinking and reasoning. This year students in grades 5 and 8 will participate in the tryout of test items for this future assessment. While this tryout will not provide scores for you child, it is an important first step in developing an assessment that will fairly and accurately measure how students are achieving on the new science standards. Students will complete this test using a computer or Chromebook. For additional information about the new science tests and sample questions, please visit the CDE's CAASPP Science Assessment Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppscience.asp>.

Exemption Procedure- Parents or guardians may request an exemption for their child from all or parts of the CAASPP System for the current school year. All requests must be submitted in writing to office@nicasioschool.org

For more information, please visit the following resources:

California Department of Education's website
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caasppreports.asp>

Parent Guide to the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments (Grades 3-5)
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/sbparentgde35.pdf>

Parent Guide to the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments (Grades 6-8)
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/sbparentgde68.pdf>

**NICASIO SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

MINUTES

~ Regular Meeting ~

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 5:00 PM

Nicasio School Library 5555 Nicasio Valley Road, Nicasio CA

1. Initial Matters

- a. **Call to Order** at 5pm
- b. **Roll Call** In attendance: **Trustees Madeleine Sloane, Michelle Rutledge and Jason Snell.**
Also in attendance: Superintendent Tom Lohwasser, Principal Barbara Snekkevik and Interim Business Official Margie Bonardi

2. Open Session Agenda

- a. **Patriotic Moment** in recognition of how fortunate we are to live in this town, state and country.
- b. **Approval and Adoption of Open Session Agenda**
Action: M/S: Sloane/Rutledge to approve and adopt Open Session Agenda **Vote: 3/0**
Ayes: Rutledge, Sloane, Snell; Noes: None

3. Public Comment *There was no public comment.*

4. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes: February 2, 2017 Regular Meeting of Board of Trustees
- b. Ratify Warrants Paid: Jan. 27 – Feb 15, 2017
Action: M/S: Sloane/Rutledge to approve Consent Agenda with the exception of the minutes, which were not available for this agenda packet. Vote: 3/0 *Ayes: Rutledge, Sloane, Snell; Noes: None*

5. Reports & Announcements

- a. **Water System Update** Holly McArthur was not available to attend the meeting, however, Supt. Lohwasser said that last month's report was very positive and that the District "is getting very close" (to submitting the water system upgrade funding application to the state).
- b. **Principal's Report** *Principal Snekkevik reported the following:*
 - The first days of transition into her new position are going well, Principal Snekkevik said, adding that she has met with Nancy Neu, Margie Bonardi, Mark Tong and Christy Stocker, each of whom has shared valuable information and advice relevant to her principal role. She also said she received a lovely welcome from the Parent Club, and has enjoyed visiting classrooms and meeting individually with each staff member.

- She reported that at the student assembly earlier in the day, student awards were given out for modeling the pillar of “responsibility.” Additionally, K/1/2 Teacher Ellian Klein was selected as “Teacher of the Month.”
- Principal Snekkevik met with staff during the Wednesday afternoon PLC meeting to discuss report cards, grading policies and upcoming activities and events.
- In response to a trustee inquiry, Principal Snekkevik said she has received helpful guidance from Nancy Neu and Christy Stocker regarding prioritization of projects.

a. **Superintendent’s Report** *Supt. Lohwasser reported the following:*

- The District has cancelled school four days due to weather-related power outages this year and the maximum number permitted by the state is five, according to Dr. Lohwasser. He said Dixie School District uses a communication system - ConnectEd - that is more effective than a phone tree for notifying parents about school closure and other important information. He is working on getting Nicasio School included in that service at no charge.
- There was discussion about the District’s needs during power outages i.e. how much power is needed, what needs to be powered (e.g. bathrooms and heat), and whether the District can join Nicasio Volunteer Fire Department’s conversation about securing an emergency generator for the campus.
- Supt. Lohwasser reported attending the countywide superintendents meeting earlier in the day where there was discussion about heightened anxiety among students and families due to gender issues and immigration laws. He will provide updated information to the District trustees and principal about resources and communications related to ensuring the safety of children at school.

c. **Trustees’ Report**

- Trustee Rutledge said she would like to address the topic of technology in schools as it pertains to child internet protection. There was also discussion about the District’s participation in the E-rate discount for internet services. Interim Business Official Margie Bonardi will follow up with MCOE on that issue.

