



Team Nova Notes

Nurturing Outstanding Values and Attitudes

September 2009

Parent Night Success

On September 5th parents took on the role of their Team NOVA students, and met with all of their teachers. Great kids! Great parents! -

Go Team NOVA! Communication is the key. Call or e-mail us if you have questions.



Involvement at Kennedy

Encourage your Kennedy Eagles to take advantage of some of these great activities. It's a great way to meet new friends!

Peace"key"pers Eagle Talons Literacy Magazine LRC Assistants

Future Problem Solvers Intramurals Art Club

Eagle Eye News Magazine Computer Club Newcomers Club

Science Olympiad Junior Reach Kennedy Cross Roads

Curriculum Corner

- *Novel Studies
- *Scientific method
- *First Civilizations
- * Reading response strategies
- * Geometry
- *Problem solving
- * Narrative Writing
- * Metric system/measurements

Egyptian Excursion

Team NOVA will travel to the Field Museum on November 13th to view the Egypt exhibit and Evolving Planet exhibit. Students go back in time to walk through an Egyptian tomb and marketplace. Students will also see Sue the dinosaur and many other exciting things!

We will be asking parents to help facilitate small groups on the field trip. Any parents wanting to chaperone the field trip will be able to let us know on the permission slip coming home in October.

Walk Like an Egyptian

On October 30th, Team NOVA students and teachers use their creativity to dress up like authentic Egyptians! We will become just like the Egyptians and the day in integrated study. Please refer to an upcoming handout for ideas and suggestions.

spend
costume



Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences

Conferences will be held on October 8th and 9th. This is a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress in school. Thanks for being on time to your conference.

Midterm reports will be sent home on October 2nd. This is a "snapshot" report to indicate how your child is doing. Grades may go up or down by report card time in November.

Self-Science

Affective domain activities will come from three sources:

Self Science (based on book about Emotional Intelligence)

Character Counts (a whole school project)

Big Changes, Big Choices video series – Ask your child about the first video!

Raffle Prizes

Team raffles occur three times per year at the end of each trimester. Kids choose to spend their saved “Star Bucks” on prizes ANYTHING is greatly appreciated for donations. Some examples are t-shirts, hats, candy, books, gift cards, company giveaways and posters.



Teachers' Biographies

Joe Cave

- ❖ Keeps busy with kids Megan(17), Michael(15), Melissa(13), and Matthew (11)
- ❖ Coaches volleyball and Science Olympiad
- ❖ Hobbies include jogging, volleyball, golf, bird watching, camping, and reading

Matt Wainwright

- ❖ Coaches middleweight football and is the advisor of the Eagle Eye News Magazine
- ❖ Plays acoustic and electric guitar (real guitar, not Guitar Hero) and reads in his spare time
- ❖ Mr. Wainwright and wife Heather love spending time with their two year old son Dane.

Rob Sacher

- ❖ Excited to begin his 3rd year at Kennedy and comes from 19 years at Highlands
- ❖ Keeps himself busy with a new home
- ❖ Enjoys running, working out, music and playing keyboard instruments

Laura Golebiewski

- ❖ Along with husband Jerry, enjoys going to visit her college-aged son at Mizzou and watching the Tigers win
- ❖ Loves to spend time reading and sewing; tries to exercise with yoga and walking
- ❖ Has lived in six different states and 12 different towns

Leslie Viscioni

- ❖ Is very excited to begin her first year teaching 6th grade on the Nova team
- ❖ Keeps busy with husband Carlo and sons Alex (18) and Nickolas (13)
- ❖ Likes to read and play the cello in her spare time

Cusack's Corner

September, 2009

Dear Parents,

Wow...what a start! This has been **“the”** smoothest school start I can remember! I know it seems I say that every year...but, it's true about your kids. I am absolutely falling in love with your sixth graders. They are smiling, energetic and extremely polite. By 8:05 a.m. on the first day of school, every student was somewhere. I found no one in a “heap” in the hallway. My “thanks” to all of you parents who found the time to arrange for your student to come and get acclimated with their lockers and classrooms prior to the start of school. It decreases their anxiety level tremendously and they feel so much more confident.

Every once in awhile I find a “priceless” gem and want to share it with you.

So, here is a little story which is analogous to my professional and personal belief about raising children:
(Author unknown)

LET THE BUTTERFLY STRUGGLE

There's a parable about a new mother who discovered a butterfly struggling mightily to escape its cocoon through a tiny opening at the top. She became concerned when the creature seemed to give up after making no progress. Certain that the butterfly just wouldn't make it out without help; she enlarged the hole slightly.

On its next try, the butterfly wriggled out easily. But the young woman's joy turned to horror as she saw its wings were shriveled and useless. Her well-intentioned intervention turned out badly because it interrupted a natural process. You see, forcing the butterfly to squeeze through a small opening is nature's way of assuring that blood from the creature's body is pushed into the wings. By making it easier, she deprived the butterfly of strong wings.

Childhood, too, is a sort of cocoon. If a healthy adult is to emerge, parents must allow, even encourage, their children to struggle, to make mistakes and learn from them, and to pay a price for their own bad judgments and conduct.

Of course, good parents should be ready to protect their children from serious harm. But being overprotective can itself cause serious harm. Adversity is not always an enemy. It's often a teacher that helps young people develop wings strengthened by self-confidence and self-reliance.

Helen Keller once said, “Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired, and success achieved.”

So parents, here's to “strong wings!” Together we can help develop “healthy adults.” Please contact me with any of your concerns. I can be reached at (630) 420-3223. My email address is: lcusack@naperville203.org. I will return your call or email just as soon as possible.

With warmest regards,

Linda Cusack,

School Counselor 😊