



From the Principal

Students and teachers have successfully completed this year's first trimester. We are busy planning for **parent-teacher conferences**, which begin **Tuesday, December 1st** and continue **through Friday, December 4th**. All parents have an appointment scheduled with their child(ren)'s homeroom teacher. The conference schedule was sent home via students' Thursday folders two weeks ago, and is also posted in the main office. We ask that you arrive a little early for your appointment so that teachers can begin each conference session on time. We look forward to seeing you there!

Before we part for Winter Recess, we encourage all families and members of the community to join the Nicasio School students and faculty for the annual **Winter Holiday Program** on **Thursday, Dec. 17th**.

We hope that everyone finds time this holiday season to spend with their family and loved ones. During Winter Vacation many of you will be traveling on the roads and in the air. We wish you all safe travels and a vacation filled with love and joy.

Happy Holidays!
Christy Stocker



United Market Cards Still Available

United Market Cards are still available in the office. When the card is used, **three percent** of every purchase goes to **Nicasio School Foundation**. Shop **United Market** and support our school!



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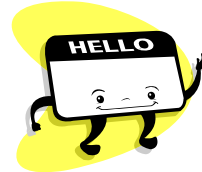
Jessica Baldwin, Amy Goetz, Ben Jensen & Kyle Koblrenner in rehearsal for the Winter Program.

Winter Program Scheduled for December 17th

Nicasio School's annual **Winter Program** is scheduled for **Dec. 17th** beginning at **6 PM sharp**. The event will feature musical performances by K-8 students under the direction of **Amanda Hahn**. In addition, middle school students will perform two short plays, "The Gift of the Maji" and "Christmas at Casey's," directed by **Christy Stocker**.

Doors to the MPR will open at 5:30 PM. Please arrive early to get situated before the students go on stage. Refreshments, compliments of the Parent Club, will be served during intermission and after the show. Everyone in the community is welcome to join this festive event!

Middle School Students Included in Parent/Teacher Conferences



As the first trimester of the year ends, teachers are preparing for the **Parent /Teacher Conferences**, which will take place **December 1-4**. New this year for **middle school** conferences is that the students are **strongly** encouraged to accompany their parents to the meetings and participate in the discussion, thereby giving them a more active role in their own education. This is a great opportunity for the teacher, parent and student to communicate and collaborate about progress and goals.

As a reminder to all parents, **school will be dismissed at noon** each day from **December 1st – 4th** to accommodate the afternoon conferences. It is **essential that all students are picked up promptly at noon** so that the teachers can prepare for their meetings.

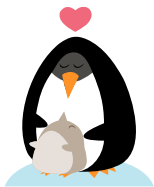
Fire Crew Helps Fifth Graders "Get Ready" for Disasters



Marin County Fire Dept. Captain Bill Viera teaches 5th graders about emergency readiness.

Are you smarter than a fifth grader when it comes to emergency preparedness? That's unlikely, given the disaster training that Mrs. Doss?

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Parent Club Happenings

by Tory Grady, Parent Club Team Leader

Three cheers for our students and families for your participation in our Fall Fundraiser!!! We enjoyed tremendous support from our children, with 30 of our 48 students submitting order forms or online orders (that is over 60 percent participation)! All of the numbers are not in yet, but I do know that we exceeded our expectations. Thanks to all of you for your enthusiasm and support. Stay tuned – the items (and prizes) will arrive at the school in early December for distribution.

fifth grade class received from representatives of the “**Get Ready Marin**” program on November 17th.

The team of six firefighters from the **Marin County Fire Department**, along with **Rita Hayes**, Get Ready Marin Educator, conducted an afternoon of disaster survival training that is specifically targeted at fifth grade students. Fifth graders throughout Marin County have been identified as the appropriate age group that would benefit most from an emergency preparedness course, as it coincides with earth science lessons that take place later in the school year.

The program’s goal is to prepare fifth graders to deal with various emergencies, including the types of natural disasters that we may experience in California. It is also intended to motivate parents to prepare their families for any disaster that may occur.

Among the three key steps to being prepared for and surviving an emergency, the students learned to:

- Be Informed
- Make a Plan
- Get a Kit



For details about these important steps, contact your nearest **fifth grader**, or call (415) 485-3131 or visit www.getreadymarin.org.



Nicasio School’s Spanish-speaking families were hosted to an evening of dinner and discussion with school staff on November 18th. T. Grady photo

Spanish-speaking Parents Attend Special Evening with Staff

Nicasio School’s first **Parent Night for Spanish-speaking** families on November 18th was a big success, drawing 100 percent of the invited families. They were joined by the teaching staff for a delicious dinner (hosted by the **Parent Club**), a presentation from **Christy Stocker** (expertly interpreted by **Nancy McInnes**) and a Q&A period. Many thanks to all the volunteers, including **Leanne Greentree, Tory Grady, Mark Pasternak, Monica Snell, Lucienne Meckfessel, Tom Meckfessel** and **Kyla Pasternak**.

Students Lauded for Showing R-E-S-P-E-C-T

Congratulations to **Kaelan Cinnidhlaoch-McCoinnich**, as well as the entire **K/1/2** and **3/4/5** classes, who received Certificates of Recognition at our assemblies during the month of November for putting respect into action at school. Thanks to all of you who serve as such great role models!



Donations Needed for Food Drive, Heifer Project

Student Council Update

The Student Council sponsored **Food Drive** will continue through **December 9th**. Please open your hearts and your pantries to support our vital effort to help keep the shelves of the **Marin Food Bank** stocked this holiday season. Non-perishable food items can be deposited in either of the two big collection barrels on campus. Among the most needed food items are: canned proteins, canned fruits, macaroni & cheese, whole grain pasta and rice, low sodium canned vegetables, soups, condiments, multigrain cereals and nutritional drinks such as Ensure.



The Student Council **raffle** benefiting the **Heifer Project** will take place **December 9th**. Raffle tickets are \$1 apiece or six tickets for \$5, and are sold after school Mondays through Thursdays. First prize is a



\$30 gift card from Cinema West theaters. Second prize is a 30-minute tutoring session provided by either **Amy Goelz** or **Max Banta**.

Proceeds from the raffle will be donated to Heifer Int’l. towards the purchase of an animal to help sustain a family in a third world country.