



SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER

Peter J. Dion, Superintendent Office 248.449.1204 Fax 248.449.1219 www.novi.k12.mi.us Volume 3.7 March 2008

Dear Novi Resident,

It's easy to hear about the athletic successes of schools across the state, but it's often more difficult to "find" the academic successes of school district programs and students. Therefore, let me share the Novi success stories with you. Recently seven **Destination Imagination Teams** from Novi walked away with awards at a recent competition under the direction of **Mrs. Shelley Wright**. Three first place finishes were awarded, two Middle School level and one at the High School level. In addition, our Elementary, Middle School and High School levels received second place honors and the Middle School had an additional third place finish. Now the seven teams go on to the State finals at CMU! Another group making outstanding progress over the past three years, taking numerous awards at a recent regional competition was our **High School Dance Company**. The Dance Company is taught by our dance teacher **Mrs. Katy Hartley**. Also of note, one award was given to **Sudharshan Mahonram** for 4th place finish in the Michigan Math Prize competition, (teacher **Mrs. Margaret Laine**). A 3rd place finish went to **Stephanie Raymundo** in a Japanese Language Speech Contest, (teacher **Ms. Noriko Rosen**) at the Yazaki Learning Center. Congratulations to all on your students' academic successes!

This spring, as soon as the snow melts, construction projects will begin at Village Oaks, Orchard Hills, and Parkview. The first of many surveillance cameras will be placed in the High School, very soon remote door access will be piloted at Novi Woods.

I want to thank those of you who responded to our recent School District Survey. Results will help our Long Range Planning Committee revise our plan for the future. Finally, Village Oaks is sponsoring a Blood Drive on Thursday, April 24th, from 12-6.

If you're looking for summer activities, check out both the Novi Community Education Summer brochure and the Novi City Summer Camp opportunities. Both catalogs are filled with fun activities for children of all ages.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Dion, Superintendent of Schools

NEF's Green Gala a Success!

For the second year in a row, the Novi Educational Foundation (NEF) held a very successful fundraiser, netting nearly \$40,000. NEF Chairperson, **Mrs. Mary Alice Brunner** says, "Thanks to our sponsors, volunteers, and participants in the Green Gala, the NEF will continue to offer exciting grant opportunities to staff and PTO's for creative educational events, materials, and scholarships." A special thank you to Development Committee members **Mr. John Shelar**, **Mrs. Sarah Savela**, **Mrs. Ellen Hulverson**, **Mr. Gary Latham**, and **Mr. Karl Wizinsky**. The NEF is "Making a Difference" in the education of our Novi Schools students! Thank you!

Partners in Excellence

There are several programs in the Novi School District that set it apart from others, making our district one of the premier districts in the State. One of those programs is our newly created "**Partners in Excellence**" (P.I.E.) program initiated and directed by High School teacher **Mr. Bill Dunbar**. The P.I.E. program began in partnership with St. John Providence Park Hospital with a Medical Career Exploration class at the High School; for students showing interest in the medical field. However, it has grown much much bigger than this initial course. Following are several outgrowths of our partnership with Providence Park Hospital:

- The Marketing and Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) classes are working with Providence Park staff to market / advertise the P.I.E. collaboration.
- Novi K-6 Writing Coordinator, **Mrs. Mary Cooper**, (through an NEF grant) worked with 26 teachers and over 500 children writing and illustrating books to be donated to the Pediatrics Department.
- NHS students are volunteering to join the Providence Park Wellness Community Volunteers.
- The Medical Careers Exploration course successfully finished their first semester.
- NHS Special Needs students continue to be beneficial to Providence Park projects.
- Student **MaryBeth Shively** is producing a pediatric patient photo collage as a Graphic Arts class project with the Director of Pediatrics, at Providence Park Hospital.
- 5th graders in collaboration with Providence Park, the Novi Public Library, and Paragon International are all participating in a career awareness and team development project focusing on health care.
- ER Director, **Mr. Jeff Brown**, presented a choices lecture to our HS seniors on alcohol, drugs, driving, seat belt use, and the human impact poor choices have.
- Art Club students will be painting window murals, during Spring Break, on the Emergency Room incorporating an aquatic theme, hiding Nemo for fun.

