FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year!

And welcome back. We hope you all had a safe and wonderful break.

As we continue a Wisconsin winter in earnest, look for some exciting programs and events at Nash, including the “Evening of Reflections” Awards party, the 2nd annual Science Fair, the Black History Bee and the Battle of the Books, and our 1st ever Multicultural Fair, as well as bake sales, popcorn days, and some wonderful presentations by our student Project Based Learning Groups.

For any event you attend, classroom or extracurricular, don’t forget your camera! Send pictures to our yearbook committee so we can all enjoy these memories for years to come.

And please remember, especially with winter weather issues, safety is of the utmost importance on the drop-off circle. Please continue to pull all the way up and be sure you’re at the curb before your child gets out.

And by the way, this is your last week to catch the Reflections art fair in the school lobby. Don’t miss it!

Here’s to a great 2009 and all the incredible things the Nash family will do together!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Daghfal
Nash PTA President
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 E (Excels on Benchmarks), S (Secure with Benchmark), W (Working Toward Benchmark) or L (Limited Progress Toward Benchmark) 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 (Demonstrates knowledge of elements: line, shape, color, texture and demonstrates knowledge of principles: balance, pattern, contrast):

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 (skillful use of materials, tools, techniques):

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 and cooperates:

Students should demonstrate a willingness to follow directions, rules and work cooperatively. There is an expectation to participate in art critiques, art processes and art production.

Music Standards

Kindergarten

Standard 1 – Effort
Students should follow directions, rules, participate and cooperate to show effort in the music classroom.

Standard 2 – Demonstrates good singing skills
Students will sing various songs from memory, singing loud and soft and use their voice to speak and chant.

Standard 3 – Perform music on instruments
Students should be able to use various classroom instruments appropriately and effectively.

Standard 4 – Demonstrate a steady beat
Students should be able to maintain a steady beat to a piece of music by tapping, clapping, patting or any other forms of movement.
Music Standards, continued

Grades 1-5

Standard 1 - Demonstrates good singing skills:

Students should be able to sing various songs from memory, sing 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:

Students need 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 students begin 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  925-1526  925-1529
kvanblar@kusd.edu  lyorgens@kusd.edu  ddummer@kusd.edu
TIPS FOR A HEALTHIER NEW YEAR

Prevent violence by setting good examples
Hitting: Slapping and spanking teaches children that it is acceptable to hit other people to solve problems. Non-Physical forms of discipline work better in the long run. Remember that words can hurt too.

Make sure immunizations are up to date
Review your child's immunization record. Make sure your child is current on recommended immunizations.

Provide your child with a tobacco-free environment
Indoor air pollution from tobacco increases ear infections, and even Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. If you smoke, consider quitting. Remember, the most important predictor of whether your children will grow up to be smokers is whether you smoke.

Read to your children every day
Start by the age of 6 months. Reading to children shows them the importance of communication and motivates them to become readers. It also provides a context to discuss issues and learn what is on your child's mind.

Practice "safety on wheels"
Make sure everyone in the car is buckled up for every ride, with children in the back seat in age-appropriate child safety seats. All bikers, skaters and skateboarders should wear helmets.

Do a "childproofing" survey of your home
A child's-eye view home survey should systematically go from room to room, removing all the "booby traps" that await the curious toddler or preschooler. Think of poisons, small objects, sharp edges, knives and firearms, and places to fall.

Monitor your children's "media"
Monitor what your children see and hear on television, in movies, and in music. Children are affected by what they see and hear, particularly in times of violent images. Talk to your children about "content." If you feel that a movie or TV program is inappropriate, redirect your child to more suitable programming.

Pay attention to nutrition
Nutrition makes a big difference in how kids grow, develop and learn. Good nutrition is a matter of balance. Provide food from several food groups at each meal. Emphasize foods that are less processed, such as whole grain breads and cereals and fresh fruits and vegetables. Review your child's diet with your pediatrician for suggestions.

Become more involved in your child's school and your child's education
Visit your child's school. Become active in the parent-teacher organization. Volunteer in the classroom or for special projects, be available to help with homework. If your child's education is important to you, it will be important to him.
Don't forget to visit the Nash Pit Stop

Students can purchase items during lunch on Wednesdays and Fridays. Items include: pencils, bookmarks, keychains, erasers and more. Prices range from 25 cents to $1.50.

Brought to you by the Nash Marketing Group & Mr. LaLonde. For a more complete listing go to http://nash.kusd.edu and click on "school store."

Copier Donated!

Thank you to Nash parent Erika Rooney for answering our call for a copier! When she learned that the Sterling Assisted Living Facility was getting rid of their old copiers, she secured one for our school. We appreciate your help, Erika!

