



SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER

Peter J. Dion, Superintendent Office 248.449.1204 Fax 248.449.1219 www.novi.k12.mi.us Volume 5.9 June 2010

Dear Novi Resident,

The Novi Community School District winds down another successful year for students and staff with many accolades for achievements well deserved. (See related article, "Outstanding Achievements.") These achievements continue to demonstrate the hard work and dedication of students and staff alike.

Recently, the Board of Education and administration have been working to develop a balanced budget for the 2010-11 school year. Projected decreases in State revenue and enrollment next year have caused us to reduce expenditures by \$5 million. Reductions will be in the area of staffing (teachers, administrators, and support personnel), non-staff areas, and increased revenues. A complete list of the Board approved 2010-11 Budget Reduction List can be viewed on the District's main web page under "Budget News." This latest round of budget cuts mark the third time in the last 4 years Novi Schools has had to reduce expenses totaling nearly \$10.5 million.

However, during these challenging times we will continue to maintain our focus on teaching and learning and to provide the best education for the children of Novi. And, we will continue to be innovative in providing quality programs for our children. As an example, we look forward to next year with the new International Baccalaureate Program at Novi High School. This curriculum will afford our students the opportunity to study a rigorous curriculum recognized around the world.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Dion, Superintendent of Schools

Deerfield Celebrating 10 Years

Deerfield Elementary is celebrating its 10th Anniversary on Friday, June 18th, from 5-7 p.m. This will be a great opportunity to visit old classmates, teachers, and other staff members. Classrooms will be open from 5-6 p.m. Photos, yearbooks, and other memorabilia will be on display during this time as well. Pizza, drinks and dessert will be provided. Inflatables and a DJ will supply plenty of fun and family entertainment. A short program will take place at 6:15 p.m. This is a family event, children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Please RSVP to: DeerfieldTenYearCelebration@hotmail.com.

Bridgepointe 5K Walk-A-Thon

Bridgepointe is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that is committed to helping connect Novi/Northville schools with Detroit schools (Neinas and Mayberry Elementary) through unique programs which are fun and educational. It empowers school children, from city and suburb, with the opportunity to make a difference in their community and in the world. Bridgepointe also provides basic essentials, such as clothing and food. 7th graders at Novi Middle School are sponsoring a 5K Walk-A-Thon on Sunday, June 13, at 9:00 a.m., at Kensington Park. Interested? Contact bridgepointe.walkathon@yahoo.com or the Novi Middle School at 248.449.1600.

International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

Since the beginning of the 2008-09 school year, Novi High School staff has investigated and made application to teach classes within the International Baccalaureate Program. We are happy to announce that Novi High School has received the official authorization from International Baccalaureate (IB) to offer the IB Diploma Program and courses for its high school students at the start of the 2010-11 school year. There has been a great deal of interest generated in the IB program from students and parents currently in the Novi district as well as parents interested in moving to Novi.

The IB Program at the high school level is a comprehensive curriculum based on international standards which will complement and enhance an already rigorous curriculum. The IB Diploma Program, as well as individual IB courses, are taught and well recognized around the world by universities and colleges. Students that receive an IB Diploma increase their chances of being accepted to the universities of their choice. At this point, 239 course requests have been received from current students and have been scheduled for the 2010-11 school year. Additionally, 19 students have signed up for the rigorous diploma program, which in comparison to other new programs, is a great response for the first year in which the program is to be offered. More information about the IB Program can be found on the IBO.org <http://www.IBO.org/> website or <http://www.novi.k12.mi.us/schools/novihigh/HSDocuments/IB.aspx>.

Seniors Awarded \$8.8 Million in Scholarships

Novi High School Principal John Lawrence, announced at the Senior Honors Convocation last week this year's Class of 2010 was awarded just over \$8.8 million in scholarships. This includes four National Merit Finalists, one appointment to West Point, two appointments to the US Air Force Academy, and one appointment to the US Merchant Marine Academy. Over 1,000 awards were given out to over half of this year's graduating class. Congratulations to the students, parents, and staff at Novi High School...and all the teachers, coaches, and employees who have touched the lives of these remarkable students! This is truly a tremendous accomplishment and well deserved recognition for the hard work and commitment to education in Novi.

