

fFriday Notes EXTRA... on Thursday, January 25, 2007

NO SCHOOL ---FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2007

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MESSAGE:

NDPA EXPANSION PLANS TO THE 9TH GRADE APPROVED:

The State Charter School Board has granted NDPA approval of our request to expand to the 9th grade. If all goes according to the plan, we will open the doors of our junior high school grades in the fall of 2008. The State Charter Board members expressed confidence in our school and in our ability to maintain our vision and focus with the expansion. The approval, however, is conditional upon new charter school legislation which is currently under consideration in this year's session.

The Utah State Legislature requested a series of audits of charter schools to determine the success of the charter school movement and its impact on tradition school districts. The results of those audits have been published. Charter schools were compared to traditional schools in many ways including costs of educating students. Growth of charter schools and the ability to adequately support many new schools are a major concern of the Utah State Office of Education. The majority of the reports suggest the state allow for "responsible growth" of charter schools.

We don't know what the legislature will decide until after the close of the session the end of February. New legislation may affect the number of new students who can enter charter school, and it may affect how existing charter schools expand.

We are thrilled and honored to have the confidence of the State Charter School Board. The parents and teachers who serve on our expansion committee will wait until the legislative session is over to make any further plans regarding the building, the administrative structure, or the curriculum and new staff members. We look forward to spending the next 18 months preparing for our new grade levels.

NDPA Board of Directors

NDPA BOARD MEETING INFORMATION:

The next meeting for the Board of Directors is February 7, 2007 at 7:00 pm in the library. All interested parents are invited to attend. A Board Work Session will proceed this meeting at 6:00pm.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING AGENDA

7:00 PM – CALL TO ORDER

7:00 PM - INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- Welcome and Introduction - Monte Poll
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Vision

7:05 PM - CONSENT ITEMS

- Recognize Closed Session Affidavit from December 2006
- Approve Board Meeting Minutes from December 2006
- Approve Work Session Minutes from December 2006

7:10 PM – BUSINESS ITEMS

- Report from Academica West on Financial Issues – Brad (10 minutes)
 - Report on Audit
 - Review Annual Financial Report
 - Annual Program Report
- UPIPS Review – Debby Gomberg (10 minutes)
- Approve Calendar for 2007-2008 – Debby Gomberg (2 minutes)
- Approve the School Land Trust Fund Proposal – Debby Gomberg (5 minutes)
- Approve Budget Changes – Debby Gomberg (5 minutes)
- Report on the Junior High Charter Application Process – Mornie (7 minutes)

8:00 PM – OTHER BUSINESS

8:05 PM – PUBLIC COMMENT

8:10 PM - ADJOURN

PROPOSED WORK MEETING AGENDA

6:00 PM - INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- Welcome and Introductions —Monte Poll

6:05 PM - BUSINESS ITEMS

- Discuss School Land Trust Fund Application – Debby (15 minutes)
- Review Request for Budget Changes – Debby (5 minutes)
- Introduce 2007-2008 Calendar – Debby (5 minutes)

6:20 PM – REPORTS

- Principal Report – Debby Gomberg (20 minutes)
 - Gold Medal School Program
 - Re-Enrollment and Registration Update
 - State of the School Address
- POET Report – Kim Valeika (5 minutes)
 - Update on Parent Volunteer Hours
- Board Report – Monte Poll (5 minutes)
 - Report on the Junior High Charter Application Process – Mornie (7 minutes)

7:00 PM – ADJOURN

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing auxiliary communicative aids and service for these meetings should call Emily Coon at 801-540-8080, giving at least three working days notice.

ADMINISTRATION NOTES: **LEGISLATIVE AUDITS ON UTAH** **CHARTER SCHOOLS:**

Dear Parents,

Several parents have asked me about recent news reports regarding legislative audits of charter schools in the state of Utah. These reports claim many charter schools struggle with their finances, managing public monies, and state and federal regulations. During a recent meeting, a parent leaned over to me and quietly asked, "Are we OK?"

Yes, we are OK, We are better than OK. We are doing very well for a charter school in its third year of operation. It is true, however, that some charter schools are struggling. Some charter schools, in an attempt to be different from traditional public schools, hire young energetic principals, but who have little or no prior experience. These new principals are very committed to the focus of their schools, but have difficulty meeting the demands of filing all their reports accurately and in a timely manner. They also have to contend with state financial audits, hiring properly certified teachers, and fixing leaky faucets.

NDPA enjoys the support of a professional management company. Our Board of Directors has contracted with Academica West which is a charter school management company. They handle the payroll, assist with human resource management, and assist with the filing of the state and federal reports. They also manage our site and building issues. Our finances are in great shape. In fact, last year, NDPA was one of 9 schools that receive special honors by the state for its budgeting and financial practices – thanks to Academica West for their assistance in these varied areas.

The services of Academica West enable me to attend to the educational issues of the school. I spend far more time visiting classrooms and working with staff on curricular issues. A lot of other charter principals do not have that time resource.

I have complete confidence in our Board of Directors, the teachers, staff, the parents of NDPA, and Academica West. Building a new school is harder than it looks. But together we are building a great school where students enjoy state core learning, experience high academic achievement, and have the benefit of learning Spanish.