JUDGES NEEDED!

We are still in need of volunteers to judge the Nash Science Fair the evening of February 11, 2009.

What a great way to support and encourage our students!

Look for more information coming soon on the science fair for all 2nd-5th graders.

If you have a math or science background, or you know someone you could recommend, and you’d like to be a judge for the science fair, please contact Cal Becker by e-mail at c_k_becker@hotmail.com or by phone at 97-6356.

...and we're lovin' it at Nash! All those receipts we collect really do payoff!

Recently, 4,132 receipts were submitted for three ball racks which were distributed to Kindergarten, 1st and 3rd grades. An additional 1,729 receipts were submitted for a Multicultural Rhythm Set for the music room.

Approximately 5,000 receipts still remain after these purchases. We will continue to collect receipts and purchase useful items for the school. Thank you to everyone for being so vigilant in submitting receipts -- it's easy and the school really benefits. Remember, it's not to dollar amount that counts, it's the number of receipts collected. However, the receipts MUST be from McDonald's restaurants in Wisconsin.

A special thanks to Donald & Janet Lowe for all their hard work with this great project!
WE STILL NEED YOUR PICTURES!

Last year’s yearbook contained 737 candid photos
This year so far we only have 150 candid photos
** Do the Math!! We NEED 587 candid photos - some from every grade and every class!

The Yearbook committee can’t do this alone and we know you have some GREAT pictures. The yearbook has to be submitted for printing at the end of March, so we need your pictures NOW and all winter.

Submit your pictures on CD to the PTA mailbox in the school office, labeled with teacher, grade, and/or event information, addressed to Cindy Landini. (Or you can submit printed pictures and we can scan them, but please label them in the same manner mentioned here.) Be sure to have your name on anything that you want returned.

Thank you for your help. Last year, everyone loved the yearbook. We want just as many memories packed into this year’s!

Kids Reflect on what makes them say “WOW!”

This year, in Nash’s 2nd Reflections Creative Arts Program, we had 98 projects! From the size of an apple to the size of the solar system…from the intricacies of a praying mantis to the beauty of a rainbow…from the effects of exercise to the love of a grandma who serves in love even though she’s sick, our Nash kids displayed some wonderful thoughts and ideas through art.

Reflections Art Show in the School Lobby
Last chance to see the art at Nash. Projects will be taken down next week to send off some pictures to the State program. Be sure to stop in this week to enjoy the work before it’s gone!!

“Evening of Reflections” Awards Party – January 20th at Nash
Don’t miss the party for all participants and their families. Invites will be going home soon. RSVP quickly, especially if you need babysitting for preschool children that night. Remember, at the party, all who entered will receive prizes. We will also watch the Nash Movie, which will contain excerpts from all projects. And who knows, maybe Ms. Mime will be back…

Didn’t enter this year? That’s okay. Come and join us in celebrating our school’s success in art. And start getting excited to enter next year!!
Hello Nash Families!

I have some exciting news from the art room to share with you! The Fine Arts Department has developed yet another way to showcase the fabulous, artistic talent of the children throughout the district. Starting in December, cable channel 20 will run a piece several times a day which displays on “Artist of the Month” from each school. Each artist will be broadcast with their photo, a photo of their artwork, and a brief description of both. December’s “Artist of the Month” is our very own Angelica G. from room 414. Congratulations, Angelica, for always putting extra effort into everything you do! During the month of January, Kaitlin W. from room 117 will be honored as Nash Elementary School’s “Artist of the Month”! Congratulations, Kaitlin, on a job well done!

Another exhibit you may not be aware of is the Winter Art Exhibit at the Educational Support Center. Each elementary art teacher in the district works to mat and frame one piece of artwork from every elementary school in the district. The exhibit will hang in the hallways outside the building’s IMC until it is changed again next year in December. The work of our talented Mia S. from room 312 will be showcased at this exhibit. Way to go, Mia!

Watch for more information about our District Wide Student Art Exhibit at the Anderson Art Center in April, and the Festival of Arts and Flowers in July. These two exhibits will include several pieces of work from our amazing Nash artists. I have also signed up to do an art show at the Educational Support Center in May that features student artwork exclusively from Nash. In the spring, our Multicultural Fair will have several exhibits of student artwork, and if you are looking for more, stop in monthly to view the bulletin boards right outside the art room. As always, you are invited to stop in and catch a variety of works in progress, and watch the students show off their huge range of unbelievable skills! We would love to have you!

Mrs. VanBlarcom
Drink Up!

We are now collecting empty Capri Sun pouches that will earn money for our school.

We noticed that many of our students bring Capri Sun juice pouches to enjoy with lunch, so we will soon have a collection box in the cafeteria. You may also send in empty pouches from home. Watch for further details to be sent home soon.

Bake Sale

The next Bake Sale will be on January 23, 2009, and will be hosted by our 2nd graders.

So far, we have earned $402.75 from our bake sales and the kids really love them! So, keep those quarters coming!

Texas Roadhouse Night - January 12, 2009

Enjoy a delicious meal with family and/or friends at Texas Roadhouse (located across from Woodman's parking lot) on Monday, January 12, 2009, and the Nash PTA will earn 10% of your food purchases.

Please bring the flyer that will be coming home with your child to the restaurant when you dine. You may use Texas Roadhouse gift cards to pay for your meals and we will still earn 10% of your total purchase. (Free items, however, do not count toward our earnings.)

Texas Roadhouse Gift Card Sales

The Nash PTA earned $80 from Texas Roadhouse gift card sales!

Thanks to everyone who made a purchase!

(We apologize to those who encountered a problem with their order. We will work to improve this system in the future and look forward to your continued support.)
Market Days...

We’d like to thank everyone who supported our November Market Day sale. We had 38 regular Market Day orders with a profit of $265.94. Thank you to all who placed orders, and/or volunteered with our pick-up.

Our next Market Day pick-up is January 29th from 3:00 – 4:00 PM in the cafeteria. If you cannot pick-up by 4:00 on that day, please pre-pay and we will be happy to put your order in the freezer. Any unpaid orders not picked up by 4:00 on our sale date will be returned to Market Day. Orders will be due by Friday, January 23rd at noon.

By placing an order for our January pick-up, you will automatically be entered to win a Disney Bahama Cruise! The drawing prizes are as follows: 5 grand prizes of a 3 night Bahamian cruise for 4 onboard the Disney Wonder; 100 first prizes of 16GB ipod® Nano (approx. retail value $199.00); and 1,000 second prizes of a $25 Market Day gift card. Drawing rules can be found on www.marketday.com. This is a great month to try Market Day and be entered to win a free prize!

If you have any questions/concerns about Market Day, please contact Kristina Dean at 697-1483 or kbdean@sbcglobal.net.
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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 5</td>
<td>SCHOOL REOPENS</td>
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<td>January 6</td>
<td>6:30pm - PTA Meeting - Library</td>
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<td>6:30pm - Cub Scouts - Cafeteria</td>
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<td>January 8</td>
<td>5:30-7:00pm - Open Gym (2nd-3rd Grades)</td>
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<td>6:30pm - Golf Outing Meeting - Library</td>
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<td>January 12</td>
<td>4:00-10:00pm - Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser</td>
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<td>6:00-7:30pm - Daisy Troop - Cafeteria</td>
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<td>January 13</td>
<td>6:30pm - Mother/Son Activity Planning Mtg - Art Room</td>
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<td>6:30pm - Cub Scouts - Cafeteria</td>
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<td>January 14</td>
<td>6:30pm - Science Fair Meeting - Library</td>
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<td>January 15</td>
<td>5:30-7:00pm - Daisy Troop - Cafeteria</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:30-7:00pm - Open Gym (K-1st Grade)</td>
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<td>January 16</td>
<td>Popcorn Day</td>
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<td>January 19</td>
<td>11:45am - Early Release (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)</td>
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<td>January 20</td>
<td>6:15-8:30pm - Reflections Awards Ceremony - Gymnasium</td>
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<td>6:30pm - Cub Scouts - Cafeteria</td>
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<td>January 22</td>
<td>5:30-7:00pm - Open Gym (4th-5th Grades)</td>
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<td>January 23</td>
<td>Bake Sale (Sponsored By 2nd Graders)</td>
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<td>12:00pm - Market Day Orders Due</td>
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<td>January 26</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL for students (Teacher Work Day)</td>
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<td>6:00-7:30pm - Daisy Troop - Cafeteria</td>
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<td>January 27</td>
<td>6:30pm - Cub Scouts - Cafeteria</td>
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<td>January 28</td>
<td>Kindergarten Parent Academic Support Night</td>
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<td>5:30-6:00pm - Cafeteria / 6:00-7:30pm – Library/Computer Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 29</td>
<td>3:00-4:00pm - Market Day Pick-Up - Cafeteria</td>
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Have an item for the newsletter? Contact Syndi Vazquez at 262-948-1498 or e-mail me at romsyn@aol.com
(Kindly put "newsletter" in the subject matter so I'm sure to open it!)