Novi Educational Foundation 15th Annual Charity Golf Scramble

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

9:30 a.m. at Salem Hills Golf Club

Registration at 8:30 a.m.

Golf & Dinner: \$130.00

Dinner & Award Banquet Only: \$35.00

(Salem Hills Golf Club: Six Mile and Currie Road in Northville)

Board Action

The Board of Education took action on the following significant items at their meetings in April and May:

- Approved payment of bills for the months of February, March, and April in the amount of \$5,646,114.91, \$5,885,185.64, and \$21,788,240.69 respectively.
- Adopted Personnel Report A9045-Revised, A9047, A9050-Revised, A9051-Revised, as presented. (Call for details.)
- Approved a donation of a motorcycle and replacement parts for instruction on internal combustion engines at the high school from **Mr. Ron DeCello**.
- Approved 2010-11 Budget Reduction Recommendations.
- Approved the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Southwest Alternative Education Collaborative entitled "Oakland Opportunity Academy."
- Appointed Board member **Dennis O'Connor** as the Board designee for the Oakland Schools Intermediate School District 2010 Election.
- Adopted a resolution supporting the Oakland ISD budget.
- Reappointed **Mrs. Natasha Goodman** as our Oakland Schools PAC representative through the end of the 2012-13 school year.
- Did not approve the "Michigan's Participating LEA/ISD Memorandum of Understanding" for the State's application of the federal government's **Race To The Top** initiative.
- Adopted a resolution to approve the Lease Agreement between the District and MetroPCS for location of cellular telephone transmission equipment on the District's cell tower per the terms and conditions as contained in said Lease.
- Proclaimed May 4, 2010 as Staff Recognition Day.
- Approved ongoing Special Education and Student Discipline matters will be handled by the Thrun Law Firm or by Mr. Rick Kroopnick. Any new special education or student discipline matters will be referred to Keller Thoma, as will all employment and/or labor related matters. All other matters will be referred either to the Thrun Law Firm or the Keller Thoma Law Firm, as deemed appropriate. Further, the annual Thrun Law retainer fee (\$1,100) be paid each year through the June 30, 2013 term.

Outstanding Achievement

Over the last two months several students and employees have been recognized for outstanding achievements. Congratulations to the following:

- The Michigan Student Film & Video Festival competition awarded students at Novi High School for "Best of Show" for the Cat's Eye in the News category. Student **Kelsey Lindberg** won an "Excellence Award" for a news story on Crime in Novi. The TV and Radio Broadcasting department, under the teaching of **Mr. Dave Legg** at Novi High School, continues to demonstrate it is the best program in the State!
- Student athletes on our football team this year were once again ranked as the #1 Team in Division I by the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association with a cumulative GPA of 3.93. Congratulations!
- Bus Driver, **Matt Nowicki** was this year's recipient for the Excellence in Transportation Award. This award is nominated by peers and presented to Matt at the annual county awards dinner. Matt was one of 17 winners within the county. Novi's transportation department hosted the ninth annual awards dinner this year at the Rock Financial Center.