I hope you are as proud as I am to be a member of the North Davis Preparatory Academy community. If you are interested in reading the audits (some are quite lengthy), visit the following web sites:

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/PR/06CharterSchoolStudy.pdf>

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/PR/06CharterSchoolReport2.pdf>

http://www.le.state.ut.us/audit/07_01rpt.pdf

Deborrah Gomberg, Principal.

ADMINISTRATION/ FACULTY THANKS!

Thanks to our 6th Grade students and faculty for a delightful presentation to the school on Constellations and

the Greek Mythology of our universe. A fun "Toga party of education" for us all. On a clear night, look to the skies and enjoy a new perspective.

Thanks also to our **WONDERFUL POET** board. We always appreciate your support and assistance, but especially during the stress of Parent Teacher Conference time. Your additions to our health and well being is truly appreciated.

POET UPDATES:

CHAIRMAN MESSAGE:

We are off to a great start of a new year here at NDPA. We have had our Spelling Bee and 5th grade maturation programs, Impressions is under way, Art Auction projects are being planned, and volunteers are busy all around the school. Thank you to everyone for all you contribute to the school by volunteering. You are so important in your role as a volunteer in the classroom and POET would not be able to run their events without you. Thank you for everything you do. Keep up the great work and don't forget to record those hours!

Submitted by Kim Valeika (POET)

SCIENCE FAIR IS COMING SOON!

Check the school website if you need additional information or pick up a packet at the POET desk. Submission deadline is February 1 and the Science Fair is March 1.

Science Fair Tip of the Week:

Keep your project simple, and make it about something you love. Like to bake cupcakes? What happens if you forget to add baking soda or baking powder, and why? Like to play music? Why do longer and thicker strings on a guitar or piano make lower notes than shorter, thinner strings?

Need Volunteer Hours?!

We need judges! Any parents, friends and family of parents that can come to North Davis Prep. on March 1st, between 9am and 11am, would be greatly appreciated. Any Questions? Email Larisa at risieroo@netscape.com

SPELLING BEE BUZZES TO SUCCESS!

Congratulations to all the Spelling Bee Participants!

We thought the participation was great and hope everyone was proud of themselves for all the new words they learned.

PLAN AHEAD FOR GREAT ART EXPERIENCES!

SAVE THIS DATE! DON'T MISS OUT!!!

NDPA's 2nd Annual Art Auction will be held on April 20, 2007. All families at NDPA are invited, as well as, grandparents, neighbors and friends!

Last year, all who attended had a great time and helped to raise nearly \$8000 for technology in our school. We have a lot of great art projects planned, and we hope to raise even more money this year. Detailed information will be provided in the weeks to come.

Any Questions? Call Necia Wiggins 593-1686.

AFTER SCHOOL ART
IT'S ALMOST FULL!!!

There are only a few more spots available for After-School Art. So, hurry in and sign-up! The sign-up sheet is located at the volunteer desk. The first class starts Wednesday, February 7th. It's \$35.00 per student and is open to all grades. You won't want to miss out on the last art session of this school year.

Any questions, contact Bonnie Miller #547.8051 or Erinne Roundy #779.4472

Submitted by Erinne Roundy

IMPRESSIONS CONTEST ONLY 2 WEEKS LEFT!!!!

NDPA's Second Annual "Impressions"
Fine Arts Contest is coming soon!

Deadline for entries is February 16th

Literature, Visual Art, Photography, Choreography/Dance,
Film/Video, 3-Dimensional Art & Music Composition

2006-2007 Theme:

"Puedo Ayudar el Mundo Por..."
"I Can Help the World By..."

Additional information, official entry forms and category rules can be found at the Impressions display in the front entry of the school or at

www.northdavisprep.org

**Awards Night will be held February 22nd
at 6:00 p.m**

**Don't forget to submit your idea for
next years theme on the**

2007-2008 Theme Contest entry form.
Questions call Carolyn Staley at 776-5663

LAST CHANCE TO BUY YEARBOOKS FOR 2006-2007!

Our deadline will have passed by the next edition of Friday Notes. So be sure and get your yearbook reserved by **Wednesday, January 31st**. We are so excited about this year's yearbook. It will be in full color with some new and fun surprises. We'd hate for you to miss out!

Put \$12.00 in the POET Box. Payment envelopes are at the POET desk. Note: We are also looking for Choir photos for publication.

P.S.

New school uniform for picture day: \$25.00.

Yearbook: \$12.00.

Extra trip to the school to run a check to the Poet box because you forgot: \$2.00+.

Captured memories of 2006-2007 year at NDPA:
PRICELESS!!

Any questions? *Call Katrina Egan 593-8823.*

♪ AFTER SCHOOL CHOIR TO BEGIN SOON.

Just a reminder that Choir will begin on Monday Feb. 5th. Only children fully registered may attend. Registration forms may be found at the POET desk. Rehearsals will be every Monday school is in session until our concert on the evening of May 21st.

Thanks- Kristy Pendrey Choir Director

LUNCH MENU'S FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 29 – FEBRUARY 2

All lunches come with a choice of side dish, Fruit and Vegetable Bar and Milk Choice. Additional snack items are available each day for an additional cost of .30 cents per item.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
29 Fish shapes or chicken Tator tots Fruit bites	30 Tacos	31 Pizza Rectangles	1 Tropical Chicken Rice Bowls	2 Corn Dog, tuna salad, or Chicken Patty Sandwich