6. **Business Services**

- a. **Approve 2016-17 2nd Interim Budget Report** *Discussion:* Interim Business Official Margie Bonardi presented an overview of the 2nd Interim Budget. She said the Federal grant has decreased by approximately \$10,000, and that the 3-year projections call for STRS and PERS (teacher and classified employee retirement) rates to go up significantly. It was noted that although the District will be deficit spending, it is currently meeting all of its reserve levels. Margie cautioned that because the District is so small, one event could wipe out that reserve. Supt. Lohwasser observed that the District is not in the crisis that some other districts are facing. Trustee Sloane inquired whether it is time to consider the issue of interdistrict transfers (IDTs) and how they impact the budget. She noted that a year ago, the Board discussed the possibility of no longer accepting IDTs and reducing the teaching staff from three to two. She said that this issue, including its budgetary implications, should be addressed by the entire Nicasio community, as has been done in the past. Supt. Lohwasser advised continued acceptance of IDTs for now and looking at the policy at a later date. He recommended that the budget conversation (including members of the community) take place in the fall.

Action: **M/S: Sloane/Rutledge** to Approve 2016-17 2nd Interim Budget Report **Vote: 3/0** Ayes: Rutledge, Sloane, Snell; Noes: None

b. **Approve Form J-13A Request for Allowance of Attendance Because of Emergency Conditions**

Action: **M/S: Sloane/Rutledge** to Approve Form J-13A Request for Allowance of Attendance Because of Emergency Conditions **Vote: 3/0** Ayes: Rutledge, Sloane, Snell; Noes: None

7. **Personnel**

a. **Approval to Hire Barbara Snekkevik as .6FTE Principal for 2016-17**

Action: **M/S: Sloane/Rutledge** to Approve Hiring of Barbara Snekkevik as .6FTE Principal for 2016-17 **Vote: 3/0** Ayes: Rutledge, Sloane, Snell; Noes: None

8. **Administrative/Governance**

a. **Approve Enrollment Capacities for Interdistrict Attendance Requests into Nicasio School District for 2017-18**

Discussion: Supt. Lohwasser suggested tabling the item until April in order to gather input from classroom teachers regarding capacity limits.

There was no action: Item tabled

b. **Approve 2017-18 Annual Calendar** *Discussion:* The Board was advised that the revised calendar reflects the alignment of the school year start date with that of Drake High School. There was discussion about the Thanksgiving break, and it was stated that the break is highly valued by staff. Trustee Rutledge said she feels that once November begins, education seems to halt. Principal Snekkevik said she would query teachers on their perspective about the fall calendar and report back to the Board.

Action: **M/S: Sloane/Rutledge** to grant *preliminary* approval of 2017-18 Annual Calendar **Vote: 3/0** Ayes: Rutledge, Sloane, Snell; Noes: None

c. **Approve Resolution 2016-17 #5 Election Law SB415** *Discussion:* Supt. Lohwasser provided information about how districts countywide are responding to the new law. He said if the resolution is not approved, the District will be off-cycle, which will require calling for and paying for a special election. While agreeing to extend her term by one year, Trustee Sloane advised that the Board needs to search for new members to succeed outgoing trustees. Supt. Lohwasser said that if a trustee chooses to leave before his/her term expires, the Board will interview and select an interim trustee to fulfill the term.

Action: **M/S: Sloane/Rutledge** to **Approve Resolution 2016-17 #5 Election Law SB415** **ROLL CALL Vote: 3/0** Ayes: Rutledge, Sloane, Snell; Noes: None

d. **Discuss 2017 Golden Bell Nominees** *Discussion:* The trustees were unanimous in their support for nominating Mikki McIntyre as the District's classified Golden Bell honoree for 2017.