- One of our "High School student scientists" **Nonie Arora**, was selected to be one of 30 students from Michigan to participate in the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium recently. She placed 3rd, and as a result, she will receive \$1,000 in scholarship money and she also receives an all expense paid trip to present her research at the National Science and Humanities Symposium in Bethesda, Maryland. Nonie was the **only** student in the top 5 from a public school. All other students were completing their research as a part of their school curriculum. Great job, Nonie!
- Once again, our students scored well above the State averages on the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) tests. Visit the district's main page for a view of the complete results.
- Congratulations to **Mr. David Legg**, High School Broadcasting/TV News teacher for his nomination as one of the three finalists for Teacher of the Year for the State of Michigan. In addition, Dave received the Carl V. Jacobson Educational Broadcasting Achievement Award at the State Broadcasting Association Meeting.
- Senior **Ashleigh Evans** competed in the Skills USA State competition in the Food & Beverage Service category representing OTC. She captured first place and advances to the national competition in Kansas City, Missouri June 21-26. Ashleigh is in her first year of study at OTC; most students competing were second year students. Next year she will pursue her dream of becoming a pastry chef while studying at Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York.
- The accolades keep coming in for the Lady Wildcats Basketball Program. The team awards have recently been released and Novi was ranked 10th among all Class A high schools in Michigan with a cumulative team GPA of 3.692. Congratulations to **Coach Bill Kelp** and all members of the 2009-10 Lady Wildcats Basketball Team!
- **Read and Be Well** and **Write Start** were selected by the Michigan Association of School Boards as winning programs for the Education Excellence Award. Congratulations to teacher **Mrs. Mary Cooper** for implementing these two programs in the Novi District.
- April 17th, three students from the Novi High School's Destination ImagiNation team attended a Michigan State level tournament for three different problem solving challenges. One of the teams' challenge is "Breaking DI News" and this team won the **1st place** and a **Renaissance Award**. This Renaissance Award recognizes those who demonstrate extraordinary amounts of effort and preparation in their solutions or outstanding skill in engineering, design or performance. The team's outstanding solution to the challenge earned a nomination from all the judges for this award. In the judges words: "There is no other word for the Novi Wildcats except for WOW! Congratulations Wildcats! You deserve it!" Winning the first place qualified the team to compete at the Destination ImagiNation's Global Finals. This is the largest celebration of creative problem solving in the nation. It will be held from May 26-29, 2010 at University of Tennessee where they'll compete with the teams from other states and more than 38 countries.
- Novi Middle School's **Volunteer Club** involved students in a 20 school-wide "Green Projects." They were one of the select schools in Oakland County to receive an Emerald **Green School Award** for 2010. Congratulations Novi Middle School students!

Outstanding Achievement (continued)

- The Novi Middle School Math Club competed in the county level **Math Counts Competition**. The club came in 2nd Place. They then went to the State Competition and out of 280 students, 4 teams per county, they had 3 students who were in the top ten for the day. Those top ten students competed against each other and took a first and third place. Only four students from the State of Michigan competed at the National level. **Apurva Shrivastava** came in first place and **Raj Raina** came in third place. They will be traveling to Florida to compete at the National Math Counts Competition where only 4 students per state compete. Congratulations and Good Luck!
- Novi High School's Quiz Bowl was ranked the top public school quiz bowl team in the State after finishing 3rd at the MI NAQT State Championship. They will now head to Chicago for the National Championship Tournament. Congrats to all quiz bowlers including: **Anand Salem, Yunbo Nie, Zhao Wang, Peter Zhang, Eshwar Sundararaju, Emaline Maxfield, Conni Robbins, Emily Patterson, Spencer Kim and Harsha Gotur.**
- The Novi High school **Girls Swim and Dive Team** was once again ranked as the #1 Academic All State Team with a 3.83 grade point average.

NEF Names "Teacher of the Year"

Recently, Novi Educational Foundation Chairperson Dr. Warren Vallerand, announced Novi Middle School, Special Education teacher, **Joann Kefalas**, as the NEF's 2010 "Teacher of the Year." As an added bonus to this high honor, the **Suburban Collection** dealership presented Joann with a free one-year lease on a new vehicle. The Novi Educational Foundation, in partnership with the Suburban Collection's Excellence in Education program and the Novi Community Schools, each year selects a teacher that instills a love of learning in all students, establishes high expectations in the classroom, has a strong sense of integrity and professional ethics, is willing to learn and try new teaching techniques, is dependable, has a positive attitude and has a strong knowledge of curriculum content, instructional methods and child development. Joann exhibits all of these traits at a very high level.