Needless to say, the P.I.E program is paying big dividends for our students and the staff at Providence Park. Special thanks to Providence Park President, **Mr. Rob Casalou**, for his continued support in this very worthwhile partnership.

Board Action

The Board of Education took action on the following significant items at their February and March Meetings:

- Approved Personnel Recommendations A7827 (Feb. 7), A7831 (Feb. 28), and A7833 (March 13). Call for details.
- Approved payment of the bills for the month of January in the amount of \$5,747,873.74.
- Approved the High School Winter Drumline trip to the WG1 World Championships held April 16-20, 2008, in Dayton Ohio.
- Approved the Revised Board Policy 9100, Bylaws Report A7828.
- Approved the donation of a television to provide large screen viewing of curriculum related tapes to Deerfield Elementary donated by **Mr. and Mrs. Troy Isaacson**.
- Approved the donation of \$200 to Parkview Elementary for Math Fun Night donated by Study Point of Southfield, MI.
- Approved the Surveillance Camera System Project bid of \$393,363 from Optimal Solutions of Wyoming, MI.
- Approved the bond construction project bids in the amount of \$8,710,598 for Village Oaks Elementary, Orchard Hills Elementary, and Parkview Elementary. Call for details.
- Approved Group 2 (Electrical and Gymnasium Flooring) bond construction project bids in the amount of \$1,912,200 for Village Oaks, Orchard Hills, and Parkview Elementaries. Call for details.
- Approved the High School F.I.R.S.T. Robotics trip to a regional competition at the University of Illinois at the Chicago Pavilion February 28-March 1, 2008.
- Approved the High School Model United Nations students trip to Michigan State University March 14-16, 2008.
- Approved Group 3 bond construction project bids in the amount of \$2,482,085 for Village Oaks, Orchard Hills, and Parkview Elementaries. Call for details.
- Approved the High School F.I.R.S.T. Robotics trip to Atlanta, Georgia on April 17-20, 2008 at the World Championship competition.
- Approved the High School Winter Color Guard Flag Corp team trip to Dayton, Ohio held on April, 16-20, 2008

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 Asst. Superintendent for Human Resources at 25345 Taft Rd., Novi, MI 48375 or call (248) 449-1200.

Stormwater Management Program

The Novi Community School District strives to be good stewards of the land and water within our jurisdiction and to use appropriate best management practices to contribute to the improved water quality within the Huron and Rouge River watersheds. As a result, we have developed and are implementing a "Stormwater Management Program Plan". This plan is designed to reach specific goals regarding discharge of pollutants from our stormwater systems and properties into the Middle 1 and Upper 1 & 2 Rouge River sub-watersheds as well as the Davies Creek and Norton Creek Huron River Sub-watersheds.

Stormwater carries untreated water runoff directly into creeks and rivers and, by doing so, impacts our environment. Improper disposal of wastes, such as oil, paint, fertilizer and pesticides will pollute the storm water and destroy plants, endanger wildlife and affect drinking water. Never dump materials, including grass clippings into any storm drain or drainage canal, and be sure to keep any catch basins on your property free of grass clippings and debris.

The Novi Schools encourages all students, staff, parents, and visitors to get involved with the opportunities provided by the local watershed groups including Friends of the Rouge, and the Southeast Michigan Council of Government (SEMCOG). We are committed to promoting restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River ecosystem through education, citizen involvement and other collaborative efforts for the purpose of improving the quality of life of the people, plants and animals of the watershed in the Novi Community.

Suggestions are welcomed...

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

From: _____

My suggestion, comment, concern about the District is:

Postal Patron

Superintendent's

Non-Profit
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 ECRWSS
 Permit No. 8
 Novi, MI

Novi Community School District
 25345 Taft Road
 Novi, MI 48374