



Nicasio School News

Spring 2015

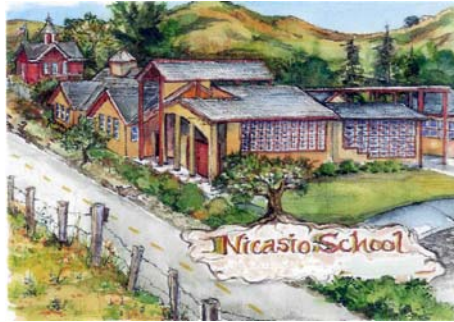
School CLOSED for Memorial Day - May 25th

From the Principal

We have just wrapped up two-weeks' worth of statewide testing in grades 3-8, which included the new online assessment Smarter Balanced for English Language Arts and Math, and STAR for Science in grades 5 and 8.

This year's official launch of the state assessment required a steep learning curve for all. I want to thank our Technology Specialist **Mark Tong** for making himself readily available during the first few testing days to ensure that things ran as smoothly as possible, as well as to **Mr. Williams** and **Ms. Julianne**, who carried out the testing sessions with all students. Especially noteworthy was the effort that **students** put into their testing and their positive attitudes throughout the busy mornings and schedule changes. **Ms. Ellian's** flexibility and support also did not go unnoticed. It takes a village!

~Christy Stocker



Nicasio School
5555 Nicasio Valley Road
Nicasio, California 94946
☎ 662-2184 ☎ 662-2250
office@nicasioschool.org
www.nicasioschool.org

June 11th 8th Grade Graduation

Everyone in the community is
welcome to join us for this
very special event! 6pm ~ MPR

Parcel Tax Extended for 10 Years

Nicasio Voters Approve "Measure A" Parcel Tax



A special election for Nicasio voters on May 5th resulted in the passage of "Measure A", which renews Nicasio School District's existing **parcel tax** for 10 years. Measure A will raise the current tax by \$99 effective July 1, 2015 and increase it by 3% each year through June 30, 2025. The Measure required a two-thirds vote of approval, and it received nearly 71% "yes" votes. More than 46% of Nicasio's registered voters participated in the election.

Revenue from the parcel tax will help the school maintain small class sizes in appropriate multi-grade classrooms, provide competitive salaries, offer programs that support diverse learners and fund school operations essential to those goals.

Individuals age 65 and older may apply for a special senior tax if the requested parcel is their primary residence. Any senior claiming an exemption must apply directly to the District on or before July 1, 2015 or before May 1 of any succeeding tax year.

A **Parcel Tax Renewal Campaign** led by Nicasio resident and school parent **Mark Burton**, was instrumental in the Measure's success in the vote-by-mail election. Many thanks to Mark and other campaign volunteers for promoting the Measure, and a **huge THANK YOU** to all of the Nicasio voters who demonstrated overwhelming support for your community school!

Three Nicasio School "Cougars" Place in County-wide Championship Track Meet

Three Nicasio School middle school students earned awards in the **Marin County Middle Schools Championship Track Meet** at San Marin High School on May 8th. The students, **Ellierose J.**, **Elly P.** and **Phoebe B.**, were among more than 1000 student athletes from public and private schools throughout the county who participated in the event.



Ellierose performs the high jump and Elly tosses the shot.



Ellierose took **second place** in the **high jump**, at 4' 2".

Phoebe placed **fourth** in the **100-meter dash**, with a time of 14:47. In his event of **shot**



Phoebe gets a fast start in the 100-meter dash.

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Julianne Bretan Receives Surprise Grant from CARTA

A lunchtime visitor to the school staffroom on May 7th left **Julianne Bretan** speechless when she presented the core teacher for Grades 3/4/5 with a surprise **\$250 grant** from the **Marin branch** of the **California Retired Teachers Association (CARTA)**. **Cathy Burton**, Marin CARTA community relations chair, presented Julianne with a check, certificate, and a commemorative mug upon announcing that Julianne was randomly selected from among current Marin County teachers for the award. CARTA has bestowed over 100 teacher grants and \$140,000 in scholarships to teacher-track college students within the county.



Julianne Bretan is all smiles as she receives awards from Cathy Burton (left). She is joined by (l-r): Colin Williams, Christy Stocker, Ellian Klein, Damena Ware and Judith Kirkland.

Upcoming Events and Activities

- ✳ **Monica Snell & Performing Arts Program to Receive Golden Bell Award**
May 21, 4:30pm Angelico Hall, Dominican University
- ✳ **Spanish Presentations K-8**
May 27, 1:00-1:45pm MPR
- ✳ **Fieldtrip 6/7/8 Safari West and Six Flags Discovery Kingdom**
May 28-29
- ✳ **Fieldtrip 3/4/5 Sierra Outdoor School**
June 1-3
- ✳ **School Board Meeting**
June 4, Library 5pm
- ✳ **Last Day of School: Kindergarten Ceremony/Yearbooks/Gr. 8 Graduation** June 11
- ✳ **Foundation/Board Workshop**
Noon-1pm **and Special Board Meeting** 1pm
June 23 Library

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put, Elly also earned **fourth** place, with a 29' 4" toss.