Joann has taught special education at the high school and middle school level for 15 years. Prior to teaching in Novi, Joann taught for many years in the Clarenceville School District where she was also selected as a Teacher of the Year. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Western Michigan University and her Master's Degree from Wayne State University.

Joann was nominated by Middle School Special Education teacher, Susan Bank. Susan states, "Joann's room is a welcoming place for students. She puts families at ease and assures them their students will get the best educational opportunities at the Middle School." She adds, "Joann is a master communicator to students, staff and parents." Noah, one of Joann's students says, "she greets me with a smile on her face, motivates me to do my best and helped me change for the better."

It is the policy of the Novi Community School District that no person shall, on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, disability, height, weight, or marital status or any other status covered by federal, state, or local law be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination during any program, activity, service, or in employment. For further information or if a person suspects a discriminatory practice please contact the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources at 25345 Taft Rd., Novi, MI 48374 or call 248.449.1200.

Novi's Teachers of the Year

Each year, Novi Schools honors a Teacher of the Year at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels. This year we are pleased to announce the following honorees:

Mrs. **Karen Brostman** of Village Oaks Elementary. Karen was nominated by her colleagues, Patty Kearney and Susan Hughes. In their Nomination Form they state, "Karen is a real asset to the students and staff at Village Oaks. She continually engages her students. She strives to meet each of her student's individual needs by teaching five different reading groups. Karen also relates well with parents and she has a homebook that she writes in every day for the students to take home to their parents. Her expertise in special education is a valuable resource for her colleagues. She has a very strong teacher instinct and knows exactly what each student needs. She has a never-ending supply of time and energy to devote to her students, her colleagues and her school." Joelle, one of her student's parents says, "Karen has an unwavering kindness, commitment and love for her students. She is an advocate for her students. Her smile is genuine and her classroom nurturing. Her students always come first." Amy, one of Karen's prior students says, "Ms. Brostman helped her enjoy learning how to read and write."

Jessica Rodgers of Novi High School. Jessica was nominated by colleague, Claudia Volansky. In her Nomination Form she describes Jessica as, "dedicated to her students both academically and personally. Her students love her. She knows each of her students well and exudes enthusiasm for student success. She works closely with parents and calls each student's parent regularly." A colleague, Peggy Bassett says, "Jessica's first priority is knowing and understanding her students. She says her smile, her aura and her warmth makes everyone feel better around her." One of her student's parents says, "Jessica brings out what is best in each student. She is probably one of the most inspirational and encouraging teachers our children have ever had the pleasure to learn from." Madelyn, one of Jessica's students says, "she is bubbly and full of joy. I was not prepared for the long lasting effect Ms. Rodgers would have on my reading, writing and self-confidence."

Novi's Support Person of the Year

Congratulations for **Mrs. Cheryl Barcomb**, Novi Community Schools "Support Person of the Year." Cheryl is a secretary for the Instructional Technology Department. She has served in that position for nearly 12 years. Cheryl and her husband, Kyle live in Novi with their three children. Cheryl was nominated by the High School Counseling staff. Cheryl's help in designing a counseling web page has been invaluable to the Counseling Department, parents, students, and the community. Cheryl is creative, efficient, organized, and friendly while working with any staff member. She takes great pride, ownership, and responsibility in her work. Cheryl also works closely on technology issues with PTOs, the Novi Educational Foundation, and the Senior All-Night Party.

Cheryl is committed to helping others, but one of her best attributes is her friendly demeanor and her unending patience with all who struggle with technology. She has a way of making complex problems much less complex. Congratulations to Cheryl Barcomb, Novi's Support Person of the Year!

Suggestions are welcomed...

To: Peter J. Dion, Novi Community School District
25345 Taft Road Novi, MI 48374
Email: pdion@novi.k12.mi.us

From: _____

My suggestion, comment, concern about the District:
