From the PTA Board

Happy New Year, Everyone!

Can you believe it’s January already? The time sure seems to be speeding by as we head into the second half of the school year.

Before we forget, we want to thank Syndi Vazquez for coordinating the Texas Roadhouse Night and Heather Podgorski for chairing the Texas Roadhouse Gift Card program. A big thanks goes to Juanita Ho for serving hot chocolate each morning to all of our safety patrols. The kids have really appreciated it, especially after standing outside on some really cold mornings! Also, we thank Donald Lowe for popping, bagging, and distributing popcorn to all of our students. It is a highly anticipated, fun treat for them. Finally, a tremendous thank you to the Michael and Barbara Lackey Family for their donation of an upright piano to our Music Department. If we have forgotten anyone, please forgive us and accept our thanks for all you to do make Nash a school to be proud of.

As we begin 2008, our engines are revved for all the exciting activities just around the corner. In January, there will be an informational meeting for the 5th graders and their parents about the Camp Timber-Lee trip and the PTA Reflections Recognition event will occur. In February, there will be the Father/Daughter Dance and Parent/Teacher conferences. Hopefully, the playground designs will be ready for viewing during the next few months, too.

Keep your calendars handy as the year will be busy and fun-filled!

Sincerely,

Diann, Elizabeth, Regina and Lori
A MESSAGE FROM MR. PITTS, OUR PRINCIPAL

Thank You!!!

As of January 22nd, the first semester of our 2007-08 inaugural school year will be over. It’s hard to believe that we will be turning the corner and entering into the second half of the school year. At this time, I’d like to take a moment to extend a sincere thank you to all of our excellent parents who have generously donated time helping in classrooms, assisting in the library, providing support in the office, chaperoning field trips, leading enrichment groups, and providing tutoring services to our students. I would also like to commend you for all you’ve done to support our children in their pursuit of educational excellence. Through reading nightly with your children, assisting them with and monitoring homework, and seeing to it that they arrive to school each day prepared to learn, you are leading them towards maximizing their potential. There is no doubt that it is the strong home/school partnership which makes our Nash Family great. We sincerely appreciate all you do!

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Our next round of parent/teacher conferences will be held Wednesday, February 27th and Thursday, February 28th. There will be no school Friday, February 29th. Wednesday, February 27th will be a normal Wednesday schedule followed by conferences from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 28th, our students will be dismissed at 11:45 a.m. Conferences will commence from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Break from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) and continue from 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Look for conference slips to be sent to parents during the second week of February.

Parent Reminders

• While visitors are always welcome, all visitors to Nash School are reminded that they must enter through the main north entrance. Be sure to sign-in at the office before going to any part of the building, and remember to sign-out when you leave.
• Parents who come to school to pick up their children at the end of the day are reminded to proceed with caution at all times. Never have your children enter your vehicle when it is parked in the middle of the circular drive. Always pull over and have your child enter directly from the sidewalk.
• We continue to ask parents to fill out a Pre-Arranged Absence Form whenever possible.
• We ask that parents call the office when their children will not be attending school. The answering machine is on from 3:30 p.m. until 7:30 a.m. the next day for your convenience in reporting absences. You may use either phone number 925-1500 or 925-1501.

We’re on the Web! 
http://nash.kusd.edu

The PTA page will be up and running soon!
Kenosha Kindness Week

The annual Kenosha Kindness Week will be held from January 19th through January 26th, 2008. The Community Unity Breakfast Celebration will take place at Bradford High School at 8:00 a.m. on the morning of Saturday, January 19th, 2008. Tickets may be purchased at the door. As you may know, Kindness Week is celebrated annually throughout the City of Kenosha and Village of Pleasant Prairie, with various events scheduled to promote the message of kindness, tolerance, and respect for one another. The theme for 2008 is “Embracing Kindness and Diversity in Our Community.”

During this week, children will be encouraged to examine their attitudes and actions toward others, and to think about how we can all create kinder, more caring and tolerant communities. Several community-wide events have been scheduled during this week. Let’s make a special effort to spread kindness!

Drop Off / Pick Up Safety Considerations

Please, please, please remember that we have many cars in our circle driveway dropping off children in the morning and picking them up again after school (and in the early evening hours). If you plan on stopping your car in the circle, YOU MUST PULL OVER TO THE CURB! CHILDREN MUST EXIT YOUR VEHICLE THROUGH THE PASSENGER DOORS DIRECTLY ONTO THE SIDEWALK. Please do not stop or park your car in the left lane of the circle drive. This creates an extremely unsafe situation where children are walking in front of moving traffic, and traffic is being blocked behind you.

We also ask that you please pay attention to the crosswalk and DO NOT STOP YOUR CAR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CROSSWALK (even for a few moments)! Finally, if you plan on exiting your vehicle after school, we ask that you please park in the parking lot if you will be longer than two minutes.

If we are all courteous and cooperate, our traffic flow for drop off and pick up times will be much safer and quicker. Please know that the teachers and/or parents who are aiding with supervision during these transition times are there for the safety of all members of our school family. We appreciate you considering this and responding to them in a kind, respectful manner.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Happy New Year!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!! I look forward to our Nash Family enjoying a successful, safe, prosperous, and exciting 2008 together!!

Mr. Marty Pitts
Upcoming February 19th
High School Overcrowding Referendum

Vote is Tuesday, February 19, 2008

KUSD is urging parents and families at all grade levels to get informed about the upcoming High School Overcrowding Referendum, scheduled for vote on Tuesday, February 19, 2008. The proposal focuses on relieving our serious high school overcrowding issues by expanding and renovating Indian Trail Academy to serve as a third boundary high school for approximately 1,500 additional students grades 9-12 while also maintaining it's current academies that serve over 1,000 students.

Residents have the opportunity to vote on the following, separate yet related referendum questions on the February 19th ballot:

- Question #1 requests approval of a bond referendum to expand and renovate Indian Trail Academy at a cost not to exceed $52,500,000.
- Question #2 requests approval of a tax rate referendum to exceed the revenue limit by $2,427,000 per year to support the increased operating costs associated with a third high school (programs, services, support staff, utilities).

There is NO tax rate increase associated with Question #1 because the District has been steadily paying down its existing construction debt. The new money required for the Indian Trail project would simply replace the former construction debt. If Question #1 is not approved, taxpayers would note a small decrease (or savings) in their tax bills. Question #2 does have a modest tax increase associated with its approval. If approved, taxpayers would see an increase of approximately .11 cents per $1,000 of assessed home value. For example, for a home valued at $200,000, the cost would be approximately $22 more per year.

Students will soon be bringing home a special information brochure that provides detailed information about the proposed referendum. Additional information can be found immediately on the district website (www.kusd.edu) and on Cable Channel 20. You can also attend a Referendum Information Night on Wednesday, January 30 or Tuesday, February 5 from 7:00-8:30pm in the Center Commons at Indian Trail Academy. You can also email the District your questions directly at referendum@kusd.edu.

Make an informed decision on Tuesday, February 19, 2008!
Grading Policies for Art, Music & Physical Education

Dear Parents,

We appreciate the opportunity to be able to evaluate your children in the areas of art, music and physical education. We do not take grading lightly. Considerable thought and effort go into each grade. Both objective and subjective grading are used to give what we feel is a fair and accurate evaluation. We hope this information will help you better understand the grading in each of our specialty areas.

Grades K - 2
Students will receive a letter of S (Meets Standard), W (Working toward Standard) or L (Limited Progress toward Standard) for each of the standards. These letters indicate a student's progress toward achieving each of the standards at their grade level. The Standards cover a wide range of skills and concepts.

Grades 3 – 5
Students will receive a letter grade for overall achievement and effort in their class. The overall grade is based on meeting the standards. The effort grade is based on the child's willingness to cooperate, engage in all activities, follow directions and rules, as well as demonstrating and understanding responsible personal and social behavior. Standards will receive a number, which reflects the child's progress toward achieving each of the standards at their grade level. For example, students showing expected progress toward meeting that standard would receive a 3. The Standards cover a wide range of skills and concepts. All standards are taught however, not all standards are assessed.

Art Standards

Kindergarten

Standard 1- Demonstrates ability to use lines, shapes, colors and textures:
Students must demonstrate visually within the art product and/or through verbal response, an understanding of the elements of design.

Standard 2- Uses materials safely and properly:
Students are expected to demonstrate the safe and proper handling of art materials and supplies.

Standard 3- Shows effort and cooperation:
Students should work cooperatively and demonstrate a willingness to work toward the completion of an art product or process.

Grades 1-5

Standard 1- Uses formal structures of art:
The formal structures are the elements of art (line, shape, color, texture, space and value) and the principles of design (emphasis, proportion, movement, balance, contrast, variety, rhythm/repetition/pattern, harmony and unity.) The student's thought process while using the elements of art is much the same as they would use when choosing nouns, verbs and adjectives to create a proper sentence. As the formal structures are presented, students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of each structure within the art product. Students may also demonstrate an understanding verbally through art criticism, which is an organized system of looking at and talking about art.

Standard 2- Uses media, techniques and processes:
Media is the supply an artist uses (clay, paint, and wood). Process refers to the method in which art is created (printing, sculpting, painting, weaving). Students must show a willingness to use a variety of art media, techniques and processes.

Standard 3- Follows directions & rules, participates and cooperates:
Students should demonstrate a willingness to follow directions and rules and work cooperatively. There is an expectation to participate in art critiques, art processes and art product production.
Music Standards

Grades K-5

Standard 1- Demonstrates good singing skills:
The criteria for kindergarten include singing various songs from memory, singing loud and soft and using their voice to speak and chant as well. The benchmarks gradually increase as the child progresses in grade levels. By 5th grade, students need to sing on pitch, in rhythm and expressively. They must also be able to match and respond to the cues of a conductor.

Standard 2- Performs music on instruments:
The kindergarten child needs to be able to use various classroom instruments appropriately. As the children progress to 5th grade, they must be able to perform contrasting rhythmic patterns, perform expressively and on a variety of melodic and rhythmic instruments.

Standard 3- Reads and notates music:
This standard evolves as the kindergarten child begins to read simple rhythm patterns, on through 5th grade when the students must be able to read more complicated rhythms. The 3rd – 5th grade students are also expected to read standard music symbols and notation.

Standard 4- Understands musical concepts in relation to history and culture:
This standard begins with the understanding that music is a part of daily life. The student moves toward understanding music from other cultures. We also work toward learning the music of various composers and styles.

Physical Education Standards

Grades K-5

Standard 1- Demonstrates age appropriate skills:
An individual’s progress toward age appropriate physical skills such as movement skills, manipulative (object control) skills, and team skills will be evaluated.

Standard 2 - Understands concepts taught:
Student’s ability to explain or identify a skill, knowledge of rules for an activity, fitness concepts, and safety awareness are determined in standard two. Students are sometimes not developmentally ready to perform a skill or activity, but they understand and can explain how it should be performed.

Standard 3 - Participates and cooperates in physical education activities:
Student’s participation is determined by regular attendance, proper clothing/shoes for activities, and willingness to participate. Cooperation includes student’s willingness to follow directions and work with other students.

Standard 4 - Engages in fitness activities:
Students will be exposed to a variety of activities and concepts that can improve their cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength, and flexibility. Student progress toward understanding and achieving a healthy level of fitness will be evaluated.

Grades 1-5

Standard 5 - Participates in Health:
Students will be expected to attend and participate in health classes conducted by the Physical Education teacher.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Karen VanBlarcom         Lauren Yorgensen         Dave Dummer
Art                       Music                       Physical Education
925-1516                  925-1542                    925-1529
kvanblar@kusd.edu         lyorgens@kusd.edu          ddummer@kusd.edu
Fire Safety

Do you have a smoke alarm in your home? If so, have you tested it this month? Fires and burns are the fifth leading cause of death for children 14 years and younger. For two-thirds of the children that are killed in a fire there is not a working smoke detector in the home.

Eliminate fire hazards by:
• Keeping matches, lighters, and other heat sources away from children.
• Remove combustible objects that are close to the fireplace, heater, or radiator.
• Stabilize all portable heaters to prevent them from falling.
• Do not plug several electrical appliances into the same outlet.
• Replace old or frayed electrical cords.
• Store flammable liquids such as gasoline outside of the house and away from heat sources.

Make a plan:
• Buy and install smoke alarms on every level of your home and near every sleeping area.
• Test your smoke alarm monthly. Replace batteries yearly.
• Practice fire drills and plan for two escape routes.
• Keep furniture and other heavy objects out of the way of doors and windows.
• Choose an outside meeting place for your family.
• Teach your child:
  • The danger of fires
  • To crawl under the smoke
  • To touch doors before opening them
  • Never to go back into a burning building
  • To Stop, Drop, and Roll

Source: Safe Kids USA
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Reading Night

Although the turnout for Nash’s First Reading Night on November 30, 2007 was not great, it was sweet! We had 10 families that came – we read, we ate and we drank to our hearts content. Those that were in attendance were thankful for the event. Special thanks to Juanita Ho for the Yummy cookies and Cindy for the hot chocolate...and to all the parents who came out on the cold night!

Submitted by Mimi Samuels

MARKET DAY

Submitted by Kristina Dean

We’d like to thank everyone who supported our December Market Day sale and hope that you enjoyed your cookies! Together we sold 122 boxes of cookies for a profit of $268.60. This money has been designated for our playground equipment. Congratulations to Mrs. Sacks Kindergarten class for selling the most boxes of cookie dough (18). They received a $75 gift card to Target for their classroom.

We also had 44 regular Market Day orders for December with a profit of $226.04. So our Market Day grand total profit for December was $494.44!! Due to our successful start-up sales, we have earned our very own cart! Thank you to all who placed orders, and/or volunteered with our pick up.

Our current pick-up time is from 3-4:00 in the cafeteria, and many of our customers have inquired about having a later pick-up available. We are working on trying to get a large freezer so that any PRE-PAID orders could be placed in the freezer and picked up at the customers convenience. Watch for more information to come home about that.

Finally, Market Day is offering some great prizes for ONLINE customers during the month of January. They will give away 5 Walt Disney World Vacation packages, 100 80 GB iPod Mobile Digital Devices and 1,000 $25 Best Buy Gift Certificates. Please log on to marketday.com for all the details, and enter your order EARLY for the best chance to win!! If you haven’t already tried ordering online, this is a great time to do so. Check out the clearance section for web only special pricing. Remember, you do not have to pay online, you can place your order online and still pay at the sale.

TEXAS ROADHOUSE GIFT CARDS PROGRAM

Thank you to the Nash families that participated in the Texas Roadhouse gift card fundraiser. Hopefully it helped you with your holiday shopping needs. We were able to get 10% of the sales back for school :) Hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday season~

Sincerely,
Heather Podgorski
REGULAR MARKET DAY ORDERS ARE DUE BY THURSDAY, JANUARY 24 (INTERNET ORDERS TIL NOON ON JANUARY 28)

The next Bake Sale is Friday, January 11th. 3rd graders will be providing the treats.

Send your used computer ink cartridges and old cell phones to school to be recycled.

Next Box Tops for Education collection date is February 6, 2008

Easy Ways to Help Earn Money for Nash

- Register your Target Red Card at www.target.com
  Take Charge of Education Nash Elementary School ID #125719
- Turn in your McDonalds Receipts
  - Save Tysons Food Labels
  - Save Campbells Soup Labels

Save Kemps, Swiss Valley Farms, Foremost Farms, Golden Guernsey & Morning Glory milk caps

Please wash milk caps before sending them to school!

Deadline for collection is March 31, 2008

Designate “NASH PTA” as your Pick ‘N Save “We Care” organization #530960

SAVE THE DATE
February 16, 2008 Father-Daughter Dance at Bristol Oaks Country Club

Market Day Pick Up will be January 31st From 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

An Evening of Reflections

Please join your child or children at the Awards party for all Reflections participants to be held January 24th in the Nash Elementary School Gym. The doors open at 6:15 p.m. for punch and desserts, program goes from 6:30-8:30 p.m.. Look for invitations in folders in January.
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<td>GRADE 5 CAMP MEETING - 5:45 p.m., Library</td>
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**Please send February 2008 newsletter submissions to Lori Jozefiak at cbjozefiak@hotmail.com by January 25, 2008**

**Don't Forget 4th and 5th Grade Choir Students**

Choir Rehearsals begin the week of January 14, 2008

- **Wednesday** rehearsals are after school from 2:00–2:45 p.m. in the music room.
- **Thursday** rehearsals are before school from 7:50 – 8:20 a.m. in the music room.

5th Graders will meet for rehearsals on January 16th and January 30th.

4th Graders will meet January 17th, January 24th and January 31st.

**Teachers:** If you would like to request funds from the PTA for a special project or classroom need, you must attend a PTA meeting and make the request in person.