



Nicasio School News

Summer 2016

From the Principal

(Editor's Note: Following is an excerpt of an email sent by Principal Christy Stocker in late June):

"Sending this email is my final act as principal and teacher of Nicasio School. It has truly been a privilege working with all of you these past 10 years to provide an incredible school community for all of us to share.

Many thanks especially to **Monica Snell, Madeleine Sloane** and **Mike Ingerman, and Mikki McIntyre** for planning a wonderful goodbye party for me a couple of weeks ago. It was a special evening and a perfect night that filled me with your love and appreciation. Thank you for joining me that evening and providing a memorable send-off!

I am leaving behind an amazing team
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August 17th
1st Day of School!
8:40a-12:45p (Gr. K) 8:40a-2p (Gr.1-8)

Upcoming Events and Activities

- * **Campus Cleanup**
Sunday, August 14th 9am-Noon
- * **First Day of School**
(WACKY) Wednesday, August 17th
Student Drop-off 8:15-8:30am
Classes begin 8:40am
Dismissal: 12:45pm (Kinder.) & 2:00pm (Grades 1-8)
- * **Back to School Coffee & Tea**
Wednesday, August 17th
8:15-9:15am in School Garden
Hosted by Parent Club
- * **Nicasio School Board Meeting**
Thursday, September 1st
5pm in Library
- * **Labor Day Holiday**
Monday, September 5th
SCHOOL CLOSED
- * **Back-to-School Night**
Thursday, September 15th

Nicasio School Community Celebrates Graduation of Six 8th Grade Students

A large contingent of the Nicasio School community was in attendance on the evening of June 9th when the six members of the 8th grade "Class of 2016" delivered heartfelt speeches about their experiences at Nicasio School. The six graduates, *(pictured, l-r)* are **Esmeralda Fernandez, Isabella Granelli, Ellierose Jackson, Elly Padilla, Gavrie Seybold** and **Winter Snell**. *Congratulations and best wishes to each of our stellar graduates!*



Miss Ellian's Kindergarteners Celebrate Completion of First Year of School

The five kindergarteners in **Ellian Klein's K/1/2 class** celebrated their first year at Nicasio School on June 9th with a special ceremony at which they each received a "Certificate of Completion". The pomp and circumstance featured a processional by the mortarboard-wearing scholars who entertained the entire school body with a selection of (adorable) songs under the leadership of **Classroom Instructional Assistant Erica Sommers**.

Congratulations to the "Class of 2024" on completing your first year of school!

Pictured (l-r): Kayley G., Julina L., Ms. Erica Sommers, Emme S., Sophia S., Ms. Ellian Klein and Jessie D.



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of educators with a solid plan in place for the coming school year's schedule, which will ensure that all the students and teachers are well supported going forward. The team also has two new additions, Damena Ware as the 3/4/5 teacher and Jenna d'Anna as the Art Specialist, who will only add to the greatness of this group.

...I am pleased to announce that the school has an interim principal, Dr. Don Armstrong, in place. This interim position is part-time while Dr. Armstrong works closely with Superintendent Thomas Lohwasser, the school board trustees, and Office Manager Mikki McIntyre to keep the district moving forward as smoothly as possible. As a retired educational leader, Dr. Armstrong brings many years of experience having served as a superintendent/principal of several small districts in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties and even as a classroom teacher at Bolinas-Stinson years ago. If you need to contact Dr. Armstrong, he can be reached at principal@nicasioschool.org."

~Christy Stocker

Spotlight on Staff



Erica Sommers: Classroom Instructional Assistant

I am so excited to join the wonderful community of educators and students for my second year at Nicasio School. I bring years of experience working with children, both as a credentialed teacher and an instructional aide. I can't think of a better way to spend my days than facilitating learning in such an amazing community!



Erica Sommers

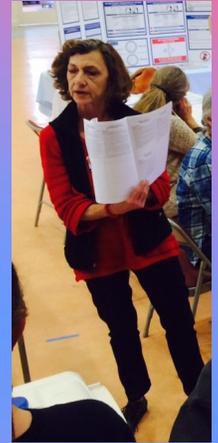
Some of my interests, in addition to being devoted to children and education, include snorkeling, kayaking, baking, and creating art. My husband, Tony, and I have lived in Petaluma for 25 years. Tony is an artist as well, mostly painting Sonoma and Marin County landscapes. He tends our prolific organic fruit and vegetable garden, which produces a bountiful harvest. We then put up pickles and raspberry jam, and create great meals. We are blessed to have all of our children, Josh, Mike, and Ajaya, living nearby, so we can enjoy spending time together frequently. My precious puppy, Maya, completes our family, with her curly tail, and silly pug shenanigans that keep us laughing!

Middle School Students Get an Up Close Look at Democracy



The 19 students in **Mr. Williams' Gr. 6/7/8 class** may still have a few years to go before they are eligible to vote, but they got a firsthand look at the voting process when they visited the multipurpose room (MPR) on **Presidential Primary Election Day - June 7th**.

They were welcomed by **Nicasio Polling Place Election Officers** including **Mimi Lewis, Debbie Goelz, Amy Morse and Kim Wallach**, who generously provided the students with an impromptu civics lesson on the voting process.



Fifth and Sixth Grade Students Earn Medals in National Mythology Exam

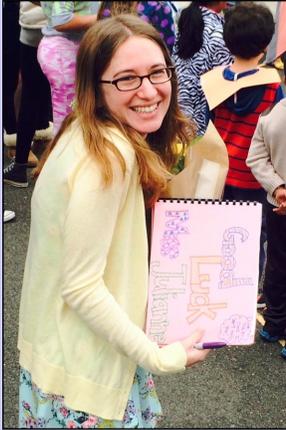
The anticipation ran high during a May 11th all-school assembly when **Principal Christy Stocker** announced the medal winners among her **5th and 6th grade Language Arts** students who participated in this year's **National Mythology Exam**. All eight students received certificates of participation and five of them were awarded medals, including three silver, one bronze and one gold. Principal Stocker explained that participants must score at least 90% on the exam in order to receive a bronze medal or higher.



Congratulations to all participants, including (pictured, front row l-r): **Ridge B., Luna S. and Dylan G.**; and (back row l-r): **Jack C., Trystan S., London M., Joya C.-R., and Xoxa B.** (with Christy Stocker).

Farewell to Treasured Staff Members Christy Stocker and Julianne Bretan

The end of the school year marked the departure of two staff members who have made an indelible mark on the Nicasio School community. It is with deep appreciation that we bid a fond farewell to **Principal Christy Stocker** and **3/4/5 Teacher Julianne Bretan**. We wish you well in your future endeavors!



Julianne Bretan receives Memory Book farewell gift.



Students assemble to present Julianne Bretan and Christy Stocker (pictured above) with bouquets created by Monica Snell.



Great Moments from another Wonderful Year at Nicasio School...



The Farley-Carlson-Silva's celebrate four generations at Nicasio School.



Brandon A. prepares for his Performing Arts role.



Judith Kirkland's K/1/2 Spanish students perform.



2015-16 Student Council Candidates (clockwise from left): Jasmine G., Esmeralda F., Myrtle V.-L., Ellierose J., Luna S., Ashley W., Esmeralda R., Haley D., Xoxa B. and Cassidy R. (with Mr. Williams)