The three Nicasio School "Cougars" qualified for the May 8th championship during a **preliminary meet** at **College of Marin** on April 24th. Nearly the entire **middle school** participated in that event, under the coaching and supervision of Nicasio School **PE Specialist David Barni (Mr. B.)**.

According to Mr. B., eight additional "Cougars" came very close to qualifying for the championship at that preliminary meet. They included **Gavrie S., Raul S., William K., Ryan D., Elly P., Louisa W., Isabella G., and Camilla T.** Also putting forth their very best efforts that day were: **Olivia B., Ashley W., Esme F., Jamie K., Myrtle V.-L., Anthony M., Jasmine G., and Tess R.**

The students showed team spirit at the events by wearing Nicasio School "Cougar" performance shirts designed by parent volunteer **Monica Snell** and

generously paid for by the **Parent Club**. In addition, numerous parents volunteered to drive the participants to the meets. Many thanks to all who

supported the students so that they could shine in these events, and **CONGRATULATIONS** to all of our student athletes! *We're proud of you!*



The Nicasio School Cougars at the April 24th track meet at College of Marin.

School's Disaster Communications Capability Enhanced by Gift of Emergency Radio

Thanks to a donation arranged through **Nicasio Disaster Council Member Christopher Barnes** and **Nicasio Volunteer Fire Dept. Chief Eric Blantz**, Nicasio School has been provided with an **ICOM radio** for emergency communications with local agencies and neighborhoods. In the event of a school, community or regional disaster, the radio will provide school staff with a vital link to outside communications and emergency response agencies.

We are very grateful to now be a part of the emergency radio system in West Marin.



1st Grader Crowned as Little Queen of Portuguese Hall

By Karen Taylor

Following in the steps of her mother and her sister (7th grade student) **Camilla, Eva T.** was crowned **Little Queen** of the **Portuguese Hall** in Sausalito on Sunday, May 10th Sunday at their **127th Annual Festa of the Holy Spirit**.

This family tradition began in the late 1800's with Eva's great-great grandparents, who were members of the IDESST Hall. Her older cousin **Audrey** was the **Big Queen**. Together, they represented the celebration which honors **Queen Isabella of Portugal**, who was married to the **King of Spain**. When the people of her country were starving because of a famine, Queen Isabella traded her royal jewels to feed her people.

Eva and her royal court paraded through the streets with flags and music native to the Portuguese heritage. A mass was celebrated in honor of this momentous occasion in



Little Queen Eva after her coronation in Sausalito.

and her cousin received their crowns. After a final promenade through the city, all enjoyed a free feast of gourmet food prepared by the infamous chef Manuel Azevedo, of La Salette restaurant in Sonoma.

Teachers and Staff Enjoy a Very Special Day, Thanks to Nicasio School Parents



Nicasio School staff members were fortunate to be treated to a very special luncheon on Tuesday, May 12th in honor of **Staff Appreciation Day**. A home cooked **Mexican Fiesta feast** was provided during an extra long lunch hour. The MPR was transformed by a beautifully decorated table where the feast was served. Among the delicacies were enchiladas, guacamole, chips, salad, cheese, yogurt, and a dessert from Bovine Bakery. As if that wasn't special enough, each staff member also received a stunning, handcrafted planter filled with beautiful succulents surrounded by tiny beach stones.



Special Thanks to:

- * Tory Grady
- * Gisela Alvarado
- * Marnie Jackson
- * Laura Ramirez-Flores
- * Alejandra Diaz
- * Maricela Perdomo
- * Karen Taylor
- * Laurie Kuhn
- * And anyone we missed!

...for a truly beautiful event.

The entire Nicasio School staff extends our most sincere thanks and heartfelt appreciation to YOU, the generous and supportive parents of our wonderful students!

Super-heroes Overtake Campus on April 10th Spirit Day



Super heroines (clockwise from top): Esme R., Xoxa B., Krystal A., Luna S. and Valerie D.

When the call went out from the **Student Council** for **super-heroes** to descend on campus on Friday, April 10th, every imaginable super character - "real" or imagined - happily obliged!



"Bat-boy" Leo D.-P.



A caped and colorful Cassidy R. channels her superpowers.



"Smash" Brandon A. and "Spider" Adrian M.



A mysterious masked hero.



Assorted super-heroes (clockwise, from left): Ashley W., Winter S., Esme F., Anthony M., Elly P., Louisa W., Ellierose J., and Luna S.



"Super" Francesca M.