9. **Conclusion**

a. **Agenda Planning**

- Water System Upgrade, Classroom Capacities for IDTs, LCAP
- The next regular Board meeting is March 30th

b. **Adjournment**

Action: **M/S: Sloane/Rutledge** to adjourn meeting **Vote: 3/0** Ayes: Rutledge, Sloane, Snell; *Noes:* None

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Snekkevik

Unadopted Adopted

Madeleine Sloane, Clerk

Raffle Ticket Sales

Our annual fundraiser theme this year is "Night of the Coyote Barn Dance", located at the Kozubik barn on May 6th. All children in the school will receive a packet of 7 raffle tickets. More tickets are available in the school office. As per our tradition, the class that sells the most tickets wins an Ice Cream Party!!

Raffle tickets are \$20 apiece and the winner will be announced the night of the fundraiser. You do not need to be present to win. Please ask the person to fill out his/her information on the raffle ticket. They can either give you the entire ticket back, or they can tear off and retain the stub, and give you the remaining portion of the ticket with their information on it. Please return the raffle tickets and cash to the school office. Each class will have their own envelope.

Good luck selling raffle tickets. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Skapik or Mariefrance Coté.

Thanks so much!!

Nicasio School Foundation Committee

A Nicasio
School Foundation
Fundraiser

Live Music by
Full Steam
Boogie with
DJ Donger

May 6th

**NIGHT of the
COYOTE**
BARN DANCE



\$55 Includes Dinner
& Entertainment

6 PM to 11 PM

★ Silent Auction ★

★ \$20 Raffle tickets for

\$500 Cash Prize
\$100 Saltwater Inverness
Nick's Cove Gift Certificate
Scoop Gift Certificate

 **Park'n'Shuttle**

Park in Nicasio Town Square then
take our shuttle service to and
from the barn.



CAREFUL!

Runners are on the road
for an overnight race.



To purchase tickets
& get more info go to
www.nicasiosf.org

Adults 21+ Only



PO Box 543, Nicasio, CA 94946 - Tel 415.237.3218 - Tax ID # 68-0394561

Board of Directors

Mark Burton, *President*
Mariefrance Coté, *Vice-President*
Laura Skapik, *Treasurer*
Annadel Dong, *Secretary*
Patty Winkelmann, *Parent Liaison*
Matt Katics, *Board Member*

March 23, 2017

Hello! We are looking for donations for our school raffle/auction benefitting the Nicasio School Foundation. The dinner and auction will take place at our annual Nicasio spring fundraiser on Saturday May 6th, 2017. We hope that you can help support our public school and the children of Nicasio.



Why are we asking for your help? The “Nicasio Night of the Coyote Barn Dance” is this year’s major fundraising event for the Nicasio School Foundation, which provides the financial backing for enrichment programs at Nicasio School, including Art, Performing Arts, Spanish and Physical Education. These are important programs that are critical to providing a well-rounded education for children, but are no longer funded by the State of California or the county. The proceeds generated from the “Barn Dance” will go directly to funding our enrichment classes for the coming 2017-2018 school year.

What is the benefit to you? Not only will you be supporting education in our area (and we thank you!), but you will also receive positive PR and marketing! This can increase your exposure in our community and beyond.

Why is community support so important? From the days of the one-room schoolhouse to the present, Nicasio School has been able to not only change with the times but also prosper due to strong support from the local community. Because of friends-of-the-school such as you, we are able to continue Nicasio School’s 154-year tradition of providing public school education for the children of West Marin.

The Nicasio School Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that is the fundraising organization for Nicasio School. Our Tax ID is # 68-0394561.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Laura Skapik, Treasurer, Nicasio School Foundation
lauraskapik@comcast.net
(925) 330-0548



PO Box 543, Nicasio, CA 94946 - Tel 415.237.3218 - Tax ID # 68-0394561

Thank you for your donation! This **In-Kind Donation Form** will allow us to properly record and acknowledge your generous gift. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Skapik at lauraskapik@comcast.net or (925)-330-0548. Please mail or email any materials we might use to market your item(s), promote your company, or decorate our auction/raffle poster board.

Event: Nicasio Barn Dance, Fundraiser – May 6, 2017

Date of Donation: _____

Company/Organization Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Item Description	Number of Items	Donor Stated Fair Market Value
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
TOTAL		\$

For Office Use Only

Approval: _____

Date: _____